



RICK CRUZ/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

An electronic billboard near the ITC intersection in Tamuning provides information about tsunami preparedness as motorists are still stuck in traffic on Marine Corps Drive amidst a tsunami advisory for Guam and the CNMI on July 30, 2025, following a powerful magnitude 8.8 earthquake in Russia. The tsunami advisory was canceled shortly before 7 p.m.

Tsunami spares but tests Guam

By Haidee Eugenio Gilbert
and Julianne Hernandez

Pacific Daily News

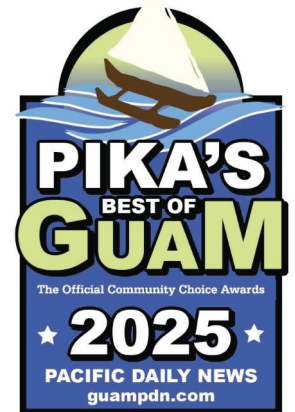
Tsunami waves from a powerful magnitude 8.8 earthquake in Russia spared Guam but an eight-

hour tsunami watch and advisory that was canceled before 7 p.m. Wednesday put the island's preparedness and general sense of awareness to the test—with heavy traffic on main roads and people watching the surf close to the water

despite calls to move inland during critical hours.

Initial waves were expected to reach Guam at 2:51 p.m. Wednesday, based on early estimates.

See TSUNAMI, Page 3



Congratulations to our Top 5 Nominees. Voting Round is Aug 22 to Sept 19, 2025

Go to www.guampdn.com/contests

Temporary home rental licenses, 14 other bills up for vote Thursday

By Joe Taitano II
Pacific Daily News

Senators on Wednesday sent to the voting file a bill that would allow property owners interested in providing housing rentals to apply for a one-time, temporary business license that's valid for a year.

Also advancing was legislation to change the official name of Asan to Assan- Ma'ina.

See SESSION, Page 4

CCU approves exploratory Mangilao hospital wells

\$12M for PFAS treatment design

By Joe Taitano II
Pacific Daily News

The Guam Waterworks Authority can start drilling for water at the site of the new Mangilao hospital project, as well as move forward with \$12 million in design contracts to treat toxic PFAS and other

chemicals in water supplies island-wide.

Members of the Consolidated Commission on Utilities approved the projects at a Tuesday night meeting.

The CCU also agreed to let the Guam Power Authority extend

a contract for the Cabras 1 and 2 power plants through Jan. 31.

However, an 18.4-megawatt solar project eyed by the GPA will need more review.

Hospital wells

See CCU, Page 4





DPHSS: 3-month-old unvaccinated child with whooping cough

Pacific Daily News

A 3-month-old unvaccinated child has become the latest confirmed case of whooping cough or pertussis on Guam, the Department of Public Health and Social Services said on Wednesday.

This latest laboratory-confirmed *Bordetella pertussis* was reported on July 29, Public Health said.

The agency said this is the second confirmed case involving unvaccinated children since the start of 2025.

Epidemiologic case investigation and contact tracing have been initiated to determine the source of the exposure.

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is a vaccine-preventable disease. DPHSS said it is encouraging the public to ensure they are up-to-date with their vaccines.

Severe coughing fits for weeks

Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by bacteria.

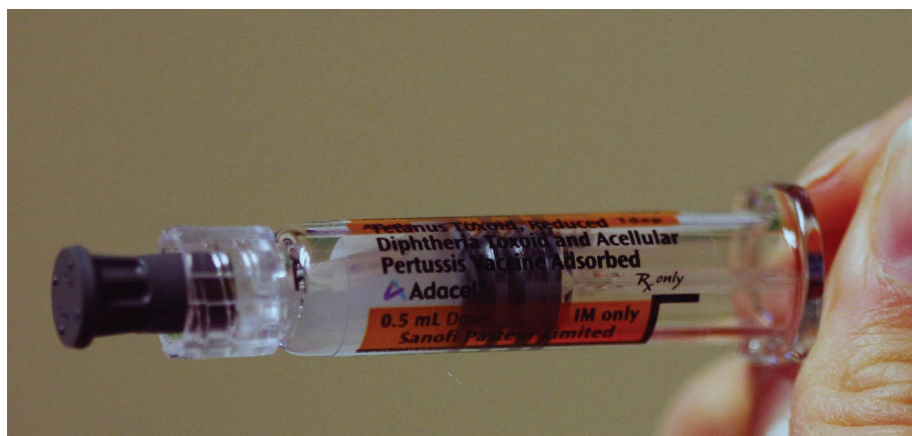
It can cause severe coughing fits of up to 10 weeks or more, followed by a high-pitched "whoop" sound when breathing in, Public Health said.

Vomiting and exhaustion may also follow.

Pertussis can lead to serious complications, especially in infants, such as pneumonia, dehydration, seizures, and brain damage.

Some infants may not cough at all. Instead, they may have apnea (life-threatening pauses in breathing) or struggle to breathe.

"Preventing the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases like pertussis is essential to protecting public health," according to Dr. Robert Leon Guerrero, chief medical officer for



The DTaP vaccine, which protects against whooping cough, is shown in this 2008 file photo.

GANNETT FILE PHOTO, GNS, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Public Health. "We encourage all residents to stay informed, remain vigilant, and keep their vaccinations up to date to help keep our community safe."

Recommendations from CDC

Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTaP)

- Less than 7 years old: One dose at each of the following ages: 2, 4, 6, and 15-18 months, and 4-6 years.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap)

- 7-10 years old: Individuals who are not fully vaccinated with DTaP: 1 dose of Tdap as part of the catch-up series. If additional doses are needed, use Td or Tdap. A Tdap booster dose to be administered at age 11-12 years old.

- 11-18 years old: Individuals who have not received Tdap: A single dose, preferably at age 11-12 years old.

- 19 years or older: Adults who have not received Tdap previously or for whom vaccination status is unknown should receive a single dose.

- Pregnant women: One dose

during each pregnancy (preferably during 27-36 weeks gestation). If Tdap is not given during pregnancy, administer immediately after delivery.

DTaP and Tdap vaccines funded by Public Health through the Vaccines For Children Program are for children 18 years and under who are not insured, enrolled in Medicaid or underinsured.

Individuals with private health insurance must contact their primary health care provider for vaccine availability.

DTaP and Tdap vaccines are available for VFC eligible children at:

Northern and Southern Region Community Health Centers

To schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine, individuals should call the NRCHC: (671) 635-7412/7456/4435 or the SRCHC: (671) 828-7517/7518.

Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services

Individuals can call (671) 634-7408 for more information for clinic hours and location.



lease.

Normal operations will resume on Nov. 13, at which point Guam Reef

PDN FILE PHOTO
Guam Reef Hotel in Tumon on June 26, 2020.

Hotel said it looks forward to welcoming everyone back.

"We appreciate your understanding during this period and encourage our valued guests and customers to stay updated via our website www.guamreef.com or social media channels," the hotel said.

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Guam Reef Hotel to temporarily close on Nov. 3-12

Pacific Daily News

Guam Reef Hotel on Wednesday announced the temporary closure of its operations from Nov. 3 to Nov. 12 in Tumon for a power-related upgrade.

The temporary closure will allow for comprehensive repair and maintenance services of the hotel's automatic transfer switch, ATS, to ensure that it operates at peak performance level, Guam Reef Hotel said in a re-

Tsunami

Continued from Page 1

But at past 2 p.m., Marine Corps Drive, especially the areas close to the water, was still full of motorists stuck in traffic.

Parks Police officers and other law enforcement agencies and partner entities had to approach residents and tourists to stay away from beaches and beach-side parks.

Waves up to 5.7 ft. hit Hawaii, but on Guam, the recorded tsunami wave was at 0.4 ft and on Saipan, 0.7 ft, based on data from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center as of late Wednesday afternoon.

The Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense, at 5:40 p.m., said “waves up to a foot have been observed in Guam’s tide gauges, with similar wave heights continuing, but expected to gradually diminish in the coming hours.”

Tsunami warnings were issued for Hawaii, Japan, the U.S. West Coast and other Pacific Islands. There were evacuation orders in Hawaii, while residents in Japan took refuge, many without hesitation based on the lesson from the 2011 tsunami.

‘A little worried’

Across Guam, residents heaved a sigh of relief that the island was spared from destructive waves or damage.

For many, it’s their first time dealing with a tsunami watch or tsunami advisory.

“Right now, I’m just a little worried, of course. I don’t have any prior experience or any thoughts of it,” Maichail Navarro, of Dededo, told the Pacific Daily News shortly after a tsunami watch was upgraded to a tsunami advisory late in the morning.

He said he looks forward to education and awareness campaigns on how to prepare for a tsunami.

“I’m only speaking for myself, but I believe there’s probably more people that also feel like they just don’t know what to do. All they know is that there’s a tsunami coming and just it gets a higher elevation if needed,” he said. “But if there’s more things to do, they should be informed that there are more things to do, to prepare and to be careful and to be wary of what comes up next.”

Jada Mateo Guevarra, 14, also



RICK CRUZ/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

People stand along the cliffline behind Hilton Guam Resort and Spa in Tumon even as local authorities asked residents and tourists to move inland and stay away from the water, following a tsunami advisory because of a powerful magnitude 8.7 earthquake in Russia on July 30, 2025.



RICK CRUZ/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

Traffic is backed up in the Tamuning area past 2 p.m. on July 30, 2025 amidst a tsunami advisory for Guam and the CNMI.

of Dededo, said he was initially “shocked” to learn that tsunami waves could reach Guam but later on said he’s “not nervous or scared.”

“Because I know that God will protect us and we’ll be fine,” he added.

Thomas Butung of Barrigada said he’s a bit worried and made time to check on his family and friends.

“I mean, my whole life, I’ve never faced a tsunami other than just warnings, and usually they just stick to that,” he said.

Guam was spared a tsunami warning, wherein widespread flooding is expected or occurring and may continue for several hours or days.

The magnitude 8.8 quake in Russia is among the world’s strongest on record.

It was initially reported as a magnitude 8.0 and was later updated to 8.7 and then 8.8. It hit at 9:24 a.m. on July 30, at 133 km southeast of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky in Russia with a depth of 74 km, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

At about 9 p.m. Guam time, international news organizations such as Al Jazeera said Russia issued comments that “there had been no casualties in Russia” from the magnitude 8.8 quake.

‘Move inland’

For hours, GHS/OCD released updates, asking residents and tourists to “remain out of the water” and to “move inland, away from the beaches.”

Late morning Wednesday, local and federal agencies said the estimated hazardous sea level fluctuations and strong ocean currents could begin at 2:37 p.m. on Saipan and 2:51 p.m. on Guam.

GHS/OCD advised the community to get to higher ground, at least 100 feet inland, 50 feet upward, if in a coastal area.

Private businesses, including daycare centers and banks, announced they’re suspending their operations as a precautionary measure.

Later on, government of Guam

agencies also started announcing closing operations to allow employees to prepare. The Port of Guam also suspended operations for hours.

Guam’s international airport remained open.

The Guam Visitors Bureau worked with the Guam Police Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation to check beaches and parks to clear them of tourists and residents.

GVB also posted advisories in multiple languages in all social media, and shared them with members of the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association. The tourism bureau also worked with trolleys and digital billboard operators to help spread the tsunami information.

Archbishop Ryan Jimenez of the Archdiocese of Agaña encouraged prayers and urged people to follow safety measures.

“In times of apprehension, in the face of danger and certainly when disaster does strike, our loving Father is always with us,” the archbishop said in a statement. “Cling to God in prayer in these times and during calm waters as well.”

He also asked for prayers for the people of Russia “and places that have been hit hardest by these recent calamities.”

“At the same time, remember to check family, friends, neighbors, even strangers such as the homeless who might need reassurance, information or helping hands getting to safety,” said the archbishop, who also thanked “all public safety, emergency personnel and all government, military and private sector professionals for their work ensuring awareness and safety for all people.”

Adrian Todden, originally from the Dominican Republic and currently residing in Mongmong-To-to-Maite, said he’s used to emergency situations so he went on preparation mode as soon as he learned of a tsunami watch and advisory.

“I’m not too worried about it, but you always have to be cautious, regardless of how much experience you have, because even the most experienced people can fall through the cracks and fall according to pressure,” he said.

Haidee Eugenio Gilbert is managing editor for the Pacific Daily News. You can reach her at hgilbert@guampdn.com. Contact reporter Julianne Hernandez at jhernandez@guampdn.com or (671) 483-1429.

CCU

Continued from Page 1

GWA General Manager Miguel Bordallo said the agency plans to have eight exploratory wells drilled at the site of the Mangilao hospital project off Route 15.

Besides the hospital and medical campus, the broader Mangilao area will also benefit from the wells, Bordallo said.

GWA will pay \$1 million, with an additional \$105,250 contingency, to contract Duenas, Camacho, and Associates for the project.

Payment will come from federal American Rescue Plan money that GWA received to install water infrastructure at the hospital project site.

GWA already has an existing contract with the company, Bordallo said, and the work will be added on as a new task order.

Besides the drilling, Duenas, Camacho, and Associates will also perform design work necessary to link the wells into the existing water system, he said.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the water well drilling. The grant-funded project can begin without approval from the Public Utilities Commission.

Legal troubles

CCU Chairman Francis Santos reminded commissioners of pending legal action against the utilities from Attorney General Douglas Moylan regarding the hospital project.

"Colleagues, just to be clear, you are aware that the attorney general



RICK CRUZ/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS
A Guam Waterworks Authority employee checks readings in a chlorine tank storage area during a visit to the A-17 deep water well in Mangilao on Sept. 23, 2024.

has filed yet another, whatever you want to call it, against now ... the CCU and our friends at GPA and GWA," Santos said.

Santos said the project would benefit all of Mangilao, and if the AG didn't want that, "please let me know."

"I will gladly tell the people of Mangilao that we don't want better water," he added.

Moylan moved last week to add the utilities and the Guam Economic Development Authority to a federal lawsuit seeking to freeze money for the hospital project over multiple alleged illegalities.

The governor and the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority are already named in the suit.

GWA legal counsel Theresa Rojas told commissioners that the matter would be discussed in a briefing during a closed-door executive session.

After their regular meeting Tuesday evening, the CCU went into executive session for about 40 minutes.

Approval of the water well drilling came just a day after Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero signed off on a re-

zoning needed to start infrastructure installation at the hospital site.

Treating PFAS

The CCU also gave the OK for a \$12 million-plus design contract to come up with an islandwide system to treat PFAS and other "emerging contaminants" found in Guam's drinking water.

GWA selected GHD Inc. for the project, out of four bidders.

According to Bordallo, the project will be funded with grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, though the final amounts are pending.

Money from GWA's recently issued \$266.5 million bond will cover the rest.

Bordallo said the deadline for compliance with new limits on PFAS in drinking water is still under review stateside.

"But if the current administration pushes them back, we still want to be able to move forward," he said.

GWA will also have to comply with new rules about Dieldrin in drinking water from Guam EPA, he added.

Bordallo has pointed to 34 water wells out of about 100 that GWA has, which need treatment for PFAS. He's stressed that GWA water meets all safe drinking water regulations.

Solar, Cabras

Commissioners voted to table a proposal for another 18.4 MW of solar energy until next week, pending more information.

GPA wants to award a deal to a consortium of Pacific Energy Corp. and Landscape Management

Systems Inc. to build solar farms in the following areas:

- Tamuning, before Two Lovers' Point
- Malojloj, near the existing Dandan Solar Farm
- Yoña, near the Pulantat Power Station
- Barrigada, near the former Radio Barrigada golf course

The consortium will have Pacific Renewable Unlimited to do the work, according to a presentation from GPA Assistant General Manager for Operations Jennifer Sablan.

But Commissioner Michael Limtiaco and others on Tuesday wanted to know more about the awardee, a newcomer, before signing off on the award.

"How do you determine past performance and financial capability for new entities?" Limtiaco asked.

Commissioners recessed their meeting until Monday, Aug. 4, so they could get more information and come back for a decision.

Getting approval Tuesday was an extension for a performance management contract with Taiwan & Electrical Mechanical Services for the Cabras 1 and Cabras 2 plants.

It will cost about \$1.4 million to extend the contract past a Sept. 30 expiration, out to Jan. 31, Sablan told commissioners.

The Cabras plants will go offline after the new Ukudu plant comes online, but GPA wants to have them on standby. They also need to burn off the last reserves of fuel for the aging plants.

Reach reporter Joe Taitano II at JTaitano@guampdn.com.

Session

Continued from Page 1

Lawmakers will reconvene 2 p.m. Thursday to vote.

Sen. Shawn Gumataotao's Bill 125-38 seeks to help address the ongoing housing crisis.

"If approved, Bill 125 has the potential to literally open doors for individuals and families across our great island, while contributing to our economic recovery," Gumataotao told his colleagues.

The bill would allow property owners to get a temporary business license to rent out any "dwelling

unit."

Instead of getting clearances from multiple government agencies, typical for a rental license, a property owner would instead clear an inspection from any home inspector licensed by the government.

If they want to rent out to tenants receiving federal housing assistance, the property would clear an inspection by an inspector certified with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Anyone with unpaid tax liabilities, or a previously suspended business license, would not be eligible.

Gumataotao pointed to reports of the median home value basically doubling between 2012 and 2024, amidst limited housing supply and increased demand by military and federal contractors. He said many residents were priced out of the market.

"If this policy secures a home for five, 15, 50 or 100 families within the next year, then I believe that we as a Guam Legislature have put forward a proposal worthy of our consideration," Gumataotao said.

Sen. Chris Duenas supports the measure, saying it would help families who want to rent their properties out for the first time.

"Many have put their rental properties or their properties on the rental market, not...just because they're leaving off island. Some of them are staying here and just trying to survive," Duenas said.

Likewise, Sen. Jesse Lujan said the bill offers one practical solution to the ongoing housing crisis.

"Families are struggling to find affordable options. Young people hoping to stay and build a future here are running out of choices. And our seniors, our veterans and the employees of the private sector of our economy are feeling the squeeze the hardest," Lujan said.

Reach reporter Joe Taitano II at JTaitano@guampdn.com.

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TODAY



Cloudy with a stray thunderstorm

High 87
Winds SSE 4-8
UV Index: 3

TONIGHT



Clouds breaking

Low 76
Winds NNE 3-6

RealFeel® Index

Today 100/86
Friday 100/84
Saturday 100/84
Sunday 98/87
Monday 101/84

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0-2 Low, 3-5 Moderate, 6-7 High, 8-10 Very High, 11+ Extreme.

FRIDAY



A morning thunderstorm or two

High 87, Low 77
Winds NNE 4-8
UV Index: 3

SATURDAY



Some rain and a t-storm in the afternoon

High 87, Low 76
Winds NNE 7-14
UV Index: 6

SUNDAY



Cloudy, a shower or two in the afternoon

High 87, Low 76
Winds S 6-12
UV Index: 3

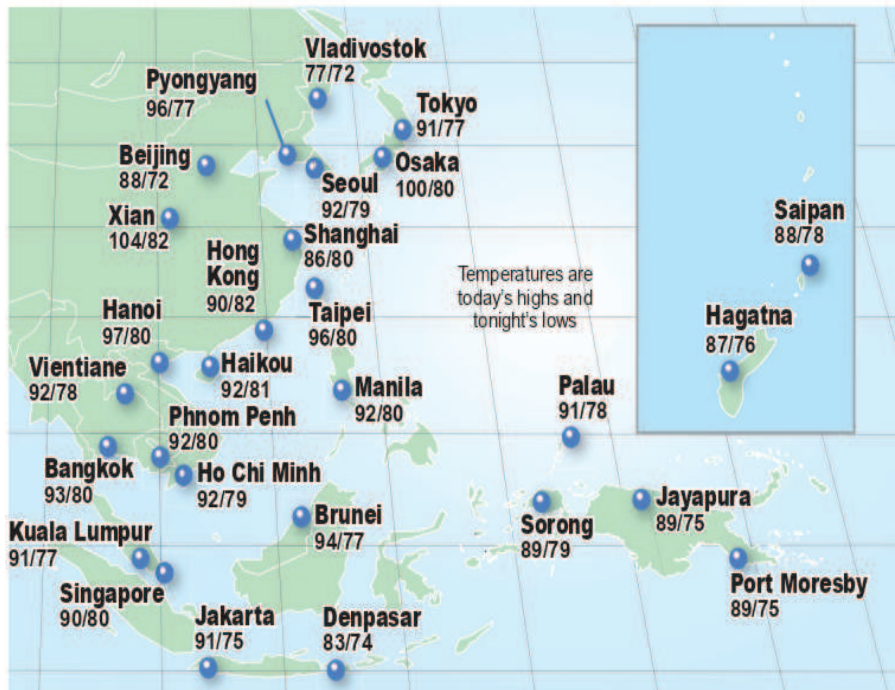
MONDAY



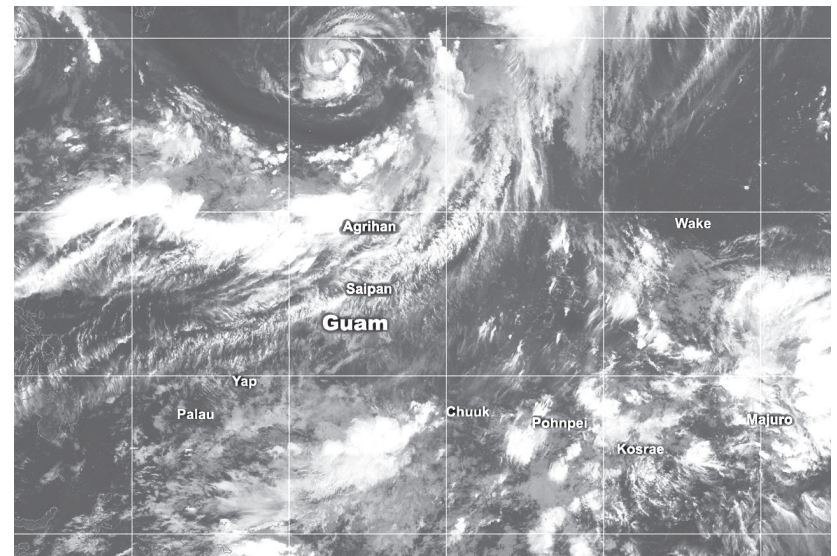
Occasional morning rain and a thunderstorm

High 86, Low 77
Winds SW 6-12
UV Index: 6

PACIFIC FORECAST FOR TODAY



SATELLITE



Marine forecast remains unchanged; a moderate risk of rip currents is expected along all reefs, as a dominant westerly swell and secondary easterly swell continue to produce elevated surf along all reefs. Rip current risk is likely to drop to low along east and south facing reefs by the weekend, once the westerly swell weakens enough to minimize wrap-around effects across the Marianas.

OUTDOOR INDEX

Boating					Beach				
THU.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	MON.
6	6	8	8	8	6	6	6	7	7

The AccuWeather Forecast considers numerous weather and water factors to help predict the conditions you will encounter. Rating on a scale from 0-10, where 10 is the best rating of the day.

WORLD CITIES

Today							Fri.						
City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Bangkok	93	80	r	95	80	r	Paris	78	61	c	74	55	pc
Beijing	88	72	pc	92	73	pc	Rome	85	67	s	83	68	s
Berlin	69	58	pc	72	58	sh	Seattle	78	59	pc	77	58	pc
Hong Kong	90	82	t	89	82	t	Seoul	92	79	pc	93	79	c
Honolulu	90	76	pc	89	75	sh	Shanghai	86	80	t	94	82	r
Houston	97	79	t	95	77	t	Singapore	90	80	c	90	81	t
Las Vegas	106	78	s	106	80	s	Sydney	58	50	r	56	53	sh
London	74	57	sh	71	56	c	Taipei City	96	80	t	93	80	t
Los Angeles	84	63	s	83	64	s	Tokyo	91	77	pc	87	79	sh
Manila	92	80	t	93	80	pc	Vladivostok	77	72	c	78	70	t
New York	82	64	t	70	62	r	Washington, DC	95	74	t	81	66	r

MICRONESIA

Today						Fri.							
City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Bikini	83	79	t	86	81	t	Nauru	86	79	pc	86	79	pc
Chuuk	82	77	t	82	76	sh	Palau	91	78	pc	89	78	pc
Kiribati	87	78	t	87	79	t	Pohnpei	88	74	t	88	76	t
Koror	91	78	pc	89	78	pc	Rota	84	77	r	86	77	r
Kosrae	87	79	t	86	78	t	Saipan	88	78	t	89	78	r
Kwajalein	83	80	t	86	80	sh	Tinian	88	79	r	89	78	t
Majuro	86	80	r	85	79	t	Yap	87	78	t	87	78	c

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice.

TIDES

Apra Harbor

	Jul. 31	Aug. 1
First high	12:07p 2.0 ft	12:12a 2.3 ft
First low	6:27a 1.0 ft	7:15a 0.8 ft
Second high	---	1:34p 1.9 ft
Second low	5:55p 1.2 ft	6:37p 1.4 ft

Pago Bay

	Jul. 31	Aug. 1
First high	12:00p 1.2 ft	1:46p 1.1 ft
First low	6:22a 0.6 ft	7:15a 0.4 ft
Second high	11:41p 1.6 ft	---
Second low	5:12p 0.8 ft	5:42p 1.0 ft

SUNRISE/SET

Sunrise today	6:07 a.m.
Sunset today	6:49 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	6:07 a.m.
Sunset tomorrow	6:49 p.m.

RAINFALL

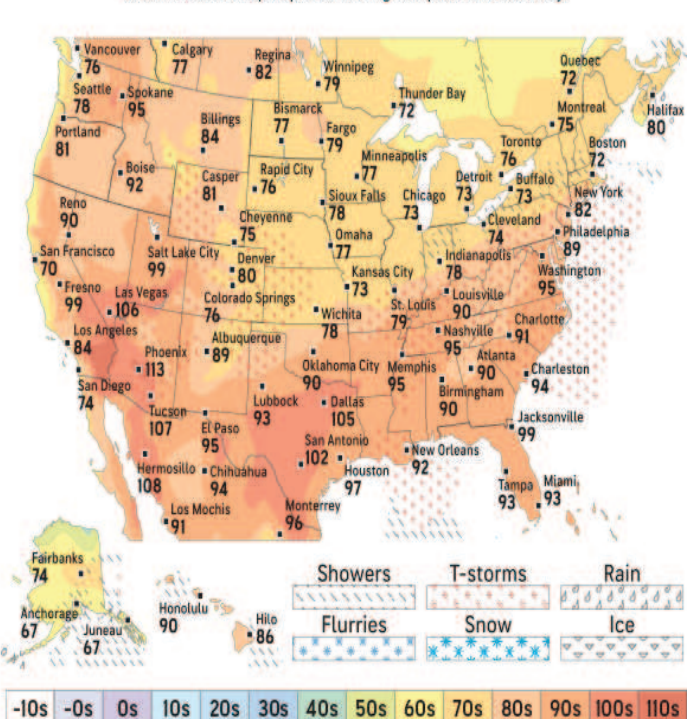
Tuesday	0.01"
Month to date/normal	12.12"/11.30"
Year to date/normal	41.35"/38.02"

MOON PHASES



U.S. FORECAST FOR TODAY

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.



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MENU	
Full-Sized Grilled Eel	\$18
Bento (Half Eel Size)	\$10
Meat BBQ Bento	\$15
Japan Beef Bento	\$20
Sugar Kiss Melon (Cut) ..	\$3
Assorted Refreshments	

Proposed exemption of military contractors from tax rollback raises concern

By Uriah Aguon
Pacific Daily News

Former Guam Contractors Association chairman Joe Roberto on Wednesday raised concern about a proposal to exempt military contractors from a business privilege tax rollback, saying off-island businesses often enlist the help of local businesses for work.

Roberto, the guest speaker at the Guam Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at Hilton Guam Resort and Spa, spoke mainly about Sen. Telo Taitague's proposed amendment to Sen. Shawn Gumataotao's Bill 11-38.

Gumataotao's bill seeks to rollback the BPT from 5% to 4%.

Taitague has been proposing an amendment to exempt all general contractors engaged in federally funded military build-



Joe Roberto, past chairman of the Guam Contractors Association, addresses Guam Chamber of Commerce members during their general membership meeting on July 30, 2025 at Hilton Guam Resort and Spa in Tumon.

RICK CRUZ/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

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Rollback

Continued from Page 8

up projects from the rollback, and preserving the rollback to local businesses still struggling from the impacts of the pandemic.

This comes at a time when Guam is seeing massive military construction projects, including those related to a 360-degree missile defense system for Guam.

"I've been with the GCA since 2010, and there are many more small businesses and contractors here in Guam that win the award, many more than what comes from off-island," Roberto said. "Up to 30% of Department of Defense contracts are mandated to go to small businesses. When you hear of a large contractor coming to Guam, they come with a team of five and

reach out to work with us. We are the ones physically doing the work."

In his remarks, Roberto said the amendment goes against a local law that makes subcontractors exempt from paying BPT or GRT as of March 2011.

"What she is saying is from the prime contractor to an adviser to the engineer to everybody, they're going to get taxed," Roberto said. "That is double, triple, and quadruple taxation. Whether it be four, five, or six percent doesn't matter. What matters is how it stacks. That's the issue that we have."

Roberto rather encourages the rollback, claiming it could lead to greater cash flow, competitive pricing on contract bids, increased budget for flexibility, and the means to offer various

employment incentives.

The greater issue of taxing contractors, he said, is the effect it will have on their costs and funding.

Salary, wages, and other compensations are included in company expenses, which are evaluated based on the number of skilled workers and employees, he said.

According to the Department of Labor, there are 4,771 H-2B workers on Guam as of June 2025.

The Guam Contractors Association employs over 18,400 contractors, associates, and so forth,

Roberto added.

"If you offered this island \$10 billion, we would be forced to say no," Roberto said. "We simply cannot do it. We do not have enough people [because] we don't have the housing [or] in-

frastructure. This is why some of these billion-dollar contractors choose not to come, yet those few that are here communicate with local contractors. They have a house to live in and a car to drive to work."

He added, "That's why I try to communicate with our political leaders to sit down together because what you're asking for, what you're thinking, is unrealistic. A few thousand people cannot do billions of dollars' worth of work."

Roberto ultimately calls for Guam's senators to "support Bill 11-38 in its original form."

Tae Oh, chairman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce board, said he will support this by pushing for Bill 11-38 to be addressed during the Legislature's next budget meeting.

Reach reporter Uriah Aguon at uaguon@guampdn.com.



Oh





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Girl testifies against 2 men accused of raping her

By Julianne Hernandez
Pacific Daily News

A teenage girl made her first court appearance Wednesday to face the two men she accused of sexually assaulting her when she was just 13 years old.

Now 15 and preparing for her sophomore year in high school, the girl testified on the second day of trial against Kason Andon and Mannix Frank Songeni in Superior Court Judge Alberto Tolentino's courtroom.

Both men, who were also present in court, are facing multiple charges from the alleged assault.

The girl spoke softly and often held her fingers close to her mouth throughout questioning.

The teenager identified Andon, who sat in court wearing a blue shirt, brown pants, and black shoes.

She recounted the day when she was called to the nurses office at Astumbo Middle School over a rumor.

"This girl, she went to the counselor and told the counselor that I was pregnant," she said, adding that she didn't even speak to the classmate that day. "Because the counselor told me."

She met with school nurse Cheryl Quiaoit in



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Kason Andon and Frank Songeni.

her office after the report but said she never told the counselor anything and couldn't remember the counselor's name.

According to court documents and prosecuting attorney Christine Tenorio's opening remarks Tuesday, her visit to the nurses office was when she confided in the school nurse about a sexual abuse inflicted by Andon and Songeni.

Quiaoit also testified in the Tuesday trial.

The teenager also recounted years of instability, abuse, and neglect. Her voice remained

steady as she described how Child Protective Services placed her in her grandmother's care after months of missing school.

She identified photos of the Barrigada apartment where her family once lived and where the alleged assault took place, describing the exterior and interior in detail.

According to court documents, Songeni locked the door of the apartment and Andon raped her while Songeni forced her to perform oral sex.

The teenager is expected to be back in court and continue her testimony on Thursday.

Andon, also known as Keetpap Tokoko and Keison Andon, is charged with first- and second-degree criminal sexual conduct, both first-degree felonies. The charges also carry a special allegation of committing a felony while on felony release.

Songeni, a registered sex offender, faces charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and complicity to commit the same. According to the Guam Sex Offender Registry, he has a prior conviction for indecent exposure involving five girls aged 12 and 13 in 2015.

Contact reporter Julianne Hernandez at jhernandez@guampdn.com or (671) 483-1429



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Board holds off vote on SIFA use of Chief Brodie campus

By Julianne Hernandez
Pacific Daily News

The Guam Education Board held off voting on whether to allow Science is Fun and Awesome, SIFA, Learning Academy Charter School to use the Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary School because of unresolved legal questions about the lease.

The board voted unanimously to take no action on the matter during their meeting late Tuesday afternoon.

Board members cited unresolved legal questions over the lease of the Tamuning campus and the Guam Department of Education's apparent lack of authority to lease the property.

Education officials are also waiting for legal opinion from the Office of the Attorney General.

SIFA remains without a campus to accommodate hundreds of its students and staff, with only a few weeks before the start of the School Year 2025-2026.

"So right now, SIFA has no facility? You're not renting out any facility of any kind?" GEB Chairman Angel Sablan asked during the board meeting.

Ron Ravela, SIFA's director for planning, compliance, and research said there's "none."

"Unfortunately, the places that are available will require several months of renovations," Ravela said. "But nothing close to even the capacity of what we need in terms of classroom setup."

No AG opinion yet

Board members said they have not received a legal opinion from the AG's office whether they have the authority to lease GDOE facilities to charter schools.

Without that guidance and finalized lease documents, they said they are not in a legal position to move forward.

"We did request an AG's opinion on the legality of this board making a decision on allowing SIFA to utilize the Chief Brodie Elementary School facility. To this minute, we have not received that opinion," Sablan said. "It is the board's desire that we cannot really make any decision or make any more discussions on the request for SIFA."

Additional concerns focused on



RICK CRUZ/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary School in Tamuning on Feb. 19, 2025.

whether the land on which Chief Brodie Elementary sits is already under lease to CaPFA Capital Corp., the same entity managing the John F. Kennedy High School property.

If that's the case, then GDOE lacks the authority to lease it without written approval from the leaseholder, the education board said.

"There was in the legislature today a bill discussing trying to give authority to lease out facilities owned by GDOE...that bill has been sent back to committee," Sablan said. "If they're doing a bill to authorize GDOE to lease facilities, that tells us we don't have the authority in the first place."

He was referring to Sen. Joe San Agustin's Bill 70-38, which seeks to raise funds for GDOE by leasing closed school properties. Senators debated the bill for hours but they ultimately sent it back to committee on Tuesday.

Sablan said the board wants to support SIFA but not at the expense of legal integrity.

"We want them to have a facility. That's why we were talking about the interim lease agreement," he said. "But we also don't want to say, 'yes, you can use it on an interim basis,' and then have the AG come back and say, 'You didn't have the authority.' What happens when we traumatize the kids twice?"

Former legislative speaker and former interim education superintendent Judith Won Pat confirmed ongoing lease complications in-

volving the property and CaPFA Capital Corp, owner of the JFK High School property.

"Yes, extensive research on the subject matter and the original contract...The land management plan was revised. The property where Chief Brodie is located was included in the original JFK lease," she said. "Basically said they have no lease for an interest in Chief Brodie... but they needed to submit something in writing."

Delays

SIFA counsel Mike Phillips criticized the delays and lack of transparency.

"When I was legal counsel to this board... if you want to see a lease, I would give it to you in three minutes," Phillips said. "Why are they not showing this lease? That's the key element. These are very significant things."

He said the board could still resolve the issue quickly.

"You have the power to change this in 24 hours...why don't you take a look at that lease and see if Mister Phillips is right... maybe they want liability insurance. I have no doubt that you could have purchased liability insurance."

Phillips then shifted his focus to what he described as political interference behind the scenes.

"You folks know a lot more about this. I just feel people that have my responsibility are not doing their job for you," he said. "Because of that, everybody here, especially

the students, are going to pay for it dearly."

Sablan responded to Phillips, clarifying that GDOE is not the leaseholder.

"We don't have the lease because we didn't promulgate that lease," he said. "And we don't pay that lease. GDOE does not pay that lease. It's paid from the governor's office."

Board member Judi Guthertz said since her first day on the board, she's been advocating for GDOE to have its own counsel.

Education officials confirmed GDOE does not have a copy of the lease and it is outside their purview.

SIFA still looking for new campus

In the meantime, SIFA is actively searching for a facility.

The board said they are open to a special meeting once the AG opinion and lease documents are provided.

"If we get back all of that stuff, I'm sure they will want to come to a special meeting and resolve all of this," Sablan said.

Won Pat pledged continued collaboration and flexibility.

"We want to be a solution to the efforts of the board and department. One thing is definitely for sure: some kids going back to the system is a strain on the double sessions," Won Pat said. "All we're asking is for one school year."

The SIFA school calendar remains flexible, with a tentative start date of August 14 or 15.

Officials said they are willing to adjust depending on when a facility becomes available.

"We just want to make sure that whatever we're doing is not something that's going to come and bite us in the back because we didn't do it right," Sablan said.

The board moved to schedule a special meeting, noting it requires five days' public notice under the Open Government Law unless an emergency is declared.

"Once we get all the representative answers to some of these, I'm willing to call a special meeting to put this on the table and go one way or the other," Sablan said.

Contact reporter Julianne Hernandez at jhernandez@guampdn.com or (671) 483-1429.

ISLAND OF THE ENDLESS SUMMER

OPINION McNinch: 75th anniversary of the Guam Organic Act

By Ron McNinch
For Pacific Daily News

On Aug. 1, 1950, the Organic Act of Guam was signed into law by President Harry Truman. This week, we will celebrate the 75th anniversary, but many of the important points related to this historic legislation are often overlooked or subjected to skewed revisionism.

Several of the key figures in making the Organic Act a reality are also often ignored in the haze of history.

America has a well documented history regarding how territories are addressed under the U.S. Constitution. From the Northwest ordinances to our current populated territories, there are a large number of overlooked and undervalued lessons that can be used to make progress for Guam.

Unfortunately, most of our elected leaders are either too shallow or uncaring to use these opportunities. Of course, this would take actual leadership by our elected leaders and we sadly do not have leaders with very much vision in our current government.

It is likely that Governor Carl Gutierrez was the last public leader with real vision on the executive side. The late Speaker Mark Forbes was likely the last real leader with vision on the legislative side.

In 1976, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands were provided an option to develop internal constitutions that would allow more direct control of the government. The USVI has tried and failed at least five times to get a draft constitution approved by the U.S. Congress.

Guam had a document approved on the first try, but then the draft was not approved by voters. It is



PDN FILE PHOTO

Brandon Fujikawa, left, captures friends Dar Sanchez and Chauntae Quichocho, right, interacting with a cutout display of the historic Aug. 1, 1950, signing of Guam's Organic Act, during the opening of the "Fanohge CHamoru Put I Tano'-Ta: Charting Our Collective Future" exhibit at the Senator Antonio Palomo Guam Museum and CHamoru Educational Facility in Hagåtña on March 28, 2022.

likely that this draft could be dusted off and approved by voters.

If we used a phase-in method spanning about 10 years, we could even amend the document as needed to meet our current needs.

A Guam Constitution simply allows us to move the political furniture around in our house of government. Political status is like moving to a new neighborhood. The two points are very different, and often confused.

This current day lack of leadership was not the case in the post-war years that led Guam to an Organic Act in 1950. After the Guam Congress was re-established in 1946, Guam leaders set their sights on attaining U.S. citizenship for Guam nationals and they also lobbied for an Organic Act for Guam.

Among mainland voices that helped Guam, Laura M. Thompson, who spent her formative years on Guam as an anthropologist in the 1930s, was an active voice. Following the war, she was not allowed to return to Guam by the U.S. Navy. She was not able to return to Guam until 1977.

By July 1947, a draft Guam Organic Act, H.R. 4340, was proposed in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Fred Crawford, a Republican from Michigan. Every semester, I have my students look at this document and compare it to the Guam Organic approved in 1950.

The differences between the 1947 draft and the 1950 law are striking and notable. While both documents have a set of basic rights, the 1947 version prohibited plural

marriage.

The 1950 version has a very progressive and unique protection against discrimination based on language. There are several notable parts in the 1947 version that were not in the 1950 version.

The Guam Legislature was to have two houses and was called the House of Assembly (two-year terms) and the House of Council (four-year terms). This was similar to the structure of the Guam Congress.

Guam was supposed to get a resident commissioner, which is a four-year term delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. This did not happen for over 20 years.

Members of the Legislature were to hold sessions up to nine weeks a year and were to be paid by the U.S. at \$15 a day or about \$215 today. This would mean that current senators would receive about \$9,000 per year and only meet about 45 days a year.

Next week, I will talk about some additional points related to the Organic Act and making progress for Guam.

As I have said before several times, our leaders should ask the president to appoint a special representative to shepherd a commonwealth status for Guam. This is a reasonable interim status that would have several political advantages for Guam.

But there are few actual leaders anywhere around here and we live in a community of cowards. And you, my dear voters, keep electing them.

Ron McNinch is a longstanding member of the Guam community and frequently gives his opinion on a wide range of topics.



McNinch

LETTER: Pros and cons of GPD having an independent attorney

By Dave Duenas

Bill 158-38, authored by Vice Speaker Tony Ada, would authorize the Guam Police Department to hire an independent attorney, rather than continuing to rely on the attorney general for legal counsel.

I have some personal thoughts

on this proposal.

Pros

Avoids conflict of interest: If the AG's office is investigating GPD officers or the department itself, the AG cannot ethically represent both sides. An inde-



Duenas

pendent attorney removes this conflict.

Faster legal advice: A dedicated legal counsel for GPD can provide more immediate guidance on operational or policy decisions without waiting in line behind other government

agency requests.

Specialized expertise: An in-house or contracted attorney focused solely on police-related legal issues can develop a deeper understanding of law enforcement operations, policies, and risks.

See DUENAS, Page 14

LETTER: Keeping our people safe, informed, prepared

By Del. James Moylan

As our island continues to monitor the ongoing tsunami advisory, I want to reassure the people of Guam that I am in active and direct communication with senior White House officials, federal partners, and local leadership to ensure that every available resource and emergency response mechanism is in place and ready to be activated as conditions evolve.

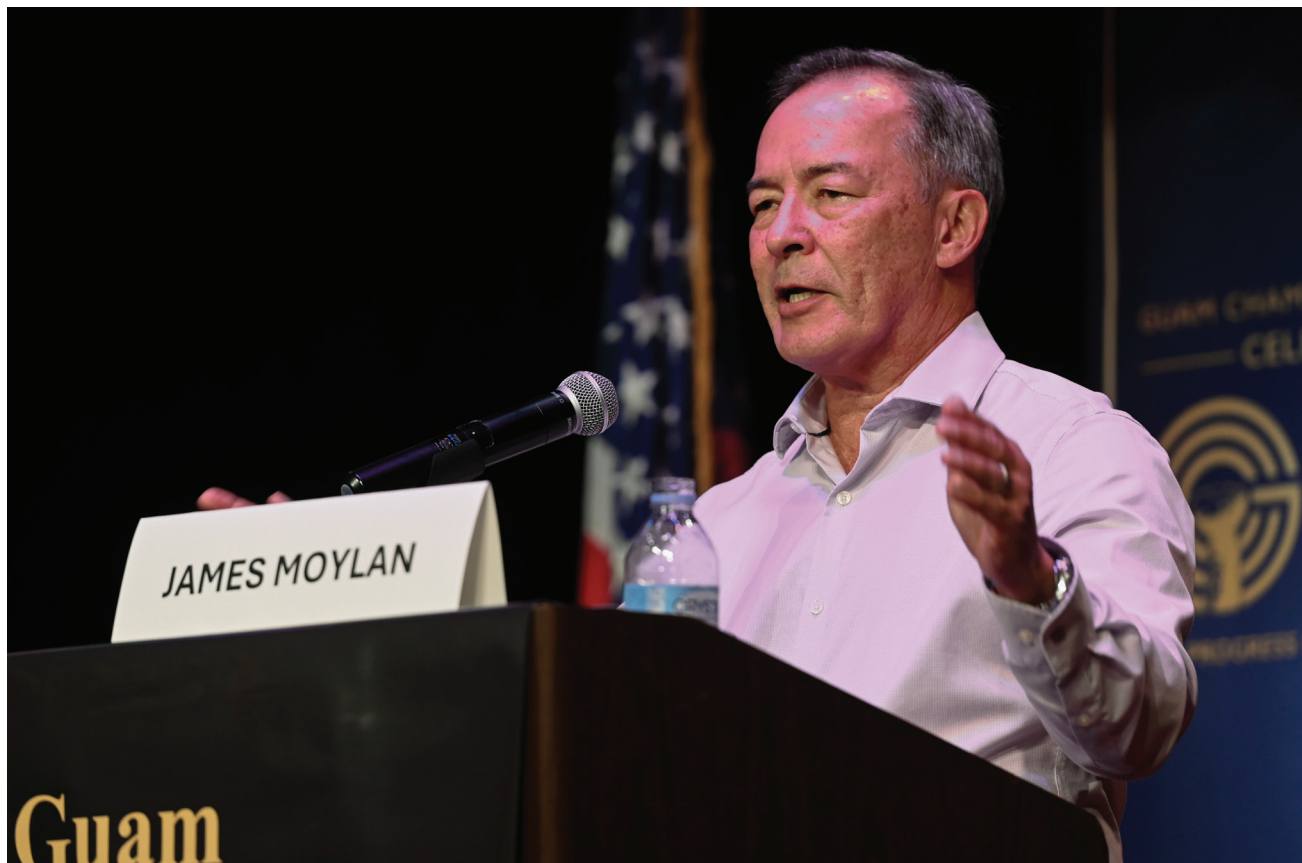
I have been provided with a direct line to the president should the situation escalate, and I remain in contact with Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. Together, we are closely tracking the advisory in coordination with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and key federal agencies.

We are aligned in our mission to keep our people safe, informed, and prepared.

While there is currently no cause for alarm, this is a serious situation and one we are treating with the utmost urgency. The safety and security of our island remain my highest priority.

I urge all residents and visitors to continue monitoring official guidance from the Office of Homeland Security and Civil Defense, and to stay tuned to trusted news and government sources for updates.

At this time, we strongly advise all members of the community to



Del. James Moylan responds to a question during a congressional forum, hosted by the Guam Chamber of Commerce, at Hilton Guam Resort and Spa in Tumon on Oct. 30, 2024. RICK CRUZ/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

stay out of the water, move away from beaches, and follow instructions from local emergency authorities.

For additional information on tsunami preparedness and federal emergency resources, please visit:

- www.ready.gov/tsunamis
- www.usa.gov/disasters-and-emergencies
- www.disasterassistance.gov
- www.fema.gov
- www.noaa.gov
- <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/tsunami.html>

www.dhs.gov

Thank you for your vigilance and cooperation in helping to keep our island safe.

Delegate James Moylan is currently serving his second term in 119th U.S. Congress as the representative for Guam.

Duenas

Continued from Page 13

Operational independence: Allows GPD more control over its legal strategy and internal matters, rather than being reliant on AG priorities or political pressures.

Cons

Hiring or contracting an independent attorney means additional budget requirements, including salary, benefits, or retainer fees. With GPD already understaffed, to fund an independent attorney could potentially fund three or more new police recruits.

Having separate counsel can lead to inconsistencies or misalignment between GPD and other government entities still represented by

the AG.

The AG is elected and accountable to the public. An independent attorney may be less publicly transparent unless proper oversight mechanisms are in place.

The AG has statutory authority over certain criminal and civil matters. An independent attorney may still need to coordinate or defer to the AG in some situations.

While there are valid arguments

on both sides, I support increasing police presence on the streets by hiring additional officers.

Allowing agencies to hire their own independent attorneys could set a precedent that strains the government's already limited resources, an important concern that should not be overlooked.

Dave Duenas is a resident of Dededo.

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Starry Starry Night: Look for the Milky Way, Southern Triangle

By Pam Eastlick
For Pacific Daily News

Greetings! Your early morning eastern sky is filled with very bright stars and planets and it's worth getting up and having a look. Just go outside around 5 o'clock any morning this week and if the clouds let you, you'll see some amazing things.

Face due east and you'll see two astoundingly bright stars. They aren't stars. The brighter one is Venus and the one below it is Jupiter.

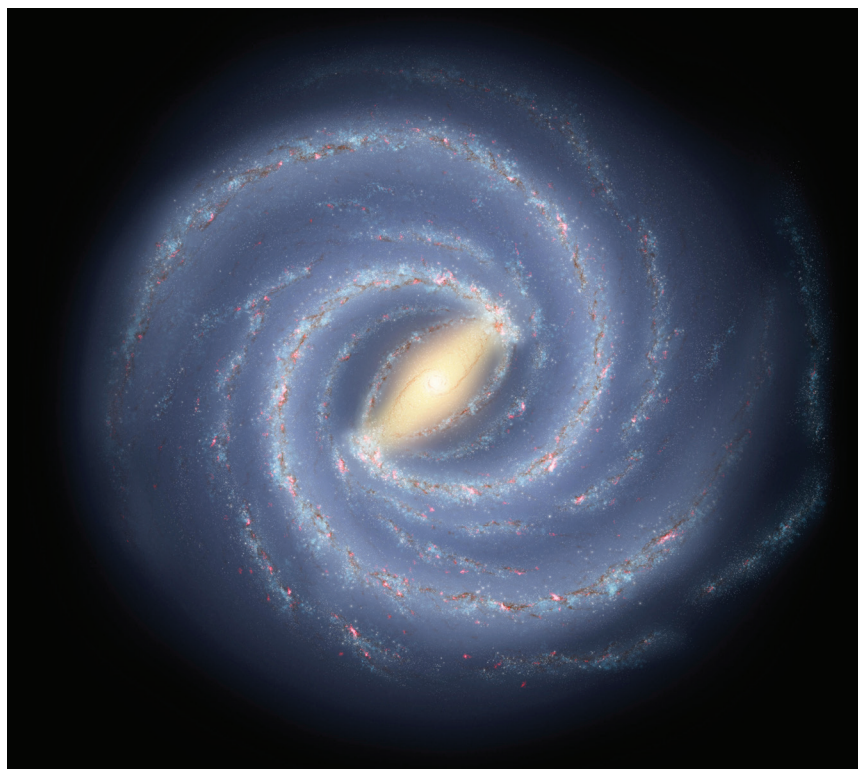
To the right of Venus, you'll find Orion the Hunter, the sky's most famous constellation. Orion is surrounded by some of the sky's brightest stars.

His upper foot is Rigel, the seventh brightest star and his lower shoulder is Betelgeuse, number 12.

A fist-width to the right of Venus and two fist-widths up is Aldebaran, number 13 on the bright star hit parade. Two fist-widths to the left of Venus and a fist-width up is Capella, the sixth brightest star.

And if you keep watching the sky, by 5:30 you'll see the orange glow of sunrise and two fist-widths to the right of due east and a fist-width up, you may see another very bright star. That one is a star. That's Sirius, the brightest star in earth's skies. It's a wonderful morning view. Don't miss it!

Mars is two-and-a-half fist widths above due west in the evening sky this week. Although there will be a waxing moon in the sky all week, it's still a good time to



NASA/JPL-CALTECH
This artist's concept illustrates the new view of the Milky Way. The galaxy's two major arms can be seen attached to the ends of a thick central bar, while the two now-demoted minor arms are less distinct and located between the major arms.

have a look at our southern evening sky.

The plane of our solar system and the plane of the Milky Way are not aligned. The ecliptic is tilted about 65 degrees to the plane of the Milky Way. If the ecliptic and the Milky Way were aligned, the Milky Way would always be overhead for us because we're so near Earth's equator.

But the Milky Way swings

through our sky throughout the year, sometimes arching high overhead and sometimes close to the horizon. Last month, we could only see the Milky Way in the area around the Southern Cross.

But in late July, something marvelous happens. We circle around the Sun to the point where we look directly into the galaxy's heart. I hope our skies are clear for at least a few days this month because we

have an awesome view of our galaxy's central bulge in July.

Here's how to find it. Face due south and find the giant fishhook between 3 and 5 fist-widths up. That's Scorpius the Scorpion. Now look at the area just to the left of the hook.

If you're outside for a long time and your eyes adjust completely to the dark, you'll see that there's a river of stars that skirts the eastern horizon and disappears to the right of the Southern Cross. You've just found the Milky Way.

To the left of the hook and above it, you should see a large group of stars that looks astoundingly like a teapot. Those are the brightest stars of Sagittarius the Archer and the Milky Way's center is just off the end of the spout.

Now find Crux the Southern Cross close to the southwestern horizon and look due south. Measure a fist-width up from the horizon and you just might see a fairly bright constellation that's completely unknown to northern stargazers because it's too far south to see. It's called Triangulum Australe the Southern Triangle and it's due south this week and of course, it's shaped like a triangle!

Our summer skies are magnificent. Enjoy them this week!

Pam Eastlick was the coordinator for the former University of Guam planetarium since the early 1990s. She has been writing this weekly astronomy column since 2003. Send any questions or comments to life@guampdn.com and we will forward them to her.



EM Recreation Club donates to Harvest House

Pacific Daily News

EM Recreation Club presented donations of backpacks and water bottles to support the 2025 Harvest House Back-2-School Campaign, which would help foster children.

The donated items were handed over on July 18.

The backpacks and water bottles items will be shared with foster children in Guam, equipping them with essential supplies for the upcoming school year, the EM Recreation Club said.

Harvest House is a ministry that

supports foster children's physical and social growth, mental and emotional strength, and spiritual uplifting.

For more information about Harvest House and its mission, visit harvesthouseguam.org.

COURTESY OF MOBIL OIL GUAM INC.
From left, EM Rec Club president Floreann Perez, member Catherine Leon Guerrero, Harvest House founder and executive director Bethany Taylor, EM Rec Club community committee event coordinator Jennifer Duenas, and Harvest House assistant Nikki Baugus



Yona man helps preserve seafaring heritage, one canoe at a time

By Uriah Aguon
Pacific Daily News

Yona resident Keith Quintanilla has been building and repairing canoes for 14 years, particularly using fiberglass as a medium.

This is his way of helping to preserve the CHamoru seafaring heritage, he said.

Quintanilla, also known as the Boat Doctor on social media, recently took on a project for the 81st Liberation Day Parade following the Yona village float.

It is a built-to-scale replica of the sakman or flying proa depicted in the 1740-1744 Anson Drawings of Tinian. A sakman is a traditional CHamoru sailing outrigger boat.

This project, he said, was born out of “a deep desire to reconnect with our maritime heritage and cultural identity.”

Quintanilla, 50, built the canoe as a way to not only honor his CHamoru ancestors but help keep seafaring traditions alive.

His process began following the 2024 Festival of Pacific Arts when a canoe belonging to 500 Sails called “Auntie Oba” stopped in Guam for repairs.

“I asked if I could do the repairs and use Auntie Oba as a mold, and 500 Sails said it was fine, because I had worked with them in the past,” Quintanilla told the Pacific Daily News. “I flipped Auntie Oba upside down and waxed it. I laid fiberglass over it, and then I popped



URIAH AGUON/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS
Keith Quintanilla builds this sakman or flying proa, a replica of the 1740-1744 Anson Drawings of Tinian, during a visit on July 19, 2025. The sakman was kept in the Yona Gym near the village mayor's office before Mayor BJ Terlaje featured it with the village float in the 81st Liberation Day Parade on July 21, 2025.

that mold off, and what we have is the exact duplicate of that process.”

Plan: Canoes for each village

Additionally, the canoe can be used as a mold to build more and potentially a whole fleet. Its material is more durable than wood, easier to repair, and should last “almost forever.”

“The thing about fiberglass is that we don’t use any of our natural resources. Our trees remain safe for future generations, and fiberglass

should last almost forever,” he said. “The youths we teach today will grow up and teach their youths of tomorrow using the same canoes.”

Once they can accomplish reproduction, the hope of Quintanilla and Yona Mayor Brian Terlaje is that each of Guam’s 19 villages could have a set of three canoes, if not a whole fleet one day.

The primary goal is to use this and future canoes in community training classes, starting in Yona, to teach children and adults how to

sail, tie knots, build and mold canoes, and use stars for navigation.

Aiming to return the people of Guam to their roots, Quintanilla and Terlaje even hope to start a program for traditional canoe racing, similar to contemporary paddling tournaments, and preparing a team to sail to the CNMI.

“It opens up the possibility of making a fleet and having one available in every village for inter-island or inter-village racing,” Terlaje said. “There are sailing programs that already exist, and we want to be at the southern forefront. Connecting with the already existing programs that focus on navigation and sailing can allow the opportunity to start one.”

The importance of this canoe and its possibilities is cultural preservation, he said.

It offers a new way to educate CHamoru children about aspects of their culture and allow everyone on Guam the opportunity to return to their traditional seafaring roots.

“I have to be really proud,” Quintanilla said. “I did a lot of work, but so did my two boys, the mayor, and the mayor’s crew. Everybody was able to put their input together, and we have something beautiful that the community can use as a tool to further our ancestral seafaring rights.”

Reach reporter Uriah Aguon at uaguon@guampdn.com.

Start small, start now: A cycad love story

By Olympia Terral
For Pacific Daily News

Guam-born Benjamin Deloso has a fascination with cycads. His fascination led him to enroll in a PhD program at Florida International University, where he plans to focus on Pacific Island cycads for his research. He just finished the first year of his PhD program.



Terral

This is good news for cycads, as they are one of the most threatened plant species on the planet. Our local fadang belongs to the cycad



family called *Cycas micronesica*, and they are in danger of disappearing.

A botany professor he had as an undergrad at the University of North Carolina Wilmington first

COURTESY OF OLYMPIA TERRAL
A very healthy fadang crown that does not appear to have any evidence of cycad scale insects.

got him excited about plants. He became interested in cycads, an ancient lineage of plants that existed before flowering plants evolved.

After graduating, he started looking for research publications on cycads and found University of Guam researcher Dr. Thomas Marler’s work. He began communicating with Marler, which prompted him to return to Guam to work on cycad research projects and eventually pursue a master’s

See TERRAL, Page 17

Terral

Continued from Page 16

degree at UOG.

With Marler as his mentor, Deloso helped design the educational Cycad Walk on UOG campus. This cycad garden contains plants representing all 10 genera of cycads and is an around-the-world tour with plants originating from Africa, Australia, the Americas, and Cuba. All grown from seed by Marler.

Deloso received his Master of Science in Environmental Science degree from UOG in 2020.

"Marler introduced me to prominent cycad researchers working in different parts of the world including researchers at the Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami, Florida. They have one of the largest cycad and palm collections with a focus on ex situ conservation and research. I plan to utilize their living collections of fadang as part of my research," Deloso said.

A cycad biologist from the Montgomery Botanical Center, Michael Calonje, PhD, first visited Guam in



COURTESY OF OLYMPIA TERRAL
Our guide, Vance Eflin, leads the way through the limestone forest to visit what are believed to be the two tallest cycads in Guam.

2007, when fadang on Guam and Rota were being devastated by an invasive miniscule but mighty insect, the Asian cycad scale.

He and Marler completed intensive field work to gather leaf samples for genetic experiments, and he returned to Florida with 561 seeds from fadang populations on Rota and Guam.

According to an article on the Montgomery Botanical Center website, they have 150 distinct samples of *Cycas micronesica* for ex situ conservation purposes. It is the most complete representation

of a single species at the center.

"When the cycad scale is under control in the Marianas, the cycads at MBC may provide young plants from their collection for reintroduction to their native habitat in Micronesia," Deloso said.

Deloso feels like plants are sometimes overlooked when it comes to conservation work. There is a lot of work being done to save birds, dolphins, and other charismatic species. He wants to make sure plants, especially the extremely threatened cycads, get the attention they deserve.

He was recently in Guam with Montgomery Botanical Center Executive Director M. Patrick Griffith, PhD, to visit two of the tallest fadang on the island.

My friend Vance Eflin introduced me to these magnificent cycads about six years ago, hiking the limestone cliffs in Malojloj. When I saw these robust and awe-inspiring plants, I immediately thought that Marler and Deloso would appreciate them as much as I did. I was right, they did.

Now, Deloso was back with Griffith to take measurements and leaf samples for MBC research.

Conservation projects often begin with a person taking an interest in a plant or animal they have come to love, which often has a profound effect on their life choices.

In Deloso's case, this love brought him to Guam, Florida and back to Guam, helping to shine a global light on *Cycas micronesica* and the flora of the region.

Olympia Terral is a science writer and published author. She is currently working on her second children's book about honey bees. Let her know about your conservation projects and related topics at olympia.uog@gmail.com.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Lolin Santos Stone

JANUARY 2, 1962 - JULY 24, 2025

She will be greeted at the Gates of Heaven by her:

Parents: Vicente C. Santos (Hook) & Rita (Salas) Rios Santos

Siblings: Lourdes Sweet; Roque R. Santos; Vicente R. Santos; George R. Santos; Tommy (Jesus) R. Santos; Antonia S. Diallman; Anthony R. Santos; Macrina S. Sablan

Her Love & Memories will forever be in the hearts of her:

Husband: Ted Stone II

Daughter: Zazra Santos Stone

Siblings: Terisita S. Houston; Peling (Jose) R. Santos; Anita S. Montgomery; Patricia S. Gumataotao; Peter R. Santos; Jane R. Santos

Last respects will be held on Saturday, August 2 from 9:00 am - 12noon at Our Lady of Peace Funeral home in Barrigada (across Dept of Revenue and Taxation). Private Cremation services to follow.



OBITUARIES

Martin Dabu Paule

Of Dededo, died July 15, at the age of 91.

Last respects will be held 9-11:30 a.m. Aug. 1, followed by Mass of Christian burial at noon, at Sta. Barbara Church (lower level), Dededo. Interment services will immediately follow at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens, Windward Hills, Yona.



Paule

Margaret Reyes Manalisay

Died July 27, at the age of 58.

Mass of Intention is being held 6 p.m. Mon.-Sun. at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Yigo. Last respects will be held 9-11:45 a.m. Aug. 5, followed by Mass of Christian burial at noon, at San Dimas Church, Malesso'. Interment service will follow immediately at Merizo Cemetery.



Manalisay

Emmanuel Blas Perez

Also known as "John" of Yigo, died July 8, at the age of 60.

Last respects will be held 9-11:30 a.m. Aug. 6 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Yigo. Mass of Christian burial will be held at noon, followed by interment at Perez Memorial Park, Yigo.



Perez

Brigida Mallanes Alarcon

Of Dededo, died July 20, at the age of 85.

Last respects will be held 9-11 a.m. Aug. 7 at Santo Nino De Maligaya Shrine, Latte Heights. Mass of Christian burial will be held at noon at

San Vicente Catholic Church, Barrigada. Interment services will immediately follow at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens, Windward Hills, Yona.

Jose Dela Cruz Santos

Of NCS Dededo, died July 22, at the age of 73.

Last respects will be held 9-11 a.m. July 31 at Our Lady of Peace Funeral Home, Barrigada. Mass of Christian burial will be held at noon at St. Anthony Church, Tamuning. Private cremation service will immediately follow at Our Lady of Peace Crematorium, Windward Hills, Yona.



Alarcon



Santos

Fred Libby

Of Piti, formerly of Santa Rita-Sumai, died July 17, at the age of 93.

Mass is being held 6 p.m. Mon.-Sat., followed by Rosary, and 9 a.m. Sun., at Assumption of Our Lady Church, Piti. Last respects will be held 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Aug. 2, followed by Mass of Christian burial 1 p.m., at Assumption of Our Lady Church, Piti. Interment services will follow immediately at Guam Veteran's Cemetery.

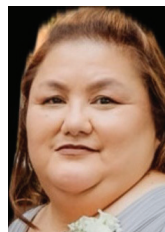


Libby

Connie M. Gumabon Cruz

Also known as "Nina Con" of Mangilao, died July 20, at the age of 50.

Last respects will be held 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Aug. 2 at San Vicente/San Roke Catholic Church, Barrigada. Mass of Christian burial will be held



Cruz

1 p.m., followed by interment at Guam Memorial Park, Leyang, Barrigada.

Juanita Paulino Castro Arceo

Also known as "Jane" Familian Chala of Phelan, California, formerly of Mongmong, died July 11, at the age of 69.

Mass of Intention is being held 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 5 p.m. Sat.; 9 a.m. Sun., at Nuestra Señora de las Aguas Church, Mongmong. Last respects will be held 9-11:30 a.m. Aug. 9 at Nuestra Señora de las Aguas Church, Mongmong. Mass of Christian burial will be held at noon. Interment will follow at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens, Windward Hills.



Arceo

Juan Cepeda

Also known as "John" of Yigo, died July 20, at the age of 63.

Last respects will be held 9-11:30 a.m. Aug. 9 at Sta. Barbara Catholic Church (upper level), Dededo. Mass of Christian burial will be held at noon, followed by interment at Guam Memorial Park, Leyang, Barrigada.



Cepeda

Vicente A. Magbanua

Also known as "Manong/Vic" of Mangilao, died July 22, at the age of 82.

Last respects will be held 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Aug. 16 at Guam Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, Leyang, Barrigada. Interment to follow at Guam Memorial Park.



Magbanua

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Superintendent
of Education

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CARMEN T. CHARFAUROS
Supply Management
Administrator

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL GDOE RFP 012-2025 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE A SERIES OF AUDIOVISUAL BROADCASTING PROGRAM

SUBMISSION DATE: Friday, August 15, 2025 at
3:00 p.m. CHST

Note: It is solely the Offerer's responsibility to
review the website on a daily basis for the issuance
of Amendments/Clarifications for any possible
changes to the RFP.

RFP packages are available for download
on the GDOE website at
**[www.gdoe.net/District/Department/
12-Office-of-Supply-Management](http://www.gdoe.net/District/Department/12-Office-of-Supply-Management)**.

* A hard copy may also be picked up at the
GDOE Office of Supply Management at
**501 Mariner Avenue, Suite 116
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1608.**

* A non-refundable fee of \$10.00 (cash only) is
required upon hard copy pick-up.

This activity is administered by the Guam
Department of Education (GDOE) and funded by
the Consolidated Grant FY23.

/s/ CARMEN T. CHARFAUROS
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR
For: K. ERIK SWANSON, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Guam Judicial Center
120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
www.guamcourts.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) NO. 25-10

TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES

The Judiciary of Guam is accepting proposals from qualified firms/
individuals to provide **Transcription Services** for the Judiciary
of Guam.

Interested and qualified firms/individuals may request for an
electronic copy of the RFP package at the Procurement Office
located in Guam Judicial Center, 1st Floor, 120 West O'Brien
Drive in Hagåtña beginning **July 29, 2025 (Guam Standard
Time)** from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, **Monday thru Friday, except
Government of Guam holidays.**

All Proposals must be submitted to the Procurement Office **no
later than 2pm, August 19, 2025 (Guam Standard Time)**. Late
proposals will not be considered. For any periodic updates of
the RFP please visit the Judiciary's website <http://guamcourts.org>.

For more information, and to request for electronic copy of the
RFP, please contact the Procurement Office at **(671) 475-
3290/3175/3212/3141/300-7994** or email at [mantonio@](mailto:mantonio@guamcourts.gov)
guamcourts.gov and ztandoc@guamcourts.gov.

/s/ DANIELLE T. ROSETE
Administrator of the Courts

This notice is paid with Government of Guam funds by the Judiciary of Guam.
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GUAM WATERWORKS AUTHORITY

Gloria B. Nelson Public Service Building
688 Route 15, Mangilao, Guam 96913
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*THIS AD IS PAID FOR BY GWA (PUBLIC LAW 26-12)

INVITATION FOR BID

The Guam Waterworks Authority invites sealed bids for the
**Variable Frequency Drive and Parts in GWA IFB. NO. 2025-
25**. Bids will be received by **10:00 a.m.** Chamorro Standard
Time on **September 4, 2025**, at the GWA Procurement Office,
situated on the first floor of the Gloria B. Nelson Public Services
Building in Mangilao. At this appointed time and location, all
bids will be publicly and virtually opened via GoToMeeting and
read aloud. Bidders interested in attending the virtual meeting
may send their request to psbids@guamwaterworks.org
to obtain the GoToMeeting ID/Link prior to the due date and time.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid/Performance Bond,
amounting to fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price.
Acceptable bid securities include Bid/Performance Bonds,
Surety Bonds, or certified/cashier's checks payable to the
Guam Waterworks Authority.

A non-refundable fee of \$15.00 is required for each set
of bidding documents, available for purchase at the GWA
Procurement Office. Alternatively, bidders can access the bid
package for download at www.guamwaterworks.org without
charge. However, vendors are strongly encouraged to register
via email at psbids@guamwaterworks.org or visit the GWA
Procurement Office to ensure receipt of updated information,
notices, or bid amendments.

GWA retains the right to amend, reject, or revise any or all
proposals and to waive minor imperfections in the bid proposal
in the best interest of Guam Waterworks Authority.

/s/ Miguel C. Bordallo, P.E.
General Manager

Capoeira

Continued from Page 21

“priceless” to him.

“So marking this occasion is a testament to all the people that have helped this, because it’s not just me,” he said. “Everybody chips in and has done their part and has kept it.”

Hill believes the blended atmosphere that is capoeira is what attracts people to the martial art and what makes it ideal for anyone to enjoy.

“One major aspect is what it has in common with the hip hop scene, and that is the music and footwork, and what I think made it really popular, too, is the way that we spar,” Hill said. “You can let your personality shine. If you’re a person who’s very technical, there’s a lot of technical business utilized. We have people that are just into the artistic part of it, and then you have people that are fully into the combat aspect of it. There’s a little something for everyone in addition to really good exercise for adults and kids.”

Hill’s first recruit for the school was Justin “Tupi” Cruz, 35, one of the current instructors. Cruz has been training since 2005 and teaching since 2014.

Since then, he has taught classes in Guam, Afghanistan, Thailand, and California. He is passionate about capoeira and hopes the island community takes this opportunity to learn about it.

“This is a chance for the community to come and see what we’re about,” Cruz said. “We have fliers about where the classes are, but this, too, lets them know what we’ve been working on in the last 20 years. We don’t get guests like these very often, so it’s a chance to see their styles and what they’ve been doing for a lifetime. We’re trying to show our students’ dedication.”

All events are open to the



Class photo of students and instructors of Capoeira De Valor. Photo provided on July 29, 2025.

COURTESY OF JUSTIN CRUZ



COURTESY OF JUSTIN CRUZ
Justin Cruz leads a class for Capoeira De Valor on July 28, 2025 at the CHamoru Village.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF
LEO ZAPITER OLEDAN,
Decedent.

PROBATE CASE NO. PR0102-25

NOTICE OF HEARING

THIS NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY LAW.
YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR
IN COURT UNLESS YOU DESIRE.

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Janet Oledan Gajo has filed a Petition for Order Admitting Will to Probate and for Letters Testamentary.

2. A hearing on the petition will be heard on **Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., before the Hon. Judge Elyze M. Iriarte.**

3. To attend or to participate in the hearing, you may appear in person at the Guam Judicial Center, appear remotely at <https://guamcourts-org.zoom.us> and enter Meeting ID: 864 4387 2213 and Passcode: JEMI; or call into the courtroom at 671-300-6703 at the designated hearing time. For connectivity issues, you may contact Jannette Samson at (671) 475-0141 or email jsamson@guamcourts.gov.

DATED: 24 JUNE 2025

JANICE M. CAMACHO-PEREZ
Clerk of Court, Superior Court of Guam

By: /s/ Alice B. Mendoza
Courtroom/Chamber Clerk

public.

Participation is \$30 for adults and \$10 for kids. Family and friends of participants can attend and watch for free.

Capoeira De Valor holds classes on Mondays, Fri-

days and Saturdays at the CHamoru Village from 6 to 7 p.m. for kids and 7 to 8 p.m. for adults.

The school also partners with Island Girl Power to operate various outreach programs for at-risk and

homeless teens, helps with the prevention of underage drinking, underage drug use, and the prevention of suicide and violence.

Reach reporter Uriah Aguon at uaguon@guampdn.com.



Justin Cruz performs a kick during a training session. Photo provided on July 29, 2025.

COURTESY OF JUSTIN CRUZ

Capoeira De Valor Guam celebrates 20 years of martial arts, music, community

By Uriah Aguon
Pacific Daily News

Capoeira De Valor Guam is celebrating 20 years with a three-day weekend event kicking off on Aug. 1 with a sparring session.

For the uninitiated, capoeira is a unique martial art that blends the usual tenets of self-defense with music, personality, and community.

Students and guests, masters from Brazil, Mexico, United States, and Canada, will gather for an open roda at Guam Premier Outlets from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday.

On Saturday, the school will

hold a promotion ceremony for its students at the Lime Event Venue in Hagåtña from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Students and guests can participate in workshops with the visiting masters before the graduation ceremony for students advancing at all levels, from earning their first belt to becoming an instructor, contra mestre, or mestre (the equivalent to a second-degree black belt).

The final day of the event will be a beach barbecue and potluck at Ypao Beach at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Mestre Aaron “Caroco” Hill, 43, started the martial arts school in 2005. He received his teaching authorization while he was stationed

in Las Vegas for the Air Force and began the school shortly after when he was transferred to Guam.

‘Priceless’

To see the school where it is now means the world to him.

“It feels amazing to work with a lot of young people and have them grow up and do this martial art and continue to do this martial art for over 20 years,” Hill told the Pacific Daily News. “When I arrived, capoeira wasn’t here at all, and we started with a very small class, but now, we have laid a huge foundation.”

He said this is something that is



GUAM SPORTS NETWORK

Guam’s team returns home Aug. 4, 2025 after competing at the Senior Little League World Series.

Australia eliminates Guam from Senior Little League World Series

GSPN

Guam’s second appearance at the Senior Little League World Series in the last three years ended as it did in 2023 after Australia eliminated Guam, 10-5, in South Carolina.

Guam lost its opening game, 16-6, to Puerto Rico, placing them in the loser’s bracket in the double-elimination tournament under 108-degree heat.

In the elimination game, Guam got off to a quick start, scoring four runs in the top of the 1st inning, highlighted by a two-run hit by Max Dirige. He had two of Guam’s six hits on the day.

That lead quickly dissipated as Australia scored seven runs in the bottom of the 1st, all with no outs off starter Gavin Alcantara.

Against Puerto Rico on Sunday, Guam fell behind, 11-0, before scoring six runs in the top of the 5th to make things interesting.

Players that have played their final Senior Division game due to age are:

- Acosta, Evan
 - Doyle, Colby
 - Jones, Theano
 - Leon Guerrero, Ty James
 - Pangelinan, Coen
 - Taijeron, Trace
 - Taimanglo, Javier
- The team returns home Aug 4.

See CAPOEIRA, Page 20