

Pacific Daily News

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HAFA ADAI, IT'S TUESDAY

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■ Don't forget to vote and comment on today's Pacific Daily News poll. Today's question:

Do you agree with the Legislature's decision to tie gambling to the hospital's finances?

■ Results from yesterday's PDN poll are on **PAGE 2**

430 days

since roadwork began at the Agana Bridge

■ Southbound lanes have been shifted to the seaside. The median area is closed off.



**HAGATNA
ROAD CLOSURES**

■ All lanes are set to open again by July. The overall project is set to be completed by December.



**FIERY FLAMES
FEATURED**

Young gearhead lays down blazing paint on his Altima.

SEE STORY,
PAGE 14



INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW 2014
FORTE



See ad on page 15 for details.

Gambling tied to hospital

Senators: Gaming illegal after GMH debt paid



Sunset amendment: After three days of debate in session, senators passed Bill 19, with amendments by Sen. Ben Pangelinan, front, who introduced what lawmakers call the "sunset amendment," which eventually could end all gambling on Guam. Sen. Mike San Nicolas, center, took it a step further, introducing a successful amendment that would end all gaming and limited gaming activity on island when Guam Memorial Hospital's vendor debts are paid. *Masako Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com*



VIDEO AND PHOTOS ONLINE

■ For video and more photos, go to www.Guam-PDN.com.

By Mark-Alexander Pieper

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All gambling on Guam could become illegal after senators yesterday passed a measure tying it to the hospital's finances.

Bill 19, which was unanimously approved during yesterday's session, allows some forms of gambling to temporarily continue on Guam in order to subsidize Guam Memorial Hospital and other public agencies.

But all gambling would become illegal as soon as the financially troubled hospital has its vendor debt erased, the bill states.

The hospital, which is heavily subsidized by taxpayers, has traditionally lost money every year because of poor collections and uninsured patients. As of March, it owed about \$18 million to vendors.

■ See Gambling. Page 4

In Your Voice
Post your comment on www.guampdn.com

No progress on decolonization

By Phillip H. Blas

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The governor has set a November 2014 target date for the island's political status vote, but little progress has been made since he relaunched the government's Commission on Decolonization in September 2011.

During yesterday's commission

WHAT IS IT?

"The general purpose of the Commission on Decolonization shall be to ascertain the intent of the Native Inhabitants of Guam as to their future political relationship with the United States of America. Once the intent of the Native Inhabitants of Guam is ascertained, the Commission shall promptly transmit that desire to the President and the Congress of the United States of America, and to the Secretary General of

meeting, members still were struggling with the basic question of how much it will cost to fund the effort and where to find the money.

the United Nations."

What are the options?

"The Commission shall create three Task Forces. Each task force shall be composed of seven members, appointed by the commission, who are advocates for the status for which they are appointed. The three task forces are: Independence Task Force; Free Association Task Force; and Statehood Task Force."

Source: Guam law

The commission in December 2011 sent lawmakers a proposed public education plan for the three status options — independence,

free association or statehood — stating it would start in early 2012. None of the proposals, which included a voter survey, a media campaign and setting the budgets for the respective status task forces, have been accomplished.

When it happens, the non-binding vote will state Guam's preference for its future relationship with the United States. It currently is an unincorporated territory.

Members were ill-prepared for yesterday's meeting, which was supposed to focus on the format of

■ See Decolonization. Page 4

Gambling: To pay off vendor debt

■ Continued from Page 1

Sen. Ben Pangelinan, who introduced what lawmakers call the "sunset amendment" to Bill 19 — which eventually could end all gambling — tried to establish a \$18.8 million target for the hospital's debt.

However, Sen. Rory Respicio said that figure will not be part of the final version of the bill his Committee on Rules sends to the governor.

The final version of Bill 19, passed yesterday, was the end result of several days of heated debate over gambling and gaming machines.

It started as a battle over Bill 20, by Sen. Dennis Rodriguez, which would have used taxes and fees from hundreds of controversial gaming machines to benefit the hospital. The attorney general has said those machines, although currently licensed by the government, are illegal gambling devices.

Bill 20's opponents last week scored a victory after Speaker Judith Won Pat agreed that Bill 20 wasn't germane — too different from its original version — and removed it from the session agenda.

Bill 20 supporters responded by moving the key provisions of Bill 20 to Bill 19, which already was a gambling-related bill on the session agenda.

The shift prompted Won Pat to abruptly end session last Friday by calling a recess until July 1.

But lawmakers, mostly supporters of Bill 20 and the revised Bill 19, voted to resume session at 9 a.m. yesterday, despite the speaker's decision for a longer recess.

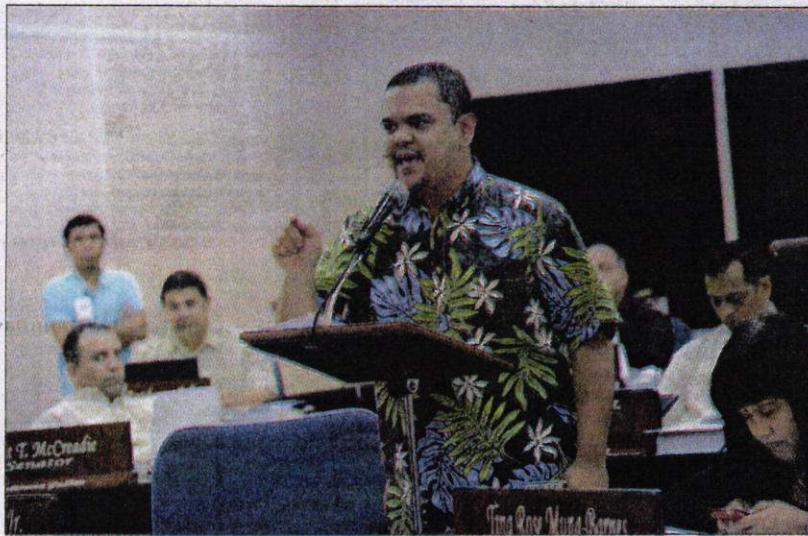
Won Pat yesterday said she decided to preside over yesterday's session as a means of resolving the fractures in the Legislature.

With the backing of Sens. Rory Respicio, Tony Ada, Tina Muñiz-Barnes, Mike Limtiaco, Brant McCreadie, Mike San Nicolas and Aline Yamashita, Rodriguez yesterday was able to move most of his Bill 20 into Sen. Chris Duenas' Bill 19.

After several heated debates, Pangelinan was able to remove a portion of the new Bill 19 that the attorney general had said could legalize the controversial gaming machines.

The decision to eventually end all gaming on Guam started as an amendment by Pangelinan, who wanted the controversial gaming machines to stop operating and be stripped of their licenses as soon as the hospital's debt was paid.

San Nicolas took it a step further, introducing a successful



Refutation: Sen. Dennis Rodriguez, rises to pointedly refute statements made by Sen. Vicente "Ben" Pangelinan, right, regarding a bill that Rodriguez amended. Rodriguez added an amendment to include Guam Memorial Hospital to be one of the beneficiaries of fees and taxes collected from existing legal gambling. Pangelinan said a section of the bill effectively legalizes gaming machines. Rodriguez denied the section would have that effect, and angrily agreed to strike out that section. Masako Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com

PASSING IT ON

The Legislature voted to pass 21 bills, three resolutions and confirm four people to government office during session yesterday.

Confirmations

- Joseph S. Wesley to the Guam Parole Board.
- John T. Palomo to the Guam Parole Board.
- John Arroyo to the Guam Land Use Commission
- Henry J. Taitano as administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority

Resolutions

- 106 — Supports the development of a public policy, investment and operational frame work for establishing a sustainable and green cruise industry in Micronesia with Guam serving as the regional hub. 15-0
- 127 — Petitions Congress to amend the radiation exposure compensation act of 1990 to include Guam and to improve and increase

compensation for those affected by ionizing radiation. 15-0

- 135 — Requests the Guam delegate to introduce a bill in Congress appropriating funds from the annual budget of the Department of Interior as an additional payment to the government of Guam for unreimbursed compact-impact costs for the hosting of citizens of the Freely Associated States. 15-0

Bills

- 19 — Would tax various forms of gaming on island to benefit the Guam Memorial Hospital, Guam National Olympic Committee, DOE interscholastic sports program and the northern and southern sports complexes. It also would establish a sunset provision that makes illegal all forms of gambling on Guam once GMH vendor debt is paid off. 15-0
- 48 — Would define the educational and professional requirements for licensed professional counselors, licensed mental health counselors, and marriage and family therapists. 15-0
- 89 — Would create a responsible reserve fund from uncollected tax and interest owed by businesses and individuals to the government of Guam. 13-2. Limtiaco and Yamashita oppose.
- 92 — Would amend existing zoning laws to allow for properties in residential and commercial zones to host bed-and-breakfast establishments. 15-0.
- 97 — Would redirect \$3.9 million in

amendment that would end all gaming and limited gaming activity on island when the hospital's vendor debts are paid.

Bill 19 also requires the appointment of a Guam Gaming Commission, which would have 180 days to develop rules and regulations for all gaming activities on Guam.

Gov. Eddie Calvo has 10 days —

not including Sundays and holidays — from the time he receives a bill to act on it.

Lawmakers yesterday approved 20 other bills, including a bill that would establish a home invasion felony offense in Guam's criminal

- 84 — Would provide \$2 million from the Tourist Attraction Fund to the GCC Apprenticeship Program for fiscal 2013. 15-0.
- 86 — Would allow the Port Authority of Guam to waive sovereign immunity to satisfy a prerequisite for approval of \$10 million loan from the Bank of Guam. 12-3. Cruz, Pangelinan and San Nicolas oppose.

- 87 — Would require motorcycle riders under the age of 21 to wear a helmet and requires riders have at least three years of experience before they can choose not to wear a helmet. 13-2. Respicio and Rodriguez oppose.
- 89 — Would create a responsible reserve fund from uncollected tax and interest owed by businesses and individuals to the government of Guam. 13-2. Limtiaco and Yamashita oppose.
- 92 — Would amend existing zoning laws to allow for properties in residential and commercial zones to host bed-and-breakfast establishments. 15-0.
- 97 — Would redirect \$3.9 million in

statute and another bill which would institute a "three strikes" life sentence for violent criminal offenders.

Henry Taitano, Jr. also was confirmed as director of the Guam Economic Development Authority on an 11-3-1 vote. His nomination had been defeated earlier this year, but he was renominated.

unassigned Territorial Highway Fund dollars to mitigate flooding issues in specific portions of Barrigada, Dededo, Ipan and Harmon. 15-0.

- 107 — Would impose a life sentence on repeat offenders who are convicted three times of any of 14 violent offenses listed in the bill. It also would send prisoners eligible for deportation under a compact-impact agreement back to their home countries. 15-0.

- 109 — Would raise the statute of limitations on the collection of unpaid business privilege tax to ten years. 14-1. Tony Ada opposes.

- 113 — Would provide \$127,000 to nonprofit Duk Duk Goose Inc., which aims to create a Chamorro children's cultural video program. 13-2. Limtiaco and San Nicolas oppose.

- 114 — Would provide \$25,000 to the Hurao Academy from the Tourism Attraction Fund to help the organization continue its full-immersion Chamorro program. 15-0.

- 115 — Would provide \$25,000 to help Inetnon Gefpa'go Cultural Arts program develop a southern cultural arts center at the old Inarajan Garden House. 15-0.

- 117 — Would expand the duties of the Guam Police Department Community Assisted Policing Effort (CAPE) volunteers to enforce the handbilling act. 14-1. Pangelinan opposes.

- 118 — Would require servers and sellers of alcoholic beverages to receive formal training on Guam's alcohol laws prior to receiving a license. 15-0.

- 119 — Would make home invasion a criminal offense and make it a first-degree felony. 15-0.

- 120 — Would establish a Fallen Heroes monument in Skinner Plaza that would be managed by the Fallen Heroes of the Pacific Foundation. 15-0.

- 123 — Would escheat \$400,000 to the Department of Revenue and Taxation to purchase a transaction processing system. 13-2. Cruz and Pangelinan oppose.

- 127 — Would escheat \$100,000 to the Department of Revenue and Taxation to support the implementation of the "Cash Economy Enforcement Act of 2011." 13-2. Cruz and San Nicolas oppose.

- 132 — Would allow GMH to borrow \$13 million to pay off certain debts. 14-1. San Nicolas.

- 138 — Would provide \$2.5 million for renovations of the Fishermen's Cooperative Association facility in Hagåtña. 15-0.

Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz, Pangelinan and San Nicolas voted against confirming Taitano.

Sen. Frank Aguon left session after voting on bills and resolutions, but before lawmakers voted on confirmations.

Override attempts for two bills Calvo vetoed earlier in the year — Bills 9 and 64 — failed.

Decolonization: Campaign needs funding

■ Continued from Page 1



Alvarez

the three status position papers. Some members said they thought the meeting was scheduled for today.

And several lawmakers who serve on the commission were absent from yesterday afternoon's meeting because legisla-

tive session was ongoing.

Commission Executive Director Ed Alvarez during the meeting said no action has been taken to fund the education campaign in the past two-and-a-half years.

He said the commission has waited long enough and can't wait any longer.

@GuamPDN

"We have to come up with creative ways to find funding for the campaign," he said.

"It is such an embarrassment that we are in the 21st century and we are still dealing with

colonialism," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said he would organize a meeting with the commission's task force leaders, Gov. Eddie Calvo and lawmakers to discuss the issues they face.

"We have to take matters to the next level," he said.

YOUR VOICE

■ Join the community dialogue. Post your comments, concerns, recommendations on www.GuamPDN.com or on the Pacific Daily News' Facebook page at facebook.com/GuamPDN. You also can send a letter to PDN's Voice of the People via email: voice@guampdn.com.

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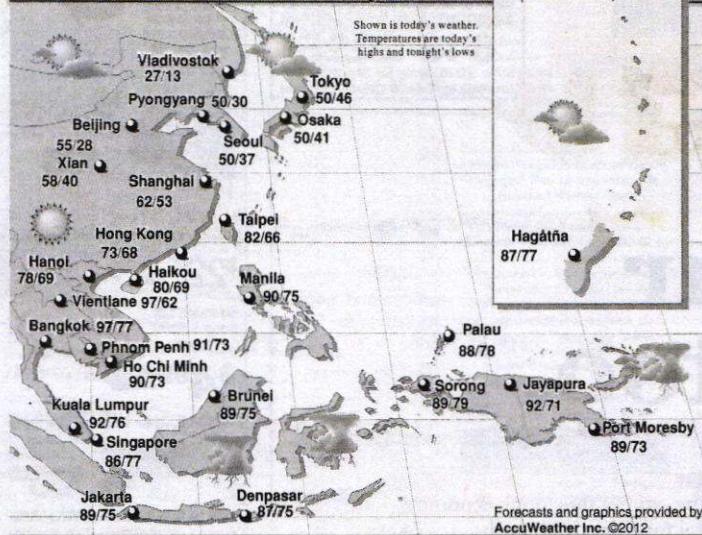
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5-Day forecast for Guam

AccuWeather.com

Today	UV Index today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly sunny and breezy with a stray shower. Rough seas; surf 6-8 feet.	UV Index 4	Partly cloudy with a shower. Rough seas; surf 6-8 feet.	Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a couple of showers; breezy. Moderate to rough seas; surf 5-7 feet.	Partly sunny with a shower in places. Moderate to rough seas; surf 5-7 feet.	Pleasant with sunshine and patchy clouds. Moderate to rough surf; seas 4-6 feet.	Clouds and sunshine with a shower in spots. Moderate to rough seas; surf 4-6 feet.
High 87 Winds E 15-25	UV Index 6	Low 77 Winds E 15-25	High 85, Low 77 Winds E 15-25	High 87, Low 75 Winds ESE 10-20	High 88, Low 76 Winds ENE 10-20	High 87, Low 75 Winds ENE 10-20

Pacific forecast for today



Satellite image from yesterday



Synopsis for Guam and Micronesia, 1 p.m. Feb. 21. Western north Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N180 to 20N160E then continues as a shear line across the far northern Marianas near Anatahan to 15N140E. The shear line first curves northwestward to beyond 130E at 17N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along or north of the cold front to beyond 25N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 3C miles north of the shear line. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror but south of Yap between 3N and 8N from 130E to 140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring well south of Guam within 75 miles of a line from 6N141E to BN145E to 3N149E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae and Pohnpei in an area bounded by a line from 4N151E to 8N160E to 5N166E to EQ159E to 1N151E back to 4N151E.

World cities

City	Today			Thursday			City	Today			Thursday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	pc	Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	49	45	c	52	46	c	Nassau	82	71	pc	85	71	pc
Baghdad	60	42	s	62	40	c	Paris	50	42	pc	54	47	sh
Berlin	46	39	c	48	43	sh	Rio de Janeiro	92	75	sh	90	74	c
Bermuda	67	62	sh	71	65	sh	Riyadh	60	44	s	67	52	s
Copenhagen	44	42	sh	47	40	s	Rome	60	39	s	61	41	pc
Jerusalem	59	46	pc	61	47	c	Sydney	78	67	sh	77	68	pc
Kuwait	64	47	s	64	48	c	Tel Aviv	68	53	pc	69	51	pc
London	52	48	r	61	50	c	Toronto	40	30	c	41	35	c
Madrid	57	37	s	62	39	s	Vienna	47	35	pc	51	43	c
Mexico City	77	48	s	78	45	c	Warsaw	38	34	r	42	30	sh
Moscow	28	18	sn	29	27	sn							

Micronesia

Islands	Today			Thursday			Islands	Today			Thursday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Bikini	86	79	s	86	79	pc	Palau	88	78	t	88	77	pc
Chuuk	82	76	r	83	75	r	Pohnpei	88	76	sh	87	77	r
Kiribati	85	77	s	85	77	sh	Rota	83	77	s	83	77	sh
Kosrae	87	79	r	87	80	pc	Saipan	85	76	s	85	77	r
Kwajalein	86	79	s	86	79	pc	Timan	87	77	pc	85	77	sh
Majuro	86	78	s	85	78	r	Yap	90	78	s	87	76	r
Nauru	86	76	s	87	76	sh							

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

Tides

Apra Harbor	Feb. 22	Feb. 23
First low	1:55 a.m.	0:1 ft.
First high	8:26 a.m.	2.4 ft.
Second low	2:21 p.m.	0.9 ft.
Second high	7:49 p.m.	2.4 ft.

Sunrise/set

Sunrise today 6:43 a.m.
Sunset today 6:27 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 6:42 a.m.
Sunset tomorrow 6:28 p.m.

Rainfall

Yesterday 0.09"
Month to date 2.29"
Year to date 8.79"

Moon phases



Cold Front
Warm Front
Stationary Front

U.S. forecast for today



Showers
T-Storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice

Plebiscite trial set for April 2013

By Arvin Temkar

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A trial for a lawsuit about the constitutionality of Guam's proposed Chamorro-only plebiscite has been set for April 2013.

District Court of Guam Judge Joaquin Manibusan set a bench trial date for April 22, 2013, yesterday in a conference with lawyers.

The lawsuit was brought by Arnold Davis, a non-Chamorro resident who was barred from joining a registry of native inhabitants.

Davis, who has lived on Guam since 1977, sued the Guam Election Commission in November, saying that the lawsuit is meant to affirm the right of every U.S. citizen on Guam to vote on the decolonization issue.

Guam law states that voters in a plebiscite will be allowed to voice their choice of one of three political status options — statehood, independence or free association with the United States. Eligible voters are those who can trace their roots back to residents living on the island

immediately or otherwise, of actually altering Guam's future political status with the United States.

The Center for Individual Rights, a nonprofit and civil rights advocate group based in Washington, D.C., and the Election Law Center in Alexandria, Va., are representing Davis in the case. Davis' counsel has filed a motion opposing the motion to dismiss, said Mun Su Park, a local lawyer working on Davis' behalf.

Local officials have said they hope to hold the plebiscite in 2014.

LOCAL NEWS

Parts of Tamuning to lose power tomorrow

Guam Power Authority customers in parts of Tamuning should prepare for a six-hour outage tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A GPA press release stated that the areas affected include Metro Bank, Table 35, Sunny Plaza, Sunny Cash and Carry, Bank Hawaii, Century 21, Plaza Mark Fred Locksmith, Rainbow Apt., a customers in these areas. GPA crews will be replacing old wooden poles and transferring power lines to newer poles. For more information call 632-4298.

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