

# Gambling: To pay off vendor debt

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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 Mufia-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.

- 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

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 Inethon Gelpa'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.

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

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.

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

Sen. Frank Agoun 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

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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.

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"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](http://www.GuamPDN.com) or on the Pacific Daily News' Facebook page at [facebook.com/GuamPDN](https://www.facebook.com/GuamPDN). You also can send a letter to PDN's Voice of the People via email: [voice@guampdn.com](mailto:voice@guampdn.com).



# ALMANAC

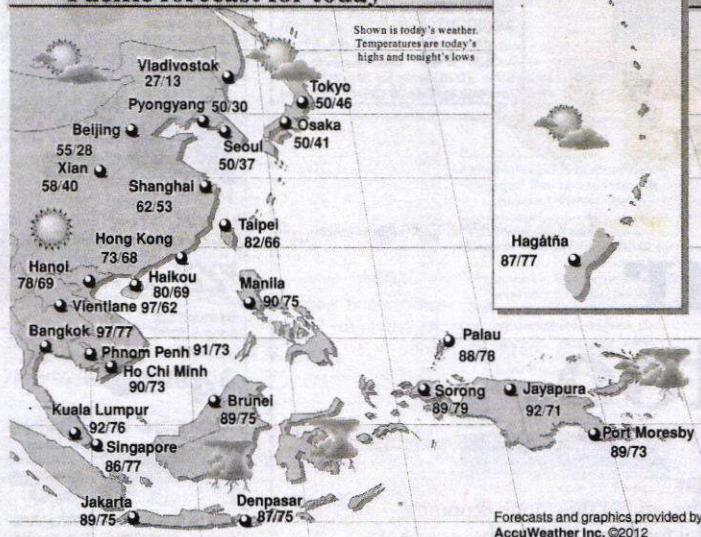
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## 5-Day forecast for Guam

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. High 87 Winds E 15-25	 0-2 Low, 3-5 Moderate, 6-7 High, 8-10 Very High, 11+ Extreme. The higher the AccuWeather UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. Comfort Index™ On a scale of 1-10, where 1 is least comfortable and 10 is most comfortable for this time of year.	 Partly cloudy with a shower. Rough seas; surf 6-8 feet. Low 77 Winds E 15-25	 Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a couple of showers; breezy. Moderate to rough seas; surf 5-7 feet. High 85, Low 77 Winds E 15-25	 Partly sunny with a shower in places. Moderate to rough seas; surf 5-7 feet. High 87, Low 75 Winds ESE 10-20	 Pleasant with sunshine and patchy clouds. Moderate to rough surf; seas 4-6 feet. High 88, Low 76 Winds ENE 10-20	 Clouds and sunshine with a shower in spots. Moderate to rough seas; surf 4-6 feet. 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. The shear line continues as a shear line across the far northern Marianas near Anatahan to 15N140E. The shear line final 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 30 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 8N145E to 3N149. 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
Amsterdam	49 45 c 52 46 c		Nassau	82 71 pc 85 71 pc	
Baghdad	60 42 c 62 40 c		Paris	50 42 pc 54 47 sh	
Beijing	46 39 c 48 43 sh		Rio de Janeiro	92 75 s 90 74 t	
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 s		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 pc		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 pc		Warsaw	38 34 r 42 30 sh	
Moscow	28 18 sn 29 27 sn				

### Micronesia

Islands	Today	Thursday	Islands	Today	Thursday
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		Tinian	87 77 pc 85 77 sh	
Majuro	86 78 sh 85 78 r		Yap	90 78 s 87 76 r	
Nauru	86 76 s 87 76 s				

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

### Tides

Apra Harbor	Feb. 22	Feb. 23
First low	1:55 a.m. -0.1 ft.	2:31 a.m. 0.1 ft.
First high	8:26 a.m. 2.4 ft.	8:51 a.m. 2.4 ft.
Second low	2:21 p.m. 0.9 ft.	2:59 p.m. 0.7 ft.
Second high	7:49 p.m. 2.4 ft.	8:33 p.m. 2.3 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



### U.S. forecast for today



## 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 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

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at the time of the passage of the Organic Act in 1950 who were made citizens by the federal law.

### Motion to dismiss

Davis argues that the Chamorro-only vote is unconstitutional. But the Office of the Attorney General of Guam has filed a motion to dismiss Davis' suit, arguing the plebiscite will not have the effect,

immediate 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 crew will be replacing old wooden poles and transferring power lines to newer poles. For more information call 632-4298.

Pacific Daily News



# Decolonization education debated

By Arvin Temkar

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A member of the Governor's Commission for Decolonization expressed concern yesterday that promoting discussion in high schools about the proposed plebiscite might derail the commission's intention to hold a Chamorro-only vote.

Joe Garrido, chair of the commission's task force on free association, was skeptical of a Guam Legislature high school intern's suggestion to educate the youth on political status options by rallying high school students.

Holding discussions in high schools could create a "potential situation" in which students ineligible to vote may become upset and force the commission to hold a more inclusive plebiscite, he said.

Speaker Judith Won Pat said it was important to educate everyone on the matter, so ineligible voters would understand why they are excluded.

## Legal challenge

Yesterday's meeting of the decolonization committee comes amid a legal challenge to the proposed plebiscite, which claims that limiting the vote to "native inhabitants" is unconstitutional. The Office of the Attorney General of Guam is working to have the lawsuit dismissed, arguing the plebiscite will not have the effect, immediate or otherwise, of actually altering the island's future political status with the United States, according to Pacific Daily News files.

Peter Jang, a senior at St. John's School and an intern at Won Pat's office, is coordinator of the "I Decide ..." forum, an event tentatively scheduled for March that will "include our youth in the academic discourse." Jang, who is not a native inhabitant under plebiscite rules, is ineligible to vote — a fact pointed out by Garrido after Jang's explanation of his plan to educate students. Jang said he is aware.



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At yesterday's meeting the decolonization committee recommended setting the date of the plebiscite to November 2014, during the general election. The date is conditional on whether the registry of Chamorro voters is complete, and how successful an education campaign has been, said Edward Alvarez, executive director of the decolonization commission.

Alvarez has already started the work of educating the population, including the youth. He said he's reached out to high school students and veterans, and is working on formulating a broader education plan. The right of native inhabitants to vote is provided for in an agreement between the United States and the United Nations, and the plebiscite is not meant to be offensive to the ineligible population, he said.

The lawsuit, which was filed in November 2011, has had no effect on the commission's work, he said.

# \$280,000 waits to be paid as child support

By Brett Kelman

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About \$280,000 in overdue tax refund payments is in limbo at the Office of the Attorney General because contact information for parents is out of date.

The office issued a press release yesterday urging custodial parents to provide the Child Support Enforcement Division with their latest addresses and phone numbers as soon as possible.

"So much money is just sitting there waiting to reach a child in need," Attorney General Leonardo Rapadas said in a press release.

"For them not to have it because there is no address to send the check to should not be an excuse. Let's work together to ensure our children get what they deserve and need."

## \$2.8 million

In total, the AG's office collected about \$2.8 million in garnished tax refunds in December, when

## WHOM TO CALL

▲ To contact the Child Support division of the Office of the Attorney General, call 475-3360.

GovGuam paid out about \$200 million in refunds to local residents.

About 3,000 non-custodial parents, who owed an average of \$17,000 each in child support, didn't get their tax refund checks.

Of the \$2.8 million, about \$1 million has been paid out, the press release said. The rest is on hold because either the AG's office is still reviewing third-party claims, or the claims are under review as part of another public welfare program, the press release states.

## Payout

The AG's office wasn't the only GovGuam agency that collected when refunds were paid out. According to Pacific daily News files, Guam Memorial Hospital stood to collect about \$6.4 million in garnished refunds.



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## LOCAL NEWS

### Power out Monday in Barrigada area

The Guam Power Authority has scheduled a four-hour power outage from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday that will effect customers at North Sabana, Barrigada Heights, the Skilled Nursing Unit, Duty Free Warehouse, Mid-Pac Warehouse and other customers within the area. Power crews are relocating

concrete poles, lines, equipment and hardware. For more information, call 632-4298.

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# New ARRIVALS!

## FREE\*

### PANDIGITAL STAR 7" ANDROID MEDIA TABLET



- Front Facing Camera
- WIFI
- eBooks
- HDMI
- Browse Web & Email
- Play Games

\*With minimum purchase of \$1,199 or more. Does not apply to previous purchase. Limit one per household while supplies last. See stores for details.



### South Bay 4Pc Bedroom Set

Upholstered headboard and footboard with antique brass nail head trim and cup pulls giving the South Bay old world charm.



### Dabny 7Pc Dining Set

Buffet is also available



### Stone Two Tone Sectional

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## Designers Direct

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