

Pacific Daily News

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HAFA ADAI, IT'S FRIDAY

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

Have you taken down your Christmas decorations?

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

GMH CAPACITY

▲ GMH adult beds were at 95% of capacity and maternal child beds were at 75% of capacity as of 8:30 p.m. yesterday. Three patients were waiting for beds. If you are in need of hospital care, you are urged to seek it immediately. For updated information, call the GMH switchboard at 647-2939 and ask for the nursing supervisor. This box will appear on Page 1 daily. It will appear red when patients are waiting for beds.



PORT DEBATE HEATS UP

Senators question port modernization progress.

SEE STORY, **PAGE 2**

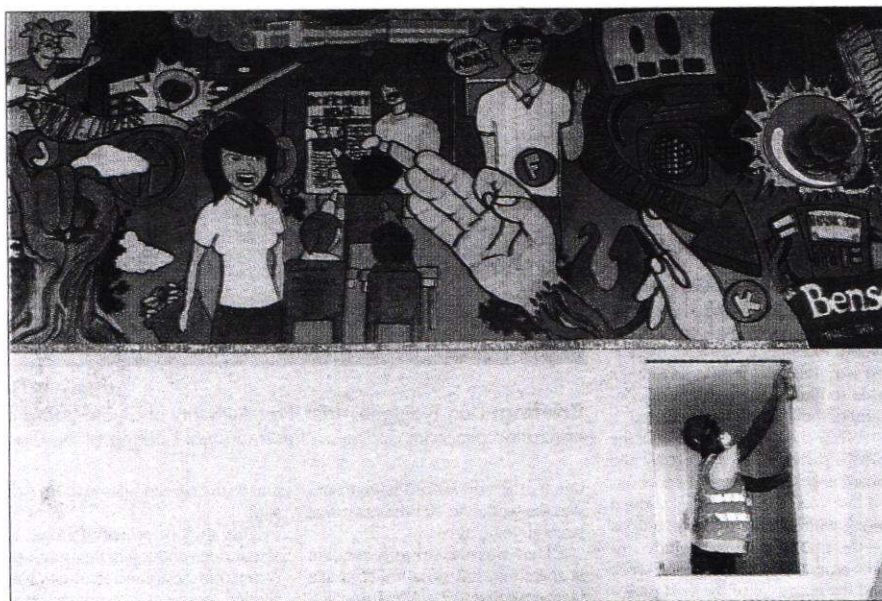
TOSSING OUT

THE CHRISTMAS TREE
Find out where to go to dispose of your Christmas tree.

SEE STORY, **PAGE 2**

Tiyan school cost questioned

Public Works inspects Core Tech campus



Masako Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com

Cafeteria: Core Tech International workers can be seen smoothing out the walls in the kitchen area through an opening under a mural in the cafeteria at the company's Tiyan facility, yesterday. The campus, which was used as the interim John F. Kennedy High School, is now being eyed to house Untalan Middle School.

By Meryl Dillman

Pacific Daily News

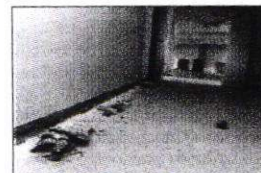
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An island senator is questioning where the money to lease a campus in Tiyan for the use of Untalan Middle School is going to come from.

"That expense is an unbudgeted item," Sen. Ben Pangelinan said.

The lease for the John F. Kennedy High School students and staff to occupy the campus in the past cost the government of Guam about \$4.5 million annually, according to Pacific Daily News files. Government officials have said the government is likely to

▲ See **Tiyan**. Page 3



PHOTOS ONLINE

▲ For more photos go to WWW.GUAMPDN.COM.

GEC ramps up voter registration

By Brett Kelman

Pacific Daily News

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Ten months before the 2012 General Election, newly trained registrars have been added to mayors' offices and high schools in an effort to increase voter numbers long before campaign fever strikes.

Last week the Guam Election Commission trained staff from John F. Kennedy, Simon Sanchez and Southern high schools, each of whom will help first-time voters register without leaving campus.

The commission also has trained staff from mayors' offices in the northern, central and southern areas of the island, making it easier for residents to register without making a special

trip to the commission office in Hagåtña.

Since these registrars will be regular employees at schools and offices, residents should be able to visit the office to register to vote on any day instead of waiting for a registration drive, said Election Commission Executive Director Maria Pangelinan. In the next few months, the commission plans to finish training registrars at all mayors' offices, Pangelinan said.

"If we get them registered now, less work right before the election," Pangelinan said. "And there is plenty of work to do now, but we can check things off that we get done as it gets



Masako Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com

GEC: Guam Election Commission Executive Director Maria Pangelinan is seen in her office in the GCIC Building in Hagåtña, yesterday.

▲ See **Election**. Page 3



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Tiyan: Adelup says funds available

▲ Continued from page 1

pay less than that to lease the property for Untalan Middle's use.

The Calvo administration has said the lease will be paid through non-refundable tax credits to facility owner Core Tech International, but if money is identified through federal funding or other sources, the lease could be paid in cash.

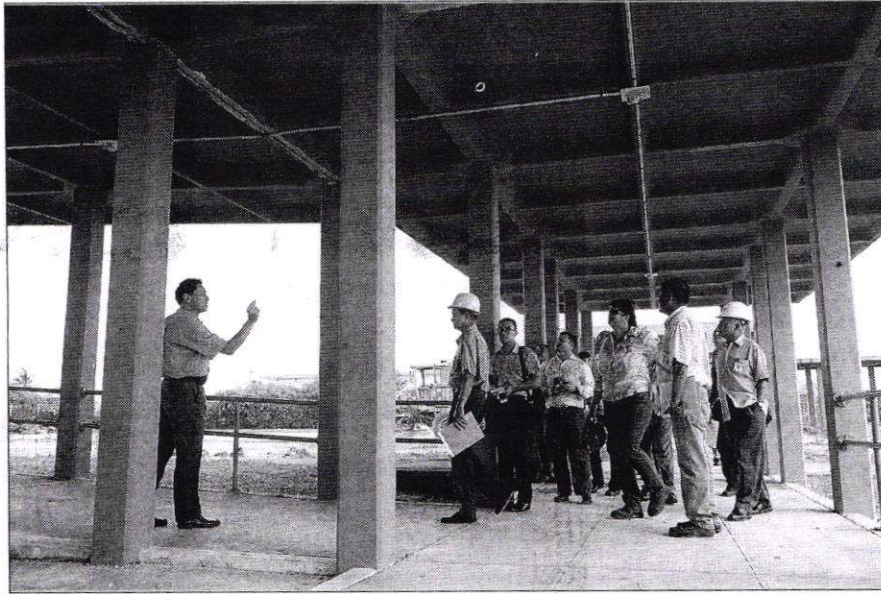
But Pangelinan said the money isn't available from government funds.

"There are no tax credits available or there's no money available in the budget to pay for the lease," he said. "When the Legislature passed the budget, the tax credit was no longer available and the money was added to the General Fund and appropriated for other uses within the budget."

So the funds to pay for the lease will have to be reprogrammed from existing appropriations, Pangelinan said, and he wants to be assured that the practice of paying for unbudgeted items with money set aside for tax refunds isn't used, as has been done in the past.

Troy Torres, the governor's spokesman, said the money won't be coming from tax refund funds.

"We're not looking at using tax refund money for this or any other reason tax refund money was used in the past 20 years," he said in an email. "We are confident in our ability to ensure the government can spare this \$4.5 million in taxes that won't be paid so we can keep the students of Un-



Masako Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com

Site visit: Department of Public Works, education and administration officials visit Core Tech International's Tiyan facility, yesterday.

talan safe."

Torres also said projected revenues seem to be on track even though it's early in the fiscal year. The government also has moved forward with cutting costs and creating savings, he said, and has a two-percent reserve that it hasn't earmarked.

Untalan

Earlier this week Gov. Eddie Calvo voiced his support of the middle school's move but also said he doesn't want to tell the Guam Education Board or the Department of Education what to do, files state. The education board is scheduled to meet next week to discuss the possible move.

Untalan Middle's problems, including broken air conditioners, old bathrooms, aging temporary classrooms and walkways that flood with mud when it rains, have existed for years, files state.

Inspections

Meanwhile, inspectors from the Department of Public Works and the Guam Fire Department were

In Your Voice
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at the Tiyan campus yesterday morning.

During the morning visit, they noted issues that need to be addressed at the facility before it can be occupied, such as installing fire extinguishers and having the water and power turned on, which would allow systems such as the fire alarm and emergency lighting to be tested. Repairing cracks in the ceilings of passageways also was on the to-do list. The power was up and running by yesterday evening, according to Core Tech officials.

Once these issues are addressed inspectors will go back to re-inspect, Public Works Director Joanne Brown said.

"So far those things are relatively minor and if they can be readily addressed and repaired, then I think we'll be able to move forward," Brown said.

She said the department will ensure the facility is up to code before any students are transferred.

"I think at the pace that we're working and certainly the governor's asked us to make this a priority, we'll make sure that the facility is going to be occupiable before any of the students are transferred here," she said.

Jun Ganaa-an, a project manager with Core Tech, said the company's goal is to have the school ready by the end of the third or fourth week in January, barring any problems that come up.

Election: Commission seeks more registrars

▲ Continued from page 1

closer and closer."

The commission already has registrar candidates from the University of Guam and Guam Community College who are waiting to be trained, but is looking for volunteer staff from Okkodo and George Washington high schools, Pangelinan said.

The commission will most likely need additional registrars because of a new law that requires them to be available at every voting station to add names to the decolonization registry, Pangelinan said.

But registrars aren't the only election workers the GEC is trying to get a head start on. The agency also needs about 290 precinct officials, plus alternates, Pangelinan said.

"We are looking to pick them up early," Pangelinan said. "We are looking to do pre-screening. ... There is discussion of possibly using students of public administration or political science."

Many mandates

Technically, local law has always required the commission to have registrars in place at local high schools and colleges, but this mandate hasn't been followed until recently, Pangelinan said.

Pangelinan took over the com-

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

- ▲ Candidate packets due: July 3
- ▲ Primary Election Day: Sept. 1
- ▲ General Election Day Nov. 6

UP FOR ELECTION

Candidate packets will not be available for pickup until the end of this month, but potential candidates can pick up petition forms at the GEC office in Hagåtña. The following offices are up for election this year

Non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives

▲ This position has been held by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo for five terms, but two politicians have shown interest in challenging her in the upcoming election. Sen. Frank Blas Jr. has said he will run and former Gov. Carl Gutierrez has said he is interested in running. The delegate lives in Washington, D.C., and represents Guam in Congress without casting actual votes.

32nd Guam Legislature (15 senatorial seats)

▲ The Legislature passes bills and sends proposed laws to the govern-

nor. The position is a full-time job. Senators also hold oversight commissions on specific issues and agencies such as the police department, hospital and other agencies.

Mayors (19 villages) and vice mayors (seven villages)

▲ Mayors and vice mayors look after their respective villages and their duties are varied. Some villages have vice mayors, who help handle village duties and take over if the mayor is unavailable.

Public Auditor

▲ The public auditor and the Office of Public Accountability are responsible for scrutinizing government financial data to ensure agencies run efficiently and ethically. Public Auditor Doris Flores Brooks has held this position since it was created.

Consolidated Commission on Utilities (two seats)

▲ The CCU meets regularly to discuss utility matters, including long-term planning for the Guam Power Authority and Guam Waterworks Authority, and utility rate changes.

The Guam Education Board (six seats)

▲ The school board meets regular-

ly to discuss the matters of the Department of Education and Guam's public schools. The board is responsible for hiring and firing the superintendent.

WHERE TO REGISTER

Residents can register to vote at the Guam Election Commission office in the GCIC building in Hagåtña, but new registrars have also been added to some local mayor's offices and public high schools.

Mayor's Offices:

- ▲ Agaña Heights
- ▲ Agat
- ▲ Dededo
- ▲ Inarajan
- ▲ Mangilao
- ▲ Santa Rita
- ▲ Umatac
- ▲ Yigo

Schools:

- ▲ John F. Kennedy High
- ▲ Southern High
- ▲ Simon Sanchez High

ON THE NET

▲ Visit the Guam Election Commission website at <http://grec.guam.gov/>

Election 2012

to follow," Pangelinan said. "I printed this as soon as I came in so we can all know what we have to follow."

One of Pangelinan's other changes was the commission's website, which was overhauled before it was relaunched in December. Previously, the GEC website had been unchanged since 2008, Pangelinan said.

The new website highlights the numbers of registered voters and registered native inhabitants — 46,915 and 5,134, respectively — along with voting registration forms and precinct breakdowns.

There are still some public documents the GEC needs to add to the new website, Pangelinan said, but the site is a constant work in progress.

"We want to be inviting. We want to be inclusive. We want high voter turnout. If you look on our logo, it says your vote is your voice," Pangelinan said.

The website even features a digital countdown — ticking away the months, days, minutes and seconds until the 2012 General Election.

mission's leadership in April of last year, and has since worked to bring the commission into compliance with the thick list of local laws that mandate the many functions of the

autonomous agency.

As she spoke Thursday, her fingers drummed on a hard copy of local election law as thick as an encyclopedia. Pangelinan said the

hard copy floats around the GEC office as a quick reference for any employee.

"First and foremost, what we did was document everything we need