

Marianas Variety

The Local & Regional Newspaper

Guam Edition

Vol. 07 No. 097

©2012 Marianas Variety

Tuesday • February 14, 2012

www.mvguam.com

75¢

GRC gives TakeCare notice

By Janela Buhain Carrera
janela@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

GUAM Radiology Consultants, the only clinic to offer magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) tech-

nology on Guam, has given TakeCare Insurance a 30-day notice that it will terminate its contract, according to sources close to Variety.

The 30-day notice was issued

on Feb. 10. After the 30 days are up, TakeCare Insurance members who receive services at GRC will be treated as self-pay patients.

This comes after the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

terminated its contract with TakeCare Insurance, citing a pattern of denying coverage routinely covered by other insurance companies doing business with

TAKECARE continued on page 2

* US rule may affect Guam election bill

By Zita Y. Taitano
zita@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

A BILL that would revamp the entire public statute on Guam elections wasn't discussed yesterday during session.

Committee on Rules Chairman Sen. Rory Respicio said discussion on Bill 413-31 would be postponed, pending feedback from the Guam Election Commission on whether the measure is consistent with a U.S. Supreme Court decision termed "Citizens United," which was brought up during last week's public hearing by Sen. Ben Pangelinan.

According to Respicio, Citizens United is a ruling wherein the first amendment prohibits government from placing limits on independent spending for political ads by corporations and unions.

Atty. Jeff Cook, GEC legal counsel, responded that he would have to get back with the Legislature after he reviews the ruling.

"Until this matter is resolved, there was a consensus that we not review Bill 413 until the Guam Election Commission reconciles that issue," he said. "But the Legislature stands ready to review Bill 413."

Respicio said if Citizens United

ELECTION BILL continued on page 2



Edward Alvarez, the executive director of the Committee on Decolonization, spoke before members of the Rotary Club of Northern Guam during their weekly meeting yesterday. Alvarez talked about the plans of the Committee on Decolonization and how it's important to continue those discussions as they determine Guam's future political status. See story and additional photo on page 3. David Castro / For Variety

» INSIDE

READER POLL

- Q:** How comfortable are you with the possibility of hybrid-nuclear generated power on Guam?
- A:** Very comfortable. This new technology is safe and less expensive.
- B:** I'm concerned, but would like to learn more.
- C:** What? Are you kidding? No way!
Cast your vote at www.mvguam.com

ENTERTAINMENT

SNOOKI, SHEEN TOP NIGHTMARE CELEBRITY DATES



Page 16

SPORTS

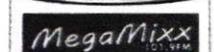
MICKELSON CRUSHES TIGER AND WINS PEBBLE BEACH

PHIL Mickelson went from a six-shot deficit to a two-shot lead in just six holes, closed with an 8-under 64 for a two-shot victory over Charlie Wi and gave Tiger Woods a thrashing at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Page 23

LISTEN

Catch today's headlines ON AIR through our radio station partners:



STAY CONNECTED
STAY INFORMED

POST COMMENTS
SEARCH ARCHIVES

www.mvguam.com



13 bills, three appointments moved to voting file

By Therese Hart
therese@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

DURING legislative session yesterday, lawmakers moved 13 bills and four executive appointments to the voting file.

The bills moved to the voting file ranged from abolishing the office of the education suruhanu to empowering the mayors with the authority to close non-routed roads for funerals, fiestas and other events in their villages, to restricting the use of mobile phones while driving, and providing public education on the restrictions.

Committee Chair Sen. Rory J. Respcio reported that during yesterday's session, 15 bills were discussed, 13 of which were moved to the voting file. One remains in the second reading file while one was returned to committee.

The following bills were moved to the voting file.

► Bill No. 190-31 (LS) – As amended by the Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Public Debt, Banking, Insurance, Retirement & Land, relative to driver's licenses road testing.

► Bill No. 248-31 (COR) – As substituted by the Committee on Education and Public



Sen. Ben Pangelinan speaks on a bill during yesterday's session at the Legislature. Looking on are Sens. Dennis Rodriguez and Tina Muña-Barnes. Zita Y. Taitano / Variety

Libraries, relative to abolishing the Office of the Adequate Education Suruhanu.

► Bill No. 276-31 (COR) – An act to require the Department of Public Health and Social Services to conduct a feasibility study on providing after-hour urgent care services in the public health centers.

► Bill No. 289-31 (COR) – An act relative to the creation of the "Disaster Service Volunteer Leave Act."

► Bill No. 326-31 (COR) – Relative to requiring all govern-

ment of Guam departments and agencies to accept applications, filings and forms for services via the Internet.

► Bill No. 341-31 (COR) – Sponsored by Sen. B.J. Cruz relative to empowering village mayors with the authority to close non-routed roads for village funerals, fiestas and other events.

► Bill No. 158-31 (COR) – An act to establish an urgent care center for outpatient medical services within the Guam Memorial Hospital to allevi-

ate congestion and costs in the emergency room.

► Bill No. 362-31 (LS) – Relative to bicycle safety and the creation of the "Bicycle Safety Act of 2012."

► Bill No. 369-31 (COR) – An act to zone the previously unzoned Lot No. 1060-5-1 in Barrigada to single family dwelling (R-1).

► Bill No. 370-31 (COR) – An act to zone the previously unzoned Lot No. 1060-5-2 in Barrigada to single family dwelling (R-1).

► Bill No. 397-31 (COR) – As substituted by the Committee on Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Judiciary relative to restricting the use of mobile phones while operating a vehicle and providing for public education requirements regarding these restrictions.

► Bill No. 399-31 (LS) – As substituted by the Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Public Debt, Banking, Insurance, Retirement and Land, which is an act to repeal in its entirety a section of Public Law 26-10, relative to survivor annuities.

► Bill No. 400-31 (LS) – As amended by the Committee on Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Judiciary relative to the conduct of deliberations and voting on parole actions by the Guam Parole Board.

The following executive appointments by Gov. Eddie Calvo were also moved to the third reading file: Joseph Duenas and Alexandra Taitano, members, board of directors, Solid Waste Authority; Michael Pangelinan, member, Public Utilities Commission; and Jonathan Ulloa, member, Guam Unarmed Combat Commission.

Session reconvenes today at 2 p.m. in the legislative session hall.

TakeCare...

continued from page 1

the hospital.

The GMHA board of trustees, in a surprise move and with no warning, voted to terminate its direct-payer agreement with TakeCare, notifying them that effective March 20, TakeCare customers will be treated as self-pay patients at GMH.

GRC Medical Director Dr. Nathaniel Berg has declined to comment on the matter.

Christine Quinata, TakeCare spokesperson, also said senior management at TakeCare declined to comment on the Guam Radiology issue.

After the unexpected GMHA board decision to terminate the TakeCare contract, TakeCare issued a letter to subscribers, saying it was baffled by the GMH board's decision because in addition to a \$700,000 advance made to GMH, Take-

The GMHA board of trustees, in a surprise move and with no warning, voted to terminate its direct-payer agreement with TakeCare, notifying them that effective March 20, TakeCare customers will be treated as self-pay patients at GMH.

Care makes timely, biweekly payments to the hospital.

TakeCare management also assured its subscribers that it will continue to cover patients treated at GMH by reimbursing them.

No OB/GYN

Meanwhile, FHP Clinic, which is directly affiliated with TakeCare as the primary service provider for subscribers, has been operating without an obstetrician for quite some time.

According to a source, expectant mothers who are treated at

FHP Clinic are seen by a certified nurse/midwife. Patients who require an obstetrician are then referred to non-network providers.

Dr. Thomas Shieh, Guam Medical Association president and a practicing obstetrician, who has been determined to resolve issues between insurance carriers and physicians, said he believes the recent concerns could be due to "interference."

Shieh told Variety: "All insurance companies need to understand to not interfere with doctors and their patients, and this goes with all health insurance carriers – Calvo's SelectCare, NetCare, TakeCare. If the recommendation of care is prescribed from a doctor to a patient and the insurances deny or reduce that, it is considered interference between the doctor and patient and this ultimately affects the quality of care patients receive."

Election bill...

continued from page 1

is applicable to local elections, Bill 413 is then inconsistent with that. "But that's something that needs to be determined by Atty. Cook," he said.

According to the organization's website (www.cuvfec.com), Citizens United was the focus of a landmark decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court in January 2010 when it filed a lawsuit against the Federal Election Commission.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the first amendment rights of people who, through corporations and unions, want to participate in the political process. The ruling blocked other statutes restricting political speeches of such individuals.

The case started back in 2007 when Citizens United attempted to publicize a film

"Until this matter is resolved, there was a consensus that we not review Bill 413 until the Guam Election Commission reconciles that issue." But the Legislature stands ready to review Bill 413."

– Atty. Jeff Cook, GEC legal counsel

against Hilary Clinton, who at the time was running for president.

It was determined by the Federal Election Commission as too "critical to be shown in the weeks before an election," and if the organization proceeded in broadcasting the documentary, it would have led to prosecution and imprisonment of up to five years.

The U.S. Supreme Court, however, struck it down because it violated the First Amendment.