

Pacific Daily News

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HAFA ADAI, IT'S WEDNESDAY

guampdn.com



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

Do you think Guam's registration for political status voting is racially discriminating?

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

GMH CAPACITY

▲ GMH adult beds were at 90% of capacity and maternal child beds were at 85% of capacity as of 9 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.



FOOD STAMPS RESTORED

All mistakenly deducted food stamp benefits have been restored, according to Public Health.

SEE STORY, **PAGE 4**

Pacific Daily News

ON THE AIR

Listen to live news Monday through Friday at:

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Joy 92, 91.9 FM

Friday a GovGuam holiday

Calvo cites employee morale for executive order



▲ Gov. Eddie Calvo announces four-day holiday weekend for government of Guam employees.



Calvo

"I know this has been a rough year for the GovGuam family."

— Gov. Eddie Calvo

By Brett Kelman

Pacific Daily News
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GovGuam workers, prepare for your four-day weekend — Friday will be a holiday.

Yesterday, Gov. Eddie



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Calvo announced he's made Friday a government holiday through an executive order. The order is for this year only, said governor's spokesman Troy Torres.

"I know this has been a rough year for the GovGuam family," Calvo said in a statement. "We've curtailed millions of dollars in spending that meant a suspension of your pay raises and increments. We're reorganizing

▲ See **Holiday**, Page 3

Food donations sought



Rick Cruz/Pacific Daily News/rmcruz@guampdn.com

Food bags: Volunteers place donated food items into bags at the Salvation Army's Lighthouse Recovery Center in Tiyan, yesterday. Food bags will be given away to residents in need on Thanksgiving Day.



PHOTOS ONLINE

▲ For more photos of the Salvation Army food preparation, go to WWW.GUAMPDN.COM.

Chamorro-only vote challenged



▲ Nonprofit organization files lawsuit against Chamorro-only vote for plebiscite on Guam's political status.

By Erin Thompson

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As the government of Guam struggles to get a political status vote on track, one Guam resident has filed a lawsuit to overturn a law that allows only those defined as na-



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tive inhabitants to vote.

Retired Air Force officer Dave Davis, who has lived on the island since 1977, filed a suit in the District Court of Guam yesterday against the ter-

ritory of Guam, the Guam Election Commission, and election commissioners Alice M. Tadjeron, Martha C. Ruth, Joseph F. Mesa, Johnny P. Taitano and Joshua F. Tenorio. Donald I. Weakly and Attorney General Leonardo Rapadas also were

▲ See **Vote**, Page 3

Tax refund checks to be picked up at malls

By Shaun Bevan

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Taxpayers will have the option to pick up their tax refund checks before they're mailed out.

Gov. Eddie Calvo announced yesterday that tax refund checks will be distributed "in the first days of December" at the Micronesia Mall, Guam Premier Outlets and Agana Shopping Center, but the exact dates have yet to be confirmed, according to a press release from the governor's office.

"We need to get this money to the people fast," Calvo stated in the release. "They've waited far too long."

About 91,000 tax refund checks are expected to be released from almost \$200 million the government of Guam borrowed from the bond market.

The government of Guam will receive the bond proceeds at the beginning of next month but because of weekend overlays during the first week of December, there could be a delay in mail deliveries, the press release stated.

Distribution of the checks most likely will occur during the first weekend of the month, the release stated.

The remaining refund checks will be mailed to taxpayers. More information on the distribution time and on which documents residents should bring with them will be announced later.

GREAT REBATE

TOYOTA YARIS



See ad for details. SINCE 1914

Blas expresses disappointment with Obama

By Brett Kelman

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Another local politician has sent a letter expressing disappointment that President Barack Obama passed through Guam without leaving his plane on Saturday night.

Sen. Frank Blas Jr., R-Barrigada, the leader of the Republican minority in the Guam Legislature, sent a letter to the White House on Monday, chastising the president.

Blas said Obama could have paid respects to the family of Army Spc. Calvin Pereda, who was killed by an explosion in Afghanistan a week ago.

"Had you thought of wanting to

pay your respects to his family, as is customary throughout the Pacific, to include the island you were born and raised on, the family residence of the fallen soldier was less than two miles from the Air Force base you landed and rested at."

Pereda's parents live in the mainland, but his extended family lives in Yigo.

Air Force One refueled at Andersen Air Force Base late Saturday night, but the president's short stop on Guam contained no public statements or appearances.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo flew back to Washington, D.C., on Air Force One.

Gov. Eddie Calvo also has expressed disappointment the presi-

Refueling stop: Demonstrators hold signs urging President Barack Obama to "come meet the residents," outside Andersen Air Force Base during Air Force One's refueling stop, Saturday.

dent remained behind the fences of the air base. Demonstrators gathered outside the Andersen gate, but didn't even get a glimpse of the president's plane.

Obama is from Hawaii and while campaigning for president in 2008, he said because he's an islander, he would be "especially sensitive to the needs of the people of Guam," according to Pacific Daily News files.



Erin Thompson/Pacific Daily News/egthompson@guampdn.com

Federal expenditures on Guam exceed \$2B

By Oyaol Ngirairiki

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Federal dollars spent or obligated to projects and personnel on Guam in fiscal 2010 reached \$2.01 billion — surpassing the prior record high of \$1.54 billion in fiscal 2003.

The amount was a part of the Federal Expenditures Report released locally yesterday by the Guam Department of Labor. It presents the annual data in a time-series format to see the trends in federal expenditures for fiscal 1997 through fiscal 2010.

Consolidated report

Gary Hiles, the agency's chief economist, said the data was gleaned from the Consolidated Federal Funds Report, which includes amounts the U.S. gave to Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Palau and the Feder-

ated States of Micronesia.

Hiles said the dollar figures include pay and benefits for military and federal civilian personnel — both active and retired — as well as contracts, procurement of services and various federal grants and programs.

Civilian vs. defense

"Some interesting things that we found this year is that the non-defense expenditures — that's grants and civilian employees — last year exceeded the defense expenditures, which was fairly unusual," Hiles said. "That was because of grants, primarily the (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant, some of which was received in 2009."

He noted that in fiscal 2010, federal dollars sent to Guam for both non-defense and defense spending grew.

"The biggest thing that happened was the huge increase in the contractual category, largely related to defense," Hiles said.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES REPORT

Key findings

- ▲ Total reported federal expenditures or obligations on Guam increased 44.2 percent, from \$1.39 billion in fiscal year 2009 to \$2.01 billion in fiscal year 2010, the latest year for which complete information on federal expenditures is available.
- ▲ Federal expenditures or obligations for defense were up 92.6 percent and non-defense spending or obligations were up 11 percent. (Federal expenditure figures include expenditures and obligations)
- ▲ Total federal expenditures on Guam increased by 42 percent, from \$1.41 billion in fiscal 2005 to \$2.01 billion in fiscal 2010. Federal expenditure totals had previously remained consistently in the \$1.25 billion to \$1.53 billion range between fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2009.
- ▲ Using the lower fiscal 2000 level as a base, total federal expenditures on Guam increased by 139 percent from fiscal 2000 to fiscal 2010.
- ▲ The highest level of federal expenditures or obligations on Guam to date was reached in fiscal 2010, substantially surpassing the prior

record high of \$1.54 billion in fiscal 2003.

- ▲ Total direct expenditures or obligations for defense have increased substantially — 127.6 percent — from \$480.1 million in fiscal 1997 to \$1.093 billion in fiscal 2010.
- ▲ Total direct expenditures or obligations for non-defense activities have increased even more substantially, by 150.7 percent, from \$366.9 million to \$919.8 million.
- ▲ The largest change from fiscal 2009 to fiscal 2010 was for procurement contracts, which increased \$446.7 million, or 146.5 percent. Salaries and wages increased by 20.5 percent.

Fiscal 2010 spending

- ▲ Procurement contracts: \$751.6 million
- ▲ Grants: \$449.6 million
- ▲ Salaries and wages: \$376.6 million
- ▲ Retirement and disability payments for individuals: \$294.1 million
- ▲ Other direct payments for individuals: \$109.5 million
- ▲ Direct payments other than for individuals: \$31 million.

Food stamp benefits restored

By Arvin Temkar

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All mistakenly deducted food stamp benefits have been restored, according to the Department of Public Health and Social Services.

An electronic error at the beginning of the month deducted money from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program accounts of 196 households, said Linda Susuico, chief human services administrator for the agency's Division of Public Welfare.

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It took Public Health more than two weeks to fix the error, which may have dramatically affected some families. One woman's account went from \$753 to \$24.50.

Because an overall automatic restoration couldn't be done, Public Health started manually restoring accounts late last week.

The error involved an automatic deduction system that deducts ben-

efits when a recipient is accidentally overissued, according to Public Health. Due to a processing glitch, automatic deductions were wrongly made to the accounts' food stamp benefit recipients.

Public Health issued certificates for people to take to nonprofits such as The Salvation Army as proof they receive food stamps and were in need of assistance. In a two-day period last week, eight families went to The Salvation Army for food assistance, according to Pacific Daily News files.

ISLAND STYLE Thanksgiving

PALM CAFE

THANKSGIVING DAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011

Champagne Brunch Buffet

10:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Join us for a feast to include a Variety of Salads, Sashimi, Roast Turkey, Pineapple Glazed Ham, Shrimp Tempura, King Crab Legs, Prime Rib, Nigiri and Rolled Sushi Bar, Crepes with assorted toppings, Yogurt Sundae Station, Omelets made to order and more!

Free Flowing Champagne and House Wines!

\$36.95* per adult
\$19.95* per child (6 – 12 years)

Dinner Buffet

6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Featuring Roast Turkey, Honey Glazed Ham, Roast Prime Rib, King Crab Legs, Roast Pork Loin, Shrimp & Vegetable Tempura, Pasta Station, Oysters, Sashimi, Nigiri and Rolled Sushi Bar, Assorted Salads, Crepes made to order and more!

Free Flowing Budweiser Draft Beer!

\$36.95* per adult
\$19.95* per child (6 – 12 years)

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*A 10% service charge will be added.