



Daily news file photo

Sen. John Aguon speaks at a recent public hearing.

Aguon: No history of heart illness

□ Continued from Page 1

tests," Philips said.

Aguon had no history of heart-related ailments.

"About the only real problem he's ever had is diabetes. He's always been a very healthy guy,"

Philips said.

"He's doing better now. He's awake and doesn't look sick anymore," said Juanita Magallanes, nursing supervisor at the hospital.

She added that while she didn't know which Honolulu

hospital Aguon will be going to, he most likely won't have to be transported as a patient.

"He's certainly in good enough shape to fly to Hawaii without any assistance," Magallanes said.

Voters: Many didn't get ballots

□ Continued from Page 1

they ran out of ballots."

The election has generally proceeded smoothly, but there have been problems such as incomplete voter registration lists that required people to register on the spot, he said.

Outside of the country, FSM citizens for the first time voted for national candidates by absentee ballots. Santos said 1,300 ballots were mailed out for non-resident FSM citizens in Guam, Hawaii and elsewhere, but only about 300 were returned.

On Guam, FSM citizens voted for state candidates at polling places in Deddo, Tamuning and Mangilao. Last year, hundreds of angry voters were turned away from Guam polling places due to conflicting information about voting times and places.

This year, fewer voters showed up because national candidates were not on the ballot and the scene at closing time in Tamuning was quiet.

"Only a few came late and were turned away," said polling place organizer Tino Songeni.

FSM voters in Guam complained that they never received their absentee ballots and were not informed about how the new voting system works.

"It's very complicated," said Inez Sarof, a Yigo resident who is originally from the Faichuk islands of Chuuk state. "Some people don't have mailboxes. Most of us haven't received our (absentee) ballots."

Sarof said the principle problem facing Chuukese is the stagnant economy that keeps the state's best people away.

"We're educated but there's no place for us," said Sarof, who worked as a bank teller in Guam. "There's no jobs."

Despite economic problems and the looming end of a defense and economic treaty with the United States, few people said they were voting based on issues.

"If you have more relatives, then you have more voters," said Norimasa Selet of Mangilao. "People also support businessmen because they can ask them for favors later. The last thing is (the candidates') education and what they stand for."

Jane Paulus, a University of Guam student from Chuuk, said she was not aware of the compact of free association treaty or its implications on the FSM economy.

"I'm voting for my dad," she said.

Voter Kathy Jason, from the Faichuk islands, said she went to the Tamuning community center to vote for an uncle and a cousin running for state senator.

The tradition of patronage voting in the FSM is beginning to weaken among some educated voters on Guam, said Erenicia Gruber, president of the Moen Association in Guam. Some people on the island are looking more at the issues, but problems with the complicated new absentee voting procedure makes that pointless.

Navy chief: Job cuts may be overstated

WASHINGTON (GNS) — Guam may lose fewer military and civilian jobs than officially estimated — and fewer than initially considered, Navy officials said Monday.

Navy Secretary John Dalton said the Pentagon's estimate that Guam will lose 4,709 military and civilian positions due to base closures and realignments may be overstated.

He said some of those job losses represent crewmen aboard Navy "prepositioned" ships that are berthed in Guam, but who may live elsewhere or only occasionally pass through Guam.

The Navy describes prepositioned ships as large, civilian-type cargo ships loaded with weapons, supplies and ammunition for use in military operations like Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm or humanitarian operations like those in Somalia and Rwanda.

Those ships can remain in port for months at a time, allowing crewmen to make their permanent homes at other locations. Each ship has a crew of about 30.

Under Pentagon recommendations, prepositioned ships and some other Navy ships and operations would be

transferred to Pearl Harbor.

"Many of those jobs ... may not represent people who are living on Guam, but who are there on a transient basis," Dalton told members of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. "The job loss on Guam very well may be overstated."

Dalton said he did not know how many jobs are associated with the prepositioned ships, or the number of jobs that may be overstated.

In other testimony during a packed Washington hearing, Dalton told commissioners that the Navy had considered closing Guam's Public Works Center, which employs about 700 workers and supports Navy facilities on Guam.

He said the center was left off the Pentagon's final list of base recommendations because of the large job loss expected from other recommended base closings and realignments.

Dalton said that while additional savings could have been realized from closing the Public Works Center, the facility can remain productive by supporting other military bases on Guam that will remain open, including medical facilities and Andersen Air Force Base.

Underwood: 'Clarity'

□ Continued from Page 1

The base closings seem certain to hasten or discourage those like Underwood seeking more political distance from Washington. The question remains in which direction the momentum will run as Guam digests the Pentagon plans.

On Capitol Hill, Republican Rep. Elton Gallegly's 1995 game plan for his Native American and Insular Affairs subcommittee does not include Guam commonwealth hearings. But that doesn't mean they won't happen in 1996, the second year of the two-year Congress.

Gallegly is openly opposed to the "mutual consent" ground rules sought by Underwood and other Guam officials as part of the new commonwealth arrangement.

"Until a territory gains distinct sovereignty with the federal government, either within or without the Constitution, the Congress cannot be bound by an

unalterable bilateral pact of mutual consent, in spite of artful craftsmanship," he said on Jan. 31.

Gallegly's opposition doesn't discourage Underwood.

"On the surface, that doesn't look positive, but we have to go into the hearing process to discuss and find out exactly what he means," he said. "We'll have a clearer sense of what's do-able and not do-able."

Indeed, "clarity" comes up a lot with Underwood. Win or lose, pass or fail, he wants this year's debate and negotiation on Guam commonwealth to clear the air on what's possible in the future.

Nonetheless, he said, mutual consent remains a key issue in any Guam-U.S. deal. "Without mutual consent, there's really no reason to proceed," he said, "because you have no political status. Mutual consent is central to the entire issue."

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COR 3 declared for Guam

Typhoon watch issued

By Jasmine Stole
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Variety News Staff

GOV. Eddie Calvo and Rear Adm. Babette Bolivar jointly declared Guam in Condition of Readiness

3, alerting residents that damaging winds from an impending weather system is expected over the next 48 hours.

COR 3 was declared at 5 p.m. yesterday and a little more than an

hour later, the National Weather Service issued a typhoon watch for the Mariana Islands. A typhoon watch means Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan might endure damaging winds of 73 miles per hour or greater over the next 24 hours.

Guam and Rota will likely experience stronger winds of about 20

to 25 mph today coming from the northeast. On Sunday, wind strengths will increase to about 25 to 35 mph and increase to about 35 to 45 mph Sunday evening.

Waters will be choppy, NWS officials said. Choppy seas will reach heights between 11 and 13 feet today

TYPHOON continued on page 2

» INSIDE

LOCAL

GFD INVESTIGATES
WAREHOUSE FIRE

THE Guam Fire Department is investigating a fire that erupted yesterday afternoon in Tamuning at the abandoned warehouse formerly occupied by Goodwill.

Page 2

MOVIES

TALE AS
OLD AS
TIME


Page 12

TECHNOLOGY

NEW MACBOOK

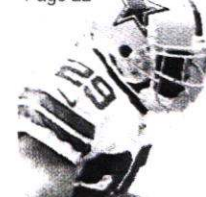
THE MacBook Air was revolutionary when Apple started selling it in 2008. Though still thin and light, the Air now feels like a cheap cousin next to more powerful MacBook Pro laptops.

Page 13

SPORTS

KING MURRAY
LEAVES DALLAS
FOR EAGLES

Page 22



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Confirmation hearing



From left, RubyJane Buhain-Redila, a member of the Pink Ball Committee; Charles Ada, executive manager of the A.B. Won Pat International Airport; and Ed Untalan, chairman of the airport board deliver their testimony endorsing the nomination for Deedee S. Camacho for the Guam International Airport Authority board during a confirmation hearing at the Guam Legislature yesterday. Jonathan Abella / For Variety

HBO satire prompts revisit of Guam's political status

By Mar-Vic Cagurangan
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Variety News Staff

PROMPTED by a biting humor that highlighted the "second-class citizen" status of U.S. territories, the Guam Office of Decoloniza-

tion is poised to rekindle public discussion on Guam's quest for self-rule, according to the Office of the Governor.

"I've long since held that any status is better than the status quo," Gov. Eddie Calvo said.

"I agree with others who have spoken about Guam's efforts, whether it is on voting rights or political status, that our distance from the U.S. mainland has meant fewer people understand our predicament."

According to a press release from Adelup, the Office of Decolonization is preparing an educational outreach to help move the discussion of political status forward.

STATUS continued on page 2





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** Guam
VF: Political Status Commission*