

# GFT looks at training in Port injury

By John O'Connor  
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The Guam Federation of Teachers has learned that the Port Authority of Guam may have been using transportation workers to perform stevedore work without proper training, and this likely contributed to the incident in early July, when a load of rebar rolled onto the leg of a transportation worker,

according to union representative Robert Koss.

The information is still unconfirmed, Koss acknowledged, but added that “GovGuam seems to constantly look for ways to save money at the expense of the employees and this is one example of the kind of consequences that it can have,” Koss



Robert Koss

focus remains on providing the admin-

told The Guam Daily Post. Port General Manager Rory Respcio said he would reserve comment until he is in receipt of the results of an internal investigation, but has complied with all reporting requirements for that investigation.

“In the meantime, our focus remains on providing the admin-

**SHORTAGE** continued from page 1

them raise our kids in the classroom and teaching them what they have to learn to become successful adults,” Fernandez said.

“It’s hard work,” Fernandez said. “But it’s absolutely clear that our community is dependent on the success of children who are dependent on the success of teachers.”

Guam Federation of Teachers President Sanjay Sharma said a competitive salary helps attract and retain teachers.

“The starting salary of a fully certified teacher with a bachelor’s degree is \$34,383 ... in comparison a (Department of Defense Education Activity) DoDEA teacher starts at \$49,842 as their base salary,” Sharma said.

A teacher himself, Sharma said the “pay disparity widens as a teacher obtains a higher degree.” For example, a teacher with a doctoral degree will earn a starting salary of \$43,752 at GDOE, but could nearly double

that at DoDEA’s \$73,163 starting salary.

“The salary for teaching positions for GDOE are not competitive,” he said. “In the early 1990s, GDOE was able to recruit teachers from places like Wisconsin because Guam remained competitive with its teacher pay. However, the stagnant GDOE to recruit stateside teachers and retain existing teachers.

“Teachers that have a background in science, technology, engineering or math would earn more by remaining in their field instead of becoming a teacher. My engineer friends earn more than twice the average teacher pay for Guam. Good luck in recruiting them to teach in the classroom.”

## Shortfall

A recent job fair held by GDOE sought to address this shortfall of educators.

A number of those positions will be filled by retired teachers as well as degreed individuals who aren’t certified in education but are able

to gain emergency certification.

The current shortfall breaks down to:

- Elementary school: 121
- Middle and high school: 194
- Special education: 44

The shortage of certified teachers and the concern with wages isn’t specific to teachers on Guam or even in the United States.

Teacher groups in Australia recently voted to go on a strike. In New Zealand, a teacher walkout that was 50,000 strong was said to be one of the largest industrial actions seen in the islands, according to the New Zealand Herald.

Teachers of the South Pacific communities want the same thing that teachers in the U.S. are asking for, primarily, higher wages.

West Virginia had a strike last year that resulted in a 5% pay increase. That triggered strikes and walkouts in states including Arizona, California, Colorado, Kentucky, North Carolina and Oklahoma, according to the Columbus Dispatch.

**HOME INVASION** continued from page 1

neighbor in Mangilao, noted her friend’s death with an email to The Guam Daily Post. Moore said Oberheim was a longtime resident of the island and her children were raised here.

Maui police have reclassified an investigation to a murder case, the local news agency reports. Lewellyn Foster Jr., Aaron Wilsey and Chery

**FIRING RANGE** continued from page 1

fire training range complex under a \$78 million contract it was awarded in August 2017.

Chatfield said the contract for construction of the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range near the Serianthes nelsonii will not be awarded until March 2020.

The release from JRM also quotes Albert Borja, the environmental director for Marine Corps Activity Guam, as assuring the senators that “we are investing in propagating growth of endangered plant species in this area of the island, which includes, but is not limited to, the Serianthes nelsonii tree.”

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes requested the site visit, which was led by Chatfield. The media was not allowed to go along.

It was the second visit to the tree’s location for some of the senators, who were first taken the site on June 3.

Lawmakers and activists have called for a pause on all construction activity on the firing range complex, fearing that it threatens the endangered tree’s survival. They also

expressed concern about the preservation of artifacts found in nine recently discovered areas within the firing range complex.

Commonly known as a fire tree, the Serianthes nelsonii tree on Northwest Field is believed to be the only known mature, seed-producing Serianthes nelsonii on Guam, although at least 18 other younger Serianthes nelsonii trees are being protected and raised in the Guam National Wildlife Refuge at Ritidian.

The tree was first identified by University of Guam researchers nearly 20 years ago when steps were first taken to protect it.

Last month, 13 of Guam’s 15 senators endorsed Sen. Telena Nelson’s resolution urging Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero to use her influence to convince the military to indefinitely “pause” construction work on the complex.

The governor declined to endorse a full stop. She sent a letter to Chatfield asked for a six-month pause in construction around the tree “until December 2019 when the DNA report (on the tree’s ability to reproduce) is expected to be final.”

Moniz were charged in the break-in. Foster allegedly attacked Oberheim in her sleep, according to the indictment, Hawaii News Now reported.

The Post is awaiting more information from the Maui Police Department.

Oberheim was sleeping when the burglars were in her home. She woke up and started screaming, which is when one of the suspects assaulted her, news reports state.

While the three suspects appeared in court last week, an update to their charges are expected as a result of Oberheim’s death, Hawaii News Now reports:

- Foster Jr., 35, pleaded not guilty to first-degree robbery, first-degree burglary and first-degree assault, according to court records. He’s being held without bail.

- Wilsey, 26, pleaded not guilty to first-degree burglary, second-degree robbery, second-degree theft and first-degree unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle. His bail was set at \$250,000.

- Moniz also pleaded not guilty to first-degree burglary. Bail was set at \$50,000. **(Daily Post Staff)**

## GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR DENTISTRY

Regular Meeting,

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

at 3:00 PM

at the Teraje Professional Building, 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209 Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Hagatña, Guam.

For more information, please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

**CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES**  
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## GCA Trades Academy seeks bidders for

The GCA Trades Academy has released a bid for the construction of the GCA Trades Academy Regional Training Center.

Trades Academy officials used a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grant to purchase two buildings in Tiyan to be a new construction training facility, according to a GCA Trades Academy press release.

The bid is for site improvement, which will include office space, classrooms and open-air shop space, paved access road and parking.

The two existing warehouses, each 10,000 square feet, adjacent to the Department of Education

administration office in Tiyan, Barrigada, will be fitted with a mezzanine deck, windows, doors thermal/sound insulation, concrete masonry unit, and drywall partitions for office, classroom and shop space, plumbing, air conditioning, electric power, standby generator, wiring, lighting, and outlets for office equipment and shop tools and equipment.

Interested parties are able to examine the contract documents from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the GCA Trades Academy office in Tamuning, the press release states. A CD containing all bid documents will be provided free of cost.

Bids are due to Bert Johnston,

education director, by 4 p.m. July 23. His office is at the GCA Trades Academy at 718 North Marine Corps Drive, Suite 201, Tamuning.

All bids will be publicly opened in accordance with Uniform Guidance 200.320c2iii and read aloud at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids. An independent committee, including a representative of the architect, appointed by the GCA Trades Academy board of trustees will review and evaluate each bid package for conformity with the requirements of the invitation for bids.

For more information, call 647-4842/3, or email [gcatrades@guam.net](mailto:gcatrades@guam.net). (**Daily Post Staff**)

### Guam Cancer Clinical Trials Symposium this Sunday

Health care professionals and cancer patients are invited to attend the Guam Cancer Clinical Trials Symposium.

The symposium will be held from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Hotel Nikko Guam Tasi Ballroom.

Virginia McMahon, of the University of Hawaii Care Center, will be the guest speaker.

FHP Health Center and the University of Hawaii are partnering together to sponsor the symposium. (**Daily Post Staff**)

### Hattori-Uchima wins Nurse of the

GUAM NURSES ASSOCIATION



### CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

#### Notice of Meeting

*Kumision / Seibiston Sibit*

At 5:45 p.m., Thursday, July 18, 2019, Bell Tower, 710 W. Marine Corps Dr., Hagåtña, Guam. For special accommodations, call Eric Miller/ADA Coordinator at 647-1855. Agenda at [csc.guam.gov](http://csc.guam.gov). /s/ Daniel D. Leon Guerrero, Executive Director.

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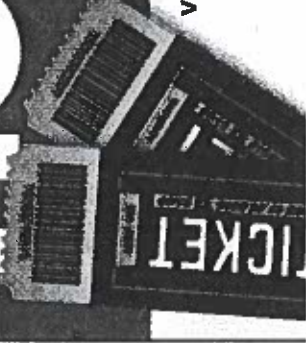
at the Terlaje Professional Building, 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209 Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Hagåtña, Guam.

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