

Mock trial team surprised with money for trip

By Alana Chargualaf
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Okkodo High School's mock trial team members needed \$20,000 for their trip to next month's national competition in Reno, Nevada, but their funds came up way short.

After car washes, lunch plates and other fundraisers, they had only about \$3,000.

Instead of preparing for the national competition, which would be a first for a Guam public high school in a long time, the students worried about being able to make the trip.

But when it seemed reaching their goal was insurmountable, the local government and certain members of the community pitched in.

When the students found out Wednesday, they gasped, hugged and cried in disbelief. Parents, staff and even members of the media were also in tears.



HAPPINESS, RELIEF: Okkodo High School mock trial team members Abigail Doreen Tabilas and Isabella Claire Gonzales react to news that their trip to the national competition will be paid by donors. John O'Connor/The Guam Daily Post

The team - including captains Alexander Jimenez and Noah Nicholle Elbo; attorneys Jacquelyn Cabusi and Izza Nina Ebaló; witnesses Abigail Doreen Tabilas, Ryan Jusi, Darlene Marie Dizon, Kyle Dahlia and Isabella Claire Gonzales; and school coach Gene Dydasco and attorney coach Leevin Camacho - clinched mock trial victory, a first for a Guam public high school in as long as the education officials can remember.

Elbo was stunned and in tears. "I know for sure I was crying because

it feels great to know that we're a first-year team going to nationals and the whole community is behind us, especially our DOE."

Cabusi said happiness was mixed with relief.

"It really takes a lot of weight off not only our shoulders, but also (the parents') shoulders because we had a meeting with our team - a very serious meeting - that we had to start asking our parents that they'd have to pull them out of their pockets. Some people weren't able to come up with over \$2,000."

The givers

The Guam Department of Education, Department of Administration, Dededo Mayor's Office and the Guam Education Board came together to put together the remaining funds and airline mileage needed for the trip.

Dededo Mayor Melissa Savares,

through a motion to use nonappropriated funds from her office, presented a \$5,000 check to help the students, who made a pitch at a municipal planning council meeting.

Administration department Director Edward Birn announced the students can use mileage from the government's travel bank, through the Medical Referral and Education Mileage Program.

Education board member Lou San Nicolas contributed her personal \$250 stipend to help out with the team's pocket money. Her two young grandchildren have spent time with mock trial activities.

Education board Chairman Mark Mendiola, a former mock trial teacher coach, gave \$100 for the students' journey.

"We're just really proud that you did a good job of representing the public schools in general and Okkodo High School," said GDOE Superintendent Jon Fernandez.

'Reverse job fair' anything but backward

By Jamie Ward
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The LinkUp group's reverse job fair at Guam Community College's multipurpose auditorium Wednesday was anything but backward.

It came off as quite forward-thinking, as students getting ready to graduate in May from Nita Cepeda's visual communications class got the opportunity to strut their skills and potential.

While typical job fairs usually include employers setting up booths and displays and allowing prospective employees to come to them, this "reverse" fair allowed the students to set up their own displays to showcase

some of their work, with the employers visiting the students.

The idea behind this first fair of its kind at GCC was to do something more interactive.

"I wanted them to up their adulthood game a little bit," Cepeda said. "There are 14 of them here (from her practicum class) selling themselves."

Visual communications, she said, includes using Adobe's suite of products such as Photoshop and Illustrator, but also includes knowledge of social media marketing, design principles and web design.

All those skills were on display at the various student booths, reminders of the technological, fast-moving age we live in.

Cepeda said the plan is to continue the job fair every year to reach out to the other departments such as allied health, automotive and agriculture to get them to join.

Showcasing their skills

Krishna Dionisio had a booth set up and is looking to design logos as a graphic designer after graduation. She used the event as a way to practice interviewing.

"I think it's good for people like me who aren't really good with people," she said, admitting she wasn't quite sure what to make of her job prospects. "I'm trying," she said.

Sean Davis was in the booth next door. His ultimate goal is to someday own his own photography studio.

Being an experienced photographer and video editor, and now gaining graphic design skills and doing additional freelance work, he felt good about his job prospects.


"I'm confident in my skills and abilities to work with a certain organization that chooses to employ me, because that way I'm able to utilize everything I've done in the past," Davis said.

Jessica Herrera, a marketing major with graphic design aspirations, had a booth on display and was one of the brainchildren behind creating LinkUp. She's excited to enter the workforce in May because she said there are lots of opportunities here for someone like her.

"It's exciting to meet companies on Guam and get yourself out there and see what is offered here. There are lots of opportunities for graphic designers."

Justin Capili said he felt confident about getting a job after graduation, too, and also liked the fair.

"I feel like there is a barrier between graduates and employers and this is a good bridge," Capili said.



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INVITATION FOR BID

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Public Law 26-12

BID NO.:	DUE DATE:	TIME:	DESCRIPTION:
GPA-067-18	04/26/2018	2:00 P.M.	Desktop Currency Counter and Sorter

Bid package may be picked up at the GPWA, Procurement Office, Room 101, 1st. Floor, Gloria B. Nelson Public Services Building, 688 Route 15, Mangilao, Guam 96913. All interested firms should register with GPA's Procurement Division to be able to participate in the bid. Please call our office at (671) 648-3054 / 3055 to register. Registration is required to ensure that all "Amendments and Special Reminders" are communicated to all bidders throughout the bid process. Procurement instructions are posted on the Authority's website at http://guampowerauthority.com/gpa_authority/procurement/gpa_current_ops.php

GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR PHARMACY

Regular Session Meeting, Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:30 AM at the Terlaje Professional Building, 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209 Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Hagatna, Guam.

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

RFP includes requirement to list GRMC in network

By Kevin Kerrigan
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Health insurance companies competing for the government of Guam health insurance contract must cover care at both Guam Regional Medical City and Guam Memorial Hospital if the insurance company wants to be considered the "exclusive provider" for GovGuam.

That requirement is stated in the request for proposals.

Of the three health insurance providers that have been bidding for the government of Guam health insurance contract in recent years, only TakeCare Insurance has not placed GRMC in its network. NetCare and SelectCare have included the

“To be considered as the exclusive provider, offeror (the insurance company) must have both Guam Regional Medical City and Guam Memorial Hospital in your provider network.”

— Request for proposals' Requirement No. 34

private hospital in the health plans they have been offering to GovGuam employees.

If TakeCare wants to submit a bid again this year, the RFP requires that, at least in the "exclusive provider" proposal, it must include GRMC in its network.

TakeCare has not responded to a request for comment.

The same requirement also states that based on the law, a bidder must submit two offers: a valid exclusive bid; and a nonexclusive bid, to qualify.

A nonexclusive bid is priced assuming that subscribers would have the choice of different health care providers, as in years past.

Exclusive and nonexclusive bid submissions are required, even

though Public Law 34-83 mandates only the most "economical and beneficial" health provider will be selected to provide health coverage for the roughly 11,000 employees and 5,000 retirees and their families.

The new law took effect in February after senators overrode the governor's veto of Bill 3-34, a measure introduced by Speaker Benjamin Cruz in an effort to cut the skyrocketing cost of health insurance. Health insurance has been costing GovGuam at least \$80 million annually. Requiring the selection of the "most economical" health insurance provider could save \$20 million, Cruz said.

The RFP was issued April 6 and bids are due May 7.

Complaint: Man threatens woman with machete

By Alana Chargualaf
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A man was charged Saturday in the Superior Court of Guam after allegedly threatening a woman known to him with a machete.

Police on Thursday met with the victim who said 28-year-old Tomas John Sablan began to argue with her, which she avoided by going to sit in the living room.

While in the living room, Sablan reportedly walked in with a machete and asked the victim, "Is this what you want?"

The victim told police Sablan was about to hit her with the machete but decided to stop.

Sablan allegedly proceeded to hold the machete by the blade and struck



Charged

Tomas John Sablan, 28, was charged with family violence as a misdemeanor.

the victim's left eye with the machete's handle. It was also alleged he struck her left thigh with the machete.

Officers confirmed a lump over the victim's eye and a bruise on her left thigh.

Sablan admitted to arguing with the victim and only holding the machete.

An officer conducted a search for the machete and found it on the bedroom floor under a T-shirt and shorts.

Sablan was charged with family violence as a misdemeanor.

Police arrest 2 accused of stealing wine

By Alana Chargualaf
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Two men were charged Monday in the Superior Court of Guam, accused of theft at the 76 gas station in Sinajana.

Police reportedly saw 18-year-old Drake Serem and 19-year-old Iaski Nickot take two bottles of red wine from the gas station and run away, court documents state.

Charged

Drake Serem, 18, and Iaski Nickot, 19, were both charged with theft as a petty misdemeanor.

A witness supposedly saw the two stash the bottles near a trash can.

Police found Serem and Nickot and confronted them.

Nickot reportedly blurted, "That's mine. That's mine," but after looking at Serem, he said, "It's ours. It's ours."

Serem and Nickot were both charged with theft as a petty misdemeanor.

Woman allegedly dragged girl by hair

By Alana Chargualaf
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A woman was charged Saturday in the Superior Court of Guam after being accused of violently handling a female known to her over stolen money.

Police on Friday met with 45-year-old Martha Duenas Cruz, who said the victim was "beyond control," and admitted to yanking the victim by her hair and throwing her to the ground, court documents state.

Officers then met with the victim, who said Cruz accused her of stealing \$5 to pay for a pair of shorts, which the victim denied.

Cruz reportedly grabbed the girl's hair, yanked her off her chair and threw her to the floor. She allegedly proceeded to drag the victim by her hair causing her to hit her head on the refrigerator.

A man known to Cruz supposedly separated Cruz from the victim.

Officers noted four scratches to the victim's arm, and bruises and redness on her left knee.

Cruz was charged with family violence as a misdemeanor.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: 1st Floor, Daniel L. Webb Conference Room

Please note that an executive session will take place before regular business.

You may contact Toni Tenorio at 647-2218, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or other services.

/s/ Peter John D. Camacho, M.P.H.
Hospital Administrator/CEO

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

on Thursday, April 19, 2018
at 9:00 AM at the Health
Professional Licensing Office
Board Conference Room, Terlaje
Professional Bldg, 2nd Floor
Suite 209, Hagatna.

For more information contact Board office at 735-7405/11, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7102 or the Telecommunication Device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801

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