

Council approves third charter school

By John O'Connor
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Science is Fun and Awesome Learning Academy Charter School, or SIFA, has received approval to open a charter school on island.

Members of the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council voted to approve the school.

The council also voted to conditionally approve the charter of Career Tech High Academy Charter School, pending the enactment of Bill 191-34, which promises to remove restrictions on the number of charter schools built from the ground up.

Only three of these charter schools are authorized by law, for now. The first

two slots are taken by Guahan Academy Charter School and iLearn Academy Charter School, leaving SIFA and Career Tech to compete for the third spot.

Officials with both schools were able to offer some final comments before council members voted yesterday.

SIFA was the first to submit an application to the newly formed charter school council. However, Career Tech did submit an application to the former council, leading to some contention on which school had the edge in terms of getting priority.

'Instead of having none'

But regardless of which would come out on top, former Gov. Felix Camacho, a board member for Career Tech,

pleaded for the council to make a decision.

"Instead of having none, choose one," Camacho said.

The initial deadline to decide on the schools expired in December, but the council decided to hold a special meeting down the line for further discussion.

A hearing for Bill 191 was held on Dec. 18, 2017, but lawmakers expressed concerns with funding and pointed to looming federal tax reform, which could reduce local government revenue for public spending.

With the tax reform now passed, it is still unclear how GovGuam will be affected by millions in potential lost revenue.

Charter schools get money from

annual appropriations to the Guam Department of Education at a rate of about \$6,500 per student enrolled in the respective charter school.

SIFA anticipates opening by next school year, in August. It will sustain itself through self-funding until the budget process is complete for fiscal year 2019 — by October 2018 — according to SIFA board member Anthony Sunga.

Career Tech still has the option to appeal the council decision.

Education Superintendent Jon Fernandez, also a voting member of the council, recused himself over his position that charter school funding should be separated from GDOE budgeting matters.

November 2017 tourist arrivals 2nd best on record

By Kevin Kerrigan
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Visitor arrivals took a dip in November 2017 compared to the year before, but the total still represents the second-best November on record, according to the latest preliminary figures from the Guam Visitors Bureau.

The island welcomed 122,377 visitors in November 2017, about 2,000 fewer than the same month in 2016. That total remains the best monthly record, with 124,442 arrivals.

Japan arrivals dropped 26 percent

Tourism officials have acknowledged they're bracing for a tough year ahead in the wake of threats from North Korea and the ongoing decline in arrivals from Japan, which fell 26 percent in November 2017.

Arrivals from Taiwan fell by 39.7 percent, and mainland China arrivals dropped 23.2 percent.

Overall, arrivals are down by 5 percent since the start of the current fiscal year on Oct. 1, 2017.

However, the South Korea market continues to be the bright spot with November arrivals climbing to 61,093, a 25.5 percent increase over the



BRIGHT SPOT: Tourists cross the street on Pale San Vitores Jan. 4 in Tumon. South Korean tourist arrivals continued to surge, but Japan arrivals dropped 26 percent in November last year, Guam Visitors Bureau figures show. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

November 2016 total.

GVB President and Chief Executive Officer Nathan Denight still expects calendar year 2017's total will be another record for arrivals, but he cautions "we still have much to do (to) grow and diversify our visitor mix."

The November arrivals report was

delayed due to the switch to new, "visitor-friendly" Guam customs forms, which began in November.

GVB has also launched updated analytic software to scan and process the arrival data that should produce more efficient reports and surveys that are used by the tourism industry.

“We still have much to do (to) grow and diversify our visitor mix.”

— Nathan Denight, president and CEO, Guam Visitors Bureau

GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR PHARMACY

Regular Session Meeting, January 18, 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, Hagåtña, 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.

GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Regular Session Meeting, Friday, January 12, 2018 at 4:00 PM

at 850 Gov. Carlos G. Camacho Rd, Tamuning Guam, GMH Board Room.

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.

GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION
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GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

The Guam Election Commission has scheduled its monthly meeting for **Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.**, at the Guam Election Commission Conference Room 200, 414 W. Soledad Ave., GCIC Building, Hagåtña, Guam.

The public is invited. For individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services please contact the Guam Election Commission. For more information, you may call Helen M. Atalig at (671) 477-9791 or send an email to vote@gec.guam.gov.

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GUAM DAILY POST • TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018



PEACE: Florentina D. Aguon gives peace signs as she joins other members of AmeriCorps Guam for a Wave for Peace at the intersection of Route 4 and West O'Brien Drive, as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations. The 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Ceremony was held yesterday at the Agana Shopping Center.
David Castro/The Guam Daily Post



AIM FOR UNITY: Terrance Ogo, left, and Vionney Hoseni share their advice for a more unified, culturally accepting Guam before presenting their class civil rights skit at the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event yesterday at the Agana Shopping Center.
Alana Chargualaf/The Guam Daily Post

'It's a new day': King inspires service, unity

By Alana Chargualaf
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Public servants and volunteers gathered Monday at the Agana Shopping Center to commemorate the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. and his influence on those who serve Guam's community.

The governor's Serve Guam Commission and AmeriCorps programs hosted the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: "Engaging Americans in Creating Economic Opportunity."

AmeriCorps members and representatives of Guam Homeland Security, the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association, the Guam International Film Festival, iRecycle, the Department of Public Health and Social Services' Division of Senior Citizens, and the DPHSS Division of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities gathered for the commemoration.

Each organization made outreach efforts, presenting the many ways community members can better serve those around them.

Inafa' maolek

In King's spirit of equality and



CIVIL RIGHTS SKIT: Darlene Quichocho, left, stands alongside George Washington High School Principal Lynda Hernandez-Avilla and Quichocho's students before they present a civil rights skit at an 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Day event yesterday at the Agana Shopping Center. Alana Chargualaf/The Guam Daily Post

service. Guam's youth shared their hope for the acceptance and unity of the island's multicultural community.

Kaeliana Taitano, a member of the AmeriCorps program, acknowledged Guam's melting pot of cultures, and encouraged the promotion of hospitality toward other cultures and peoples.

"We want people to feel that, even if Guam isn't their home, we want to be welcoming and make them feel like they can find a home here," Taitano said. "You're always going to have friends from different cultures. You're

always going to meet new people. Why not just accept them for who they are?"

Jelene Quichocho-Cruz, a former AmeriCorps member, also considered Guam's cultural diversity and tied it into the Chamoru custom of inafa' maolek, which means to make good and to help one another. She noted that Guam's proximity to "our brothers and sisters" in Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae and Pohnpei has helped to make Guam's people more open, accepting and friendly.

"When you know what inafa' maolek

is - helping one another - when you break through that barrier, you can help everybody. Doesn't matter what ethnicity you are, doesn't matter what color you are - it's just by helping one another, giving back to one another," she said.

'It's a new day'

As students of Darlene Quichocho's drama class from George Washington High School prepared to showcase their civil rights skit to the audience, students Terrance Ogo and Vionney Hoseni shared their take on MLK Day.

Ogo believes MLK Day means equality. He shared his observation that Chamorus can feel discriminated against by those in the United States mainland because Guam is a U.S. territory and not a state. Ogo said he looks to King for inspiration.

"I think we just have to look past what's happened in recent events, or what's happened in the past," Ogo said. "It's a new day. I think we could all learn to be a little more accepting toward one another, if we really get to know someone."

"I think Guam would be a much better place if everyone just worked together. There's a famous quote that says, 'We have put footsteps on the moon, yet, we have not learned to walk on Earth as brothers and sisters.' That's one thing I always look at. It's a good one."

'What are you doing for others?'

Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio signed a proclamation for the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Afterward, Sen. Frank Aguon Jr., along with Sens. Therese Terlaje, Regine Biscoe Lee and Wil Castro presented a resolution in recognition of the day's intent.

Sen. Aguon reminded the crowd of a question King once posed to the world: "What are you doing for others?"



GUAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

1995-2018

NOTICE OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA), a public corporation, will be holding its Regular Board of Directors meeting on **Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.** in the GEDA conference room located in Suite 511, 5th Floor, International Trade Center (ITC) Building, 590 South Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam.

Persons requiring special accommodations should contact GEDA's ADA coordinator, Mrs. Gloria Melio, at 647-4332 or gmok@investguam.com.

/s/ Jay Rojas
Administrator
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.

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