

Meth defendant may have release revoked

By Andrew Roberto
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Billy Joe Palomo appeared yesterday at the District Court of Guam to respond to a petition seeking to lift his supervised release.

While free from confinement, Palomo was ordered to undergo drug testing and attend treatment programs at Sanctuary Inc. However, at yesterday's hearing, it was alleged that Palomo had committed numerous violations including failed and missed drug tests, as well as failure to attend sessions at Sanctuary.

Additionally, on Dec. 21 of last year, Palomo landed a case in the Superior Court of Guam on suspicion of possessing a Schedule II controlled substance. According to the magistrate's

It was alleged that Billy Joe Palomo had committed numerous violations including failed and missed drug tests, as well as failure to attend sessions at Sanctuary

complaint, a distraught family member of Palomo called police after the defendant had barricaded himself in her home.

Palomo had earlier "indicated to a neighbor an intent to kill himself" and had asked the same neighbor to smoke meth with him.

Responding police officers received a key to the home and called out to the defendant, who emerged and told police that he would test positive for drugs.

In a bedroom, officers discovered a

glass pipe containing suspected drug residue concealed in one of Palomo's shirts. Palomo told police the items were his. He also "made several statements concerning hearing voices of persons who were not present," according to the report.

Three-week continuance

Palomo's attorney, John Gorman, asked District Court Magistrate Judge Joaquin Manibusan for a three-week continuance to discuss the issue with his client, which the judge granted. Gorman also indicated he would be filing paperwork to allow Palomo to be transferred to the federal detention facility in Hagåtña.

The court will decide whether to revoke Palomo's supervised release on Jan. 25, pending a response from the defendant.

Public auditor: New tax code will reduce Section 30 funds

By Louella Losinio
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Public Auditor Doris Flores Brooks said the recently enacted federal tax reform will reduce the amount of Section 30 funding the government of Guam receives, starting this fiscal year.

The public auditor spoke at a Rotary Club of Guam meeting yesterday at the Pacific Star Resort & Spa.

According to the public auditor, the amount of Section 30 funds will be reduced with the income tax rates under the new tax plan.

But the planned military buildup could boost numbers, according to Brooks. Around 5,000 Marines and their dependents will move from

Okinawa to Guam as part of the military relocation plan. Section 30 funds are primarily income taxes from the paychecks of military service members who work on Guam.

"If the numbers are true, that number will mitigate the lower Section 30 money that we are going to have, which will start to come this September," Brooks said.

In September 2017, the Department of Administration said a total of \$77.79 million in Section 30 funds was released by the federal government. Around \$17 million of that amount was deducted for debt payments, leaving a balance of close to \$61 million. The remaining amount was prioritized for tax-refund payments.

The increase in the earned income tax credit is another provision of the new federal tax code that could affect GovGuam revenues, according to Brooks. Under the new tax plan, EITC increases from \$1,000 per qualified child to \$2,000, with \$1,400 subject

to a tax refund if taxpayers qualify.

"That number has really gone up phenomenally over the last 15 years," Brooks said, adding that GovGuam was paying only \$6 million in EITC back in 2000. During the last fiscal cycle, GovGuam paid approximately \$58 million.

"(The Department of) Revenue and Taxation needs to do more by looking at the EITC because we are paying more than \$58 million in that area, and the EITC is going from \$1,000 to \$2,000," she said.

Brooks estimates EITC numbers will increase by 10 or 20 percent with the new tax code in place.

"The regular income tax withholding will be lower. Section 30 moneys will be lower and EITC (is) going to be higher," Brooks said.

Under the new tax plan, the standard deduction essentially doubles to \$12,000 for single tax filers and \$24,000 for married tax filers filing jointly.

5-days mts. 1/12/18

Motion to dismiss conspiracy charges denied in DOC assault

By Tihu Lujan
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One of three men accused in the brutal beating of fellow Department of Corrections detainee Justin Meno was denied his motion to dismiss the multiple conspiracy charges in his indictment.

Judge Michael Bordallo denied Jeremiah Santos Isezaki's motion to dismiss, requested through his attorney Randall Cunliffe, during a hearing yesterday at the Superior Court of Guam.

Isezaki is one of the inmates implicated in the March 2017 beating that landed Meno in the hospital. Meno's injuries were so severe that he was initially thought to be dead and was subsequently put into a medically induced coma. Post files state.

Meno regained consciousness two months later and identified his attackers as Isezaki, Albert Babauta Santos II and Peter John Salas Gines. Five months after the assault, Meno succumbed to a tumor and died from asphyxia, according to a report from the chief medical examiner.

Isezaki, with Santos and Gines, was indicted by a grand jury on charges including aggravated assault as a second-degree felony and attempted murder as a first-degree felony. The three co-defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges during a hearing in August.

Attorney: One alleged conspiracy incident

According to Cunliffe, the attorney general's office is attempting to prosecute Isezaki on several counts of conspiracy. However, the attorney clarified that up to six separate conspiracies compose only one alleged conspiracy incident in the original indictment.

Bordallo countered Cunliffe, stating it wasn't necessary to dismiss the multiple counts.

Isezaki's defense then filed a motion to clarify the court order by outlining the multiple conspiracy charges.

William Pole, the defense counsel for Santos, requested a court order for prosecutors to hand over DOC internal affairs documents. However, Bordallo also denied his request because Pole can obtain the documents through a subpoena.

Prosecutors are currently awaiting DNA test results related to items found in Isezaki's cell. Trial for the three co-defendants is tentatively scheduled to begin on Jan. 22.

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 735-7495 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Suan at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 619-1601. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

GUAM HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY

Board of Commissioners Meeting
12:00 P.M., Friday, January 12, 2018
GHURA Main Office

1st Floor Conference Room
117 Bien Venida Avenue, Sinajana

For special accommodation, contact Ms. Kathy Taitano
Tele No. 475-1322 or TTY #472-3701

2 day mts: 1/12/18

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 Herman 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

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

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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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