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VOL. 48 NO. 106

**Hafa Adai,  
It's Tuesday**



## GUAM FIGHTS CANCER

SEE STORY, PAGE 14



## TUGADE TO JOIN NAVAL ACADEMY

SEE STORY, PAGE 28



## FestPac Countdown **5**

Days until the 2016  
Festival of Pacific Arts



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### TODAY'S QUESTION:

Will you or anyone you know benefit from the use of medical marijuana?

Results from yesterday's PDN poll are on **PAGE 2**.

# CHURCH: WE'LL SUE

## Archdiocese to bring issues to court



Apuron

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The Archdiocese of Agaña last week announced plans to file civil lawsuits against those who've been spreading "malicious lies" about the local Roman Catholic Church, as well as

taking cases through the church's own court system.

The announcement was made in a media release issued Friday. In the release, the archdiocese doesn't clearly state who it specifically plans to take to court.

Pacific Daily News on Monday asked the archdio-

cese in an email questions regarding the civil suits and whether the charges will be related to slander and libel. The church on Monday said the matter has been referred to its attorneys.

"The media will have to be patient until the matter takes its course through its

formal proceedings," the church wrote in an email.

Friday's media release addressed and refuted several claims made against the church and Archbishop Anthony Apuron over the past three years.

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RICK CRUZ/PDN

Seafarers arrive on traditional sailing canoes from Chuuk on Monday morning. Local residents, visiting islanders and others lined the shore of the Paseo de Susana in Hagåtña to greet the seafarers. Three canoes, one from the island of Houk and the two from Poluwat, sailed to Guam for the 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts, said Cy Esu, a cousin of the navigators. Another two canoes, from Lamotrek, arrived in the afternoon.

# Guam welcomes FestPac canoes

**JERICK SABLAN**

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Traditional navigators sailing to Guam in canoes were warmly greeted Monday when they arrived by sea from islands in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The navigators are delegates taking part in the upcoming Festival of Pacific Arts, a major cultural festival being held in Guam from Sunday to June 4.

A total of five canoes arrived in Guam on Monday morning and afternoon. The

canoes spent several days on the water. The boats were docked at Paseo de Susana in Hagåtña, the main location of FestPac.

More than 20 people came on three canoes — two from Poluwat (about 500 miles southeast of Guam) and one

from Houk (about 570 miles southeast of Guam). The three canoes came in the morning.

Another two canoes, from Lamotrek (about 420 miles southeast of Guam) brought more than 10 people in the af-

See **SEAFARER**, Page 4



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# Seafarer: Felt genuinely welcomed

Continued from Page 1

ternoon.

Members of the FSM community staying in Guam greeted the navigators with chants, dances and treats thrown to the navigators.

Chamorro chanters from I Fanalai'an greeted the seafarers with chants as well.

The largest canoe from Lamotrek in Yap, called the Queen Veronica, did not arrive in Guam Monday.

Navigator Larry Raigetel, who came in on the canoe Lucky Star, said they lost track of the Queen Veronica two days before they arrived in Guam and said he's hopeful the sailors are doing fine.

He said the navigator on that ship might be teaching an important lesson on the journey, but if the canoe isn't seen in a certain time frame, there would be reason to worry.

The trip to Guam from Lamotrek took five days, he said. Most of the trip went well, but at one point they had to make temporary repairs on the canoes.

The trip would have been shorter, but the currents south of Guam were very strong, he said.

Raigetel is with the nonprofit group Waa'gey, which promotes traditional navigation and works with the community to empower young people to learn and practice the skills.

He said young people of the Pacific Islands need to learn and be proud of their navigational history.

"These islands weren't just settled by mistake. These are islands that belong to great navigators in the past, including Guam and the whole entire Pacific. We are voyagers," he said.

Taking such a long journey has always been a dream, especially since these kinds of journeys to Guam ceased in the 1700s,



RICK CRUZ/PDN

Safarers arrive on traditional sailing canoes from Chuuk on Monday morning. The canoes, one from the island of Houk and the others from Poluwat, sailed to Guam for the 2016 Festival of the Pacific Arts, said Cy Esu, a cousin of the navigators.

Raigetel said. In those days, canoes from the islands in the FSM would trade with Guam, but stopped because of outside influence.

"For us to do this, we

feel great honor and pride," he said.

In Raigetel's area of the world, traditional navigation is still used because the people living there are isolated. Still,

## Video & Photos Online

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it's important that the rest of the Pacific appreciates and uses it, he said.

"I'm feeling happy because we're here safe," he said.

The welcoming from the community in Guam was great, Benito said, and the seafarers felt genuinely welcomed.

Seafaring is dying out, he said, but in showing that it's possible to make these long journeys, he hopes they can inspire others to do the same.

Eager residents waited to be able to get in the water. As part of tradition, relatives of the seafarers get into the water and are filled with so much excitement and happiness they jump on the seafarers and also throw them food from the water, Benito

said.

They also sing traditional chants and dance at their arrival, he said.

It's a dream come true to see all the canoes coming to Guam, said Ignacio "Nash" Camacho, from the FestPac Committee on Seafaring and a member of the local Traditions About Seafaring Islands group, or TASI.

It's been hundreds of years since a sight like this has been seen in Guam, Camacho said.

In traditional seafaring, it's important for the crew to stay near their canoes. Thus, the approximately 70 seafarers from the islands will be living in huts at Paseo, he said.

Volunteers are still needed to help build the huts, and donations are also being accepted to help feed the navigators before FestPac begins.

Water has been brought in for the seafarers to shower, Camacho said, and restroom facilities are available at Paseo.

# Church: Sex abuse ad targets Apuron

Continued from Page 1

The church continued to dispute the allegations that Apuron had given away control of the Redemptoris Mater seminary in Yona to the Neocatechumenal Way, a group within the Catholic Church.

Citing the deed of the property, which the church released to the public late last year, the archdiocese notes that the deed lists the church as the sole owner of the property. The church also defends the Neocatechumenal Way, arguing that five popes have approved the Way and more than 100 dioceses in the world, including Manila, have Redemptoris Mater seminaries.

## Concerned Catholics

The church's media release

also addressed what it called "criminal sexual abuse" accusations directed at Apuron.

In recent weeks, the Concerned Catholics, a local group that has held protests targeting the archbishop, took out a full-page advertisement in the PDN that showed the back of a person wearing Catholic clerical attire and asked readers "Were You Sexually Abused? Molested?"

The ad also stated: "If you or someone you know was the victim of sexual abuse during these periods and at these locations, you no longer have to suffer in silence."

Below the statement was a list of dates ranging between 1974 and 1984. The locations included Father Duenas Minor Seminary, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Saipan, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Agat

and the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica.

The archdiocese said the Concerned Catholics' ad targeted Apuron.

"This demonstrates that they have no proof to substantiate any allegations and that their purpose to confuse and mislead the people or, even, to induce some to bring false testimony," the church wrote.

Days later, Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz made the comment on a local radio station that Apuron instructed some senators to attach "poison pill" amendments to a bill he authored relative to helping vic-

tims of sexual abuse crimes come forward and file civil suits.

The bill in question, which was enacted in 2011 as Public Law 31-07, was a "window" measure, wherein victims of childhood sexual abuse who were then adults could have a two-year period to file civil actions against the individual that preyed upon them, suspending any statute of limitations.

While the church does call Cruz's claims "outlandish" in the press release, it doesn't deny that Apuron had any influence on the measure while it was being deliberated in the

Legislature's session.

The reason for spreading such accusations, according to the church, is part of an effort to remove Apuron from the church.

The archdiocese notes that, for the past 30 years, he's been the church's apostle who "tirelessly" fought against abortion, the legalization of marijuana and same-sex marriage.

"Whoever joins in this attack against our Catholic faith, our Catholic Church, is neither Catholic nor Christian," the church wrote. "This kind of malice lacks the spirit of Jesus Christ."

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