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**HAFÁ ADAI,
IT'S THURSDAY**



**YIGO'S FIRST
EVER CITRUS
FESTIVAL**

SEE STORY, PAGE 16



**HONG KONG
BEATEN BY
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SEE STORY, PAGE 40



FestPac Countdown

3

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TODAY'S QUESTION:

Do you plan to attend any of the FestPac activities?

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

'OTHER VICTIMS'



SCREEN CAPTURE OF VIDEO RELEASED BY ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA

In a Tuesday video recording, Archbishop Anthony Apuron responds to an accusation that he molested a 12-year-old altar boy about 40 years ago. In the video, Apuron said, "I deny all allegations of sexual abuse by Roy Quintanilla." Quintanilla gave a detailed account of the alleged abuse on Tuesday morning.

Accuser: Apuron molested more altar boys

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A 52-year-old Hawaii man who has accused Guam's Catholic archbishop of molesting him as a child is standing by his accusations after the archbishop denied the abuse.

The man also says that Archbishop Anthony Apuron allegedly molested other children.

Roy Taitague Quintanilla on Tuesday morning publicly shared details of how Apuron allegedly abused him sexually when he was 12 years old. Apuron released a video Tuesday evening of him reading a brief statement from a paper, denying the allegations.

"To be absolutely clear and



Quintanilla

to avoid any misinterpretations of my statement, I deny all allegations of sexual abuse by Roy Quintanilla," Apuron said in the two-minute video.

Apuron hasn't been charged with a crime and a lawsuit hasn't been filed against the archbishop.

But according to Quintanilla, Apuron's statement in the

video is false.

Quintanilla told the Pacific Daily News on Wednesday he was "extremely offended," but not surprised, by Apuron's statements in the video. But he added that the archbishop's denial "adds more pain" for himself and "other victims."

Quintanilla said he's ready to defend his "honor" and ev-

See **QUINTANILLA, Page 4**

DOA director: Tax refunds every Friday

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From now through September, the Calvo administration is expected to release a batch of tax refunds every Friday.

Department of Administra-

TAXtime

tion Director Christine Baletto said the amount of money refunded each week would depend on what cash is available.

"We are projected to pay all the refunds by September," Baletto told the local media during a press conference at Adelup on Wednesday.

The administration first began the practice of making weekly refund payments last

month. Gov. Eddie Calvo promised taxpayers during his State of the Island Address in March that \$40 million would be released throughout April.

Adelup called for the press

See **BALETO, Page 4**

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Quintanilla: 'Be honest for a change'

Continued from Page 1

ery word in the letter he wrote to Apuron detailing the abuse. Quintanilla read this letter to the media during a press conference Tuesday and delivered the letter to the Chancery Office in Hagåtña.

Quintanilla said he wanted to come forward and confront his perpetrator after he was told that Apuron had also reportedly molested his friends, other altar boys.

"I thought I was the only one," the 52-year-old said.

This is not an attack on the Catholic Church, said Quintanilla, who still identifies as Catholic. Apuron is not the church, he said.

"We are the Catholic Church," said Quintanilla.

He called for an apology from Apuron.

"Be honest for a change," he

said. "Acknowledge the hurt."

Alleged abuse

At the time of the alleged abuse, Apuron had been the priest of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Agat and Quintanilla was an altar boy, he said. One night after a movie, Apuron was driving other altar boys home and Quintanilla was the last to be taken home, according to Quintanilla.

Apuron reportedly asked Quintanilla to sleep over at Apuron's house so he could help with church in the morning, according to Quintanilla. Instead of sleeping in the living room, Apuron reportedly insisted Quintanilla sleep in the bedroom with Apuron, according to Quintanilla. He said while in bed with Apuron, he felt the then-priest reach over and touch his private parts over his pants.

Within the 24 hours since he

dropped off his letter at the Chancery Office, no one from the church had contacted him, he said.

When Quintanilla spoke with the Pacific Daily News on Wednesday, he appealed to other victims, calling on them to come forward.

There are other victims, he said. Some are his friends but it is not his place to speak about what Apuron reportedly had done to them, he said.

Quintanilla now lives in Hawaii, where he moved from Guam at age 23. Since that time, the incident has stayed with him, always on his mind, he said.

Since he spoke out about the alleged abuse, he's received supportive feedback from the community and said he's been

humbled by their words of encouragement.

Sex abuse policy

The archdiocese released a statement Tuesday indicating the church would uphold its sexual misconduct and harassment policy and that proper steps have been initiated. The archdiocese's sexual abuse response coordinator, Deacon Larry Claros, was informed of Quintanilla's allegations and is coordinating a response, according to the statement. Part of the response is to convene the Archdiocese Review Board.

Quintanilla on Wednesday said he welcomed the investigation from the church.

According to the church's sexual abuse policy, which was released in 2002, once a clergy-

man learns about "suspected sexual misconduct," it is to be reported to the archbishop and, if required, other civil authorities.

The archbishop is then to "promptly" notify the sexual abuse response coordinator, who is to direct an archdiocese investigator to complete an investigation, if indicated by circumstances, as well as direct the accused person not to have contact with the complainant or complainant's family, according to the policy.

It is unknown at this time if an archdiocese investigator has been directed to do a complete investigation, as outlined in the policy.

As of press time, Claros couldn't be reached for comment.

Baleto: Senator is incorrect

Continued from Page 1

conference to address recent comments from Democratic Sen. Mike San Nicolas. The senator on Monday wrote to Baleto, asking the new administration department director why the weekly payments stopped.

"Prior to your confirmation, this Committee (on Finance and Taxation) made it clear that tax refunds should be prioritized ... I was hopeful that this was a sign of you and the administration's commitment to pay tax refunds more promptly on an ongoing basis," he wrote.

"Unfortunately, following your confirmation as director of the Department of Administration, the weekly payment of tax refunds has ceased," San Nicolas added.

Baleto, who lawmakers confirmed as the head of DOA earlier this month, refuted San Nicolas's statement, saying the agency continued the weekly payments.

"There's information that was put out that we have not released tax refunds since my confirmation and that information is false. We have released every week," she said Wednesday.

A total of \$41.08 million in tax refunds was mailed out last month. Between March and April, a total of \$47.28 million had been refunded, covering all error-free 2015 tax returns filed by Feb. 7.

In the past two weeks that have gone by since April, the government has released about \$6.5 million in tax refunds, Baleto said, noting that those monies have covered 2015 tax returns filed up to Feb. 8. With this month's \$6.5 million released, the administration has now paid a total of \$53.78 million.

Baleto said Feb. 8 was a big day for tax filings, but after all the returns for the eighth are

completed, the rest of the refunds should go out more quickly, because the ninth, 10th and 11th weren't particularly busy days for the Department of Revenue and Taxation.

"It's just really a disservice not just to us at the Department of Administration, but also the Department of Revenue and Taxation," Baleto said. "Both agencies work to get these refunds out and when you criticize that we're not doing our job, it's not just the director you're targeting, you're targeting the hard-working employees of the departments."

As of press time, Sen. San Nicolas couldn't be reached for comment.

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