

Marianas Variety **10 Years ON GUAM**

The Local & Regional Newspaper

Vol. 10 No. 062 ©2014 Marianas Variety Monday • December 1, 2014 www.mvguam.com **75¢**

Girl, 8, drowns at Ypao



The beach can be seen behind the lifeguard tower at Ypao Beach Park where yesterday a 911 call was placed regarding a drowning incident at Ypao Beach in Tumon. *Matt Weiss / Variety*

By Moneth Deposa-Eleco
moneth@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

AN 8-year-old girl was rushed to Guam Memorial Hospital yesterday and pronounced dead after she drowned at Ypao Beach.

According to Lt. Ed Artero, spokesman for the Guam Fire Department, at 2:48 p.m. yesterday, a 911 call was received regarding a drowning incident at Ypao Beach in Tumon.

Artero said GFD medics conducted CPR on the child en route to the hospital.

June Perez, GMH spokeswoman, confirmed the victim was pronounced dead at 3:16 p.m. at the hospital.

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LOCAL

3 ARRESTED FOR PURSE SNATCHING
POLICE arrested three men allegedly involved in a purse-snatching incident in Tumon on Saturday after a female tourist reported that one suspect forcefully grabbed her purse.

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ENTERTAINMENT



88-SECOND 'STAR WARS' TEASER RELEASED

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BUSINESS

POOR DURUM CROPS LIKELY TO IMPACT PASTA

FROM family dinner tables to fancy restaurants, plates of pasta are likely to be a little pricier in the coming year because of a disappointing durum wheat crop.

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SPIETH IS SPECTACULAR IN AUSTRALIAN OPEN



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Archbishop to sue over sex abuse allegations

By Moneth Deposa-Eleco
moneth@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

ARCHBISHOP Anthony Apuron denied allegations that he had molested a former seminarian and labeled the accusation as untrue.

In a statement on Saturday, Apuron said he will file a defamation lawsuit related to what he described as false statements.

"It is a horrible calumny, and I am obliged to defend not my person, but the church," Apuron said in the statement.

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The Tamuning Elementary School choir performs during the 2nd Annual Song Festival hosted by the Guam Chamber of Commerce at the Agana Shopping Center on Saturday. More than a dozen schools participated in the event, and Tamuning won third place in the elementary school division. *Norman Taruc / For Variety*

Typhoon Factoid:
A tropical cyclone spirals in a clockwise direction in the southern hemisphere.

Tel: 472-8834
Fax: 472-3127
www.cassidysguam.com
frontdesk@cassidysguam.com

Three pedestrians die in Yigo hit-and-run

By Moneth Deposa-Eleco
moneth@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

TWO 16-year-old girls and a 20-year-old woman were confirmed dead as a result of the fatal injuries they sustained when hit by a still-unidentified motorist in the early morning hours on Saturday.

The hit-and-run incident occurred on Chalan Ramirez by Victoria Lane in the Zero Down subdivision of Yigo at around 4:30 a.m.

A.J. Balajadia, spokesman for the Guam Police Department, said the victims were walking together when they were struck by a vehicle.

Two of the victims were immediately pronounced dead; the third was listed in critical condition. She was taken to Guam Memorial Hospital where she was later pronounced dead at 10:22 p.m.

According to Balajadia, the vehicle suspected of striking the girls was heading southbound on Chalan Ramirez, and fled the scene after hitting the three victims. Balajadia said the victims have been identified by their families.

The suspect vehicle is possibly a Nissan, though the make, model and color is unknown.



The hit-and-run incident occurred on Chalan Ramirez by Victoria Lane in the Zero Down subdivision of Yigo at around 4:30 a.m. Matt Weiss / Variety

The vehicle possibly has damage to its front and windshield area and is missing its right front undercarriage plastic cover to right fender.

GPD is asking the public for any information regarding the fatal crash and advised the public to contact the police department if they notice a

vehicle in their neighborhood with new damage to the front.

Lt. Ed Artero, spokesman for the Guam Fire Department, said GFD received the

911 call at 4:49 a.m. Saturday. Units responded to the scene where three female individuals were found unconscious by the roadway.



Archbishop Anthony Apuron denied allegations that he had molested a former seminarian and labeled the accusation as untrue. Variety file photo

Archbishop...

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"However, defending the church compels me to file a suit for defamation. Any damages that I receive I will not keep for myself, but will be given to the charitable causes of our church."

The archbishop said he has been advised by legal counsel not to answer any questions on the issue.

Apuron's statement was issued in the wake of accusations by John Toves that the archbishop had molested his cousin in the 1980s when they were still seminarians. Toves said he is seeking an investigation into this and demanded that the archbishop step down from his position.

The archbishop, in the statement on Saturday, indicated that for the many years he has been serving the church, he has shown sincere effort to urge strict respect for the teachings of the church.

"I have dedicated my life to spread the Catholic faith through my words and actions. It has been my sincere effort to urge strict respect for the teachings of our Catholic faith by leading the church through prayer, and by example, and in my own behav-

ior," Apuron stated.

Meeting with the pope

The archbishop confirmed he had a meeting with Pope Francis in the Vatican on Nov. 21.

This meeting, he said, was granted at his request.

The archbishop described his meeting with the pope as "a grace for our church of Guam, and a tremendous gift for me."

"He received me warmly. I wanted to speak with the Holy Father about the situation of the church of Guam and the critical role we play in the evangelization of the Pacific," he said.

Apuron said they discussed the challenges and joys of the church of Guam.

He said the pope was happy to hear about the two seminaries and the Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores Theological Institute, affiliated with the Pontifical Lateran University.

The pope also appreciated the strategic contribution of these institutions offered to the New Evangelization of Oceania, he said.

"As I did when we last met in Korea, I invited him again to visit our island on his way to visit the Philippines. He assured his prayer for the island and he extended his blessings," the archbishop said.