

Students begin picking up MiFi devices; GDOE blacklists entertainment streaming sites

By Jolene Toves

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The distribution of internet devices under the Guam Department of Education's Providing Access to Homes, or PATH, program began Wednesday at the Sinajana gym.

"I think people were waiting to see if this was really going to happen. We have about 1,000 registrations, and we hope that will increase as people start to hear that they are starting to be distributed," said GDOE Superintendent Jon Fernandez.

About 20 families stopped by the Sinajana Mayor's Office for the first distribution, said Fernandez, adding, "That's a good sign."

IT&E won the bid to provide home internet services to students. GDOE made the announcement last week, and IT&E quickly mobilized to start



MiFi FOR STUDENTS: *Flori-Anne Dela Cruz, IT&E business account manager, shows village resident John Taitano some of the features of the new MiFi device he was picking up at the Sinajana gym Wednesday. The Guam Department of Education has teamed up with IT&E to supply GDOE students with free MiFi devices. The distribution started in Sinajana and will be offered throughout the island. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post*

distributing the devices.

The program will \$8 million set aside through the governor's office using from federal funds.

Fernandez said the department would continue to schedule distribution locations throughout the island.

Although there was an early registration for the PATH program, Fernan-

dez said the department is continuing to accept applications.

Families that receive a MiFi device will be held accountable, and with 50 gigabytes of data, there are mechanisms to ensure they are not misused.

"We have a list of sites that are whitelisted and a list of sites that are blacklisted," said Fernandez.

That means Netflix and similar entertainment streaming sites cannot be accessed using the devices.

"But you also are going to be able to use a lot of educational sites without it counting against your service for the month," said Fernandez, who is hopeful the measures will help weed out the inappropriate sites.

The PATH program is open to public, charter and private school students.

Fernandez said Catholic schools are on board with the program, as for charter schools, iLearn Academy opted out of the program. Fernandez said because technology is the basis of their curriculum, the school did not require additional support.

Distribution of the MiFi devices will continue Thursday at the Agat Mayor's Office from 10 a.m. to noon and Friday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Agat Market grounds.



Man, 55, charged in alleged sexual assault of girl, 14

Joseph Gerard Lazaro Chargualaf

Joseph Gerard Lazaro Chargualaf, 55, has been charged with second-degree criminal

sexual conduct and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, according to the charges filed in the Superior Court of Guam on Wednesday.

He was arrested Tuesday.

The charges accuse him of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old

girl known to him.

In one of the alleged sexual assaults, the girl was sweeping when the defendant pushed her and caused her to fall. When the girl fell, the defendant held her to the ground and touched her primary genital area, accord-

ing to the complaint against Chargualaf.

In another alleged, incident, the defendant inappropriately touched the girl which prompted her to slap his hand, according to court documents.

(Daily Post Staff)



JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

GDOE RFP 007-2021

MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT SERVICES (RE-ISSUANCE)

SUBMISSION DATE: Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. ChST

Note: It is solely the Offeror's responsibility to review the website on a daily basis for the issuance of Amendments/Clarifications for any possible changes to the RFP.

RFP packages are available for download on the GDOE website at www.gdoe.net/District/Department/12-Office-of-Supply-Management.

* A hard copy may also be picked up at the GDOE Office of Supply Management at **501 Mariner Avenue, Suite 116 Barrigada, Guam 96913-1608.**

* Please contact procurement@gdoe.net to schedule curb-side pick-up of hard copy.
* A non-refundable fee of \$10.00 (cash only) is required upon hard copy pick-up.

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/S/ CARMEN T. CHARFAUROS
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR
For: JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



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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, April 15, 2021 at 1:30PM**

via Zoom and in the GEDA conference room located in Suite 511, 5th Floor, International Trade Center (ITC) Building, 590 South Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam.

For the link request or for persons requiring special accommodations, please contact GEDA's coordinator, Jennifer Calvo-Guzman, at 647-4332 or at jennifer.calvo@investguam.com by April 14, 2021.

Pursuant to PL 26-12, funding for this ad was paid by GEDA General Fund.

/s/ MELANIE MENDIOLA,
GUAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CEO/ADMINISTRATOR



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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Hagåtña, Guam 96910-5174
Tel: (671) 475-3413 Fax: (671) 475-3140
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Judicial Council will conduct its monthly meeting on **Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 12 Noon in the Guam Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive in Hagåtña by video-conference.** A monitor will be set up for any members of the public who would like to observe and offer comments. The meeting will also be streamed live on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfnFCWwllp99fAeh9zi4Q4g/featured>

The agenda will be made available prior to the meeting.

Any person(s) needing special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services, please contact the Administrator of the Courts at 475-3544, or Petrina M. Ula at 475-3413.

/s/ CHIEF JUSTICE F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO
Chairman

Lawmakers introduce the Medical Malpractice Pre-Trial Screening Act

By John O'Connor
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Speaker Therese Terlaje, Sen. Telo Taitague and several other lawmakers have introduced the Medical Malpractice Pre-Trial Screening Act, the anticipated replacement to the Medical Malpractice Mandatory Arbitration Act.

Malpractice claimants and critics of current law argue that it bars access to the courts and makes pursuing medical malpractice claims prohibitively expensive.

"We have listened carefully, and the



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majority of senators recognize change is needed to fully protect patients, and that change can be made while still protecting our good doctors and specialists against frivolous claims," Speaker Terlaje stated in a release.

Bill 112-36, the Pre-Trial Screening Act, essentially mirrors Bill 430-35, legislation introduced at the tail end of the prior term, following three oversight hearings, which included discus-

sions with malpractice claimants or their families, doctors and lawyers.

A version of Bill 430 was expected to return in the 36th Legislature but at the time of introduction, it was co-sponsored by just Terlaje and Taitague.

Now, 10 other senators have backed Bill 112, which according to Taitague, represents months of research and discussions with malpractice victims, health care providers and medical malpractice insurance providers.

"Following three oversight hearings, introduction of Bill 430-35 in the previous term, and follow-up discussions with stakeholders, Sen. Taitague

Bill 112 ... represents months of research and discussions with malpractice victims, health care providers and medical malpractice insurance providers.

and I have been working diligently, to consider alternative pre-trial procedures used in other jurisdictions to draft viable and balanced legislation for Guam that takes physician concerns into account yet provides some justice for those patients who cannot afford arbitration," Terlaje stated.

Labor updates criteria for unemployment benefits

The criteria to be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance has been updated on hireguam.com, according to the Guam Department of Labor.

On Feb. 5, the U.S. Department of Labor approved additional eligibility

criteria for PUA, and one of the most impactful was the inclusion of workers on reduced hours, the local labor department stated.

As of Sunday, the hireguam.com system modifications were completed and applicants can select the added criteria when filing claims.

The new options on the system covers:

- workers who were laid off or had their hours reduced, but their

employers remain open

- workers who were denied PUA because they refused to work at a worksite that was unsafe due to COVID-19 because the employer failed to meet local safety standards

- workers who provide services to educational institutions who are out of work due to schedule volatility

- self-employed persons including freelancers, gig workers and independent contractors

For self-employed persons, the qualification is not based on hours worked. They may qualify for PUA but must show their income has been diminished significantly due to the public health emergency, the local labor department stated.

All eligibility criteria are updated on the hireguam.com system. If they do not fit your situation, select "none of the above," the local labor department stated. **(Daily Post Staff)**



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/s/ **CHIEF JUSTICE F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO**
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/s/ **MELANIE MENDIOLA**,
GUAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CEO/ADMINISTRATOR



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Protect our *heritage*.

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