

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY

FOUNDED 1955



BW Golf Driving Range formally tees off **SEE BACK PAGE**

Congress 'unanimously' approves Pampanga as culinary capital



CULINARY CAPITAL. The House of Representatives has 'unanimously' approved House Bill No. 10634 officially designating Pampanga as the "Culinary Capital of the Philippines" during its session on August 13, 2024. (PAMPANGA PIO)

THE House of Representatives has 'unanimously' approved House Bill No. 10634 officially designating Pampanga as the "Culinary Capital of the Philippines".

The bill secured 201 affirmative votes with no opposing or abstaining votes during its third and final reading on August 13, 2024.

The bill, sponsored by former President and current Pampanga Second District Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, along with Pampanga Representatives Aurelio Gonzales Jr., Anna York Bondoc, and Carmelo Lazatin II, recognizes Pampanga's significant contributions to the

country's culinary history.

"The Province of Pampanga is hereby declared the 'Culinary Capital of the Philippines' in recognition of its contribution to the dynamic and rich culinary history of the country," the bill states.

Submitted in March 2024, the bill acknowledges Pampanga's status as a leading culinary destination. Arroyo noted that this recognition will boost tourism, create jobs, and stimulate

SEE PAGE 4 CONGRESS

CIAC, Maharlika partnership to boost Clark projects

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE

The Maharlika Investment Corporation (MIC) and the government aviation firm Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore investment opportunities for the CIAC's major infrastructure and development projects in Clark.

President and Chief Executive Officer Rafael Consing, Jr. of MIC and CIAC President and CEO Arrey Perez signed the MOU in the presence of Secretary Frederick Go, Special Assistant to the President (SAP) for Investment and Economic Affairs.

In his speech, Go identified food and agriculture as one of the priority industries for investments.

"We continue to pursue initiatives that contribute to increasing agriculture production, and improving the food logistical chain. The Clark National Food Hub is a step in this direction, and we look forward to its successful establishment as a sustainable food security solution. We likewise support

CIAC in its flagship infrastructure projects that would accelerate the development of the airport and its surrounding areas," Go said.

Meanwhile, Perez said CIAC's seven flagship projects seek to contribute to the development of priority industries under the Marcos administration.

"In empowering the aviation industry, we drive growth in food and agriculture, transportation and

SEE PAGE 4 CIAC, MAHARLIKA



INVESTMENT INITIATIVE. Maharlika Investment Corporation (MIC) President and CEO Rafael Consing, Jr. (second from right) and CIAC President and CEO Arrey Perez (left) signed an MOU in the presence of Secretary Frederick Go, Special Assistant to the President (SAP) for Investment and Economic Affairs (second from left), and MIC Board of Directors member and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) President and CEO Michael De Jesus (right) recently to explore investment opportunities for CIAC's Seven Flagship infrastructure and development projects in the Clark Civil Aviation Complex. (JOJO C. DUE)

AC buys land for socialized housing

Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. signed a Deed of Absolute Sale on August 14, 2024 with Jericho De Guzman to sell, transfer, and convey parcels of lands located in Barangay Claro M. Recto which shall be used as a socialized housing project of the city government.

Around 33 residents of Barangay Claro M. Recto will be beneficiaries of the said socialized housing project.

The Angeles City Government has undertaken programs to uplift the condition of the underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban areas and in resettlement areas by making

available to them decent housing at affordable cost, basic services, employment and opportunities to reduce, if not totally eradicate, squatting in the city.

This is under the city government's Socialized Housing Program implemented by the Angeles City Human Settlement and Urban Development Office (ACHSUDO) headed by City Councilor Atty. Arvin Suller.

Also present during the signing were Suller, and members of the Barangay Claro M. Recto Council led by Punong Barangay Alexander De Guzman. (ANGELES CIO)



SQUATTING SOLUTION. Residents of Barangay Claro M. Recto rejoice after City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. signed a Deed of Absolute Sale on August 14, 2024 with Jericho De Guzman for parcels of land in the said barangay for a socialized housing project of the city government. Around 33 residents will benefit from project. With them is Angeles City Human Settlement and Urban Development Office (ACHSUDO) head City Councilor Atty. Arvin Suller.

Converge net income surges 24% to ₱5.3B

Leading fiber broadband provider Converge ICT Solutions Inc. registered a remarkable growth in the first half of the year, with net income surging 23.6 percent year-on-year (YOY) to Php5.3 billion and consolidated revenues growing 12.4 percent to Php19.5 billion on the back of strong uptake of its residential broadband and sustained double-digit growth in its

enterprise business.

Net additional residential subscribers of Converge more than doubled to 223,751 during the six-month period, a whopping 142 percent jump from 92,302 during the same period last year. This resulted in an 11.8 percent YOY growth in residential revenues to Php16.6 billion in the first half of the year.

On the other hand, enterprise revenues increased by 16 percent YOY to reach Php2.9 billion during the six-month period, following the rollout of products targeting the micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) sector and the expansion of regional enterprise sales.

"Our leading industry-

SEE PAGE 4 CONVERGE



BCDA, Danish company to work on NCC's decarbonization



GOING GREEN. HE Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin of the Royal Danish Embassy in Manila commits to share their country's expertise in green solutions and innovations to help optimize energy efficiency in New Clark City. (BCDA)

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), in partnership with a Danish company known for green innovations, recently rolled out the green map for New Clark City's sustainability.

In a joint forum-workshop held recently in New Clark City, the BCDA and Danfoss Inc. discussed energy efficiency and decarbonization strategies crucial to BCDA's commitment to develop New Clark City as a smart and green urban space. The event was supported by the Royal Danish

Embassy.

HE Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin of the Royal Danish Embassy in Manila, who led the dignitaries during the event, said their government will help BCDA "optimize New Clark City for energy efficiency" by sharing their expertise in green solutions and innovations.

BCDA Chairman Delfin N. Lorenzana and BCDA President and CEO Joshua M. Bingcang were present along with Danfoss Asia Pacific Regional President Jan Schoemaker, Danfoss SEA-South Head Manuel Ong, and Danfoss Philippines Inc. General Manager Allan Almendral.

Danfoss Inc. is a company committed to meeting global climate and energy goals. It offers the best-in-class technology and solutions to drive the

green transition through energy efficiency, machine productivity, lower emissions, and electrification.

Lorenzana said sustainability programs and initiatives are built into the development and investment plans for the New Clark City. These initiatives include the development of renewable energy, use of low-carbon district cooling technologies, smart governance of mass transportation, and establishment of a solid waste-to-energy system and facilities.

Bingcang, meanwhile, presented the overall sustainability framework for Clark designed to meet the requirements of a smart, green, and people-centric city.

He enumerated the flagship projects and green initiatives that

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BCDA

Pulilan section

NLEX 3rd Candaba viaduct opens

PULILAN, Bulacan — The Pulilan section of the newly-constructed Third Candaba Viaduct of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) is now open to traffic.

This is the first two kilometers opened for vehicles exiting Metro Manila or in the southbound lane.

The adjacent southbound lane of the original Candaba Viaduct was temporarily closed to traffic

for rehabilitation.

According to NLEX Corporation President Luigi Bautista, all 516 foundations for the Third Candaba Viaduct project have been buried. On top of it were erected 524 of the 528 poles. Between the posts, 209 of the 286 crossheads or the concrete that will go with the girders have been built.

The Third Candaba Viaduct

project is part of the stabilization of the original 50-year-old Candaba Viaduct.

The third viaduct will serve as the foundation of the northbound and southbound viaducts that recently underwent retrofitting and slab rehabilitation.

As long as the original Candaba Viaduct, the five-kilometer third viaduct that crosses the borders of Pulilan, Bulacan and Apalit, Pampanga is being built.

The project costing Php8 billion was financed by the NLEX Corporation concessionaire in the rehabilitation, expansion and extension of its expressway.

It was in 2022 when the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) approved the Third Candaba Viaduct project.

TRB Executive Director Alvin Carullo previously said the target completion date for the project is November 2024 to be used for the expected influx of motorists and travelers for the upcoming holiday season. (PIA REGION 3-BULACAN)



PARTIALLY OPENED. The Pulilan section of the newly-constructed Third Candaba Viaduct of the North Luzon Expressway was opened for motorists from North and Central Luzon exiting Metro Manila. The new third viaduct is scheduled to be completed by November 2024. (PIA-3)

PNP strengthens efforts vs. crime, terrorism

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Police Regional Office 3 (PRO-3) has vowed to intensify its efforts against criminality and terrorism in Central Luzon.

During the 11th episode of the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), PRO-3 Director P/Brig. Gen. Jose Hidalgo Jr. reiterated the regional police office's commitment to serve and protect the people.

"The campaigns against illegal drugs, gambling, and loose firearms are continuously intensified. And we will not relent, especially on drugs and loose firearms as these are often used in criminal activities. We have already executed several search warrants targeting individuals involved in these illegal activities.

These campaigns will continue and be strengthened," Hidalgo said.

From February 2023 to July 2024, the police arrested 11,454 individuals in their campaign against illegal drugs. The PRO-3 confiscated 36,588.86 grams of shabu; 76,724.05 grams of marijuana; 1,466 ecstasy tablets; 70 grams of ketamine; and, 100 grams of cocaine with a total Dangerous Drug Board value of Php261,939,267.88.

At the same time, PRO-3 arrested 9,330 individuals in its illegal gambling campaign and confiscated Php5,284,909 in cash bets.

Meanwhile, the robust implementation of Oplan Bakal and Oplan Katok resulted in the confiscation of various loose

firearms.

Officers arrested 973 individuals for violating laws against loose firearms; recovered, surrendered, or confiscated 127 firearms in violation of Republic Act 10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act, and accepted 2,883 firearms for safekeeping.

Through the Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict and their persistent anti-terrorism campaign, the police achieved significant milestones.

They arrested 14 members of Communist Terrorist Groups (CTGs); facilitated the surrender of 351 CTG members; saw 866 CTG members withdraw support; and,

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PNP STRENGTHENS

Delta opens Minalin sports facility

MINALIN, Pampanga — Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda led the inauguration of the newly-upgraded covered court in Barangay Sta. Rita on August 14, 2024.

The governor was joined by Minalin Mayor Philip Naguit, Vice-Mayor Rondon Mercado, members of the Sangguniang Bayan, and Special Assistant to the Governor and PDRMO Chief Angelina Blanco in the ceremony that officially opened the newly-enhanced facility to the public. Rev. Fr. Lyndon Valenton led the blessing of the facility.

The project not only expanded the existing covered court but also added a new adjacent court, providing additional space for community activities and events.

Naguit said the Php15-million project was realized after the governor's visit to a division athletic center where he recognized the need for a larger and safer playing area.

"Megawa ya pu ing court a ini pauli pu nitang tutung lugud

a ikit ku kang Gov. Delta. Anya pung misan a aldo duminggu, ikit na pu a ining court pung ayini, malati yamu, ka-layup na pu ning anak, malapit ne pu keng disgrasya. Keng kaya pung kapagmalasakitan a pota atin maaksidenti o nanu pa man, 'pagawa mo na 'to ayusin natin,' ana pu kanako," the mayor said.

The governor, in turn, expressed gratitude for the Minalen's support.

"Malaki ang utang na loob ko sa inyo dahil simula't sapul, hindi ninyo kami binitawan. Kaya asahan po ninyo, anuman ang kailangan ninyo, basta kaya ng probinsya, susuporta po kami ni Vice-Governor Nanay," Pineda said.

The event coincided with the distribution of food packs to various sectors of the society. Each pack contains five kilograms of rice, two cans of luncheon meat, two cans of corned beef, and a 300-gram pack of powdered milk provided by President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. (PAMPANGA PIO)



IMPROVED FACILITY. Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda, Minalin Mayor Philip Naguit, Vice-Mayor Rondon Mercado, members of the Minalin Sangguniang Bayan, and Special Assistant to the Governor and PDRMO Chief Angelina Blanco led the inauguration of the newly-upgraded covered court in Barangay Sta. Rita. (PAMPANGA PIO)

AC records spike in animal bites from Jan-June 2024

Angeles City has recorded a significant spike in animal bites from January to June this year at 9,967 compared to last year, data from the Rafael Lazatin Memorial Medical Center Ning Angeles Office show.

Although the numbers have increased, Dr. Christian Arcilla of the Angeles City Veterinary Office said the situation is still manageable, especially with the efforts of the city led by Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr.

In line with this, Mayor Lazatin has urged pet owners to prioritize their pets' health by getting them vaccinated against rabies in the Bakuna sa Barangay program.

Mayor Lazatin also revealed a high demand in human anti-rabies vaccines due to the escalating number of rabies cases in the city.

Mayor Lazatin's action aims to address the growing health concerns and ensure the well-being of both pets and residents

in Angeles City.

"I am calling on all pet owners to have your pets vaccinated at Bakuna sa Barangay program of the City Veterinarian Office," Mayor Lazatin said.

Lazatin ordered the 33 barangay captains of the city to establish a no kill animal shelter for stray animals to manage their population and provide anti-rabies vaccinations

"Given the numerous cases of dog bites, it has become an emergency crisis, and the solution we are considering is by vaccinating all the pets," Mayor Lazatin said.

Since Mayor Lazatin took office in 2019, a total of 130,520 pets — 93,075 dogs, and 37,445 cats -- in the 33 barangays have already received their free anti-rabies vaccinations.

This initiative aims to address animal welfare and public health concerns within the city.



EMPLOYMENT ASSURED. The Mekeni Food Corp. conducted a career and job fair recently at the Mabalacat City College (MCC) where graduating BS Biology students are assured of a job at Meken's plant in Porac, Pampanga. Earning recognition from no less than President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. during his recent State of the Nation Address, the MCC will also be entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the equally multi-awarded food processing company to explore curriculum review and development to match the graduates with the needs of the food processing industry with competencies and professional exposure. In photo are MCC President Michelle Aguilar-Ong, VP for Academic Affairs Marilyn Arcilla, Mekeni AVP for Human Resources and Exports Marilou Olalia-Uy, Mekeni HR Manager Apple Garcia and other officials and executives of the two entities.



KUWENTONG PEYUPS ATBP.

ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

“Tumandok” film on Ati tribe the biggest winner for Cinemalaya 2024

“Tumandok” is the biggest winner for this year’s Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival that centered on the struggle of the Ati indigenous people to reclaim their ancestral domain in Iloilo.

The film received five awards including Best Full Length Film, Felipe Ganancial as Best Supporting Actor, Best Screenplay, Best Original Music Score, and Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema (NETPAC) full-length feature award.

Tumandok, which means “The Native”, featured an all-Ati non-professional acting ensemble speaking in their own language and showed the struggle of the Ati tribe, a Negrito ethnic group in Western Visayas.

Directors Richard Jeroui Salvadico and Arlie Sweet Sumagaysay said that the film seeks to support the community in securing their ancestral domain who have faced several threats to their lives and territory.

The film centers on En-en (Jenaica Sangher), the daughter of the chieftain who does the task of processing their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT). The tribe needs Php500,000 to Php1 million to fast-track the CADT processing.

It won Best Film “for its focus on a marginalized sector of Philippine society; for its nearly epic sweep of the life and landscape of a people disempowered by the wealthy and the powerful and victimized by government neglect and corruption; for its highly convincing characters and effective ensemble acting by a cast of non-professional actors; and for its highly effective filmmaking in defense of the rights of indigenous people to their ancestral domain”.

It won Best Original Music Score “for their highly effective use of ancient songs and ethnic instrumentation to complement its powerful depiction of an indigenous people’s fight for its ancestral domain”.

Felipe Ganancial won Best Supporting Actor “for his very impressive performance as elder and chieftain trying to keep his people together in their steadfast but non-violent fight to keep their ancestral land despite violence and intimidation by the wealthy and the powerful”.

It won the NETPAC Award “for its strong inner community voice of loving their land, and admirable representation of a strong young woman character who becomes a leader

behind the men”.

The film won Best Screenplay “for taking as its subject matter a sector that’s relegated to the margins of society, and its powerful tale of an indigenous people’s resolve to keep their ancestral land in the face of corruption and violence”.

Writer Arden Rod Condez is also the director of the “John Denver Trending” which was the biggest winner in 2019, including Best Film, Best Actor for Jansen Magpusao, Best Original Music Score, Best Editing, Best Cinematography, and the NETPAC Award.

Tumandok is followed by Kono Basho with four awards in the Full Length Film category: Gabby Padilla as Best Actress,



Jaime Pacena II as Best Director, Best Cinematography, and Best Production Design.

Padilla won the Best Actress “for her sensitive and very moving portrayal of a young woman navigating the cultural complexities of a foreign funeral while coming to terms with personal loss and family grief”.

Marian Rivera of Balota also won as Best Actress “for her spirited portrayal of a public school teacher risking life and limb to protect the sanctity of the ballot”.

Fifteen-year old Enzo Osorio of “The Hearing” won as Best Actor “for his sensitive and very convincing portrayal of a boy who refuses to be silent and to be silenced about his abuse”.

Osorio joins the ranks of Cinemalaya’s Best Actor winners at a young age. The youngest was Noel Comia, Jr. for Kiko Boksingero (2017) when he was then 13 years old followed by 15-year old Jansen Magpusao for John Denver Trending (2019). Migs Cuaderno was ten years old when he won as Best Supporting Actor for Children’s Show (2014).

Sue Prado of Kantil won Best Supporting Actress “for her effective portrayal as community leader of a coastal village of informal settlers trying to keep their unity while fighting off eviction”.

“Alipato at Muog” won the Special Jury Award “for its effective use of the resources of documentary cinema to shed light on an actual case of enforced disappearance and reveal dark truths about human rights in the Philippines”.

The film centered on peasant activist Jonas Burgos as a “Desaparecido” who was abducted on April 28, 2007 in a crowded mall in Quezon City. The military has repeatedly denied any role in his disappearance.

Other winners in the Full Length Category include: “An Errand” for Best Editing and Best Sound Design; and “Gulay Lang Manong” for Audience Choice.

The winners in the Short Film Category are: “Cross My Heart and Hope to Die” for Best Film with Sam Manacsa as Best Director; “Primetime Mother” for Best Screenplay and Audience Choice; “Pamalandong Sa Danow” for Special Jury Award, and, “Abogbaybay” for the NETPAC Award.

Cinemalaya celebrated its 20th year with the theme “Loob, Lalim, Lakas” and was held August 2 to 11, 2024 at selected Ayala Cinemas due to the ongoing renovation of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

(Peyups is the moniker of the University of the Philippines. Atty. Dennis R. Gorecho heads the Seafarers’ Division of the Sapalo Velez Bundang Bulilan Law Offices. For comments, e-mail info@sapalovelez.com, or call 09175025808 or 09088665786.)



OMNIA IN BONUM

ATTY. PAUL YUSI

Chamber Practice

In the legal profession, the term “Chamber Practice” has garnered a somewhat notorious connotation embodying both complexity and nuance in its interpretation.

It refers to elite subset of law practitioners who not only excel in courtroom trials, showcasing their exceptional oral advocacy and trial skills, but also possess remarkable legal writing prowess.

In addition to these traditional skills, they adeptly navigate the intricate judicial landscape, tirelessly advocating for their clients’ varied causes. This multifaceted role underscores a common adage within the legal community: “it’s not what you know, but who you know.” This phrase highlights the importance of networks and relationships in achieving success within the legal sphere.

A fascinating parallel can be drawn between chamber practice and the burgeoning “Chamber Movement” in the business sector, which finds its roots in the establishment of the very first chamber of commerce in Marseille, founded in 1599.

Over time, throughout Europe and beyond, particularly from the 17th century onwards, various Chambers of Commerce and Industry emerged. These entities were created primarily to consolidate the knowledge of merchants and to form organized bodies dedicated to protecting and promoting the economic interests of their respective cities and regions. Crucially, this movement arose from a desire to act free from self-interest and bias, allowing for a more collective pursuit of economic prosperity.

This foundational mission has enabled Chambers of Commerce to endure, evolve, and thrive, amid numerous political, social, and economic upheavals that have characterized modern history. Depending on the local and regional contexts in which they operate, some Chamber networks are recognized as public law entities, often with governmental ties, while others function under private law frameworks, serving different operational needs and objectives.

In the context of the Philippines, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (PCCI), recognized under the martial law era Letter of Instruction (LOI) No. 780 as the “sole official representative and

voice of the entire business community”, stands out as the leading business chamber in the nation.

Established through the significant merger of various chambers on July 1, 1978, the PCCI has evolved into a vital platform. Today, it serves not only as a hub for business advocacy but also as an essential resource for promoting the interests of Filipino enterprises across diverse sectors. Its ongoing influence and role in shaping business policy reflect the enduring importance of this organization in fostering a robust economic environment in the Philippines.

As businesses navigate challenges in a dynamic marketplace, the PCCI remains at the forefront, championing initiatives that support and empower Filipino entrepreneurs, thereby contributing to overall national growth and development.

In the local scene, the Province of Pampanga boasts a vibrant Chamber Movement as well.

In 1964, 14 years prior to the formal establishment of the PCCI, Mr. Abelardo G. Tinio, inspired by a Japanese friend named Hiroshi Kobayashi, founded the Angeles Chamber of Commerce (ACC). This friendship fostered a sister-chamber relationship with the Chiba City Chamber of Commerce in Japan. The ACC served as the precursor to what is now formally known as the Metro Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (MACCII).

In 2002, my late father, Romeo P. Yusi, Sr., later served as the 19th president of MACCII. During his tenure, major Manila-based corporations such as SM and Robinsons, began to focus on Angeles City and Pampanga as their next market, drawn by the Capampangans’ sociable nature and appreciation for quality.

Initially, the influx of these large enterprises faced strong opposition from the Pinoy Gising Ka Movement (PGKM), led by Ruperto Cruz, who argued that local businesses would suffer from diminished market share.

However, over time, this conflict of interests was resolved, leading to a healthy co-existence between local and external businesses, both of which flourished within the same market. This collaboration

significantly boosted employment and created numerous income-generating opportunities in our province and city.

Moreover, the progress also led to increased local tax revenues and, unfortunately, traffic challenges similar to those historically seen in Metro Manila.

Currently, MACCII is headed by the multi-talented Ms. Liza Carlos-Timbol who has recently been regularly invited in the lecture circuit even by foreign business chambers in the Philippines.

In 2004, another significant organization emerged: the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc., commonly referred to as “PamCham”. This chamber, led by the notable businessman Liberato “Levy” Laus, affectionately known as “LPL”, was supported by the esteemed Renato “Rene” Romero, who later assumed the presidency.

Mr. Romero’s expertise in organizing business chambers was evident as he also played a pivotal role in guiding MACCII when he was its 16th president in 1997. Currently, PamCham is guided by the capable leadership of Jesus “Jess” Nicdao as chairman and Theresa “Terry” David-Carlos as president.

Both PamCham and MACCII share a commendable ability to advocate for sound and sensible economic policies regarding employment, wages, taxes, infrastructure, and good governance. Remarkably, they managed to do so without alienating key stakeholders within national and local governments or their agencies.

Their insights and positions on important policy matters are highly sought after, effectively establishing them as the “Voice of Business” amid the complexities of political maneuvering and the competition for influence among various power brokers. Their presence is vital in driving policy reform and fostering positive change.

Recently, during the 33rd North Luzon Area Business Conference (NLBAC) held in Isabela Province on August 8-9, 2023, Mr. Romero shared his insights in a talk titled “Advocacy and Influence in the Community”.

In his presentation, he emphasized the significance of good governance and the

necessity of forming strategic partnerships with Local Government Units (LGUs) and Non-Government Agencies (NGAs).

He concluded his talk with a poignant reminder that “effective business advocacy requires credible leadership and consistent effort; through our engagement in advocacy, we not only uplift our businesses but also contribute to community development and nation-building.”

In sum, this perspective underscores the vital role that business chambers play in shaping a positive future for the good of all.

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THEVOICENEWSWEEKLY

AC gov't hosts basic Kulitan workshop

ANGELES CITY — The city government recently hosted a Basic Kulitan Workshop for students here and eight local artists on August 9, 2024 at the city-run Café Kapabaluan.

The workshop was facilitated by the Angeles City Tourism Office headed by Anneleen Antonio-Sugui under the supervision of Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr.'s Chief Adviser IC Calaguas and Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel.

Lazatin reaffirms the city government's commitment in providing programs to promote Kapampangan language and arts.

Attendees of the kulitan workshop were students of the City College of Angeles (CCA), the AMA Computer Learning Center, and the Sto. Domingo Integrated School.

The workshop was also made possible through the city government's partnership with the Aguman Kalalangan Sulat (AGKAS) Kapampangan headed by Norman Tiotuico.

This is not the first time the city government has initiated programs on boosting Kapampangan language and arts.

In 2021, Lazatin announced the installation of Kapampangan traffic signs.

Aside from this initiative to preserve, safeguard, revitalize, and promote the use of Kapampangan in the city, the mayor also urged the City Council led by Vice-Mayor Vicenta "Vicky" Vega-Cabigting in January 2021 to hold Council sessions in Kapampangan at least

once a month.

In February 2021, the City Council began reinforcing the use of Kapampangan, sending out resolutions written in the Amanung Sisuan, or Mother Tongue.

The 76 Day Care Centers in the city have also been instructed by Lazatin to use Kapampangan as the medium of instruction at least three hours per week during classes.

Lazatin also asked help from media entities such as TV, radio, and print outlets to raise awareness about the Amanung Sisuan to make sure the next generation of Kapampangans will continue the city's culture and language. **(ANGELES CIO)**



Aguman Kalalangan Sulat (AGKAS) Kapampangan head Norman Tiotuico welcome participants of the Basic Kulitan Workshop for students and local artists at the city-run Café Kapabaluan.



Participants proudly show off their certificates at the conclusion of the Basic Kulitan Workshop hosted by the Angeles City Local Government.

CONGRESS... FROM PAGE 1

local economic growth.

For his part, Pampanga Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda thanked the legislators for their support. Former Second District Board Member and current Executive Assistant IV Mylyn Pineda-Cayabyab initiated

declaring Pampanga as the "Culinary Capital" at the local level.

Following the approval of the House of Representatives, the bill will advance to the Senate for further review before being presented to the President for final enactment into law.

Pampanga Provincial Tourism Officer Michael Castañeda, Provincial Information Office OIC Gracie Rutao, and members of the Pampanga Culinary Heritage Council, have also expressed support for the bill. **(PAMPANGA PIO)**

CIAC, MAHARLIKA... FROM PAGE 1

mobility, and tourism and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions). There is latent growth potential in these industries, and a partnership with our country's sovereign wealth fund will infuse the much-needed financial backing to boost these contributions to developing the Luzon Economic Corridor," the CIAC chief said.

Perez identified the CIAC's Seven Flagship Projects as the National Food Hub, the World Convention and Events Hub, the Urban Renewal and Heritage Conservation Project, the Direct Access Link to the Clark International Airport, the New CIAC Headquarters, the Upgrading of the Road Network and Facilities, and the Detailed Site Development Plan of the Second Runway.

The MOU is intended for collaborative funding and efforts for the development in one of

these seven projects, namely the National Food Hub.

"We hope for our projects to contribute to three key areas of development: the Clark National Food Hub will bolster agrolistics as support to robust agricultural production; the Clark World Convention Center and Events Hub will position Clark as a business tourism destination in the Southeast Asian Region; and, the Urban Renewal and Heritage Conservation Project will be a showcase of environmental sustainability in developing resilient and future-proof tourism infrastructures," Perez explained.

"The partnership between the Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) and the Maharlika Investment Corporation marks a pivotal moment in the evolution of Clark as a premier airport hub. This strategic collaboration on key development

projects will not only unlock the immense potential within Clark but also propel the growth of the entire Luzon corridor, fostering connectivity, trade, and tourism," Consing said.

Officials present from the CIAC were Chief Finance Officer Nancy Paglinawan, Chief Operating Officer Brando Aguilera, Chief Legal Counsel Rustico Quizon III, Chief Strategic Urban Planner Melissa Feliciano, and Directors Dante Ang II and Rommel M. Santiago.

Republic Act No. 11954, or the "Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF) Act of 2023", created the MIC which acts as the sole vehicle for purposes of mobilizing and utilizing the MIF for investment and transactions to generate optimum returns of investments (ROIs). **(CIAC-PAD)**

CONVERGE... FROM PAGE 1

performance in the first half of the year is a promising sign that 2024 will be another banner year for us. We see the demand for fiber broadband to remain unhampered, allowing us to continue reaching more and more Filipinos across different income levels with our flagship FiberX, low-cost postpaid BIDA Fiber, and prepaid Surf2Sawa offerings," Converge President and Co-Founder Maria Grace Uy said.

As of end-June 2024, the consolidated subscriber base of Converge reached 2.35 million, a growth of 19.4 percent from 1.97 million as of the same month last year.

"With our recent commercial arrangement with Sky Cable Corp., we see these numbers as just the starting point. We expect

the collaboration to bear fruit in terms of revenue growth, as we are bound to see increased port utilization and further monetize our network," noted Converge CEO and Co-Founder Dennis Anthony Uy.

Converge remains the Fastest Internet Service Provider in the Philippines in 2024, as Ookla's latest, independent survey among ISPs in the Philippines show a speed score of 147.77 - the best in the industry. This is the second year that Converge bested its competitors in speed and digital experience.

Last month, Converge also joined hands with Nasdaq-listed firm Ribbon Communications Inc. to expand its fiber network capacity from its existing 800 Gigabits per second (Gbps) to 1.2 Terabit per

second (Tbps) per channel.

Solidifying its reputation as a prime-mover in innovative technology, Converge also inked a cooperation agreement with global tech leader Super Micro Computer Inc., the US-based total IT solutions provider for artificial intelligence (AI), Cloud, Storage, and 5G/Edge, to pioneer AI-powered, green data centers in the Philippines.

"While we keep a firm handle on our fiber broadband products, we are by no means limiting our technology solutions to these. With the guidance of the Founders, we will continue to expand our business to encompass Filipinos' digital needs," said Converge Chief Operations Officer Jesus Romero.

BCDA... FROM PAGE 2

include development and expansion of industrial spaces, greenbelts and river park, ecotourism and hospitality facilities, universities, the expansion of the Clark International Airport, the Subic-Clark-Manila-Batangas Railway System, the Clark National Food Hub, and the New Clark City housing project, among others.

The BCDA chief emphasized the importance of green and sustainable solutions as key factors in development.

"We are not only mindful of the commercial arrangement. We

want sustainability to be a key factor in our development. We are always into 'future-proofing', especially on the sustainability aspect of development," Bingcang stressed.

He pointed out that in developing the New Clark City, BCDA has included green and sustainable projects such as the Green Boulevard, the New Clark City River Park System, and the New Clark City Central Park, to protect and preserve the natural environs of the development area. **(BCDA)**

PNP STRENGTHENS... FROM PAGE 2

confiscated or recovered 357 firearms and 346 explosives from CTGs.

The law enforcers' unwavering pursuit of justice led also to the arrest of 1,913 most wanted persons and 10,293 wanted persons.

Hidalgo emphasized the importance of community involvement in maintaining peace and order.

"That is why we are promoting the mantra of PRO-3, which is 'Police ng PRO 3, Partner ng Pamayanan.' We cannot maintain peace and order alone. We need the participation of every member of the community," he pointed out.

Hidalgo praised his team's efforts, highlighting that over the

past year, their dedicated officers and staff has been working tirelessly to ensure community safety and security.

"Our concerted crime-fighting efforts have yielded substantial results, particularly in our intensified campaign against illegal drugs, which has led to numerous arrests and the confiscation of significant quantities of illegal substances, thereby weakening the drug syndicates' operations in the region," the police official noted.

As they move forward, Hidalgo said the police force remains steadfast in its mission to uphold peace and order in Central Luzon. **(PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)**

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the SPS. ROBERTO DELA CRUZ ESCOTO & VIRGINIA DELA CRUZ ESCOTO, who died on June 24, 2015 and May 15, 2024, respectively, executed a deed of EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THEIR ESTATE, covered by Transfer Certificate of Titles No. 042-2019004531, 042-2019004532, 042-2019004533, 042-2019004534, 042-2019004535, 042-2019004536, 042-2019004541, and 152721-R all of the Registry of Deeds of Pampanga before Notary Public Arnel S. Santos, as per Doc. No. 461; Page No. 44; Book No. XLI; Series of 2024

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY August 11, 18, 25, 2024.

THEVOICENEWSWEEKLY





SBMA CHILD CARE CENTER OPENS. Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman and Administrator Eduardo Jose Aliño lead the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon formally opening the SBMA Child Development Center at Building 662 in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone with Senior Deputy Administrator for Support Services Ramon Agregado. (SBMA MEDIA PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT)

Effective Strategies for Managing and Controlling Misbehavior in the Classroom During the First Month

by SHEILA MARIE S. TORRES

The initial month of the school year is a crucial period for establishing classroom norms and managing student behavior. Effectively addressing misbehavior early on sets the tone for a positive and productive learning environment. Here are key strategies for managing and controlling misbehavior in the classroom during the first month.

From the outset, it's vital to articulate clear behavioral expectations and classroom rules. Involve students in creating these rules to increase their sense of ownership and commitment. Display these rules prominently in the classroom and revisit them regularly. Consistency in enforcing these rules helps students understand boundaries and the consequences of misbehavior.

Developing positive relationships with students fosters a respectful and cooperative classroom atmosphere. Spend time getting to know each student, showing genuine interest in their lives, and being approachable. When students feel valued and understood, they are more likely to adhere to classroom norms and less likely to engage in disruptive behavior.

Positive reinforcement is an effective tool for encouraging

desirable behavior. Recognize and reward students for following rules and demonstrating good behavior. This can be done through verbal praise, stickers, or a reward system that aligns with classroom goals. Reinforcement not only motivates students but also reinforces the behaviors you want to see.

When misbehavior occurs, address it promptly to prevent escalation. Approach the situation calmly and privately to avoid embarrassing the student. Use a consistent approach for handling misbehavior and ensure that consequences are fair and appropriate. Clearly communicate why the behavior is unacceptable and discuss alternative, positive behaviors.

An engaging and well-structured lesson plan can minimize opportunities for misbehavior. Incorporate a variety of activities that cater to different learning styles and keep students actively involved. When students are interested and invested in their work, they are less likely to engage in disruptive behavior.

A positive classroom environment supports effective behavior management. Arrange the classroom to minimize distractions and create a space

where students feel safe and comfortable. Establishing routines and providing clear instructions also helps students understand what is expected of them and reduces opportunities for misbehavior.

Maintaining open communication with parents can support behavior management efforts. Inform parents about classroom expectations and behavioral issues, and collaborate on strategies to address specific concerns. When parents and teachers work together, they can provide consistent messages and support for students.

Managing and controlling misbehavior in the first month of class involves setting clear expectations, building positive relationships, and implementing effective strategies. By creating a structured, engaging, and supportive classroom environment, teachers can address misbehavior proactively and foster a productive learning atmosphere for all students.

The author is Teacher III at Allang Elementary School, West District, Schools Division of Ligao City Albay, Region V-Bicol Region

Setting Discipline in the First Month of Class: A Key to a Successful School Year in DepEd

by LORIE R. TINARIPE

As the new school year kicks off, teachers and students alike are gearing up for another exciting journey in the classroom. One crucial aspect of starting strong is establishing discipline during the first month of class. This initial period is essential for setting the tone for the rest of the year, and it plays a pivotal role in creating a conducive learning environment. Here's why and how setting discipline early on is so important.

Setting clear rules and expectations right from the start helps create a structured and respectful classroom atmosphere. When students understand what is expected of them, they are more likely to follow these guidelines and engage positively in their learning.

Discipline in the first month also helps in minimizing disruptions. A well-organized classroom where rules are clearly defined leads to fewer behavioral issues and more focus on learning. This initial phase is about laying down the groundwork for effective classroom management and fostering a sense of responsibility among students.

At the beginning of the school year, it's crucial to clearly outline the rules and expectations. This can be done through a

class discussion where students contribute their ideas about what a respectful and productive classroom looks like. This involvement helps them take ownership of the rules.

Consistent application of rules and consequences is essential. Students should see that rules are enforced fairly and consistently. This helps build trust and ensures that everyone knows what to expect.

Recognize and reward positive behavior. Encouraging students when they follow the rules not only boosts their morale but also motivates others to adhere to the standards. Simple rewards, praise, or even a "student of the week" program can be effective.

An engaging curriculum can significantly reduce behavioral issues. When students are interested and involved in their lessons, they are less likely to become disruptive. Incorporate interactive activities and varied teaching methods to keep them engaged.

Developing a positive rapport with students is crucial. When students feel respected and understood, they are more likely to respect the rules. Take the time to get to know your students and show genuine interest in their

well-being.

Give students regular feedback on their behavior and academic progress. This helps them understand their strengths and areas for improvement, and reinforces the importance of discipline in achieving their goals.

While the first month is crucial for setting the stage, maintaining discipline throughout the year is equally important. Regularly revisit the rules, address any issues promptly, and continue to engage students in meaningful activities. Encourage open communication and provide support when needed.

Setting discipline during the first month of class is all about laying a strong foundation for a successful school year. By establishing clear expectations, being consistent, and creating an engaging learning environment, teachers can foster a positive and productive atmosphere. This early investment in classroom management pays off in creating a supportive space where students can succeed academically and personally.

The author is Teacher III at Balete Elementary School, Tarlac South B District, Tarlac City Schools Division, Region III – Central Luzon

Building Strong Parent-Teacher Relationships in the First Week of Class

by SHEILA MARIE S. TORRES

Establishing a solid parent-teacher relationship from the outset of the school year is crucial for fostering a supportive educational environment. In the Department of Education (DepEd) system, where collaboration between home and school is vital, the first week of class provides a unique opportunity to set the stage for a successful academic year.

The first week is all about setting a positive tone. Teachers should initiate contact with parents through a warm, welcoming introduction, either in person or virtually. This can be achieved through an orientation session where teachers present their teaching philosophy, classroom expectations, and communication methods. Such interactions help parents feel informed and valued, establishing a foundation of trust and openness.

Effective communication is key. Teachers should provide parents with clear, accessible information about the curriculum, class schedules, and any upcoming events or assessments. Utilizing various communication channels—like newsletters, emails, and school apps—ensures that parents are well-informed and can easily reach out with questions or concerns. Consistency in communication helps in building a reliable support network for students.

Engaging parents in their child's education from the start helps in building a collaborative relationship. Teachers can invite parents to participate in classroom activities, volunteer opportunities, or school committees. By actively involving parents, teachers show that they value their contributions and recognize the importance of a collaborative approach to education.

Personalized interactions can strengthen the parent-teacher relationship. Scheduling individual meetings with parents allows teachers to discuss students' unique needs, strengths, and areas for improvement. These meetings offer a platform for parents to voice their expectations and concerns, while teachers can share insights and strategies to support the student's learning journey.

From day one, teachers should strive to be approachable and responsive. Building a rapport with parents involves being open to feedback and willing to engage in constructive discussions. By demonstrating empathy and understanding, teachers can foster a positive relationship with parents, which ultimately benefits the students.

Setting clear expectations for communication and collaboration helps prevent misunderstandings. Teachers should outline how and when they will communicate with parents, and vice versa. This clarity ensures that both parties are on the same page regarding academic progress and any issues that may arise.

The first week of school is an ideal time for teachers in the DepEd system to lay the groundwork for a strong parent-teacher partnership. By creating a welcoming atmosphere, communicating effectively, encouraging involvement, and setting clear expectations, teachers can build a collaborative environment that supports student success and enhances the overall educational experience.

The author is Teacher III at Allang Elementary School, West District, Schools Division of Ligao City Albay, Region V-Bicol Region

Protecting the Safety and Well-being of Learners: A Vital Role of Schools

by LORIE R. TINARIPE

Schools are much more than places for academic learning; they play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of students. As educational environments, schools must create spaces where learners feel secure, supported, and valued. Let's explore some key ways schools can safeguard their students.

First and foremost, schools must prioritize a safe physical environment. This means ensuring that school buildings and facilities are well-maintained and free from hazards. Regular inspections and prompt repairs help prevent accidents and injuries. Additionally, schools need effective security measures, such as controlled access points, surveillance cameras, and security personnel. Emergency preparedness is also critical; schools should have clear procedures for dealing with emergencies, from natural disasters to medical incidents.

Safety extends beyond physical security to include emotional and mental health. Schools can foster a supportive atmosphere by promoting positive relationships among students and staff. Implementing anti-bullying programs and providing training on respectful behavior are essential steps. Schools should also offer counseling services and create a safe space where students can talk about their feelings and challenges. Educators and staff should be trained to recognize signs of distress and provide appropriate support or referrals to mental health professionals.

Promoting a healthy lifestyle is another crucial aspect of safeguarding learners. Schools can offer nutritious meal options and encourage physical activity through sports and exercise programs. Education about healthy eating and regular physical activity can help students develop lifelong habits that contribute to their overall well-being. Additionally, schools

should address substance abuse prevention and educate students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

A safe learning environment also means fostering inclusivity and respect. Schools should celebrate diversity and ensure that all students feel welcomed and valued, regardless of their background or identity. Policies and practices that support inclusivity help prevent discrimination and create a sense of belonging among students. Encouraging open dialogue and promoting cultural competence among staff and students contribute to a respectful and inclusive school culture.

Finally, schools should actively involve parents and the community in supporting student safety and well-being. Regular communication with families helps ensure that any concerns are promptly addressed. Schools can organize workshops and informational sessions for parents to better understand and support their children's needs. Collaboration with local organizations and agencies can provide additional resources and support for students and their families.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of learners is a multifaceted responsibility that involves creating a safe physical environment, promoting emotional and mental health, encouraging healthy lifestyles, fostering inclusivity, and engaging parents and the community. By addressing these areas, schools can provide a nurturing environment where students can thrive academically and personally. After all, a safe and supportive school is the foundation for a successful and fulfilling educational experience.

The author is Teacher III at Balete Elementary School, Tarlac South B District, Tarlac City Schools Division, Region III – Central Luzon



BW Golf Driving Range formally tees off

BW Golf Driving Range formally opened Thursday, 15 August 2024. The ribbon cutting rites were led by Savers Group Holdings Inc. Chairman & CEO Jaime 'Jack' Uy, President & COO Jansen Ivan Uy, Executive Vice President Justine Shaun Uy, Executive Assistant to Mayor Carmelo 'Pogi' Lazatin Jr. Raffy Angeles, Hitachi Vice President for Control Ethan Chen, PICPA Pampanga Chapter president JP Lagman, PICPA Angeles City Chapter Past President Luis De Jesus, CILA President Dr. Frankie Villanueva, and UAP Angeles President Ar. Tito Angeles.

BW Golf Driving Range, the 24-bay, 220-yard practice facility owned and operated by Savers Group Holdings, Inc., has contoured blue grass which scales its fairway with 5 pins to aim for and sand traps to avoid. 3 target circles are stationed to develop

any player's accuracy.

BW Golf Driving Range is a stone's throw away from the posh Best Western Plus Metro Clark, which, aside from the elegant hotel rooms, houses posh restaurants Legend Hong Kong Seafood Restaurant, Namari Japanese Bistro, Cactus Jack Smokehouse and Cafe Sebastian.

Want to challenge your own abilities and talents? BW Golf Driving Range is the place for you. A 6sqm sloped putting green and greenside bunker are readily available for you to practice your chips and putts.

Gear up in style with the coolest items available at the BW Golf Driving Range Pro Shop, which has over 20 brands that the clients may choose from.

Bring out your A game with seasoned, professional coaches

who are also available to guide you with every swing.

There is something for every person of whatever age at BW Golf Driving Range, which values its community and is a family and beginner friendly driving range with free access to board games and club rentals from all age groups, from toddlers to moms, to teens just looking to have fun.

More than swinging and driving, BW Golf Driving Range also offers thrilling Table Tennis, Chess, Darts, Billiards and even Beer Pong.

Perfect your drive, enhance your swing and simply just be! Book your session at BW Golf Driving Range, your newest, hippest and fun recreation spot located at the heart of the Balibago business district.

photos by Ric Gonzales



iQor donates computers to Angeles City public schools

iQor, a managed services provider of customer engagement and technology-enabled BPO solutions, has partnered with Rapid Tech Philippines, a firm engaged in selling computers, peripherals and software, and donated a total of 413 computer sets to 53 public elementary and secondary schools in Angeles City.

Present at the turnover, which was held on 14 August at the DepEd Office in Pulung Bulu, Angeles City, are IQOR PH Country Lead Rod Hoddinott, Schools Division Supervisor of Angeles City Schools Division Office (SDO) Engr. Edgard C. Domingo, Schools Division Assistant Supervisor Dr. Enrique E. Angeles Jr, Angeles City Vice Mayor Vicky Vege Cabigting, iQor Chief People Officer Fleurette Navarro, Rapid Tech General Manager Kristin Santos, and Atty. Raphaela Kercee Vendel Pineda Lazatin.

photos by Sonnie Canlas

