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Will the higher price of gas affect your holiday spending?

Yes, I will spend a little less 34.5%  
Yes, I will spend a lot less 43.9%  
No 21.6%

Total Votes: 487  
As of 8 p.m. Nov. 30

## Local News

### Adelup to receive '08 Yellow Pages

Yellow Pages Inc. will be presenting the new 2008 Guam Phone Book to the governor and Archbishop Anthony Apuron on Monday. A presentation ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. in the governor's chambers in Adelup. The 2008 edition is the 19th edition published by Yellow Pages Ink. Users will also be able to access the book online at www.guamphonebook.com.

Pacific Daily News

### The Gift of Giving

The Pacific Daily News is compiling a list of nonprofit charities that help the needy during the holidays. Send the following information:

- Name of organization
  - Contact person
  - Phone number
  - E-mail and Web page
  - A short description of services provided
- Information can be e-mailed to news@guampdn.com or dropped off at the PDN offices in Hagåtña. For more information, call 479-0414.



### CLEARING THE RECORD

We care about accuracy. If you would like to clear the record, call the Pacific Daily News at 479-0414.

▲ A correction to a photograph caption about Capt. Timothy Zeisset's being in the Army Reserve should have stated that the picture appeared on Page 36 of the Nov. 21 edition of the Pacific Daily News. Another date was provided in the correction that appeared on Page 2 of the Nov. 28 edition of the Pacific Daily News.

▲ Anthony Mendiola's sentencing was for robbery charges. Other information was provided in a story on Page 2 of the Nov. 30 edition of the Pacific Daily News.

# Invaders target Guam

## Community plays big role in stopping invasive species

By Brett Kelman

Pacific Daily News  
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Besides brainy scientists, dedicated cargo inspectors and inescapable traps, Guam's crusade against invasive species needs one more component: you.

"If the public eye can help detect new species before they spread from a location, there is a chance we can eradicate a species before they ever get a hold on the island," said University of Guam entomologist Aubrey Moore.

Moore was one of six presenters at a UOG workshop Thursday, which taught about 50 attendees how to recognize some of Guam's most pressing invasion threats. He said early detection is the most crucial step to quashing an invasion before it begins.

"A good parallel is fighting forest fires," he said. "It's much easier to put out a forest fire if only one tree is burning."

Many of the workshop attendees were students of UOG agriculture professor Roland Quitugua, who encouraged his students to educate themselves about the pests that threaten their home.

"This is their island that is at stake, and they can't afford to let it be ruined," he said. "This way, we'll have 30 more eyes and ears out there watching over it."

### Be aware

So far, the awareness plan is working.

On Nov. 17, about 45 volunteers combed Tumon Bay in search of the rhino beetle, which has attacked palms since it appeared on island several months ago. The volunteers destroyed dozens of beetles, hundreds of grubs and 24 pickup trucks full of rotting wood — a common beetle breeding ground. Quitugua and his students participated in the

beetle hunt.

Moore said the community support dealt a major blow against the beetles — a battle that can still be won if they are contained in Tumon.

One beetle has been trapped outside the quarantine zone. The fact that it was trapped at all shows promise.

"Unfortunately, new species are usually detected later rather than sooner," said UOG plant pathologist George Wall during the workshop. "Through this type of awareness campaign, we hope that will change."

### Coqui success

If the task of taking invasive species detection into your own hands sounds daunting, wildlife biologist Diane Vice insists that public involvement can — and has — preserved Guam in the past.

In 2003, an offhand comment by a St. John's School faculty member that had seen a strange frog led to an islandwide hunt that captured two coqui frogs, halting a lot of potential headaches in the process.

The coqui is a small tree frog that has pestered Hawaii's tourism industry with its 90-decibel evening mating call for years, causing millions of dollars in lost land value and tourism revenue. Two frogs can produce 400 offspring in a year.

If Guam's pair of coqui had found each other before biologists found them, the island might be knee-deep in noisemakers by now, Vice said.

Instead, Guam is coqui-free.

"We were lucky with the coqui frog — it's a nasty one and we were fortunate enough to catch it early."

"But there are so many more species out there to watch for," she said. "I believe that if everyone looks after their own backyard, we will be OK."

### TO THE POINT

▲ The community can help stop the infestation of Guam by invasive species by reporting them to the government.



Photo courtesy Guam Department of Agriculture

### Coqui tree frog



Photo courtesy of Ron Heu, Hawaii Department of Agriculture

### Nettle caterpillar



Photo courtesy University of Guam Web site.

### Rhino beetle

## GUAM'S MOST (UN)WANTED SPECIES

### Nettle caterpillar

▲ According to Hawaii's Department of Agriculture, this spiny pest feeds on the leaves of more than 45 species of plants. Their stings can cause burning sensations, welts and blisters that last several days, and a rash that lasts several weeks.

▲ On Guam?: Not yet, but UOG entomologist Aubrey Moore said insects that invade Hawaii are expected here within five years.

### Coqui frog

▲ The coqui frog may be officially eradicated on Guam, but if residents aren't careful, it won't stay that way. The frog's 90-decibel hiccup has caused immeasurable annoyance for Hawaiian tourists and lowered land values to the point

where home sellers are legally required to disclose an infestation.

▲ On Guam?: Past searches have found two coqui frogs on island, but as they say, that's all it takes to tango.

### Betel nut bud rot

▲ This pathogen causes wet, dark lesions on betel nuts and stalks, before eventually wilting and killing the tree. Dead trees emit a sickening smell that is an obvious tip off.

▲ On Guam?: Bud Rot first appeared on Guam in 2003, presumably after infected betel nuts were brought from Saipan. The pathogen has spread in the Merizo area but invasion is not complete, so residents who notice blemished trees should report them to the Plant Infection Station so they can be destroyed.

### Giant sensitive plant

▲ Where this weed thrives, native plants suffer. The giant sensitive plant grows two-meter stems covered in painful thorns that end in a pink puffball of stamens. The weed threatens to steal nutrients from crops, overrun roadsides and become a fire hazard during the dry season.

▲ On Guam?: Several patches have been found on island, but the invasion can still be quashed if new growths are reported diligently.

### Rhino beetle

▲ This two-inch beetle has been a threat to the palm trees of the south Pacific since its introduction to Samoa from Sri Lanka in 1909. The beetle bores into palm trees and kills them from the inside.

▲ On Guam?: The beetle is momentarily confined to the Tumon area, where there is a chance to eradicate it. Moore said that if the beetle is allowed to spread, it will become an irremovable resident of Guam.

Source: Response to Invasive Species: First Detector Training Workshop

### REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

▲ If you spot an invasive species or an organism you think might be invasive, or to dispose of rotting wood from the rhino beetle quarantine area, call the Guam Plant Inspection Station at 475 1426/27.

▲ If you need to report a coqui frog sighting, you may also call Diane Vice at 687-FROG.