

Softball

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ing autism programs and government assistance for children with special needs “far beyond what Guam could even imagine.”

The mother said the move benefited Connor and allowed him to receive the care and assistance he needed to understand his autism and how to interact with people.

Connor’s Crew

She said their softball team consists primarily of family members who moved to Arizona from Guam, plus some friends the family made after moving out there.

They decided to name the team “Connor’s Crew” and used the autism symbol on team jerseys and posters.

The team plays in the Cactus Yards Men’s D Division.

“Since softball is such a big sport here in Arizona, what better way to advocate for autism and bring autism more into the community than creating a softball team centered just around Connor?” Cepeda said.

She added that many people in the community or on other teams they played against are wanting to buy a Connor’s Crew jersey, “just because of the autism symbol and what our team represents.”

Connor’s Crew competes in four seasons per year, winning its second championship, most recently in February. It won its first championship in the summer of 2025.

The team is also off to a great start in its current season, winning its first two games, 11-5 and 14-13, at the end of March.

“Every time we make it into the championship games, he is ecstatic. ‘I’m the champion. You guys made me a champion.’ He was so excited when we won that championship on



COURTESY OF MARESSA CEPEDA
Connor Cepeda, front, with his family after the Connor’s Crew softball team won its first two games of the current season of the Cactus Yards Men’s D Division in Arizona on March 28, 2026.

Feb. 13, he ran the bases. He just was so excited that Connor’s Crew was the champions,” Cepeda said.

The youngest member of the team is Cepeda’s nephew, who is 17 years old. She said the oldest is around 45 years old, “so it’s a good range.”

Cepeda said the team welcomes people from all walks of life, from police officers to business owners.

“We really approached it with diversity. We don’t discriminate whatever race you are. We don’t care. That’s what our culture is, coming from Guam. We accept everyone and turn friends into family. This team really has that familial center. We treat each other like family. There’s not much more we can ask from our team,” Cepeda said.

Taste of Guam

Ethnically, the team is made up of mostly CHamorus and Filipinos, but everyone who joins takes part in “what the island culture is about, what Guam is about, our attitudes, the way we welcome people, the way we feed people.”

“These guys have never tried CHamoru food,

but during our barbecues, that’s what we have. It does bring them into our culture, and...these guys want to go to visit Guam,” Cepeda said.

Cepeda said her son is the inspiration behind the team and is functionally the team’s mascot. She said he is the reason why everyone works hard to get into the championship, “so that Connor’s Crew can be a staple out there.”

“Autism is such a large spectrum, so what we want to do is just bring it out in the open. We are all adults here, advocating for acceptance of autism, and winning championships just makes it even louder,” Cepeda said.

The biggest benefit of the team is her son seeing that he has all these people care so much about him and are there to support him through anything, Cepeda added.

She said the team has allowed him to learn how to interact with others, come out of his shell, and give him emotional and physical support.

“They’re behind Connor 110% as if they are his family,” Cepeda said.

Cepeda added that there isn’t always a support system for people with special needs, or for CHamorus who first move out to the mainland.

“When we first moved out here, we didn’t know anyone, so all [Connor] had was me, my husband, my sister, my brother-in-law, and my parents whenever they’d come out. That was really the only support system that he had,” Cepeda said.

Celebrate wins, losses

Cepeda said having her son at the forefront of the team has made its players and supporters all more understanding and accepting of people with autism.

“Everyone comes together [to] celebrate our wins, celebrate our losses,

and celebrate Connor. He’s such a big role in our family, like our extended family and our friends have never been around someone with autism. Connor has been an eye opener to a lot of our team, [young and old],” Cepeda said.

The softball team is not the only outlet Cepeda uses to support and spread awareness for autism.

“I have a small business, and it’s called CVC (Connor Vincent Cepeda) customs, and my logo is a silhouette of my son. I do a lot of laser work, cutting and engraving promotional items. We do custom clothing, hats, woodworking, the whole works,” she said.

Cepeda added that she was never able to find

work, because she had to be her son’s support when he was doing ABA therapy 20 hours a week for two years.

She said he is still doing therapies, which doesn’t allow her to get a full-time job, which is why Cepeda opened a small business.

“I just want people to know that even strangers can become family and become that village for your family and your child with special needs, and that’s what this team is doing. We’ve become family with strangers that love my son as much as I do, as much as my husband does,” Cepeda said. “Unfortunately, yes, we do miss home, and home will always be there.”

Reach reporter Uriah Aguon at uaguon@guampdn.com.

GUAM BOARD OF ALLIED HEALTH EXAMINERS

REGULAR BOARD MEETING Friday, May 1, 2026

at 12:00 PM
194 Hernan Cortez Ave., Terlaje
Professional Building Suite 209
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84268576050?pwd=mdt8rAeYPO2yolgKWM8jXl30r7HaMl.1>

Meeting ID: 842 6857 6050
Passcode: 721067

MEETING AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Proof of Publications
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- IV. TREASURER’S REPORT
- V. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
- VI. GBAHE COMPLAINTS
 - A. GBAHE-CO-22-03
Received 02/21/22
 - B. GBAHE-CO-23-02
Received 12/28/23
 - C. GBAHE-CO-23-03
Received 12/28/23
 - D. GBAHE-CO-24-03
Received 08/06/24
 - E. GBAHE-CO-25-09
Received 04/29/25
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
- IX. NEXT BOARD MEETING
- X. ADJOURNMENT

To view the names of the applicants being considered go to <https://guamhpl.org/gbahe>
LIVE Streaming link
https://govguam.tv/video_details/gbahe/gbahe-live-stream

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GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Physical/Mailing Address:
194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje Professional
Bldg. Suite 209 Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
at 8:30 a.m. (Guam ChST)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89129135273?pwd=O1zjLlF3KhtjP9GwUmzZiNkPTntWbb.1>

Meeting ID: 891 2913 5273
Passcode: 405051

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Proof of Publications
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Approval of Minutes
- VI. Treasurer’s Report
- VII. HPL Administrator’s Report
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. The Practice Act Revision (TPA) – ongoing discussion
 - b. Rules and Regulations Proposed Revision 2.0 – ongoing discussion
 - c. Complaint GBEO-CO-2025-001
 - d. Initial Application by Endorsement
- IX. New Business
 - a. Clinic Inspections
- X. Next Board Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

To view the names of the applicants being considered go to <https://guamoptometry.org>
LIVE Streaming link
https://go.opengovguam.com/meetings_list/gbeo

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