

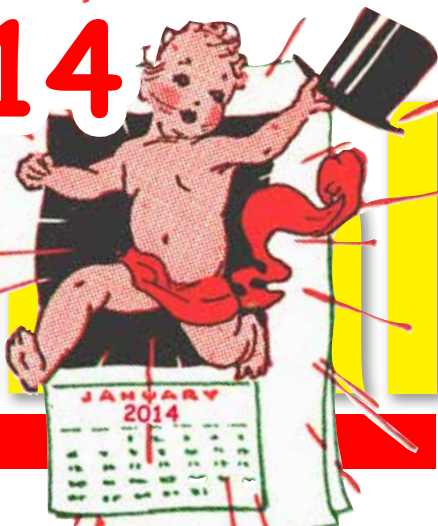
Happy New Year! Hello 2014

L.M. Confidential

ittle anila

JANUARY 2014

Beautiful Sight to start the Year



The Winners of the Lakambini ng Turismo 2014 pose after the coronation. From left, Denice Raagas, Alison Garcia, Lakambini 2014 titlist Krista Bella and Keesha Cerezo. PHOTO BY BONG MOLANO

Pope sends words of joy to ‘Yolanda’ victims

TACLOBAN CITY, Leyte – Pope Francis prayed and sent his message of condolence and greetings of joy and peace to the victims of super-typhoon “Yolanda” in Leyte through Papal Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Guiseppe Pinto. The pontiff’s message was relayed by Papal Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Guiseppe Pinto who officiated

POPE continued on page 24

Orphans of the Storm

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines—The teenager with unruly hair in a ponytail wipes tears from her eyes as she holds her feverish 3-year-old brother, who clings to her and lets out a sob of his own now and then. They have been inseparable ever since they lost their parents to the tsunami-like storm surge of Supertyphoon “Yolanda.” “The water was so strong. Also the wind and the rain,” 15-year-old Shylyny Therese Negru said. “Our house was cut into two.” She and her three surviving brothers, aged 3, 6 and 12, are among an unknown number of children in east-central Philippines who lost their parents to the massive Nov. 8 storm.

ORPHANS continued on page 23

Sinaloa Mexican Cartel operating in the Philippines

STORY INSIDE

Thank you DART



Senator Tobias “Jun” Enverga (SECOND FROM RIGHT) thanks a returning Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) member at CFB Trenton. DART was stationed in Tacloban when typhoon Yolanda hit.

ENTOT The Groundhog



Read what he says about winter

Inside On page 27

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Scarborough Toyota's Manny Yanga supports PCCT



Manny Yanga (FAR RIGHT) of Scarborough Toyota shows support for Philippine Chamber of Commerce Toronto by attending their induction and launching of a new festival in 2014. Newsman Carlos Unas is standing beside him with other friends.

Today, together with the Major General who was responsible for this remarkable immediate response aid extended to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, at the Canadian Armed Forces in Trenton ON - 55 Filipino-Canadian delegations welcomed the troop of DART returning home from a 30-day humanitarian disaster assistance relief. Thank you DART, thank you Canada and Welcome Home!!!



Want to remember something?

Don't take a photo

Nowadays we snap photos of every detail of our lives — the food we eat, what our cat is doing, the quirky things we see, the places we go — and we do this in an effort document and remember those experiences.

But a new study, published in Psychological Science, suggests it's possible that the act of taking pictures may actually lessen our ability to recall the details of a subject.

Researcher Linda Henkel of Fairfield University in Connecticut took university students on a guided museum tour and asked them to observe some objects and photograph others. The results of the study are interesting: *'If participants took a photo of each object as a whole, they remembered fewer objects and remembered fewer details about the objects and the objects' locations in the museum than if they instead only observed the objects and did not photograph them.'*

Other findings from the study also revealed an exception: *'However, when participants zoomed in to photograph a specific part of the object, their subsequent recognition and detail memory was not impaired, and, in fact, memory for features that were not zoomed in on was just as strong as memory for features that were zoomed in on.'*

Henkel told the New York Daily News: 'When people rely on technology to remember for them — counting on the camera to record the event and thus not needing to attend to it fully themselves — it can have a negative impact on how well they remember their experiences.'

So a picture may be worth a thousand words, but if you can't remember what happened, it may not be worth anything at all.

What's your experience in recalling details of events or places from photographs you've taken?



Maria Panaligan take a selfie with mom Gen.



Naku HA! by Jose Baking
LMConfidential.com

“Mechanic’s Room”

The lunch room of my mechanic is a throwback to the politically-incorrect days when the walls are graced by calendars with women in different levels of undressed. it really makes you look at the day of the month. No need for an iphone to ring on certain days to remind you that you have an appointment that day. With the calendar, you are motivated to look at the day. But there is something I do not understand. Nowadays, it is “not right” to hang calendars with women in bikini in your workplace but it is still ok to buy the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue or even get a Victoria’s Secret catalogue and leave them lying around your office. Why?

Beautiful Blondes get their Attention

At my workplace Christmas party, the bar was packed and a friend of mine cannot get the bartender’s attention. She said she has been standing there for 30 minutes. Thankfully, a beautiful and blonde co-worker was also waiting and asked us what we wanted. She got the bartender’s attention and I got my beer. See what non-blondes but equally beautiful women can do. Watch Lakambini on January 5 and you’ll end up donating to a cause too.

Only the Good-Hearted

When my nephew was donating some goods to a relief drive a long time ago, somebody asked him if he was sure if it will reach the recipients. He said, if he is going to worry if it will reach the needy or not, he will end up not giving at all. He said, I give because I want to. If somebody wants to run away with the money, there is nothing I can do.

Do not insult non-Filipinos helping us

Journalist Romy Zetazate and other Filipinos were with councillor Raymond Cho at Scarborough Town Centre. Councillor Cho, who is Chinese, was doing all the talking, and asking people to donate to the typhoon Yolanda victims. Then, a group of Filipinos passed by and asked him if the money is even going to reach the Philippines. “That was the embarrassing part,” said Zetazate. “Here was a councillor, doing all he can to convince people to donate to the relief effort in the Philippines and our fellow Filipinos will treat him that way.”

It is nakakahiya nga. Para bang minamaliit pa nila iyong ginagawa ni Councillor Cho. I agree with Zetazate. Those Filipinos probably never gave anything in their life and they are using that excuse as justification to be makunat.

If you do not like to give, then, do not insult those who are willing to give. Compliment them. That way, nobody will doubt whether you give or not. People will just assume you do.

There is a saying “it is better to be quiet and be doubted

as an idiot than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.” Parang ganito din iyan. “If you are makunat but quiet, people will doubt your kakunatan. But if you open your mouth and insult the generous people, then, you remove all doubt about your kakunatan.” They will come to the conclusion na makunat ka. If you give praise to those who give without making them doubt if their donations are reaching the correct recipients, people will assume you are as generous like them, even if you have not given any. If you are poor, that’s understandable. But to insult generous people if you are not poor, that’s low, ika nga.

Free plastic bags at Chinese groceries

Why do multinational stores charge you for plastic bags? Then sugarcoat it that it is going to some environmental cause. So, what they are doing is charging us to donate to the environment. According to some, using the plastic bag is not environmentally friendly. I disagree. Those bags are used again to throw the garbage or organic matter. It saves us money from buying those black plastic bags anyway.

Edgar Sulit is now Persona-non-grata

IPEN Impresario has received word from international pageant organizers that he is now persona-non-grata. In other words, banned. Well, actually it includes his beauties. Bea Santiago is the latest beauty from the stable of beauty pageant groomer to win a title. It is bad enough that Filipino women keep winning title in the past year. Well, hindi naman daw ban - moratorium lang naman for one year until the other countries can catch up or may fighting chance lang naman. If you doubt this news, ask Edgar Sulit yourself. Biro lang po. Readers naman, masyadong serious.

Sorbetero ice cream brand queso-flavour go blah

The first time I bought this brand, there were lots of cheese bits and creamy in texture. Now, I cannot bite any cheese bits and the texture is like sugar that did not melt. What happened? I can’t believe the quality went down in a matter of seasons from summer to winter this year.

Spotlight

Stella Strada

Bold roles killed her career - and her life



Despondency and drugs may have led bold star Stella Strada to take her own life. Strada apparently hanged herself inside her bedroom with Rene, an old friend whose full identity remained unknown to the police. She was known to have been resorting to illegal drugs in periods of depression. She is known to have attempted suicide several times by slashing her wrists. Police investigators raised the possibility that Strada and Rene were high on drugs when they committed suicide. They said the bodies will be autopsied for traces of drugs in their system but the results of the autopsy may not be available until after the New Year holidays.

Emma Ordinario, a housemaid, found Strada, Suzette Bishop in real life, and Rene hanging from nylon cords. Police said Ordinario knocked at the door to wake up Strada but no one answered. After a few minutes of banging on the door with no response from the actress, the housemaid decided to use a duplicate key. Strada’s neighbors at 327 Jose Abad Santos st., San Juan, then heard the screams of the hysterical Ordinario. The police recovered an unsigned suicide note which read: “Mommy, walang nagmamahal sa akin at walang nakakaintindi ditto. Mahal ko kayong lahat. Isang bagay lang ang hinihiling ko. Pakisunog ninyo lahat ng gamit ko at walang ititira.” Ordinario confirmed that the note was in the actress’ own handwriting.

Strada was reported to have been depressed lately because of dwindling movie offers. It was reported that after her successful films like Angkinin Mo Ako, Kiro, and Puri, she became a born-again Christian and decided not to accept any more bold roles. The offers dwindled after that. Ernie Garcia, who co-starred with her in Angkinin Mo Ako said Strada was a loner. He said that during their shooting of the film, Strada covered her arms with bandages, apparently because she had cut her wrists in one of several suicide tries. “I hate to say this,” Garcia said, “but I think she had suicidal tendencies. Too bad because she was a very talented actress.”

Rey’s Surprise party



ABOVE , The new Chairman of the FCT Board, Rey Tolentino, poses with FCT group - Efren de Villa, Aida DOrazio, Tess Beloso, Eva de Villa, Mercy Maliglig, Ditas Tolentino, Mary Ann San Juan, Wendy Arena, Babes deVilla, Suzette Cresencia and Linda Javier. — with Efren De Villa, Mercy Maliglig, Rey Tolentino, Mary Ann San Juan, Maria Cj de Villa and Rosalinda Cerrudo Javier. BELOW, A surprised Rey walks into the room to happy birthday cheers and song.

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Boats for Fishermen

Seoul-based Pinays to provide boats for Yolanda-hit fishermen

MANILA, Philippines - Like many Filipinos living overseas, a small group of Filipino women based in Seoul, South Korea wanted to help Filipinos who lost their families, homes and livelihood due to super typhoon "Yolanda".

The group of 11 Filipinas, most of whom are married to Koreans, have already been friends for several years.

But seeing the destruction wrought by Yolanda in the central Visayas, they united for a good cause and turned their friendship into a charitable endeavor under the name "The 601 Habit" (named after one of the member's apartment number).

Wendy Palomo, president of the 601 Habit, said she read an article about a group of fishermen in northern Iloilo who lost families and livelihood due to Yolanda, but asked only for boats to help them start rebuilding their lives as soon as possible.

"We already wanted to raise funds (for Yolanda victims), but I shared the newspaper article with the group. The article was the start of The Life Boat Project," she told ABS-CBNnews.com.

The Life Boat Project aims to deliver at least 100 fishing boats to selected beneficiaries in typhoon-hit areas in northern Iloilo, northern Antique and Bacolod.

"This project was inspired by the dignity that the group of fishermen from Northern Iloilo showed when they asked for the means to continue feeding their families, rather than asking for aid. They



The 601 Habit is a group of Seoul-based Filipino women who have raised funds to help provide fishing boats for fishermen in areas badly affected by typhoon "Yolanda."

may not be rich but they have always been self-sufficient. They have not begged but this devastation has reduced most of them to begging for aid. The least that we can do is to give them back their tools to reclaim the dignity of their existence," Palomo said.

To fund the project, the Filipinas started a fundraising sale. After that, they started getting donations from Korean friends, family, churches and even companies. So far, they have raised 20 million won (around P820,000) for the project.

Lawmaker Jasmine Lee, a naturalized Korean who was born in the Philippines, also helped The 601 Habit in their efforts, acting as an adviser.

"When I told friends and colleagues

about the project the response was amazing. Everyone was willing to help," she said. "Everyone thought it was a great way to help victims get over the harsh reality. Giving them means to live is a great way to let them start all over again."

Lee noted some people even thanked them for the opportunity to help not just one person but an entire family.

Palomo said they plan to turn over 10 fishing boats to an island barangay in Bayas, Estancia in northern Iloilo next week.

The group is also planning to turn over more fishing boats to towns in San Dioniso and Bacolod in the next few weeks.



Derek Ramsay Is Ready To Be A Father

Derek Ramsay admitted that he is now thinking about the next chapter of his life, adding that he is ready to become a father. He is at the point of his life where he wants to settle down already and have a family of his own.

On his birthday, he celebrated with the children in Palawan. It was fulfilling, the actor said. He added that he will be doing a commercial with children and two of his nephews.

Derek has been doing a lot of thinking lately with regards to settling down. But since Derek is single, how is he supposed to build a family? For now, Derek doesn't want to think about his lovelife since he just came from a breakup with Cristine Reyes.

Speaking of Cristine, he was asked if the actress could possibly be the one if she was ready to be in a commitment during their relationship. Cristine mentioned she wasn't ready at that time, and that is why they broke up.

Derek said the situation is different with him and Cristine. They later on realized that what's more important for them is their friendship, and that is why they decided to end their relationship and just continue being friends.

"And the great thing is, wala, hindi naapektuhan ang friendship. We're back to normal. Back to kultan namin."

Further pushed about the possibility of reconciling with Cristine, Derek said all they have now is friendship.

When they were still together, Derek posted a photo of them on Instagram and captioned it "forever." What happens to that forever now? The actor said he still believes in love and that it will come to him in the future.

And yes, it would have been different if his girlfriend is from outside showbiz. It's a lot of pressure for the couple if they are both in the industry, the actor maintained. For now, Derek is thinking about leaving showbiz and trying something else.

But that's an idea he is still mulling over. He clarified though that he's not depressed or lonely about something. He feels really blessed and happy.

"There's a big part of why I'm Derek Ramsay, so ang kapal ng mukha ko not to be happy with my life."

The actor wants to take after his parents, both in their 70s, and enjoying their lives as private people. They recently moved to Palawan and build a small house there.

Derek can see how at peace his parents are—which is something he wants for himself as well.

Pinoys in Dubai Do not solicit funds for Yolanda victims

DUBAI - The Philippine Consul General of Dubai and Northern Emirates Frank Cimafranca is warning Filipinos not to solicit publicly for the victims of super typhoon Yolanda.

It is illegal in the emirate of Dubai to raise funds without the necessary permit from the government authorities or endorsement from recognized international agencies like the Red Crescent Society. The warning was given after he came to know

that some individuals are soliciting contributions in labor accommodations in Jebel Ali and residential areas in Deira. These people were showing pictures of the affected areas to draw sympathy and then collect money as low as AED 5.00 (P55.00). One of those approached, Jesus Santos, felt that this is a scam because the solicitors acted suspiciously.

"Better be warned that these activities like the house-to-house solicitation are not permitted. What you are doing is illegal so you better be careful because you are also at risk of being apprehended by the authorities," Cimafranca said.

The Philippine Consulate General has been supporting fund-raising activities of recognized Filipino organizations with the supervision of Dubai government authorities.



Maria Panaligan flashes some gams during intermission at Cardinal Carter's Christmas concert.

Cristo Rei *Lightshine* Typhoon Yolanda Fundraising



FIRST, Father Carlos Macatangga, Ambassador Gatan, Dr. Solon Guzman pose with the Philippine Chroal Society of Mississauga. SECOND, PCSM members pose before the show. THIRD Drs. Jo and Solon Guzman, Lilac Canada, father macatangga pose after the show. FOURTH Roy Tugbang and Lilac Cana sing a duet. MORE PHOTOS AT filipinogoodlife.com

Philippine Chamber of Commerce Toronto
Filipinas Expo Launched



PCCT Officers pose with Senator Enverga at the launch of Filipinas Expo. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

TORONTO - The Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto (PCCT) launched the “Filipinas Expo and Multicultural Tradeshaw” for 2014 at the PCCT Christmas Celebration in Scarborough, Ontario on Nov. 23, 2013.

The Filipinas Expo will be held on August 16, 2014 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

PCCT President Oswald Tugadi commented that “the Filipinas Expo and Multicultural Tradeshaw is the flagship

project of PCCT that will be an opportunity for all its members to showcase and/or sell their products and services. Also, this will be an opportunity to establish new contacts and create profitable business relationship in Canada and in the U.S.”

The aim of PCCT is to help the Filipino-Canadian business community and promote harmonious relationship with other ethnic business communities in Canada. Rei Ching of AXS Media Canada is assisting PCCT in planning the expo and tradeshaws in 2014.

Filipinas Expo and Multicultural Trade Show will help promote the products and culture of the Philippines as well as strengthen relationship with other ethnic business communities. It will be an ideal venue for businesses in the Philippines to promote their products and services in Canada.

For more information, contact:
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After giving to Haiyan victims, Shoichi gets a surprise



ANONYMOUS. Shoichi receives the package of jeepney toys and a T-shirt from the Philippines. Photo from the Philippine embassy in Tokyo

MANILA, Philippines – Remember the 6-year-old who gave the contents of his piggy bank to the victims of Typhoon Yolanda? More than a month after his act of generosity, he got an anonymous gift from the Philippines.

It was a neatly-wrapped gift about the size of a shoe box containing around 4 small

jeepney toys and an “I LOVE PH” shirt – a package Shoichi Kondoh received “from the Filipino people.”

“It was a spur of the moment thing really. I remember seeing the news feed about the boy’s efforts, and I thought one kind deed deserves another,” Jose (not his real name)* said.

Days after Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) wreaked havoc in the Visayas, Shoichi gave his childhood savings of JPY 5,000 (P2,173) to the Philippine embassy in Tokyo.

After seeing Shoichi’s efforts, Jose coordinated with his friends here and abroad to come up with the perfect gifts – products that will remind the kid of the people he helped.

The group sent the package last November 20, but it took the Philippine embassy about a month to find Shoichi because he did not leave an address when he first made his donation with his mother Miho.

“I got in touch with [the embassy] through their contact page on the website.

They got back to me via e-mail a couple of days later. I explained what our intentions were, and I asked if they could assist us in getting the gift into the boy’s hands,” Jose explained.

In return, they only asked the embassy to send them photos for them to see that their humble gift has reached the boy.

Help came pouring in from the international community after the super typhoon killed thousands and displaced millions. It easily became one of the biggest stories of the year, with top media organizations showing audiences from all over the globe heart-wrenching images of the disaster.

United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, who visited Tacloban last December 21, said the UN is trying to “mobilize at least US\$800 million” (about P33.6 billion) in funds over 12 months to help the Philippines in its efforts to recover from the devastation.

“Never despair. The UN is behind you. The world is behind you,” the UN chief said.



KC Concepcion Shares Experiences In Making “Boy Golden”

KC Concepcion said her role in “Boy Golden” was the most challenging one she did. She also felt awkward being paired with someone much older than her— Governor ER Ejercito.

KC did her own stunts in the movie, and even had to train for three months in mixed martial arts (MMA). The movie centers around the life of Arturo Porcuna, a gangster in Tondo during the 1950s and 1960s.

The actress, on the other hand, played Marla Dee, a female gangster/stripper who want to exact revenge. She is also the wife of ER’s character, Arturo.

Although she felt awkward with ER, KC said she just decided to focus on director Chito Rono. She added that ER is respectful of her and never took advantage of her.

It is the first time that KC was paired with someone older than she, but the director and ER made it clear that the story was not focused on their love story. “Hindi naman siya love story talaga na kilig...it’s more of dahil pareho ang target nila.”

The actress shared she had to shoot a fight scene for 38 hours. Physically, “Boy Golden” was the hardest movie she ever did.

It was worth it, the actress said, adding that she really enjoyed doing the girl-to-girl fight scenes for four days.

Cody Waito’s 18th Birthday Celebration



Cody Waito celebrated his birthday with family and friends. Here are some of the photos from that joyous celebration. PHOTOS BY RAMIL BANAAG

Comelec to distribute 40M ID in early 2014



person to vote.”
DND to upgrade bases

MANILA - The Department of National Defense (DND) is set to implement at least four projects aimed at upgrading military bases under the new Armed Forces Modernization Law.

MANILA, Philippines—The Commission on Elections is planning to conduct a “massive distribution” of some 40 million new voter’s identification cards during the first part of 2014, two years before the next presidential polls. This was disclosed to the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Wednesday, by Comelec Commissioner Grace Padaca who referred to the voter’s ID distribution program as “one of the poll body’s priority projects next year.”

“IDs will also be issued to about 10 to 15 percent of the country’s 52 million-plus registered voters as soon as they have submitted their biometrics (photograph, fingerprint and signature) to Comelec,” she said.

The former Isabela governor also said the poll body has been “considering opening all Comelec offices nationwide even on Sundays, as well as tap shopping malls, for the voter’s ID issuance program.”

An undisclosed number of IDs “have been stored at Comelec offices since the time of Chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr.,” the agency’s head from 2002 to 2007, she said.

Padaca, however, said she was “not sure why those IDs had not been distributed to their recipients.”

Only election registrants whose biometrics were captured digitally during the ID application periods set by the Comelec, using its Voter’s Registration Machines (VRM) and the old Data Capture Machines (DOM), have been issued voter’s IDs.

The IDs were issued to registered voters pursuant to Section 25 of Comelec Resolution No. 8189.

According to the Comelec, a voter’s ID is a “valid ID that is recognized by all government offices and banks for a person’s identification purposes.”

However, it is “not a requirement for a

The projects, amounting to over P2 billion, seek to support new military assets to be acquired by the government.

The four base-related projects are the Air Force basing support systems for long-range patrol aircraft (P187 million), lead-in fighter trainer jets (P135.99 million), Air Force radar system (P825.52 million) and Navy basing support system (P1 billion).

The DND also bared plans to acquire two units of long-range patrol aircraft worth P5.98 billion and 12 lead-in-fighter trainer jets worth P18.9 billion to boost its territorial defense capabilities and security operations. The old Armed Forces Modernization Act, which took effect in 1995, gave the military a chance to modernize its assets and equipment in 15 years with a P331-billion fund.

However, the program was stalled due to lack of funds and the changing priorities of the national leadership. As a result, the Philippine military has been dubbed one of the most poorly equipped in the Asia-Pacific region.

Last year, President Aquino signed a new modernization law to provide more resources to the military’s upgrade efforts.

A total of P4.78 billion will come from proceeds of the Malampaya natural gas project, in which the government has a share from taxes, royalties and charges, and remittances from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

Winnie Monsod: Guards were correct, Binay was wrong

MANILA, Philippines—Television host and Inquirer columnist Solita “Winnie” Collas-Monsod on Thursday said Makati Mayor Junjun Binay was “taking advantage of his position” when he

ordered the arrest of three security guards of Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

Monsod, a resident of the village, said: “The guards were correct... And Mayor Binay was obviously wrong. He was taking advantage of his position and trying to be above the law. And anything that goes above the law is wrong.”

The Philippine Daily Inquirer reported that Binay on November 30 ordered the arrest of three security guards who denied their convoy access to a gate in Dasmariñas Village. However, the guards insisted that the group could not leave through the gate because of the 10 p.m. curfew. Binay then called for the police to arrest the guards. A CCTV footage from a source was released.

However, Binay camp spokesperson Joey Salgado said the guards were not arrested. Instead, he said they went with the Makati police voluntarily and stayed at the precinct for about an hour.

Monsod was familiar with the policy of the village restricting access to one of the main gates after 10 p.m.

“His alternative was to go about 150 meters away to the gate that was open. But he wanted to show his...I don’t know,” Monsod said.

“And the fact that his guards pulled out their weapons is...this is an indication of how Binay is going to rule the country,” she added.

Monsod revealed that the village is planning to commend the three security guards for doing their job.

Village manager Mike Bucoy said their guards did nothing wrong and their rules “apply to everybody.”

Earlier, the security agency who employed the guards said they have apologized to the Binay camp.

But Monsod said, “the owner of the security agency has no business talking for the Dasmariñas Village Association.”

She said Ram Antonio of the Right Eight Security Agency was a supporter of Binay.

According to DVA president Jay Pantangco, the four security guards involved in the incident are still continuing their duty in the village. Furthermore, they have even been given rewards. “[The guards] have been given both commendations and gifts from residents, who have shown their support for the guards’ performance in upholding and implementing Dasmariñas Village policies,” the letter said.



Jessy Mendiola, single - for Now

After her “breakup” with Matteo Guidicelli, “Maria Mercedes” star Jessy Mendiola wants to take a break from love woes. She’s not really ready now to enter into another relationship since she is focused on her career, which has been blossoming in the past months.

As the new “It Girl of 2013,” Jessy has projects left and right—a teleserye and the movie, “Call Center Girl.”

It doesn’t stop her suitors from pursuing her, however. Among these are Sam Milby, Jake Cuenca and collegiate basketball stars Jeron and Jeric Teng. Even JC de Vera reportedly has a crush on Jessy.

The sexy actress said she’s not planning to be in a relationship now, and she wants to take it slow and let it flow freely. She even told Sam that if he’s willing to wait, then he can wait. But if he cannot, then he is also free to go. Jessy earlier admitted Sam is the most attentive suitor she has now.

“Kasi, huwag nating ipilit. Kung hindi talaga, hindi. If, sabi nga nila, just let go and let things fall into place.”

The actress admitted she feels flattered when guys say she is their crush. Who wouldn’t be? she asked.

Meanwhile, Jessy shared it has been a long and hard ride for her showbiz career. She has been in the industry for seven years and it is only now that she got noticed. She first starred as “extra” in teleseryes and movies, until she finally landed a role in “Sabel” (2010).

Although she was hesitant at first to do the movie because she has to be daring and sexy in it, the actress eventually decided it can be worth it. ABS-CBN, she said, has always taken care of her and given her the right project at the right time.

The price of fame is not lost on Jessy, however. She missed wearing pants and chucks in the mall—something she couldn’t do anymore. But she is not complaining, the actress clarified, adding that she feels really blessed for

JESSE continued on page 27

Kim Mahistrado’s Fashionista Revolution is a Hit



FROM LEFT, Angelina Guzman struts the runway; Her sister Princess is a hit in black and white ensemble; Parents Dr. Josephine and Solon Guzman enjoy the show with friends; Fashion designer Kim Mahistrado (RIGHT) answers questions from the host; Arianna Pantaleon looks warm in a white vest. MORE PHOTOS AT filipinogoodlife.com

Philippines

NPA rebels to build 25,000-strong force

DAVAO CITY -- Communist rebels vowed to intensify attacks against government troops and build a 25,000-strong guerrilla force, but the military mocked the target as unrealistic.

New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas marked the 45th founding anniversary of their underground party with a clandestine gathering at a mountain lair, where they invited journalists in southeastern Agusan del Sur province.

A communist rebel statement urged the Maoist guerrillas to "wipe out enemy units and seize their weapons" and "increase the number of our Red fighters to 25,000."

Military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Zagala, however, said the rebels, whose armed guerrilla strength has dwindled to 4,000, have been on a decline



and would not achieve such a target due to problems such as the loss of community support and infighting.

"They're dreaming," Zagala said. "The reality is they have been on a decline due to the loss of their mass bases, surrenders and

other problems."

The communist rebellion in the Philippines began in the late 1960s with a ragtag group armed with a few rifles. The movement peaked during the repressive years under dictator Ferdinand Marcos with several thousand full-time guerrillas.

Though it remains one of the world's longest-running Marxist insurgencies, the rebel movement has grown considerably weaker in recent years due to battle setbacks, surrenders and factionalism. They remain a national security concern.

Talks to end the rebellion have stalled since 2011 due to disagreements between the government and guerrillas over the release of several jailed rebel leaders.



Ara Mina shares a photo of her 'angel' Mel Mathay on Instagram

Ara remembers her lolo Mel Mathay

Coming from a festive Christmas eve celebration, actress Ara Mina didn't expect that Christmas Day will be her grandfather Ismael "Mel" Mathay Jr.'s last.

The former Quezon City Mayor succumbed to heart attack morning of Dec. 25. He was 81.

On her official Instagram page (realaramina), Ara poured her heart out over her beloved lolo's passing. She shared a photo of her and the late Mathay describing the latter as an angel.

Ara wrote as caption: "Today heaven has gained another angel. I will treasure the memories I have of you. You were one in a million, a great leader and most importantly the greatest loving, and caring grandfather to all of us. Thank you for all the love. We love you lolo! We will truly miss you..."

Prior, Ara was discharged from hospital in time for Noche Buena. "Thank God I was discharged. So happy I can spend Noche Buena at home with my family."

Meanwhile, a good friend of Ara, Siquijor Vice Governor Dingdong Avanzado has also taken to social media his sympathy to Mathay's family.

Born on June 26, 1932, Mathay served as QC mayor for three terms from 1992-2001.

Tax credits for doctors doing pro bono work

MANILA -- Doctors rendering pro bono services to poor patients will soon be entitled to tax credits to be deducted from their gross income once a proposed law pending before the House committee on ways and means is approved in Congress.

Nueva Ecija Representative Estrellita Suansing said her House Bill 2790 seeks to answer the shortage of healthcare workers in the country, and improve the access of poor Filipinos to basic health care services.

"There is a need to give incentives to

Filipino doctors to persuade them not to leave our country and be of help to our countrymen," Suansing said referring to the supposed exodus of health workers in recent years. Under the proposal, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) shall evaluate the pro bono services rendered by doctors considering the number of hours and nature of treatment involved. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), in consultation with the DOH and

the PMA, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective enforcement of the provisions of the proposed law.

"Most Filipinos choose to spend for their basic necessities first over their health. If at all, many of our countrymen seek medical attention after their condition has gone worse. Some, sadly, die without even seeking medications," she said.

Once the House bill passes the committee level, it will be sent to the House plenary for the chamber's approval.

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PNOY rejects Petilla resignation for failing to power up 100% disaster areas

+ other news



MANILA -President Benigno Aquino III rejected the resignation of Department of Energy Secretary Carlos Petilla.

The President did not accept the resignation, cognizant of the fact that according to original estimates, it would take 3-6 months to restore power in town centers, considering the extent of the damage caused by Supertyphoon Yolanda: the Luzon-Visayas connection was down, the major geothermal plant in Leyte was also down; and generation, transmission and distribution lines were down.” Lacierda even lauded Petilla for restoring power in some areas in 40 days. Lacierda said Petilla was also able to energize 317 out of 320 affected towns leaving only 0.93% to accomplish.

“By any measure this is excellent performance. The President noted that foreign observers who have seen work being done in the Visayas, and in comparison to disasters of lesser magnitude in other countries, pointed out that repair and rehabilitation of energy infrastructure was done faster,” Lacierda said. Lacierda said Aquino reiterated that he can’t accept the resignation of an “honorable public servant.”

Petilla vowed to tender his resignation if he won’t be able to restore power in all areas hit by super typhoon Yolanda by December 24.

Petilla failed to restore power in Mercedes, Salcedo and Guiuan.

Petilla said he is resigning not because he is quitting on the people but because he wants to keep his words.

Police hunt down Mayor’s assassins

MANILA, Philippines - Authorities

are hunting down the principal suspect in last December 20 killing of Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur Mayor Ukol Talumpa at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City.

Elements from the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) are reportedly closing in on the gunman identified only as Marox, who is believed to be hiding in Metro Manila.

Marox was positively identified by some of the mayor’s companions and witnesses to the incident as the one who shot and killed Talumpa.

The Special Investigation Task Group Ukol is checking reports that Marox was a former bodyguard of former Labangan mayor Kitty Nandang, Talumpa’s political rival and former Mayor.

Police are now also hunting him down in Mindanao provinces.

SITG Ukol said it has received no report that Nandang has gone abroad. His henchman Marox has not been seen in Labangan town since the ambush of Talumpa. The task force said they have no hard evidence that Nandang was the mastermind of the ambush.

“That’s why we are bent on arresting Marox because he alone is the link to the mastermind,” the source said.

Three security men escorted Talumpa and his group when they traveled to Manila, the official said.

Talumpa’s security escorts were retrieving their service firearms from a counter of the NAIA Terminal 3 when Marox reportedly opened fire at the mayor and his wife at the passengers’ loading bay.

“The three security escorts were helpless in stopping Marox as they were unarmed. They were in the process

of retrieving their handguns, which coincidentally were sealed,” the official said, hinting Talumpa’s bodyguards were police officers.

Aside from the mayor and his wife, killed were his nephew Saripudon and 18-month-old Gil Thomas Lirazan, who arrived with his parents from Bacolod City. Five other people were injured in the incident.

Authorities have yet to identify the driver of the getaway motorcycle.

The source said they are preparing multiple murder and frustrated murder charges against Marox and his companion.

Palace cool on proposal to exempt water, power, oil from taxes

MANILA, Philippines - Malacañang is cool to the proposal of lawmakers from the Makabayan bloc to speed up the passage of three bills seeking to exempt water, electricity and oil from the value-added tax (VAT). Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. of the Presidential Communications and Operations Office said: “This involves amendment of existing laws and requires a comprehensive study of far reaching implications on revenue collections and the budget deficit.”

The Makabayan bloc said Filipino consumers are already weighed down by the unabated increase in the cost of utility services and petroleum products, as well as the high prices of basic commodities.

Mass held for Aquino family

MANILA, Philippines - Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle celebrated Christmas Eve mass for the family of President Aquino, with whom the Church hierarchy has had differences over the Reproductive Health Law.

Presidential sister and popular showbiz personality Kris posted photos of the event on her Instagram account during their family’s traditional Noche Buena on Dec. 24. The local Catholic Church is vigorously opposed to the RH Law, passed by Congress after a decade of being dormant.

The Supreme Court has issued a status quo ante order preventing the implementation of the controversial law.



Karylle neither confirms nor denies engagement

Is she or is she not tying the knot with her boyfriend, Spongecola’s Yael Yuzon, in March?

Karylle neither confirmed nor denied the issue.

All the “It’s Showtime” host said was, “I’m getting married on Thursday, Friday and last Saturday (as the title role in “Cinderella”). Doon muna ako ikakasal. Kung ako magco-confirm, ako na ang magsusulat.”

Zsa Zsa Padilla’s eldest daughter would rather talk about her long-time advocacies for children as way of paying it forward after going through a “difficult childhood.”

“We can’t have a big party this year (for the children). Simple lang. We are gearing towards teaching children how to eat healthier. Next year, my plan is to talk to Maya Kitchen to help us slowly change the diet of children. Your diet can be yummy but not boring.”

Her new business, which she put up in Shoppesville, San Juan, is turning out to be rewarding for Karylle.

“Ang dami nilang concepts. I didn’t appreciate mango as much as my balikbayan friends or lola would. ”

The Mango Farm, she adds, is different from her other business, Centertage, because people just drop by to check the cart. Centerstage requires making last-minute room reservations.

Next year, Karylle’s supposed wedding year, promises to be just as busy.

She will start the year right with her annual Three Kings Party for the orphans of White Cross, San Juan where Yael is free to do his share for the kids. “By the time January comes along, everyone disappears. The children have separation anxiety. So we fill up the pantry with stuff.”

“You have to make sure your life is well-balanced: your health, your love life, etc. You just can’t be successful in one area tapos napapabayaang iba. That’s the secret to a healthy life.”

So, is Karylle tying the knot next year?

Read between the lines and you’ll get the answer, loud and clear.

Philippine Press Club Christmas Party

Philippine Press Club Ontario held their Christmas party last December 13. Special guest was Seantor Tobias “Jun” Enverga and his wife Rosemer. Singer Ann aRejante Estrada graced the occasion. More photos at filipinoggodlife.com

GROUP PHOTO BY NOEL PERADA



Levistes deny ties to Mexican drug cartel

Is the Mexican cartel really operating in the Philippines? And why?

MEXICAN DRUG CARTEL — Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Undersecretary/ Director General Arturo Cadac (left), Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Allan Purisima (center) and PNP-Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force Chief, Senior Supt. Bartolome Tobias held a press conference yesterday to announce the apprehension of members of the Mexican Sinaloa Drug Cartel in a raid in Lipa City, Batangas. Three persons were arrested and 84 kilos of shabu worth P420 million were seized.

MANILA -- Batangas Vice-Governor Mark Leviste and his father, Conrad Leviste, on Thursday denied knowing that alleged members of a Mexican drug cartel are operating in their property.

In a statement, Mark and Conrad said that they found reports on the almost half a billion pesos worth of illegal drugs found in Lipa City “incorrect and malicious.”

“We categorically deny that drugs were found at a ‘Leviste Ranch,’” the statement said.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Philippine National Police - Anti-Illegal-Drugs Special Operations Task Force (PNP-AIDSOTF) seized P420 million worth of shabu during a raid at the LPL Ranch in Barangay Inosloban, Lipa, according to authorities.

PNP chief Director General Alan Purisima said they will consult lawyers regarding the ranch, which allegedly belongs to the clan of former Batangas Governor Antonio Leviste, who is out on parole for homicide.

The Levistes, however, claimed that the former Batangas governor does not own the property where the illegal drugs were seized.

“If (drugs) were found in a ‘Tan-Torres Farm’ then they should say so,” the statement said.

“Gov. Tony does not own the compound and he should not be dragged into the issue. It’s unfair for him and his family most especially he has issues of his own,” it added. “We don’t want to add to



his own problems and the press shouldn’t use him or his case just to make an issue a headline or “news worthy”.

The Batangas vice-governor’s father and the former governor are twin brothers.

The Levistes said they were told by caretakers on Wednesday that the farm of one of their lessees was raided by the police.

“We are not our tenant’s keeper. We do not and will never tolerate any and all illegal activities in our developments and properties,” they said.

The clan promised to cooperate with police.

The Levistes said LPL Estates is home to several personalities and politicians such as Senator Ralph Recto and Governor Vilma Santos-Recto, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, and several cock breeders.

Police, meanwhile, said that aside from the 2 Filipinos and a Filipino-Chinese arrested during the raid, the actual members of the Mexican cartel were not captured by authorities.

“We have previously had reports that the Mexicans are here and... this is the first time we have confirmed that indeed, the Mexicans are already here,” police Senior Superintendent Bartolome Tobias said.

Tobias did not say how they knew the Sinaloa cartel was involved

He said a Filipino-American named Gary Torres and two Mexicans known as “Jaime” and “Joey” were being sought

in connection with the seized drugs.

President Benigno Aquino’s spokesman Herminio Coloma said the government would act promptly against the cartel.

“Of course, the government will seek to arrest these lawbreakers, stop their crimes, and protect the citizenry,” he told reporters.

It was not clear why the Mexican cartel would have entered the Philippines.

The national police chief, Director-General Alan Purisima, said the country’s strategic location and the difficulty of guarding the archipelago’s maritime borders made it easy to infiltrate.

“It is part of our investigation how the cartel was able to penetrate our country. We are still in the process of determining what is the history behind the arrest of these people,” Purisima said.

He said Chinese drug syndicates may be colluding with the Mexicans.

A PDEA spokesman, Derrick Carreon, said the entry of the Mexican cartel was based on “intelligence reports” but did not elaborate.

The Mexican embassy declined to comment.

The Sinaloa cartel is reputed to be the largest source of illegal drugs to the United States.

Its main leader, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, escaped from a Mexican prison in 2001. He is now America’s most wanted drug trafficker, as well as being considered by Forbes as the most powerful criminal on the planet.

More than 77,000 people have been killed in Mexico in connection with organized crime since then-president Felipe Calderon launched a nationwide war against the cartels after taking office in 2006.



Bea Rose Santiago responds to bashers

MANILA - Newly-crowned Ms. International 2013 Bea Rose Santiago was warmly welcomed when she came back to the Philippines last, December 21. Among the people who congratulated her were Pinay International beauties Ms. Universe 2013 third runner up Ara Arida, Ms. International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman, and the very first Ms. International and Chairperson of Binibining Pilipinas Charities, Stella Marquez-Araneta.

Bea did her rounds of TV appearances in the morning, followed by a courtesy call in the afternoon at the Malacanang palace where she took another selfie with President Noynoy Aquino. Many dubbed this as Bea’s lucky charm because she took a selfie with the President at the Asean Summit in Tokyo, Japan before the coronation.

Warm welcome aside, Bea has been plagued with the allegations that hers was a sympathy win in the wake of super typhoon Yolanda that hit the country. “They’re saying sympathy win daw and stuff and I talked to the chaperone and she said No, you know what, you have ten points higher than the next one in line. It’s not just sympathy vote.”

Bea Rose added, “The judges were coming up to me and saying you were our favorite even before the speech.”

Bea also stressed that her message to the world that night came from the heart. “I can’t make everyone believe me of course. My tears when I saw and interviewed some of the Yolanda victims. It’s not fake.”

AQUINO STILL POPULAR

MANILA, Philippines— “In lieu of the usual naysayers trying to promote the impression that there is a general dissatisfaction among the Filipino people, the survey shows that an



overwhelming majority in Balance Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, as well as a healthy majority in Metro Manila, are solidly with the President,” said Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma.

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Big-hearted Pinoys help out

The number of fundraising for victims was mind-boggling



TOP LEFT, Britney Waito performed at the Jenifer Camacho fundraiser concert. TOP LEFT, Amsky Chan also performed at the Jenifer Camacho concert. PHOTOS BY BONG MOLANO
TOP RIGHT, Pianist Carissa Balagot accompanies Vernon Mostacho of the Philippine Choral Society of Mississauga.

ABOVE, Priest and Deacons sung during the concert to raise funds for the victims of typhoon Yolanda; held at Our Lady of Assumption Church on Dec. 7, 2013. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

It was not easy keeping track of all the fundraising events, parties and concerts that went on and will still be happening after this issue comes out.

Last December 7, Cristo Rei of Mississauga held a concert at the church featuring the Philippine Choral Society of Mississauga, the Children's choir, Lilac Cana and Roy Tugbang. It was a wonderful concert attended by Ambassador Leslie Gatan. He then pointed out how much has been collected so far.

That same night, at the Our Lady of Assumption church, another concert called Rise Up 2 was also held. Priests and deacons performed for the capacity crowd. It was quite funny to listen to priests as they belt out tunes like "To all the girls I've loved before," popularized by Spanish crooner, and known playboy Julio Iglesias.

Some events split the proceeds with the typhoon victims. Camilneos Association of Canada president

Harold Guarin said that a portion of the proceeds of the annual celebration will be given to the victims of typhoon Yolanda. FCT president Linda Javier said that the net proceeds of the Paraluman pageants and Induction night will be donated to the victims.

And there are more fundraising events happening as we speak.

For other events, go to LMConfidential.com
MORE PHOTOS AT
filipinogoodlife.com



Lakambing ng Turismo beauties pose with Filcan boxer Marc Pagcailangan.

LET IT SHINE CONCERT

Juvy Obra



Super typhoon Yolanda was the most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines on November 8, 2013. Yolanda barreled through most of the Visayas, leaving a trail of wide devastation and is considered the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record killing about 6,000 people.

Since then, various Filipino groups have been holding fundraising events such as concerts to help our storm-hit country.

Our very own diva Jenifer Camacho conceptualized a concert entitled "Let It Shine". Together with the Prestige Management Marianne Japin and Jun Agtarap, Prestige Bar and Restaurant was set for the concert's venue last December 13, 2013. With the assistance of Juvy Obra who initiated the coordination of the event through the social media, the ball started rolling for "Let It Shine". Kim Hazen of Mahistrado did what he does best by doing the choreography of the show while Candace David of Pinta made a perfect job in making our diva stunningly beautiful as always with her makeup artistry.

During this event, Mr. Aspi Wadiwalla did the honors of giving Jenifer Camacho a Citation award from the House of Commons "Chambre Des Communes" for her participation in the relief efforts in the Philippines.

The event was a big success with a big turn out of supporters and friends who in one way or the other will definitely impact the life of an individual back home with their donations.

"Let It Shine" went live stream over the web through the courtesy of Filtown Management.

"Let It Shine" involved the participation of various young talents and beauties who are very much active in the Filipino community within the GTA. Farrah and Roy Ramnarine did a great job in leading the show as the dynamic duo emcees of the night.

The following individuals unselfishly shared their talent for the show. KUYA'S FAULT BAND (Jackie, Roloves & Raymond Mangante), Kiana Craig, Britney Waito, Josephine Paul Mancini. PRESTIGE MOVERZ, Chadwick Sabado, Kayla Obra, Marco Raqueno, Amsky Chan, Ace Antonio, Honeylen Tan, Sugar and Spice (Trish Gem del Pilar and Merceyl Cauton), Lovely Dana, Rizza Santos, Gem del Pilar, Joy Pulgar, Kim Estolas and Modelong Pinoy Ralph San Felix - Prestige Mr. Body Beautiful 2013.

The proceeds of this event went to World Vision, one of the largest relief and development organizations in the world.

Once again, we've seen how the Filipino community as a whole come together in times of distress which would have proven the saying that "Together We Stand, Divided We Fall."

Kol Hope donates to Typhoon victims



Kol Hope president, Melinda Rustia, handed out a cheque to World Vision's Executive Vice-President, Michael Messenger for the benefit of the victims of super typhoon Yolanda; it was held at the Philippine Consulate Toronto on December 6, 2013; also in the picture are Consul General Junever Mahilum-West, Vice-Principal of Malvern Collegiate Institute Fermer Santos, Marita Lee of Atin Ito Newspaper, Rory Elefano and Zena Flores of Kol Hope; and Melinda Manlapaz of Bank of Nova Scotia. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

POPE
continued from page 1

at a Christmas Mass at the Sto. Niño Church here yesterday. In his homily during the Christmas Mass, Papal Nuncio Pinto said the Pope condoles with the people of Leyte at this time of devastation and sends his prayers to the victims. Archbishop Pinto also gave assurances that the Church will not forget the faithful, especially at this time of crisis.

“Pope Francis brings his message of condolences and greetings of joy and peace. The Church will not forget you, we are with you in this time of crisis,” Archbishop Pinto said. Palo Archbishop John F. Du, Msgr. Alex Opiniano, Sto. Niño Parish priest Msgr. Alex Opiniano, Sacred Heart Parish priest Rev. Fr. Edgar Macalalag, and some priests from the Archdiocese of Palo co-concelebrated the Christmas High Mass, despite the bad weather condition in Leyte. It was attended by hundreds of Catholic faithful who packed the damaged church here.

Archbishop Pinto also toured the devastated city and Palo, Leyte, when he arrived yesterday before celebrating the midnight mass at the Palo Cathedral. Meanwhile, employees and barangay officials of the city government of Tacloban celebrated their Christmas after receiving their productivity bonus enhancement incentive following the passage by the city council of its supplemental budget during a special session last December 19. City Councilor Jerry S. Uy, chairman of the Committee on Laws, Rules and Privileges, said the city council approved the release of around P12 million for the Christmas incentives of its employees. Uy said that while the amount was minimal compared to the previous years, still it was a great help



HOME: After over a year in Golan Heights, hundreds of Filipino peacekeepers are home.

to the city hall employees who were victims of the Yolanda. The amount can also be spent for re-building their devastated houses, Uy said.

Syrian kidnappers will miss Filipino captives

MANILA, Philippines – It was a back-to-back kidnapping early this year that worried the entire country. Syrian rebels abducted 21 Filipino peacekeepers in Golan Heights in March and another 4 from the same team in May. They were released after several days.

Because they are members of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), their abduction prompted international concern. But while their families were crying here, the Filipino soldiers were making friends with the rebels. They were showing each other family’s photos. They were served fried chicken upon request because they didn’t quite like the taste of Syrian bread.

It’s an extraordinary tale of abduction. When they were released, the rebels told them they would be missed.

Against the backdrop of the worsening violence in Syria, contingent commander Lieutenant Colonel Nolie Anquillano feared then that he’d lose his men. “I was worried that we might go home incomplete. Something might happen to them. But then we were very lucky that we all came home,” Anquillano said.

After 13 months, all 332 of them are home. Aquillano and his men on Wednesday, December 18, received their United Nations Service medals. They arrived in the Philippines in two batches early December.

The Philippines earlier threatened to stop sending troops to Golan Heights but later reconsidered after the UN met demands to secure the troops. The new batch of 336 Filipino peacekeepers left for Golan Heights in November.

Anquillano is confident the abductions will not happen again. They controlled

and monitored troop movements and strengthened the camps. “Our mitigating measures are very much effective,” he said.

On March 3, Major Dominador Valerio and his men were deployed to the village of Al Jamla to rescue 2 members of the Observation Group Golan, a group that monitors the agreement between Syria and Israel.

Little did they know that 3 days later, they would meet the same fate when they were in the same area to get their food supply. They were held for 3 days, from March 6 to March 9.

The peacekeepers were not carrying firearms because they know that it is what attracts the rebels.

The Filipino soldiers eventually charmed their captors. “I was able to prove that Filipinos easily make friends and charm other people. We got their sympathy. When we left, they were sad,” he said. “They did not hurt us. They were feeding us,” he added.

Jardin remembers how they were properly fed by the rebels. They were first offered Syrian bread, olives, and other native food. “They treated us well. We were able to request food from them,” he said.

They asked for every Filipino’s favorite combo – fried chicken and rice.

Like the first batch, they shared stories about their families. “We showed them pictures of our families, which we always carried. I think our dedication to our families touched them. Among the reasons they became rebels, in the first place, was the death of their loved ones,” he said.

It’s an experience they will never forget. Violence in Syria continues but Anquillano, Valerio, and Jardin said they speak for the rest of the abducted soldiers: they’re all willing to go back.

Pacaliwangan and Hernandez boxing bout ends in Split Draw

MISSISSAUGA, Canada - In his seventh fight, Marc “Gwapo” Pagcaliwangan has now felt what it’s like to fight a Mexican Warrior who comes to you at full force and gets stronger with each round. Octavio “Coco” Hernandez, who is a crafty southpaw, has left Pagcaliwangan a lesson to think about in training and in the ring for many months to come. When you go on a winning streak like Pagcaliwangan has, it will only be a matter of time when you meet your match. Hernandez was Pagcaliwangan’s kryptonite, this was a fight that the young Filipino needed to test his heart, chin and durability.

Marc started out with crisp jabs and executed his power and speed early landing single jabs on Hernandez. In the middle rounds, the Mexican Warrior just gets better with neutralizing Pagcaliwangan’s pressure.

The fight went back and forth as both boxers traded bombs, this fight reached its climax in the latter rounds. The fans in



Pagcaliwangan (LEFT) avoids a punch by Hernandez. PHOTO BY RAYMOND SANTOS

attendance were charged and cheered on in appreciation for heart and determination showed by both fighters.

The toll on this fight started to show on both Pagcaliwagan and Hernandez, both of their footwork slowed right down,

The judges final verdict was a split draw for Marc “Gwapo” Pagcaliwangan and Octavio “Coco” Hernandez. The decision was a fair one. Don MacDonald from United Boxing Promotions commented that Marc Pagcaliwangan showed us “True Heart”, this writer certainly agrees.

Marc Pagcaliwangan showed us that he belongs in this sport, he was born with a durable chin and “True Heart” which will take him a long way in the ring.

The Marc “Gwapo” Pagcaliwangan vs. Octavio “Coco” Hernandez fight was beautifully matched up by United Boxing Promotions. The Filipino presence and overwhelming fan support for Marc Pagcaliwangan was clearly visible at the Hershey Centre.

During the immediate post fight interview, Marc “Gwapo” Pagcaliwangan announced that he will be donating a portion of his purse towards the Typhoon Haiyan victims in the Philippines.

PCCF *Appreciation* Night



FIRST, PCCF beauty pageant contestants are presented to the audience. SECOND, Officers pose for a photo. THIRD, Katrina Rafael enjoys the evening with her mom Rebecca. FOURTH, Senator Jun Enverga (THIRD FROM LEFT) pose with well-wishers. It was also his birthday. **MORE PHOTOS AT filipinogoodlife.com**

Camilineos Association of Canada

MORE PHOTOS AT filipinogoodlife.com



Camilineos Association of Canada president Harold Guarin greets a senior upon arrival.



Mayweather To Give Up WBC Belt To Avoid Pacman

World Boxing Council welterweight champion Floyd Mayweather Jr. said recently he will voluntarily hand over his title to Manny “Pacman” Pacquiao if that is what it takes to avoid facing the Filipino boxing icon inside the ring.

“He can have the belt. A belt doesn’t make me,” Mayweather said in a recent media interview.

The pound-for-pound king said he would rather vacate his WBC title than fight the Filipino.

This came after the WBC bosses declared Pacquiao as the No. 1 contender for the division, making him the mandatory challenger for the title now being held by the undefeated American.

But Mayweather refused to cooperate and said he would rather give up his belt than fight Pacquiao, saying the Filipino boxer is not worthy of the shot at his crown.

He questioned the WBC decision to put Pacquiao ahead of American Timothy Bradley and Mexican boxing superstar Juan Manuel Marquez, who both won against the Filipino boxer.

Bradley won by a decision while Marquez knocked Pacquiao out in the sixth round.

“Now, all of a sudden, he’s the mandatory for my title?” Mayweather asked.

He pointed out the disparity of their fight records. The American said that while he is undefeated in 45 fights, Pacquiao had lost two of his last three bouts.

Mayweather said Pacquiao is “finished goods” after he got knocked out by Marquez, hence, does not deserve to be given the opportunity to grab the title from him.

The fight between Mayweather and Pacquiao has long been a dream match among boxing aficionados worldwide. Pundits believe Pacquiao has the skills and power to bring down Mayweather and hand him his first defeat due to his speed.

They said the two must settle once and for all the long-running debate on who is the better boxer between them.

The Filipino boxer recently won a lop-sided victory over former champion Mexican-American Brandon Rios and is set to return to the boxing ring on April 12 next year.

Pacquiao will face either Rios again, his Mexican nemesis Juan Manuel Marquez for the fifth time or his good friend Russian boxing champion Ruslan Provodnikov.

Among the three, only Bradley was bold enough to admit he wanted to fight Pacquiao again in order to prove that his last victory against him was no fluke.

Marquez, however, was not keen on facing Pacquiao again, saying he would rather do a rematch with Bradley, who earlier beat him.

Provodnikov said he would rather not fight Pacquiao because they are friends.

Kris Aquino And Vic Sotto Are The Most Trusted Celebrity Endorsers

Kris Aquino and Vic Sotto topped the list of the most trusted celebrity endorsers, according to Stratpolls.com.

The survey was conducted from May 20 to 30 this year in different parts of the country such as the National Capital Region (NCR), Balance Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. There are 500 respondents 18 years old and above.

According to the polls, the top 10 celebrity endorsers are: (1) Kris Aquino, (2) Vic Sotto, (3) Anne Curtis, (4-5) Sarah Geronimo, (4-5) Coco Martin, (6) Judy Ann Santos, (7) John Lloyd Cruz, (8-9) Kim Chiu, (8-9) Richard Yap and (10) Daniel Padilla.



Dr. Josephine and Solon Guzman Christmas Party

MORE PHOTOS AT filipinogoodlife.com



The loving couple Dr. Solon and Josephine Guzman pose at their Christmas party.



Dr. Solon Guzman is happy to welcome his cousin Domingo Cayosa and his wife Maria Milagros.



Marian is FHM Thailand’s January 2014 cover

Marian Rivera’s beauty has captivated not only her Pinoy fans but even those that have seen her GMA shows aired in the South East Asian region. It doesn’t stop there, however.

The Kapuso Primetime Queen just landed the cover of the popular men’s magazine FHM in Thailand, a feat she announced on her Instagram account (therealmarian) on Christmas Day.

“Whoaaw! I’m at the cover of Thailand’s FHM January 2014 issue. I

am so honored,” Marian’s accompanying caption for the said cover photo read.

FHM Thailand’s January 2014 issue features the cover photo used on FHM Philippines’ January 2013 issue. Taken by ace photographer Mark Nicdao, it shows Marian wearing a red and black bikini top.

Marian is the reigning Sexiest Woman in the Philippines, a title she regained in July this year on the heels of her first FHM Philippines cover. She first snagged the Sexiest title in 2008.

Last month, the upcoming “Carmela” actress also shared with her followers that she was featured on the cover of Vietnam’s Movie World magazine.

“Vietnam thank you for your love,” she wrote as caption.

Her fans will be seeing more of her next year, being that Marian is also Ginebra San Miguel’s 2014 calendar girl.

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Filipino Girl in Japan gives back



TOKYO, Japan – She came from a poor family in Tarlac who never got the chance of going to school. Now she’s running a 135-branch Karaoke and internet cafe chain business in Japan and married to a wealthy Japanese.

Abby Watabe’s life is a classic rags-to-riches story and a modern fairy tale.

Her mother was a laundry woman and her father worked as a carpenter in Tarlac. She was the youngest among seven children and poverty deprived her of a decent education.

Nevertheless, her dream of having a shot at a better life never diminished and was made possible after she worked as an entertainer in Japan, to earn money for her family.

Around 2005, she met a Japanese man in an elevator, who later told her he owned buildings and some businesses. Initially doubting his intentions, and thinking he only wanted to impress her, Abby at first didn’t believe the man.

She didn’t know he was really a rich

man until they were married.

“I married him without knowing he had money,” Abby recalls.

Shortly after they were married, Abby’s husband asked her to quit her job at the night club — the same place where he used to visit her everyday.

He convinced her to enroll in a Japanese school, with her husband paying for everything. In time, she learned many things from her husband, such as managing their businesses and helping other people.

“My husband did not just love me, he loved the whole Philippines,” Abby said.

Her husband wanted every Filipino to be treated with respect and dignity by everyone, so he persuaded her to work in their business with sincerity, dedication and hard work.

Out of love for her and her compatriots, around 300 to 400 Filipinos would be invited during each of their business openings, with all of them treated well to an all-you-can eat buffets.

Abby always believed in the goodness of Filipinos, despite some who are notorious for being lazy, easy-go-lucky and tardy; bad traits that Japanese society abhors.

But she would often tell Japanese acquaintances that Filipinos only need the opportunity to prove themselves, and show the better side of them. Because of this, Filipinos are treated better by her staff.

“Because they know I am Filipino,” she related.

When the news of typhoon Yolanda’s massive destruction reached them, her husband was quick to give all-out support to victims and survivors. They placed donation boxes in the 135 branches of their businesses and prompted her to send relief goods and build classrooms in Tarlac, her hometown.

“He said nobody must look down on other people because they would not be poor forever,” Abby said. “Give other people a chance. Whatever your situation in life, be good to other people because you don’t know that the person in front of you might become richer than you.”

Despite living in luxury and finally achieving her dreams, Abby never stopped. She continued exploring other fields and improving herself by studying personality development, etiquette, and learning every job in her business so she would know what her every employee feels.

She mused: “I thought happiness was material things – Hermes bags, but once you have them, happiness is temporary. My joy is different when I am able to help others.”

Willie Revillame Wants to ‘Make Peace’ with ABS



MANILA, Philippines – Controversial TV Host Willie Revillame expressed his willingness to ‘bury the hatchet’ with his former home network, ABS-CBN during the launching of his latest Christmas album.

“Puwede naman akong magpakumbaba or humingi ng tawad sa kung sinong nasaktan. Lagi dapat sa puso natin may forgiveness,” Revillame said at the launch of his latest collaboration with songwriter and friend, Lito Camo. (I can always be humble and ask forgiveness from those I hurt. There must always be forgiveness in our hearts.)

“Kung nagkamali ako, pasensya na, ganun talaga. Masyado lang akong nag-concentrate sa programa noon. Maliit na bagay naaapektuhan ka kasi sobrang mahal mo ang programa,” he added. (If I was wrong, I’m sorry. I was just too concentrated on my program then. Small issues tend to affect me because I really love that show.)

Revillame conceded he no longer harbors ill-feeling towards anyone and had long buried the past misunderstanding he had before with the studio.

In fact, according to the host, he rented his plane to ABS-CBN’s Sagip Kapamilya during its Yolanda relief effort as an initial sign of smoking the peace pipe with the network that gave him big career opportunities.

He is also willing to go back and do another noontime show with ABS-CBN, should be given a chance.

“Kung babalik ako sa ABS-CBN, ‘Wowowee’ pa rin ang gusto kong gawin kasi ‘yang ‘Wowowee’ na yan, iyan ang nagbigay sa akin ng lahat ng ito,” said the former Channel 2 host. (If I’m going to return to ABS-CBN, I still would love to do ‘Wowowee’, because it was ‘Wowowee’ who gave all these things.)

In 2010, Willie left ABS-CBN for TV5 network after a much-publicized controversy ending his popular program ‘Wowowee’s contract with the network.

His succeeding shows in TV5 suffered a rough sailing throughout the years as it figured in a number of similar controversies.

Among them was an allegation of child abuse after Revillame repeatedly made a 6-year old contestant perform a provocative dance, in front of the audience during his ‘Willing Willie’ program.

As a result, Revillame was forced to temporarily take the show off-the-air after advertisers pulled out from the program.

The show came back as ‘Willtime Bigtime’ one month later, however it also suffered another revamp when it was transferred to a noontime slot last January, and reformatted as ‘Wowowillie’.

Seven months later, ‘Wowowillie’ permanently went off the air, after its final episode last October 12, and commencing Revillame’s supposed retirement from television.

Filipino Seamen may be Blacklisted

MANILA, Philippines—The possibility of Filipino seafarers being blacklisted in European ships because of their unsatisfactory compliance with international standards has prompted a senator to push for a bill that will centralize all training and certification requirements under the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina).

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Senate Bill No. 2043 will address the concerns expressed by the European Union (EU), particularly auditors from



the European Maritime Safety Agency (Emsa) who said they were “frustrated” with the training and certification system of Filipino seafarers.

“The swift passage of this [bill] will certainly translate to a significant boost in our country’s chances at positively influencing the outcome of the report,” he added.

Emsa welcomes inputs from the Philippine government until the end of next month before it publishes its audit report, Drilon said.



December birthday celebrants got together at Qssis Banquet Hall on Dec. 13, 2013 PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS



Use pork to buy warships

MANILA, Philippines - Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio called on the government to use this year's pork barrel to buy warships to help deter China's intrusion into Philippine-claimed territories in the West Philippine Sea.

"We have to admit that as a nation we have neglected to maintain a credible defense force, particularly our naval assets, despite us being an archipelagic country with an extensive coastline and a vast exclusive economic zone," he said. "We are paying dearly for this neglect - we lost Mischief Reef in 1995, Scarborough Shoal in 2012 and more likely Ayungin Shoal in the near future. "To maintain a sovereign and independent nation, to maintain our territorial integrity, to avoid further humiliation, to maintain our self respect

as a nation, we must build and maintain a credible defense force.

"There is simply no alternative to this. No nation can remain independent and sovereign for long without a credible defense force. We have the money but we don't have the political will."

Carpio said the government was able to buy the BRP Ramon Alcaraz for P650 million, had it refurbished and equipped with ship-to-ship missiles. "If we use the proposed P27-billion pork barrel fund for 2014 to acquire warships, the Philippines can buy 41 BRP Ramon Alcaraz types of warships," he said. "41 harpoon firing ships are more than enough to keep intruders out of our maritime zones in the West Philippine sea - that is, if we have the political will."

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Eugene Domingo's Wish List for 2014

Wonder how Eugene Domingo makes most – if not all - her dreams come true year in and year out?

Well, she has an annual to-do list which she painstakingly prepares, stashes away in a box and sets aside, year in and year out.



The Best Actress awardee in the most recent Tokyo Film Festival (for Jun Lana's "Barber's Tales") shares that it always works for her. Proof: she just checked out her list and found out that all her wishes have come true!

The star of the Metro Manila Filmfest entry "Kimmy Dora, ang Kiyemeng Prequel" is mum on whether good luck or something magical did it for her. But chances are, it's the power of positive thinking that did the trick.

Eugene lived in a suitcase as she represented the Philippines as star of the acclaimed indie film "Barber's Tales."

She also hosts the GMA 7 game show "Celebrity Bluff." The job excites her no end because, even if she's been doing it for years, Eugene still thinks it an adventure to look forward to.

This year, the actress-host bids farewell to a character that has defined her career: the funny, lovable Kimmy and Dora. She (with director-friend Chris Martinez) have decided it's about time to put the popular sisters to rest.

"I have mixed emotions (about saying good-bye to Kimmy and Dora)," Eugene said. "I'm so thankful to the three Kimmy Dora films because they delivered more than what I expected."

No wonder Eugene will miss Kimmy and Dora as if they're her own real-life sisters.

Getting sentimental

You can't blame Eugene for getting sentimental. Kimmy Dora established Eugene as the box-office star to beat when it premiered in 2009.

Now, Eugene wants Kimmy and Dora to be regarded as movie icons in the tradition of the well-loved Darna, Dyesebel and Captain Barbell.

Eugene knows times and tastes change, and Kimmy Dora today will be a far cry from the same character 10 years from now. But she is sure the twin sisters will always be timely because they will fit any kind of story, even years down the road.

But all good things must come to an end Eugene opted to retire Kimmy and Dora because she feels the three installments have exhausted everything there is to explore in the story.

In 2014, Eugene plans to stop making films for the first quarter and focus on attending film festivals abroad to push "Barber's Tales."

In February, she is going to France for a retrospective of Filipino films which includes "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank (she plays the title role)" and "Here Comes the Bride."

She will continue hosting "Celebrity Bluff."

For sure, Eugene already knows what to write on her wish list for 2014.

Based on her track record, Eugene will end up seeing all her wishes come true again.

Fans defend Kathryn Bernardo for celebrating Christmas

Kathryn Bernardo recently shared a photo of her and her family in their house in front of a big Christmas tree. She greeted her fans "Merry Christmas," but received some bashing from netizens.



Kathryn is a member of Iglesia Ni Cristo. And since they view Christmas as a pagan tradition and believes it to be a myth, they don't celebrate the said holiday.

Some netizens said Kathryn obviously knew celebrating Christmas and even putting up a Christmas tree is against her religion's tradition and yet, she still decided to post a picture showing she violated that said doctrine.

In her Instagram post, Kathryn said they decided to celebrate Christmas because of a new member of their family, who they all consider to be a blessing. "We decided to celebrate Christmas because of Ihexine. She's the best present we have ever received. happy holidays everyone!"

Fans of the teen queen defended the actress, however, and said people are quick to judge someone who just wants to enjoy the holidays with her family. In the two years that they have been together, actor

Zanjoe and Bea Forever

Zanjoe Marudo said his relationship with Bea Alonzo has become deeper and more mature. It came to a point where both of them try to be as patient and



understanding as possible because they don't want to fight or argue with each other. With him and Bea, there were no plans to last long and how to be stronger in the relationship. They simply lived one

day at a time. Throughout the years, they became more understanding with each other.

They simply understood that maybe that person is busy. The actor said it's like they have known each other so long. This year, a number of showbiz couples broke up (Luis Manzano-Jennylyn Mercado, Angel Locsin-Phil Younghusband and Rhian Ramos-KC Montero, among others). These breakups caused the public to look closely at Zanjoe's and Bea's relationship that there were rumors they cooled off when they weren't seen together for two months. But the actress had been quick to point out that they were just busy with their careers, and that's why they haven't been spending that much time together. She added that their working schedules made them miss each other so much more. She also called Zanjoe the "real thing."

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Scenes in the City



LEFT, Amy Santos celebrated her 50th birthday on Nov. 16, 2013 at the Royal Canadian Legion (Yonge and Sheppard); shown in the pictures are her candle bearers which are composed of her family and close friends. RIGHT, Roses and candle bearers of Amy Santos' 50th Birthday celebration on Nov. 16, 2013 at the Royal Canadian Legion (Yonge and Sheppard). MIDDLE, Bontoc Ato Christmas Party held at North York Civic Centre on Dec. 14, 2013 RIGHT, Newly elected Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre, Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Liberal Party), attended the Fund Raising dinner at the Filipino Centre Toronto on December 6, 2013. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

SC OKs tax deduction Senior Citizen's Law

MANILA -- The Supreme Court upheld the tax deduction scheme for private establishments under the Senior Citizens' Law.

In a decision dated December 3, the full court dismissed the petitions filed by Manila Memorial Park Inc. and La Funeraria Paz-Sucat against section 4 of the law and the subsequent implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

The high court "found that the 20% discount as well as the tax deduction scheme is a valid exercise of the police power of the state."

The funeral parlors claimed the provision and the IRR are contrary to Article III, Section 9 of the Constitution, which provides that: "[p]rivate property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation."

They said the private sector shoulders 65% of the discount, since the government carries only 35%.

In response, however, the departments of Social Welfare and Finance said the petitioners failed to prove that the tax deduction scheme resulted to losses in their businesses.

The high court agreed, and noted: "The justification for the senior citizen discount law is the plenary powers of congress. The legislative power to regulate business establishment is broad and covers a wide array of areas and subjects. It is well within congress' legislative powers to regulate the profits or income/ gross sales of industries and enterprises, even those without franchises. For what are franchises but mere legislative enactments?"

DND to get drones

MANILA - The Department of National Defense (DND) will acquire drones and other surveillance equipment to boost the Philippine Marines' security and search and rescue operations.

The items form part of the Marine Forces Imagery and Targeting Support System Acquisition Project worth P684 million, according to a bid bulletin released by the agency.

The project involves the acquisition of six sets of drones or small unmanned aerial vehicle sub-systems, nine sets of target acquisition device sub-systems, 12 kits of tactical sensor integration

sub-systems, and an integrated logistics support package. The equipment will be used by the three Marine brigades in Sulu, Central Mindanao and Palawan.

Navy spokesman Lt. Commander Gregory Fabic said on Friday drones can be used for surveillance and for search and rescue efforts.

"It will serve as our eye in the sky without the risk of personnel casualty," Fabic said. "Since a drone has a camera, the area to be covered by reconnaissance operations will be wider. It can also help us detect missing persons."

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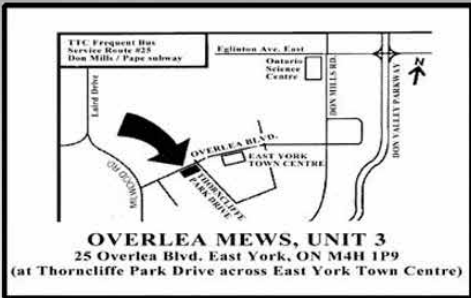


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Julie Anne San Jose to stay the same + other stories



“Hindi ako magbabago para sa ibang tao”

The year 2013 has been good for Julie Anne San Jose. She had her first major solo concert last May dubbed It’s My Time. She also won new as female recording artist at the 5th PMPC Star Awards for Music. Her self-titled album has reached 8x Platinum status and she starred in the GMA Tele-babad series, Kahit Nasaan Ka Man.

Julie Anne’s single, “Pagbangon”, which is dedicated to the victims of Typhoon Yolanda reached the number 1 spot in iTunes. Now, Julie Anne lends her voice again for the song, “Bangon Kaibigan”, a network-wide campaign for the benefit of Yolanda survivors.

On being part of the campaign, Julie Anne said, “Sobrang honored po ako na kabilang ako sa campaign na ito, lalo na at alam ko na makakatulong po talaga ito sa mga biktima.”

How could people help Yolanda victims in their own small way?

Julie Anne replied, “Ang mga tao kasi, may kanya-kanyang ways sila. Alam na-man na siguro nila kung paano tumulong kahit sa simpleng bagay man lang, like for example, magdo-donate ka para sa GMA Kapuso Foundation.”

She added, “Pwede rin silang mag-ipon ng money para makatulong sila. ‘Yung limang piso, kung lahat tayo magdodonate nun, marami na ‘yun at malaking tulong na ‘yun para sa kanila.”

What is she looking forward to in 2014?

“I think next year, marami pa talaga akong mae-encounter. I’m really looking

forward para sa mga changes. Open naman ako sa lahat ng possibilities na mangyayari as long as makakabuti pa rin sa akin. If it’s the Lord’s will, it will happen,” she stated.

As for her New Year’s resolution, Julie said, “Siguro, hindi ako magbabago para sa ibang tao. It’s more of pagbabago para sa sarili ko.”

Julie Anne San Jose currently appears in Sunday All Stars and Pepito Manaloto. Her single, “Pagbangon” and “Bangon Kaibigan” may be downloaded via iTunes and OP-M2GO. Proceeds will go to Yolanda relief efforts of GMA Kapuso Foundation.

Heart chooses Chiz forever

Despite her parents’ strong disapproval of her relationship with Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero, Heart Evangelista said she has decided that she wants to be with the politician for the rest of her life.

The 28-year-old actress confessed that even though she’s not ready to marry just yet, she’s certain that Escudero would be the man waiting for her down that aisle one day.

“I can see marriage down the road, just not tomorrow. [But] I have already made a decision to be with Chiz for the rest of my life,” she said.

Whether Evangelista’s parents would be at the wedding still remains a question. Evangelista said that her relationship with Escudero has helped her mature and become a better person.



Jennifer Lawrence: It Should Be ‘Illegal To Call Someone Fat’

Jennifer Lawrence is not a fan of weight-shaming.

In fact, the Oscar-winning actress wants calling people fat outlawed!

“It should be illegal,” the “American Hustle” star told Barbara Walters in an interview for upcoming Walters’ “10 Most Fascinating People of 2013” TV special.



“I just think it should be illegal to call somebody fat on TV.”

The 23-year-old actress, who stars as Katniss Everdeen in “The Hunger Games” movies, has received flak in the past for her frame and says the media should be more careful with their words.

“The media needs to take responsibility for the effect that it has on our younger generation, on these girls who are watching these television shows, and picking up how to talk and how to be cool,” she said.

Adding, “I mean, if we’re regulating cigarettes and sex and cuss words, because of the effect they have on our younger generation, why aren’t we regulating things like calling people fat?”

Yasmien Kurdi plays “very beautiful” role in Rhodora X

Kapuso actress Yasmien Kurdi was mum about her role in the upcoming primetime series Rhodora X when we caught up with her during the show’s official photo shoot.

The Starstruck 1 alumna did, however, share a little bit of what viewers can expect from the series that will also feature her Starstruck batchmates Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras.

This is also a far cry from the traditional teleseryes shown on TV nowadays.

“Hindi siya ‘yung typical Filipino drama na may mayaman tapos aapihin ang mahirap, o kaya ‘yung helper sa house na mai-in love sa amo niya, ‘yung ganoon.



Walang ganoon na istorya dito. ‘Yung story na ‘to is more on science, psychology. It’s a privilege na napasama ako dito sa show na ito dahil sa kagandahan ng story.”

Like all MarkJen fans, Yasmien is looking forward to seeing her friends being paired up again after a long time. She is also excited to work with them.

She is not part of a love team in Rhodora X but she has a love interest in Mark Anthony Fernandez.

Abangan si Yasmien Kurdi sa Rhodora X, coming this 2014 on GMA Telebabad. For the latest news on Yasmien and other Kapuso stars, visit GMANetwork.com.

Shaina Magdayao Says Piolo Pascual Is Not Courting Her

Although both of them are usually seen in the company of each other, Shaina Magdayao insisted there’s nothing going on between her and actor Piolo Pascual.

If there is, it shouldn’t be denied because Piolo is a decent person. Besides, Shaina said she won’t enter into a relationship wherein she should hide something from the public.

Piolo’s last relationship was with actress KC Concepcion. Their breakup raised a lot of speculations regarding Piolo’s gender since KC left a very cryptic message as to why they broke up.

The actress said she doesn’t want to assume anything when it comes to the actor. She is just thankful that he has been a good friend to her these past months.

And if ever Piolo decides to court Shaina, she would have to answer that in the future, the actress maintained.



Joel Torre surprised at OTJ’s failure to get in oscar race

For the first time, the well-respected actor spoke up about OTJ’s failure to be the country’s bet for the Foreign Language Film category at the 86th Academy Awards when a lot of fans and critics have already praised the movie. “Ako? I’m just surprised not disappointed. I haven’t seen Transit, which I want to. But it [OTJ] was the popular choice, [but then] there’s a jury



Scenes in the City



LEFT, Senator Tobias “Jun” Enverga with action Honda General Manager (Mr. Paeng Nebres); and Atty. and Mrs. Florendo Llameg at the PCCT Christmas Party on Nov. 23, 2013. MIDDLE, Manny Yanga (6th FROM LEFT) headed the team that built the CONCERT STAGE during the fund raising concert for the victims of super typhoon Yolanda; the concert was held at Our Lady of Assumption Church on Dec. 7, 2013. Manny’s effort was much appreciated by Father Ben, Romy, and Noel; also in the picture are Senator and Mrs. Enverga, and Pons, etc. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

THIRD, Hermie and Mila Garcia’s daughter and grandchildren get a free GMA7 bag courtesy of GMA’s representative Rosemer Enverga.

choice. It's their judgment call," the Honesto star said.

"I'm just surprised that it didn't get the nod which doesn't follow dahil ang mahal mahal for you to sell your film abroad just to push it for a nomination, but this one [OTJ] there was already an American company that picked it up. It could've been a wiser choice, financially," he reiterated, adding that, "If there's a fighting chance, this could be it."

At the end of the day though, despite OTJ being a popular choice, Joel said everything still boiled down to Film Academy of the Philippines' vote which happened to be for the Jasmine Curtis-Smith-starrer flick, Transit.

future. "I really don't mind who I work with basta meron po akong show, okay naman ako kung sino makasamaa ko pero one of my biggest dreams is to work with Anne Curtis because she's a really nice person, sobrang bubbly, sobrang ganda so I really want to work with her," she said in an exclusive interview with Push.com.ph.

She added that she wants to pursue a career path like Anne. "I want to be something like her, I want to be able to dance, to sing, even I don't have a great voice. I want to be able to be all around."



Rhian Ramos And KC Montero Break Up

It seems only yesterday that the two of them were talking about how much fun they are having when they are together but now, celebrities KC Montero and Rhian Ramos confirmed they have already ended their relationship. The two apparently already ended their relationship even before Typhoon Yolanda struck the country on November 8. Rhian admitted her relationship to the DJ-TV host shortly after she came back to showbiz from a short vacation forced by a nasty controversy involving her and ex-boyfriend Mo Twister.

The Kapuso actress said it was a "happy breakup" and that they will remain friends even though they already ended their one-year-and-nine-months relationship.

Liza Soberano wants to be multi-talented

Liza Soberano admitted that she wants to work with Anne Curtis in the

Vina Morales wants her daughter to finish school first

Vina Morales admitted that balancing work and motherhood is pretty tough for her. "Naku ang hirap, nahihirapan talaga ako kasi single mom ako eh, wala naman akong partner na nakatutok sa anak ko. That's why ako, ang ginagawa ko talaga habang hindi pa siya nag-aaral dinadala ko siya sa set, kaya kumuha na lang talaga ako ng van at least hindi siya dito sa tent kasi maingay 'yung bata. Don na lang siya manonood siya ng TV, hihiga siya don para komportable naman 'yung anak ko," she shared in an interview to the set of Maria Mercedes.

Vina said that she wants her daughter to finish her schooling. "Gusto kong makatapos siya ng pag-aaral kaya nga ako nagsumikap eh para 'yung schooling niya matapos niya. Hindi ko ma-imagine sa ngayon, kung commercial okay lang pero 'yung as an actress at as a singer parang hindi ko ma-take," she said.





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Julia & Enrique to team up for Mira Bella + other stories



JULIA AND ENRIQUE TEAM UP FOR “MIRA BELLA.” Julia Barretto and Enrique Gil will team up for the first time in ABS-CBN and Dreamscape Entertainment Television’s upcoming primetime drama series “Mira Bella.” Joining Enrique and Julia in “Mira Bella” are Sam Concepcion, Pokwang, Mylene Dizon, John ‘Sweet’ Lopus, and Gloria Diaz. It is under the direction of Jerome Pobocan, Erick Salud, and Jojo Saguin. For more updates about “Mira Bella,” log on to www.abs-cbn.com, or follow [absbndotcom](https://twitter.com/absbndotcom) on Twitter.

Jasmine Curtis-Smith Stays With TV5

Actress-endorser Jasmine Curtis-Smith will stay as Kapatid network’s primetime princess. Jasmine, the younger sister of actress Anne Curtis, renewed her contract at the PF Chang’s restaurant in The Fort last December 11.



While with TV5, the actress starred in several series such as “Ang Utol Kong Hoodlum” and “Nandito Ako.” She teamed up with JC de Vera in 2011 and starred with Eula Caballero and David Archuleta in 2012.

Jasmine continues her studies at the Ateneo de Manila University while pursuing her career as an actress. She also won as Best Supporting Actress for “Transit” at the Cinemalaya Film Festival. “Transit” is the Philippine entry to the 2014 Oscar Awards. She played the role of Yael, an Israel-born Filipina who is a stranger to the ways and culture of the Philippines.

Jasmine also starred in the Kapatid network’s action series “Undercover.” She was the leading lady of Derek Ramsay. She also hosted the first ever social media music show entitled “SPINNation.” It airs live every Saturday at 11 p.m.

Jasmine then topbilled “Puti,” an entry to the first CineFilipino Film Festival. The actress-endorser said it is TV5 which helped her reach where she is now, so that’s why she decided to stay with the network despite offers left and right.

Jasmine believes the Kapatid network will have a lot up its sleeve for her career.

As for her upcoming movie, Jasmine will star with Superstar Nora Aunor. She said she is truly hopeful that this will push through because working alongside her will be such an experience.

She is looking forward to learn a lot from the superstar.

In the next three years (the period of her contract), Jasmine hopes to win more acting awards. “Other than awards naman, just to form a very long lasting career that keeps on going. It doesn’t have to be big but as long as it’s strong, as long as it’s promising, then I’m fulfilled.”

John Lloyd Cruz Feels Lucky To Have Angelica Panganiban In His Life

Prized actor John Lloyd Cruz said he must be a lucky man since his girlfriend Angelica Panganiban allowed him to be that close to

her. He is looking forward to a more positive relationship for the two of them.

He described their relationship as “beautiful” and “promising,” adding that he is lucky to be with Angelica in every single day God made these past months.

But like any other couple, they also have arguments when they don’t see eye to eye. John Lloyd, however, said there was never a time they were in a heated argument. Mostly, John Lloyd raises his voice when he has to explain something but that’s not important since they always talk about things and settle them.

John Lloyd finds it odd that the public is quite interested in his lovelife because there’s really nothing extraordinary about it. He and Angelica are just “steady.” They laugh a lot and spend time together.

It helps that they are friends first before they got into a relationship, the actor said.

Asked about if it bugs him that his life is always under public scrutiny, John Lloyd said he has always categorized his life into two-- his public life and personal life.

There is a difference, he insisted, and that’s something he held from the day he started in showbiz until now. Once he sets his foot outside his house, John Lloyd considers that as public. Anything he does can be scrutinized by his audience.

But he also wants them to understand that he also deserves to have a private life, like any person. As for the judgment thrown his way, John Lloyd would want to believe that his fans know the artist in him--what he can do and what he cannot.



Lauren Young Admits Rift With Father

Actress Lauren Young is closest to her father. That’s why it was doubly hard for her when her parents separated about two years ago. Lauren admitted it was her sister Megan and her brother Victor who are close to their mother while she is closer to their father. “Kaya sobra akong nasaktan when it all happened. Dun na nagsimula ang galit ko sa Daddy namin.”

Their father has another family and is living in Pampanga now. Lauren does not make her disappointment of her father a secret. She said it will take a lot of time before she can finally be able to forgive him.

Her sister Megan would always tell her to forgive their father and to let go of the hatred in her heart. There’s a reason to why everything happened, but Lauren cannot see what that reason is now, she added.

“I can say that I love my dad very much. Pero nandito pa ang pain and I will try to make it go away para matanggap ko siya ulit.”

Whenever she is asked about their father, Lauren prefers to keep quiet about it because she doesn’t want to remember how painful it is. Also, she just pretends that he no longer exists so the pain will be lessened.

Meanwhile, Lauren is happy that Megan will be able to spend the holidays with them as a family. Although it would be different from before because Megan now has bodyguards with her, she is nonetheless happy to see her big sister.

Megan won the 2013 Miss World crown.

But although the actress-turned-beauty-queen is busy with her charity works for the Miss World organization, Lauren shared her sister makes it a point to always keep in touch with their family through Skype, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

They last saw her when she had to visit the typhoon-ravaged areas of eastern Visayas.

Philippines



Immigration bureau to require foreigners to report personally

MANILA – Starting 2014, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) will require all foreign nationals to report in person as a requirement for their continued stay in the country.

In the recent memorandum circular signed by Immigration Commissioner Siegfred Mison, foreign nationals staying in the Philippines are required to appear in person at the Bureau of Immigration offices within the first sixty days of the calendar year.

Mison said that the latest policy is in compliance with Section 10 of Alien Registration Act. He also noted that the Memorandum Circular No. SBM 2013-007 aims to strictly enforce compliance of the immigration law in the interest of national security, public safety and public order.

Foreign nationals are asked to bring their ACR card or paper-based ACR and accomplish an application form that can be downloaded from the bureau’s website (www.immigration.gov.ph) or personally get a copy from any of the BI offices nationwide.

Travel agencies, law firms and other entities transacting with the Immigration Bureau are prohibited from accomplishing the application form or paying the corresponding application fees on behalf of their clients, except if they fall on the exceptions as stated in the Memorandum Circular SBM 2013-002.

Mison said that foreign nationals who are under 14 years of age or about 65 years old, imbecile, staying in a penal institution or confined in a hospital are not required to appear in person but those who can show sufficient proof of physical incapability to report in person can likewise send a representative to apply.

Meanwhile, those who are outside the country are not required to appear personally for as long as the person pays the application fee within thirty days upon arrival while other applicants whose appearances have been waived by the bureau can just send their representatives.

He added that application forms should be duly notarized before the ACOs or heads of departments and divisions of the bureau.

The Alien Registration Division has been tasked to strictly manage the annual report, particularly the reports submitted weekly by district field offices which are now required to report on a weekly and monthly basis the number of foreign nationals within their jurisdiction.

Paskuhan sa Toronto

FIRST STANDING, Gie Alvarez, Philip Beloso, SEATED Flor Vendiola of FV Foods, Maria Panaligan and her mom Genelie eat at the Paskuhan festival.

SECOND, FV Foods are ready to serve the attendees.

THIRD, Genelie Panaligan and daughter Maria Panaligan pose with Joseph Alilio of UMAC door to door Cargo.

MORE PHOTOS AT filipinogoodlife.com



Orphans of the Storm

ORPHANS
continued from page 1

Zafrin Chowdry, spokesperson for the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), said the agency was helping to rapidly trace the families of affected children and connect them with relatives.

The death toll from Yolanda (international name: "Haiyan"), one of the strongest typhoons on record, has risen to 5,560, with 1,757 others missing, officials said on Thursday.

Displaced children
The United Nations said at least 14 million people have been affected, including 1.8 million displaced children.

The storm almost completely flattened the seaside neighborhood where Shylyny's family lived in Tacloban, a coastal city devastated by the typhoon.

She and her brothers now live with their mother's aunt in Burauen, a farming town about 40 kilometers from Tacloban. Friends gave them the clothes they now wear.

"It doesn't matter if we lose everything, as long as we can have our parents here," said Shylyny, a high-school student who dreams of becoming an accountant or a journalist.

She accepts that her parents are dead; she



In this Nov. 21, 2013, photo, Shylyny Therese Negru, 15, holds her youngest brother, Rainier Aaron Dacuno, 3, as they sit in a relative's home in the town of Burauen, Leyte. The children are among an unknown number of children in the eastern Philippines who lost their parents to the massive Nov. 8 storm.

only wishes to find their bodies and the body of a brother who did not survive.

Shylyny said she climbed to the ceiling of the family's two-story home when the water suddenly rose. She and her brothers clutched wires and anything they could hold on to.

"The last time I looked, my mother was just beside me, but when I looked again she was gone," she sobbed.

Her 12-year-old brother, Richard Chris Negru, held on to their mother's hand but she could not move because her legs were pinned under debris.

Parents perish
He said she told him to hold on to his younger brothers, to take care of his siblings and to be a good boy. Then she let go and was swallowed by the rising water.

The children's father was able to carry the two younger boys to the ceiling but he, too, disappeared in the water soon after.

Richard Chris took the two boys and they managed to reach a neighbor's rooftop. Shylyny tried to save her 10-year-old brother, Richard Lawrence Dacuno, who was mentally disabled. She held him but struggled as the water rose, and when she was hit by debris she lost her grip.

"I thought I would not survive because I really did not know how to swim and I was already feeling weak," she said.

She grabbed a neighbor by his shirt and he helped her reach higher ground. She found her other brothers in the neighbor's rooftop.

Body disappeared
Richard Lawrence's body was found in the stairs of a neighbor's house later that day. Rescuers placed his body by the roadside with other corpses.

The siblings' grandfather, Ricardo Negru Jr., left him there overnight to look for Shylyny's cousin.

When he returned, the body had been collected. More than two weeks later, the family is still searching.

The grandfather said the boy was likely buried in one of the city's mass graves but he did not know where.

Negru, a frail 70-year-old, now lives in a church that has been turned into a shelter and spends his days trying to find Richard Lawrence's body, along with those of his son-in-law and his daughter, his only child.

With tears welling in his eyes, he said he only wanted to give them a decent burial beside his wife's grave.

Grim memories
Negru's sister, Rosie Aguila, has taken in his orphaned grandchildren. A retired teacher with two grown children, she said she was close to their mother and would raise them as her own.

The children carry grim memories. Richard

Some Yolanda aid packages from US remain undelivered

CHICAGO – It has been more than a month since the Filipino community in Illinois organized the fundraising drive called "Help for Haiyan."

The event gathered some 6,000 balikbayan boxes, which filled 14 container vans worth of donations. They also raised about \$19,000 (approximately P842,086).

Co-organizer Apple Umali said she thought the goods would get to the victims of Typhoon Yolanda immediately.

"Oh my gosh! There will be a plane that would drop off our goods within a matter of days. So it will reach out to those people helpless and dying, who are sick, who are affected by it. So we all rushed together and didn't even question it. Not just myself but the entire Filipino community," she said.

But the plane reportedly promised to them never came.

To this day, some 133 pallets containing dry goods and medical supplies are still sitting in a warehouse.

Ramon Dino's company, Custom Truck, offered to house the donations. "A little frustrated kasi maraming nangangailangan, ito'yung medical supplies for the kids," he said.

The confusion over the sending of donations began when Chicago community leader Ron Vergara told kababayans and Balitang America that a US military C-130 plane flying from O'Hare International Airport would airlift relief goods to the Philippines, thanks to a US military contractor named Steve Finney.

But US Department of Defense Public Affairs officer Lt. Jeffrey Pool said there is no US

military C-130 plane with this specific order or mission to airlift relief goods to the Philippines.

Pool added that they are not aware of any military contractor named Steve Finney arranging such mission. "Basically what I have done I repeated what I was told. Not something that I would make up," he said.

Balitang America has reached out to Steve Finney over the phone. Finney denied he told Vergara that he works as a military contractor.

Finney said he works for a fire-proofing company.

Finney reasoned that the C-130 story was only an idea he suggested to Vergara and that he never promised that it has been arranged.

Following this confusion, other organizers have sought ways to ship the goods to the Philippines. They said three containers were sent to the

Philippines via LBC Foundation, scheduled to arrive in Manila on January 7.

Two other containers were sent through a cargo company, scheduled to arrive in Manila by December 27.

Another container was shipped by businessman Jon Cotay of Akira and is scheduled to arrive in Manila on January 30.

Illinois Governor Patt Quinn and the US Department of Defense stepped in and have also pledged to help.

They will ship the remaining 133 pallets worth of goods that are now tentatively scheduled to leave Chicago on December 27 and are scheduled to arrive in Manila on February 27.

Organizers are still trying to determine how to send and distribute the money raised from the event.

6 Organizations *raise* Funds



Six Filipino organizations in Mississauga, Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre (KCCC), Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization (KFCO), Fiesta Filipina, Filipino Seniors of Mississauga, Mapúans Ontario and Musika Mississauga raised money for victims of typhoon (Yolanda). FROM LEFT, Fiesta Filipina, Roy Tugbang, Candace Santos, Nicole Ramos and Jeho Navarro, MPP Dlpika Damerla, Rita Tabago and mom, Mississuga Mayor Hazel McCallion.

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LAWN MAINTENANCE & LANDSCAPING

Jennica Garcia returns via “Carmela” + ABS wins Awards + other news



Months after the successful run of GMA Afternoon Prime series, *Bukod Kang Pinagpala*, versatile actress Jennica Garcia is back. This time around she will be starring in the upcoming GMA Telebadad series, *Carmela*.

When asked how it felt to be part of *Carmela*, the chinita actress replied, “Siyempre, nagpapasalamat ako sa Diyos kasi hindi na ako contract artist ng GMA Network, tapos nagulat ako. Tapos nalaman ko pa na si Ate Yan ang makakasama ko kaya sobrang nakakatuwa.”

Jennica has previously worked with *Carmela* lead actress Marian Rivera in the 2012 Primetime series, *My Beloved*. In the series, Jennica played the role of Monica, the younger sister of Marian’s character, Sharina. Like *My Beloved*, *Carmela* will also be under the helm of Dominic Zapata.

Jennica shared “Naalala ko dati, hindi ako nagki-kissing scene, pero dahil sa *My Beloved* at si Direk Dom kasi ‘yung direktor, sabi ko sige na nga. Ganoon talaga kalaki ‘yung tiwala ko kay Direk, kaya excited na akong makatrabaho siya ulit.”

ABS-CBN wins 7 best TV

station awards in 2013

ABS-CBN and DZMM Radyo Patrol 630 were named as the TV Station of the Year and the Radio Station of the Year at the 3rd Makatao Awards for Media Excellence given by the prestigious People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) recently.

This is the seventh time this year that ABS-CBN was recognized as the best TV station from different award giving bodies like the Gawad Tanglaw Awards, Golden Screen TV Awards, Golden Dove Awards, Rotary Club of Manila Journalism Awards, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) Awards, and the Star Awards for TV.

“TV Patrol,” the country’s most watched primetime TV newscast, was declared Best TV newscast, while its anchor Korina Sanchez was named Best Female TV Newscaster.

For the third consecutive year, DZMM Radyo Patrol 630 again swept all accolades in the radio categories. “Kabayan” Noli de Castro won as Best Radio Newscaster, Anthony Taberna won as Best Public Affairs Host, “Radyo Patrol Balita” won as Best Radio News Program, and “Dos Por Dos won as Best Public Affairs Program.

Makatao Awards annually honors members of the mass media for their outstanding contributions in enhancing public understanding of the role and impact of good people management.

PMAP is a 50-year old non-profit, professional organization of over 1,800 member companies and individual management executives engaged or interested in human resource management (HRM) and industrial relations (IR) work.

Julia Barretto Is Excited For The Airing Of “Mira Bella”

ABS-CBN’s newest star Julia Barretto is set to grace television shows with her launching project, “Mira Bella.” The daughter of Marjorie Barretto and Dennis

Padilla, the actress said 2013 is the year that her career officially took off.

It is in March of this year that the actress was introduced as one of the faces of Star Magic Batch 13. She was the first one among the batch given a starring role--that of “Mira Bella,” which will air in the first quarter of 2014.

Julia is excited for the airing of the teleserye and not just because it is her first big break, but also because she has worked with great artists in the project. “So it is such an honor to be working with them.”

Julia was paired with Enrique Gil and Sam Concepcion for the teleserye.



Enrique Gil Is Crushing On Angel Locsin

ABS-CBN’s Enrique Gil admitted his crush on another Kapamilya star--Angel Locsin. He said there’s nothing wrong if he has a crush on the sexy actress since he just admired her looks and personality.

What does he likes most about Angel? Enrique said even her name is already heavenly. “Hitsura pa lang.”

However, when asked about his lovelife, the young actor said he has no time for that now. He also doesn’t prioritize it since there are so many projects coming his way. For other people, a lovelife may be their focus now, but Enrique knows he has to grab the opportunities that are being offered to him.

Julia and Enrique worked together in “Muling Buksan Ang Puso,” and their loveteam has received enormous success since then. The young actor added he feels loved by his fans since they are always there during his shows and other ABS-CBN events.

He shared that he regularly talks to his fans, so that he can tell them what’s happening and why he needed to be paired with a certain actress.

Enrique also cautioned them that he doesn’t want them to fight with the fans of other artists.



A TV grab from CBS TV KLAS shows an official of Yellow Checker and Star Taxi Group of Companies (right) shaking the hand of Gerardo Gamboa after giving him a \$1,000 reward for his honesty.

Fil-Am Taxi driver returns 300K

LAS VEGAS – A Filipino-American taxi driver found a paper bag full of cash here last Monday but promptly turned it over to his employer to prove that “Las Vegas may be a Sin City but is actually an Angel City.”

Gerardo Gamboa, 54, a native of Mabalacat, Pampanga and current Nevada resident, handed the \$300,000 (P12.6 million) to the Yellow Checker Star cab company..

Gamboa was given a \$5 tip by the passenger he picked up at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas, but who had unknowingly left behind in the taxi a paper bag full of money. When Gamboa informed his employer of the find, he was told to immediately return to headquarters by on-duty supervisor Terry Mast of Y.C.S. Yellow, Checker and Star Taxi Group of Companies.

The money was counted and audited in front of taxi company officials and later locked in its lost-and-found safety vault.

Hours later, the owner of the cash arrived to claim the money and profusely thanked Gamboa.

Checker Group of Companies CEO Bill Shrinko said he was not surprised at the incident as the company had dealt with far bigger amounts left behind in their taxis.

Shrinko added that all drivers of their taxis undergo an almost weekly seminar or continuing education about honesty as professional taxi drivers, emphasizing honesty to all tourists from all over the world visiting the entertainment capital.

Gamboa, for his act of honesty, expressed his desire to prove that Filipinos are hardworking, industrious and honest no matter where they are.

For his honesty, Gamboa was adjudged “Driver of the Year” by the company. He was also given \$1,000 in reward money and a dinner for two in a high-end Las Vegas hotel.

CBS TV KLAS said the owner of the money is going to give Gamboa a “substantial reward.”

Gamboa, a 13-year taxi driver veteran, told another reporter, “I just want to do the right thing.

Senator in the City of Iqaluit, Nunavut



LEFT, Sen and Mrs Enverga with Fil-Can community in Iqaluit.jpg -- Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (seated centre, 2nd row) joins Filipino-Canadians in Iqaluit, Nunavut in a gathering to celebrate Christmas. Accompanied by his wife, Rosemer, Senator Enverga took the opportunity also to listen to issues and concerns that matter to Filipino Canadians in the Nunavut capital. Recently, Senator Enverga was in Calgary and held a similar consultation with Filipino Canadians in that city in a roundtable meet with the Council and Assembly of Filipino Foundations. The Conservative Senator for Ontario is the only Parliamentarian of Filipino descent, thus, becoming likewise the representative of the community in the legislature. RIGHT, Sen and Mrs Enverga arrive in Iqaluit.jpg -- Sen. Tobias, Jr. and Mrs. Rosemer Enverga arrive in Iqaluit to meet with the Filipino Canadian community to listen first hand to issues and concerns that matter to Filipino Canadians in the Nunavut capital. Recently, Senator Enverga was in Calgary and held a similar consultation with Filipino Canadians in that city in a roundtable meet with the Council and Assembly of Filipino Foundations. The Conservative Senator for Ontario is the only Parliamentarian of Filipino descent, thus, becoming likewise the representative of the community in the legislature.



Samantha Gavin performs at the 18th birthday celebration of Cody Waito.

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Spotlight

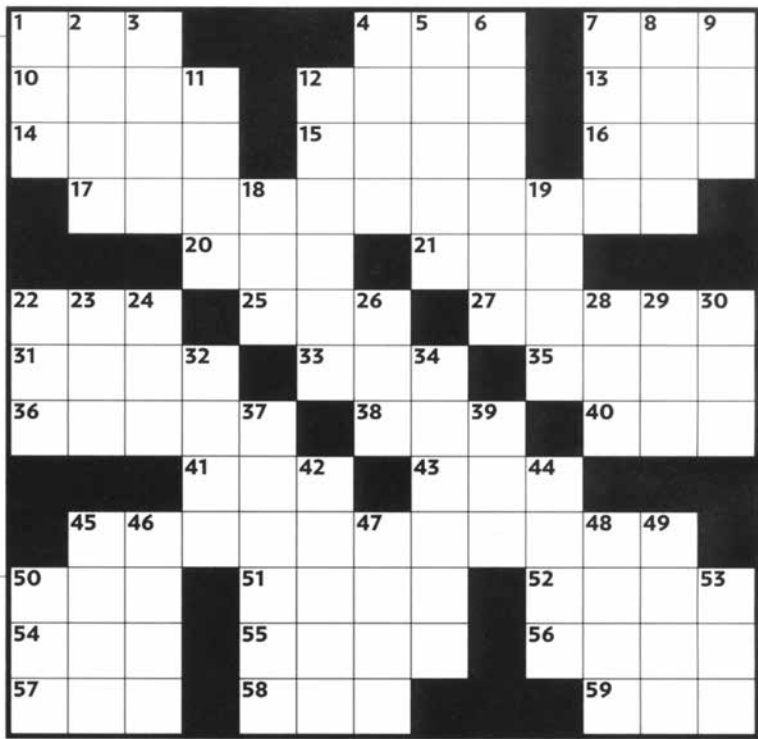


Taza de Oro 1948

Crossword Puzzle



Cody Waito (SECOND FROM LEFT) celebrates his birthdya with dad, sister Brtiney and mom Mercy.
PHOTO BY RAMIL BANAAG



ACROSS

- 1 "___ Some Music to Your Day" by the Beach Boys
4 Country singer Clark
7 *Who Wants to ___ Millionaire* (2 wds.)
10 *Can You ___* (country music competition show)
12 Actress Russo
13 *Fear and Loathing in ___ Vegas*
14 Actor Epps of *House*
15 Writer Burrows and actor Vigoda
16 "Born in the ___" (inits.)
17 "Throttleneck" country singer (2 wds.)
20 *Hop on ___*
21 "Swallowed in the ___" by Coldplay
22 "___ Needs Pictures" (album by 17 Across)
25 Actress Ryan
27 Country singer Earle
31 "___ Day Gets Better" by John Legend
33 *Pretty Maids All in a ___*
35 "___ Go Bragh" ("Ireland Forever")
36 *Reality ___*
38 Actor Hunter of *Grease 2*
40 "Hold Me in Your Arms (___ Let Me Fall)" by 17 Across
41 Had a meal
43 Short snooze
45 "___ to Be" (hit song by 17 Across; 3 wds.)
50 "Somebody Knows You ___" by 17 Across
51 Actress Falco
52 "Two People Fell in ___" by 17 Across
54 Actress Thurman
55 Outer shell of an orange
56 "I Wish You'd ___" by 17 Across
57 Aerosmith's "Big ___ Inch Record"

- 58 "Just to ___ You Smile"
59 Direction opposite west-southwest (inits.)

DOWN

- 1 *Much ___ About Nothing*
2 ___ & *Dumber*
3 "___ Diary" by Britney Spears
4 Country singer McEntire
5 ___ a *Lonely Number* (2 wds.)
6 Opposite of noes
7 Shania Twain's "Black Eyes, ___ Tears"
8 "___ Money" by 17 Across
9 *My Life ___ Teenage Robot* (2 wds.)
11 *The Parent ___*
12 "The Greatest ___ Alive" by Lil Wayne
18 Actor DeLuise
19 Kanye West's "___ Registration"

- 22 *Charlotte's ___*
23 "Bali ___" (song from *South Pacific*)
24 Halloween month (abbr.)
26 "You've ___ a Friend" by James Taylor
28 Pitcher's statistic (inits.)
29 Actor Diesel
30 "Until the ___ of Time" by Justin Timberlake
32 ___ of the *Class*
34 "All I ___ Was a Car" by 17 Across
37 *M*A*S*H* star David Ogden ___
39 "___, humbug!"
42 Country singer Rabbitt
44 Pen ___ (friends by mail)

- 45 "I'll Be ___ for Christmas"
46 Actor McGregor
47 "If Six Was ___" by Jimi Hendrix
48 Cast a ballot
49 Actress Rachel Wood
50 George Clinton's "Nubian ___"
53 *Eagle ___*

Answers on
Page 26

Pauleen Luna:

Mahirap magtanim ng sama ng loob

Pauleen Luna has a lot to be thankful for this year. Aside from her blooming love life with Bossing Vic Sotto, she has been tapped to play a meaty role in the upcoming GMA Aftrenoon Prime soap, *The Borrowed Wife*.

“Yung last [soap] na ginawa ko was early this year. Ipapalabas naman ito next year na. It’s a treat for everybody, to my fans, for next year. Something na mapapanood nila every afternoon sa January 2014,” she happily shared.

She will breathe life to the character of Tessa, the antagonist of the story.

“Si Tessa, she’s mabait sa start pero strong ‘yung personality niya. Superior siya kay Maricar.”

As the story progress, the friendship of Tessa and Maricar will be put to a test.

“Mahu-hurt si Tessa, doon magstart ‘yung parang grudge niya,” she revealed.

Pauleen played kontribida roles before but



this character is different according to her. “Si Tessa ‘di naman siya nagstart talaga na masama. Meron siyang personal reason why she became like that.”

She continued, “I think it’s gonna take time for Tessa to move on. But the question is, ‘Is she gonna move on or maghihiganti ba siya?’”

When asked by GMA Network.com on what she’ll do if she’s in the shoes of her character, “Hindi ko alam. Mahirap eh. She has options. She can go away and forget, I think that’s the

best thing to do.”

If someone hurts her, will she be able to forgive and forget?

“Yeah. Mahirap ‘yung nagtatanim ka ng sama ng loob. At the end of the day, ikaw din ang mapeperwisyo, hindi naman ‘yung nagkasala iyo,” she quickly replied.

How about between love and friendship? What will she choose?

“It depends. Siguro if it’s really something serious with love and then love. Pero if something na hindi naman ma-re-replace ng friendship na matagal na matagal na, then friendship.”

Catch actress/host Pauleen Luna in *The Borrowed Wife*, soon on GMA Aftrenoon Prime. For more updates on your Kapuso favorite shows and stars, just keep on visiting www.gmanetwork.com.



An Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chaplain blesses one of the three newly acquired Augusta Westland 109 Power Helicopters.

Guarding PH waters

Manila, Philippines – Two of the five newly-acquired choppers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will be stationed on two of the Navy warships to maximize patrol coverage for the country’s territorial waters against intruders.

AFP chief of staff Gen. Emmanuel Bautista said the two multi-purpose choppers will also help in conducting surveillance against poachers and intruders on territorial waters.

“I am very happy (with the delivery of the choppers). This will be a big help in extending the coverage of our patrol,” said Bautista. Bautista said two of the delivered choppers will board the Philippine Navy’s BRP Gregorio del Pilar and BRP Ramon Alcaraz amid the growing assertiveness of China in claiming the disputed waters off the South China Sea.

The Philippines is now on aggressive modernization of its armed forces, with several other military hardware on the shopping list that include fighter jets.

Aside from the military, the United States pledged some \$40 million for acquisition of ships relating to maritime security of the Coast Guard and the Philippine National Police while Japan pledged assistance for the acquisition of 10 patrol ships for the Coast Guard.

Yassi Pressman blames Andrea Torres for Breakup With Sef Cadayona + other news



Yassi Pressman and Sef Cadayona had a short-lived relationship. They got together during the shooting for “*Kaleidoscope World*,” but ended their relationship even before the movie was shown at the 2013 Metro Manila Film Festival.

Although she doesn’t want to explain the reason behind their breakup, Yassi said it was because of their career and Andrea Torres. Because of further probing, Yassi revealed Andrea was the reason for their breakup. She admitted getting jealous of the close friendship that developed between Sef and Andrea when they are working together for “Bubble Gang.”

Yassi, however, said Sef already explained

there is nothing between him and Andrea. Yassi and Andrea are friends before as well, but they don’t speak now.

But when they see each other, Yassi said they still say “hi” and “hello,” but that’s all she can say to her old friend. She clarified that they are not enemies now.

Asked for a message for Sef and Andrea, she only said that she doesn’t want to get involved in whatever they have now.

In the end, Yassi said that the real reason why they broke up was because they decided to focus on their careers. The issue about Andrea was just part of the reason.

She has no regrets being with Sef though, Yassi said. They lasted for seven months and the actor is considered to be her very first boyfriend. The most important thing is she was able to pick up lessons from that failed relationship.

She has no plans to fall in love right now, the actress said, adding that she wants to focus as an MTV VJ next year. Asked if their breakup affected the movie, Yassi said it didn’t because they were still able to talk

even though they parted ways already. “Sa amin kasi, obligation namin ito, kailangang maging okay kami para sa ikakabuti ng movie namin.” As for the promotion of the movie, Yassi said they’re obliged to promote it together since the movie and the producers will suffer if they don’t.

Many people have been saying that their movie will lose at the box-office, but the actress still called on the public to give the film a chance. “Since this is the first dance movie in the Philippines, nakaka-pressure din talaga.” “*Kaleidoscope World*” is a hip-hop dance movie inspired by the music of the late Francis M.

“We know naman ang lalaking artista ang mga kalaban namin, pero yung nakapasok siya as filmfest entry, masaya na po kaming lahat.”

The ones who produced the movies are all independent ones and not part of the mainstream industry. “Sana, panoorin nila kasi ibang klase din ang movie namin.”

Candid SPOOF (Pop-ups are not supposed to be taken seriously - EDITOR)



Philippine Press Club Ontario President Hermie Garcia raffles a bottle of wine at the Christmas party as treasurer Noel Perada looks on.

Crossword Answers

A	D	D				R	O	Y			B	E	A
D	U	E	T			R	E	N	E		L	A	S
O	M	A	R			A	B	E	S		U	S	A
	B	R	A	D	P	A	I	S	L	E	Y		
			P	O	P		S	E	A				
W	H	O		M	E	G		S	T	E	V	E	
E	A	C	H		R	O	W		E	R	I	N	
B	I	T	E	S		T	A	B		A	N	D	
			A	T	E		N	A	P				
	H	E	D	I	D	N	T	H	A	V	E		
N	O	W			E	D	I	E		L	O	V	E
U	M	A			R	I	N	D		S	T	A	Y
T	E	N			S	E	E			E	N	E	

JESSE
continued from page 8

having all the projects coming her way right now.

That's why she wants to grab all these opportunities since they may not be there in the future. Her lovelife should take a backseat for now, the actress added.

Sarah Geronimo Signs Another Two-Year Contract With ABS-CBN

Popstar Princess Sarah Geronimo signed a two-year contract with ABS-CBN, saying it is automatic for her to ink a deal with the Kapamilya network. "ABS-CBN,



kasi I'm always welcome dito at talagang well-loved talaga, and

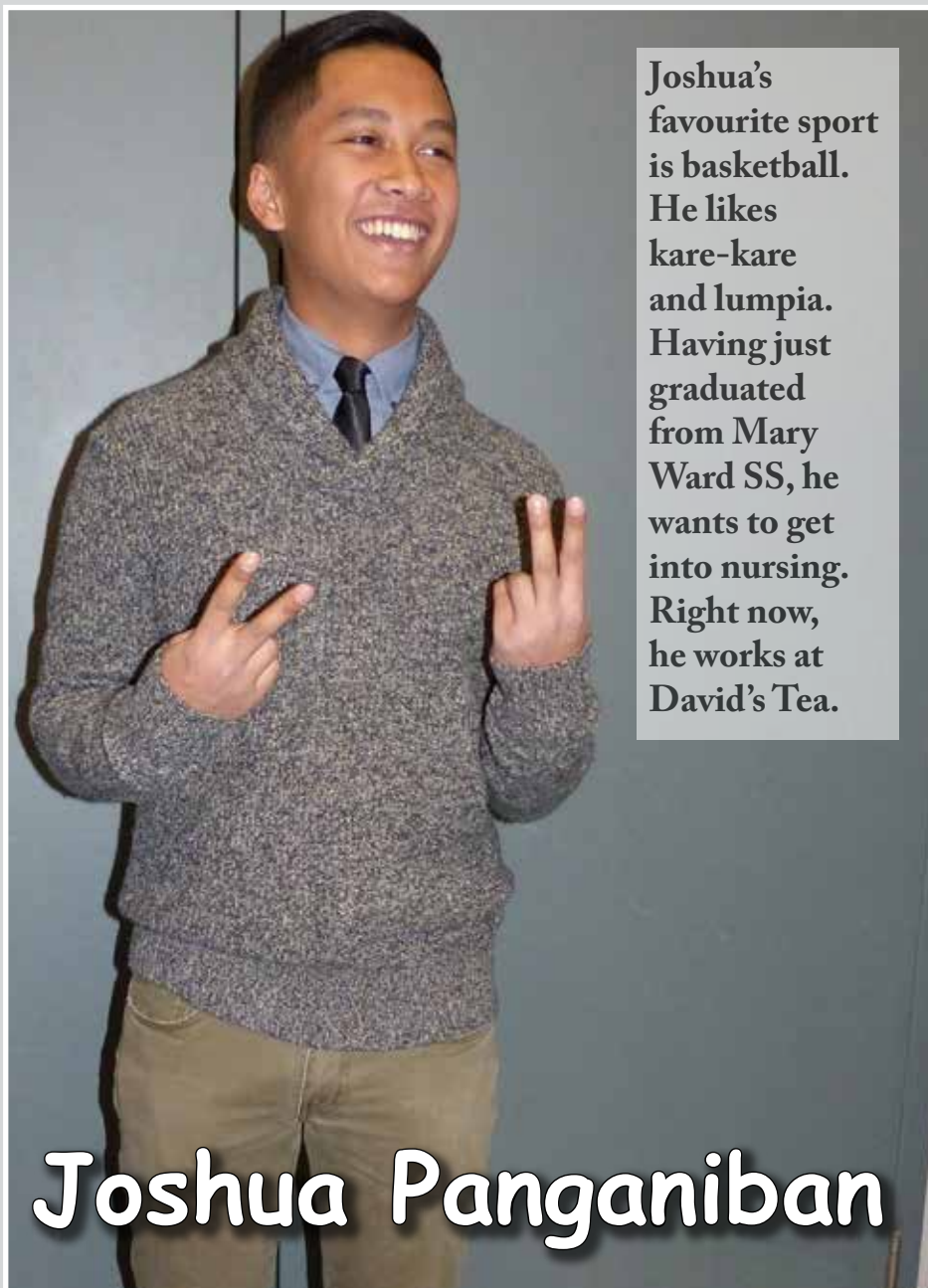
I appreciate it. Where else will I'd rather be?" Since the start of her showbiz career, it was the Kapamilya network that trusted her. The network was the first one to support her career and trust upon her a show, "Sarah The Pop Princess, ASAP."

It feels good that ABS-CBN wants her to stay too, Sarah said. It was a mutual decision.

For the next two years, Sarah will again be a judge for "The Voice of the Philippines Season 2."

She is happy that the show's producers chose her to be a mentor again. Until they want her with the show, Sarah said she is willing to help other artists fulfill their dreams.

Hunk Shot



Joshua's favourite sport is basketball. He likes kare-kare and lumpia. Having just graduated from Mary Ward SS, he wants to get into nursing. Right now, he works at David's Tea.

Joshua Panganiban

Kris to be TV5 President?

Kris Aquino may soon fulfill her dream to be a president. But she would not likely be the president of the country soon. According to well-placed sources, the Queen of All Media has received an offer from no less than TV5 Chairman and CEO Manny V. Pangilinan (MVP) to be the next president of the struggling TV network.

Some observers dismissed it as hearsay or another speculation. But some analysts believe that there could be truth to it. Several insiders from TV5 have confirmed that there is actually such an offer for Kris. When asked for a brief comment about the speculation, Kris simply said that no decision has been made yet. That is a clear confirmation from Kris herself that indeed, she received such a tempting offer from TV5. Of course, it follows that the offer comes with a hefty financial package, something that she could hardly refuse.

China warns local govts against hiring celebrities

BEIJING - China warned its local governments against holding lavish dinners, fireworks displays and hiring celebrities to attract investment.

Six new Commerce Ministry guidelines on investment promotion, part of a broader government campaign against extravagance and waste, also ban reserving luxury hotels, giving expensive gifts and hosting artistic performances.

"Do not plan activities that have no essential content related to the theme of the investment promotion," the ministry said in a statement on its website.

Since taking over the reins of the Communist Party in November 2012 and the government in March, President Xi Jinping has vowed to crack down on corruption, which he has said threatens the party's survival.

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