

Filipinos greet 2015 with Hope

Phl government laud Filipinos' optimism

MANILA - Nine of 10 Filipinos (or 93 percent of the population) face 2015 with hope, instead of fear, said a survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

Only six percent are facing 2015 with fear, the survey showed. The SWS survey which was conducted from November 27 to December 1 said this was slightly below the 94 percent who faced 2014 with hope. "Hope for the New Year has always been high, starting with 87 percent when the question was first asked in 2000, and with 88 percent in 2001," the report said.

NEW YEAR HOPE

New Year hope climbed to 85 percent in 2005 and escalated at 91 to 92 percent from 2006 to 2008 then dropped to 89 percent in 2009 before rising back to 93 percent in 2010. The SWS said New Year hope is widespread in all areas including 91 percent in Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao; and 96 percent in Balance Luzon. Also, the survey showed New Year hope is higher among those who expected a happy 2014 Christmas than among those who expected a sad Christmas.

Of the 71 percent who were expecting a happy 2014 Christmas, almost all or 95 percent look forward to 2015 with hope.

"Even among the 24 percent who say their Christmas would neither be

HOPE FOR 2015
continued on page 25

Phl buys gunboats

PH to get frigates, gunboats, helicopters as tension simmers

MANILA - The Philippines aims to buy two frigates, two helicopters and three gunboats for deployment in the South China Sea where a territorial dispute with China has lent urgency to the need to bolster forces, a Philippine navy officer said.

China claims nearly the entire South China Sea, rejecting claims to

GUNBOAT
continued on page 24



Gian Carlo Bobila

He still believes In the Miracle of Christmas

STORY IN CENTERSPREAD

Erap faces ouster as Manila Mayor

President GMA's pardon not absolute

MANILA - Supreme Court (SC) Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, the magistrate who was designated to write the decision on the disqualification case filed against Manila Mayor Joseph "Erap"

ERAP OUSTER
continued on page 22

CANADA CARES



When Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby) hit the Philippines on December 6th, 2014, Canada was already preparing a whole-of-government response, working closely with humanitarian partners. Photo shows Finance Minister Joe Oliver & Senator Tobias Enverga announcing Canada's initial support of \$120,000 to aid the victims of Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby) in the Philippines. Witnessing the announcement were Pastor Julius & Bunny Tiangson of Mississauga, and Joaquin, Jr (Jojo) & Fe Taduran of Toronto. ***(Romy Zetazate, St. Jamestown News Service)



2015
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

MIGUEL TANEFLIX & BIANCA UMALI

Greeting the Year with a Kiss

Pacquiao - Mayweather Fight Will Not Happen

Pacquiao's former trainer explains why

Manny Pacquiao's first trainer Rich Stahaley, who steered him to his first world title when the Filipino southpaw scored a spectacular

eighth-round knockout over Thai hero

PACQUIAO FIGHT
continued on page 21



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LAUGH RESORT

Sa Jollibee...
BUSINESSMAN: Excuse me, may wi-fi
ba kayo dito?
PNOY: Naku sir ala po! But you can try
our apple-fi or mango-fi sir!

Isang babae sa gilid ng rooftop...
PULIS: Miss huwag! May solusyon ang
lahat ng problema!
BABAE: Huwag kang makialam! Di ako
maka-SEND!

KRIS: Nay, nay, tingnan nyo po ang
drawing ko oh!
NANAY: Wow!! Ang galing namang
mag-drawing ng MONKEY ng bunso ko!
KRIS: Nay, kayo po yan!

TATAY: Anak, totoo ba na sa school,
nagbibigay-galang ang lahat pag
dumadaan ka? Astig ah! Ano sabi nila?
JUAN: "Mabuhay ang mahal na reyna!"

Baliw tumawag s mental...
BALIW: may tao pa ba sa Room 28?
OPERATOR: Wala na bakit po?
BALIW: Check ko lang kung nakatakas
talaga kol
OPERATOR: Aha!

MISIS: Bat may blackeye ka?!
MISTER: Kita ko naipit ang palda ng
ale sa pwet nya...hinila ko,
sinuntok nya ako...
MISIS: Sa dalawang mata?
MISTER: Akala ko ayaw nya hilahin
ko...binalik ko. Sinuntok uli

Sosyal nakiinom sa baryo...
GIRL: Where galing your water?
LOLA: Sa ilog iha!
GIRL: Eeww, NAIINOM ba yan?
LOLA: Nasa iyo iha kung gusto mo
NGUYAIN!

MAX: Pare bakit may tali ka sa paa?
JUAN: MAGBIBIGTI ako!
MAX: Eh bakit sa PAA, dapat sa LEEG!
JUAN: Sinubukan ko na kanina, hindi
ako MAKAHINGA eh!

Honey Shot



Cassie is
graduating
with a degree
in Event
Management.
If things
work out,
she will start
internship with
a non-profit
government
agency in
Ontario. We
wish her all
the luck in her
career.

Cassie Gonzales



KC Concepcion reunion project w/ Paulo Avelino

KC Concepcion has the eager fans of her
tandem with Paulo Avelino to thank for
their reunion project. She revealed that it
was their fans who actually requested for
the project,

"Lahat po ng KC-Pau fans, parang
nag-request sila. We were shocked na
mayroon pong fan groups," she said.

The rumored couple first worked
together in a Maalaala Mo Kaya episode
some four years ago. "Nagulat na lang
kami na mayroon kaming comments
from KC-Paulo fans. Parang nagbibigay
sila ng tips sa mga events, pinaparamdam
nila, nilabas pa nga si Paulo before," she
shared.

While the two are known as award-
winning performers and for claiming
that they are just "best friends," they
both admitted that they also felt "kilig"
about the certain scenes that they taped
for Exchange Gift.

"Siguro may mga time na nadadala
na ako sa mga adlib kasi natutuwa na
lang din ako sa situation. Minsan lang
ako magka-crush. Ang baduy po talaga
pero 'yun nga crush ko siya before. Siy-
empre for a girl maganda din na maka-
work mo 'yung [crush mo]," she revealed.



What The F^{ACT}?

BY JOSE BAKING



What Not to do at an Invitation-only Party

When the professional photographer comes to your table to get your group picture, asking you to pose on one side so all of you are facing the camera (HIM AND HIS CAMERA), you hand him your smartphone or point and shoot, and hurriedly, and insistentlly tell him to take your picture, all BEFORE he has even taken your group picture with his camera. I've witnessed this once only so far. Others at least wait until the photographer has taken their picture, which is the preferable thing to do. If I was the photographer, I will not take your group picture with your cellphone before I have taken it with my camera. Otherwise, everybody will be in a hurry to get on with their business after posing for at least 3 shots which leaves me, the photographer rushing to take the picture. And photographers don't just take one shot. They shoot, they check, they shoot again. You can get mad, you can huff and puff, but the only person the photographer has to satisfy are the celebrants. Photographers were hired - MEANING PAID - by the celebrants to take professional-quality pictures - FOR THEM. What I do not get is why do they wait for the photographer to come around to ask them to pose on one side, then decide to give him their smartphone to take their pictures. They could have posed themselves beforehand and ask anybody to take their pictures. Which brings us to the other point a lot of people keep talking about - that you don't need professional photographers because everybody has cellphones that can take pictures. Yeah, sure, and each of those 200-1000 guests are going to upload it all to one album, right? Good luck.

Sony Pictures' Brilliant Marketing

They got hacked. They blame North Korea. They got threatened. Then, they pulled the movie

"The Interview" from theaters saying it will not be shown anymore. Theaters said they will not show it because of threats also. Then, Sony said it was being released on a limited run last Christmas day. They also made it available for streaming. There are a few things to consider here. Before the hacking, was the movie really any good?

Apparently, some said that they were seeing trailers on youtube and found it not funny at all. Now, it is being talked about. They also found a reason to sell directly to the public bypassing theaters, thereby, keeping all the proceeds instead of splitting the money 50/50.

"The Interview" stars Seth Rogen and James Franco as journalists instructed to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong-un (played by Randall Park) after booking an interview with him. It received mixed reviews from critics.

Was the movie watchable in the first place? Or did they find a way to sell a bad movie to more people than if they shown as planned. Now, it is going to take longer to find out if the movie is worth streaming, thereby selling more downloads. If it was shown in theaters, the traditional media will immediately proclaim whether it was good or bad. But streamers will only say if it was good or bad on social media, delaying the spread of the bad news.

Sarah escape of Ohio said it is as funny like "Step-brothers" or "Dodgeball."

CPP copying Mayweather tactics

Communist Party of the Philippines say they want peace talks. The Philippines accepts. Now, they start saying the government is not serious, or is insincere. Ano ba iyan?

I missed Dongyan's wedding

I did not receive my invitation to Marian Rivera and Dingdong Dantes' wedding. Apparently, my name was blacklisted becasue of my past with Marian. That could only be the reason. I can't think of anything else. Ehe, susmaryosep. Ano ba itong nasabi ko?

My fearless prediction

Dongyan's wedding is going to last as long as Sharon and Gabby's marriage.

Remember

Bayani Casimiro

The Fred Astaire of the Philippines



Bayani Casimiro, Sr. (July 16, 1918 – January 27, 1989) was a Filipino dancer who was among the leading stars of bodabil (vaudeville) in the 1930s and 1940s. He also appeared in musical films and later in life, in comedic roles. A tap dancer, he was frequently dubbed as the "Fred Astaire of the Philippines".

Casimiro was born in Laguna. His parents were stage comedians, and at the age of 7, he would appear on stage, often dressed as a clown. By 1936, he would join a performing troupe in Hawaii headlined by Atang de la Rama.

BODABIL STAR

By the late 1930s, Casimiro began headlining major bodabil productions in Manila. He made a name for himself as a tap dancer, often in top hat and tails, and was soon nicknamed as "The Fred Astaire of the Philippines". Casimiro also first appeared in film in 1938, when he was cast in Bayan at Pag-ibig, a production of Excelsior Pictures.

Upon the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in 1941, local film production was halted, allowing bodabil to thrive as the main source of public entertainment. Along with such actors as Rogelio de la Rosa, Norma Blancaflor and the comic team of Tugo and Pugo, Casimiro would perform at the Life Theater in Manila for the duration of the war. He would form his own comic tandem with Jose Cris Soto, and the pair would be promoted as the "Laurel and Hardy of the Philippines". Casimiro would also be paired with Dolphy, then appearing under the stage name "Golay", to form a comic dance team.

FILM AND TELEVISION CAREER

After the war, Casimiro restarted his film career, appearing in several popular musicals for the next two decades. His frequent onscreen dancing partner was the choreographer Nieves Manuel, whom he would marry. As in his stage performances, he would often appear in films in top hat and tails. Among his more notable musical roles were in Isang Sulyap mo Tita (1953), Tres Muskiteras (1954), and Botika sa Baryo (1960).

As he aged, Casimiro became known to a younger generation primarily as a character actor in film comedies. Often cast as a grandfather, a town sage, or even as a corpse in the Chiquito vehicle Estong Tutong (1983), his thin frame and befuddled look lent to easy ridicule. A notable exception to this trend was his role in Celso Ad. Castillo's Burlesk Queen (1977), where he again donned top hat and tails as he performed onstage with Vilma Santos.

His most prominent role in later years was as the father of Enteng Kabisote (Vic Sotto) in the popular sitcom Okey Ka Fairy Ko!. Casimiro died less than two years into the run of Okey Ka Fairy Ko. His son, Bayani Casimiro, Jr., soon joined the cast as Prinsipe ng Kahilingan. In obvious tribute to his father, Casimiro Jr.'s character would perform a brief tap dance upon his every entrance and exit.

Casimiro's widow, Nieves Manuel, would later marry Chiquito Pangan's brother, Rene Pangan. She died in 2006.

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Jermie San Pedro
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20 Top News of 2014 in the GTA-Ontario

Filipino Canadian Community by Tony A. San Juan, OCT

It's traditionally reasonable and rightful that at the close of the current year while ushering in the new year, a year-end review of what occurred in 2014 be highlighted for our readers in the Filipino Canadian community. The selection of a List of 2014 Top News Makers: People and Events is by no means exhaustive but significant enough that will remind us of what has been in the GTA Pinoy landscape.

Based upon the relevancy, value and significance in terms of the news historical impact and potential to the social, economic and political life of FilCans... ..a mix of highs & lows and good & bad, here are the following stories:

- 1.The Archdiocesan Filipino Canadian Mission and Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Toronto raised a total of \$230,000 for Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda victims in the Philippines.
- 2.The Young Filipino- Canadian Leaders Summit, a project of iKubo Media held in Toronto on March 8, 2014 with its theme: "Understanding the FilCan Identity".
- 3. Rowena Villanueva, 48 years old, pleaded guilty in April, 2014 to 16 counts of fraud bilking fellow Filipinos of over C\$500,000 in phony chiropractic clinic investment scam
- 4.The minimum wage in Ontario was officially increased to C\$ 11.00 per hour, from C\$ 10.25 / hour on June 1, 2014.
- 5. Eight big FilCan Community groups, during the summer of 2014, organized and sponsored events in celebration of Philippine Independence Day and Filipino cultural & heritage activities such

- as: FCT's Pistahan sa Toronto; PIDC's Mabuhay Festival, PCCC'S Taste of Manila, PCCT's Filipinas Expo; PCCF's Pinoy Fiesta, KCCC's Kalayaan Day, Balita's Miss Manila Pageant and MFFC's Independence Day, festive celebrations.
- 6. Atty. Rafael "Raffy" Fabregas, a noted Pinoy Toronto Bay Street lawyer, lost the nomination by 52 votes to be the official Liberal Party MP Candidate for Scarborough Centre, on June 24, 2014.
- 7. The C\$25,000 defamation lawsuit / case of Rosemer Enverga vs. Minda Neri in a small claims court held a hearing in February and a trial in August, 2014.
- 8. First Political Forum was conducted by the Philippine Press Club of Ontario to introduce 16 Filipino political candidates in the October 27, 2014 municipal elections.
- 9. A Filipino Advisory Body was appointed on October 9, 2014, by the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) to advise, recommend and support the Board on matters impacting students, parents and staff in Toronto's Catholic education system.
- 10. Four FilCans won their elective seats in the October 27, 2014 municipal elections, namely: Catholic school board trustees Garry Tanuan, Marlene Mogado, Luz Del Rosario and re-electionist Markham councillor Alex Chiu. Eleven Pinoy candidates: a mayor, 4 city councillors and six school trustees lost.
- 11. Pastor Julius Tiangson, on November 1, 2014, won the nomination for the Conservative Party MP Official Candidate in Mississauga. Bikolana Michele Serrano has declared her candidacy for the Liberal Party MP Nomination in Scarborough

- Southwest, Toronto.
- 12. An ex-Pastor, Philip Grandine, was recently found guilty of killing his Filipino wife Anna Karissa Grandine last October 17, 2011.
- 13. Filipino nanny Evelyn Bumatay-Castillo, 43 years old, and moonlighting as a prostitute according to Peel Police was found slain in a motel in September, 2014.
- 14. Door-to-door boxes shipment, from Canada, suffered critical delivery delay due to port congestion, traffic gridlock and freight custom requirements in Manila.
- 15. Changes to Canada's Live-in Care-giver Program are announced and took effect on December 1, 2014. The new requirements received a mix of favourable and negative feedbacks from all quarters.
- 16. Toronto Paskuhan Festival 2014 held in Toronto, Mississauga and Our Lady of the Assumption-Toronto on Nov. 16, 29 and December 20, 2014.
- 17. The value of American dollar rises to almost Canadian \$ 1.18 exchange rate. Thus, food and commodity prices keep on increasing in unaffordable rates.
- 18. Talakayan Radyo of Fairchild Radio's 1430 AM. commemorated its 10th year broadcasting freely in TagaLish, serving Filipino listeners all over Canada, USA and the world.
- 19. The price of gasoline of 3 months ago has gone down from C\$1.40 to C\$.98 per litre.
- 20. A blip in Increasing numbers of GTA Filipinos travelling to the Philippines during the winter holidays to observe traditional Filipino Christmas and New Year celebrations and to welcome the Catholic Pope's January 2015 visit. (T.San Juan)

Rhian Ramos' paranormal sense

Rhian Ramos guests on The Tim Yap Show Season V. Aside from sharing her take on confidence and her recent paranormal encounters, Rhian also revealed what she really felt during her recent "fashion coincidence" with Max Collins.



"I need to take a photo of this moment! It's cute!" Rhian said to Max when they coincidentally wore the same cream-colored dress at a party. The two even uploaded the photo on Instagram.

"It's usually awkward pero pag kasing ganda ni Max Collins, wow I really don't mind," shared Rhian. "Nothing is wrong with that!" the 24-year-old actress added.

She also shared her motto about how you should always think positive in everything you do. "Surround yourself with positive people and think good so you can attract good." Rhian also added that confidence sets people apart.

The mood change when Tim asked Rhian on her rumored "third eye". Rhian answered, "Twice na recently, I am in a public place like a mall, may nagparamdam sa CR. I hear weird noises, I really don't know why!" Rhian added that the sound of the door lock made her more nervous. "Minsan yung door kahit walang tao naririnig ko nag lock-unlock. Twice!" However, the actress added that she does not take it seriously. "I just laugh at it!"

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Law ok’s salespersons to sit & rest

Representative files bill to let retail salespeople to sit down

A bill has been filed requiring employees, owners or operators of shopping malls, department stores, retail stores, stalls and similar establishments to allow their sales employees to sit down at times when they are not attending to customers during store hours.

Alarmed by the commercial establishment’s policy of requiring sales persons and employees to stand while on duty, OFW Family party list Rep. Roy V. Señeres filed House Bill 5258 or the “Right to Sit Down on the Job Act of 2014.”

“The bill seeks to humanize the working conditions in shopping malls, department stores, retail stores, stalls and other similar establishments. It is of public knowledge that sales persons and other



employees of commercial establishments in the country are arbitrarily required to stand while on duty,” he said in filing the measure.

“This is not only deleterious to the health of workers especially women, it is also inhuman as only animals like carabaos, cows, horses can endure being on their feet even for days,” he pointed out.

The employers, owners or operators of commercial establishments found to be violating any provision of the proposed Act shall be given five days to comply and shall be penalized for the first offense with a fine amounting R50,000.

Second-time violators shall be slapped with a fine amounting R100,000, while the penalty to be imposed for the third

offense shall be two-year imprisonment and/or closure of the establishment.

“If the offense is committed by a corporation, firm, association, partnership, or other entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the guilty officer or officers of such establishment,” according to HB 5258.

The measure tasks the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the proposed Act.

Quoting the 1987 Constitution, Señeres reminded the government to value the dignity of human person and guarantee full respect for human rights.

“The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare,” he said.



Kris believes in Feng Shui – but not all the time

“(Like ‘yung mga tungkol sa) entrance ng bahay, napakamahalaga ‘yun; or where your head faces ‘pag natutulog ka; and (‘yung) swerteng araw to start work... sa negosyo, yes,” she said.

However, Kris thinks they don’t seem to apply to her personal life anymore. “Napatunayan ko nang mali,” she laughed.

Kris cited how she has been working for the longest time with a staff whose Chinese zodiac sign is traditionally considered incompatible with hers.

“Si Elvin, my assistant, has been with me for 10 years, and his (sign) is a snake,” shared Kris, who was born in the year of the Pig.

She also named her brother President Noynoy Aquino another prime example.

“PNoy’s (sign) is a rat, at ang (sign ng) assistant niyang si Rochelle is a horse, and they’ve been together naman for 20 years, so feeling ko sa relationships na ganyan, hindi siya totoo talaga,” she said.

Kris may be selective in her beliefs but it seems to be working wonders for her so far.

Vic proud of Ryzza Mae

Vic “Bosing” Sotto has seen how his latest “showbiz daughter” Ryzza Mae Dizon has evolved as TV host, performer and actress since she joined the country’s longest running noontime variety show “Eat Bulaga” some years back and he is quite proud about her continued improvement.

They are working together again in the 2014 MMFF entry “My Big Bossing Adventure,” which is divided into three fun-filled episodes – “Sirenam Taktak, and “Prinsesa.”

Vic shared, “She really has shown her talent in comedy and in serious roles. I think she’s proving herself to be a very good actress. She’s going beyond just being cute on the big screen.”

He noted in particular what the youngster did while working on the film’s “Sirena” episode.

“She learned how to swim and dive. She was very brave and when a child is brave, she can learn easily. As I always say, when you enjoy what you’re doing, you won’t feel the hardship,” he shared.

Philippines

NEWS

Hike Doctors Pay

MANILA, Philippines—A lawmaker who is also a medical doctor has filed a bill raising the minimum base pay of government physicians by more than double to encourage more of them to serve in public hospitals.

Masbate Rep. Scott Davies Lanete has proposed that the salary of government doctors be moved up from Grade 16, amounting to P26,878 a month, to Grade 27, or P62,670 a month, and that they be provided with a monthly allowance of P2,500 on top of other current allowances.

In his explanatory note to House Bill No. 5263, the lawmaker said the present salary of resident doctors discouraged them from staying and continuing their employment and service in government hospitals.

Buy the Lot

MANILA - Vice President Jejomar C. Binay led the distribution of checks worth P23 million to 543 beneficiaries under the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) of the Socialized Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig.

He also distributed letters of guaranty to 493 beneficiaries from Richville, La Vista, and Amberland Home Owners Associations. The recipients may now purchase the lots they occupy. The CMP is a mortgage financing scheme that assists legally organized associations of residents in depressed areas.

According to Binay, Pinagbuhatan has the highest population in Pasig with CMP benefiting almost 90 percent of families.

Lacson to quit Feb

MANILA - Rehabilitation czar Panfilo Lacson dismissed speculation that he was quitting in February next year due to a lack of government support for his plan to rebuild areas ravaged by super typhoon Yolanda.

“I have no frustrations, no hangups because everything that should be done under the memorandum order was already done,” Lacson said in an interview over radio dzBB.

He said his functions should be returned to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) as provided by law.

Despite the lack of government funding support, Lacson said, help came from the USAID, and various multi-lateral and bilateral agencies.

Pacquiao is betting underdog

A \$270 bet on a Mayweather win will earn \$100 while a \$100 bet on Pacquiao will win \$200



Manny Pacquiao will reprise the role of the underdog when he climbs the ring against Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Though official negotiations have yet to start, Mayweather-Pacquiao has captured the fancy of fight fans and bettors alike.

This early, betting lines have opened

in Las Vegas, with Mayweather installed as favorite over Pacquiao, the unbeaten American’s pound-for-pound rival.

Sportsbook.ag put Mayweather (47-0, 26 knockouts) at minus 270 and Pacquiao (55-5-2, 38 knockouts) at plus 200 for the pay-per-view bout projected to shatter boxing’s PPV record of \$150 million on 2.2 million buys set in 2013, when Mayweather beat Mexican Canelo Alvarez by majority decision.

It means that a \$270 bet on a Mayweather win will earn \$100 while a \$100 bet on Pacquiao will win \$200.

This augurs well for the Filipino eight-division world champion as he relishes being an underdog, ring pundits say.

As a replacement fighter, Pacquiao—who turns 36 today—earned global

acclaim when he stopped African Lehlohonolo Ledwaba for the International Boxing Federation super bantam crown in 2006.

The last time Manny Pacquiao fought as an underdog was in 2008, when he battled Oscar De La Hoya. Using his superior speed and footwork, Pacquiao made De La Hoya, the face of boxing then, quit on his stool before the start of the ninth round.

That boosted Pacquiao’s status as one of the best of his generation. He then breezed through bigger foes like Miguel Cotto, Antonio Margarito, Joshua Clottey and Shane Mosley.

Mayweather has also beaten, albeit in less impressive fashion, Cotto, Margarito, and De La Hoya.

UMAC celebrates Christmas with a Bang!

UMAC VP-Treasurer Perly Baguisa-Alilio left no stone unturned to make their door-to-door business' annual Christmas Party a huge success December 6, 2014. With their

President Ted H. Dayno and wife Doris with them and their Staff, the event went smoothly until the end of the gig that was spruced up with delectable foods, drinks,

wine and Filipino delicacies. Gifts were given each of the smiling staff courtesy of the UMAC management and few lucky winners won the top prizes donated and

given by the Baguisa and Dayno Families.
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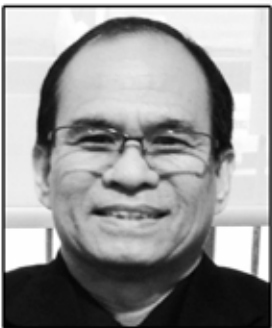
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BIR charges taxpayers who used bouncing cheques



MANILA - Commissioner Kim S. Jacinto Henares of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) ordered the filing of criminal charges against individual and business taxpayers who paid their tax liabilities with bouncing checks which totaled more than P430 million.

In Operations Memorandum Order No.2014-12-03, Commissioner Henares said that “appropriate legal action must be immediately instituted against the delinquent taxpayers for violation of the

Tax Code, and/or Batas Pambansa 22 (Anti-Bouncing Check Law), or Article 315 of the Revised Penal Code (estafa).”

She issued the order to regional directors, district officers, chiefs of regional collections, finance and legal divisions. She said habitual offenders will likewise be subjected to immediate legal action.

To stop the continued incidence of dishonored checks (DCs), the concerned taxpayers will be required by revenue district officers to electronically file their tax returns and pay taxes either through the BIR’s electronic filing and payment system (eFPS), or electronic BIR Forms (eBIR Forms).

In case of system failure, the concerned taxpayers must be required to pay in cash or manager’s checks, not through personal or company checks.

The outstanding multi-million-peso DCs covered 2013 and prior years. Ms. Henares, however, said it is pos-

sible “some of the taxpayers might have already redeemed the DCs but were not reflected in the bureau’s books of accounts.”

All unredeemed dishonored checks, she said, shall be considered delinquent accounts and reported as such until they are collected from the taxpayers. Any collection under the new order shall be considered a new tax collection.

Commissioner Henares instructed revenue district officers and other collection officers to undertake immediately summary remedies, including seizure of the assets in case the taxpayers failed to redeem their dishonored checks within five days from receipt of notice.

“Based on the recommendations of the Commission on Audit, the operations memorandum is issued to implement the proper treatment of the DCs in the bureau’s financial statements,” she added. Philippines’ previousl



Coleen Garcia: Billy is the perfect partner

Coleen Garcia says a relationship is all about work and commitment. photo by richard reyes

“I’ll stand by his side because that’s what partners do,” said Coleen Garcia in defense of her boyfriend Billy Crawford. The actress-TV host reacted to comments saying Billy, who is 10 years her senior, was just not right for her.

“He inspires me, really motivates me to be the best person I can be,” Coleen told writers during a media gathering for her debut film “#Y.”

She recalled a conversation she had with her mom about Billy during the early phase of their relationship.

“She asked if I was sure it’s worth it. I said it’s not easy to be with me, any more than it is easy to be with him. Whatever problems he is experiencing outside our relationship, I had nothing to do with.”

Coleen was referring to the recent incident where Billy was charged with malicious mischief and disobedience after reportedly making a scene while drunk in a Taguig City community precinct in September.

Coleen insisted that “Billy has been a very good boyfriend, so far. He’s a very caring partner to me. Everything that I am looking for in a guy, I found in him. I’m not saying he’s already perfect, I just feel that he’s the perfect partner for me.”

Very honest

The host of “It’s Showtime” added: “I know that whatever happens, he will support me and will never pull me down. He’s very honest to me. I feel like I’ve found not just a partner, but also a friend whom I can share all of my problems with and who will always understand me.”

She added: “I wouldn’t be with someone unless I believe that this person is really the one for me. A relationship is all about work and commitment. When your relationship is tested, that’s when you see how much you love each other.”

Coleen said Billy was very supportive of her, especially when she worked on her first film. “When he watched it for the first time, he was so happy. I felt so nervous the whole time because I didn’t really know if I did well. I was afraid he’d say my character was too revealing. He has always been very protective of me. When I saw that he liked it, I felt more relaxed,” she said.

Philippines NEWS

CCTV Mandatory

SANTIAGO CITY, Isabela—Mayor Joseph Tan pushed for the mandatory installation of close circuit television cameras (CCTV) in public and private establishments for crime deterrence. Tan said public safety is required to sustain the city’s stature as the economic hub of the Cagayan Valley region. “Our very purpose in pushing for the CCTV installation through an ordinance is to prevent any crimes and to help the law enforcers to speedily and easily resolve crimes based on CCTV-recorded incidents,” he said.

Police records indicated a uptrend in crimes amid the proliferation of drugs like shabu and marijuana being peddled in “red light districts” and to young users on top of illegal gambling.

Tan said CCTVs will be installed in banks, gasoline stations, transport terminals, grocery stores, churches, hospitals, restaurants, department stores, schools and other establishments.

Prepaid Electricity

QUEZON CITY - Manila Electric Co. is set to roll out prepaid electricity in the city of Manila in the first quarter.

Alfredo Panlilio, senior vice president and head of customer retail service and corporate communication of Meralco, said the commercial rollout of the prepaid retail electricity service is scheduled in the first quarter initially covering Manila.

“Commercial [rollout] is first quarter. We’re finalizing the network sites,” Panlilio said.

He said the commercial rollout of prepaid electricity for the entire franchise area of Meralco was expected to be completed in the next two to three years.

“A lot of cities want to do prepaid. Quezon City, Las Piñas, Cainta, Mandaluyong,” Panlilio said, adding Meralco studies first the density of the population and segment of the market before offering the prepaid electricity service.

New Airport

MANILA – The government has dropped a plan to expand the existing runway of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

“The consultant doubted if it could even add additional movements. He said the main thing to do is preserve your main runway, maximize it, try to eliminate all forms of obstructions or delays on it, and keep planes off it most of the time,” Transport Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya said, referring to Dutch consultant Ruud Ummels.

“There are more prospects to a new terminal than a third runway.”

Given this, the government is now pursuing a fifth terminal to be constructed near C5 Road, Abaya said.

By next year, the airport is expected to handle 37.78 million passengers, bulk of which would be domestic traffic. Come 2040, NAIA’s passenger traffic would reach 101.49 million

Scenes in the City



LEFT, The Rafael family poses with Senator Enverga (4TH FROM LEFT) at the OLA Christmas party. RIGHT, Senator Tobias Enverga (SECOND FROM RIGHT), wife Rosemer (FAR LEFT) and their two daughters pose with Canada’s Finance Minister Joe Oliver (CENTER) at the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation Christmas dinner.

FilAm women rule California town



Mayor Joanne del Rosario



Vice Mayor Diana Colvin

COLMA, Calif. — Colma may be tiny but its impact on the Filipino-American political and women’s empowerment is huge.

The smallest city in San Mateo County with a little over 1,500 residents boasts a town chief and her deputy who share more than public service or political aspiration in common: They are both of Filipino descent.

Newly re-elected Colma City Council member Joanne del Rosario and member Diana Colvin swore in as Mayor and Vice Mayor December 9 at the town’s year-end reorganization. A certified executive assistant, Del Rosario was elected in 2006. Colvin, who works at Cow Palace, was appointed in 2008 and was elected the following election.

Their ascent underscores the ability of Filipino-Americans to collaborate rather than compete.

“I join the community in celebrating the success of Mayor del Rosario and Vice Mayor Colvin,” Alice Bulos hailed the leaders to Philippine News. “Their success will inspire those of us considering running for office and looking for mentorship.”

Del Rosario modeled magnanimity upon getting the gavel. “It’s a real boost for Filipino-Americans, especially our women,” she weighed in on the significance of the double Fil-Am leadership. “This is an opportunity to shine. We often talk about empowerment, but here is a chance to see it in action.”

Paying the goodwill forward, del Rosario acknowledged those who have sustained her in meeting the “great demands” of public service in her installation remarks.

“Although we would love to serve our community alone and not have to rely on a regular job, it is unfortunately a reality,” she said, explaining her choice for oath administrators. “So to have the support of the people I work with is a huge plus. They understand that it is possible to do both.”

Del Rosario invited her boss, Dohmen Life Science Services senior vice president Dr. Herbert Lee, to swear her in as a re-elected council member. Retired council member and former Mayor Frossana Vallergera swore her in as mayor.

Vallergera, now a resident of Sonoma, officiated the marriage of del Rosario to Rene Malimban seven years ago at City Hall.

Colvin was sworn in by Colma City Manager Sean Rabe.

Del Rosario recognized family and friends as well as her challengers in the last election.

“It is very easy to win an election when you are unopposed, but when you are fortunate to win when others run against you, it’s even more humbling as it reaffirms the trust and confidence your constituents have in you,” she shared. “We all share one common goal, and that is our love for Colma.”

Her message to her colleagues: “What’s wonderful is that each year we continue to grow as a council.”

2014 is a banner year for Pepito!



Humakot ng mga parangal mula sa iba’t-ibang award giving bodies ngayong taon ang Saturday night comedy series na ‘Pepito Manaloto: Ang Tunay na Kuwento.’

Spearheaded by their creative director and comedy genius Michael V, higit na mas masaya ang mga Linggo natin with the funny cast of ‘Pepito Manaloto.’

March 2014 nakamit ng show ang Outstanding Comedy Program sa 5th Golden Screen Awards for TV. Kinilala ang galing nina Nova Villa at Michael V na tinanghal na Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Gag or Comedy Show and Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Gag or Comedy Program.

Nasungkit din nina Bitoy ang Kagitingan Awards for Television last April na iginawad ng Bataan Peninsula State University. Napili ang ‘Pepito’ na makasama sa sampung programa na nagpapakita ng kagitingan or valor.

Nag-uwi din ng parangal sa 38th Catholic Mass Media Awards noong Oktubre ang ‘Pepito Manaloto’ matapos kilalanin bilang Best Comedy Program.

Kaya sa lahat ng mga viewers na patuloy na sumusubaybay po sa ‘Pepito Manaloto’ maraming, maraming sa inyong suporta mga Kapuso!

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F. Sionil Jose named ‘officier’ in the French Order of Arts and Letters

PARIS - France - For his valuable contributions to Philippine literature, National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose has been promoted to the rank of Officier (Officer) in France’s Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters).

French Ambassador Gilles Garachon conferred the award during F. Sionil Jose’s birthday celebration at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on December 3.

Ambassador Garachon thanked the writer for his works that allowed readers from all over the world to understand the history, culture and values of the Filipinos. Seven of Jose’s books have been translated into French and have been available in Parisian bookstores since 1996: the five novels in the Rosales Saga, God Stealer and Viajero.

The writer was previously named Chevalier (Knight) in the French Order of Arts and Letters in 2001.

The Order of Arts and Letters was established on May 2, 1957, conferred on men and women, French citizens and foreigners for their significant achievements in the fields of arts or literature or their contribution in the promotion of French arts and literature in the world. The Order has three grades: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), and Commandeur (Commander).

Notable Filipinos who have received the same distinction include Lucrecia Kasilag, Arturo Luz, Lulu Tan-Gan, Juvenal Sanso, Ambeth Ocampo, and Brillante Mendoza. Former National Museum Director Corazon Alvina was also named officier on November 24.

Top-5 teacher is a Filipino

Fil-Am one of top five teachers in California



Lovelyn Marquez-Prueher with Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools Arturo Delgado.

LOS ANGELES, California - For someone who was bullied as a child because she could not speak English well, Filipino-American Lovelyn Marquez-Prueher has come a long way.

Prueher, who teaches English at the Dodson Middle School in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), was selected as one of the top five California Teachers of the Year from among the state’s nearly 300,000 teachers.

“I’m absolutely thrilled and honored to receive this award,” she said in a statement.

“But this is not just an award but an opportunity to talk to students, parents and fellow teachers all over California about what it’s like to be an immigrant . . . and to be suspected of having a learning disability because of language needs.”

The 34-year-old immigrated to the United States when she was nine years old. She recalled that in her early years in school, she was bullied because she did not speak English well.

That experience has made her a strong advocate for immigrants, who make up nearly a quarter of the student population in Los Angeles County, learning the

English language.

Marquez-Prueher is one of the 16 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year for 2014-2015.

She was honored at a luncheon hosted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education and attended by 700 people, including the top educators and education administrators in the county.

“She is an exemplary model for other teachers,” Dodson School Vice Principal Agnes Pitlik said.

“She is a leader in promoting partnerships with parents and the community.”

Marquez-Prueher, whose family hails from Cavite, is the first Filipina and first Philippine-born teacher to win the award.

The competition is part of the National Teacher of the Year program, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious recognition program that shines a spotlight on excellence in teaching.

In September this year,Marquez-Prueher and another Filipina, Maricar Fortuno Catalan, who is also with LAUSD, were selected as Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year.

It was the first time in the county’s history that two Filipino-American teachers made it to the top 16.

They were considered for the California Teachers of the Year competition, and Marquez-Prueher was selected as one of the state’s top five, as announced recently by State Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson. She will serve as a standard-bearer for the teaching profession statewide.

The award will be formally presented to Marquez-Prueher at a special recognition event in Sacramento next month.

GIAN CARLO continued from page 14

old Katelynn Misola who was diagnosed with Mitochondrial disorder. “It was an overwhelming success because of your love and support,” Gian Carlo said after he and his Mother Beth Bobila handed \$2,000 to Mr. & Mrs Joseph Misola at the end of the highly energized show. Gian also added:

“Many thanks to my band- Here, There, And, Everywhere for keeping up with me for two and a half hours of continuous live music, to our sponsors, to my radio co- hosts at ‘The Tall Order Column on the Air’ over pinoyradio.com -- Tito Mon Ramon Datol, Tito Ted H. Dayno, and Tita Daisy Gutier-

rez -- for the love and support, to Sheng Maligsay, Daisy Peralta, and the rest of the ‘Anghel ng Tahanan’ family for decorating and for helping out, to Rembrandt Banquet Hall for the great food and for adding more tables to accommodate the huge turnout of people, to Cosmo Music for providing sound and equipment, to our guest singers Lari Angeline Garcia, Monarie Ocray, Martha Joy and Nicole Datol Bello for a job well done, and most importantly, many thanks to the Good Lord above and to my loving parents for making this show possible.”

It was indeed one successful fundraising concert where everyone enjoyed the event while helping out a 3-year-old girl. (Photos by ARIEL RAMOS

A STAR IS BORN NICOLE SAMANTHA HUFF



By: Suzy Llanera

Watch for Nicole Samantha Huff. She will play the role of Gloria Chin on “Degrassi”, a popular and longestrunning TV show on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 9PM - Not to be missed on MTV Channel 52/56, Rogers Cable and TeenNick in the U.S. !

Nicole Samantha Huff – is half-Filipino and half-Caucasian, hails from a posh Richmond Hill neighbourhood and who blossomed from a bubbly five-year old former “Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC’s) Little Miss Philippines to a multi-talented 16 year-old teenager. Nicole, is a highly-motivated individual, who shows a lot of potential, has full of spirit & enthusiasm, and as well as, a perfectionist-driven in everything she does who also aims for “bigger dreams”.

Nicole has amassed an impressive resume encompassing achievements in sports, academics, acting, awards in dance, voice, figure skating, piano and violin. Nicole has also landed a recurring role in the famous TV show, “DEGRASSI” aka Gloria Chin. She was seen on her first episode on Tuesday, January 6th, 2015 on DEGRASSI, Season 14 on MTV, Channel 52/56, Canadian Rogers Cable TV and TeenNick in the U.S. Also stay tuned to watch her at the last four episodes of the show’s season 14 finale, as she plays her character, Gloria with a big story line to be aired in SUMMER, 2015. Nicole will also be featured on ABS-CBN’s “Balitang Canada” airing on TFC worldwide on Sunday, January 4, 2015.

As well, please follow Nicole and Degrassi on:
Twitter: @nicsamhuff; @degrassi
Instagram: nicolesamanthahuff; Degrassi
Facebook: Nicole Samantha Huff; degrassi

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Mondragon is new Rizal Scarborough chapter commander,

The Order of the Knights of Rizal holds get-together party
By Romy Zetazate & Dindo Orbeso

Sir Aristeo (Bert) Mondragon, a long time member of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, has been voted upon by members of the Scarborough Chapter of the Order of the Knights of Rizal during a get together party held some few days ago.

Mondragon is an old-timer in the OKOR thus he can share to the members his knowledge about the Order of the Knights of Rizal.

He replaced Sir Manny Yanga who was appointed OKOR's deputy area commander of Central Toronto.

Other officers of the OKOR Scarborough Chapter

include Sir Virgilio Amandter, deputy commander; Sir Willy Paragas, treasurer; Sir Jojo Taturan, chancellor; Sir Leo Huerto, trustee; and Sir Virgilio Sanchez, trustee.

In the meantime, the Order of the Knights of Rizal Scarborough Chapter is now preparing to join the other OKOR Chapters to commemorate the 118th Anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal which will be held at the Earl Bales Park, North York, Ontario, Canada where the bust DO)

BELOW, Photo shows the men of the Order of the Knights of Rizal.Scarborough Chapter which include seating at the frontrow: Sir Dong Meneque, Sir Alex Rondilla, Paul Cruz. Standing from right to left: Sir Nick Alo, Sir Virgilio Sanchez, Sir Virgilio Amante, Sir Joe Sison Luzadas, Sir Manny Yanga, Leo Huerto, Sir Willy Paragas, Sir Larry Bercasio, and Sir Bert Mondragon. INSET, Aristeo (Bert) Mondragon, OKOR Scarborough Chapter Commander

BELOW RIGHT, Ladies of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, Scarborough Chapter



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PCCF, AFCM & OLA hold Christmas Party By Fe Taturan

TORONTO - The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) together with the Archdiocesan Filipino Catholic Mission (AFCM) and the Our Lady of Assumption (OLA) Catholic Church, had a Christmas Party attended by 350 volunteers and supporters, on Saturday, December 13th, 2014, at the OLA Hall

at 2565 Bathurst Street in Toronto. Those in attendance enjoyed the food, games, gifts, raffle prizes, and the entertainment numbers. Food donations during the event filled six boxes which will be shipped to the Tacloban Orphanage and funds totaling to \$7,612.30 was raised for the OLA Adoration Chapel.

PCCF is now gearing up for the Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto which is scheduled for June 27th, 2015, at the Metro-Toronto Convention Centre.

Those interested, are invited to register as candidates for the PCCF Pageants (Miss Philippines Canada 2015, Miss Teen Philippines

Canada 2015, Little Miss Canada 2015 and Mrs Philippines Canada 2015) or as Trade Show Vendors. For more information or any inquiries, an email may be sent to: pageantsphilippines@gmail.com and/or pinoyfiestatortonto@gmail.com. (St. Jamestown News Service)

PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS



I saw shabu made inside bilibid

Robin Padilla saw inmates carrying guns



MANILA - Actor Robin Padilla said he saw shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) being prepared inside the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City where he spent more than three years for illegal possession of firearms.

Padilla also said it was common for prisoners, especially the VIP inmates, to carry guns inside the prison. He said he himself packed a .45 caliber pistol while he was serving time in Bilibid.

“Someone was even packing an Armalite while he was jogging. It’s dangerous if you don’t carry a gun. When the prison shuts down for the day and the guards are gone, a riot could break out,” Padilla said.

The actor said that when he was sent to Bilibid, the first question asked by a prison guard was what drugs he wanted to take.

When he told the guard that he was

into heroin and demerol, the guard said he could get them in a week’s time.

Padilla, known as the “Bad Boy” of Philippine movies, said shabu is being cooked at the maximum facility and everyone there knew it.

He said he was surprised at the big number of visitors inside Bilibid and found out later that the “visitors” were actually shabu buyers.

Padilla said he reported what he saw to then NBP Director Vicente Vinarao who told him to submit a list of people involved.

This started his partnership with Vinarao to clean up the facility, he said.

A number of prison guards were either dismissed or transferred to a prison facility in the Visayas, Padilla said.

The drug lords involved were eventually moved to Building 14, or the former death chamber.

The contraband items and illegal structures recently discovered inside Bilibid is just the tip of the iceberg and there are more alarming activities inside the prison, the head of the Volunteers Against Crime of Corruption (VACC) said Friday.

Dante Jimenez said that aside from the traffic of illegal drugs, Bilibid is also being used by criminal syndicates as a place to stash their loot.

Big robbery and kidnap-for-ransom groups hide their money in the facility with the help of high-profile inmates, Jimenez said.

“Based on the information I received from reliable sources, criminal syndicates are using the Bilibid as their storage place, because compared to banks which can be traced, NBP is a very safe and secured area,” Jimenez said.

The syndicates also use the prison as a cache for their firearms, he said.

Jimenez said he has provided Justice Secretary Leila De Lima with information on the illicit operations inside the prison.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito said he will file a resolution directing the Senate Committee in Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to look into the Bilibid controversy.

Ejercito said the incidents merit serious attention.

“This is a big insult to our country’s justice system, that is why we should not let those responsible get away,” he said.

Ejercito said De Lima must make public the contents of the documents obtained by the team that raided the “luxury” cells in Bilibid to avoid suspicion that they are trying to sanitize the information.

The senator made the call after receiving information that the raiding team was able to obtain a “logbook” containing the names of individuals including politicians that are involved in drug trafficking inside Bilibid.



The magic of JoGe love team

Last November marked the second anniversary of Celebrity Bluff. As the show turns two, it also celebrates the birth of the phenomenal love team JoGe - a tag formed from the combined names of Jose Manalo and Eugene Domingos.

From day one’s hilarious exchange of jokes, the laughter turned to teasing and bloomed to a chemistry that became a hit and is now loved by every Filipino today.

Eugene, herself, was surprised on how well the love team was received by fans.

“Nagulat ako! Gulat na gulat! Parang one day, ‘Ha? Talaga? Eh di sigel! Thank you! Bongga!’” she admitted.

When asked what she think was the secret of their chemistry, she simply answered, “Canun talaga siguro. It’s just magic! I’m very happy na nakita niyo ‘yun [chemistry].”

She also jokingly added that it was impossible for her to see the connection at first since she has already been partnered to a number of leading men.

“Kasi for so many films ang kasama ko mga gwapo, mga hunks, mga bata, mga makikinis, yung mga opposit! ‘Di ba? Tapos ayun, biglang [dumating] si Jose Manalo,” she shared, laughing.

Although hilarious, Eugene was still thankful for the magic that Jose brought to her career.

“Sabi ko nga, binigyan niya [Jose] ng bagong kulay ‘yung career ko. Imagine? Nag-click talaga! Sometimes meron talagang mga bagay na hindi maipaliwanag at hindi ine-expect pero patok!” she said.

Philippines NEWS

Denmark reopens embassy

MANILA - Denmark will reopen its embassy in Manila on January 22 at The Fort in Taguig because of the potentials seen by the Danish government in the Philippines, said Ambassador Jan Top Christensen. Denmark closed down its embassy in Manila 12 years ago because of “financial constraints.” Christensen, who stayed in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, from 1987 to 1990, said the Philippines is now “very different” in terms of politics and economics. He cited the “courageous reforms” such as the passing of the Reproductive Health bill, the government’s anti-corruption drive

and the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro.

“All of these things are noticed abroad, including Denmark,” Christensen said.

The Danish government wants a piece of the Philippines’ “very positive high growth rate.”

The envoy added that Denmark’s Minister of Trade will be arriving with a trade delegation for the reopening. He noted that the visit of the Danish delegation is “a good indicator that they see better opportunities today.”

The trade delegation will be “looking



VISITING ENVOY Denmark’s Ambassador to the Philippines Jan Top Christensen (left) with (from right) The Manila Times President and CEO Dante Ang 2nd, Publisher Rene Bas, Reporter Jimmy Pilapil and World Editor Conrad Cariño.

for partners and investments” in agriculture, renewable energy, farming and the health sector.

SCENES *in the* City



LEFT, FiiCan community’s pioneering Talakayan Radyo 1430 AM family celebrates a simple 10-year broadcast anniversary and pre-Christmas Party with staff and special guests on December 13, 2014 at Century Palace Restaurant, Markham, Ontario. Shown are : Sitting, L-R - Jocelyn A. San Juan, Jess Cabrias, Rafael Nebres, Rose Osen. Standing, L-R: Tony A. San Juan, Bobby Achacon, Col. Delio Osen, Lorna Achacon, Mirco Cabrias, Doris Dayno, Ted Dayno, May Cabrias, Makayla Cabrias, Agnes Miranda, Norma Carpio, Cecile Esguerra and Pedro Carpio. Back row: Karen Pascual-Binaday, Charlotte Cabrias, Mitch Cabrias and David Cabrias.



Frontpage Philippines Newsman Ace Alvarez poses with Dwn-Flora Angue.



Pors Canlas, Canada’s Finance Minister Joe Oliver, Senator Tobias Enverga, Normita Canlas, Rosemer Enverga, Lita and Tony Leano enjoy the Our Lady of Assumption parish Christmas party.

Action Honda *Christmas* Party



ABOVE, Action Honda held their Christmas celebration at Rembrandt last December 20, 2014. BELOW, Bicol Canada Community Association pose for a picture at their 2014 summer picnic.



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GIAN CARLO BOBILA'S

I Still Believe

In The Miracle of Christmas

A SMASHING SUCCESS!!!

TORONTO (December 24, 2014) – Friends, kin and fans of 2011 World COPA Division Champion Gian Carlo Bobila inched their way to the jam packed Rembrandt Banquet Hall last December 20th to support, watch and listen to Gian's array of known and favorite songs he arranged with his 'Here, There and Everywhere' Band and best pal Mike Obediente for the said concert produced by The Philippine Courier, Wilson Dental Clinic, UMAC and supported by

RxD Wellness, Agnes Miranda of WFG, Kenway Dental Clinic. The two-hour non-stop show featured Gian Carlo's guitar wizardry and golden voice which captured the hearts of the not less than 300 people who danced to the Band's 50s, 60, 70s and 80s sounds.... Gian Carlo thanked everyone who came and supported his concert/fundraiser whose proceeds went to three-year

GIAN CARLO
continued on
page 10



Piat Association of Canada



The Piat association held their Christmas party at the residence of Dr. Solon and Josephine Guzman. As expected, everybody from Piat, their families and friends came to enjoy the festivities. Well, of course,

not only that. The delicious food is always something to look forward to. Then, there were games for the young and young once alike. It was a night to remember. The association is for people who come from

Piat, a municipality in the province of Cagayan, Philippines. According to the 2010 census, it has a population of 22,961 people. Here are some of the photos of that happy celebration.



Maja Salvador on relationship with Gerald Anderson:

‘Secure naman ako’

Maja Salvador admitted that she is deeply saddened by the death of her grandmother last December 14, but is thankful to have a lot of blessings in her life. “Almost perfect [yung 2014 ko] pero yung isang taong nag-alaga sa akin medyo kinuha na siya ni God. Pero siyempre wala naman akong kailangang pagsisihan o i-regret kundi i-continue pa rin yung life. Katulad ngayon after ko siyang ihatid nung Sunday, nagkaroon naman ako ng isang magandang blessing na nag-announce na nag-Platinum na yung album ko na parang ngayon feeling ko mas may mag-ga-guide na sa akin kasi dalawa na sila ng papa ko na guardian angel ko sa taas,” she said.

Maja said a big source of support was her boyfriend and Gift of Life co-star Gerald Anderson. “Nandiyan siya everyday. Nandiyan lang siya. Kahit may trabaho siya, hindi siya nakakalimot magparamdam. Nandiyan lang siya,” she said.

Maja admitted that their relationship is very mature. “Parang hindi namin pinapatapos yung araw na hindi namin tatapusin (on whatever may be troubling them). Kasi importante yun eh, yung maayos kaagad yung mga problema kasi importante sa relationship yung communication, yung pagkakaintindihan niyo. Kung dati akala mo puppy love lang, parang ngayon mas alam mo na yung meaning ng love. Alam mo na kung paano i-handle ang mga sitwasyon na darating,” she said.

Kris Aquino on Mayor Herbert Bautista: ‘I want him to remain a part of my life’

Ipinaliwanag ni Queen of All Media and host Kris Aquino kung bakit biglaang dumalaw noong gabi ng December 28 si Quezon City Mayor Herbert “Bistek” Bautista sa bahay niya sa kala-gitnaan ng Thanksgiving mass na ginaganap doon.

Ayon kay Kris, sana ay ‘wag lagyan ng kahulugan ang pagdalaw na iyon ni Mayor Bistek dahil isa lamang itong dalaw ng isang kaibigan. Para kay Kris, isa itong paraan ng pag-sorry ni Mayor Bistek sa kung ano man ang nangyari sa kanila at isa na rin daw itong pagpaparing ng mensahe na nandiyan pa rin siya bilang kaibigan for Kris.

Nagpaabot din daw ito ng concern



MAJA SECURE continued on page 21

Michele Serrano Runs for Liberal MP -Scarborough Southwest Nomination

By : Tony A. San Juan, OCT



Michele Serrano, a committed & proven leader in the FilCan community in the Greater Toronto Area, has thrown her hat in the political arena for the Scarborough Southwest Federal Riding Nomination in the City of Toronto. The electoral district is one of 2 high profile areas in the GTA wherein two political aspirants, Michele, a Filipina professional and another, a pastor, are of Filipino heritage.

Michele , popularly known to family and friends as “Chichi”, is vying for nomination to become the official candidate of the Liberal Party for Member of Parliament in

next year’s Federal election.

A multi-licensed career professional, M. Serrano has been certified to practice in 4 major industry sectors. As a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and Certified General Accountant (CGA), she held senior management positions in both the public and private sectors. She was Controller for the City of Toronto Economic Development Corporation for many years. Michele built a career in Corporate Canada and transitioned from the corporate life two years ago as Chief Financial Officer/ Controller/Corporate Secretary - Canada for Clear Channel, a world-wide media and advertising company.

Being a Regulated Certified Immigration Consultant (RCIC), she continued working even after retiring from the Corporate world. The decision to become an RCIC was born out of her desire to help people especially “our kababayans” to realize their dream of being reunited with their family, coming to Canada and have a better life”. Adding, of course there was a period of adjustment because it was more personal and the stories touching and inspiring.

As a financial advisor , she concentrates primarily on retirement planning to ensure that people are taken care of in their senior years. Her goal is to educate people on how money works and how they can make the most of their budget and be stress-free

in their retirement years. Currently, she is completing the requirements to be a Certified Financial Planner so that “ I can provide better advice and value in investing clients’ resources”.

Born in Quezon City, Philippines to Franklin and Monina Serrano from Albay and Masbate, she studied at Stella Maris College in the Philippines. She also finished her secondary education at St. Joseph’s College School in Toronto. Michele attended the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, Seneca College and Humber College where she received her degrees and certificates in Business Management, Business Administration, Human Resources Management, Accounting and Information Technology and Immigration.

Her pledge of : “ I will listen, act and get results for the Scarborough Southwest and together, we can make it happen” evokes sincere, strong and meaningful sense of purpose. The pledge came many months after knocking on many doors in Scarborough Southwest. “I have listened to many residents but it is not enough to just listen, something should be done about it! When I hear our kababayans say, “pare-pareho lang kayo, magaling kung may kailangan”. I say, “ibahin niyo po ako. “eto po ang card ko, hindi po magbabago ang number, win or lose kung mayroon akong maitutulong tumawag po kayo”.

Being a Pinoy social activist and feminist leader ,there are many things Michele has done anonymously as she is more concerned about getting things done rather than getting the credit. She reasoned out

that “ it was more effective and fulfilling to work behind the scenes and watch something unfold and evolve.” Adding that “if there is one thing I would like is to be an example of a successful immigrant story to prove to our kababayans that Canada is indeed the land of opportunity, anything is possible and you can make it happen! “

Learning about her Nomination drive, several professional and community organizations are endorsing and supporting her political journey. Among the associations are Scarborough Ontario Seniors Association, Federation of Filipino-Canadians, Ontario Filipino Womens Club,and Philippine Canadian Guardians Brotherhood, including leaders like Fr. Terry Gallagher of Scarborough Foreign Mission , Zeny Uy of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Rafael Nebres of Bicol Canada Community Association, Dr. Victoria Santigao and Agnes Miranda of World Financial Group

Her Scarborough Southwest Riding encompasses the boundaries of Victoria Avenue in the west,Markham Road in the east, south of Eglinton Avenue East and down to Lake Ontario. She is enlisting the utmost support of Pinoy kababayans residing or are voters in the Riding to register as members of the Liberal Party. Michele may be contacted at : Tel. 416-988-9613 or email: michele_serrano@hotmail.com.

Let’s get Michele Serrano, “Your Hope, Your Voice”, nominated as the First Filipina Member of Parliament candidate of the Federal Liberal Party ! (T. San Juan)

Christmas Party at OLA

Our Lady of Assumption Church (OLA) Christmas Party of its parish-ioners was held on Dec. 13, 2014. The pictures proved that even senior citizens do believed, and requested Santa Claus their Christmas GIFTS. Federal Finance Minister, Hon. Joe Oliver gave time to picture-pose with the children, and also their parents before delivering the message of the Federal

Government. Senator Jun Enverga stated the latest enhanced program for the CAREGIVERS. Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) gave donations to OLA for the building of the ADORATION CHAPEL; and also to the SILAYAN GROUP. PCCF and GMA PINOY TV gave so many many gifts to children.



ABOVE, Canada’s Finance Minister Joe Oliver joins Normita Canlas, PCCF’s Rosemer Enverga and Joey Abrnilla in drawing a raffle. BELOW, Even seniors still believe in Santa Claus. RIGHT, PCCF beauties add glamour to the celebrations.

PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS



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GMA Pinoy TV's Home Away From Home on its 2nd season



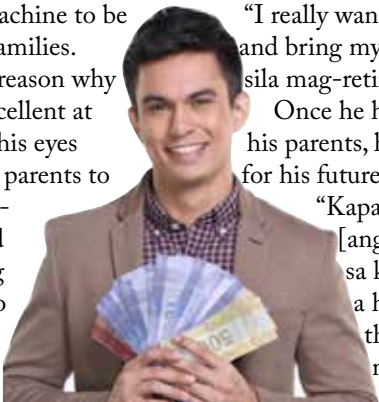
GMA Pinoy TV – the flagship international channel of GMA Network – brought back its award-winning mini-feature series, Home Away From Home, beginning last December 20. Hosted by Luanne Dy, Home Away From Home flew to Ontario and Vancouver in Canada, Los

Angeles, Connecticut and New York in the US, and Dubai in Asia to bring new stories of success, hope and inspiration to its worldwide audience. Taking centerstage in this new season are Filipino doctors, businessmen, artists, fashion designers and leaders of Filipino organizations abroad, who have become important parts of their communities and have shown success in their respective fields. Aside from opening their homes, the featured achievers will once again be sharing their secrets to their successful family and professional lives with the hope of inspiring viewers from all parts of the world. For its first salvo, the Home Away from Home will put the spotlight on businesswoman Elena Lapid from Los Angeles, Dr.

Solon de Guzman from Canada, fashion designers Michael Cinco and Ezra Santos from Dubai, Dr. Gino and Alma Ang from Connecticut, and Lolita Savage from New York. Last May, Home Away From Home has gained international recognition by bringing home a Silver Award of Distinction at the 20th Communicator Awards, the leading international awards program that recognizes creative excellence in advertising, corporate communications, public relations and identity work in print, video, audio and interactive formats. Home Away From Home is an original creation of GMA International and can be seen on GMA Pinoy TV in the US, Canada, the Middle East, North Africa and Asia Pacific. For more details, visit the GMA International website www.gmanetwork.com/international, Facebook page www.facebook.com/GMAPinoyTV, and Twitter page @GMAPinoyTV. (30)

Tom Rodriguez, saving up for 2 families

Tom is working like a machine to be able to provide for two families. First, his parents. The reason why he's determined to be excellent at what he does is because his eyes are fixed on bringing his parents to the Philippines. His family is based in the United States but he's sacrificing being away from them so he could save up for his parents' retirement.



"I really want to work hard and save up and bring my parents here. Gusto ko sila mag-retire malapit sa 'kin," he said. Once he has saved up enough for his parents, he will also start saving up for his future family. "Kapag matayo ko na ng bahay [ang parents ko] na talagang sa kanila na [and] I know for a hundred percent fact na their future is secure, wala na silang proplemahin

[and] everything is taken care of, then I'm gonna still keep saving up para naman sa magiging pamilya ko," he shared. Although his plan of being married by now didn't materialize, he knows he wants to be a husband and a father someday. "Ever since I was young, [being a family man 'yung] naging goal ko. I've never been one na inisip ko na 'Ah, I wanna be a bachelor.' I've always wanted to have a family. That's my goal," he disclosed.

REVELATIONS of Sarah Lahbati

2014 has been a year of many revelations, one of which was Richard Gutierrez and Sarah Lahbati's disclosure that they have a one-year-old baby named Zion. On her guesting on The Tim Yap Show Season V, Sarah gave a glimpse of her life now as a mother. "We are blessed to have him," said Sarah of her son Zion. She called her little bundle of joy a "happy kid." "Hyper; iba talaga pag boy. Malakas siya tapos sporty!" Ever wondered what was Zion's first word? "Dada," Sarah revealed. She also said that at his age, Zion's "dugong Gutierrez" was already showing. "Sanay na siya sa camera and (he)



ways smiles. In fact, marunong na siyang mag-selfie!" She also shared that while was in her happiest state controversies she had to go through were a rough patch in her life. How did she get through it? "Prayers make you strong and being sincere makes things right," Sarah shared. The 21-year-old Kapuso actress also advised the viewers, "Prioritize your goals, balance personal life and work life." The Tim Yap Show host Tim Yap also asked Sarah the question some viewers have been meaning to ask: how is Annabelle Rama up close and personal? Sarah revealed, "She is very nice. Iba ang comments and judgement ng mga tao sa kanya. Once you get to know her nakikita mo na mabait talaga siya."

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Another Teleserye for Richard Yap in 2015

Forty seven-year-old actor Richard Yap reveals that he will star in another teleserye after the successful two-year run of morning series “Be Careful With My Heart.”

“I will take a rest for a month first. They are thinking of a story for a teleserye for me that may begin in February. They already came up with an idea, but the full story and cast are not yet complete,” he shares said.

Will he finally get his dream to star in an action project in his upcoming teleserye?

But before the teleserye airs, Richard’s comedic skills will be put to test as the leading man of Vice Ganda in “The Amazing Praybeyt Benjamin.”

He insists that despite his stern roles on television, comedy comes naturally to him.

“I love making other people laugh. Before, I was always an ‘alaskador,’ or maybe until now,” he quips.

Jasmine shrugs off bashing from Kathniel fans

Jasmine Curtis Smith had a great time shooting “Bonifacio: Ang Unang Pangulo” with Daniel Padilla. “I play Andrea, a student in present times who’s doing research on Andres Bonifacio, kasama si Daniel and si RJ Padilla,” she says. “Yung in charge sa museum, si Tito Eddie Garcia, then narrates to us the untold story of the founder of Katipunan. Doing this movie is an eye opener for me kasi I studied in

Melbourne so I’m not that familiar with local history. Now, I understand better the role that Bonifacio played in the fight against the Spaniards.”

How did she feel when she was linked to Daniel Padilla then the fans of his love team with Kathryn Bernardo started bashing her? “Siyempre, I felt sad about it. Wala naman akong balak agawin si Daniel from Kathryn. As everyone knows, I’m with Sam (Concepcion) naman. Kaya lang, ganun siguro talaga ang fans, masyadong possessive. They’ve been supporting the Kathniel love team for so long kaya very intense sila. I try to be objective and don’t mind na lang ‘yung pamba-bash ng haters. Basta trabaho na lang nang trabaho.”

Right now, she’s also in the horror movie, “Mara,” with Isabelle Daza and Paulo Avelino, a co-production between Regal and Reality Entertainment. She’s also starting to shoot a movie for Star Cinema opposite Gerald Anderson and is hosting a new show for her home network TV5, “Move It: Clash of the Street Dancers,” where the best hiphop groups in country will compete in a series of breathtaking dance offs.

We know FHM has asked her to do a sexy pictorial for them but she begged off. Why? “I felt it’s not the right time, I’m not ready yet. Kasi right now, puro wholesome ang shows and movies that I do at happy naman ako doon. Baka in the future, who knows? Kapag I’m a bit older and ready for more mature roles na.”



People ...are talking about ...

Julie Anne San Jose

SHE sold more than 150,000 units of her debut album and received a Diamond record certification from PARI. She is the third OPM artist to ever achieve that record, hence it’s no longer surprising that she was able to fill up the MOA Arena during her Hologram concert last week. Though many doubted her ability to attract paying concertgoers, Julie Anne disappointed her detractors. Her concert was a resounding success. Indeed, the local concert circuit has found a new star.

Dennis Trillo

The Philippine delegation at the recently concluded Asian Television Awards 2014 held in Singapore went home almost empty-handed. The country had eight nominations, but bagged only one award. Thanks to Dennis who won the ‘Highly Commended’ honor in the Best Performance by an Actor category. Everybody should be proud of him, as this honor is already a feat in itself. Imagine, in the last nine years, it’s the first time that the country walked home with just one award.

Iza Calzado

While most celebrities teach their fans on how to dress up, fix their hair or put on their makeup, the actress shares something differently with her fans. As a healthy lifestyle advocate, Iza released a fitness video to inspire people to choose a healthy and active lifestyle. Parents out there should teach their children to idolize someone like Iza instead of following celebrities who can’t even teach them how to think logically.

...are not talking about

Kathryn Bernardo

Did her camp shell out at least a million pesos to buy her own CDs, or her fans were just too dedicated that they bought copies of the CD prior to its release? In this period when CD sales are in an all-time low, Kathryn made a hard-to-beat record in local music history. Her debut album has reached gold status after just a day of being out in the market. People couldn’t explain how the young star was able to sell more than 7,500 copies of her CD while it takes a year for legitimate singers to achieve the same feat.

JM de Guzman

Since his rather underwhelming comeback, we haven’t heard much about the talented actor. His efforts are not paying off, as he can’t still penetrate mainstream showbiz, which is his former turf. That is why he just sidelines doing indie movies in hopes that people would give him another look. You see, he now kisses another guy in an indie movie to get your attention.



Maricar, hubby split up

Maricar De Mesa says at the presscon of “Once Upon a Kiss” that she and husband of seven years Don Allado broke up early this year because there is a third party involved. Don denies this but Maricar says she knows the girl and has confirmed their relationship, but she never confronted the other woman. So it’s not true that the reason was because she cannot have a child?

“No, because my doctor examined me and told me there’s nothing wrong with me,” she says. “I’m perfectly capable of conceiving, kaya lang hindi pa kami binibiyayaan ni Lord. What can I do? Siguro nga, it’s for the best. I admit naging very busy ako doing teleseryes. Umaga na ako umuuwi. But I told him I’m willing to change, to adjust, just to save our relationship, kasi sayang naman ‘yung seven years namin, but ayaw na niya, so move on na lang tayo. Siguro, we also outgrew each other. Sabi nga niya, he’d rather end it na lang than hurt me more.”

She says she’s happy. “I’m busy with work. Nakatapos ako ng bagong movie, ‘My Big Bossing’. I’m in the ‘Prinsesa’ episode and I play Nikki Gil’s evil sister na gagawin ang lahat with my husband Niño Muhlach para agawin ang korona sa kanya. Then after ‘Villa Quintana’, heto nabigyan ako agad ng kasunod, ‘Once Upon a Kiss’, so no time to feel sorry for myself. Maganda ‘yung role ko in ‘Once Upon a Kiss’ as the best friend of Mylene Dizon who’s the mother of Miguel Tanfelix. Mayaman ako na naghirap so mina-match ko my own daughter, Sabrina Mann, kay Miguel, na ang gusto naman, si Bianca Umali, so Mylene and I will do everything para magkalayo sila.”

Is she ready to fall in love again? “Naku, huwag na muna. I’m not even dating. May mga nagpaparamdam, pero rest muna ako.”

But how come she’s being linked to Joey Marquez’s son who used to also be in showbiz, Jeremy? “Not true. Magkaibigan kami and we have common friends kaya nagkakasama kami kung minsan. But like what I’ve said, ‘di pa ko ready to fall in love again.”

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Richard Yap and Jodi Sta. Maria recognized as Best Foreign Actor and Actress...

ABS-CBN’S “Be careful With My Heart” wins Best Foreign Drama Series in Vietnam



Philippine TV’s longest-running daytime drama series “Be Careful With My Heart,” which ended last November, was awarded Best Foreign Drama Series at the Face of the Year Award 2014 of Today TV, one of the largest Vietnamese television networks that airs Filipino dramas. The winners were determined through public votes and results were announced on Monday (December 22).

ABS-CBN’s romantic comedy series, known in Vietnam as Tráí Tim Bé B ng, is a certified phenomenon that its lead stars Jodi Sta. Maria and Richard Yap, popularly known among viewers as sweethearts Maya and Ser Chief, earned the most number of votes from Vietnamese viewers among other international nominees. Jodi was hailed the Best Foreign Actress, while Richard was named Best Foreign Actor. Both Jodi and Richard graced the event to receive their awards.

Prior to its recognition in Vietnam, “Be Careful With My Heart” became a finalist in the Telenovelas category at the 2013 New York Festivals International Television and Film Awards.

It wasn’t trending news on social media but when a member of Brunei’s royal family was revealed as the new love of the son of a former Philippine president, people couldn’t stop talking about it.

Enrique Gil, happy w/ Forevermore

Enrique Gil remarked that he is truly elated with the success of his prime-time soap Forevermore. The actor said that though there were apprehensions initially, he was grateful that the show become an instant hit among televiewers. “I am super happy kasi nong una binigyan kami ng show with a very good slot, with a very good director, siyempre before ‘yung show ‘yung pressure kasi pag hindi nag-work kami ‘yung problema,” he said.

He admitted that he felt nervous at first if his team up with Liza Soberano would work on TV. “Siyempre bagong love team pa, first time pa kam-ing magkasama ni Liza, nobody was really sure kung maghi-hit ang Forevermore.”

Enrique said that the success of his show has given him the motivation to work even harder. “Feeling ko nabuhayan ulit ako. I feel like I want to work more. Feeling ko na I have more drive compared to before. There is a reason that I want to work more now dahil sa success ng Forevermore.”



TV5 alive

Contrary to nasty talk, the Kapatid network will not shut down in 2015.

Despite the problems and challenges, TV5 has never lost its fighting spirit. The network is ready to shake the TV industry anew based on the new shows launched during its trade launch. These include: “Mac and Chiz” (sitcom topbilled by Derek Ramsay and Empoy), “Solved na Solved” (talk show hosted by Gelli de Belen and Arnell Ignacio), “Healing Galing” (medical show hosted by Hayden Kho), “Move It” (dance show hosted by Jasmine Curtis-Smith), to name a few. They air this month.

Redemptions

In showbiz, stars come and go. These are the stars who usually venture into a new journey. Admirably, they level up making their celebrity status worth emulating. Leading this pack are Nanette Medved and Cristina Gonzales.

Nanette Medved. She entered showbiz in 1989. This Russian-Chinese beauty was also typecast in sexy roles. In fact, she did a number of ST (sex trip) movies. Until she got tired of showbiz. Nanette finally turned her back to showbiz when she married business tycoon, Chris Po in 1999. And to embrace her new life, she took up business course and graduated summa cum laude from Babson College in Boston, USA. Now, she is active in socio-civic work. Nanette is happy with her chosen life and active as a philanthropist as well.

Cristina Gonzales. Showbiz runs in her blood as she is the daughter of Sampaguita actor Jose Mari Gonzales. She was formerly known as Kring-Kring Gonzales during her “sweet image” years. She became a sexy star doing ST (sex trip) movies during the 90s. But she made a 360-degree turn in her life when she got married to Alfred Romualdez, who is now the mayor of Tacloban City. From showbiz, Cristina leaped to politics. Today, she is busy as city councillor in Tacloban on top of her being a loving wife and doting mother.

Now that showbiz comeback is trending, what will convince Nanette and Cristina?

C seriously planning to woo LJ

LJ Reyes is ready to disrobe on screen as she gave her nod to writer-director Jun Lana’s new movie, the sex-drama “Anino sa Likod ng Buwan.” They’re now shooting the film and she figures in a love triangle with Luis Alandy and newcomer Anthony Falcon. She plays an NPA amazon and Anthony is her husband, but she will have an affair with a soldier played by Luis. She’s having provocative love scenes with both of them. Off cam, LJ is currently being linked to two guys: her co-star in “Yagit,” Renz Fernandez, and also to JC de Vera, but it seems JC now has the upper hand. JC admitted at the presscon of “Shake Rattle & Roll 15,” where he is with Erich Gonzalez in the “Ahas” episode, that he really intends to woo LJ seriously. He visits her not only at her home but also on the taping of LJ’s afternoon soap, “Yagit,” where she plays the villainous Flora.

LJ is said to be very pleased with JC’s visits and her co-stars in “Yagit” often chide them whenever he’s around. “Talagang kumikinang ang mga mata at ngiti ni LJ kapag nandiyan na si JC,” someone tells us.

Well, this is just fine since her ex-lover, Paulo Avelino, has also moved on and is now cozy with KC Concepcion.



Ryzza is serious to be an actress

Director Joyce Bernal is very pleased that her “Prinsesa” episode in “My Big Bossing” is being praised by all those who’ve seen it. At the presscon of “Once Upon a Kiss” which she’s helming for GMA-7, she told us she enjoyed directing Vic Sotto and Ryzza Mae Dizon. “Isang episode lang ang ‘Prinsesa’ pero ang budget, p a r a sa isang buong pelikula na,” she says. “Magastos sa sets, sa costumes, sa production design kasi kahar-i a n ng mga hari at reyna ang setting ng story. Napakagaling ni Ryzza. Sineseryoso niya talaga ang pagiging aktres niya.”

How about the teen love team of Miguel Tanfelix and Bianca Umali in “Once Upon a Kiss,” GMA7’s first offering for the new year 2015?

“Pareho silang mahal ng camera, hindi namimili ng anggulo. Pareho rin silang magaling, very intense kaya I even tell them to tone down at huwag masyadong idrama ang mga eksena. Maganda ang combination nila at kikiligin talaga ang fans. Si Miguel lang, sinabihan ko nang magpapayat siya kasi nagiging chubby siya.” She says “Once Upon a Kiss” is about women who think they cannot live without men. The story is really like a fairy tale. May magiging sleeping beauty rito who will be in coma at yung kiss ng partner niya ang gigising sa kanya, but I won’t say who kung sino ang makakatulog. Panoorin nyo na lang.”

A single mom, Direk Joyce is now 46 years old. Her one and only daughter Liam is now 12 years old. Direk Joyce will be busy next year not only on TV with “Once Upon a Kiss” but with a new movie starring Piolo Pascual titled “Lecheng Pag-ibig,” but they have yet to find the right leading lady for him.



Canada contributes \$ 5 million to victims of Typhoon Hagupit

The Honourable Tobias C. Enverga Jr, Senator from Ontario, joined the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, who hosted a roundtable meeting with members of Montréal’s Filipino-Canadian community today and announced a commitment of \$5 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help meet the urgent needs of those affected by Typhoon Hagupit.

“It is heartbreaking that the people of the Philippines have been hit once again with such a destructive typhoon while still dealing with the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan just over a year ago,” said Minister Paradis. “Canada’s support will help to respond to needs identified by the Government of the Philippines, such as for water, sanitation, emergency shelter, and other essential relief items for those affected by the typhoon.” “Our government’s commitment to repeatedly assist the people



Senator Enverga joins Minister Paradis announcing support to those affected by Typhoon Hagupit

of the Philippines is proof of the growing ties between our two countries,” said Senator Enverga. “As Canada’s first Filipino Canadian senator, it warms my heart to see that my new homeland shows such care for the country of my birth.”

Typhoon Hagupit first hit the Philip-

pires as a Category 3 typhoon on December 6, 2014, making it the most powerful storm to hit the Philippines this year. Hagupit has affected nearly 2.8 million people, and more than 43,000 houses have been damaged across the affected areas. The Government of the Philippines has confirmed 18 deaths, and more than 1.7 million people have been evacuated.

Typhoon Hagupit also impacted some areas already affected by Typhoon Haiyan just over a year ago. To that end, Minister Paradis also announced last week that Canada will be extending the deadline for the Typhoon Haiyan Reconstruction Assistance Call for Proposals to February 13, 2015. This will give Canadian

organizations on the ground more time to mobilize their responses to Typhoon Hagupit, as needed, and to consider Hagupit’s implications in Haiyan-affected areas.

“Canada is steadfast in its commitment to helping the Filipino people in their efforts to restore their livelihoods and build a better future for their country,” reiterated Minister Paradis. “Canada was proud to help in the relief effort in 2013, and we are proud to assist again this year.”

Quick Facts

When Typhoon Hagupit hit the Philippines on December 6, 2014, Canada was already exploring how it could help, working closely with humanitarian partners and the Government of the Philippines.

In 2014, the Philippines was confirmed as a country of focus for the Government of Canada’s international development efforts.

MAJA SECURE
continued from page 16

ng magkasakit si Kris at nag-wish rin ng good luck bago ang showing ng Feng Shui 2. Nagpaalam din si Mayor Bistek na mag-lunch sa bahay ni Kris on Christmas Day at nag-“No” naman si Kris. Pinaliwanag ni Kris kay Bistek na babae pa rin siya at may meaning para sa kanya ang pasko kaya sa ibang araw na lang. Nagpadala rin diumano si Mayor Bistek ng dalawang kaing ng mangga sa bahay ni Kris.

Sa video na nakuha sa kanila kung saan sinabihan ni Kris na “echosero” si Bistek ay diumano sagot niya ito sa pagsabi ni Mayor Bistek na lalagpas na siya ng langit kung makikidasal pa siya sa Thanksgiving mass dahil tapos na siya magsimba.

Dagdag pa ni Kris, “I wanted the two of us to end up being friends.” Sa tingin diumano ni Kris pinatawad niya si Mayor Bistek dahil hindi niya kaya itong mawala sa buhay niya. “I want him to remain a part of my life. Friends until our dying day.” Pagtatapos ni Kris, “he is one of my closest friends.”

What about murder of Marine in Makati?

US Ambassador brings up 2012 case

MANILA, Philippines - The United States is disappointed with a recent Makati City court ruling on the killing of a US Marine outside Bel-Air Village in Makati by four Filipino men in November 2012.

US Ambassador Philip Goldberg relayed his country’s sentiment in an interview with ANC TV.

He said the court ruling on the murder of Marine George Anikow appeared to be “the end of the road” for the case that he thought hardly got media attention. “Clearly we are disappointed by it,” he said.

The killing of Anikow, husband of a US diplomat, was captured on CCTV.

The suspects were granted bail by the Makati regional trial court.

“There has been a ruling on the case and the press did not cover, pick it up. Two of the suspects were not convicted of any crime and two were convicted of homicide and given probation,” Goldberg said. “And so nobody has served the day for that brutal crime. We don’t know why that would happen.”

The probation decision, according to Goldberg, was appealed but was denied by the court.

“The justice department has said that there may be some way to appeal the probation decision but it has already been appealed once and denied, so it looks like it is the end of the road,” Goldberg said.

He said he had spoken to the victim’s family and found it hard to explain the brutal murder.

The four Filipinos reportedly ganged up on Anikow when he confronted them for bullying a village guard who prevented them from entering the subdivision.



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At The Friends of Jesus Christ Canada holds its, Christmas celebration



Senator Tobias Enverga is joined by his wife Rosemer in wishing all a “blessed christmas and a peaceful new year year.”

By Romeo Ayson Zetazate

TORONTO, Ontario, Canada - The congregation of the Friends of Jesus Christ Canada (FJCC) held its; Christmas celebration on December 20, 2014 (Saturday) in a very unique

way by way by producing a live stage play on the life on Joseph, the dreamer; Joseph, the slave, and Joseph, the Ruler.

Pastor Teck Uy mentioned the life and journey of Joseph was ver much similar to that of Jesus Christ. In between, the three parts of the story, there was an interval for which the two special guests were given a chance to deliver a brief message as the celebration of the birth of Christ is being remembered by the Christendom throughout the world.

Fil-Can Senator Tobias C. Enverga, Jr. has given emphasis to “love and sharing” to fellowmen and at the same time, Ms. Rosemer A. Enverga joined her husband

in wishing all a “blessed christmas and a peaceful new year year.”

On the other hand, Toronto Raymond Cho of Ward 42, Rouge River, and Ms. Cho greeted everyone a “Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Pastor Teck Uy is inviting Christians throughout the province of Ontario to attend the church service every Sunday.

The Friends of Jesus Christ Canada church is located t 181 Nugget Avenue (North of Shppard), Toronto (Scarborough), Ontario, Canada, with telephone number 416 - 393 - 4636.

The leadership of Pastor Uy in the congregation of the Friends of Jesus Christ Canada is being supported by the seniors, adult, and youth members.

It has several ministries which include free bible, israel, women, youth, and youth, (ST.JAMESTOWN NEWS SERVICE, RAZ)



PACQUIAO FIGHT continued from page 1

Chatchai Sasakul to win the World Boxing Council flyweight title in December of 1998, believes the much-talked about Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather Jr. megabuck fight will never happen.

In an interview with the Manila Standard/Viva Sports, Stahaley who visited the Mayweather Gym in Las Vegas and sized things up, said that while Floyd’s father/trainer, Floyd Mayweather Sr. thinks his son may have the edge over Pacquiao and can beat him, the Moneyman isn’t that certain.

He said Mayweather’s Showtime feature interview in Texas, wherein he finally challenged Pacquiao for a fight on May 2, was aimed at promoting his fight card.

“He used Manny’s name,” said Stahaley, who feels Maywearther thinks he has a 60-40 chance of beating Pacquiao, “but that’s too close especially since Floyd is enamored with going out undefeated.”

“If (Marcos) Maidana can hit Floyd, Manny comes with more speed, has power and throws straight punches (that could cause problems for Mayweather),” said Stahaley.

The trainer noted that Mayweather’s demands of himself calling the shot, wanting the fight on Showtime pay-per-view and asking Pacquiao not to expect too much in terms of a purse while he gets the lion’s share “all tell you that Mayweather is not serious. I don’t think they’ll ever fight.”

He added: “Pacquiao will take that fight. He’ll fight anybody, that’s why the fans love him.”

Stahaley indicated that the only way the fight has a chance to happen is if Showtime and HBO Sports demand it and force Mayweather to fight Pacquiao in the face of a major downswing in pay-per-view numbers of both fighters, from which both networks suffer. Meantime, another roadblock planted by Mayweather was his insistence on a May 2 date, which is a Mexican holiday (Cinco De Mayo). It is also a date which Oscar De La Hoya has set for a Saul “Canelo” Alvarez fight with Miguel Cotto.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum emphasized that Mayweather, Pacquiao or Cotto are not Mexicans and “the only Mexican in the group is Canelo Alvarez, who is a big attraction among the Mexican people. And to poach on that date, which is a Mexican holiday, by non-Mexicans, shows a terrible disrespect for the Mexican people, both those living in Mexico and those living in the United States. And anybody who does the poaching ought to be ashamed of themselves. That goes for hotels and that goes for fighters and that goes for any of us.”



“I guess this is the most daring thing that I’ve done”

Andrea Torres

Bago matapos ang 2014, kanya-kanya ang mga tao sa pag-evaluate kung naging maganda ba ang taong ito sa kanila o hindi. Pero sa lagay ni Kapuso actress Andrea Torres, hindi na niya kailangan pang pag-isipan pa ang sagot dahil halata namang napakaganda ng itinakbo ng kanyang career this year.

Hindi maikakaila ng ‘Ang Lihim ni Annasandra’ star ang malaking ingay na ginawa niya mula October hanggang sa huling buwan ng taon. Ang nakapagtataka, lahat ng mga ito ay may kinalaman sa kanyang change image.

Kaya naman tinanong namin mismo kay Andrea kung ang 2014 na ba ang official star ng kanyang pagpapa-sexy. Hindi naman niya ito itinanggi at inamin na hindi niya rin ito in-expect. Sunod-sunod



kasi ang projects niya na nakitaan ng sexy image.

Nag-umpisa ang pagpapa-sexy ni Andrea noong tanggapin niya ang first title role show

na ‘Ang Lihim ni Annasandra.’ Malaking challenge ito sa aktres noon dahil requirement sa Afternoon Prime soap ang skin exposure.

Tinanggap din naman ni Andrea ang show subalit ipinaalam niya muna ito sa kanyang mga magulang.

Sa mismong show, lalo pang nagpaka-

daring si Andrea dahil first time niyang gumawa ng intimate love scene kasama si Mikael Daez. Ayon sa aktres, kakaiba ang eksenang ito dahil walang itinagong shots kaya’t lahat ng anggulo ay ipinakita sa camera.

At siyempre, ang pinakamalaking pasa-bog ni Andrea ay nang mag-pose siya sa FHM bilang cover girl for the magazine’s December issue.

“I guess this is the most daring thing that I’ve done and nakakagulat,” pahayag ni Andrea.

Dagdag pa niya, “So dahil sobrang lak-ing step ng FHM at sobrang layo niya sa mga ginagawa ko before, I think it’s about time na mas maging open ako sa iba pang projects.”

Hindi raw tinutuldukan ni Andrea ang kanyang sexy image ngayong taon. “Baka gulatin ko pa kayo ulit next year,” pagtata-pos ng ‘Ang Lihim ni Annasandra’ star.

The rise of terrible singers

She has already made millions as a celebrity endorser and television star and for starring in a string of box office movies, but Anne Curtis was not satisfied yet, she’s also conquered the music business—sort of.

In September 2011, the then 26-year-old Anne unveiled Annebi-syosa, a record album that features six tracks all produced by Viva Records. The CD turned platinum the same year.

Following the success of her debut album, Anne embarked on a series of concerts and performances with Annebisysa (2012) and Annekapal (2014) concerts at the Big Dome being the most notable ones in terms of attendance and media mileage. And it all happened amid Anne being a terrible singer (and we use the word singer due to lack of proper term) stressfully straining her throat to belt out



songs not made for her kind of trip.

To call Anne an audio terrorist is an understatement. Although she has attended series of vocal lesson and coaching, she still can’t pass as a decent singer.

She knows that very well, hence whenever asked why she’s still doing it, she just smiles and answers she does it all for the sake of fun and entertainment.

With this rather strange success, many followed in the footsteps of Anne and most of them are not doing it for the sake of fun. They mean serious business believing that

having the ability to sing is fast becoming optional, you just need to have a good PR and a crazy fan base. This explains why Daniel Padilla and Kathryn Bernardo’s records are dominating music bars. This is also the same reason why the likes of Maja Salvador, Enchong Dee, Kylie Padilla, Barbie Forteza and Richard Yap all have the guts to enter the recording studio to dish out nothing but audio trash. Yes, it’s music for their fans, but for everyone else, it’s auditory torture.

It’s not about coming off harsh towards celebrities who wanted to try out singing, they can do as they please but they cannot deny the fact that they are not doing music industry any favor. They may be able to sell records and stage sold out arenas but they can’t have the same respect people give to musicians and artists who invest on music education to improve their craft.

The rise of terrible singers pretty much sums up the year on the local music scene.

Everybody wants free music

With reality singing shows dominating television and new music stars have been introduced this year, it is interesting that OPM has



not produced any record worthy of the music consumers’ money beside the fact that people don’t actually buy records anymore.

At the end of last year, at least 11 records were Philippine Association of the Record Industry (PARI) certified platinum. This year, only five records released in the last 12 months achieved the same feat not including Julie Anne San Jose’s 2011 self-titled album that turned Diamond this month and Kathryn Bernardo’s (PHOTO) debut album that turned Platinum just this week.

This year’s certified platinum records

were Herbert C’s Kinabukasan, Tom Rodriguez and Dennis Trillo’s collaborative effort TomDen, Noel Cabangon’s Tuloy and Byahe, Daniel Padilla’s I Heart You, Regine Velasquez’s Hulog ng Langit and Julie Anne San Jose’s sophomore album Deeper.

It’s clear that it was not a good harvest for the OPM artists and for the local industry in general. For consolation, 16 studio albums turned gold compared to last year’s 15. While CD sales are down, there’s a growing market for downloaded albums and singles, but that is not nearly enough to offset the loss of the physical equivalents because everyone wants free music downloaded straight to their mobile devices using free apps, of course. So where is the music industry headed?

Perhaps the new paradigm in music business can answer the question. Music apps like Spotify, Pandora and Google Play Music and the locally popular Spinnr and

Deezer lord the music streaming business these days. It works like this, instead of buying songs and albums, you pay a monthly subscription fee or get served an ad every few songs if you’re on the free tier.

Upcoming local singers and bands turn to music streaming companies to help them introduce their music to the public. On one hand, it gives every musician an equal footing. One must have interesting materials to get noticed though. On the other hand, with millions of tracks available on music streaming platform, a musician must still have aggressive machinery that will introduce both the music and the artist to music consumers.

The trick now, if you cannot make consumers buy your records legally, then it’s time to entice them to see you in live performances where return of investment is faster than waiting for royalties paid out by music streaming companies through record labels.

ERAP OUSTER continued from page 1

Estrada, believes that the former president should be ousted from his post.

Leonen is convinced Estrada’s conviction for plunder made him ineligible to run for public office, according to a highly reliable source at the High Court.

In his draft ponencia, Leonen, the most junior member of the tribunal, maintained that even if Estrada was granted pardon by then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, he was barred from running for an elective post because the executive clemency that he received was not absolute.

Leonen, a constitutional law expert, had submitted his draft decision to the court en banc but some justices asked for more time to study the case. The tribunal will deliberate on the case on January 20, 2015.

The disqualification case against Estrada was filed by Alicia Risos-Vidal, the lawyer of former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who also intervened in the case.

The Manila Times source said Leonen based his decision on his findings that the pardon granted by Arroyo to Estrada was conditional, not absolute.

The magistrate relied on the October 25, 2007 Executive Clemency that Estrada accepted and that stated that the former president “publicly committed to no longer seek any elective position or office.”

The source said the executive clemency granted by Arroyo only obliterated Estrada’s principal penalty and did not restore the former leader’s “political rights” thus he is barred from running for any public position.

Leonen cited the landmark case of Monsanto vs. Factoran, which also dealt with the pardon given to a convicted public official.

The provisions of Article 36 and 41 of the Revised Penal Code on pardon being bestowed by a sitting President to a convicted criminal was also discussed in Leonen’s draft ponencia.

Article 36 provides, “A pardon shall not work the restoration of the right to hold public office, or the right of suffrage, unless such rights be expressly restored by the terms of the pardon.”

The crime of plunder is punishable by reclusion perpetua.

In his draft decision, Leonen also discussed who should replace Estrada in case the SC ruled to oust him from office.

The magistrate opined that if the disqualification was the result of election offenses such as ballot switching, ballot snatching, vote buying and acts of terrorism, the successor shall be the vice mayor based on the law on succession under Section 44 of the Local Government Code.

If, however, the cause of the disqualification is based on the cancellation of the certificate of candidacy on the basis of eligibility of a candidate, the successor shall be the candidate who placed second during the elections in 2013.

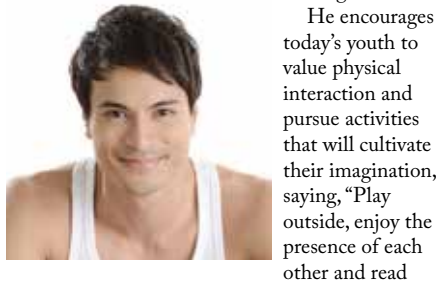
Although a disqualification complaint was filed against Estrada by lawyer Evilio Pormento and Mary Lou Estrada, the High Court did not rule on the case because then-Chief Justice Renato Corona, the ponente of the case, said the complaint became moot and academic because of Estrada’s electoral defeat.

Estrada had asked the SC to dismiss the disqualification case, claiming that the pardon bestowed on him by Arroyo restored his civil and political rights.

The former President also stated that the High Court must affirm findings of the Commission on Elections on April 1, 2013 and April 23, 2013 that he is eligible and qualified to run as a mayor of Manila.

Actor encourages reading

In this age of computer games and other digital entertainment, Kapuso actor Rafael Rosell finds it important for kids today to rediscover the joy of reading.



He encourages today's youth to value physical interaction and pursue activities that will cultivate their imagination, saying, "Play outside, enjoy the presence of each other and read more books to unleash your creativity and engage your mind."

Growing up with outdoor games and books as his childhood pastime, Rafael readily agreed to participate in this year's celebration of Araw ng Pagbasa through a storytelling activity spearheaded by GMA Network for 80 kids from Daang Tubo, Barangay U.P. Campus, an adopted community of the Network under its CSR platform, Kapuso ng Kalikasan.

Araw ng Pagbasa is the annual culminating activity of National Reading Month which takes place in November. Since its inception in 2008, the nationwide activity encourages participants to

observe the celebration through various activities such as storytelling sessions and declamation contests.

As the children eagerly listened, Rafael read the life story of GMA Network Chairman and CEO Felipe L. Gozon from a book titled, Kapuso Mo, Atty. Felipe L. Gozon.

Produced by LG&M Corporation as part of its Go Negosyo Children's Storybook series, the book narrates how family values played a role in helping Gozon overcome challenges and paved the way for his success.

With education as an integral focus area of GMA's corporate social responsibility efforts, GMA Corporate Affairs Assistant Vice President Teresa L. Pacis emphasizes the importance of literacy among the youth. "This simple storytelling activity is one way for us to spark the kids' interest in reading," she shares. "More than providing an alternate means of entertainment, reading also fosters learning with the wealth of information which can be found in books."

Aside from the storytelling event, GMA turned over more than 100 children's books to Barangay UP Campus' library most of which were donated by GMA G.I.V.E.S. (Guide, Interact, Volunteer, Educate, serve), GMA Network's corps of employee volunteers.

Hunk Shot



Naming him was an infamous act of plagiarism, taken straight from the air conditioning company. Lennox is the lovable son of Cesar and Mila and the youngest of the three boys. This enthusiastic cheerful kpop fanatic loves music and plays the piano on his spare time.

He is currently studying at the University of Toronto and aspires to become a great Mathematician.

Lennox Perez



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Her sister's keeper - Toni & Alex



Toni Gonzaga vowed to keep tabs on sister Alex even after settling down with long-time boyfriend Paul Soriano. "Siyempre naman. Kasi mag-isa lang siya eh," she said.

Alex, who was present as guest in the show, expressed happiness with Toni's declaration. "You're so good talaga, sis," she said.

Turning emotional, she then thanked Toni for her unwavering support.

"Thank you kasi lagi mong pina-paramdam sa akin na isa tayong team, na mahal na mahal mo ako and proud ka sa success ko," she said.

Toni was quick to remind her sister to thank the Lord instead.

"Palaging kong sinasabi sa'yo na everything you do is not about you, it's about Him. We always have to give back to the Lord," Toni said.

She also advised her, "kailangan 'yung maturity mo, 100 percent na.

Maging responsible ka and 'yung respect mo kay mommy and daddy dapat nandu'n pa rin."

'This is it' Catty Alex revealed in the same interview how Toni mistakenly thought that Paul was going to propose last Christmas, noticing a Tiffany and Co. (Jewelry retailer) box on their table.

"Akala niya sa kanya kasi 'di niya naman inexpect na may magreregalo sa akin," she shared, adding, "Nung nakita niya sabi niya ninerbiyos daw siya... parang sabi niya, 'Oh this is it.' Tapos ine-expect niya na nakaluhod na si Paul. Pero hindi naman."

Alex feels that Toni and Paul will tie the knot soon. "Feeling ko last year ko na makakasama siya... mawawalan na ng tao 'yung kabilang kwarto," she said.

Toni and Alex went on to share to viewers their New Year's resolution.

"I'll be more patient with her (Alex)," Toni said.

Alex, on her part, promised to listen more to her sister, particularly when it comes to her advises relating to work. "Lagi din kasing sinasabi ni daddy na kapag binigyan ka ng trabaho tang-gapin mo at gawin mo 'yung best mo. Gawin mo na parang last appearance mo na."

Jennylyn deny dating Singson clan

Actress Jennylyn Mercado has refuted rumors linking him to Ilocos Sur

Congressman Ronald Singson.

The talk started with a tabloid alleging that they were supposedly spotted being cozy in Boracay last November.

In a taped interview for "Startalk," Jennylyn howled, "Hindi ko po siya kilala. Saka hindi ko pa po siya nakikita. Kahit na 'hi, hello,' never pa po."

She added that she has been quite busy with work to actually think about taking it easy in Boracay in the last month.

Jennylyn enumerated, "May pelikula ako, may soap akong ginagawa, may cooking show ako, may 'SAS (Sunday All Stars)' ako. Paano ako makakaalis?"

She maintained that she doesn't want to be in a relationship as yet.

"Hindi pa talaga ako handa eh. Sayang naman 'yung oras. Ayoko ring magaksaya ng oras ng ibang tao," she stated.

Prior, Jennylyn was rumored to have been canoodling with ex-boyfriend Dennis Trillo. She was also rumored as supposedly romancing her "English Only, Please" co-star Derek Ramsay.

She made clear, "Friends naman kami ni Dennis Trillo. Diyos ko, ang tagal na nu'n (relasyon namin). Ang tagal na, siguro naman dapat kahit papa'no (naka- move on na)."

As to Derek, she related, "Sa totoo po, si Derek, kaibigan ko talaga siya. Kumbaga, nagkaroon ako ng isang kaibigan talaga kay Derek kasi parang nalalapitan mo siya, 'yung talagang nakakausap mo siya, 'yung ganon."



Senator visits partner in Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Enverga was joined by members of the Filipino-Canadian community during a visit to Envirogard Products Limited in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Envirogard Products Limited is a Canadian company which manufactures drinking water and filtration systems which are used by Government of Canada's partners in disaster areas such as Haiti and the Philippines.

With funding from the Government of Canada, GlobalMedic distributed Envirogard water filtration units and hygiene kits to 3,400 households affected by Typhoon Hagupit. GlobalMedic and Envirogard used the latest in drone technology to ascertain the damage brought about by Typhoon Hagupit, in order to strategize the best way to deploy their resources to get them in the hands of those who needed them the most.

Senator Enverga commended GlobalMedic and Envirogard for their hard work in providing assistance to countries like the Philippines in an efficient and responsive manner, saying that Government of Canada partners such as themselves show the world that Canada leads by example.

ONCE UPON A KISS

Fall in love with Miguel Tanfelix and Bianca Umali



DO YOU still remember the feeling when your woken by a kiss from somebody you care about?

GMA Network's youngest love team—Miguel Tanfelix and Bianca Umali—will let you relive the moment in the upcoming drama series *Once Upon A Kiss*.

After enchanting viewers in the top-rating primetime series *Niño* and tickling their funny bones in the weekend sitcom *Ismol Family*, Tanfelix and Umali are both excited to start working in their newest project on primetime TV that will start airing in the first quarter of 2015.

“We are very grateful to GMA for this chance to work in another drama,” the teen actors chimed in the vernacular. “We had just finished *Niño* and immediately we have a follow-up project. We feel we are really blessed,” said Miguel at the story conference of the series.

Bianca, meanwhile, is very happy to reunite with Miguel saying, also in the vernacular, “I am happy because I feel comfortable working with Miguel. Things are easy with him. Yes, we are grateful that we are always give the opportunity to prove to our fans and supporters what we can do as a love team.”

While they are both confident working with each other, Miguel and Bianca admitted to being under great pressure since they will be with very experienced actors in *Once Upon A Kiss*.

“Being under pressure is a given, but I am excited to work with them because I know I will learn many things from them.. I knew I'd l be working with different people. And this is the first time to work with some members of the cast,” Bianca said.

This series also marks the return to the Kapuso Network of Mylene

Dizon. She takes on the role of the main antagonist in the series.

Once Upon A Kiss' storyline aims to tell the audience that everyday can be capped with something happy. It also shows how love can bridge the gap between people of different social classes.

Betong Sumaya, guidance counselor ng BiGuel?

Bago pa man sila naging co-stars sa upcoming primetime series na *Once Upon A Kiss*, nakasama na ni Betong Sumaya ang young Kapuso leading man na si Miguel Tanfelix sa isang show abroad.

“First time ko siyang nakasama sa Kapusong Pinoy sa LA. Napaka-bait. ‘Yan ‘yung partner-in-crime ko doon, kasama ko sa shopping, kainan,” kuwento ng Bubble Gang mainstay.

Kasama rin nila sa naturang GMA Pinoy TV show sina Tom Rodriguez, Carla Abellana at Julie Anne San Jose, pero sila raw ni Miguel ang laging magkasama. “Siya talaga ‘yung lagi kong kasama, pati sa kulitan. Kasama ko rin ang tatay niya na sobrang mabait. Napaka-down to earth na tao ito, walang yabang.”



Ano naman ang masasabi niya sa tambalang Miguel at Bianca, na mas kilala ngayon bilang BiGuel? “Well hindi sila bagay (laughs). Alam mo, nakakatuwa na maraming tumangkilik ng Niño. Sana ipagpatuloy ng mga followers nila kasi kakaibang istorya din ito. Nakakatuwa na nasundan kaagad ang Niño, at ito pa ang pambungad na project sa 2015.”

Saksi rin daw si Betong sa sweetness at closeness nina Miguel at Bianca sa isa’t-isa sa harap at likod ng camera. “Nakakakilig silang tingnan. Actually, kahit off-cam, hindi lang on-cam. Ako pa nga ‘yung parang ‘Psst hoy! Ano ‘yan?’ Parang guidance counselor ako, ‘Ba’t kayo naghahawak-hawak diyan (laughs)?”

Dagdag pa niya, “Pero nakikita ko talaga ang concern nila sa isa’t-isa, ang sweetness nila. ‘Yun ang nagre-reflect doon sa love team nila.”

Yasmien Kurdi moves on from unfortunate incident

Actress Yasmien Kurdi has recalled a recent incident wherein a portion of her condominium unit in Taguig caught fire. “Naapektuhan ‘yung storage area sa roof deck, ang daming gamit na nasunog. Andun ‘yung mga documents ko, mga BIR cases ko, school records, baby pictures...” she said. The fire was allegedly caused by her neighbour’s discarded cigarette butt. In the spirit of the holiday season, Yasmien said she has forgiven the suspect. “Napanood ko sa CCTV na ‘yung maid nung kapitbahay namin umakyat sa taas tapos nagyosi ng ilang beses tapos hindi napatay ng maayos. Nakausap ko na siya, umamin naman siya sa nagawa niya noong sinabi ko na ‘hindi kita papabayaran, hindi kita idedemanda,” she claimed. “Naisip ko, kung pababayaran ko pa siya, hindi na rin naman nun mababalik ‘yung mga documents na nasunog...at Christmas naman.”

While frustrated over losing most of her baby pictures, Yasmien reminds herself that she can still create and document more memories with her daughter, Ayesha. Ultimately, the actress is thankful no one was harmed in the fire.

On a positive note, Yasmien looks forward to Christmas Day which she intends to spend with her father in Kuwait. She will leave the country on Dec. 23 along with her husband and daughter. “Sobrang special ng trip na ito kasi hindi alam ng dad ko na pupunta kami dun. Pinaayos ko ‘yung visa ko and everything sa tito ko, kinuntsaba ko siya. Pagdating namin sa Kuwait, i-drop lang namin ‘yung gamit namin sa hotel tapos tsaka kami pupunta sa bahay ng dad ko,” she said.

It would be the first time her father would meet Ayesha.

“Kaisa-isang apo niya lang ‘yun kasi ako lang ang nagiisang anak niya. Sobrang excited ako na magkita sila. Baka maiyak ‘yun (dad) sa tuwa,” said she, who last saw him in 2009.

Though they aren’t that close, Yasmien said she misses her dad. Her parents have been separated for almost a decade now.

Her only wish for 2015? Good health for her family.

Yasmien is shooting some sequences for her drama series “Yagit” before her vacation. She enjoys working with the kids on the show namely Chloui Malayao, Zymic Jaranilla, Judie Dela Cruz and Jemwell Ventinilla.

“Kasi ‘pag mayroong kids sa set very light ang mood, laging kwela at hindi laging pormal,” said she.

Also starring LJ Reyes and James Blanco, among others, “Yagit” airs weekdays on GMA-7 before “Ang Lihim ni Annasandra.”

Christmas at OLA

Guest at the Our Lady of Assumption Parish Christmas dinner pose with Canada's Finance Minsiter Joe Oliver and Senator Tobiaa Enverga.



GUNBOAT continued from page 1



FIREPOWER – Philippine Navy soldiers brandish their newly-acquired firearms and ammunition as part of the military’s ongoing modernization during a press briefing aboard the BRP Gregorio del Pilar at the Manila North Harbor Pier 13.

parts of it by the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan.

The confrontation between the Philippines and China has been particularly tense since June 2012 when China seized a rocky outcrop known as the Scarborough Shoal which is believed to be rich in oil and natural gas as well as fisheries resources.

“The events in the West Philippine Sea actually gave some urgency on the acquisition,” Rear Admiral Caesar Taccad, head of the Philippine Navy’s weapons system, told reporters.

The Philippines has embarked on a 15-year, P90 billion modernization program to improve its capability to defend its maritime borders.

The government aimed to sign contracts early next year for the new warships, Taccad said on board the navy’s most powerful warship, BRP Gregorio del Pilar, a former US coast-guard cutter.

China has been reclaiming land in various parts of the Spratlys islands and appears to be constructing airstrips and ports in five reefs.

The Philippines, a close US ally, has brought an international arbitration case against China, seeking clarification on its entitlements under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. China has refused to take part in the arbitration. A ruling is expected late next year.

Vietnam recently submitted its position to the arbitration tribunal, drawing an angry response from China.

South Korea, Spain and France had submitted tenders for two stealth, missile-guided frigates worth P18 billion while Italy and Indonesia are bidding for two anti-submarine warfare helicopters, Taccad said.

Indonesia won contracts for two strategic sealift vessels and will deliver the first ship in early 2016. Taiwan and five other shipyards are competing for three missile-capable multi-purpose attack craft.

Coastal radars will be supplied by the United States.

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HOPE FOR 2015
continued from page 1

happy nor sad, 91 percent are entering 2015 with hope,” it said.
But of the six percent expecting a sad Christmas, a lower 76 percent are hopeful of the coming New Year.

‘SAD CHRISTMAS’

The SWS also noted 24 percent of those expecting a sad Christmas said they will enter the New Year with fear than with hope, compared to four percent among those with happy Christmas.
Malacañang lauded the high optimism among the Filipinos for the coming year after the SWS survey results were disclosed.
Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said Filipinos expressed optimism for the coming year despite the challenges that the country faced in 2014, including typhoon “Ruby” which brought much damage to areas hit by super-typhoon “Yolanda” last year.

“Hope and optimism have always been characteristic of the Filipino people, who, throughout history, have consistently refused to give in to negativity, or to be cowed by challenges,” Lacierda said.
The Palace official said the Aquino administration will continue to implement reforms, which the administration has been doing for the past four and a half years.

“In this way, we can all ensure the virtuous cycle of change: a government committed to realizing the hopes of our countrymen, and a people fully engaged in fulfilling their individual roles in nation-building,” Lacierda said.

However, An estimated 11.4 million families in the Philippines consider themselves poor, according to the results of the Fourth Quarter 2014 Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.
The figure corresponds to 52% of families in the Philippines.
The results of the latest SWS survey showed record-high levels of poverty thresholds in various regions. This corresponds to the minimum monthly budget a household needs to not consider itself as poor.
While the self-rated poverty rate for the last quarter of 2014 improved by 3 points from 55% in September, the average rate of families who consider themselves as poor for the entire 2014 increased from previous years.
Poverty incidence in the Philippines has remained unchanged since 2006. As of the first semester of 2013, government figures show the poverty rate among families in the country stands at 19.1%.

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Spotlight



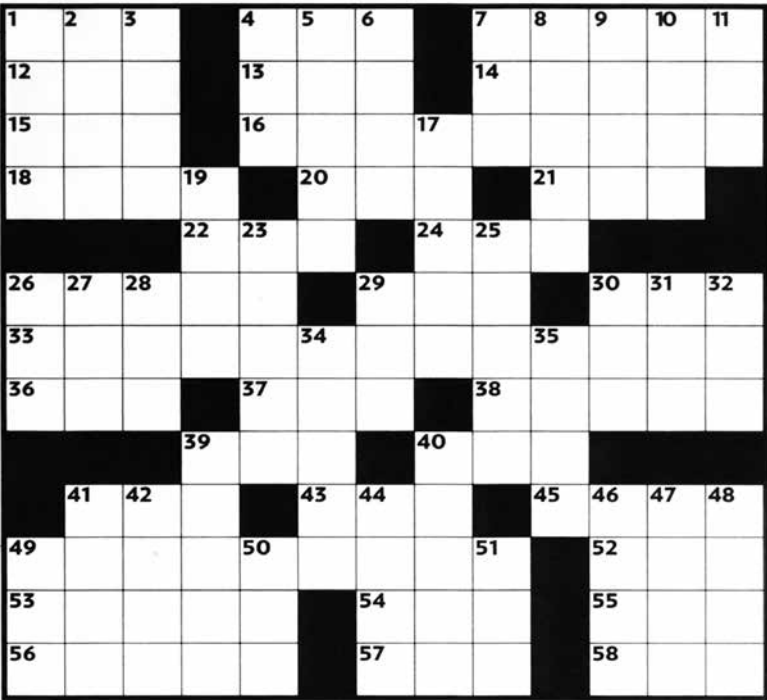
Rustan’s Makati, 1970’s

Crossword Puzzle

The *Pleasure* of his Company



December birthday celebrants Myrna B. and Lina A. posed with the Federal Minister of Finance, Hon. Joe Oliver during Our Lady of Assumption Church Christmas Party; which was held on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014.



ACROSS

- 1 “Summer Love/____ the Mood Prelude”.
4 Rocker Benatar
7 Actor Rathbone
12 Comic Philips
13 Wedding vow (2 wds.)
14 ____ in Harlem (crime comedy; 2 wds.)
15 Actress Brenneman (Private Practice costar of 33 Across)
16 Private Practice costar of 33 Across (2 wds.)
18 Rockers Crosby, Stills and ____
20 Spider-____
21 “So Much to ____” by the Dave Matthews Band
22 Actors Begley and Harris
24 Ruby ____ (Having Our Say costar of 33 Across)
26 Academy Award statuette
29 Actor Gibson
30 Mission: Impossible II director John ____
33 Tony-winning actress-singer (2 wds.)
36 Golf peg
37 Rapper-actor ____ Def
38 Sat for a portrait
39 “You Send Me” singer Cooke
40 Fun with Dick and Jane actress Leoni
41 Bernie ____ of Ocean’s Thirteen
43 “You ____ Be Right” by Billy Joel
45 Actor Azaria
49 Private Practice costar of 33 Across (2 wds.)
52 Live Free or ____ Hard
53 “Nobody Drinks ____” by Keith Urban
54 Scooby-____
55 TV news anchor Curry
56 Cone-shaped Native American tent
57 Picnic pest
58 When Harry ____ Sally...

DOWN

- 1 Actor Combs (A Raisin in the Sun costar of 33 Across)
2 Actress Thompson (Wit costar of 33 Across)
3 ____ in the Attic
4 The Money ____
5 Amy ____ of Julie & Julia
6 La ____ Jackson
7 ____ Santa
8 “Prophet Has ____” by Sinéad O’Connor
9 “Clothes Line ____”
10 “Lust for Life” rocker Pop
11 ____ Misérables
17 “Cause We’ve ____ as Lovers”
19 See No Evil, ____ No Evil
23 Confessions of a Teenage ____ Queen
25 Run away to get married
26 Cereal grain
27 “A Boy Named ____”
28 Between B and F
29 Persons who introduce performers (inits.)
30 How the West ____ Won
31 “Same ____ Love” by Anita Baker
32 The ____ Couple
34 Throw ____ from the Train
35 Actor Wyle
39 “What a ____” by the Goo Goo Dolls
40 Actress Cicely ____
41 Deuce Bigalow: ____ Gigolo
42 Spin like ____ (2 wds.)
44 Alan ____ (The Object of My Affection costar of 33 Across)
46 Actor Sandler
47 Star Trek: Deep Space ____
48 Clark ____ (Superman out of costume)
49 Newspaper comic strip Krazy ____
50 “In the ____ Small Hours of the Morning”
51 Some Like It ____

Answers on
Page 26



Aiza Seguerra, Liza Diño plan to have a baby through IVF

MANILA, Philippines – Singer Aiza Seguerra and theater actress Liza Diño, who were recently married in the United States, are already planning to have children through in vitro fertilization (IVF).

“We have plans of having a kid,” Diño said during an interview.

“During our trip to the US. We went to an IVF clinic and had our check-up. It was explained, the whole process of it,” she added.

Seguerra explained that IVF, a process that allows an egg cell to be fertilized by a sperm outside the body, is a long process.

“I’ll just call you na lang for donor ganu’n (I’ll call you when we start looking for donors),” Seguerra jokingly told host Boy Abunda.

“I shall be waiting for that call,” the host replied, laughing.

Seguerra and Diño’s wedding had become a controversial issue in the country, especially since same sex marriage is still not allowed in the Philippines.

Diño said they respect the fact that it is still illegal in the Philippines but she hopes that people would understand and empathize with them.

“I just wish that one day makahanap din sila ng saya na nararamdaman namin, one day makahanap din sila ng pagmamahal na naibibigay namin sa isa’t isa. ‘Pag naramdaman nila ‘yun I don’t think they’ll say anything,” Seguerra added.

(I just wish one day they will find the joy we are now feeling, one day they will find the kind of love we are able to give each other. When they feel that I don’t think they’ll say anything against us.)

The couple plans to hold a symbolic ceremony in the country, more than a week after their wedding in San Francisco, California.

Is it cheaper to heat all day?

Lowering the temperature by three degrees before bedtime can save you up to 4.5% on your electric heating bill



When it comes to heating, every energy-conscious family wants to do what’s best for the planet and for their household budget. It’s no wonder; Natural Resources Canada says more than 50 per cent of a home’s energy bill goes towards heating. The good news is that it’s not at all any cheaper to leave the heat on all day at a constant temperature, despite what you may have heard to the contrary.

It’s cheap at night

It’s true; just lowering the temperature by three degrees before going to bed can save you up to 4.5 per cent on your electric heating bill. This strategy will also have a significant impact on the costs of heating a home with oil or gas.

Heating according to your lifestyle

If you’re absent from home for a lengthy period during the day, lowering the thermostat by a few degrees before you leave will save you money. And if there are rooms in the house that get little use, stop heating them; you’ll see the impact on the total amount you spend to stay toasty warm this winter.

The secret is programmable thermostats

Of course, it could be a little bothersome to manually change the

temperature of every thermostat in the house before going to bed, and repeat the whole process when you get up. And that’s in addition to the daily management of the temperature in each room of the house, according to your family’s needs. But if you replace your regular thermostats with programmable ones, it all happens on schedule without you having to lift a finger.

Comfort without compromise

If you need to be up by 7 a.m., you can program a three-degree decrease in temperature between 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Waking up and making your coffee in the morning will no longer be a frigid few minutes to endure while the house warms up.

Some hot tips

Programmable thermostats are only the beginning; there are other things you can do to reduce your heating budget.

- Caulk around doors, windows and any other areas that might need sealing.
- Make sure the rafters and the foundation are adequately insulated.
- In winter, allow the sun to filter in through any windows with a southern exposure and close the blinds and curtains in the other windows.
- Keep all furniture away from heat sources so the heat circulates freely.



Lauren Young shares her sister Megan’s advice in life

In a short interview with Lauren Young she admitted that she is in her best point of her life. Lauren also shared her sister Megan’s advice regarding happiness.

“Be who you are. Be happy with your life. It is the key to happiness,” Megan said to Lauren. The 21-year-old actress said that she is thankful to God for everything she has achieved.

Lauren also admitted that she is in a relationship with a non-showbiz boyfriend. When asked what made her fall for her boyfriend, she answered, “He’s not a boy, he is a man.” She also added that her special someone keeps her grounded. “He pushes me to do my best not only in my career but also in school and in my family.”

When asked on what she feels about Elmo Magalona-Janine Gutierrez’s recent relationship revelation, she answered, “No hard feelings, that’s the past. I am happy now and very contented.”

With her numerous blessings in life, what more could Lauren ask for? “I want an award in acting. I want to give justice to a role.” She also added that her future plan is to become a film producer.

PCCF AT OLA



Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation pose for a photo at the Our Lady of Assumption Christmas party.

Crossword Answers

SET	PAT	BASIL
EMO	IDO	ARAGE
AMY	TAYE	DIGGS
NASH	MAN	SAY
	EDS	DEE
OSCAR	MEL	WOO
AUDRAM	CDONALD	
TEE	MOS	POSED
	SAM	TEA
MAC	MAY	HANK
KATE	WALSH	DIE
ALONE	DOO	ANN
TEPEE	ANT	MET

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