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FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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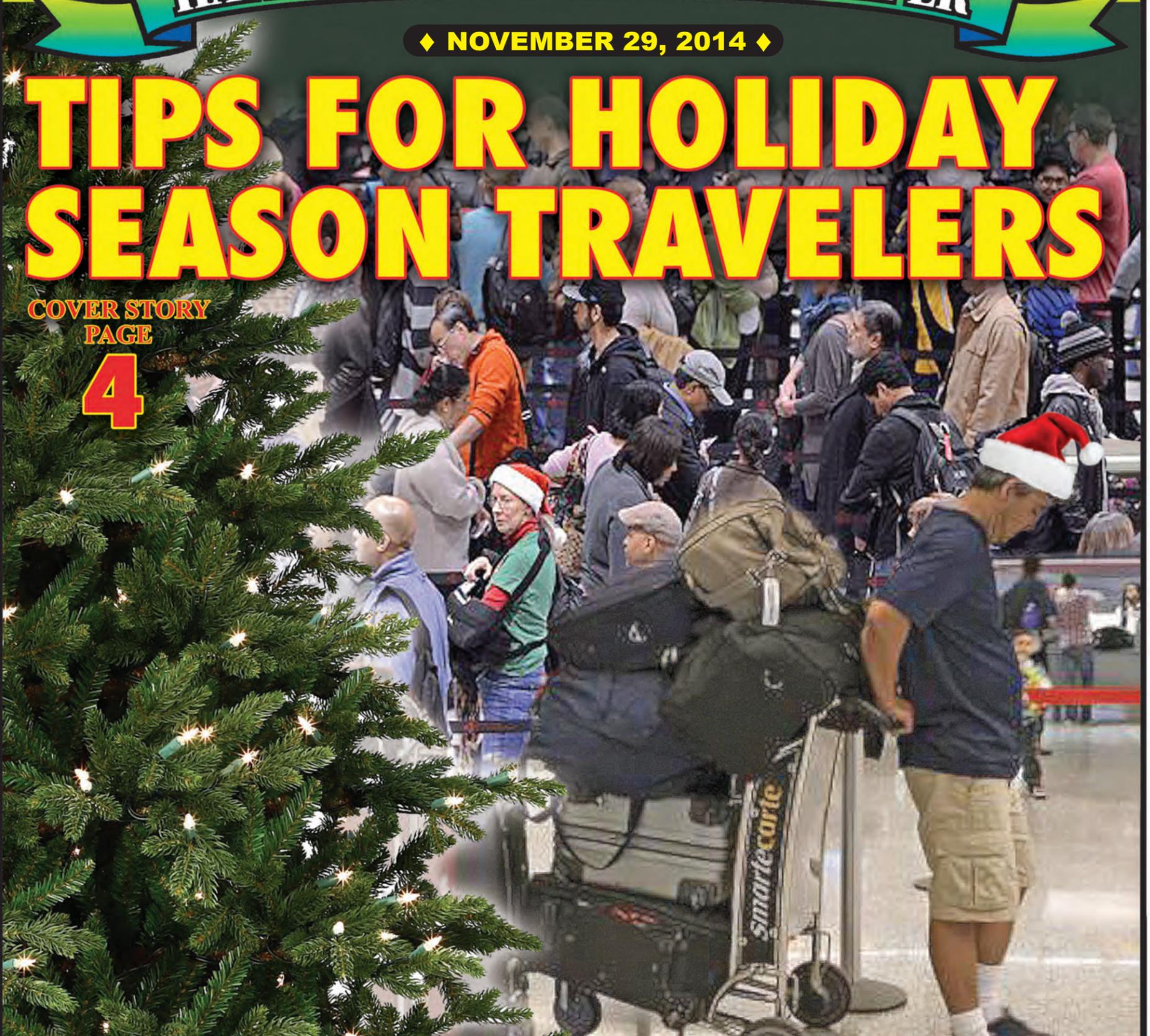
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ NOVEMBER 29, 2014 ◆

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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EDITORIALS

Fallout From TSA Budget Cuts

The nation's 650 million air travelers may be facing longer waits at airport checkpoint screening areas, particularly with over \$300 million in budget cuts to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the federal agency tasked with screening passengers and their luggage. For airports like San Francisco International, the screening wait time is 49 minutes, while other airports are reporting times of 20 minutes or less. Travel industry officials expect the delays to worsen as more people will fly as the economy improves.

Republican lawmakers say the cuts are justified, given the amount of complaints lodged against TSA in recent years. Democrats, on the other hand, argued against skimping on homeland security. For TSA, the task at hand will be to do more with less without compromising security. One way is to expand the agency's Pre-Check program which speeds qualified and pre-cleared passengers through separate lines. The program allows low-risk travelers to wear their shoes, light outerwear and belts through security, and also keep laptops in their cases and approved liquids and gels in bags.

Whether TSA's budget should have been cut by 6 percent is debatable. However, given the ISIS threat, America cannot grow overconfident. The terror group has boasted that thousands of its members with U.S. or European passports can slip into America undetected aboard commercial airline flights. ISIS has also threatened to carry out an attack that would rival and even exceed September 11. Standing in the way of this threat is TSA, the first line of defense in preventing such an attack. In fact, threats of terrorism both home-grown and overseas remain real and will not diminish because of budget cuts.

In the 13 years since 9-11, there have thankfully been no successful attacks on American airlines or attempts to replicate an airplane-style hijacking. However, the danger is in becoming complacent or overconfident. The sad fact of the matter is that aviation security needs to be successful 100 percent of the time, while terrorists only have to succeed once to permanently disrupt our way of life. And the current shift in funding for TSA, which has suffered a third straight year of cuts, unfortunately contradicts what many Americans swore never to do after 9-11, which is to never forget. We have made that mistake before, so let us not make it again.

Changing Your Perspective This Thanksgiving

A wealthy man once brought his 10-year-old son to a farm to show him how the poor people live. They stayed a total of 3 days before heading back to their estate. On the drive back, the son mentioned how impressed he was with the farmer and his family. They had 2 dogs while the farmer had 5. Their swimming pool reached to the middle of the garden but the farmer swam in a creek with no end. Their patio extended to the front yard but the farmer's stretched out to the horizon. They bought their food, but the farmer and his family grew theirs. They used imported lanterns to light their backyard, while the farmer had the stars at night. They had a wall to protect their house, but the farmer had his neighbors to look out for him. *Thanks Dad, he said, for showing us how poor we are.*

(continued on page 3)

FROM THE PUBLISHER

For many Filipinos, Thanksgiving is the second only to Christmas as their most favorite holiday of the year. And for good reason—there is delicious food, family to enjoy, football to watch and bargains galore at the mall. Most of all, it is an opportunity to thank the good Lord for the many blessings we have received. Contributing writer Seneca Moraleda beautifully sums up what Thanksgiving means in her "Reflections on Thanksgiving" article on page 9.



This Thanksgiving marks the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's 22nd anniversary. Surviving the numerous challenges of the past 22 years speaks volumes of the commitment of the Chronicle's publishers and editorial board to provide the Filipino community with timely and useful news. We could not have done so without the faithful support of our readers, advertisers and many others who inspire us to reach new heights. We hope that the Chronicle, with its ability to tap into all corners of Hawaii's Filipino community, will continue to offer unique context, history and perspectives found nowhere else—for the next 22 years and beyond.

In the coming weeks, some of you will be taking well-deserved vacations to the Philippines or the mainland. If you are, please read our cover story "Tips For Holiday Season Travelers" beginning on page 4 which offers useful reminders that could help to make your flight a whole lot easier. Since the Holiday Season is the busiest time of the year to travel, remember to arrive early, pack light and always keep your cool.

Lastly, there are efforts underway by a group of businesses, concerned citizens and elected officials to oppose the U.S. Army's 2020 Force Structure Realignment plan which is looking to eliminate soldiers from the two biggest military bases in Hawaii—Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter. The reduction could lead to a \$1.3 billion hit to Hawaii's economy. We will have more of this in a future issue, but for now, please consider signing an online petition against the proposed plan at: <http://keephawaiiheroes.org/>.

That's it for now. I'd like to wish you and your family a very Happy, Bountiful and Safe Thanksgiving. As always, we encourage our readers to provide feedback, story ideas, tips or concerns regarding Hawaii's dynamic and vibrant Filipino community. Please drop us an email at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Until next time...aloha and mabuhay!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

LETTERS

TV SPECIAL OMITTED BACKGROUND OF TACLOBAN

Historians and surviving U.S. military veterans are questioning whether the forthcoming TV special "Haiyan...After The Storm" by Emme Tomimbang's Island Moments should have prefaced the historical connections of Leyte and Tacloban during World War II.

In May 1942, the Japanese Imperial Army had occupied Tacloban and began their horrific atrocities. Gen. Douglas MacArthur landed in Leyte in October 1944 and liberated Filipinos and U.S. troops from the Japanese occupation. Along with President Sergio Osmeña, the town of Tacloban was set-up as a temporary seat of the Commonwealth government.

Emme states in a recent email that she had "little time" to introduce the above events in her film. Unfortunately, viewers will be unable to fully understand the significance of the aforementioned events in U.S.-Philippine history.

Mel Domingo
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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Obama's Executive Action

According to media reports, the plan would provide deportation relief for up to 5 million people. It would expand Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the program for DREAMers, that could make many more people eligible by changing the cutoff date to 2010 and eliminating the age limit on individuals. And undocumented parents of children who are citizens or legal residents may be able to get work permits.

The proposal still wouldn't include the family unity items Asian Americans want to see, like a speedier process for bringing relatives to the U.S.

But there could be new tech visas in the offing. And there's talk about eliminating the mandatory fingerprinting program under Secure Communities, or S-Comm, that led to massive deportations of hundreds of thousands of immigrants since 2009.

Just remember it is constitutional. Republican presidents have done it. And it isn't amnesty.

Amnesty would be perma-

nent. This is more like a de-emphasizing of certain rules, within the discretion of the president. Look at him as the Prosecutor-in-Chief. He's choosing to relax certain areas. But certainly not all.

Remember, Obama's the guy who has been behind over two million deportations in his administration. That's how earnest he's been in dealing with the GOP.

The leak by Fox did act as a battle cry to the Tea Party regulars to gear up for the "executive action is amnesty and amnesty is unconstitutional" fight.

When *The New York Times* finally got their leak on so they didn't have to quote Fox, we knew that the truth was somewhere in between here and Asia, where the President chose to recover from those dismal midterm elections.

It does seem to be a good way to get away from it all, doesn't it?

Obama started his Asia trip with the release of Asian American Kenneth Bae from the North Koreans

(which proves the pres has more game than Dennis Rodman). But maybe the immigration leak works out for the president as well. Nothing like talking about executive action on immigration when you're halfway around the world in Myanmar, far from your most outspoken opponents. (And a kind of shout out to Burmese American immigrants.)

That didn't stop Tea Party House members from announcing there's a Dec. 12 deadline to fund the government and they're looking to put a lump of coal in everyone's stocking. Already Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL) and Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA) (who beat Eric Cantor) are leading a charge to attach a rider blocking any immigration reform—or else.

The "or else"?

Shut down the government, of course.

If the message of the low-turnout midterms was that voters want the politicians to start working toward solutions, apparently some didn't get that memo.

Asian Americans, however, are solidly for executive action on immigration, according to the multilingual exit poll of over 4,100 Asian American voters that was conducted by AALDEF in collaboration with 65 national and local community groups in 11 states.

In response to the question "If Congress does not act on immigration reform, do you think President Obama should take his own executive actions on immigration?" 65% of Asian Americans polled said yes.

Where are Filipinos? Another poll of multilingual Asian American voters done by Asian American Decisions came up with some data that shows Filipinos are in line with other Asian Americans backing immigration reform and the DREAM Act.

But it will make for exciting partisan Thanksgiving dinners, when the family can sit according to status and party and jaw-bone until the food coma kicks in.

EMIL GUILLERMO, an award-winning journalist and winner of an American Book Award, was an editorial board member of the *Honolulu Advertiser*.

President Obama is just about to make things interesting. As I write, the full details aren't yet out. But enough has been leaked to set the political world abuzz.

The president is going to ride that new third rail of politics—immigration—all the way out of office.

It's not comprehensive immigration reform. It's more like some temporary fixes under the rubric "Executive Action." They are the things the president has always been able to do, but it seems he felt he could use immigration as a bargaining chip to get other things he wanted.

In a divided government, it hasn't worked out. So here comes the quick, Obama executive immigration fix, no Congress necessary.

EDITORIALS (from page 2, CHANGING....)

The boy saw blessings, while his father saw nothing but poverty. The difference was the boy's perspective, which enabled him to see how blessed lives the farmer and his family really lived. In the same way, let us have a heart of gratitude for even the littlest things in life. Those who are grateful are often also joyful, compared to the unappreciative soul who is typically miserable and always complaining about something.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember that attitude is often de-

termined by perspective—and choosing a heart of gratitude surely helps. Gratitude is a powerful way to turn around your thinking—on one hand, the cup can be half empty. On the other hand, it can be half full. It all depends on your perspective. Being grateful will always allow a person to see what is good in this world or even great about their situation, rather than to fall into despair or apathy, restlessly wishing life was different. So if you want to find joy in life, you must first find thankfulness. And it can begin by becoming a person of gratitude.

PICTORIAL NEWS



New Honolulu City Councilmember Brandon Elefante (wearing leis) surrounded by family, friends and supporters at his swearing-in ceremony on November 12, 2014. He joins three other councilmembers of Filipino ancestry—Joey Manahan, Ron Menor and Kymberly Marcos Pine.



*May your holidays be merry,
bright, and safe!*

Light up your holidays with these safety tips in mind:

- For decorating outside, buy light strands, lighted displays, and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- Buy products that bear the mark of a safety standards testing lab, such as UL, ETL, or CSA.
- Before stringing holiday lights, check for frayed wires, cracked insulation, and damaged sockets—replace defective light strands.
- Don't use staples or nails to hang light strands, and don't hang them on metal rain gutters and railings or on chain link fences.
- When decorating outdoors, keep yourself and your ladder at least ten feet away from overhead power lines.
- Turn off, or unplug, light strands and lighted displays when you go to bed or leave the house.

For more information on electrical safety, go to www.hawaiianelectric.com and click on "Safety and Emergency."



www.hawaiianelectric.com

COVER STORY

TIPS FOR HOLIDAY SEASON TRAVELERS

By Chona Montesines-Sonido

The holiday season is one of the busiest travel times of the year with delays, traffic jams and other snags awaiting travelers at nearly every turn.

One particularly busy day for travelers is the day before Thanksgiving. According to the U.S. Travel Association (UTA), the trade group for the nation's tourism industry, passenger volume jumps 259 percent on the day before Thanksgiving, making it the busiest travel day of the year.

What this means for Hawaii residents who plan to travel during the Thanksgiving period—and the Holiday Season for that matter—is long lines and throngs of fellow passengers at Honolulu International Airport (HNL), the state's main airport and entry point for most of Hawaii's visitors. HNL is in fact the 27th busiest airport in the nation, with hundreds of flights to and from cities around the world arriving and departing daily.

With an estimated 10,000 passengers, employees or visitors at any given hour, day or night at HNL, the numbers could jump to as high as 25,000 on the day before

Thanksgiving.

So what's a traveler supposed to do? With a bit of smart planning, you can ease travel-related headaches and stress. So before you start packing your bags, consider some of the following tips to help make your trip a little easier.

Arrive Early

The most common sense tip is to arrive early at the airport. Most airlines suggest that passengers arrive at least two hours before their scheduled boarding time in order to get through the security checkpoint. However, during especially busy travel periods, it would be wise to add an additional 30 to 45 minutes—to ensure that you don't miss your flight.

Travel Light

Another bit of helpful advice is to travel light. This is not the time of the year to get through security and onto a

plane with excess or oversized bags in hand. Overhead bin space will be overflowing and gate agents, TSA officials and fellow passengers will not be in merry moods if you slow the boarding or security process with overloaded bags.

With more airlines charging for checked bags, it's a good idea to pack light and carry on your bag. Also don't check more than one bag because that second bag will cost you. Fortunately, the weight of the bag you check can be up to 50 pounds for travel in the U.S. without incurring a fee.

To lighten up your load, consider shipping some of your belongings ahead of time to your final destination, especially if you will be bringing presents, extra clothes and other bulky items that you won't be needing for the journey.

Book Early

Airfares only get more expensive as Thanksgiving approaches, so if you're the type who tends to hold out longer in hopes of scoring a late-breaking sale, you are most likely to get left out in the cold or pay a steeper price for procrastinating.

The same goes for the Christmas holiday, so book sooner rather than later, particularly if you require very specific travel dates or times. With the current state of the airline industry, it is never too early to book your holiday travel flights. Be prepared to be flexible with dates and flight times.

For those planning to travel to the mainland, Anna Pidong, operations manager for Everlasting Travel Services, advises buying your tickets as soon as possible.



“The best time to buy is before Thanksgiving,” says Pidong, who has worked as a travel agent for 16 years.

For those who decide to buy their tickets early, Pidong says that the cost for a round trip ticket to Las Vegas, Los Angeles or San Francisco is about \$490. After Thanksgiving, the cost jumps to \$800.

The same applies to those traveling to the Philippines. Passengers who buy tickets before Thanksgiving pay about \$1,200. Those who procrastinate may end up paying \$1,700 for an economy class ticket.

Pidong says the high cost of travel to the Philippines during the Holiday Season usually does not deter most Filipinos.

“Filipinos like to go and celebrate Christmas in the Philippines,” says Pidong. She says 80 percent of her customers during the Holidays fly to the Philippines, with the remaining 20 percent going to the mainland.

Shop Around

Many people prefer booking their flights via sites like Travelocity or Priceline.

Whatever the case, comparison shopping has never been easier than it is now. During peak travel season, travel experts suggest casting your net as wide as possible.

Waipahu resident Rachel Vilorio and her 6-month-old daughter will be traveling in December to the mainland to spend Christmas with her husband who is stationed in Kansas. She booked her flight online via orbitz.com, saying that the travel website is easy to use, offers multiple options and is hassle-free.

“Most of all, it offers good rates,” she says. “I’ve found that if you’re up between 1 am to 3 am Hawaii time, that’s a good time to check for cheaper rates.”

Fortunately, the Army is paying her one-way ticket to the mainland, leaving her to pay for only the return trip home. The cost? \$500 on American Airlines—a deal which she is quite happy with.

“Since my daughter will be sitting on my lap, I paid for only one seat,” she says.

Plot Connections Carefully

When booking your flight,

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, TIPS...)

be sure to allow sufficient time for layovers, flight delays and weather woes. Particularly during the winter months, peak travel times often mean peak travel delays, which means that your connecting flight is more likely to be jeopardized.

Avoid choosing really tight connecting flights that give you an hour or less of time. If your inbound flight is delayed, you and your luggage bags stand a good chance of missing your connecting flight. And with flights expected to be full, your chances of getting on the next flight are slim at best. Bring some snacks in case your flight is delayed or you miss your connection.

The bottom line is that it's better to have a long layover than to risk rushing through an overcrowded airport in order to make a tight connecting flight.

Going Through Security

Due to the tight security measures now in place at airports, getting through the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoints quickly is basically impossible, particularly during the busy holiday season. There



are, however, ways to expedite this process by preparing as much as possible ahead of time.

First of all, if you're traveling with a laptop, you need to have it out and ready to load into the x-ray tray, or purchase a TSA-approved lap top bag so you don't have to remove it at all. You will also need to place your allowed liquids in one easy-access bag or pouch so you're not busy sorting through your bag. If you're bringing Christmas gifts, avoid wrapping them, especially in any foil-based wrapping paper. Wrapped gifts will likely end up getting unwrapped by security.

Finally, be sure to pack neatly. If your bag does get searched—and it happens to everyone at some point—you will save yourself time if it's packed well. If your bag is messy and the delicate balance

you've created to close your suitcase is upset, you're going to spend a lot more time repacking it after TSA officers have searched your luggage.

Other Tips

- Keep your cool. Airline employees have considerable power over your well-being. Unfortunately, many enjoy wielding it against you, and few respond well to anger.
- Visit the Transportation Security Administration website (www.tsa.gov) to find out about limits on carry-on gels and liquids, including baby food, formula and breast milk.
- Pack earplugs. The best way to mentally escape your stressful surroundings (i.e. the crying baby in the seat behind you) while traveling is to turn the volume down. And the

easiest way to do that is with earplugs.

- Pack a good book. If you find yourself stuck at the airport for an extended period, losing yourself in a good book might be your best option. It doesn't need a power outlet or Wi-Fi connection and its battery won't die.
- Stay connected. Stock up on the latest travel apps for your smart phone. Flight Status gives you real-time updates on delays and more, while GateGuru gives you the approximate time you'll spend in security.
- Have phone numbers for everything: your hotel, your car rental agency, your airline and friends at your destination.
- Choose nonstop flights. The worst, most brutal delays occur in connecting airports, where you have no home, friends or family to retreat to.
- Confirm your flight several days before you leave,

so you can make alternate plans if necessary.

- Don't overpack even checked luggage; overstuffed bags that must be opened for a security check are much harder to repack.
- Do not wrap gifts, especially if you intend to carry them on the plane. Even in checked baggage, there is a strong chance they will be unwrapped for inspection by security personnel. Consider gift bags instead of wrapping paper, which allow you to easily remove the items from their bags if required and you don't have to do a last-minute wrapping job at your destination.
- Give your cell phone a full charge and write down or program the phone number of your airline so you can call easily as your flight time approaches.
- Make arrangements for your pets if you will be leaving them behind.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Swine Disease Confirmed at Waianae Pig Farm

The State Department of Agriculture issued a quarantine order stopping the movement of pigs on Oahu after an outbreak of a serious swine disease, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv), at a farm in Waianae Valley.

PEDv causes significant sickness in swine and causes high mortality in piglets. The virus only affects pigs, does not pose a risk to humans or pets nor is it a food safety concern.

The quarantine order issued by acting State Veterinarian Dr. Isaac Maeda prohibits the movement of pigs past Nanakuli from Makaha, Waianae and Nanakuli Valley. The order also restricts movement

of swine from Oahu to neighbor islands.

The farm contacted the department's Animal Disease Control Branch to report diarrhea cases among its swine. Symptoms of PEDv in swine include acute watery diarrhea and dehydration. State veterinarians took samples from the farm and sent them to the Kansas State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, which confirmed the presence of PEDv.

Disease control measures have been enforced on the farm, which has a total of about 150 pigs. About 25 percent of the pigs have died. However, it appears that the remaining pigs are recovering and no recent

deaths have occurred.

"Our current focus is to contain the virus and prevent its spread on Oahu," says Dr. Maeda. "We will also survey other swine operations and try to determine if the virus has spread."

PEDv is common in parts of Asia and Europe and was first confirmed in the U.S. in May 2013. To date, 32 states have reported PEDv and it is estimated to have killed up to eight million young pigs.

There are about 230 pig farms statewide, 70 of which are on Oahu. Swine farmers who have questions are urged to contact the Animal Disease Control Branch (808) 483-7106 or go online to: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/ai/main/pedv/>



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Christmas Tree Arrives at Honolulu Hale

The City's Christmas tree arrived at Honolulu Hale and was installed on the lawn fronting South King Street. Councilmembers Stanley Chang and Brandon Elefante were on hand to assist in the installation of the tree.

The 50-foot Norfolk Pine was donated by Pearl City resident Steven Dumbrique and will be part of the annual Honolulu City Lights celebration. This year marks the 30th year of Honolulu City Lights.

Veteran journalist Emme Tomimbang will emcee the Tree Lighting Ceremony at Honolulu Hale on December 6th, beginning at 6 pm.

The tree lighting will be followed by the Electric Light Parade, which is dedicated to the memory of the late "Parade Man" Nelson Fujio. Tom Moffatt Productions will hold a holiday concert by Sky Gate at 7:30 pm. Willie K headlines an entertainment lineup that includes the Sounds of Aloha Barber-

shop Chorus, the keiki from Ka Pa Nani O Lilinoe, Maunaloa and Hawaii singer Joan S. Lindsey's Halau and

Ciana Pelekai from America's Got Talent.

For more on Honolulu City Lights, go online to: www.honolulucitylights.org.

Manila to Host 2015 Intl Choral Festival

The Cultural Center of the Philippines is inviting international choirs to participate in the 2nd Andrea O. Veneracion International Choral Festival from July 22-25, 2015 at the Tahghalang Nicanor Abelardo in Manila.

The festival is named after the late Andrea O. Veneracion, an esteemed choirmaster, choral clinician and founder of the world renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers who was instrumental in the promotion of choral music all over the Philippines.

The Festival gathers Filipino and foreign choirs that will compete in three cate-

gories—folk song, chamber choir and vocal ensemble. Five internationally-known choral conductors from North and South America, Europe, South Africa and the Philippines will comprise the panel of judges.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines is the premiere showcase of the arts in the Philippines. Founded in 1969, the center has produced and presented music, dance, theatre, visual arts, literary, cinematic and design events from the Philippines and all over the world.

More information on the festival is available online at: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph.

Hawaii's Plantation Village to Host Parol Workshop

To kick off the Christmas season, Hawaii's Plantation Village, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii and Reiyukai America are inviting the public to attend two free parol making workshops.

The workshops are scheduled for December 6 and 13 from 10 am to 12 noon at Hawaii's Plantation Village in Waipahu. Attendees will learn how to create festive parol

paper tassels and mini-parol decorations using recycled milk cartons. Assembled bamboo frames will be available for sale at \$15 each.

Parols are the quintessential Christmas symbol for many Filipino families. During the Christmas season in the Philippines and in Hawaii, a variety of beautiful five-point star lanterns or parols are commonly hung in many homes.



Seating for the workshops is limited so call 228-6345 to reserve space and order the bamboo frames.

Disability Parking Permit Holders to Pay at City Lots Effective Jan. 1st

The City's Department of Transportation Services is reminding the public that beginning January 1, 2015, persons with disability parking permits will be charged the standard parking rate at City parking lots that are staffed by an attendant.

This action was mandated by Ordinance 14-25, which was adopted by the City Council on July 23, 2014, and makes the City's policy consistent with state-owned park-



ing lots staffed by an attendant.

Ordinance 14-25 repeals the free parking provision for

City parking lots with an attendant because the attendant can assist disabled persons making payments and there are no accessibility issues with meters. Parking spaces with only meter payments and no attendant will remain free for two-and-a-half hours or the maximum amount of time of the meter, whichever is longer.

Those with questions about the new law are advised to contact DTS at 768-8357.

City Council Honors Firefighter From Ewa Beach

Councilmember Ron Menor presented an honorary certificate on behalf of the City Council to Honolulu Firefighter Mark J. Inay for heroism in rendering aid at the scene of a traffic accident last May 31, 2014.

The presentation was made at the Honolulu Fire Department Commendation Ceremony on November 13, 2014 at the Charles H. Thurston Fire Training Center.

Inay was returning from a friend's house in Ewa Beach with his wife and daughter when he came upon a vehicular accident that had just occurred at the intersection of Fort



Honolulu Firefighter Mark J. Inay receives an honorary certificate from Councilmember Ron Menor

Weaver Road and Hanakahi Street where a motorcyclist was thrown approximately 30 feet from the crash site. Inay parked his vehicle and provided trauma assessment and medical treatment until an ambulance and fire truck arrived at the scene.

A resident of Ewa Beach,

Inay joined the Honolulu Fire Department in February 1996. He is currently assigned to HFD's Fire Prevention Bureau, where he primarily handles administrative duties for the Bureau and battalion chief.

"As fate may have it, Firefighter Inay was the injured victim's guardian angel," says Councilmember Menor. "His quick action prevented the victim from suffering even more serious injuries and will hopefully result in a speedier recovery.

"The Council congratulates Firefighter Inay and wishes him continued success in his career with the Honolulu Fire Department and in all future endeavors."

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Most Americans Against Obama Immigration Amnesty



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

USA Today published on November 18, the results of a poll it conducted showing that 46% are against President Obama's plan to issue an executive order granting amnesty to millions of illegal aliens while 42% were in favor.

Considering that USA Today is generally regarded as a liberal (translation pro Obama) newspaper, one can speculate that the margin of error is at least 10%, meaning that 56% could be against amnesty.

A Question of fairness and the Rule of Law

During our radio talk show on community issues at KPRP in Honolulu on Monday morning the three panelists – Atty. Abraham Mariano, newspaper editor Rafael Alimbuyuguen, and this writer - albeit with different political persuasions, were unanimous in opposing Obama's planned amnesty on the ground that it would be unfair to Filipinos who are following the law and patiently

waiting in line for the visas of the relatives they petitioned to become available. I described the situation as akin to that of a movie theater's patrons with tickets waiting in line for the doors of the theater to open and then suddenly a lawless group breaks into the line and shove the patrons aside. The manager gives amnesty to the lawless and allows them to enter ahead of the patrons.

If amnesty is granted, Obama will have to take hundreds of immigration officers currently assigned to process petitions away from their duties in order to process the petitions of the amnestied. This will delay even further the processing of the papers of the law abiding. This is what happened when the Obama administration granted amnesty to the children illegally brought by their parents to this country (DACA).

The Obama administration cannot just hire new immigration officers. It takes at least a year to hire a new immigration officer based on my experience when I was hired. Immigration has to test the applicant's knowledge of immigration law, skills, character, fitness for the job, mental health, physical health, drug tests, and interview the applicant's neighbors

and references.

After our radio show, I went to the coffee shop across my Honolulu office and conducted an informal poll of the Filipino habitués, many of whom are Democrats. They were also unanimous in opposing amnesty.

I later visited my friend Atty. James A. Stanton, one of the best immigration lawyers in Hawaii, with whom I work in handling a number of deportation cases, what he thought of Obama's planned amnesty. He said that although it is possible some of our clients might benefit from it, he was not in favor of amnesty and added that he could not imagine any Filipino supporting it.

Obama Amnesty will spawn frauds and scams

But there are. I got a call from a Filipina who refused to give her name but whose telephone number is recorded in my cell phone saying that a "friend" has been in Hawaii for about 20 years and that her tourist visa had expired. Somebody had asked her friend to pay \$1,000 so that the somebody could

fix her amnesty application, plus another \$1,000 for the filing fee. She asked how much I charge. See, Obama amnesty has already spawned rackets and scams and Obama has not yet issued the executive order. There will be other rackets and spams. In 1986 I was asked by the San Francisco INS District Director who was my friend to assist without remuneration in the processing of the applications of illegal aliens granted amnesty by an immigration reform act which required that the illegal alien must have been in the country before January 1, 1982. Obama amnesty will also likely have a cutoff date. To prove that they were here before the cutoff date, several aliens produced pre January 1, 1982 rental receipts. They were evidently carbon copies with only the dates changed. Some aliens produced pre January 1, 1982 electric bills which were xerox copies. How can the

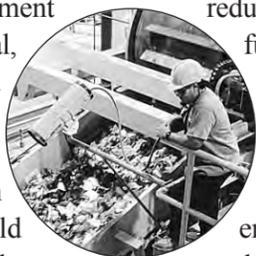
electric consumption be exactly the same for several months? There were also fake sales receipts from stores in the Mission District that did not even exist before 1982. After a few days, I told the Director that I could no longer stomach this massive fraud against the United States.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He is originally from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. Atty. Tipon specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. He served as an immigration officer and co-authored "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. His radio program airs Thursdays at 7:30 am on KNDI 1270 AM. He can be reached via mail at: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813, by telephone at (808) 225-2645 or by e-mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. For more on Atty. Tipon, go online to: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

H-Power Wins SWANA Award

In recognition of its commitment to sustainable waste disposal, the City's H-POWER Waste-to-Energy facility was named the winner of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) 2014 Gold Excellence Award. The award was presented at SWANA's annual conference in Grapevine, Texas.



reduces reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell lauded H-POWER and its commitment to providing a sustainable solution to Oahu's energy and waste management needs.

"Converting opala into renewable energy, eliminating the need for 1 million barrels of imported oil annually and generating revenue through energy sales to HECO make H-POWER an integral part of the city's sustainable future," he says.

SWANA's Excellence Awards Program recognizes outstanding solid waste programs and facilities that advance the practice of environmentally and economically sound solid waste management.

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TRAVEL

Delightful Delhi

WALK THE TALK By Cecilia R. Licauco

We had an “incredible” India experience during our visit to New Delhi. The Global Licensing Meeting 2014 of Hallmark Cards gave us the courage (and the excuse) to travel to unfamiliar territory. And true enough, our hospitable, spare-no-expense host, the Indian licensee, headed by Anil Moolchandani, awed us with continuous

entertainment — Indian-style — and gave us invitations to explore his culture.

New Delhi is supposed to be cleaner and more modern than other Indian cities, with wide, modern roads and a metro train system. Daring drivers maneuver cars with no regard for lanes, hands planted permanently on the car horn, feet hardly on the brakes.

The 12th largest economy in the world, India expects to

be the second largest (next to China) by 2020. Premium hotels and high-rise condominiums are surrounded by large, beautiful gardens. Visitors need a vehicle to visit the sights or go shopping; one can’t just leave the hotel and walk to a mall. And once the tourist steps off a vehicle, he meets a sizeable portion of its 1.3 billion people, a number of cows (sacred), dogs, monkeys and pigs (useful garbage cleaners).

We watched a spectacular show at the Kingdom of



The Taj Mahal, the “epitome of endless love,” is visited by 150,000 people daily. We saw some of them who traveled from Calcutta for two days on double-decked buses filled to the brim. The fact that locals pay much less than foreigners for tickets is a good practice

Dreams — 150 minutes of easily 50 performers onstage,

wearing an array of colorful costumes, singing and dancing to mesmerizing Indian music. A taste of Bollywood!

Qutub Minar, a Unesco World Heritage site, is one of the finest monuments not only in India but in the world. The 73-meter-high tower was built in 1193 by Qutab-ud-din Albak, after the defeat of Delhi’s last Hindu kingdom. The minaret is made of marble and red sandstone. The intricate design on its walls and those of the other buildings on the site is proof of beautiful Indian artistry, past and present.

Delhi Haat is an open-air permanent village market selling traditional Indian handicraft: rosewood and sandalwood carvings, papier-mâché bowls, tons of colorful scarves, blankets, carpets made of silk and wool, gems, beads, brassware.

While there are malls in New Delhi, the Khan Market is a shopping street preferred by wealthy Indians and expats. Boutiques selling jewelry and clothes, restaurants and bars line the streets. But don’t expect a smooth pavement or sleek storefronts; their facades are not as impressive as their interiors, which is surprising because it is said to be one of the most expensive shopping areas in Delhi. Hauz Khas Village, even more scruffy and crowded, is another recommended place where elite Indians shop and eat.

(www.philstar.com)

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FEATURE

REFLECTIONS ON THANKSGIVING DAY

By Seneca Moraleda

Food on our table, a roof on our head, sandals on our feet, and clothes to wear. The air we breathe, the life we live, the family we love, and people who care. Things to be grateful for that we seldom remember and oftentimes forget.

With the many things happening in the world today—wars between nations and religions, outbreak of deadly diseases, tragedies and disasters of epic proportions—we become so consumed with the complexities of life that we neglect the simple things and appreciate the joys they bring.

The Philippines, for example, experiences tragic calamities that take many lives year in and year out. Poverty separates families and drives parents to leave the country and seek better lives. Corruption among leaders of the land makes everyday headlines.

These issues weigh people down and make it difficult to

rise about the challenges of life. But in every cloud, there is a silver lining. In the midst of pain and trial, frustration and tribulation, there are things to be grateful about, victories to celebrate.

Gladly, once a year, there is Thanksgiving Day.

There are many stories about how it all began. In North America, Thanksgiving started in 1621, when Native Americans extended a helping hand to the Pilgrims from England during their very first extremely cold winter in Plymouth Rock. Without the help of the Native Americans, the Pilgrims would have died during those cold winter months.



The Pilgrims expressed their appreciation through a Thanksgiving feast, which at the time lasted for three days. It was just a simple gathering.

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day as a federal holiday in 1863. It has since been celebrated on the fourth week of November and has become a major American holiday.

Celebrating Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is a time to remember the good

things that have happened and the gifts we have been given. It is primarily observed to celebrate a fruitful harvest.

In other countries, Thanksgiving is celebrated during different seasons and called by different names. In South Korea, they call it 'Chuseok.' Vietnam has 'Tet Trung Thu.' China has 'August Moon Festival.' Jews refer to it as 'Succoth' and in India it's called 'Pongal.' The list goes on.

The Philippines does not

have Thanksgiving Day on its list of holidays. Christmas instead is the season for Filipinos to look back at the past year and thank God for the blessings they have received and to bless those people who have made an impact in their lives.

How do Filipinos in other parts of the world celebrate Thanksgiving Day?

In Hawaii, it's a time for family get-togethers and sharing food, laughter, stories and prayers with each other.

"Thanksgiving is time for families and friends to gather and be thankful for their loved ones and the fruitful year," says Jo Farina. "Thanksgiving holiday creates an opportunity for the family to sit down, bond and savor the food that they themselves prepared and catch up with each other's lives and just enjoy each other's company."

Imelda Joaquin's family makes it a point to celebrate

(continued on page 10)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

**Customs Revenue up 22.6 Pct
in October**

from www.philstar.com
Monday, November 24, 2014

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - The Bureau of Customs (BOC) said today that its collections expanded by 22.6 percent on year to a record P34.16 billion (\$759.17 million) in October.

BOC said it set a new record for the highest-ever single-month collection in October. The agency recorded increases in its revenues for the 10th straight month.

The agency said the hike in its collections was driven by the continued growth in the volume and value of imports.

"A survey in consumer demand and clearing-out of shipments at the ports propelled a 31.8 percent increase in import volume," the BOC said in a statement.

Also, BOC said improvements in its processes and continued reforms drove a 34.4 percent hike in the valuation of goods and a 30.17 percent hike in duties



and taxes collected.

BOC's October revenues, however, fell short of its goal of P36.81 billion (\$804.07 million) for the period.

Among the biggest ports in the country, only those in the provinces of Subic and Batangas in northern Philippines met and exceeded their targets for October.

Total revenues in January to October reached P299.95 billion (\$6 billion), 18.6 percent higher than the agency's collections in the same period last year.

FEATURE (from page 9, REFLECTIONS...)

Thanksgiving with a festive lunch at home, with each one bringing their own special homemade dishes.

"It's also a special time to bond and keep up with one another's lives and a chance to meet new additions to the family," she says. "It's not as complete as when the kids were younger and at home, but I thank God that with the new gadgets nowadays, I get to chat and see them enjoying themselves gathered with their friends wherever they are."

As time passes and families grow bigger, some people prefer to observe this season in a more simple way.

"Since we moved to Honolulu, our Thanksgiving day has been simple and quiet. My husband and I would start with Mass, followed by a simple breakfast at home or a breakfast eatery," says Tess Bernales. "Our prized moment is when our sons and family who are on the mainland call to express their love and best wishes. 'Are you having turkey?' is always asked, since turkey has become they centerpiece of this holiday."

Another Hawaii resident, Cynthia Romano Kelly, says that they used to have dinner with turkey and ham but she got tired of preparing the meal. Now that her children are bigger, she prefers going to the beach and having a small dinner somewhere.

Things to be Grateful For

Evangeline Edrina says she is thankful for God's goodness and faithfulness.

"I am thankful for God's eternal love and guidance in all ways He can possibly express to touch each and everyone's

heart," she says.

Ella Nava of South Korea thanks God for her life and for everything that He has done for her.

Farina is grateful for family and friends.

"In today's busy schedules, it is important to be thankful for all life's blessings. Be thankful not for material things but for the love of family members and friends," she says.

Bernales agrees and says that she is thankful for a loving and caring family.

"I also thank Him for allowing us to live a healthy, productive and purposeful life in this beautiful place"

"I appreciate the help and support they've given me over the years. I'm thankful for the support of my friends and community. I would not be able to do what I do with out them."

Kelly says: "I am very thankful for my blessings, my parents and most specially being born a Filipino. I have the best of friends and family in the Philippines."

We must all remember that Thanksgiving is not just a one-time event. It is an everyday, every moment attitude towards things—through all of the joys and pains, triumphs and heartbreaks, even in lack or in plenty.

Indeed, it is a time to rejoice and celebrate with family and friends. It is a time to share testimonies of joy and hope. It is a season to gather, dine with each other, laugh together and pray for each other.

It is a time to give thanks. For everything, we say "Thank You."

HEALTHLINE

Have a Healthy (Not Heavy) Holiday Season

By Vivienne Aronowitz

For many people, the best part of Christmas is gathering around the dinner table for a feast of delicious holiday favorites. Here in Hawaii, our buffet line looks a little different than what you might find anywhere else — it's a multicultural blend that might include your family's favorite recipes for lumpia, pancit and karekare, along with rice, macaroni salad, chicken katsu, roast pig...and that doesn't even include dessert!

Though we all love indulging in our favorite dishes, it's easy to overdo it. According to studies, the average person gains one to two pounds during the holiday season, which adds up over the years. Staying healthy during the holidays doesn't have to be hard — with just a few simple tips, you can enjoy your holiday



parties and family dinners while maintaining your weight.

- Be selective — If you can't resist Auntie's deep-fried empanadas that she only makes once a year, enjoy it! But if you see something on the table you're not excited about, skip that dish or opt for a small taste. Pass on foods you can get any time of year, like rice or macaroni salad.
- Using a smaller plate will also help to reduce your portions, but don't turn it into a volcano!

- Eat more vegetable-based dishes like pinakbet with eggplant or long beans and tomatoes if available — or offer to bring this to the celebration.
- Don't drink your calories — Washing your meal down with a can of soda will add another 150 calories to your tally, the equivalent of 40 minutes of brisk walking. You're better off drinking water, which will keep you hydrated and help curb hunger. Water can be made more fun by adding slices of citrus, mint or cu-

cumbers. Bubbly water with a shot of juice can also be festive and low in calories. Enjoy a glass of wine or beer with dinner, not beforehand, to avoid overindulging on alcohol.

- Slow down — Eating too fast can lead to overeating and indigestion. Be aware of your pace and enjoy the flavor of your food, which will help your body register signs of fullness. If you always feel like you are the first to finish, try matching your pace to the others at your table. You may find that if you give yourself more time to eat your dinner, you won't need a second helping at the buffet or will be too full to finish dessert.
- Don't skip meals beforehand — Forgoing breakfast and lunch to "save" your calories until later makes you more likely to overeat. It's much harder to stick to your healthy

holiday eating plan if you're too ravenous to make good choices. Plan a nutritious breakfast, lunch and snack with lots of vegetables to keep your energy level high.

- Family first — Remember that the true spirit of the holidays is about spending time with loved ones. Plan activities outside with the kids, and some after-dinner dancing to work a little exercise into everyone's day. Take pictures by the Christmas tree and look at family albums. The great holiday feast is only one part of a very special day.

VIVIENNE ARONOWITZ, MPH, RD, LD, CDE is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator serving Kaiser Permanente's Kona Medical Office, Hilo Clinic and Waimea Clinic on the Big Island. She earned her Master of Public Health from University of California, Berkeley, and has been with Kaiser Permanente since 2005.

HEALTH & FAMILY

McKinsey Report Says Obesity Costs Hit \$2 Trillion

By Danica Kirka | AP

LONDON — A new report by the McKinsey Global Institute released Thursday that the global cost of obesity has risen to \$2 trillion annually — nearly as much as smoking or the combined impact of armed violence, war and terrorism.

The report focused on the economics of obesity, putting it among the top three social programs generated by human beings. It puts its impact at 2.8 percent of global gross domestic product.

"Obesity isn't just a health issue," one of the report's authors, Richard Dobbs, said in a podcast. "But it's a major economic and business challenge."

The company says 2.1 billion people — about 30

percent of the global population — are overweight or obese and that about 15 percent of health care costs in developed economies are driven by it.

In emerging markets, as countries get richer, the rate of obesity rises to the same level as that found in more developed countries. The report offers the stark prediction that nearly half of the world's adult population will be overweight or obese by 2030 should present trends continue.

The report's authors argue that efforts to deal with obesity have been piecemeal until now, and that a systemic response is needed.

McKinsey says there's no



single or simple solution to the problem, but global disagreement on how to move forward is

hurting progress. The analysis is meant to offer a starting point on the elements of a

possible strategy.

"We see our work on a potential program to address obesity as the equivalent of the maps used by 16th-century navigators," McKinsey

said in its report. "Some islands were missing and some continents misshapen in these maps, but they were still helpful to the sailors of that era." (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Manny Takes Pity on Inexperienced Algieri

from www.philstar.com
 Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014

MANILA, Philippines – Manny Pacquiao admitted taking pity on Chris Algieri, whom he knocked out six times en route to lopsided victory Sunday at the Cotai Arena inside The Venetian Macao in Macau, China.

"Naawa din ako sa kanya (took pity on him)," Pacquiao told a handful of local scribes in his suite a day after flashing his deadly form against Algieri.

The Filipino icon noted the significant disparity between him and Algieri in terms of experience and skill level, which had been evident throughout the fight. Pacquiao knocked down Algieri once in the second round, twice each in the sixth and ninth rounds, and one

more time in the 10th canto to complete the landslide victory.

Pacquiao tried his best to take Algieri out, but the American was a tough customer and held on to survive the fight.

"Yung experience kasi niya kulang na kulang tapos isinabak agad. May potensyal sana pero nasabak agad sa mas beteranong boksingero. Kulang pa talaga sa experience. Malayong malayo ang level (He is still inexperienced yet he was already thrown to the pit. Though he has potential, he fought a veteran fighter. He still lacks experience. We're too far in terms of level)," he explained.

"*Talagang buhos ako sa laban na yun, nandun ang*



WBO junior welterweight champion Chris Algieri of the United States sits on the mat after being knocked down by WBO welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines during their WBO welterweight boxing match at the Venetian Macao in Macau, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

killer instinct ko," Pacquiao continued.

While those six knock-downs underscored Pacquiao's dominance in the fight, his punching accuracy also topped

that of Algieri. Pacquiao landed 229 of 669 total punches for a 34 percent connect rate, while Algieri went 108-of-469 for an inferior 29 percent.

Pacquiao likewise dwarfed Algieri in the power punching department, with 187 of 410 power punches finding their target for a 46 percent rate. Algieri for his part, could only muster 212 power punches, landing 80 of them (34 percent).

But if there's one thing Pacquiao gave Algieri credit for, it was the New Yorker's toughness.

"*Pero matibay talaga eh. Ayaw din magpabagsak. Natutuwa lang ako kasi kahit inexperienced siya, ginawa pa din niya ang makakaya niya para hindi sya bumagsak. Sinubukan pa din nyang gawin ang lahat ng makakaya niya* (But he's really tough. He didn't want to get knocked out. He impressed me because he held on even though he was inexperienced. He tried his best.)," he said.

House Inquiry on OFW Remittance Fees Increase Sought

by Patricia Lourdes Viray
 Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - The House of Representatives Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries has been urged to invite the representatives of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Department of

Finance and other concerned agencies to conduct an inquiry on the effect of increasing remittance fees to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Cagayan De Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez noted in House Resolution 1594 that the alleged connivance of banks in money laundering resulted in the closure of remittance businesses in the United States (US) and increase of remittance fees.

The said connivance in money laundering involves drug lords and terrorist groups, according to Rodriguez.

"The US government decided to crackdown on money laundering activities involving suspected drug lords and terrorist groups," Rodriguez said.



Remittance fees in the United States increased due to the closure of remittance businesses in some big banks involved in money laundering

Rodriguez mentioned the case of HSBC which was found guilty of allowing drug lords and terrorist groups to launder millions of dollars and was eventually fined \$1.9 billion by the court for failing to implement the anti-money laundering law.

The lawmaker said that the current situation will make it

harder for OFWs to send money to their relatives in the Philippines.

OFWs cash remittances composed eight percent of the the country's gross domestic product last year, 43 percent of which came from the US. The current remittances amount to 5.7 percent or \$9.3 billion. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Obama Unveils Immigration Plan; GOP Vows To Fight It

President Obama unveiled his immigration plan last November 20 in a televised address from the White House. The GOP immediately vowed to counter the President's executive action.

About five million undocumented immigrants would benefit from his plan. They include parents of children who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. It also expands the 2012 DACA program that has deferred the removal of young immigrants. Most of the beneficiaries of the plan would be given work permits. More details of the immigration relief will be spelled out soon.

Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) said that the GOP will

try to cripple the president's action with legal challenges or cancelling their funding. He had said that the Republicans would "fight the president tooth and nail." To this end, the GOP, which would control both House and Senate next year, could pass a bill defunding agencies responsible for the relief programs and immigration enforcement.

Congress is also scheduled to pass an omnibus spending bill by December 11, 2014. The measure should fund the government until October 2015; however, House Republicans are considering passing a short-term funding measure that will fund the government only through February next year. This will allow them to pass a bill that will prohibit disbursement of funds on processing of applications and work permits covered by the President's executive order.

If Congress passes a short-term funding measure, many believe that a vote on another spending bill early next year could lead to "brinkmanship" such as threats to defund the government that could lead to a government shutdown. The President, however, relies on the word of Mitch McConnell, incoming Senate Majority Leader, that Republicans would not be shutting down the government.

Speaker House Boehner, on the other hand, warned "that all options are on the table." A number of Republicans are also considering impeachment, including Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) who had said that he will call for impeachment of the President for his executive action.

Before the President's announcement, immigrant rights advocates had complained that any delay on the part of the President to exercise his executive

authority would subject thousands of families to more suffering. Each year, about 400,000 have been deported. With the current enforcement policies in place, Obama has removed more than two million immigrants under his presidency.

America's Voice Deputy Director Lynn Tramonte said "Every day that there's no executive action over 1,000 families lose a loved one to deportation. It was not acceptable for them to delay this summer, this fall and certainly would not be acceptable for them to delay any further."

Senators Harry Reid (D-Nevada), Richard Durbin (D-Illinois), Charles Schumer (D-New York), Patty Murray (D-Washington State), Robert Menendez (D-New Jersey), and Michael F. Bennet (D-Colorado) in their support letter to the President said that "Immigrant communities have waited too long for House Republicans to catch up with the

American public's support for comprehensive immigration reform. We strongly support your plan to improve as much of the immigration system as you can within your legal authority..."

Although the opposition from the GOP is mounting, the administration is relying on the support from immigrants which would make Republicans think twice as to their steps to derail his immigration plans.

The executive order issued by the President can be readily superseded by act of Congress. If Republicans are unwilling to fix the broken immigration system, they should, at the very least, not hinder the President to do what he can within his legal authority to improve it.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

MAINLAND NEWS

Immigration Rights Groups Applaud Obama's Executive Order

A national grassroots organization founded to politically empower the Filipino-American community has applauded President Barack Obama for taking executive action to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation.

In a nationwide address to the country, Obama said he would defer the deportation of the parents of children who are either U.S. citizens or legal residents, and that he also would expand protection to more "DREAMers"—children who entered the country illegally with their parents.

However, KAYA: Filipino Americans for Progress says lasting progress will require legislation and is calling on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

"This is undoubtedly big news for many Filipino-Americans who have experienced first-hand the tremendous diffi-

culties caused by our current immigration system," says Romeo Ymalay, Co-Chair of Kaya: Filipino Americans for Progress. "President Obama's action is only the first step. Much more needs to be done to finally fix our broken and unjust system."

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz commended Obama's action which he says would keep families together and enable immigrants who pass criminal background checks to work legally and pay taxes.

In June 2013, Schatz voted in support of the Bipartisan Immigration Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act which would create an accountable path to citizenship and make investments in infrastructure, technology, and personnel to secure the nation's borders. The bill passed with a strong bipartisan Senate majority and has awaited action from

the House of Representatives for over a year.

"For decades, our broken immigration system has separated families and forced millions to live in the shadows," Schatz says. "I was proud to help pass bipartisan immigration reform legislation in the Senate last year. But since then, House Republicans have refused to take up the bill and have offered no realistic solutions.

The National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD) also offered its support.

"As the fastest growing racial and immigrant group in the U.S., Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) will benefit from the president's action and will have greater access to better working conditions and employment opportunities with real wages that they can rely upon," says, CAPACD Executive Director Lisa Hasegawa.

the US economy."

CAPACD is national advocacy organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for the nation's growing AAPI communities by promoting economic vitality, civic and political participation and racial equity.



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ILOKO
By Amado I. Yoro

Baro Nga Opisial Ti Annak Ti Sinit Iti Hawaii Ken Ti Sinit National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii, Nagsapata

Ni Reverend Doctor Alex Vergara, presidente ti Oahu Filipino Community Council ti nagsapata kadagiti baro nga opisial ti dua nga organisasion dagiti taga Sinit. Ni met la Rev. Vergara ti nagpaay a kangrunaan a nagsarita.

Naangay ti nagdanggay a panagsapata iti Wamalu Chop Suey idi Nobiembre 8, 2014 nga inatendaran dagiti nadumaduma a lider ken kameng iti komunidad a pakairamanan da Pacita Saludes, Annak Ti Kailokuan Iti America, Helen Grace Go, Candonians; Josefina Takemoto, Gumil Hawaii/AKA; Salvador Obaldo, Gumil Hawaii/AKA; Genaro Bimbo ken Delia Bimbo, Universal Travel, Theresa Aleta, UFCH Board Of Governor [Ni Ms Aleta ti maysa kadagiti kan-

grunaan nga esponsor ti panakabangon Sto Cristo Milagroso Marker], Trifona Savellano, Danny ken Emmie Villaruz, Ilocos Surian, Roger and Edith Tapat, Sto Domingo Organization Hawaii Chapter.

Ni Israel Savellano ti emcee.

Dagiti opisial ti Annak ti Sinit Iti Hawaii para iti 2014-2016 isu da Augusto S. Concepcion, *presidente*, Romulo G. Basuel, *umuna a bise*, Davelyn A. Quijano, *maikadua a bise*, Dolly Willing, *sekretaria*, Herminia I. Gaspar, *tesorera*, Estrella P. Taong, *auditor*.

Sarhento de armas: William Gaspar, Rogelio Idica, Ador Quijano

Immediate past president: Antonio I. Ipalari

Direktor: Leonila Degala, Angelita Idica, Esther Cabacungan, Ophelia Basuel, Paul Taong

Mamagbaga: Estrella P. Taong, PhD. Amado I. Yoro.

Dagiti opisial ti Sinit National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii para iti 2014-2016 isu da Davelyn A. Quijano, *presidente*, Herminia I. Gaspar, *umuna a bise*, Romulo G. Basuel, *maikadua a bise*, Dolly Willing, sekretaria, Angelita Idica, *tesorera*, Ophelia Basuel, *auditor*, Estrella P. Taong, *PRO*.

Direktor: Leonila Degala, Rogelio Idica, Augusto S. Concepcion, William Gaspar, Ador Quijano.

Mamagbaga: Estrella P. Taong ken Amado I. Yoro.

Maysa ti Annak Ti Sinit Iti Hawaii ken ti Sinit National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii a kaaktibuan a gunglo iti Hawaii ita. Maibilang dagiti sumamagmano a gannuat, proyekto ken aktibidada a dakkel a kontribusioda iti komunidad iti Hawaii ken Filipinas.

Saanda a maudi iti partisipasion iti komunidad: fundraising, scholarship program, panagplano ken partisipasion

iti kombensyon ti OFCC/UFCH. Dakkel ti akemda a makidanggay a pakairamanan dagiti sumaganad:

1. Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii Projects like the ISAH Medical Mission, Mrs. ISAH Program, the Green Revolution Project, President Elpidio Quirino Leadership and Humanitarian Award
2. OFCC Convention and Reaffirmation Miss Oahu Filipina Scholarship, Walk for Fun and many others
3. UFCH Convention and Reaffirmation/Progress Award
4. UFCH/OFCC Special Projects: Feeding the Homeless, Adopt a Hwy/Park, Hawaii Food Bank,
5. Other activities: US Census 2010, MOTTEP, others
6. Awarded as Top 10 Unit Organizations
7. April-May 2014 Medical Mission to Sinit and Construction of a Sto Cristo Milagroso Marker in Dadalaquiten Norte--- parcel a land was generously donated by the Iloreta Family
8. Walk For Fun OFCC/AARP
9. Sinit Fit and Health Walk
10. Typhoon Hiayan Victim Fundraising Drive and other victims of Natural Disasters and Calamities
11. Donated ti FilComCenter Fundraisings
12. Scholarship in Hawaii and the Philippines
13. Ilocos Surian Medical Mission
14. Sinaitenians International Medical Mission
15. Donated computers, LCD Projector and Screen for the Sinit High School Student
16. Contributed to the construction of the Business Education and Information System Building in Sinit High School
17. Others

Espesial a pammadayaw kas pammigbig ti impresenta ni Amado I. Yoro, a timmulongan da Davelyn Quijano, Gus Concepcion, Danny Villaruz and Alex Vergara.

Posthumous Award for Late Manuel Cabacungan, Co-organizer/founding member given to Mrs. Esther Cabacungan; Dr. Estrella Pada Taong, first president, SNHSAAH, and past president ATSIH; Antonio Ipalari, the longest serving president for 10 years

Naited ti naidumduma a pammigbig ken ni Apo Basilio Iloreta kas kangrunaan nga esponsor ti proyekto ti Sto. Cristo Milagroso Marker gapu iti paset ti daga a nagtakderan ti marker. Kasta met a nabigbig dagiti annakna. Nabangon ti Marker iti Barangay Dadalaquiten Norte, Sinit, Ilocos Sur babaen iti panangilungalong toy nagsurat ken sinuportaran dagiti opisial ken kameng ti dua a gunglo. Naiwayat ti programa a nangrugi a simpli a Walk For Fun Sinit Fit ken ti simpli a campaign drive iti komunidad, banag a tinulonganda ti proyekto.

Agpada a binigbig da Rev. Alex Vergara ken Danny Villaruz dagitoy dua a gunglo: SNHSAAH ken ATSIH kas maysa kadagiti kaaktibuan a nairaman iti TOP TEN OUTSTANDING UNIT MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OFCC 2014 ken uray kadagiti napalabas a tawen maipapan iti kinapateg dagiti proyekto ken aktibidad nga isaysayangkatda iti pagimbagan ti kameng ken iti komunidad ken iti ili a Sinit. Nabuangay ti SNHSAAH idi Hulio 16, 1995 ket ti ATSIH idi Disiembre 13, 1997.

Kameng ken aktibo nga agpada ti SNHSAAH ken ATSIH iti Oahu Filipino Community Council and the United Filipino Council of Hawaii.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PASKO! SA FILCOM: PAGKAKAISA SA DIWA NG PASKO (UNITY IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS) • SUNDAY • December 7, 2014 | The Filipino Community Center | 3:00-7:00 PM | For more info, call FilCom Center@ (808) 680-0451 or email filcom@filcom.org or visit www.filcom.org

PASKUHAN SA CONSULADO, A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION • TUESDAY • December 16, 2014 | Philippine Consulate Grounds | 5:30-10:30 PM | For more info, call Jeff de Mesa @ 595-6316 to 19 ext. 105.

FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (FAUW), PASKO! • SUNDAY • December 21, 2014 | Honolulu Museum of Arts | 11:00 AM-3:00 PM | FREE Admission courtesy of Bank of Hawaii's monthly family Sunday | For more information, please contact Pepi Nieva at pepinieva@hotmail.com.

TARLAC MUTUAL CLUB, ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY & CORONATION OF MOTHER OF THE YEAR • SATURDAY • December 27, 2014 | FilCom Center | 5:00-11:00 PM | Contact Armando Celestino @ 779-2166 for more info.

GLOBAL NEWS

Venice to Ban Rolling Suitcases for Tourists

MANILA, Philippines – Planning on traveling to Venice? Never mind your easy-to-carry wheelie bags because Venice's city council is considering the prohibition of the use rolling suitcases in the city soon.

Apparently, the efficient rolling suitcases that have been your traveling buddy for long are the subject of some of the complaints by the residents of Venice. Reports say that the loud annoying noises the rolling suitcases make when they



are being dragged by tourists along the streets disturb and irritate the residents.

In addition to the residential disturbance, the scratches made by

the wheels also lead to the "progressive deterioration" of historic paving slabs, marble steps and foot bridges, the city council said, as reported by The Telegraph.

Meanwhile, luggage equipped with air-filled wheels would be permissible.

According to reports, the law won't come into effect until May. Once implemented, tourists who would violate the rule could be fined up to 500 euros (\$620). Venetians however will be exempt from the new law. (www.philstar.com)

Philippines Reaches Out to Diaspora Via Mobile App

The Philippines is taking steps in an effort to reach out to the Filipino diaspora with the recent launch of the mobile app version of Radyo Tambuli—the virtual radio platform of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C.

"One of our overriding goals is to serve the Filipino diaspora to the best of our ability," says Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. "The app increases our presence in the lives of overseas Filipinos and helps further our digital public diplomacy goals."

Developed with AudioNow Digital, a leading provider of in-language mobile apps for radio broadcasters, the Radyo Tambuli mobile app is available through Android and iPhone mobile applications. The app can be downloaded by smart phone or tablet users.

"Through this app, we are hoping to connect our kababayans abroad with home," said Ambassador Cuisia, referring to the more than 11 million Filipinos all over the world, particularly the 3.5 million who are in the United States.

Radyo Tambuli makes offers daily news headlines, original Filipino music, coverage of town-hall style meetings, interviews, opinion surveys and children's stories to engage the Philippine diaspora. The app also provides two-way commu-



nication between the Embassy and members of the Filipino Community through direct messaging, sharing through social media and push notifications.

The app also features live and recorded content from premier Filipino broadcasters, such as Veritas, People's Television Network and

the Catholic Media Network as well as other radio and television stations in the provinces that broadcast in other Filipino languages.

Listeners can access these stations through not only their mobile data plans or wi-fi connections, but also through the in-app one-touch call-to-listen feature, which uses voice minutes and incur no extra calling charges from the U.S.

Consul Elmer G. Cato, head of the Embassy's Public Diplomacy Section, says the app will eventually include additional programming that will be developed with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila and other Philippine foreign service posts in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. (DFA)

Lav Diaz's 'Norte...' Earns Spirit Awards Nod

The Philippines' entry to the Oscar and Golden Globe Awards' best foreign film races, Lav Diaz's "Norte, the End of History," earned a best international film nomination in the 30th Film Independent Spirit Awards. Honoring the best in indie cinema, the Spirit Awards cited "Norte..." and five other leading best foreign film contenders in the ongoing awards season.

"That's great for Philippine cinema," Diaz said about his film's nomination.

"I am just amazed by Norte's streak.

Wow. Buhay na buhay siya. It keeps pushing things, kung saan-saan, very transcendental. This is cinema's magic," he added.

"Norte's" producer, Moira Lang, aka Raymond Lee, told the Inquirer, "This is such a wonderful surprise. The first time the Philippines received this distinction was in 2006 for 'Ang Pagdadalaga ni (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros.' I hope that this would shine the spotlight on the brave and superb independent filmmakers in our country, grow our audience and help make our practice sustainable."

"Mabuhay ang bagong sineng (www.inquirer.net)

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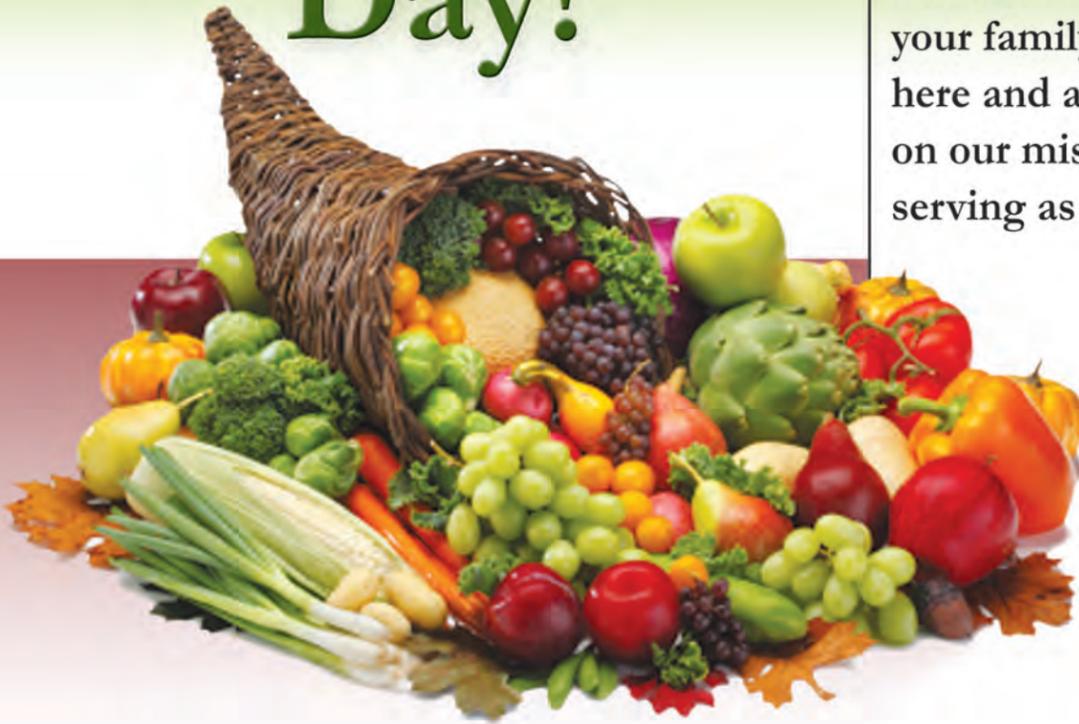
Pilipino?" Lang exclaimed.

Lang also produced "Ang Pagdadalaga..." which was directed by Aureaus Solito.

The Spirit Awards nominations were announced Tuesday morning by actors Diego Luna and Rosario Dawson at the W Hotel in Hollywood.

The Spirit Awards winners will be announced as per its long tradition – a day before the Oscars, on February 21, and in its usual venue in a white tent on the beach in Santa Monica, California. Over the years, as indie cinema has grown, the Spirit Awards has also evolved into a big film awards event.

Happy Thanksgiving Day!



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