RETIRING IN THE PHILIPPINES
WEIGHING THE PROS AND CONS

GLOBAL NEWS
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

LEGAL NOTES
LONG DELAYS AND HIGH DENIAL RATES BELIE IMMIGRATION REPORT

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE
94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., 2ND FLR.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

Cover Story Page 4

MAY 12, 2012

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!
EDITORIAL

Supporting Medicare Portability

or many Fil-Am baby boomers, the thought of retiring in the Philippines is quite appealing. After all, there’s no place like home—particularly when the cost of living is so affordable. Housing, food, transportation and other costs in the Philippines are quite reasonable. On average, a retiree can live very comfortably at US$2,000 per month in a fully furnished home complete with a household helper.

Despite the appeal, some Fil-Ams hesitate at taking the plunge simply because their Medicare benefits cannot be used beyond U.S. borders. However, a national advocacy organization called U.S. Medicare Ph, Inc., is lobbying Congress for a Medicare Portability Bill that would allow Medicare to be used in the Philippines for eligible Fil-Ams who are considering medical treatment there.

Such an arrangement would bring relief for the Medicare system which is facing financial problems due to the rising cost of healthcare. In fact, it’s estimated that the U.S. government can save $5,000 per year in health care expenses for each Fil-Am senior who returns to the Philippines to take advantage of the country’s affordable health care services. If an estimated 200,000 Fil-Am baby boomers end up retiring in the Philippines as expected, the U.S. would save a staggering $1 billion per year. The proposal would also benefit the Philippines by generating jobs, boosting the economy and encouraging many Fil-Am retirees to return home and permanently retire there. In Guam, a bill is in the works to allow Guam Medicare beneficiaries to use their health-care benefits in the Philippines.

The proposal, however, isn’t without its critics who cite very real concerns, including the potential for fraud. In the U.S., Medicare fraud accounts for about $60 billion a year in losses due to fake Medicare claims. To prevent fraud, only accredited Philippine hospitals should be allowed to participate and be required to have safeguards in place, such as computerized health records to minimize errors.

President Benigno Aquino III will push for Medicare Portability in a scheduled meeting later this summer with U.S. president Barack Obama. The proposal stands a good chance if Obama is sufficiently familiar with the pros and cons of retiring in the Philippines which is a desire for many Filipino-Americans ages 65 and older. After toiling for years to pay the mortgage, send their children to school and make ends meet, they are more than ready to enjoy their Golden Years back home with family and friends. While the pension of a typical Fil-Am retiree is more than enough for him or her to live quite comfortably in the Philippines, some are still hesitant to return home. To find out why, please read Gregory’s very interesting and informative cover story beginning on page 4.

In other news, several Zumba instructors will be holding a special fundraiser on May 12, 2012 at Farrington High School for Gail Gabriel—a cancer patient of Filipino ancestry. Gabriel is a local girl and Farrington alum who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer and is battling to overcome this disease. In case you didn’t know, Zumba is a Latin-inspired dance/exercise program that has become very popular among fitness enthusiasts in Hawaii. So if you like to Zumba and want to help out for a good cause, please mark May 12th on your calendar. To read more about Gabriel and how to help her financially, turn to our story on page 5.

We hope that you will take some time to read the informative and interesting columns we have provided in this issue, including “Legislative Update” (page 3); “Immigration Guide” (page 7); “Legal Notes” (page 13); and Philippine Language (page 14).

In closing, we’d like to thank our readers for their faithful and continued support of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Please feel free to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have story suggestions, concerns or questions regarding Hawaii’s vibrant Filipino community. We would love to hear from you.

Until next time… aloha and mabuhay!

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Happy Mother’s Day!

ew words in the English language conjure up images and memories of warmth, happiness, home and security as the word ‘mom.’ While motherhood is a wonderful responsibility, it can also be downright exhausting. The typical, modern day mom must balance the pressures of a full-time career with the demands of a growing household.

Moms are often the first ones out of bed, especially on weekdays, to get the children organized and ready for school. They then work all day long, pick up the kids, prepare dinner, supervise homework, clean the house and many other chores that need to be done. And if that isn’t enough, moms still must find the inner strength to anchor the family and provide moral guidance. She somehow manages to do it all—day in and day out—and often without enough appreciation.

The typical Filipino mom does more than provide love—she dedicates herself entirely to her child. As her child grows, she challenges and pushes the child to mature into adulthood. She stands beside her child through the ups and downs of life, providing protection, guidance, warnings and the occasional smack upside the head for good measure. She is always caring, sacrificing everything for their children. She goes above and beyond the call of duty for the best interests of her children.

In light of all that our moms have done for us, let’s remember her in a very special way this Mother’s Day. Tell her how much you appreciate all that she’s done for you. Say it from the heart and make her feel like the most amazing person in the world. If you are fortunate enough to still have her with you, remember to keep treating her special not just on Mother’s Day but for all the other days of the year as well.

So Happy Mothers Day, to our moms. We hope you enjoy your special day. You truly deserve it!
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2012 Legislative Session Highlights

TRANSPORTATION. The Department of Transportation was given $200,000 to study the feasibility of extending the zipper lane to Kapolei, west of the Kualakai on-ramp, HB2684 Zipper Lane. Kualakai Parkway will be extended to Roosevelt Avenue, $15 million. This extension will assist the new Kapolei shopping center. Road improvements near U.H. West Oahu on Farrington Highway total $1,250,000.

UH & SCHOOLS. The University of Hawaii's new West Oahu campus will receive funds for planning and designing of two new facilities, the Academy of Creative Media and an allied health building, along with various other improvements. Funding was also given for plans, design, and/or construction of three new public schools: East Kapolei High, $2,300,000; Kapolei II Elementary, $40,000; Royal Kunia Elementary, $150,000.

Several public schools will receive funds for facilities, equipment, improvements, upgrades, and other needs: Ewa Elementary $9,600,000 (new 8-classroom building); Ewa Beach Elementary $1,480,000 (electrical upgrades); Honowai Elementary $190,000 (new stairway); Kaleiopuu Elementary $1,175,000 (electrical upgrades & ramp); Kapolei High - $4,665,000 (locker room/shower); Waikele Elementary - $969,000 (performing arts stage in cafeteria; resurfacing basketball court; playground); Waipahu High - $1,200,000 (athletic field and retaining wall).

MILITARY. An Army National Guard consolidated facility at Kalaeloa will be renovated; $709,000 (utilities, access road, parking area, security fencing, renovations and others). The 29th Brigade will receive $483,000 for a new combat team readiness center. Army Guard facilities will be renovated, $516,500. Federal funds will also be used for the Kalaeloa National Guard projects. Various upgrades and improvements will also be made at veterans cemetery statewide, $3,544,000.

TOURISM. For 5 years, I have been working with the State Office of Aerospace Development on space-related initiatives. This year the Legislature funded $1.8 million for the construction of a Pacific International Space Center for Explorations Systems (PISCES) facility on the Big Island. With SB112 sponsored by myself, Hawaii will apply for a spaceport license ($250,000 appropriation), beginning a new era in space tourism for our state. Another one of my bills created an advisory group for the purpose of eventually building an educational center and tourist destination built around the WWII Honolulu Internment Camp in Kunia. This effort was appropriated $100,000.

OTHER. The Hawaiian Home Lands Trust Fund was given $30 million for construction and other obligations. An electrical distribution system between Roosevelt Road and Tripoli Road, the Kalaeloa East Energy Corridor will be built, $3.5 million. Kunia Agricultural Park will undergo utility, road, grading, drainage, and other improvements with possible subdivision, $1 million. The successful Weed and Seed program was funded $336,000 thanks to SB2261 continuing efforts to reduce crime, drug abuse, and gang activity through prevention, intervention, and neighborhood revitalization projects, programs, and activities. These are some of the projects and highlights of a productive 2012 legislative session. For more information, please contact me at 586-6360 or senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov.

HA&WILNIO NEWS

Enrollment For Jr Paramedic Program Now Open

The Emergency Services Department will present the Junior Paramedic Program in two sessions this summer.

The Junior Paramedic Program offers students an opportunity to learn lifesaving skills, experience emergency response practices and appreciate the duties of the City and County of Honolulu's emergency professionals.

Students will receive classroom and hands-on mentoring during the two-week course and will achieve CPR and first aid certification. Officials hope that the program will inspire students to consider a career as a first responder or in a related field, and to work for the City.

The program is open to teens ages 14 through 18. Only 20 students will be accepted for each session and enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. Sessions will be held from 8 am to 4 pm on the following dates:

- Session 1: June 18-29, 2012
- Session 2: July 9-20, 2012

The deadline to apply is Friday, June 1, 2012. Please call the Honolulu Emergency Services Department at 723-7809 to enroll.
Retiring in the Philippines
Weighing the Pros and Cons
By Gregory Garcia

According to the agency’s website, the PRA is mandated to “attract foreign nationals and former Filipino citizens to invest, reside and retire in the Philippines with the end-view of accelerating the socio-economic development of the country, contributing to the foreign currency reserve of the economy and by providing them the best quality of life in the most attractive package.”

If the Philippine government wants to attract foreigners to retire in the country, then there is probably no better time to do it than right now. Throughout the developed world, the number of retirees is on the rise. In the U.S. alone, some 10,000 people are retiring every day.

One factor contributing to this “tsunami” of Americans reaching retirement age is the fact that the first generation of Post-World War II baby boomers turned 65 in 2011. Over the next 20 years, the numbers are expected to further inflate as more than 70 million Americans who were born between 1945 and 1965 will be entering their retirement years. Among these American seniors, some 400,000 are Filipino-Americans, a large number by any account. They are a very attractive market for the Philippine government, since many Fil-Ams know the Philippines by heart and all the good things it can offer.

The PRA, adopting the Department of Tourism’s “It’s More Fun in the Philippines” campaign, has recently stepped up its marketing efforts to promote these selling points to foreign and Fil-Am retirees.

The impressive list includes the country’s natural wonders, great climate, low cost of products and services, exciting leisure facilities and attractive investment opportunities—clearly the things one can only find in retirement heaven.

Coming Home

According to Hawaii resident Tess Bernales, exactly why a native-born Filipino would want to retire in the Philippines is more than the balmy climate, laidback lifestyle and affordable cost of living that many other retirees often wax lyrical about.

“It is because Filipinos would want to come home. Home is where you feel that you are unconditionally loved and accepted,” she says.

Although she is not yet certain if she would in fact end up retiring in the Philippines, Bernales already has a good idea what she would be doing if ever she does.

“I would probably look into doing activities that will embody my desire to help the poorest of the poor. Retirement is not only winding down and doing things in your ‘bucket list’ or waiting for the time when you meet your Creator. For me, retirement is doing things that will be personally fulfilling and at the same time help the less fortunate,” she says.

California resident Valentin Ybiernas also sees the Philippines as his first home. He points out that Filipinos are blessed to have the option of returning to their homeland, while most Americans are not afforded the same choice.

“When one gets old in America, one ends up in a nursing home. You might as well retire in the Philippines because you will have the luxury of having relatives and friends with you unlike here in the U.S. Your kids become so busy with work, so despite all the money, luxury and even the sophisticated medical equipment we have, it can be sad growing old here. The modern culture here is not very friendly for old people,” he says.

Another Filipino-American, Marita del Rosario, who now lives in Lipa City, Batangas, speaks on a more practical note.

“The prospect of enjoying a simple lifestyle motivated us to live in the Philippines. With the retirement income that we are receiving now, we don’t have to struggle each month to survive. We have more than enough to live comfortably,” she says.

She says that living in the Philippines has also helped her live the bucolic lifestyle she has always dreamed about.

“I have always wanted to have a house on a farm, raising pigs and chicken, and also to have my own organic vegetable garden.”

When asked if she ever misses her old life in the States, del Rosario says she misses her family more than the hectic way of life she left behind.

“One has to prepare in advance and visit the Philippines many times so they can plan ahead if and when they retire in the Philippines and know when to say ‘it’s time to go home.’ For the most part, it may boil down to where you are most happy and comfortable. Of course, this is a dilemma that we Filipinos face because we have these options available to us,” he says.

The Medicare Challenge

While many Filipino-Americans contemplate the idea of retiring in the Philippines, some 25,000 foreign citizens—mostly from China, Japan, Korea and the U.S.—are already spending their retirement years in the country.

One of the key reasons why many of these retirees are happy and comfortable in the Philippines is because of its very af-

(continued on page 5)
U.S. Medicare PH Inc. is currently lobbying to convince the U.S. Congress and President Barrack Obama to allow Medicare coverage for Fil-Am retirees who want to live in the Philippines. The group estimates that U.S. taxpayers can save as much as $5,000 per year in health care expenses for each Fil-Am senior who chooses to return to the Philippines to take advantage of the country’s affordable health care services. This amounts to a staggering $1 billion of savings if all the 200,000 individuals are taken into account.

“Our goal in 2012 is a change in U.S. law that allows for several demonstration hospitals in the Philippines that meet international accreditation standards to be reimbursed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for treating Medicare beneficiaries,” the group says on its website.

The group adds that such well-run medical institutions can assure the accountability and quality of care, standardization of professional fees and implementation of electronic medical records to eliminate fraud from the equation. In addition, the CMS could undertake a five year feasibility study to validate the cost savings and the quality of care the beneficiaries will be receiving.

But just how feasible is the idea? As a matter of fact, it is already happening, at least to U.S. citizens residing in Guam. Because of the island’s proximity to the Philippines, Guam residents have the option of obtaining critical medical treatment in the Philippine hospitals that meet standards set by Joint Commission International. All their costs are reimbursed by Medicare. Furthermore, the Pentagon and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are already reimburging the health care costs of thousands of U.S. military retirees and their families living in the Philippines. In fact, Marita del Rosario and her husband are among them. “If I had any major health issues and don’t have any insurance, I wouldn’t even consider living in the Philippines at all. But since my husband is a retired U.S. military personnel, we are able to use the insurance that the U.S. government has provided us,” she says.

Another option some observers have suggested is for the Philippine government to create a medical insurance program that would be similar to Medicare and tailor-made for American retirees. But Bernales believes such a scheme may or may not ease the retirees' concerns, depending on their individual financial circumstance. For many retirees who don’t like the idea of parting with their Medicare benefits, it could mean an additional burden.

Zumba Instructors Raise Funds for Cancer Patient

H

dreds of fitness enthusiasts and dancers are expected to join 15 Zumba instructors from all over the island in a fundraiser for Gail Gabriel, a local girl who is battling stage four of lung cancer. The public is invited to join the fun-filled event, which is scheduled for May 12, 2012 from 10 am to 12 noon at Farrington High School’s cafeteria.

Gabriel has been one of Gabriel’s favorite workout classes. The Zumba instructors teach at local YMCA’s and various gyms across the island including 24 Hour fitness, BJ Penn’s Gym and Curves.

Gabriel was born and raised in Kalahi, where she graduated from Farrington. She attended the University of Hawaii-Manoa and earned a degree in nursing. She later moved to Las Vegas for better career opportunities and eventually settled in San Francisco. Gabriel is a registered nurse at the White Blossom Care Center in San Jose, California—a facility that specializes in long term and rehabilitation care. In October 2011, she suffered from a cold that developed into a persistent cough. She went to see a doctor who ran several tests and found lesions and tumors that had spread from her lungs to her brain. The news was devastating—Gabriel was in stage four of lung cancer. What made it a lot more puzzling was that she was never a smoker.

Doctors suggested that she start several types of treatment. She has so far completed 10 radiation treatments to her head, causing her to lose her hair and causing her to have swollen cheeks. She is now undergoing chemotherapy every three weeks, causing symptoms of nausea and tingling to her hands and feet.

Gabriel plans to fight this cancer with everything she’s got and wants to eventually get back to helping patients. “This experience has inspired me be an oncology nurse. I want to help others with their fight with cancer,” she says. “It has made me look at life differently. Hawaii is my home, my heart. With life being so short, I know that I’m blessed nonetheless.”

Gabriel’s friends and family are asking the public to attend the Zumba event and hope that it will help defray some of costs of her medical bills.

Presale tickets are $10 per person and $15 at the door. Light refreshments will also be sold as part of the fundraiser. For more details, please call Mel Mateo at 590-8843 or Tricia Jacalne at 393-6040.

COVER STORY

Zumba Instructors to Raise Funds for Cancer Patient

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If you want to learn more about how to acquire a Philippine Special Resident Retiree Visa (SRRV), please visit pra.gov.ph. If you want to learn more about the U.S. Medicare PH advocacy, please visit umedicareph.org.
City Launches New Effort to Address Homelessness

City officials have announced a new effort to address homelessness in urban Honolulu by creating specially-focused transitional housing. The new Pathways Project is designed to serve homeless people with challenging special needs, such as mental illness, addictions and physical disabilities.

Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle says that government agencies interested in partnering with the City to join in developing a community-based solution to the needs of this population whose disabilities or chronic conditions make it difficult for them to participate in traditional shelter programs. "Through The Pathways Project, the City and a nonprofit homeless service agency will be inviting neighborhoods in urban Honolulu to join in developing a community-based solution to assist those with special needs and reduce the impacts of street homelessness," says Carlisle. The City has issued a Request for Proposals to invite agencies interested in partnering on the project and will provide $3.5 million from its Affordable Housing Fund to acquire and renovate an existing structure to provide transitional housing for homeless persons with special needs. A specific project site has not been identified. Funds will be awarded to a nonprofit agency that will be responsible for working with neighborhoods in urban Honolulu to obtain a community consensus that The Pathways Project is an acceptable means to address homelessness in their neighborhood. A specific project site will be identified to implement the project only after a positive community consensus has been achieved.

Homeless persons with special needs are among the most visible of Honolulu's homeless population, with a large population centered in urban Honolulu between Waikiki and Kalihi.

City to Phase Out Drop Off Recycling Bin Program

City officials are phasing out the old drop-off bin recycling program and renewing efforts to expand curbside and condo recycling. On May 1, the City placed signs on community recycling bins around Oahu to notify the public that the program will end June 30, 2012 and that many of those drop-off bins will be removed starting June 15th. Fortunately, the closure of the City's service contract for the drop-off bins will not leave schools without recycling service. Honolulu Disposal Service will maintain approximately 50 schools/bins as active community recycling centers, at no cost to the schools. Under the new arrangement, however, the schools will not receive revenues generated from the recycling.

Other schools committed to developing sustainable school campuses—collecting and recycling paper, plastic, glass and metal from campus facilities—are working to establish collection service with another independent recycling company. Rolloffs Hawaii, which provides trash service to most Oahu public schools, is launching a pilot school recycling program with plans for further expansion.

Residents in condominium and apartment buildings have an opportunity to recycle conveniently as well. Collectors and haulers offer no-cost pickup for valuable recyclable materials such as glass, plastic, metal, newspaper and cardboard. And the City offers to reimburse Association of Apartment Owners (AOAOs) for startup costs associated with recycling equipment and tenant education.

Over the years, the recycling bin program strengthened community support for recycling. However, with decreased public use, the once cost-efficient system is no longer viable. By closing the program, the City will save about $1.5 million annually and refocus resources to further develop more convenient recycling options for Oahu residents.

More information about recycling services and programs can be found at www.opala.org or call the City's Recycling Branch for assistance at 768-3200.

Mental Health Conferences Set for May

With May designated as Mental Health Month, the Consumer, Family & Youth (CFY) Alliance is sponsoring a series of six conferences statewide with the theme "Got Mental Health? The Transformation Continues."

Conference dates and locations are as follows:
- May 23 Kalanui Owi (Molokai)
- May 24 Kauai Community College
- May 25 Maui Community College
- May 29 McKinley High School
- May 30 Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary (Hilo)
- May 31 West Hawaii Civic Center (Kona)

Registration for all conferences begins at 8:30 am. The opening plenary is at 9:30 am and all conferences end at 2 pm. A nominal fee of $5 covers lunch and materials.

The conferences will provide attendees with educational opportunities that focus on mental health and wellness. Workshops may include the Copeland Center Wellness Recovery Action Plan; suicide prevention; behavioral health services in Medicaid; trauma informed care; social security insurance updates and more. An update of the CFY Alliance and news of a newly formed 501(c)(3) will be shared at luncheon plenaries.

The deadline to register is May 15, 2012. For a registration form, please call 453-6618 or send an email to: CFYAliance@gmail.com. To learn more about the conferences, contact Carol Medina at 453-6618 or e-mail her at: carol.medina@doh.hawaii.gov.

Funding for the conferences is provided by the Olmstead Grant, the State Council on Mental Health Block Grant, and the Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The CFY Alliance is an organization of adult and youth consumers, families, communities and programs that share information and come together with a sense of commonality on mental health issues, concerns and policies to create a unified voice. The Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant administered by the State Department of Health supports the development and implementation of CFY meetings, conferences and trainings to assure collaboration, share opportunities and improve communication and coordination of activities for individuals living with mental illness.
**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**It’s Official: Erap for Manila Mayor**

By Jose Rodel Clapano

Thursday, May 10, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - “I’m done with the presidency in Mala-cañang. Now, I will be moving to the city hall of Manila.”

Former President Joseph Estrada confirmed yesterday he is running for mayor of Manila in next year’s elections, but only for one term.

Estrada drove his famous “Jeep ni Erap” from 1 Polk Street in North Greenhills, San Juan to his new house at 589 Mangga Avenue in Altura, Sta. Mesa, Manila to ceremonially launch his candidacy.

Former senator Lito Ejercito, daughter Jackie and Vice Mayor Isko Moreno joined him.

“I will now sleep here tonight. I will start living here today,” Estrada said.

The 5,000-square meter property with a swimming pool is the ancestral residence of the Legardas in Manila and used to be the headquarters of former President Ramon Magawasay.

Wearing “Erap para sa Masa”-t-shirts and waving placards with the words “Bawal ang dirty sa Maynila,” referring to the Dirty Harry moniker current Manila gang leader, adding that he was born in Tondo.

Estrada said his late father, a civil engineer, also served as head of the public services department under four Manila mayors.

“God has destined that I should be here in Manila, where I should last serve,” he said.

Estrada’s declaration came despite the objection raised by his two politician-sons - Senate President Pro-Tempore Jinggoy Estrada and San Juan Rep. JV Ejercito.

“My sons said I should rest because I have nothing to prove anymore. But any public service is not a demotion. I will give my remaining days in life in Manila, to serve the people of Manila. Erap cannot repay his debt of gratitude to the poor Filipinos in life or in death,” he said.

“We have to bring back the old glory of Manila as the country’s capital. It will not be hard for me to do this with Vice Mayor Isko Moreno at my side,” he said.

**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**IMMIGRATION GUIDE**

**Do We Enforce Our Laws to Please Mexico?**

By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tiron

An apparent parallelism in the legal battlefield is the Obama administration’s suit against Arizona to stop it from enforcing a law requiring police officers to check the immigration status of persons they have stopped if they have a reasonable suspicion that the person is in the country illegally.

Did the administration’s lawyers do a “dueling defense” check to ascertain whether the suit was really winnable, not simply obey what their client wanted?

So why did the federal government sue Arizona? During oral arguments on April 25 in Arizona v. United States, No. 11-182, Solicitor General Ver- rilli, the government’s lawyer, argued that diplomatic relations with Mexico would be under-mined by Arizona’s law. A visi- bly irritated Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia asked: “So we have to enforce our laws in a manner that is pleasing to Mexico?”

**Not about racial profiling**

At the start of the oral arguments, even before Verrilli could open his mouth, Chief Justice John Roberts said: “No part of your argument has to do with racial or ethnic profiling?” “That’s correct,” replied Ver- rilli. The court wanted to limit the discussion to the legal issue involved, not to argumentum ad populum (arguing by appealing to the people).

The sole issue in the case is whether a state has the power to enact a law to discourage and deter the unlawful entry and presence of aliens within its borders.

Under a doctrine known as pre-emption, when the federal government has enacted a law on a particular subject, gener- ally the states cannot enact laws relating to the same subject. The Obama administra- tion insists that since the federal government has the exclusive power over immigration and enacted an immigration law, the states cannot enact laws af- fecting immigration. However, there are several provisions in the Immigration and National- ity Act providing for federal and state cooperation in its en- forcement, including deputiz- ing local police officers. When Immigration and Customs En- forcement agents conduct a raid, they usually ask local po- lice for assistance.

A justice asked whether a police officer who sees a bank robbery should do nothing be- cause bank robbery is covered by federal law.

Another Justice pointed out that Arizona’s law simply authorizes a police officer to call federal authorities to ask for the immigration status of a per- son it has stopped; it does not authorize the officer to deport the person, so what’s wrong with that?

The Chief Justice wryly ob- served: It seems that the federal government does not want to know who is here illegally.

When Verrilli said that Ar- izona has no power to exclude aliens within its borders, a Jus- tice interrupted him saying “But Arizona is not kicking out aliens. States can police their borders.”

Justice Kennedy observed that Arizona was simply coop- erating with federal authorities in enforcing federal immigra- tion laws and asked if it was wrong. He is expected to cast the deciding vote in this case.

“You see it’s not selling very well,” Justice Sotomayor told Verrilli who could not sat- isfactorily answer the other Jus- tices’ questions. She is the only Latina Justice in the Supreme Court.

As we have been repeatedly saying, one can generally predict the outcome of a case by the questions asked by the judges in the same manner that you can predict the outcome of your courtship by the questions asked by the object of your affection.
Recipe File: Why Not Cook for Mom on Mother’s Day?

from www.philstar.com

ANILA, Philippines - Every mom, even just once a year, must experience being cooked for and served by her loved ones. Mother’s Day is an excellent time to do this — the spouse and the kids should work together to bring mom to heights of gastronomic bliss.

Culinary expert Dorothy Ferre-ria and Glad, reliable brand of kitchen bags and wraps, share with you recipes that you can prepare for mom on Mother’s Day. With some help from Glad Cook ‘n’ Bake, kitchen tasks will be much easier, and the results more lip-smacking. Glad Cook ‘n’ Bake is a greaseproof paper with double-sided non-stick coating, which helps ensure healthier dishes for mom and the family because you can skip oil during frying or baking. It also saves time in washing the dishes since the pans are easier to clean without the grease. Glad Cook ‘n’ Bake can be used in other healthy methods of cooking, poaching or boiling because it keeps all flavors and juices in and it’s wet-strong and won’t break.

BAKED PORK CHOPS
WITH BLEU CHEESE SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:
6 pieces boneless pork chop
rock salt to taste
coarsely ground black pepper to taste
Breading
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon milk or water
1 cup breadcrumbs mixed with 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
Bleu Cheese Sauce
1 cup all-purpose cream
1 tablespoon chopped spring onions
50 grams bleu cheese, crumbled
fine salt to taste
coarsely ground black pepper to taste

PROCEDURE:
1. Place pork chop in between Glad Cook ‘n’ Bake sheets and pound with a mallet to make the slices thinner and tender. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
2. Dredge the pork chops in flour, then dip in egg wash and then coat with the breadcrumb mixture.
3. Line cookie sheet with Glad Cook ‘n’ Bake. Arrange the assembled pork chops on the cookie sheet and bake at 375º F for 30 minutes or until done.
4. To prepare the sauce, combine the ingredients in a bowl and chill for at least an hour to allow flavors to develop.
5. Serve with sauce on the side.

PADALIIN ANG PAGPAPADALA
NG PERA SA PILIPINAS

DIRETSA NG MAGPAPADALA SA KANILANG PESO BANK ACCOUNTS*

276177634

ANG PAOPEL NY NAGA PANG MGA NAMAY

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MANILA, Philippines - An estimated 4.8 million families said they experienced hunger at least once in the past three months, the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showed.

The survey conducted among 1,200 respondents from March 10 to 13 found 23.8 percent of the respondents experiencing hunger, higher than the 22.5 percent (4.5 million families) in the survey last December.

SWS said the latest hunger rate surpassed the highest record of 23.7 percent in December 2008.

Last week, the SWS also reported a 10-point increase in self-rated poverty from 45 percent (9.1 million families) to 55 percent (11.1 million families). It was the highest so far under the Aquino administration.

SWS said overall hunger also increased across geographical areas, except in the Visayas, where it fell by 14.7 points to 10.3 percent (about 399,500 families) from 25 percent (957,000 families).

It rose by seven points in Mindanao to 26.7 percent (1.3 million families); five points in the rest of Luzon to 28 percent (about 2.5 million families); and by 2.3 points in Metro Manila to 24.3 percent (estimated 691,000 families).

SWS said the increase in overall hunger was due to slight increases in “moderate” as well as “severe” hunger.

Hunger refers to involuntary suffering due to the lack of anything to eat, the SWS said.

Those who experienced hunger “only once” or “a few times,” including those who did not state the frequency of the hunger they felt, are categorized under moderate hunger.

Severe hunger, meanwhile, refers to those who experienced hunger “often” or “always.”

Moderate hunger rose from 17.7 percent to 18 percent or an estimated 3.7 million families from 3.6 million families last December.

Severe hunger, meanwhile, jumped 1.1-point to a near record-high of 5.8 percent (1.2 million families) from 4.7 percent or an estimated 955,000 families. The latest figure was below the six percent record-high in March 2001.

SWS said the figures were higher than the 13-year averages for all areas, except in the Visayas.

Severe hunger also dipped slightly in the Visayas to 2.7 percent from three percent, while it rose three points in Metro Manila and eight percent in Mindanao. It remained at six percent in the rest of Luzon.

Increase due to oil price hikes - Soliman

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said the increase in the number of Filipinos who went hungry could be due to oil price increases in the National Capital Region and the disasters that struck Mindanao.

“We will intensify the supplementary feeding program and cash for work, especially in the identified areas of the survey,” Soliman said in a text message to The STAR.

Soliman said the Pantawid Pamilyang Filipino Program now has 2.9 million family-beneficiaries.

“We are also fast-tracking the rehabilitation of earthquake and typhoon survivors through provision of core shelter units as well as livelihood assistance to enable them to achieve normalcy in their lives,” Soliman said.

Unrest due to poverty

A party-list lawmaker, meanwhile, warned yesterday of possible unrest owing (continued on page 11)
MAGNIFICENT PHILIPPINES

ANLIA, Philippines

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales and four others have been ordered to appear before the Senate impeachment court and testify in the trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona on Monday.

Morales was also directed to bring with her the original and certified true copy of the complaints against Corona filed before the Office of the Ombudsman and the documents from which the complainants based their accusations that Corona had foreign currency accounts with an aggregate value of $10 million.

"Fail not," read the one-page subpoena ad testificandum et duces tecum.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, presiding officer of the impeachment court, issued the subpoena to the Ombudsman to shed light on a case filed by Akbayan party-list Rep. Walden Bello, former Rep. Risa Hontiveros, Emmanuel Tiu Santos, and Harvey Keh against Corona in connection with his alleged $10 million deposits.

Although Bello is covered by parliamentary immunity, Enrile said he was summoned because "he has waived his inter-parliamentary immunity from a compulsory process by this court because he complained to the Ombudsman." Bello, who is in Vienna, Austria attending a conference, said he is prepared to testify because "the people have the right to know the truth behind Corona's wealth."

The Senate president did not issue subpoena for the other complainants Rupert Alderza, Gibby Torres, Albert Concepcion, Earnest Francis Calayag, Moses Mikhail SD, and Tristan Daine Brioso Zinnampan.

In their request for subpoena, Corona's lawyers Jose Roy III and Dennis Manalo said the prosecution has "maliciously presented in evidence Corona's bank accounts to prove that he did not disclose all his personal properties in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) for the years 2002 to 2010."

"They also surreptitiously imply that CJ Corona has foreign denominated accounts, which were not disclosed in his SALN," the defense's subpoena said, arguing that the complaints involve matters and issues already pending before the impeachment court.

**Million-dollar question**

In what could be a complete turnaround from the defense's earlier statements that the $10-million complaint should not have bearing on the present impeachment court, Corona's camp asserted that "the veracity of the charges... and Keh's statements before the media that CJ Corona has dollar and euro accounts, definitely have bearing on these proceedings..."

Corona's team said the Ombudsman and the complainants have to testify "in order to prove the $10-million bank accounts."

While Enrile reiterated that the Chief Justice will be accorded due respect when he testifies in the trial, the presiding officer added that "it is up to the Chief Justice to defend himself or not."

"We are not going to be abrasive or disrespectful. We will grant him all the courtesies due him as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court," Enrile said.

The Senate president, however, refused to give any categorical answer when asked about the possibility that the Chief Justice and his lawyers might just focus his testimony on the $10-million bank accounts.

"Well, it's up to them. I will not teach them how to defend their client. They cannot control the decision of the court," the Senate president said.

**Delaying tactic**

But Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares, a member of the prosecution panel, said the complaint set by defense lawyers that the Ombudsman and other hostile witnesses should first testify before Corona takes the witness stand could be a "delaying tactic."

"I have never seen an accused in a case imposing conditions on a court. The demand for the testimony of the 11 complainants (in the case against Corona in the Ombudsman's office) is intended to delay," he said.

He added that it was clear from the statements of defense lawyer Roy before the impeachment court on Tuesday that Corona's testimony would depend on the weight of evidence to be presented by the Ombudsman and the complainants in the case against the Chief Justice that she is investigating.

He said that the impeachment tribunal is already wasting two days just because Corona's camp wanted to prepare for its hostile witnesses.

On Tuesday, Roy said Corona, if he testifies, would debunk allegations that he has dollar deposits in several banks totaling $10 million.

The Ombudsman had written Corona to answer such accusations contained in a complaint filed with her office.
Postal Service: Will Keep Rural Post Offices Open

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bending to strong public opposition, the nearly bankrupt U.S. Postal Service on yesterday backed off a plan to close thousands of rural post offices after May 15 and proposed keeping them open, but with shorter operating hours.

The move to halt the shuttering of 3,700 low-revenue post offices in late 2012, focused on a world where people lose the ability to control violent impulses, and a family that must fight the outside world while making sure not to fight amongst themselves.

Lea is working on the project with USC alumns founded company Fifth Floor Balcony Pictures, an organization focused on promoting and harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of young talent. Dizon says, “In school there is an excitement: an atmosphere of getting things done no matter what. It is a sprawl of once you are out of the school environment because it becomes so much more difficult. We hope to act as proof to our peers and the industry that the youthful spirit we all felt in film school can be even more powerful and profitable in Hollywood.”

Co-founder of the company Matthew Breault says “Lea had developed a reputation as someone who gets things done in USC. She was the clear choice as someone who had the experience and ability to push this project forward.

The film centers on a man who has lost his job and home in the current economic crisis before being launched into a violent new world. The co-writer of the film, Alex George Pickering, comments, “It is an idea that young filmmakers and anyone affected by the recession can relate to. A lot of the rage and dissatisfaction we were seeing in protests during the Occupy movement inspired our characters.”

As part of getting word about the film out, the team has enlisted the help of Kickstarter, a crowd-funding website. When asked about this route, Dizon says, “Though we have some funding in place, I think sites like Kickstarter are hugely important in making independent films today. Not only do they help raise the all-important funding we need, they also raise awareness about the film. They literally kick start your fan base and generate excitement, not just for your project but for the direction the film is moving in.”

For more information visit www.impulsecontrolfilm.com.

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from AJPress

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

OS ANGELES—Only two months after completing her graduate education in film and television production at the University of Southern California, independent filmmaker Lea Dizon has been approached to produce her first full length feature film titled Impulse Control. The film, set to shoot in late 2012, focuses on a first full length feature film titled Impulse Control. The film, set to shoot in late 2012, focuses on a world where people lose the ability to control violent impulses, and a family that must fight the outside world while making sure not to fight amongst themselves.

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from www.philistar.com

Thursday, May 10, 2011

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Fil-Am to Carry Olympic Torch
by Joseph Pimentel
Wednesday, May 9, 2012

A Filipino American cancer survivor from Atlanta was chosen as one of 8,000 people to carry the Olympic torch as it makes its way to London for the opening of the 2012 Olympic Games. FilAm Rodolfo Sebastian Carlos, a thyroid cancer survivor, originally from Paraanque City, Philippines, will carry the torch and “serve as an inspiration to the youth of his birth country, the Philippines, to keep on chasing after their dreams,” the Philippine Embassy announced last week.

“Mr. Carlos’ inspiring story as a cancer survivor and passion to share his knowledge of Filipino martial arts to others in the community indeed makes him a fitting candidate for this honored pursuit,” said Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.

Carlos, an employee at the InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) in Atlanta, Georgia, was selected by the London Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) as part of the committees “Moment to Shine” campaign. The campaign encouraged members of the public to nominate someone with best personal stories or who have made a real difference in their school or local community.

According to the Philippine Embassy, Carlos, who holds graduate degrees from Boston University and Cornell, was diagnosed with thyroid cancer shortly before starting work at IHG. As the cancer weakened him, he gained strength by practicing Filipino Martial Arts (FMA). Since then, he’s defeated cancer and with the help of his brother has been active promoting FMA and sharing their knowledge to various branches of the military, police, and community watch volunteers.

The Embassy said that Carlos hopes to not only serve as an inspiration to the youth of the Philippines, but also “bring awareness to thyroid cancer and inspire fellow survivors to give support to those who are currently battling this disease; and, promote awareness of Filipino martial arts and a lifelong physical culture lifestyle of living strong.”

Carlos will be passing on the Olympic torch in Willenhall in the United Kingdom on June 30.

Four Other Pinoy Torchbearers

Carlos is among five other Filipino torchbearers. The others include: UK residents 29-year-old Joven Cheung, an Olympic Youth Ambassador for Waltham Forest and 30-year-old Reynard Enteria, an occupational therapist. The other two are from the Philippines: 29-year-old Joven Mallo, a sales and services assistant at Crown Plaza Manila, and 47-year-old Marcy Reyes, an executive housekeeper of Holiday Inn.

By Reuben S. Seguritan

Contrary to its mandate, the USCIS does not always adjudicate cases in a fair or timely manner.

This is according to the country’s largest association of immigration law practitioners, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), based on the experience of its members in representing businesses in applying for immigration benefits.

This statement was made in connection with its challenge to a recent report which found that immigration service officers (ISOs) experience undue pressure, allegedly from USCIS leadership, to approve visa petitions.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a federation of more than 3 million businesses, also disputed the finding that USCIS is making it easier for petitions to be approved. In a statement, it demonstrated that the report’s conclusions are inconsistent with the experience of the business community.

The report was released last month by the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General (OIG). It found that there exists a culture of “get to yes” within the USCIS wherein ISOs are sometimes pressured to issue approvals. Following the report’s release, the House Immigration Subcommittee called a hearing on February 15, 2012.

Fraud and outside influence aimed at the approval of visa petitions of clearly ineligible applicants would doubtless undermine immigration benefit adjudication and understandably be a cause for concern. However, statistics and testimony of witnesses at the hearing disproved the report findings.

As AILA raised at the hearing, if indeed there is undue pressure to grant petitions then it follows that approval rates must also be high. The opposite seems to be true, however.

For instance, based on data from USCIS itself, in the last four years there has been a dramatic increase in the denials of L-1 and H-1B petitions.

The National Foundation for American Policy analyzed the numbers and found that between 2007 and 2011, the denial rate of L-1B petitions rose from 7% to 27%. The L-1B category is used by multinational companies to allow personnel with “specialized knowledge” to work in the United States. The AILA notes that the change in approval rates took place without a corresponding change in the law or regulations.

At the same time, H-1B denials jumped from 11% in 2007 to 29% in 2009. In 2011 the denial rate was down to 17% but this is still higher than in the past.

The same trend could also be seen in L-1A petitions (managers and executives of multinational companies) and O-1A petitions (aliens with extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, business or athletics).

Longer delays also ensued from the increased use of “Requests for Evidence” which officers use to obtain more information instead of granting or denying the petition right away.

The president of the USCIS officer’s union testified at the hearing that there is no culture of getting to yes within USCIS. The Inspector General himself said that they found “no conspicuous fraud” in immigration benefit adjudications.

The methodology for the study was also criticized as weak and unscientific by AILA and the Chamber of Commerce. They believe that the OIG drew conclusions from a very small and self-selected sample.

The OIG interviewed only 147 managers and staff and received only 256 responses to an online survey, which represent only 2% of the total number of personnel involved in immigration benefit adjudications. Even if the numbers and found that there exists a culture of “get to yes” within the USCIS wherein ISOs are sometimes pressured to issue approvals.

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solen dagiti situasion ken ini pammateg ti inak, diak pabangiga anak. No ibagak a naulilaak ipupusayna, siakon ti kasukiran mateg ti inak gapu iti nasapa nga tawenko a sangapulo ket dua. No anak… ti maladaga panangidanggay a mangisala iti samiweng ti birtud ti duayya ken kadagti riniwriw a sonata ken daga… daeg ken ti pintas ti langit ken ti maglantip ti aweng, ti ayug, ti kangayedan nga akem ti Ina. Ken panangpadakkel iti anak ti isi Ina, ti duayya ken panagtagibi ti kapintasan a sagut iti Ina, kas Domingo iti bulan ti Mayo:

By Amado I. Yoro

ILOKO

15

Global Survey Shows Positive Gains in Press Freedom in Phi

ASHINGTON – Freedom House gave the Philippines a shout out in its global survey of media independence for continuing to make positive gains in press freedom. It said the Philippines jumped in the world rankings to 88th place from 93rd previously. The country also improved its rating to 42 points from 46 points previously after a major decline in 2009 – due to a reduction in violence against journalists, attempts by the government to address impunity and expanded diversity of media ownership.

Of 197 countries and territories assessed in 2011, a total of 66 were rated free, 72 were rated partly free, and 59 were rated not free. Freedom House assigns a press freedom rating of 1 to 100, where a lower number indicates a freer press.

The Philippines’ ranking was based on the government’s efforts to address media freedom issues, including the implementation of media law, the repeal of martial law and the abolition of the Dap-6 law.

The survey noted that the government has taken steps to address media freedom issues, including the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act, the repeal of martial law and the abolition of the Dap-6 law.

The Philippines also benefited from the support of the International Federation of Journalists, which has been working with the government to improve media freedom in the country.

The survey also highlighted the role of community media in promoting media freedom.

The Philippines’ranked 88th in the world in press freedom, up from 93rd in 2010. The country saw a significant improvement in its rating, rising from 46 points in 2010 to 42 points in 2011.

The Philippines’ improvements were due to the government’s efforts to address media freedom issues, including the implementation of media law, the repeal of martial law and the abolition of the Dap-6 law.

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Philippines is the World’s Best Country in ‘Business English’

The Philippines has been named the world’s best country in business English proficiency, even beating the U.S., according to a recent study by GlobalEnglish Corporation.

GlobalEnglish recently released the results of its annual Business English Index (BEI) which measures business English proficiency in the workplace. The BEI showed that for 2012, only the Philippines attained a score above 7.0 out of 76 countries worldwide.

“The Philippines, a country with one-tenth of the population of India, recently overtook India as a hub for call centers. Over 400,000 Filipinos are now employed in call centers, roughly 50,000 more than in India,” the study says.

The Philippines, which scored 7.11, was joined by Norway (6.54), Estonia (6.45), Serbia (6.38) and Slovenia (6.19). GlobalEnglish noted that a country’s business English capability is an indicator of its economic growth and business success.

“If it is not surprising that both the Philippines and Norway—the only two countries in the top five in both 2011 and 2012—are improving their economies, based on the latest GDP data from the World Bank,” it says.

GlobalEnglish stressed that the 2012 BEI, which shows a lack of business English proficiency, is threatening the productivity of companies, industries and country-specific economies this year.

“Poor Business English skills are bad for global businesses and this year’s Business English Index suggests that many companies will be hard-pressed to achieve their desired performance goals during 2012,” says Tom Kahl, GlobalEnglish President.

“Addressing English skills gaps and ensuring that employees can immediately perform at the necessary proficiency level should be viewed as a strategic imperative for multi-national businesses, as Enterprise Fluency, the ability to seamlessly communicate and collaborate within global organizations, can deliver significant financial upside."

Headquartered in Brisbane, California, GlobalEnglish works with multi-national companies, including Cisco, Procter and Gamble, HSBC and Pfizer to support performance in business English across the workforce around the world. (Good News Pilipinas.com)
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