

Ang Peryodiko

THE NEWSPAPER

LOCKDOWN

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte raised Code Red Sublevel 2 over the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Thursday night, restricting access to Metro Manila as a form of quarantine for 30 days starting March 15.

► **LOCKDOWN, 4**

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► **GADGET, 17**



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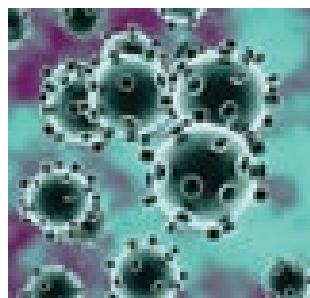
Chinese official claims US may have brought virus to China

A Chinese official has suggested that the US army may have brought the deadly coronavirus into China, without providing any evidence for his eyebrow-raising claim.

Zhao Lijian, a foreign ministry spokesman, made the assertion on Twitter late Thursday, echoing similar conspiracy theories proliferating on Chinese social media that blame the US for the pandemic.

The head of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention has said himself that the source of the virus

► **CHINESE, 14**



DISINFECTING. A worker uses a mist cannon to apply disinfectant to the San Juan National High School grounds on Monday to control the spread of COVID-19. The 5th person in the Philippines infected with the virus was reported to have frequented a prayer hall inside a shopping complex in the city, prompting the local government to implement preventive measures.

-JIRE CARREON, ABS-CBN NEWS

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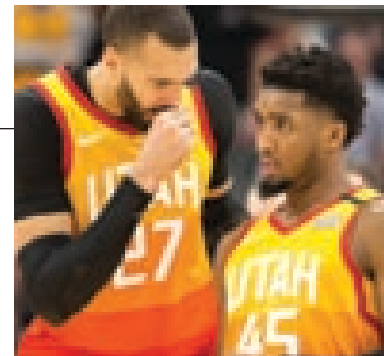
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South Korea reports more recoveries than coronavirus cases for the first time



SEOUL — South Korea reported more recoveries from the coronavirus than new infections on Friday for the first time since its outbreak emerged in January, as a downward trend in daily cases raised hopes that Asia's biggest epidemic outside China may be slowing.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) recorded 110 new coronavirus cases on Friday compared with 114 a day earlier, taking the national tally

to 7,979. In contrast, 177 patients were released from hospitals where they had been isolated for treatment.

This marks the first time that the daily number of recovered people exceeded that of new infections since South Korea's first patient was confirmed on Jan. 20.

The latest figures are in line with a downward trend in new cases which has raised hopes that the outbreak may be easing in Asia's fourth-largest economy.

But officials urged vigilance after new clusters of infections emerged at a call center in a crowded part of capital Seoul, and a government agency in the administrative city of Sejong.

"We've managed to turn the corner, but there are concerns about overseas inflows, as well as possible infections at home around such facilities as call centers, computer cafes and karaoke rooms," Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said at a meeting in Daegu.

Of the latest 110 cases, 61 were from the hard-hit southeastern city of Daegu where a fringe Christian church at the center of the epidemic is located, while 17 and 13 were in Sejong and Seoul, respectively.

At least 109 cases so far have been linked to the call center, operated by an insurance company whose 800-strong workforce is being tested or in quarantine for monitoring.

Seoul city plans to carry out extensive checks on some 10,500 computer cafes and karaoke bars as part of efforts to prevent the spread of the virus in crowded workplaces, Mayor Park Won-soon told a briefing.

Global alarm over the coronavirus intensified, with governments from Europe to the United States unveiling new measures aimed at slowing the spread of a disease that has infected almost 135,000 people worldwide.

South Korea said it will subject visitors from France, Germany, Britain, Spain and the Netherlands to reinforced border checks starting Sunday, after imposing similar rules for China, Italy and Iran suffering a major outbreak. — Reuters

Philippines widens travel ban on countries with local transmission

MANILA, Philippines — As he escalated alert over the novel coronavirus outbreak in the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte expanded the travel ban that previously covered only mainland China and South Korea's North Gyeongsang province.

The renewed ban will prevent those coming from countries with localized transmission of the virus except Filipino citizens and their dependents as well as those with permanent residence visas and Philippine diplomatic visas.

The government, however, has yet to release a full list of countries covered by the ban as Metro Manila, where the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is located, has been placed on lockdown. This restricts outgoing and incoming air, land and sea travel in the capital region by Sunday, March 15.

Duterte, however, allowed Filipino workers to return to mainland China provided that they keep away from Hubei province, the epicenter of the disease.

Philstar



Personnel of Barangay Ramon Magsaysay in Bago Bantay, Quezon City conducts disinfection of village premises and households on Thursday, March 12, 2020.



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Duterte undergoes testing for COVID

MANILA, Philippines — After a series of engagements that saw him mingling with individuals who may have come into contact with persons infected with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), President Duterte underwent testing at Malacañang's Bahay Pagbabago at 5 p.m. yesterday.

Sen. Christopher Go said he would also have himself tested to make sure he is fit enough to perform his duties.

"President Duterte and I will undergo testing for COVID-19. We are not doing this because we have symptoms of COVID-19. We are doing this to ensure that we are fit and healthy to engage the public and perform our duties in the coming days and weeks," the longtime aide said.

"As always, the President and I remain ready to serve and die for the Filipino people," he added.

"Considering that some Cabinet members we engage with regularly have been exposed to individuals who tested positive of COVID-19 and have decided to undergo self-quarantine, it is just prudent for us to take precautionary measures in compliance with the advice of our health officials," Go said.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, however, reported that the President has already tested negative for COVID-19.

"He underwent testing, and it's negative I think," Medialdea told reporters in Filipino.

"It was done last night. I cannot confirm but I know he was first to be tested. He already took (the test) as far as I know," he added. "There is no confirmation yet, but I think he should be prioritized."

The Presidential Security Group (PSG), meanwhile, has suspended Duterte's foreign trips.

"For now, all of PRRD's foreign travels, especially to those countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19, have been suspended as recommended by DOH (Department of Health)," the PSG said in a Facebook post.

Duterte was supposed to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Da Nang, Vietnam next month.

The rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has spawned offers of self-quarantine from some officials and lawmakers. Medialdea

said he and other Cabinet members have to observe "social distancing" as precautionary measure.

"We just have to stay away from each other. We can use the phones (to communicate) or text messages. We are now creating a system so that we can meet via teleconferencing," Medialdea added.

He said even members of his staff are required to undergo testing or go into quarantine if necessary.

Medialdea said he was with the group of Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade at the NLEX Harbor Link event on March 5.

Apart from Dominguez and Tugade, Public Works Secretary Mark Villar also opted to undergo self-quarantine.

Duterte postponed his visit yesterday to Boracay in the light of latest developments.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo confirmed that the President and Go were undergoing tests.

"They are undertaking this pre-emptive step as per advice of health officials given that they have regularly engaged with Cabinet officials, some of whom have opted to undergo self-quarantine as they were exposed to those infected with COVID-19," he said.

The Interagency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases met yesterday to discuss urgent measures to be undertaken in response to latest developments.

"The Palace urges the public to observe and practice the protocols on personal hygiene and social distancing established by the DOH to help contain the disease," Panelo said.

Panelo also reiterated the Palace's appeal to "our countrymen to stay calm yet vigilant, as well as not to believe or spread any false information on COVID-19."

"The Office of the President hereby gives warning to those hoarding vital commodities, which create a hike in prices, as well as selling them beyond their regular prices, that their actions will be dealt with accordingly in pursuance of public safety and order. Those who unscrupulously take advantage of the health crisis will also be arrested and dealt with in accordance with law," he said.-Christina Mendez (The Philippine Star)



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Pacquiao wants to ban spitting, blowing of nose in public places

MANILA - A bill seeking to ban spitting and expelling mucus in public has been filed in the Senate, following the rise in number of COVID-19 patients in the Philippines.

Under Sen. Manny Pacquiao's Senate Bill No. 1406 or the proposed "Anti-Spitting Act of 2020," individuals who would spit or "intentionally" expel "saliva, phlegm, or mucus" in public would be fined between P5,000 and P50,000.

Scientific findings earlier showed that the new strand of the coronavirus - which originated from Wuhan, China - can be transmitted among humans through the transfer of bodily fluid from one person to another.

"Considering the gravity of the situation, there is an urgent need to institute a concrete preventive measure to stop the spread of the disease that has become a global health emergency," Pacquiao said in the bill's explanatory note.

"This shall not only prevent the spread of the coronavirus and [but also] other contagious and airborne diseases," he said.

Under the proposed law, offenders who will be apprehended for the first time will be charged with a P5,000 fine, while second-time offenders will be mandated to pay P10,000.

A third offense will warrant a P50,000 penalty and attendance in a Department of Health seminar or up to 6 months of imprisonment.

The bill was filed on March 9, 2020, the same day the Philippines declared a state of health emergency due to the spread of the COVID-19 in the capital region and nearby provinces.

As of March 13, 52 people in the country have contracted the disease. Five have died, 2 recovered, while the rest are still confined in hospitals.


President Rodrigo Duterte said Metro Manila will be placed on a month-long community quarantine starting on March 15, 2020 to stop the virus from spreading to other parts of the Philippines.

The World Health Organization has described the disease as a pandemic after it killed nearly 5,000 people and infected some 110,000 others worldwide.-Katrina Domingo, ABS-CBN News



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LOCKDOWN

► FROM FRONT PAGE

The heightened alert came with a string of measures aiming to prevent further spread of the infection, which has claimed the lives of five people and afflicted 47 others in the Philippines so far. Most of the cases are in the capital region.

The lockdown significantly limits travel in and out of Metro Manila until April 14, with

assessment.

"We do not want to use that (term). But it is a lockdown," Duterte said in a televised announcement.

During the quarantine period, residents will be generally barred from leaving the Philippine capital of connected cities, home to more than nearly 13

people and transport flows subject to case-to-case

million people.

Metro Manila also hosts 3 million more workers who come from nearby provinces during the day. They will still be permitted to enter as long as they can present proof of their employment within the metro, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said in a dzMM interview following Duterte's announcement. The quarantine, Año said, will be facilitated by

checkpoints that will be placed along Metro Manila's boundaries. Whether authorities have the capability to screen millions daily during the period remains to be seen.

Trade Undersecretary Ruth Castelo also told the radio that the quarantine does not cover goods entering and leaving the capital.

An expanded travel ban will similarly bar the entry of foreigners through land, air or sea. Only Filipino citizens and holders of permanent resident visas and Philippine diplomatic visas will be allowed entry.

Mass transportation within Metro Manila like the Light Rail Transit and Metro Rail Transit will continue, although the Department

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ment of Transportation must make sure that social distancing guidelines are followed.

"Nandiyan na 'yan, it's a serious one. It is true... huwag ninyong maliitin. Do not minimize it but do not kill yourself with worry because government is doing everything possible to make it controllable," Duterte said in his address.

He added that he will likely issue an executive order based on a resolution that the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases passed earlier in the day.

Classes across the metro will also be suspended until April 12, 2020, the president said, although he said students should continue studying even if formal classes are no longer held.

With the raising of Code Red to the highest level, the president also announced the following measures:

The banning of planned or spontaneous mass gatherings.

Work in the executive department shall be suspended during this period without prejudice to the formation of skeletal workforces

The Department of Labor and Employment's "encouragement" of "flexible work arrangements" in the private sector

The Department of Transportation's issuance of guidelines to ensure social distancing in public transportation, which is due to stay open and operational

Implementation details of such measures were not immediately made clear as government agencies are expected to release guidelines by Friday.

PNP's role

In his address originally set for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday but started past 8:30 p.m., Duterte threatened local officials and anyone who will refuse to cooperate with jail time.

"Avoid trouble with the law, avoid trouble with anybody, just in the meantime, better just stay home and study. If things will deteriorate, the police and the military will maintain peace and order," he said.

He was quick to say that the measures are tantamount to declaring martial law, but he tasked village chiefs to be the extension of security personnel in implementing the raft of measures.

"I don't have enough military and police forces to cover every inch of the country. What I have, what I can use is the barangay captain. It falls upon your shoulders to exactly do what this regulation wants to happen," he said.

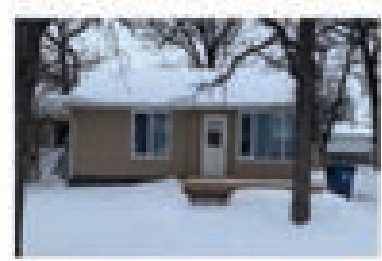
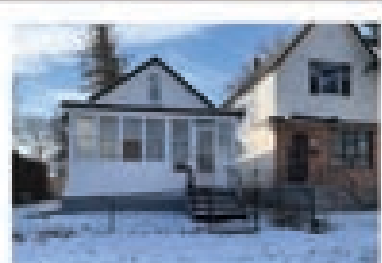
Duterte earlier this week signed a proclamation placing the Philippines under a state of a public health emergency.

This enjoins all government agencies, local government units to render all assistance needed while citizens and tourists are urged to "act within the bounds of law and comply with lawful directives."

Under the proclamation, the Department of Health was handed the authority to ask the national police to provide assistance in combating the spread of the virus.

Asked by Philstar.com if the role of the national police under the public health emergency would include enforcing quarantines and assisting with contact tracing measures, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III in a text message said that "both may be done with them if warranted."

Coalition for People's Right to Health co-convenor Josh San Pedro also told Philstar.com in an online exchange that the PNP's inclusion in the proclamation "may reflect the lack of manpower by the DOH to conduct contact tracing and quarantine." -Franco Luna (Philstar.com)

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RICHARD GUTIERREZ-SARAH LAHBATI NUPTIALS POSTPONED

MANILA, Philippines — The grand wedding of Richard Gutierrez and Sarah Lahbati will not be held as scheduled this Saturday, March 14, at a 5-star hotel due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak.

The Christian ceremony was supposed to start at 4 p.m., to be followed immediately by the reception in the same venue (confidential to avoid gatecrashers).

At 5 o'clock this afternoon (March 12), Richard and Sarah texted the following statement to Philippine STAR: As much as we want to celebrate our love with our family and friends, in light of the recent situation we have decided to postpone our wedding as we do not want to put anyone at risk. Thank you so much to those who flew in and to everyone who worked so hard for our special day. We only wish good health for everyone and we hope to celebrate with you as soon as things get better.

Supposed to sing at the ceremony were Ogie Alcasid and Gary Valenciano.

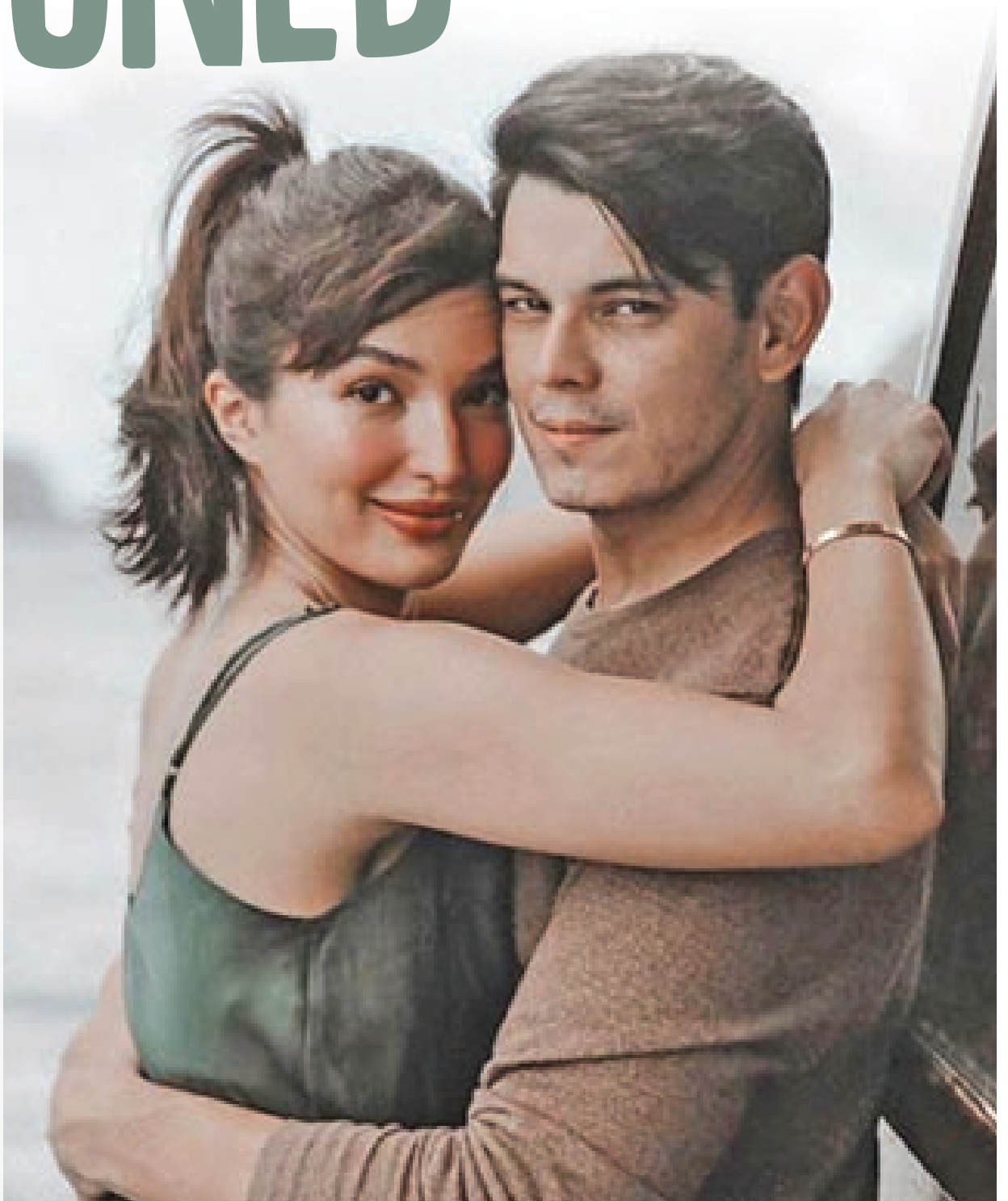
"Ogie would have sung a song that would make Richard and Sarah cry," said Annabelle without revealing the song's title, adding, "Sayang, excited pa naman ako mag-deliver ng aking speech. Gusto ng mga anak ko at ni Sarah na dapat may kodigo ako pero ayoko. Gusto ko straight from the heart."

At the reception, Martin Nievera was supposed to perform a song that he has composed specially for Richard and Sarah, and then he would do a duet with Regine Velasquez. Also scheduled to perform at the reception were Pops Fernandez and KZ Tandingan.

Sarah's gown is by the same Paris designer whom Anabelle described as "Gumagawa ng mga damit ng maraming celebrities katulad ni JLo."

The event is touted to be the "Wedding of the Decade," with three Philippine presidents - Pres. DU30, and former Presidents Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Joseph Estrada - among the 25 pairs of Principal Sponsors.

According to Annabelle, the new date of the wedding will be announced soon. -Ricky Lo (The Philippine Star)



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BIANCA MANALO UNDERGOES SELF-QUARANTINE, TOO, AFTER SHERWIN GATCHALIAN'S STATEMENT

MANILA — Actress Bianca Manalo has undergone self-quarantine, too, following the move of her partner, Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, as a safety measure against the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

On Instagram on Thursday, Manalo shared a photo of her wearing a face mask inside what appears to be her bedroom.

"Hello everyone. As soon as I heard the news yesterday, I have decided to do a self-quarantine until I get tested," she wrote.

The night prior, Sen. Gatchalian announced that he would undergo self-quarantine after learning that a resource person who appeared at a committee hearing he chaired is a COVID-19 patient.

Gatchalian clarified he remained asymptomatic.

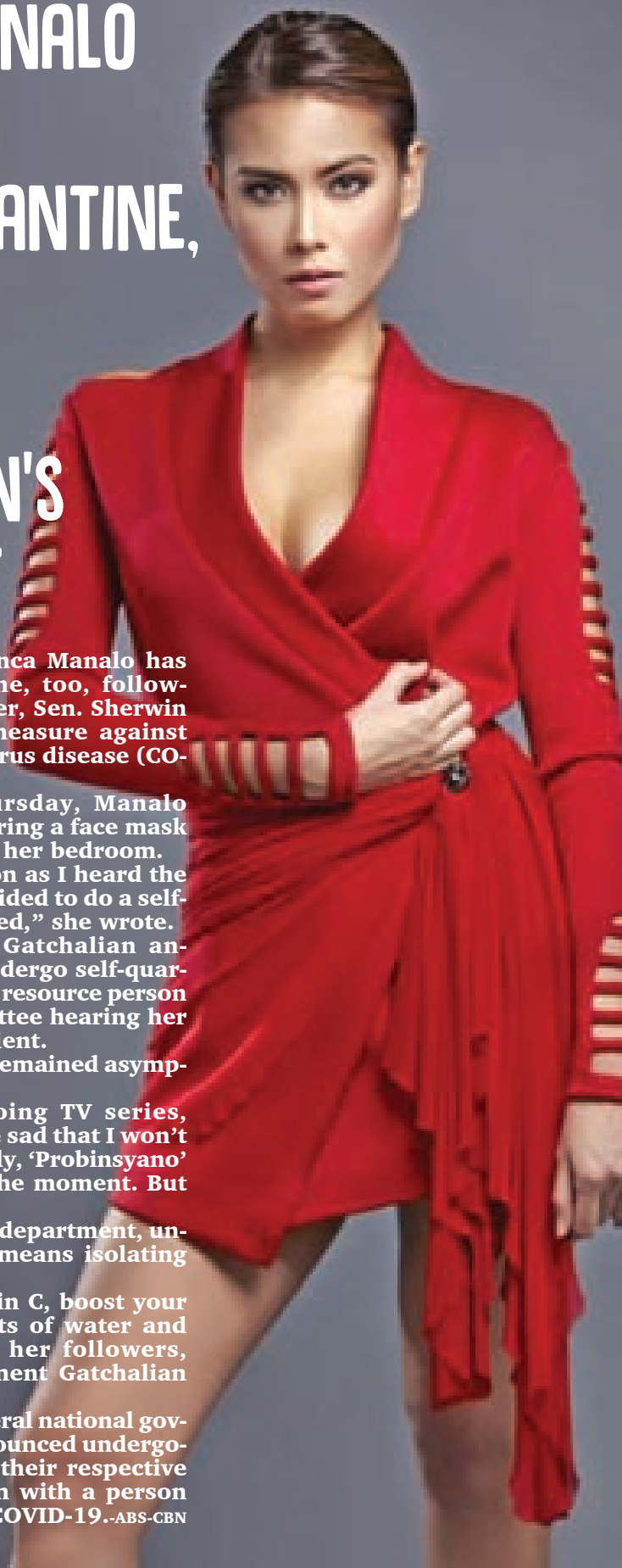
Referring to her ongoing TV series, Manalo said: "It makes me sad that I won't be able to see my own family, 'Probinsyano' family and friends as of the moment. But we have to be proactive!"

According to the health department, undergoing self-quarantine means isolating oneself for 14 days.

"Stay safe, drink vitamin C, boost your immune system, drink lots of water and rest," Manalo reminded her followers, before sharing the statement Gatchalian released on Wednesday.

Gatchalian is one of several national government officials who announced undergoing self-quarantine, after their respective exposure to or interaction with a person who tested positive for COVID-19. —ABS-CBN

News



HEART EVANGELISTA GETS CREATIVE AMID COVID-19 CRISIS WITH 'HERMES' FACE MASK

Heart Evangelista proves that one could still be stylish even in the worst of situations.

Time and again, Heart Evangelista never fails to surprise the online world with her creativity — even in times of uncertainty..

On Wednesday, March 11, Heart posted a photo of herself wearing a face mask made more "luxurious" with a Hermes ribbon.

"Dahil wala magawa sa Bahay need maging creative. Kaya natin toh," she wrote.

"Love Marie," referring to the real name of the 35-year-old A-list celebrity, as well as "Hermes," instantly made it to second and third spots of Twitter Philippines top trending topics Wednesday night.

With several people taking advantage of the COVID-19 sit-

uation as a means to earn more money by hoarding pandemic essentials — including those who are panic buying, Evangelista reminded her followers to help each other instead of acting out otherwise.

"Nalulungkot ako sa mga naghohoard. Give chance naman to others. Magtulungan tayo please. Yung sapat Lang sana," she wrote.

So next time you feel hopeless when stores run out of masks, take inspiration from Heart Evangelista and get creative with some DIY face masks.

It can be recalled that Heart, who was supposed to leave the country for the fashion week, decided to cancel her trips due to the outbreak of COVID-19. —BY

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Canada's response to COVID-19

PEOPLE are getting really sick; some are even dying. Large public events have been canceled. The NBA has suspended basketball games (our Raptors are currently on a 14-day quarantine), cruise travels have been cancelled, airlines have canceled flights if not reduced them for lack of passengers.

Let there be no doubt -- the impact of the corona virus is huge and will cost an unbelievable amount of money on governments trying to contain the spread of the virus, or to treat their citizens who have tested positive. The impact of the virus on people's health and well-being has been devastating.

It is important that we do not panic and the most important thing we all can do is wash our hands, practice good hygiene, and use common sense. Governments of all levels, our professional health care workers and other stakeholders will make sure we keep things under control.

“The Government is providing \$50 million to support the Public Health Agency of Canada's COVID-19 communications and public education efforts.”

COVID-19 (coronavirus) has been dominating the news here in Canada and around the world as politicians and civil servants of all forms are trying to minimize the impact of the virus.

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been committed to fight the Coronavirus, as announced by Prime Minister Trudeau on March 11. At the PM's press conference, Trudeau announced a number of actions that the Government of Canada was taking on this issue.

The Government is provid-

MP KEVIN LAMOUREUX



Straight up

(www.mpkevin.ca)

ing \$50 million to support the Public Health Agency of Canada's COVID-19 communications and public education efforts. In order to support public health preparedness, the Government is allocating \$500 million to provinces and territories for critical health care system needs and to support mitigation efforts as needed.

Canada is committed to support workers who have been placed in quarantine or

► **LAMOUREUX, 8**

EDITORIAL



No panic buying

THE Philippines, where water dippers and handheld bidet sprayers are widely used in washrooms, isn't about to run out of toilet paper. So filling an entire cabinet with hundreds of rolls of toilet paper is not only unnecessary but may also turn out to be unsanitary, as paper that is stocked too long tends to deteriorate and may even attract disease-causing microorganisms.

Workers in the agriculture and fisheries sector, many of whom must earn on a daily basis, also haven't stopped producing their goods. Meat, fish, fruits and vegetables, rice, salt and sugar aren't about to run out. Not even African swine fever has stopped local hog raisers from continuing to produce and sell pork and pork products.

The food processors that buy the agricultural raw materials also aren't stopping production, so instant noodles, canned meat and sardines, pasteurized milk, coffee and other items with a long shelf life aren't about to run out.

There has been a spike in demand for alcohol, hand sanitizers and of course face masks. Officials have assured the public that supplies of alcohol and hand sanitizers are adequate, and manufacturers are happily moving to meet the higher demand.

So there's really no need to hoard any item or engage in panic buying amid the growing 2019 coronavirus disease contagion. Health professionals have been one in stressing that the most basic defense against COVID-19 – or any other pathogen, for that matter – is regular hand washing with soap and water, plus the observance of cough and sneeze etiquette. They have appealed to the public to refrain from stocking up on N-95 masks, so that those who truly need the item – the health professionals on the front line of the battle against COVID-19 – will not face shortages.

Hoarding anything and panic buying will also put at a disadvantage the millions of Filipinos who cannot afford to buy in bulk, and are left only to panic. This period of uncertainty calls for civic responsibility, cooperation with health authorities, and avoidance of any action that smacks of hysteria. (The Philippine Star)

Living for God's Pleasure, our Fulfillment

WHEN people think of worship, most think of their personal preferences. The church we go to, the religion we belong to, the style of music and many other things that we think are desirable to us. But worship is not about us, but the object of our worship, God. Revelations 4:11 declares the very reason all things were created; “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for You have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created.”

Life as a whole is not about our pleasure but the pleasure of the One who made us for Himself. Worship is when we live for God's pleasure. What is pleasurable to Him is when we fully surrender ourselves to Him out of gratitude and love. This is what Jesus said in Matthew 22:37, real worship of God is: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

Jesus came to bring us to God and teach us real worship.

“May we find true fulfillment in a life of worshiping God.”

In John 4:19-26, a Samaritan woman argued with Him that their way of worship is the true way to God. But Jesus corrected her that it is not any man's way of worship but what God prescribes. “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the

PASTOR JUNIE JOSUE



Agent 777

Spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am He.”

What is good about worshiping God His way and giving Him pleasure by fully surrendering our life to Him through Christ? God, Himself will make sure that we enjoy the purposeful and fulfilled life He has planned for us. King David summed up in Psalm 16:11 what was true

► **JOSUE, 9**

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218 Hutchings St., Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2X 2Y2
Phone: 204.694.6734 n Phone/Fax: 204.694.6555

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Publisher: TE BROTHERS, INC.

Editor: JET ENCILA

Columnists: MP KEVIN LAMOUREUX, PASTOR FRED SEBASTIAN, and PASTOR JUNIE JOSUE

Contributing Writers: GEMMA DALAYOAN, MEL TALASTAS SORIANO

Account Executive: GLEN ELIA and JOSE XEC

Creative Design: BOMEX GRAPHICS

Own the future

ONE peaceful step towards truly democratic social structures is a genuine political party by, for, and of the marginalized sector of tenants, small farmers, teachers, workers, small market or street vendors, etc.

Genuine as it will work exclusively for the interests of ordinary folks as a counterbalance to the existing political parties' exclusive focus on the interests of capital and big business.

Peaceful as it will reject violence, effect change within the existing legal framework, and refuse to reciprocate the violence that will most likely come from deeply entrenched vested interest opposition groups. (No oppressor in history has ever voluntarily given up and shared

“ *The youth must take steps to own and shape their future.* ”

power with the oppressed.)

Of late, I actually tried founding such a party. It, however, didn't take long for me to see that the task was too daunting and I had no business starting anything I couldn't finish. The idea floundered until I read “Unfree Speech” by Joshua Wong.

Joshua convinced me the youth should form that party. Their future is at stake whereas mine is already here. Also I have to admit I am a computer idiot whereas the youth are most conversant in, for instance, crowdsourcing on the internet

or social media.

Joshua was a fourteen-year-old high school student when he led a movement (of students first but later joined also by adults) to demand that Hong-Kong nationals retain the democratic right to elect their government officials as assured, but questionably complied with, by the heavily authoritarian Communist Central Government's “two systems, one country” policy.

Later, before he was even twenty, he founded a pro-democracy political party, Demosisto, that to this day fights for

ORLANDO P. CARVAJAL

Break Point

Hong Kong's retention of its democratic system. Through smart use of available modern communications technology (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.) Demosisto has galvanized Hong-Kong nationals into a pro-democracy force that communist China cannot possibly repress without losing face in the world community.

I bumped into Joshua Wong around the time President Duterte observed he could not see anybody capable of taking

over from him. I couldn't agree more with him. In any case, the adults I see preening for high positions in government in 2022 will assuredly not waste time restoring the “democracy” Duterte has allegedly brushed aside.

However, as after Edsa what Cory restored was elitist democracy, what will be restored after Duterte will be unfree elections that decide which jerks will plunder the country this time around.

The youth must take steps to own and shape their future. One big step is to form a genuine pro-democracy party. Otherwise, sweet-talking, well-mannered plundering jerks will just take turns screwing that future.

SunStar Cebu

POGOs are favored over COVID victims?

HAVING missed President Duterte's public appearances, we rushed to watch his televised presscon Tuesday evening expecting to see a reinvigorated leader explain how he would steer the country through the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis scaring the world.

But we were disappointed to see him barely addressing the basic concerns on the emergency. He sounded more intense in defending the Chinese involved in Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs) that had been linked to a variety of organized crimes.

We were waiting for him to explain, for instance, what an ordinary Filipino should do, or expect the government to do for him, if he had viral symptoms. Many people skip seeing a doctor or seeking hospitalization because they are scared of the expenses.

This hesitation, especially among the poor who are the most vulnerable, can help explain why the initial count of COVID-19 cases was low despite the country's open doors and the sad state of public health.

The spotty status reports of the health department left the impression that the Duterte administration was careful not to embarrass China, where the outbreak was reported to have begun in December.

Duterte's rambling remarks

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL JR.

POSTSCRIPT

did not show any sense of urgency. He had no action plan. Weeks ago, neighboring Taiwan, whose population is just a quarter of that of the Philippines, already had a list of 124 actions including the production of 44 million masks and widespread testing.

Duterte failed to explain why until this late date, the government does not have enough test kits and other diagnostic and treatment tools. There was a hint that aside from lack of planning there was lack of funds, aside from lack of competence at the highest level.

But on several occasions, Duterte had assured the public not to worry because there was money. Many times, however, his own finance team said they were going to borrow the money needed.

Why don't they tap first the confidential and intelligence funds of the President amounting to a mind-boggling P4.5 billion, which is even bigger than the combined intelligence budget of the armed forces and the national police? Where is Duterte using his intelligence funds?

The lack of medical resources

“ *Duterte failed to explain why until this late date, the government does not have enough test kits and other diagnostic and treatment tools.* ”

— such as testing kits — is widely seen as the reason for the “under-reporting” of coronavirus disease cases in the Philippines. The health department itself has been forced to admit this to explain its slow reaction to the emergency.

The skewed priority of the administration has been exposed by the Congress' chopping off P10 billion from the current year's budget of the health department.

If Malacañang and the Congress cannot realign huge sums fast enough, can they produce stop-gap funding from the estimated P50-billion taxes due from the Chinese-managed POGOs despite Duterte's spiritedly defending them?

It is time Duterte made clear where his priorities and loyalty lie — between his own countrymen and his Chinese friends and benefactors.

- Duterte defends Chinese-managed POGOs

DEFENDING Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs) from accusations that they are being used for committing a wide range of crimes and should be banned, President Duterte said Tuesday evening:

“Under my oath of office as President of the Republic, as elected by you, ‘yang POGO na ‘yan, malinis ‘yan (those POGOs are clean). Laro lang ‘yan para sa kabila (It's just a game for the other side) but it employs something like 20,000 in Manila.

“Why? Because it gives us P2 billion a month. Kaya sabi ko para muna (That's why I said let's pause first).”

The President said in the Tuesday presscon that every centavo due from POGOs, including taxes estimated at P50 billion in 2019, has been accounted for.

The Senate blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon has been investigating reports that POGOs have been involved in such crimes as sex trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and the forging of documents.

The operation of POGOs has emerged as one of the issues where known allies of Duterte, including senators, have disagreed with the President.

Gordon has expressed alarm that Duterte was being misled by his own people, especially as regards the alleged use of the firms licensed by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

for money laundering.

The senator told reporters: “I wish the President wouldn't make remarks like that especially since a co-equal branch of government is investigating a very, very serious situation where hundreds of millions of dollars are coming into our country.

“I think he's being misled. Mr. President, you are being misled by your people. You better check, you're a lawyer as well, most respectfully.”

Duterte said Monday he had examined some bank deposits and found no proof of money laundering activities linked to POGOs. We think it is not the President to decide the guilt or innocence of POGO operators.

The Anti-Money Laundering Council told senators in a hearing last week that P14 billion of the P54 billion in transactions by POGOs from 2017 to 2019 were linked to “suspicious activities.”

Gordon addressed Duterte: “Mr. President, kung titignan niyo, daan-daang milyon, e unang-una napakadelikado niyan para sa bansa, and definitely the Senate is four-square on this investigation because nakikita nila talaga na bulto-bulto.”

AMLC Executive Director Mel Racela submitted records to the Gordon panel showing that around P138 million in Pogo transactions had been linked to drug trafficking. -Philstar

LAMOUREUX...

◀ From 7

who have been directed to self-isolate by entitling them to claim Employment Insurance (EI) sickness. Enhancements are being introduced to the Work-Sharing program to help support employers and their workers who are experiencing a downturn in business due to COVID-19.

Likewise, some \$100 million is being provided to support federal public health measures

such as enhanced surveillance, increased testing at the National Microbiology Laboratory, and ongoing support for preparedness in First Nations and Inuit communities. This is in addition to an initial \$50 million that was provided to support the immediate public health response.

The Government is putting \$275 million in additional funding to enhance Canada's capacity in research and development, research on medical

countermeasures, including antivirals, vaccine development and support for clinical trials. This is in addition to the \$27 million funding that was recently announced to support coronavirus research in Canada.

About \$50 million has been provided to the Public Health Agency of Canada to ensure adequate supplies of personal protective equipment such as surgical masks, face shields, and isolation gowns, to support

purchases for provinces and territories, as well as to address federal needs.

The Government is responding to the worldwide outbreak and helping more vulnerable countries prepare for and respond to the virus by contributing an additional \$50 million to support the efforts of the World Health Organization and other partners.

The federal Government is there to support the needs of all

the residents of Canada and is working closely with provinces and other stakeholders in order to minimize the impact of the coronavirus in all our communities across Canada.

If you have any questions about the coronavirus, please check the following website as it is a fantastic, factual source of information that is continuously updated: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>.

MANNY PACQUIAO'S SON JIMUEL NOW PART OF STAR MAGIC

MANILA – Jimuel Pacquiao, son of Filipino boxing legend Manny Pacquiao, has decided to add another feather to his cap. Aside from venturing into boxing like his father, the younger Pacquiao is now trying his luck in show business.



Following his performance on “ASAP Natin To” on Sunday, Pacquiao revealed in an interview with Push that he is now part of Star Magic.

“I’m very happy because ever since din, I got interested in acting. So I’m very, very happy na man na I’m part of Star Magic now,” he said.

“I don’t want to waste the opportunities na binibigay. And I’m new and I want to try a lot of things. Mahilig ako mag-try ng mga new things,” he added.

Since he is still learning the ropes of the industry, Pacquiao said he will be taking acting and dance workshops.

When asked how he developed his love for performing, he said: “In the past, it was mostly just in school. I’ve done acting in school like presenting in front of the high school theater class, and also with the dance class. So yeah, I performed a few times in school lang din mostly or special occasions.”

Does he have any actress in mind that he dreams to work with?

“Siguro ‘yung mga big stars na like you know, Kathryn [Bernardo] and Liza [Soberano]. That would be like a dream. Kasi they’re just really very good. And they’re very beautiful also. So it would be like an honor even just in a scene with them. It’d be nice,” he said.

According to the 19-year-old, his parents are more supportive of his showbiz endeavor as compared to boxing.

“Kasi takot sila kapag nagbo-boxing ako. So they’re very supportive pagdating sa showbiz,” he said.

Before joining Star Magic, Pacquiao has already modeled for a local clothing brand along with his brother. -ABS-CBN News

LOOK: AI-AI DELAS ALAS IS NOW THE PROUD WIFE OF A PILOT

Gerald Sibayan, the non-showbiz husband of comedienne Ai-Ai Delas Alas, is now officially a pilot.

Ai-Ai took to Instagram to share the good news as she posted photos from Gerald’s graduation rites held at the Buena Casa Hotel, Subic last Tuesday, March 10.

Part of Batch 2018 Quebec, Gerald took up his course at the Asian Institute of Aviation in Subic, Zambales.

“Congratulations Capt. Gerald Sibayan. I am so proud of you, my husband,” wrote AiAi as caption.

“Salamat sa tyaga at dedication mo [sa] pagiging piloto mo. Masayang masaya ako dahil

parate mong naisip ang future naten. And sabi nga ‘The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.’ Na-fulfill ko na ang dream mo kaya fly high my love. GOD BLESS YOU MY DARLING and again congratulations. TO GOD BE THE GLORY,” she added.

Aside from Ai-Ai, her son Seth Andrei and Gerald’s parents, Gregorio and Linda Sibayan, were also present during the ceremony.

Ai-Ai, 55, and Gerald, 26, will be celebrating their sixth anniversary as a married couple this April.

They tied the knot in a church wedding in December 2017 after three years of being a couple. PUSH TEAM



JOSUE... From 7

pleasure and joy for him and it was in the presence of God. It was not his power and authority, fame and riches but his

relationship with God.

May we find true fulfillment in a life of worshipping God. Surrender your life to Jesus Christ and He will help you enjoy life to the full.

“I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full,” says Jesus Christ. (Junie Josue, Lead Pastor, International Worship Centre, 1077 St James Street, Winnipeg Manitoba, 204-774-4478)

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Hanapin po lamang ang ating mga kababayan na sina Dr. Don Santos, Karen De la Cueva & Rosie Calvadores (Tagalog speaking) upang ihanap kayo ng appointment at sagutin ang ano mang katanungan ukol sa insurance at iba pang mga bagay.



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KIM CHIU ADDRESSES FANS, ASSAILANTS A WEEK AFTER AMBUSH

MANILA, Philippines — A week after the unfortunate ambush happened to her, Kapamilya actress Kim Chiu updated her fans on social media.

In her Instagram account, Kim said the incident made her realize that life is short and precious.

"It has been a week since.... that day made me realize life is really short, life is very precious and most of all felt God's presence he protected me, my PA and my driver,. None of us was hurt. He is really powerful amongst us all," Kim started her lengthy post.

She added that what happened to her was a miracle.

"I must say it was a miracle. I could not explain the feeling but I know he was with us and so our guardian angels," she said.

Kim also thanked the people who supported her through her trying times.

"I want to thank my AbsCbn family Direk Lauren Dyogi who picked me up at taping and secured my safety all through out and absbn bosses Tita Cory, Sir Mark and Sir Carlo to my StarMagic family Tita Mariole and Mr M, my handler Ate Edith and my sister Ate Lakam, to my friend Ranvel Rufino for urgently went on set with lawyers with him thank you sobra sa inyo," she said.

"So many people helped me get through this I am blessed to be surrounded with these kind of people they dont have to do this ang dami na nilang pinoroblema but still they insisted to help me. Now everything is slowly unfolding and I am glad that I am alive despite..... I realized a lot of things., you discover people who are willing to help, people who care for you and people who just wants to bring you down," she added.

Kim also addressed her assailants, saying: "I don't want to get mad at them or 'hate' them."

She said the love she receives is enough for her to not feel hatred and bitterness over what happened.

"Puno ng pasasalamat ang puso ko, Im just happy that I am here posting another IG post and thanking HIM for this Precious life! Tuloy ang buhay," she said.

"I want to thank tita cory and tita mari-ole for the continuous update. Thank you for always checking on me. Atty Aby and Atty Edwin thank you. Papa God maraming salamat po. Now no need to be scared. ??? Kung wala ka namang ginagawang ma-sama, there is no need to be scared," she ended her post.-Jan Milo Severo (Philstar.com)



Is Julia Barretto dating again?

"A dinner for 10, my family and a loved one."

This was the caption of Julia Barretto in her latest Instagram post that had her fans and followers wondering whether or not she's dating again.

The actress was describing how she "decided to do things differently" for the celebration of her 23rd birthday last Tuesday, March 10. Instead of throwing a big party as she used to do every year, she opted to host an intimate dinner for 10, consisting of her family and what netizens could only guess as a newfound romantic interest.

Julia was previously in a relationship with her former onscreen partner Joshua Garcia, with whom she parted ways in mid-2019.

She was then romantically linked to her Between Maybes leading man Gerald Anderson. The two, however, denied having romantic ties, amid the controversy surrounding the actor's high-profile breakup with fellow Star Magic artist Bea Alonzo. PUSH TEAM



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MATTEO GUIDICELLI DENIES ITALY WEDDING RUMORS AMID COVID-19 FEARS



MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya actor Matteo Guidicelli has denied rumors that he and wife Sarah Geronimo are set to wed in Italy late this month.

In an interview with ABS-CBN's MJ Felipe, the Filipino-Italian singer said he and Sarah had no plans to marry in Italy even before the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

"With the development that some areas in Italy have been locked down, I asked Matteo if plans for a wedding in Italy would still push thru. He clarified that there were no plans of a wedding in Italy to begin with. Even before the issue of the Co-ViD-19," MJ wrote on Twitter.

As of today, Italy has reportedly started a nationwide lockdown for having the second highest COVID-19 cases (10,149) following China.

It can be recalled that Matteo and Sarah tied the knot last February 20 via an intimate Christian wedding in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

Yesterday, the National Youth Commission (NYC) has officially welcomed Guidicelli as its new youth ambassador.

In its Facebook page, NYC

posted photos of the newlywed actor at the commission's office.

"The National Youth Commission formally welcomes Mr. Matteo Guidicelli, NYC Youth Ambassador, in an Awarding Ceremony on March 10, 2020, at the NYC Central Office," the NYC wrote.

During his welcome address, NYC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Ryan Enriquez said that Matteo is expected to serve as a role model in the promotion of the NYC's advocacy on the centers of youth participation under the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) namely: Peace Building and Security, Active Citizenship, Health, and Social Inclusion and Equity.

For his part, Matteo said: "The youth is the start and future of everything."

It was early this month that NYC announced that Matteo was appointed as its youth commissioner.

The NYC said the appointment was based on the Commission's Resolution No. 26, series of 2019, which "recognizes his significant contribution to youth development." —Jan Milo Severo (Philstar.com)

Filipina model Hannah Locsin lands on the cover of Harper's Bazaar

Remember that Pinay model, Hannah Locsin, who starred in a Gucci makeup advertisement?

She has graced the cover of foreign fashion magazine Harper's Bazaar Kazakhstan this March.

On the cover, she looked every bit as fierce as she donned a black fur coat with her signature bob.

"Ahhh March has truly been amazing ????????" Hannah said on Instagram.

Her appearance in Harper's Bazaar is another feather in her well-decorated cap, as she

has been making waves in the global fashion scene.

Recently, she slayed it at the Miu Miu Fall-Winter presentation at Paris Fashion Week.

In October, she walked the Gucci Spring 2020 runway for Milan Fashion Week and killed it with a neon green dress, oversized sunnies, a big black chain and leather gloves.

In September 2018, Hannah became part of the Women Management in Paris. She was also featured in Vogue Italia in November 2018. —Angelica Y. Yang/MGP, GMA News



ODD NEWS

Sports stars, airline employees pull 201.6-ton plane for world record



March 9 (UPI) -- A crew of British Airways employees teamed with some sports celebrities to pull a 201.6-ton plane a distance of 328 feet for a Guinness World Record.

British Airways teamed with charity Sport Relief for the record attempt, which teamed the British Airways employees with sports stars including fitness coach Joe Wick, TV host and former gymnast Gabby Logan, broadcaster and former soccer star Gary Lineker, boxer Nicola Adams, sprinter Iwan Thomas and Paralympic wheelchair tennis silver medalist Alfie Hewett.

The team pulled a British Airways A350 jet a distance of 328 feet, breaking a Guinness World Record.

The previous heaviest aircraft pulled by a mixed team was a 198.4-ton plane.-ByBen Hooper

Tito's warns customers: Vodka is not a safe hand sanitizer

March 6 (UPI) -- The Texas-based makers of Tito's Handmade Vodka issued an unusual statement in response to a customer's comment: Do not use vodka as hand sanitizer.

The issue was raised Thursday when a customer said on Twitter that they had been using Tito's Handmade Vodka to make homemade hand sanitizer.

"I made some hand sanitizer out your vodka. The hand sanitizer doesn't taste bad either. Cheers to Tito's vodka. Keeping me germ-free and feeling good at the same time," the customer wrote.

Tito's responded with a serious statement warning other customers not to follow their example.



"Per the CDC, hand sanitizer needs to contain at least 60 percent alcohol. Tito's Handmade Vodka is 40 percent alcohol, and therefore does not meet the current recommendation of the CDC," the brand tweeted.-Ben Hooper

Company offers \$1,000 to watch 15 hours of 'The Office'

March 4 (UPI) -- A satellite TV website is offering \$1,000 to a comedy fan willing to complete an unusual dream job: watching and analyzing 15 hours of The Office.

USDish.com, a Dish network retailer, announced it is celebrating the 15th anniversary of the NBC sitcom by choosing one applicant to watch 15 hours of The Office -- about 45 episodes -- and take detailed notes.

"As you're watching, you'll need to complete a checklist that tallies the number of common tropes that occur throughout each episode," the posting says.

"For instance, how many times does Stanley roll his eyes at the camera? How often does Phyllis talk about Bob Vance from Vance Refrigeration? The goal is to help us understand how often sitcoms repeat popular tropes. We'll provide you with general guidelines to track your experience, but in true Kelly Kapoor fashion, we also want you to share your unfiltered opinions and reactions on social media."

The company is accepting applications, and optional video submissions, on its website through March 16.-Ben Hooper



Brain Teaser

Answer for March 1-15, 2020 issue.

Arnold Schwarzenegger has a long one. Michael J. Fox has a short one. Madonna does not use hers. Bill Clinton always uses his. The Pope never uses his. What is it?

Answer: Their surname.

What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Answer: Short

.....

Your parents have six sons including you and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?

I am the beginning of sorrow and the end of sickness. You cannot express happiness without me yet I am in the midst of crosses. I am always in risk yet never in danger. You may find me in the sun, but I am never out of darkness.

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Answer on next issue.

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PILOT EPISODE OF VICE GANDA'S 'EVERYBODY, SING!' POSTPONED

MANILA -- Comedian-host Vice Ganda announced on Friday that the airing of his latest TV show "Everybody, Sing!" slated this Sunday, March 15, has been postponed due to the threat of COVID-19.

"Mga Kapamilya, sa gitna po ng kasalukuyang public health issue, na dala po ng COVID-19, ipinaabot po ng 'Everybody, Sing!' ang bagong programa po na iho-host ko sana sa Linggo, na postponed po muna ang pag-ere ng aming pilot episode sa Linggo, sa March 15. So, paumanhin na hindi niyo po muna mapapanuod ang 'Everybody, Sing!' sa Sunday hangga't hindi pa po kumakalma ang mga pangyayari dulot ng COVID-19," Vice Ganda said on "It's Showtime."

"Sa puntong ito, ang kaligtasan ng lahat, lalong-lalo na po ng mga kalahok namin na 100 na mga Filipinos sa 'Everybody, Sing!' ang aming pinapangalagaan at binibigyan ng atensyon, kabilang na rin po ang mga artists, ang lahat ng contestants at production team, at ang aming utmost priority talaga ay ang kaligtasan ng lahat. Maraming maraming salamat po sa inyong pang-unawa at suporta, mga Kapamilya," he added. On social media, Vice Ganda also uploaded the announcement.-ABS-CBN News

Get ready for breath-taking, heart-thumping scenes in the thriller film “Block Z”

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES, March 9, 2020— Are you ready for a zombie attack?

The characters of Julia Barretto and Joshua Garcia are caught off guard when the undead comes running after them in the film “Block Z.”

It was an ordinary day for pre-med student PJ (Julia) and her friends who attended to a patient that exhibits symptoms of rabies. The patient eventually dies but mysteriously comes back to life and started attacking people and turns them into a zombie.

As the attacks continue, PJ and her friends come across Lucas (Joshua) who is also trying to escape his teammates and the other students who

turned into a zombie. They now work together to escape and come out of the university alive.

The film “Block Z” is a breath of fresh air for the tandem of Julia and Joshua, collectively known as JoshLia. Different from their usual boy-meets-girl and romantic-comedy films, this film directed by Mikhail Red—who directed the films Birdshot (2016), Eerie (2018) and Dead Kids (2019)—showed their tougher and edgier side as they do stunts on several scenes.

Produced by ABS-CBN Films Star Cinema and Keep Filming, “Block Z” also stars Ian Veneracion, Dimples Romana, Ina Raymundo, Yves Flores, Myrtle Sarosa, Maris Racal, and McCoy



de Leon.

Catch the thrilling zombie film “Block Z” as it screens on the following dates in these regions: March 13 in U.S. and Canada; March 19 in Brunei and Papua New Guinea; and March 20 in Saipan.

For more details and cinema list, visit mytfc.com or TFC’s official Facebook page applicable to your area.

ABS-CBN CONDUCTS CLEAN-UP DRIVES, GIVES AWAY LIGTAS BAGS FOR TAAL VICTIMS

The status of Taal Volcano is down to Alert Level 2 but Kapamilya love continues to be felt by displaced families through ABS-CBN’s “Tulong-Tulong sa Taal” public service campaign.

The Kapamilya network has united with various groups for clean-up drives done in Agoncillo and Tanauan in Batangas, relief operations, and distribution of Ligtas Bags with the support of donors, volunteers, and partners like public servants Senator Ralph Recto and Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto.

As of February 6, Sagip Kapamilya has served a total of 23,923 families or over 100,000 individuals with relief pack in evacuation centers and home-based evacuation sites. There were also 5,403 individuals served with hot meals through Soup Kitchen, while 663 individuals received psychological first aid.

Since children are the most vulnerable during disasters, Bantay Bata 163 social workers organized therapeutic play activities in Calumpang East Elementary School in San Luis, Batangas.

ABS-CBN also continues to distribute Ligtas Bags, which contain

necessities for survival in case an emergency or a disaster strikes, in different areas in Batangas.

Sen. Ralph Recto and Batangas Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto recently partnered with the ABS-CBN Foundation to deliver relief packs and Ligtas Bags to people in San Nicolas, Agoncillo, Lemery, Taal, Laurel, and Talisay.

“Let us thank ABS-CBN. They don’t just give us joy every night, they also help Filipinos during difficult times,” said Recto.

Rep. Santos-Recto echoed her husband’s statements. “I take this opportunity to thank ABS-CBN for all the help that they have extended here in Batangas. These Ligtas Bags are very useful. Salamat,” she shared.

For more details about “Tulong-Tulong Sa Taal” and how you may help, follow ABS-CBN Foundation (@abscbnfoundationinc) on Facebook or visit www.abs-cbnfoundation.com.

Stay updated by following ABS-CBN News’ special Taal coverage on ABS-CBN, ANC, DZMM, news.abs-cbn.com, patrol.ph and the ABS-CBN News App. Join the conversation by using the hashtag #TulongTulongSaTaal.

For updates, follow ABS-CBN (@abscbnpr) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, or visit www.abs-cbn.com/newsroom.







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DISNEY TAPS MOIRA DELA TORRE TO SING 'MULAN' THEME SONG

MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya singer Moira dela Torre was tapped to sing the theme song of the upcoming Disney movie “Mulan.”

According to an ABS-CBN report, Moira said she's happy that Disney trusted her to sing the local version of “Reflection,” the first song she ever learned.

“It really felt like a full circle, because ‘Reflection’ is the first song I ever had to learn in full, because I had to sing it for a special number for our church's second anniversary. It was basically what opened the door for me to start loving music,” Moira shared.

“It's very cool because this happened. It's crazy. I wouldn't have believed that I would get to work with Disney for something as big as this. If you asked me this last year, I still wouldn't believe it. It's such a great opportunity, and I'm very grateful for it,” she added.

The song was originally performed by Lea Salonga in the 1998 animated movie “Mulan,” while its studio version was recorded by Christina Aguilera in the same year.

Moira admitted that singing Lea and Christina's song makes her nervous but at the same time proud.

“Actually, at first, to be honest, I was terrified, but if there's one thing that I learned from ‘Mulan,’ Lea Salonga, and Christina Aguilera, it's really being true to myself. They made it to that stage because they were true to themselves and I feel very empowered by that,” she said.

The live-action “Mulan” movie will open in Philippine cinemas on March 25.

Last December, Dela Torre's “You Are My Sunshine” rendition gave a touching accompaniment to a high school video that won in the Elks Drug Awareness Program in the United States because of its throbbing depiction of how drug use affects families and leads to loss of loved ones.

The “Sunshine” video—featuring a progression of a precious baby girl into a rebellious teenager who got entangled in drug use—received the National Award for Best High School Video Public Service Announcement last August.

Moira's heartwarming recording, released as part of the soundtrack of the 2018 Filipino film “Meet Me in St. Gallen,” was used in the “Sunshine” video directed by Sandy Beach (EMHS '19) representing El Modena High School in California and produced by EMTV.

The contest organizer, Elks Drug Awareness Program, later partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice and a popular YouTube channel, FBE (19M subscribers), to produce a reaction video which features the winning video, “Sunshine,” as well as some former drug addicts talking about their painful journey and recovery.

Last year, Filipino singers Darren Espanto and Morissette Amon were also tapped by Disney to sing the theme song of the live action movie “Aladdin.” —Jan Milo Severo (Philstar.com)



Chinese official claims US may have brought virus to China

◀ FROM FRONT PAGE

was wild animals sold at a market in the central city of Wuhan.

But in recent days, Chinese officials and a prominent health expert have claimed that the virus may have originated elsewhere as Beijing has angrily hit back at US officials for calling the disease the “Wuhan virus.”

In his tweet, Zhao posted a video of the head of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention testifying before Congress that some Americans who were believed to have died from the flu were posthumously diagnosed with the COVID-19 illness.

“CDC was caught on the spot. When did patient zero begin in US? How many people are infected? What are the names of the hospitals?” Zhao tweeted.

“It might be US army who brought the epidemic to Wuhan. Be transparent! Make public your data! US owe us an explanation!”

Chinese officials have themselves been accused of attempting to cover up the outbreak as police in Wuhan reprimanded and silenced doctors who had raised the alarm about the virus as early as December.

US officials have angered China by linking the virus with the country, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo calling it the “Wuhan virus.”

The foreign ministry has rejected the term as “despicable” and “disrespecting science.”

More than 130,000 people have been infected by the virus and nearly 5,000 have died across the world so far.

Robert O'Brien, the US national security adviser, insisted on Wednesday that the birthplace of the virus was China.

“This virus did not originate in the United States, it originated in Wuhan,” O'Brien said at the Heritage Foundation think tank.

“Unfortunately, rather than using best practices, this outbreak in Wuhan was covered up,” he said.

He said China had “cost the world community two months to respond” to the epidemic, which has now killed nearly 5,000 people and infected more than 130,000 worldwide.

Had China been more cooperative and allowed foreign experts on the ground earlier, he said, “we could have dramatically curtailed what happened both in China and what is now happening across the world.”

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang on Thursday called O'Brien's remarks “extremely immoral and also irresponsible,” saying China's tough quarantine measures to contain the virus had won the world “hard-won precious time.” — Agence France-Presse

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Worldwide sports collapse piles pressure on Olympics

TOKYO, Japan — The collapse of sports events worldwide over the rapidly spreading new coronavirus heaped pressure on the Tokyo Olympics on Friday as US President Donald Trump suggested delaying the Games by a year.

Formula One's Australian Grand Prix and The Players Championship, one of golf's most prestigious events, were the latest to fall in a period when the virus has laid waste to the sporting calendar.

Football's Premier League, with a worldwide audience of billions, is also in question after Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta and Chelsea midfielder were confirmed to have the disease.

The PGA Tour golf season, the men's tennis tour, NBA basketball, Major League Baseball and a host of top-flight football leagues have all been put on hold or forced behind closed doors.

The impact of COVID-19, which has killed nearly 5,000 people according to an AFP tally, is accelerating just over four months from the Tokyo Olympics' start on July 24.

European football chiefs will consider whether to postpone Euro 2020, this year's other major international sports event due to start in mid-June, at a meeting next week.

Tokyo Olympics organisers, Japan's government and the International Olympic Committee have been adamant the Games will go ahead as planned despite the global panic.

But Trump became the first

foreign leader to break ranks and raise the prospect of delaying the Olympics until 2021.

"Maybe they postpone it for a year," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office, 19 weeks before the opening ceremony in Tokyo's Olympic Stadium.

"You know, I like that better than I like having empty stadiums all over the place. I think if you cancel it, make it a year later, that's a better alternative than doing it with no crowd," he said.

Trump's comments came just hours after actresses dressed as ancient Greek priestesses held the ceremonial flame-lighting at a ruined temple in the original Olympia, Greece.

'Lots of options!'

Trump later discussed the Olympics with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe by telephone, before tweeting there were "Lots of options!"

But Tokyo's governor Yuriko Koike was unmoved, telling reporters on Friday: "For Tokyo, there is no option of cancellation at all."

Japan's Olympic minister Seiko Hashimoto said: "Neither the IOC nor the organising committee is thinking about delaying or cancelling the Games at all."

Asked about the possibility of scaling back the number of spectators, Hashimoto said: "We are not thinking about that at all."

In Melbourne, drivers were just hours from the first practice



session when the season-opening Australian Grand Prix was axed on Friday, after a McLaren team member was diagnosed with COVID-19.

The last-minute cancellation raises fears for other races including next week's Bahrain Grand Prix, which has already barred fans.

The Chinese Grand Prix has been postponed, while the inaugural Formula One race in Vietnam on April 5 is also at risk.

The Players Championship was called off after the first round as the PGA Tour cancelled another four tournaments leading up to the Masters, starting

on April 8.

Premier League chiefs will hold emergency talks later on Friday "regarding future fixtures", which look uncertain with Arsenal and Chelsea both in lockdown.

Arsenal's game against Brighton was postponed after Arteta's positive test, before Chelsea's Hudson-Odoi became the first Premier League player confirmed with the coronavirus.

Leicester City and Manchester City also have players in isolation because of fears over the disease.

Spain's top two divisions have been suspended for at

least two weeks after Real Madrid put its team in quarantine, while Italy's Serie A is on hold and France's Ligue 1 will continue in empty stadiums.

Indian cricket chiefs will meet on Saturday to decide the fate of the lucrative Indian Premier League, scheduled to start on March 29, after the government called for it to be cancelled.

Australia's one-day international against New Zealand went ahead behind closed doors in Sydney but the hosts were without seam bowler Kane Richardson, who is quarantined and has been tested for COVID-19. —Agence France-Presse

NBA to suspend games after Jazz player tests positive for coronavirus

The NBA will suspend play starting on Thursday after a Utah Jazz player preliminarily tested positive for the new coronavirus, the league said Wednesday.

The test result was reported shortly before Utah's game against the Thunder in Oklahoma City was to begin, and that game was abruptly postponed.

The league said the affected player was not at the arena.

"The NBA is suspending game play following the conclusion of tonight's schedule of games until further notice," the league said. "The NBA will use this hiatus to determine next steps for moving forward in regard to the coronavirus pandemic."

Team owners had been discussing Wednesday how best the league should respond to the coronavirus outbreak.

The Golden State Warriors confirmed they would host the Brooklyn Nets on Thursday in San Francisco behind closed doors after San Francisco city officials announced a two-week ban on all gatherings of more than 1,000 people.

NBA owners on Wednesday were discussing whether to delay the season or instead play in closed arenas league-wide.

The decision was made after the confusing scenes in Oklahoma City, where

Jazz and Thunder players took the court to warm up, but shortly before the scheduled tip-off were sent to their locker rooms before police began to clear the Chesapeake Energy Arena.

The NBA did not name the player who had tested positive, but several US media outlets reported it was French defensive standout Rudy Gobert, who was listed first as questionable for the game and then as out with illness.

Teammate Emmanuel Mudiay was also listed as suffering from an undisclosed illness on the team's injury report.

Six NBA games were scheduled for Wednesday and four were underway when the game in Oklahoma City was called off.

"It's unprecedented," Detroit coach Dwaine Casey — whose Pistons fell to the 76ers in Philadelphia — said of the decision to suspend the season. "I think it's the prudent thing to do."

—Agence France-Presse



UTAH JAZZ GUARD
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TIP SHEET

HOW TO FIX
A SAGGING
SEATBELT

Asurprisingly easy fix you can do at home.

Seatbelts make our car journeys far safer. In fact, we now have laws that require their use. However, as seatbelts get older, they don't work quite as well as they used to. For seatbelts to work properly, they must retract and lay snug on your body. If they're loose, they can't effectively restrain your body from flying forward in the event of a collision.

You will notice this looseness when you put on your seatbelt. Newer ones retract quickly and pull the belt snugly across your torso. Even when you take them off, you will notice that newer seatbelts retract quickly into the receptacle. Older ones, however, will have a bit of lag when retracting. Some can get so old

that they don't even retract at all, and when you wear them, they just fall loosely on your lap. A loose seatbelt is an ineffective one. It may be enough to comply with the law that requires you to wear your seatbelt, but it won't keep you safe.

This can be fixed. The cause of slow or non-retracting seatbelts is quite elementary—they're simply dirty. To fix them, you just need to clean them.

The simplest way to do this is by washing them. Get a deep bucket, fill it halfway with water, and put some clothing detergent in it. Pull out as much of the seatbelt as you can and put a binder clip at the end where it hangs from the car's C-pillar to prevent the belt from reeling back in. Now that you have most of the belt out, you can place a towel on the seat

you're working on. Then set the bucket on the seat protected by the towel. From there, you can now put as much of the belt as you can into the bucket to let the belt soak in as much of the soapy water as possible.

After 20 minutes of soaking, you will see that the soapy water will have released much of the grime from the belts. Take a soft bristled brush and start brushing the belt to remove the accumulated grime. Once you get it clean, you can start wiping the belt dry. But don't let it reel back in yet. Let the belt air dry, which should take a few hours. Once it's dry, you can start testing the retracting function and you will see that it will reel in much faster, like new.

If it still doesn't reel in as fast as you'd like, you may have a

problem with accumulated dirt in the reel mechanisms. To fix this, you'll have to dismount the seats and remove the plastic interior panels that cover the car's B-pillar to expose the seatbelt's reel mechanism.

You can do this on much older cars that don't have a lot of electronics in the seats. However, I must warn you that many new cars's seats are equipped with airbags. That means there are tiny little explosives in the seats. I do not recommend disabling these airbags to remove them. There is a chance the airbags will go off when you reinstall power to them. For cars equipped with this, I can only recommend cleaning the belts but not the reel mechanisms.

If you have an older car where the seats can be dismounted with-

out having to go through any electric gadgets other than a passenger sensor, go ahead and dismount the seats. They're usually held on by four bolts on each corner of the seat. Remove the B-pillar plastic panels, which are usually just held on by clips on either side. Once you've exposed the seatbelt reel mechanism, brush off the accumulated dirt in the seatbelt reels. Or, you can use compressed air to blow the dirt away.

Once clean, the belts should retract quickly and maintain good tension when you have the belt on. Not only is it important for your safety and that of your passengers to wear your seatbelts while riding in your car, it is also wise to maintain their proper operations. Remember: Dirty seatbelts are ineffective seatbelts. -By Joey Bernardez



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Escaping poverty through government programs

Doing taxes can be a powerful way to increase income, especially for those who earn the least

By Gary Bloch
Associate professor
University of Toronto

It's tax season in our family medicine clinic.

Seriously.

You might think it's coronavirus all the time in family practice these days. But, being family doctors, we see the full picture of health – what causes illness, what prevents it, and what keeps us happy and well.

And that's why we're excitedly preparing for the annual tax clinics we run for our patients.

Obviously, we're as obsessed with COVID-19 preparations as everyone else. But we're also acutely aware that many of our patients don't have the means to run to a big box store for a 14-day emergency supply of provisions for quarantine (like I did last weekend).

We're acutely aware that our patients who couldn't afford their medications last month still can't afford them this month. Their bodies are being eroded by the same chronic diseases they were before this outbreak.

And the young, physically healthy couple I worked with in my homeless shelter clinic last week is still more threatened by a lack of access to enough food or a safe place to sleep than this virus.

But why taxes?

Most people see taxes as a necessary evil – handing hard-earned money to faceless bureaucrats to run programs and services they use but barely notice. Most of us understand that taxes keep our society functional but hate seeing them taken off our paycheques.

What most of us don't imagine is that doing taxes can be a powerful way to increase income, especially for those who earn the least.

Let's take my patient Ahmed. He's in his late 30s, a single father of two young girls. He earns \$14000 a year working part time at a minimum-wage job. That's all he's able to manage between childcare and a lack of Canadian experience in his field of expertise.

He spends \$800 a month on rent for a small one-bedroom apartment, leaving him with almost nothing to buy food or clothes, let alone 'extras,' like taking his girls to the movies or buying them birthday cakes.

He and his family live in deep, deep poverty.

I saw him regularly and treated him for a range of ailments – arthritis in his hands, recurring depression, early diabetes. He stuck to treatment plans but his health was clearly on a downward spiral.

Ahmed hadn't done his taxes for years. He knew he wouldn't owe the government any money and he was confident the Canada Revenue Agency wouldn't consider him a high priority target for review.

One March day a couple of years ago, I suggested he attend our tax clinic.

He found the time to come the next Saturday morning and, to his shock, he qualified for almost \$19000 a year in benefits through Canadian and provincial social programs. His income suddenly more than doubled.

Ahmed's extra money came through a range of programs – child benefits along with a range of tax credits.

All he had to do was file his taxes.

And this intervention brought his family nearly to the poverty line. It had a visible and immediate impact on his health and the health of his daughters. And it gave him the breathing room to reconfigure his life, allowing him to qualify for and find a better job, move to a better apartment, and start to give his children a semblance of stability and hope.

We're not the only health clinic offering tax clinics. A coalition in Winnipeg has helped low-income people access millions of dollars in benefits over the last few years.

And other health centres are actively working with their patients to access the network of free income tax clinics for low-income people supported by the CRA and community agencies across the country.

For those earning up to about \$35,000 a year, filing taxes can result in a growth in income.

For me as a doctor, it's stories like Ahmed's that make me proud to pay my taxes and remind me of the power of social programs to support the health and well-being of those most in need.

And it's stories like Ahmed's that make us excited, in our family medicine clinic, when tax time rolls around.

(Gary Bloch is a family physician in Toronto and an associate professor with the University of Toronto.)

The 5 Best Gadgets for 2020

◀ FROM FRONT PAGE

You may have seen our review of the Theragun in our roundup of the best gym equipment, but we're adding it to our list of the best gadgets as it's a nifty device for any keen water-sports person. Use it to warm up and cool down muscles after deep-sea diving, surfing and waterskiing and you'll notice aches and pains subside substantially.

SPOT X two-way satellite messenger, £299

This device is literally a life-saver; 29 emergency rescues were initiated during 2019 with the SPOT X messenger. When out of mobile range



Cleer Flow II Headphones, £249

the device can keep users in contact with the outside world, bluetooth pair with the user's phone and is able to operate for up to 10 days on a single charge. Most importantly, the S.O.S. button can instantly send the user's GPS location to an emergency response service.

SCI-TECH



How the UP-developed COVID-19 test kits will be used

The UP-developed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) testing kit is ready for field testing just as the World Health Organization declared the outbreak as a pandemic on Wednesday.

Hundreds of the kits will be sent to several hospitals for validation testing to determine if they are viable enough to be made commercially available.

Unlike over-the-counter pregnancy tests, the detection kit cannot be used by individuals at home and can only be handled by trained medical professionals in hospitals.

Here's a step-by-step guide on how the locally-developed testing kit will be used in detecting COVID-19:

1. Sample collection. Medical practitioners in personal protective equipment will collect both nose and throat samples from patients suspected with COVID-19.
2. Lab storage. The samples will be brought to designated hospital labs with a Biosafety level 2 classification.
3. RNA extraction. The throat and nose samples will be extracted for

RNA—genetic material where the COVID-19 virus could be detected.

4. Testing kit. The RNA samples, which would be brought to another room, will be mixed with solutions from the locally-developed COVID-19 test kit.
5. Amplification. The mixture will be placed inside tubes and "amplified" using a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machine, which is also used in hepatitis and HIV detection.
6. Virus detection. The machine will count the virus content and determine if they are positive or negative for COVID-19.

The process takes roughly one and a half hours, drastically reducing the waiting time for results which takes days when imported test kits are used.

Once the testing kit is validated by the WHO, it could be deployed for use in local hospitals. Around 200 kits can be manufactured in a week, with 6,000 already in stock as of press time. —By ANGELICA Y. YANG/MGP, GMA News

Cleer audio have upped their game with the latest model of wireless, sound-cancelling headphones. Alongside a google-voice assisted control system the Flow II headphones now feature a conversation mode, allowing volume and sound-cancelling to be temporarily reduced by pressing the left earcup. Ideal for dipping in and out of conversations or listening to announcements.



Transparent Speaker, £450

For something a little different this transparent speaker is minimalist and



compact without any compromise on sound. In fact, the sound quality is fantastic and the device can be looped up via Bluetooth and True Wireless.

Skyroam Solis X WiFi Smartspot, £179.99

This new portable WIFI hotspot from Skyroam is a cut above the rest, offering a range of other amenities in addition to providing 4G connection wherever in the world your superyacht takes you. This small but mighty device boasts a wide angle camera lens, a smart assistant, a powerbank for charging your other electronics and the ability to connect with up to 10 different devices simultaneously. Ideal for keeping you safe, entertained and up-to-date while cruising the high seas. —BY OLIVIA MICHEL



What to expect on your Initial Assessment

When you go see an athletic therapist (AT) at their clinic for the first time, hopefully they greet you with a big smile which is certainly a great way to welcome someone coming in for an initial assessment. An athletic therapist performs what is called an orthopaedic physical assessment, a rather fancy term for what is basically testing out how your body, specifically how your joints move. This article will broadly talk about the testing an athletic therapist does during this first visit.

History

Before an athletic therapist begins physically testing joints and muscles, they need to ask the patient questions about what they are coming in for. These questions cover topics such as general health, occupation, sports or fitness, injury specifics, and pain sensations. By receiving answers to these questions, the athletic therapist better understands why their patient is here.

Observation

There are two parts to observation, standing and walking. Standing observation is where the AT observes the alignment of various structures of your body from the front, sides and behind. The walking observation is how the AT determines whether movement is being affected, or just how the patient walks in general. These two are important in giving the AT insight on how the body is compensating due to the injury or condition.

Joint Rule-Out and Functional Test

The joint rule-out quickly tests the joint above and below the affected area to ensure that there are no issues with them. The functional test is a simple movement test to determine whether daily tasks are affected by the injury.

Range of Motion Testing

There are also two parts to range of motion testing. The first part is active range of motion, which are joint movements done by the patient while the AT observes any disparities in movement between the affected and unaffected body parts. The second part is passive range of motion, which are joint movements done by the



Jan Earl de Chavez CAT(C) Certified Athletic Therapist

AT for the patient. Passive range of motion tests if the joint is able to be taken to its end point without pain or issues.

Muscle Testing

Also called isometric resisted testing as there is no movement occurring in the joint but the muscles are contracting. Different than the active range of motion, muscle testing is conducted with the AT holding the joint at an angle that stresses a muscle group while the patient performs a muscle contraction. Different resistances are performed to test all the muscles groups that act on the joint. The AT determine the strength level of the contraction and compares between affected and unaffected parts.

Special Tests

These are unique tests for a specific joint that confirms or eliminates the presence of an injury or condition. The shoulder is a great example as it has numerous tests for ligamentous sprains, impingements, joint laxity and capsule issues, muscle strains or tightness, and nerve compression. To narrow down which tests to perform, the AT uses all the informed gained from all the previous components of the assessment,

especially the history.

Palpation

Palpation can also be done after the observation is conducted, or it can be used to conclude the assessment. This is where the AT feels for palpable bones, ligaments, muscles and tendons to confirm which structures they believe are affected by the injury or condition. They can also feel for swelling, or determine sensory changes of the area.

Once the orthopaedic physical assessment concludes, the AT presents their differential diagnosis where they present what they think is injured or affected and why. After this, the AT will educate the patient on the rehabilitation program they will undergo and the appointment moves on to the treatment. The assessment usually takes about 25-minutes which leaves plenty of time in the appointment for any manual treatment and rehabilitative exercises.

Now that you know what to expect on your initial assessment, come visit me at InsaHyu Training + Therapy located at 250 Saulteaux Crescent, or you can visit our website at www.insahyu.com and book online.



Jan Earl de Chavez CAT(C)
Certified Athletic Therapist



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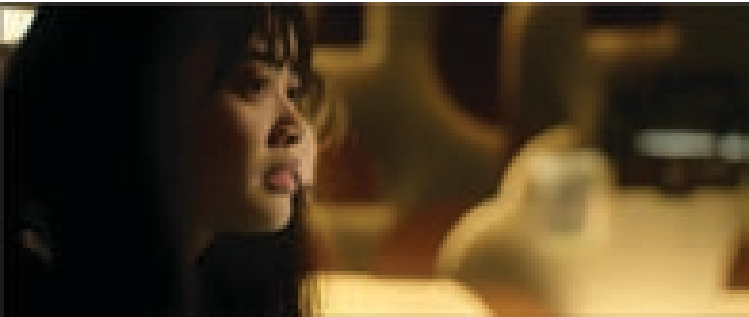
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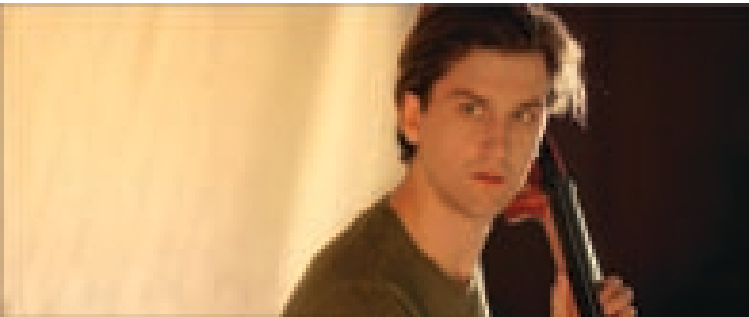
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The much awaited film, I Propose We Never See Each Other After Tonight with some Filipino cast members and settings held in Winnipeg, is here for movie lovers to watch at the Cinema North Gate Cinema on McPhillips St. The movie was directed by a multi-awarded director, Sean Garrity.



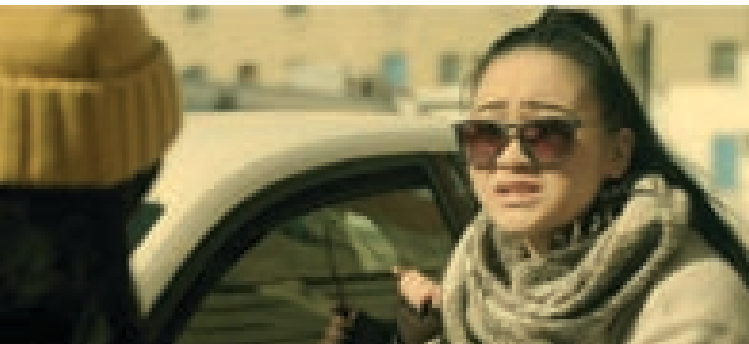
Hera Nalam (Iris)

Hera Nalam is an up-and-coming Winnipeg-based actress who unlocked her love and passion for acting when she moved to Canada 9 years ago. She is actively involved in the theatre community in Winnipeg, and has been seen in multiple productions including Romeo & Juliet (Pocketfrock Theatre Productions), Quest (Meraki Theatre Productions), Torn Through Time (Manitoba Theatre for Young People), Timon of Athens (Shakespeare in the Ruins), Time & The Conways, Concord Floral, Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead (University of Winnipeg). Hera is also a singer-songwriter & has recorded her original music, which is available on Spotify and Apple Music. I PROPOSE WE NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN AFTER TONIGHT is Hera's first film.



Kristian Jordan (Simon)

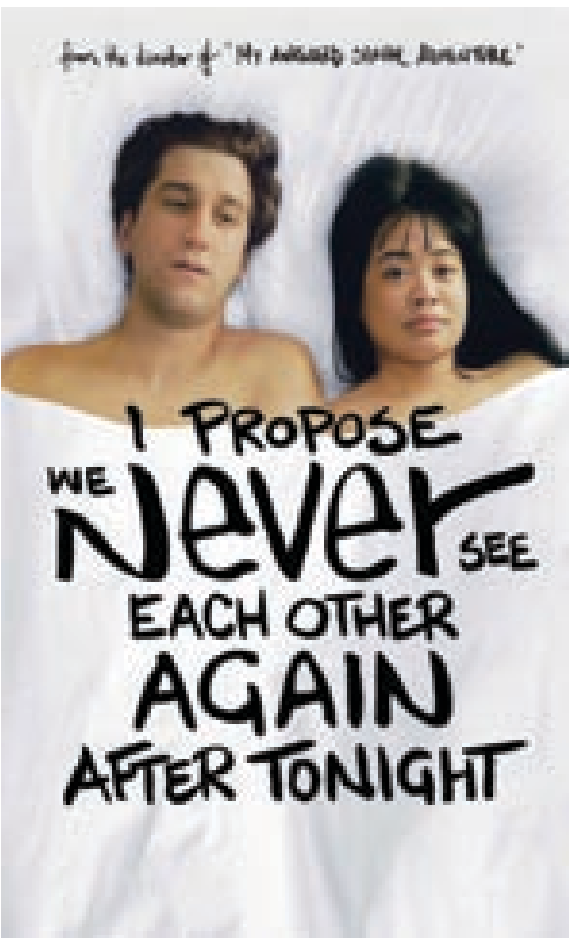
Kristian Jordan is a Winnipeg-based actor/playwright/creator, and a graduate of the University of Winnipeg honours program for performance. As an actor in theatre he has worked for many of the professional stages across Winnipeg, including the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, and Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, Shake- speare in the Ruins, and has had the opportunity to perform in schools and communities across Northern Manitoba and Ontario on five regional tours. He recently appeared as Romeo in Romeo and Juliet (SIR), and Wilf in Prairie Nurse (PTE). He is a member of the Emerging Playwrights Unit with Prairie Theatre Exchange and the Manitoba Association of Playwrights. His most recent script, Red Earth, was written with playwright Rick Chafe and produced by One Trunk Theatre and Theatre Projects Manitoba. His recent screen credits include Burden of Truth and JT Leroy.



Andrea Macasaet (Agnes)

Currently starring in “SIX The Musical” on Broadway, I Propose We Never See Each Other After Tonight is Andrea’s first film. She previously starred in SIX at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater; the American Repertory Theater; The Citadel Theatre and The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Canada and graduated from CCPA (Victoria, Canada), some of her previous theatre credits include: Canadian productions of HEATHERS THE MUSICAL, AVENUE Q, MISS SAIGON, and PRAIRIE NURSE.

Cast	played by:
Hera Nalam	Iris DelaCruz
Kristian Jordan	Simon Friesen
Andrea Macasaet	Agnes DelaCruz
Matthew Gord	Paris- Irvine
Mithusela Mallari	Reyna DelaCruz
Elmer Aquino	Arthur DelaCruz
Aaron Pridham	Justin
Joy Reyes	Mariel Mendoza
Yasmin Reyes	Jane Mendoza
Joanne Roberts	very tired actress
Omar Sameuls	Tim Kim Van Vliet



Morden Librarian Crew	
Sean Garrity	Director / Producer / Editor /
Writer	
Nick Christie	Producer / Production Manage-
ment	
Andrew Forbes	Cinematography
Darren Wall	Visual Effects
Robert K. Laurie	Production Design
Murray Pulver	Original Score
Crew	
Sean Garrity	Director / Producer / Editor /
Writer	
Nick Christie	Producer / Production Manage-
ment	
Andrew Forbes	Cinematography
Darren Wall	Visual Effects
Robert K. Laurie	Production Design
Murray Pulver	Original Score

Synopsis
In the depths of Winnipeg winter, when everyone covers their faces in scarves and balaclavas to protect them from the cold, Iris mistakes Simon for someone she knows. This initiates an energetic, fun, sexy affair – complete with all the passion and intensity of a 20- something infatuation. But when it starts to feel like real love, Simon gets freaked out, and decides to take a step back

to get perspective – by leaving town for a few weeks. Iris interprets “let’s take a break” like most of us would, and downloads an app to hook up with a bunch of other people. Then, when Simon returns, earnest in his rekindled love for Iris, he discovers she’s been unfaithful, and is devastated. He takes off. When she goes looking for him, and starts seeing other people in Simon’s life, she finds out she doesn’t know him anywhere near as well as she thought she did.

The I Propose We Never See Each Other After Tonight uses real language as a doorway into the interior worlds of the characters – a way into their pain and their joy. In collaboration with the Filipino cast, it was a delight mixing English and Filipino into a spicy “Taglish” - typical not only of Filipino homes in North America. The combination of native language and English is also typical in most multi-lingual immigrant homes. Hopefully, the audiences recognize it from their childhood experiences visiting their friends whose parents came from Hungary or Hong Kong or Honduras – or, indeed, from the experiences of their own homes. Sean Garrity was able to set out with all actors and characters to speak like real people and react with authentic emotions to real situations, and to communicate with style that carry the stamp of the time and place when this movie was made. While I Propose We Never See Each Other After Tonight is an entertaining, fun, sexy romantic comedy - meant to connect emotionally with audiences; especially millennials and the so-called Generation Z, it also sets out to subvert the tropes of the genre to which it purports to adhere. Produced by Sean Garrity & Nick Christie Director of Photography - Andrew Forbes Production Designer - Robert K. Laurie Original Music - Murray Pulver Picture Editor – Sean Garrity Casting - Carmen Kotyk & Lori Stefaniuk Art Director - Jason Wilkins Visual Effects Supervisor - Darren Wall Sound Design - Andy Rudol:

Show times:	
Friday, March 20, 2020-	7:00 p.m 9:15 p.m
Saturday, March 21, 2020-	7:00 p.m 9:15 p.m
Sunday, March 22,	2:20 p.m 4:40 p.m
	7:00 p.m
Monday . March 23	6:30 p.m
Tuesday, March 24,	5:30 p.m 7:50 p.m
Wednesday, March 25	6:30 p.m
Thursday, March 26	6:30 p.m

Bedbugs Films
307 Oxford Street
Winnipeg, MB, R3M 3H9
Canada
Tel: +1(204)510-8728 Fax: +1(425)955-3693
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