

# GLITCH HITS DEGAMO MURDER CASE AS 4 SUSPECTS RECANT

## Remulla, prosecutors play down Turnabout; Teves still in hiding

By ALFRED GABOT, Editor in Chief

MANILA – Four of the 10 former soldiers charged in the killing of Negros Oriental Gov. Roel Degamo and nine others in the family compound in Pamplona town have recanted their testimonies in what appeared to a setback to the prosecution even as suspected mastermind Rep. Arnolfo Teves Jr. continued hiding abroad.

►Page 9

## New docu film on success of Asian American entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley shown soon

By Jun Nucum

**DOCUMENTARY FILM**  
**“BUILDERS OF THE SILICON DREAM”**  
 — A docuseries about Silicon Valley Asian Americans —

**FEATURED ENTREPRENEURS**

**FEATURED SCHOLARS AND LEADERS**

Dr. David Tsang  
Leader in the semiconductor industry

Dr. Kenneth Fong  
Founder & Chairman of Kenzen Ventures, LLC

Dr. Hsing Kung  
Managing Partner of Acorn Campus Ventures

Dr. Hsu Ta-Lin  
Chairman & Founder HSG Asia Pacific

Dr. Rose Tseng

Dr. Chenming Hu

Dr. AnnaLee Saxenian

Even Low  
Assembly member

DINGDING TV HIMALAYA ENTERTAINMENT

Director & Producer: Tony Shyu Co-Producer & Publisher: Diana Weiping Ding

SAN JOSE - A new documentary film that highlights how Asian American pioneers leverage their education, hard work, cultural values, and organizational skills to shape and

►Page 24

## Sound advice from NYC’s former first lady

By Gilda P. Balan, Correspondent

NEW YORK - Not too long ago, the wife of then New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said something that makes more and more sense as the current wave of Asian hate continues unabated.

Chirlane McCray – who is married to De Blasio but prefers to use her maiden name – told her fellow New Yorkers to do more than speak out against racial hate. She said

## Marcos may have committed 2 illegal acts as Agri secretary?

By Beting Laygo Dolor, Editor

MANILA -- A senior undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) admitted to a Senate hearing at the start of this week that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. not only broke the law, but may have also engaged in a possible corrupt practice.

Agriculture Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, who served as DA Secretary several decades ago, said that Marcos – who currently serves as head

►Page 7

### Upside

## United behind elder care

By Cherie M. Querol Moreno



Consul Gen. NEIL FERRER



Supervisor DAVID CANEPA



Fmr. VP LENI ROBREDO



DR. JEI AFRICA

PHILIPPINE NEWS TODAY is standing shoulder to shoulder with Positively Filipino, the Philippine Consulate General, the City of South

San Francisco, and San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services in strengthening lifelines for older adults.

►Page 11

## San Mateo County Fair Returns to Town: Where Tradition Meets Innovation

►Page 19

**San Mateo County Fair**  
 June 3-11, 2023  
 Where Tradition Meets Innovation

## Inferno razes iconic Manila Post Office P2

## Enrile’s daughter named CEZA head with Cabinet rank P2

**VIEWES & COMMENTS**

**When does a child born abroad becomes a U.S. Citizen?**

By Atty. Lozano Page 14

**SHOWBIZ**

**Coco Martin, Julia Montes finally admit relationship**

Page 16



**SPORTS**

**SEA Games medalists are shoo-in for Asian Games**

Page 21

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

**\$1.00= P55.67**

May 25, 2023 2:30am

# Philippine News TODAY

Philippine News Today is published weekly by Philippines Today LLC with business and editorial offices at 156 South Spruce Ave Ste 205 South San Francisco CA 94080 Phone no . 650-872-3200 E-fax # 650-745-1442 and website address www.pnewstoday.com and email address advertising@philippinestodayus.com or editor@philippinestodayus.com  
MANILA OFFICE: Le Marquis Townhomes, 51 P. Tuazon Blvd. Quezon City 1112, Tels. 8546.8426, 8451.1892, 8546.8421

## FRANCIS ESPIRITU

Publisher/President

THELMA L. CRUZ

Vice President

for Operations & Promotions

ALFRED G. GABOT

Editor-in-chief

CLAIRE M. TRUE

Managing Editor

MARILYN B. KING

Vice President  
for Sales and Marketing

BETING LAYGO DOLOR

Manila Editor

JUNNI RANILLO

Entertainment Editor

NEIL GONZALES

Chief Correspondent  
Northern California

LYDIA SOLIS

Chief Correspondent  
Southern California

JO ERLINDA YABUT

Entertainment Editor

ANGELO LOPEZ

Cartoonist

MA. CECILIA G. MADELO

Graphic Director

THOMAS G. MADELO JR.

Creative Director

ELEANOR SMITH

Office Manager

GILDA PASION BALAN

FRANCO G. REGALA

ALI MACABALANG

JEANNE MICHAEL PENARANDA

Manila Correspondents

BLESIE D. SISON

ALBERT MARTINEZ

RENE AMON

Account Executives

NICK SAGMIT

GEORGE GANGE

RENE AVENIDO

Photo Correspondents

VAL G. ABELGAS, HOMOBONO A. ADAZA, PERRY DIAZ, JOJO LIANGCO, JO ERLINDA G. NEBRES, ROY C. MABASA, ART G. MADLAING, FR. JOEPEL PADIT, RODEL E. RODIS, LOURDES TANCINCO ESQ, MELANDREW T. VELASCO, DANTES & CYNTHIA VELUZ, CRISTINA OSMENA, LUDY ONGKEKO.

COLUMNISTS

The views and opinions expressed herein by writers, columnists and advertisers are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, management and staff of Philippines Today. We are not responsible for incorrect printing, photographic errors or information listed or for loss or damage of unsolicited manuscripts. Reproduction or redistribution in whole or in part is prohibited.

## EDITORIAL

### Where are the adults in the executive and legislative branches of government?

It is a scary thought that the US may go into default because the Republican controlled House is playing a game of one-upmanship with President Joe Biden. Indeed, a more honestly brutal description would be a pissing contest that has Speaker Kevin McCarthy taking the stand of the extremists within his party, when there are actually those who still speak with a voice of reason within the GOP.

Even if the current Speaker were to get his wishes, it's almost a dead certainty that the Democrat-controlled Senate will just as quickly reject his proposed formula.

That's if he gets his way and Joe Biden unexpectedly caves in to his demands, which is doubtful.

Those extremists within the Republican Party, AKA MAGA Republicans, must have heard their spiritual leader Donald Trump's recent statement that a default is an eventuality, so might as well let it happen now.

This is a dangerous belief as it would weaken the position of the US as the world's best example of how to run a government. A default – no matter how shortlived – would send the worst possible signal to the allies of the US that the elected leaders of the country have become hopelessly mired in political mudslinging rather than working together like grown-ups to face and resolve a most serious matter.

It must start with the premise that there is a solution that is acceptable, if not to all then at least to most. On both sides of the aisle. With that belief, it will only take a small amount of diplomacy exercised by both sides to hammer out an acceptable formula.

Unfortunately, the long-held belief that finance and economics are precise sciences has been disproven many times over. There is no one formula on what works and what doesn't, especially where governance is concerned.

Perhaps it may be said that macroeconomics is evolving, or is a work in progress. What worked in the storied past may no longer apply now, and what was rejected before may be an idea whose time is now.

The Republicans say that excessive government spending must be curbed makes perfect sense. But so too does the Democrat's core belief that the more a country's economy grows, the greater the need to regulate businesses.

After all, left to its own devices, Big Business will always work on the principle that profits come first. Anything and everything can or may be done to maximize profits, for as long as no laws are broken. In actual practice, some industries actually engage in practices that are both immoral and illegal. Big Pharma is one example.

But this is a debate best engaged at another time. For now, it is in essence a battle between one side insisting on spend, spend, spend, while the other side wants to save, save, save.

And no, this is not as simplistic as it sounds.

But to be perfectly clear, if the US exhausts its ability to pay its debts due to a borrowing cap that Congress imposes, there will be hell to pay.

Worst of all, this will be an economic disaster that is largely self-imposed.

We believe that all problems have solutions. Some good, some bad, and some just about right. To our elected leaders, we say: Find that middle ground, why don't you?

### United behind elder care

(From page 1)

They are co-presenting "Our Family, Our Future," an education program and resource fair 2-4 pm, Saturday, June 17, at the SSF Municipal Services Building on 33 Arroyo Dr., South San Francisco. The event launches the 20th anniversary of organizer ALLICE Alliance for Community Empowerment Kumares & Kumpares, the Filipino American-initiated nonprofit dedicated to promoting healthy interaction through education.

Consul General Neil Frank Ferrer and San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa will deliver the keynote address from the Philippine and local perspectives. Angat Buhay (Uplift Lives) founder and former PH Vice President Leni Robredo will reinforce the importance of education to empowerment.

For the team's first in-person gathering since the pandemic, San Mateo County Health System BHRS Director Dr. Jei Africa, who is also ALLICE clinical director, will highlight the issue of anti-Asian hate spurred by scapegoating of the community for the spread of COVID19. Peninsula Family Service Filipino peer counseling coordinator Tessie Madrinan will present the 9 Acts of Kindness to Empower Older Adults.

The event will recognize Aurea Cruz, Cynthia Bonta, Conrad Gamboa, Perla Ibarrientos, Peter and Estelle Chan as Grand Agers, or models of meaningful longevity for their continued community service with passion and commitment.

Members of Kaiser Permanente Filipino Association will conduct health exams. Twenty-five community-based family resource providers will be on hand to consult on their programs. Refreshments will be served. A raffle drawing will immediately follow the program.

#### WHY JUNE?

June is a special month. Fathers and graduates everywhere are celebrated and congratulated for their achievements on the 6th month of the year. It is Pride Month, recalling the struggle for equality of the LGBT+ community. In 2014, Immigrant Heritage Month was designated to contemplate and celebrate the contributions of immigrants to our shared American history.

On June 12, Filipinos all over the world celebrate independence from Spain. Juneteenth, short for June 19th, honors the emancipation of the enslaved people in the United States.

"It's therefore fitting that we gather at this time to learn ways to promote freedom from isolation and abuse, because independence is empowerment," says South San Francisco Mayor Flor Nicolas, ALLICE 2023 co-president with Junior Flores, program director of Asian American Recovery Service – Healthright 360.

More to the point of the event, June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, shining the light on resources to promote a better understanding of the needs of older adults. Launched by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations, the occasion opens opportunities to raise awareness of abuse and neglect, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse.

(Continued on page 26)

### Why do people get married?

Why do people get married?

The other day, at the dinner table in Vacaville, California, the subject of marriage was brought up, prompting my grandson to ask: "Why do people get married?"

I think he meant : why should people get married , given the current "acceptable" practice of couples living in together and enjoying the benefits of marriage without the legal papers to do so.

In the Philippines, I have heard macho men declare: "Why buy the whole cow when one can get parts of it and still retain one's freedom?"

" Why people marry " does not apply to practicing Catholics who consider marriage a sacrament .

Marriage, to them, is for life and is for companionship and procreation.

For many unmarried people today, I venture to answer the question of why people need to get married.

First, people get married for exclusivity and security. Once married, the partners declare to all and sundry that they are one, which gives them a sense of security in the relationship.

Second, they get married for financial reasons. Two can cope with expenses better than one.

Third, for those who want to raise a family, they marry for stability , for their children to grow up with both parents.

Fourth, they marry for companionship, to have someone with whom to share joys and sorrows.

Fifth, people get married , to get the approval of society , which expects a monogamous relationship, unlike the common beasts who have multiple partners.

Last but not least, couples marry for love, certain that life would not be worth living without each other, warts and all.

I hope I have adequately answered the query: why marry?



CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO



# PG&E Safety Tip for California Graduates: Keep Balloons Secure During Celebrations

## Power Outages from Wayward Balloons Can Put a Damper on Graduation Celebrations

OAKLAND, Calif.— From mid May to mid June, California’s graduation season is in full swing and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is warning customers about the public safety risks associated with helium-filled metallic balloons. If your graduation celebration involves balloons, make sure they are secured with a weight. Otherwise they can float away and come into contact with overhead power lines, causing a public safety risk.

In the first four months of 2023, metallic balloons striking electric lines have caused 91 power outages in PG&E’s service area, disrupting service to more than 35,000 customers. These power outages can interrupt electric service to critical facilities such as hospitals, schools and traffic lights.

“Graduation season is a happy time for California students and families, filled with school commencements and celebrations. But the mass balloon releases we often see at graduation ceremonies can quickly put a damper on the fun. When metallic balloons make contact with power lines, they can cause widespread power outages. We urge everyone to celebrate responsibly and secure metallic balloons with a weight,” said Aaron Johnson, Vice President for PG&E’s Bay Area Region.

Metallic balloons have a silvery coating, which is a conductor for electricity. If the balloons float away and make contact with power lines, they can short transformers, cause power outages and melt electrical wires, causing public safety risks. A few years ago, more than 6,000 San Francisco customers were without power after metallic balloons released during a graduation ceremony came into contact with overhead power lines. PG&E tends to see an increase in balloon-caused outages during graduation season.

To help ensure that graduation balloon celebrations are enjoyed responsibly, PG&E reminds customers to follow these important balloon safety tips:

“Look Up and Live!” Use caution and avoid celebrating with metallic balloons near overhead electric lines.

Make sure helium-filled metallic balloons are securely tied to a weight that is heavy enough to prevent them from floating away. Never remove the weight.

When possible, keep metallic balloons indoors. Never permit metallic balloons to be released outside, for everyone’s safety.

Do not bundle metallic balloons together. Never attempt to retrieve any type of balloon, kite or toy that becomes caught in a power line. Leave it alone, and immediately call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000 to report the problem.

Never go near a power line that has fallen to the ground or is dangling in the air. Always assume downed electric lines are energized and extremely dangerous. Stay far away, keep others away and immediately call 911 to alert the police and fire departments. Other tips can be found at [pge.com/beprepared](http://pge.com/beprepared)

### About PG&E

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is a combined natural gas and electric utility serving more than 16 million people across 70,000 square miles in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit [pge.com](http://pge.com) and [pge.com/news](http://pge.com/news).

## PH CONSULATE JOINS PMSNC ON ITS 51ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, INDUCTS NEW OFFICERS AS MED SOCIETY REVIEWS ACCOMPLISHMENTS 23 May 2023

The Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco joined the Philippine Medical Society of Northern California (PMSNC) in celebrating its 51st founding anniversary at the Hilton Hotel in Oakland, California on 20 May 2023.

The gathering saw the new set of PMSNC officers inducted into office by Deputy Consul General Raquel R. Solano. The event also included the change of command and turn-over

ceremony for PMSNC’s outgoing president Dr. Narciso Thad Padua and incoming president, Dr. Mark Gonzalgo, as well as the awarding of scholarships to deserving Fil-Am medical students. Dr. Padua, outgoing PMSNC president, thanked the medical society members, volunteers, and donors, for their dedication and support in providing medical services to needy communities, citing, in particular, PMSNC’s



ALLICE Kumares & Kumpares Alliance for Community Empowerment  
in collaboration with Positively Filipino, Philippine News Today,  
San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services,  
the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco and the City of South San Francisco  
invite you to our

# Our Family Our Future

14<sup>th</sup> Annual

A free and open-to-the-public event to promote elder care,  
prevent elder abuse and address Asian hate attacks

2:00–4:00 p.m. | Saturday, June 17, 2023  
SSF Municipal Services Building  
33 Arroyo Drive, South San Francisco, CA 94080

**KEYNOTE**  
Hon. Neil Ferrer, Philippine Consul General in San Francisco  
Hon. David J. Canepa, District 5 Representative,  
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

**MESSAGE**  
Hon. Leni Robredo, Former Vice President of the Philippines;  
Founder, Angat Buhay (Uplift Lives)

**PRESENTATIONS**  
*9 Acts of Kindness to Empower Older Adults*  
Ms. Tessie Madrinan, Coordinator, Peninsula Family  
Service Filipino Peer Counseling Program

**Safety Tips for those Witnessing or Experiencing  
Hate Incidences**  
Dr. Jei Africa, Director, San Mateo County Behavioral  
Health and Recovery Services

**RECOGNITION**  
*Grand Agers:* Aurea Cruz, Conrad Gamboa, Cynthia Bonta,  
Perla Ibarrientos, Peter & Estrelle Chan

- Free health exams by Kaiser Permanente Filipino Association
- Light refreshments will be served
- Free raffle drawing follows the program; must be present to win
- Family and Health Service Providers will be present to address questions:  
Adult Protective Services San Francisco, Aging and Disability Resource Center San Francisco, Asian American Recovery Services/Healthright 360, San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Catholic Charities Adult Day Care Services, Colma Police Department, Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse, Daly City HART, Peninsula Family Service, Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco, Kaiser Permanente Filipino Association, National Alliance on Mental Illness, North East Medical Services, Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County, Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center, Pilipino Senior Resource Center-San Francisco, Rape Trauma Services, San Mateo County Aging and Adult Services, San Mateo County Commission on Aging, SamTrans, Self-Help for the Elderly, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, South San Francisco Police Department, South San Francisco Women’s Club

ALLICE is an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to promoting healthy interaction by education through shared resources since 2003.

latest medical mission in the Philippines, in the town of Santa Barbara, Pangasinan in January 2023, where close to 6,000 patients were provided with medical services.

Newly inducted PMSNC president Dr. Mark Gonzalgo reiterated PMSNC’s commitment towards medical mission, community service, and scholarship program. He noted the importance of fostering long-lasting ties with recipient communities and the need to explore ways to ensure continuity of care.

In her remarks during the occasion, DCG Raquel Solano congratulated the Medical Society on its anniversary and expressed confidence in the ability of the new set of officers to rise to the challenge of leadership and service. In line with PMSNC’s request, she talked about the work of a diplomat, emphasizing the multiple roles that diplomats play to protect and promote the interests of their country in the world

community. She indicated the need among individuals and organizations, and at the level of nations, for knowledge-sharing, building partnership and cooperation, embracing diversity, and promoting inclusive development. She also thanked PMSNC for doing its part in contributing towards these ends, and in making a difference in the lives of other people.

PMSNC provides medical services to underserved communities in the Philippines and in the Bay Area, offers scholarship and mentorship to aspiring doctors, as well as conducts community outreach activities. In 2021, PMSNC partnered with the Consulate in the conduct of health education and screening activities dubbed, “Health Day sa Konsulado.” PMSNC also held in 2022 a similar event titled, “Kababayan Health Day” at the Filipino Community Center of Santa Clara County.

## Upside...

(From Page 11)

Seven years from now, nearly 1 in 4 residents of San Mateo County will be age 65 and older. The number includes Filipino Americans who are among the most populous communities of color. So for past 13 years, ALLICE Alliance for Community Empowerment has focused on the increasing needs of the

aging population around May, Older Americans Month, and June, as one of its two standing major events.

In October, the team formed in the winter of 2003 to demystify intimate partner abuse, debunk myths and provide information on resources to foster safe and healthy

relationships, underscores those very points. In the fall, they will commemorate two decades of spreading the positive dynamics with a gala get-together honoring survivors, stakeholders and allies. For more information, visit [www.allicekumares.com](http://www.allicekumares.com) or see psa in this issue.