

**Front page of the Filipino Reporter. Issue # 4; Dec. 31, 2010-Jan. 6, 2011**

Written by Special to the Filipino Reporter  
Thursday, 30 December 2010 20:47

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PEACE & PROSPERITY IN 2011 !

CELEBRATING  
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# Filipino Reporter

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**TO THE RESCUE:** Three young Filipinos in Jersey City, N.J., armed with shovels, helped stranded motorists when a post-Christmas blizzard hammered the East Coast, dumping 28 inches of snow in metro New York with winds gusting to 65 mph on Monday. The three volunteers, all students from Jersey City, are (from left) Cathryn Purios, 13, Peter Paul Purios, 14, and Randolph Purios, 19. Weather report on page 3. *Filipino Reporter photo by Rose Sori*

## Fil-Am family gets \$10-M in crash suit

LOS ANGELES — Toyota Motor Corp. has agreed to settle for \$10 million a lawsuit over a deadly San Diego freeway car crash in August 2009 that claimed the lives of four family members — three of them Filipino-Americans — and drew national attention to the issue of sudden acceleration in its vehicles.



**TOYOTA CRASH VICTIMS:** From left, Mark Saylor, Mahala Manda Saylor and Cleofe Lastrella Saylor.

The settlement with relatives of the late Cleofe Lastrella Saylor, 45; her brother Christopher Lastrella, 38; Cleofe's daughter Mahala Manda Saylor, 13; as well as Cleofe's husband, California Highway Patrol Officer Mark

Saylor, 45, was disclosed in September, but the amount Toyota paid was not released then.

The Lastrellas, who lived in Chula Vista, were originally from Camarines Sur,

Philippines. According to a *Los Angeles Times* report, Toyota and the families had tried to keep the amount secret, but that request was denied by a Superior Court. Turn to page 8

### TOP 10 STORIES

## Fatal hostage-taking PH top story in 2010

The hostage standoff that resulted in the death of eight Hong Kong tourists and strained the relations between Manila and the former British colony, the double victory of boxing champ Manny Pacquiao on the Texas ring, and the saga of senator-turned fugitive Panfilo Lacson dominated the biggest stories in the Philippines for 2010.

Here are the top 10 news stories that figured well this year, as compiled by the *Filipino Reporter*.

### Reporter

#### \* MANILA HOSTAGE CRISIS.

Disgruntled Philippine National Police senior inspector Rolando Mendoza hijacked a tourist bus in Rizal Park on Aug. 23 in an attempt to get his job back. On board were 25 people (20 tourists and a tour guide, all from Hong Kong, and four Filipinos). After over 10 hours of standoff, eight of the hostages and Mendoza were Turn to page 12



**HOSTAGE STANDOFF:** Philippine police storm a hijacked bus with tourists visiting from Hong Kong.



DR. ARAFLES

## Arafles arrested in Texas

KERMIT, Texas — The tables have been turned.

Dr. Rolando G. Arafles Jr., the West Texas Fil-Am physician who triggered the criminal prosecution and firing of two nurses who filed an anonymous complaint against him for improper medical practices, have been arrested and charged with malpractice. Turn to page 6



DR. LANTING

## S.J. doctor's house yields cash & silver

Investigations allegedly found more than \$100,000 in cash and silver last month when they raided the home and office of a Staten Island, N.Y. doctor accused of running an oxycodone pill mill.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents seized about \$37,000 in currency and 100 silver bars weighing Turn to page 6

## Fil-Am Navy lt. cmdr. leaps to death at PH airport

MANILA — A U.S. Navy officer jumped to his death at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) after he was arrested on Sunday with what was thought to be cocaine, Philippine officials said on Tuesday, but tests later showed the white powder wasn't an illegal drug.

Lt. Cmdr. Scimar Buenavista Mejia died of head injuries the following day after jumping from a second-floor staircase at NAIA's Police Center for Aviation Security Office while a security guard escorted him to the bathroom, aviation police chief Pedro Desasido said.

The 35-year-old Mejia, a U.S. citizen of Filipino descent, was arrested at an airport X-ray Turn to page 8

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