

Belize's leading newspaper

BNTU: touch one, touch all

BNTU to remove its accounts from Belize Bank in solidarity with CWU; calls on sister unions to do the same.

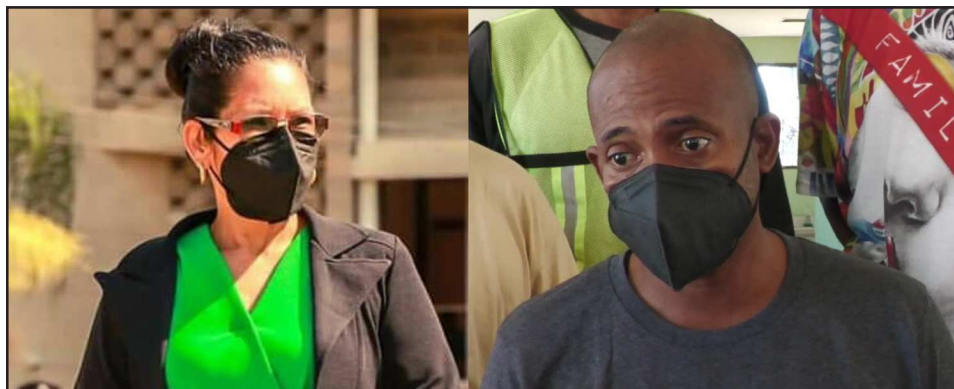
BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

The Belize National Teachers Union (BNTU) has decided to close all its accounts at the Belize Bank and to get its banking done at other financial institutions to indicate its solidarity with its sister union, the Christian Workers Union (CWU), which is facing a lawsuit brought by the employer of the stevedores who belong to the union, the Port of Belize Ltd., which is suing several members of the union's negotiating team and also seeking to prevent a payout from

the government to the stevedores. The entity which reportedly controls the finances and decisionmaking at PBL is said to be the same entity which is the proprietor of Belize Bank, the domestic bank with the hugest share of the banking market here in Belize.

The case, which goes back before Justice Lisa Shoman on Wednesday of this week, is an attempt to block the government from paying out \$1.5 million dollars to over a hundred

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Elena Smith - BNTU national president and Evan Mose Hyde - president, CWU

Janelle Chanona is new NGO Senator

"The commitment that I've made to the membership, and that I reiterate now, is that the voice of senator representing the NGO community will always be that of its membership and then when I say membership, not just those formally working in the NGO sector, but all of those NGOs doing NGO work."



Janelle Chanona - OCEANA vice president and NGO senator

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Mar. 13, 2022

The members of the Belize Network of NGOs (BNN) convened on Friday, March 11, and elected Janelle Chanona to be their next representative in the Senate

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Bus Association calls off strike



Thomas Shaw - President, Belize Bus Association

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

Today, the president of the Belize Bus Association (BBA), Thomas Shaw, announced that the strike which was being planned by the bus operators who are members of the association is currently on hold following a 5-hour meeting between the association and the Ministry of Transport on Saturday, March 12. He said that during that extended session, the Minister of Transport, Hon.

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Churches oppose marijuana legalization



by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

The National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB) along with its associate churches has, once again, issued a press release expressing its opposition to the legalization of marijuana and the recently revised cannabis regulations (the Cannabis Control and Licensing

Bill 2022) set to be presented in the House of Representatives this week.

In the release, the NEAB cites the potential for the involvement of drug cartels in the event that the proposed marijuana industry becomes a profitable business, stating,

"We are sounding the warning that this is opening a door to influences that, once they are in, will be near impossible to remove from Belize."

The NEAB also referenced the nearby Mexican Riviera Maya, where drug cartel conflicts have endangered the lives of locals and tourists alike.

"From when the previous

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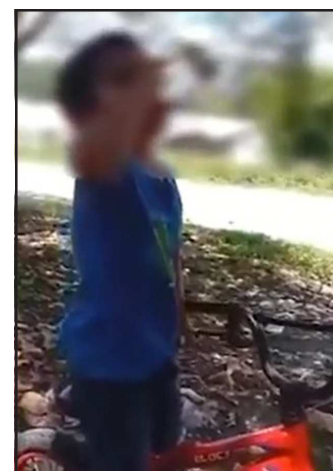
Child Protective Services takes child seen drinking in video from mother

According to the five-year-old's mother, the persons filming him are his cousins, and their names have already been turned over to the police

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

Two viral videos of a five-year-old **Please turn to ▶ Page 15**



Fire victim beaten by neighbors on Jasmine Street

(See story on page 4)

Tracy will run!

The widowed aspirant for the post of leader of the UDP laid her late husband, Herbert Panton, to rest this past week and will proceed with her bid for leadership at a March 27 UDP convention without delay.



Hon. Tracy Panton—UDP leader aspirant

greater good of our Party and, more importantly, the greater good of Belize. In life, there should be no ‘what if’s’.”

The convention is set to be held exactly 13 days from today. According to reports, Roosevelt Blades, Hon. Panton’s campaign manager, has confirmed that she will proceed without any delay for grieving. (Panton said that she is sure it is what her late husband would have wanted.)

She is now asking for the support of the delegates of the party who will make the final decision on March 27.

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

The sudden and untimely death of Herbert Panton, UDP stalwart and husband of UDP Albert area representative, Hon. Tracy Panton, took the nation and the already fragile opposition party by surprise. Last week, the party faithful, along with Panton’s loved ones, mourned his passing, and his remains were laid to rest by his family.

Subsequent to his burial, Hon. Panton stated in a post published on Facebook on Saturday, March 12, “I have made the decision to continue to pursue the leadership of the United Democratic Party at a Special Convention that will be convened on Sunday, March 27, 2022. My bid to become the next UDP Party Leader is a firm commitment I made 6 weeks ago and it is a commitment I intend to see through. This decision is not about me. It is about serving the

“Together, we must look ahead to the future. We must walk shoulder to shoulder in this Movement for a stronger more cohesive United Democratic Party and for a better Belize. I humbly ask for your continued support. Belize needs strong, competent, experienced, and compassionate leadership. THE TIME IS NOW. We owe it to ourselves and to all Belizeans,” Hon. Panton further stated in her Facebook post.

She took the opportunity to thank all those who showed their support during the family’s difficult time.

“I take this opportunity on behalf of my family to thank you for the outpouring of love and support we are receiving at this most difficult time. Your friendship and thoughtfulness help to lift us up. ONWARD!!!” she said at the end of the post.

PM Briceño receives honorary doctorate in Taiwan

While on a 5-day visit to Taiwan, the Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, received an honorary doctorate from Kun Shan University.



Hon. John Briceño - Prime Minister of Belize, receives honorary doctorate from Taiwanese university

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

Last week, the Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, visited the Republic of China, Taiwan, where he received the Order of Propitious Clouds with Special Grand Cordon from the Taiwanese government. After receiving that honor, on Friday, March 11, Prime Minister Briceño also received an honorary doctorate from Kun Shan University, located in Tainan.

“Such an honor!” expressed Prime Minister Briceño via social media after the conferral of the honorary degree. “Tainan is a city with the longest history and earliest cultural roots in Taiwan, boasting a stunning natural landscape and well-known agricultural and fishery products and

cuisine. Tainan is also famous for its sugar industry, with similarity to ‘Orange Walk’ — “Sugar City” of Belize and my hometown,” noted Prime Minister Briceño in the post.

Prime Minister Briceño traveled to Taiwan with a delegation that included Hon. Eamon Courtenay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration; Hon. Jose Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise; Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology; Ambassador Stuart Leslie, Cabinet Secretary; Mrs. Rossana Briceño, Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children; and Belizean Trade and Investment Ambassador, Jaime Briceño. By all indications, he and the delegation returned to the country on Saturday, March 12.

WHO discussing how and when to call an end to COVID-19 pandemic

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Mar. 13, 2022

Belize and many other countries have been slowly rolling back COVID-19 regulations in light of what currently appears to be a decreasing number of Covid-19 cases following the decline of the recent Omicron wave of the virus. The World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulation Emergency Committee on COVID-19 is currently discussing the next steps forward to determine what conditions should signal an end to the public health emergency first declared in January 2020.

The committee, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is made up of public health experts who are currently in discussion on how and when the world can call an end to the pandemic, but it has made it clear that such a declaration is not yet being considered, despite the ever-lower number of cases worldwide.

Any new recommended steps emerging from those discussions would signify a meaningful move toward ending the pandemic and

would trigger a rollback of more public health regulations that had been put in place to minimize the impact of the virus.

The pandemic, however, is still very much ongoing, with 10 million cases being reported in the last week, and 52,000 fatalities also recently recorded. Some Asian countries are seeing a surge of infections, with a

spike of deaths being recorded in Hong Kong, and 1,000 plus cases being recorded in China last week, for the first time in two years.

Experts say the disease is likely to continue to cause deaths in the thousands each year, even if cases reach lower levels – and the potential for new and dangerous variants is an unpredictable reality.

The level of population immunity—the percentage of a population that has antibodies to fight the disease, either as a result of infection or vaccination, or both—will be a key metric in the decision to lift the global emergency declaration. Ultimately, the decision will be made by WHO’s Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus after he consults with the experts on the committee.

The goal of herd immunity, seen as the saving grace at the start of the pandemic, is now being viewed as “extremely unlikely,” since vaccinations for the virus do not in all cases prevent infection, and infection does not prevent repeated bouts of the virus, according to David Heymann, in an interview with *Bloomberg News*.

Heymann, a former epidemiologist for WHO and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, says many countries are now relying on national and regional data to guide their decision making, but are not ignoring the WHO.



Behave like a terrorist, get treated like one – COMPOL

According to Commissioner Chester Williams, the police will be responding aggressively to the raging gang warfare in the city, since mediations have, for the most part, failed.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 10, 2022

The increase in gang-related shootings across the city has led Commissioner of Police Chester Williams to announce that the police will be forgoing the method of mediation for much more aggressive and direct methods of dealing with feuding gang members.

The Police Commissioner recently told local media that, since attempts at dialogue have been failing, police officers in Belize City will be carrying out daily operations targeted at gang members. One such operation has resulted in the arrest of a 20-year-old believed to be responsible for the January 21st murder of Burrell Boom businessman Leslie Gillett.

On Thursday, March 10, at around 5:30 p.m., police went to the St. Martin De Porres area in search of the accused murderer. What resulted, according to Commissioner Williams, was an attack on the police by an angry mob which led to the police firing

rubber bullets in response. The person wanted in connection with the Burrell Boom murder, Earl Dean Baptist, was subsequently arrested along with his brother, Hubert Baptist, who had reportedly attempted to throw away a .45 caliber pistol and 60 rounds of ammunition, which were eventually recovered.

Since then, however, residents of the area have claimed that the police displayed an unnecessary amount of force and that they also fired unwarranted shots at two vehicles. In response to those claims, and to the surveillance videos that the residents have shared which show the entire incident, the Commissioner of Police remarked via Facebook that it merely shows the “difficult circumstances under which the police must work.”

“I call upon our citizens to be patient and supportive of our efforts as we try our best to ensure your safety. We cannot allow a hand full of criminals to hold us hostage in our community,” he wrote. And those are the same sentiments that the Commissioner

expressed to local media when he first spoke about the upcoming increase in special operations last week.

“We cannot continue to work with terrorists. Behave like terrorists, then you will be treated as one,” said the COMPOL, who noted that even some of the men who make an effort to attend mediation meetings held by police to ease tensions between gangs end up becoming gunmen at night.

According to Commissioner Williams, the string of shootings seen over the past few weeks are a direct result of an intense rivalry between George Street and Wagner’s Lane gangs that has expanded to include the PIV and Mayflower areas as well. This includes last week’s shooting near Logwood Street which proved fatal after four men from the PIV area were dropped off in the area to carry out an execution. The four were spotted by men from the area and this led to an exchange of gunfire which saw one of the would-be-executioners, 23-year-old Carrel Sanchez, shot



COMPOL Chester Williams

dead.

That failed ambush was an attempt at retaliation for the attempted murder of Patrick “Pato” Jones which occurred on Mopan Street last Monday night. Jones was shot at while driving, and his vehicle, which overturned during the attack, was extensively damaged.

According to some reports, Carrel Sanchez had just attended a mediation meeting last Tuesday—the same day that the Logwood Street shooting took place. And while the Commissioner expressed that he isn’t certain how true that is, he stated that he won’t stand for gang members thinking they can “take us [the police] for a ride.”

“While yes we do have some of them who are productive and are engaged in the ongoing arrangement that we have through the Multi-Agency Task Force, we will try our utmost best to keep those who are engaged and trying to change their life to do so, but at the same time we must go hard on those who continue to hold the people of the city hostage,” said Commissioner Williams.

“It seems as if some don’t want for us to work with them and they want to be working against us or against the law-abiding people of this country. And so operations will be conducted in Belize City every day,” he added, and further noted that he believes the people of the city have had enough.

The COMPOL says he was invited to a recent mediation meeting but declined. “I believe that I have spoken enough with these people. For me at this time it’s no more talking,” he said.

In addition to sparking an increase in special operations, the recent gang warfare has also prompted some changes in leadership. The police’s Eastern Division will soon be seeing the transferral of its leader, Senior Superintendent Suzette Anderson, who is being replaced by the former head of the Western Region, Assistant Commissioner of Police Howell Gillett.

While the Commissioner has said that there is no magic fix for the crime situation, the department will continue to do what it can for the safety and security of the people.

“We have to from time to time re-strategize, look at situations where we can put people where they can function at optimal... We believe it is best to have the senior ACP in the Eastern Division,” explained Williams, citing the dynamics and the large size of the division.

BBA seeks judicial review of Floralia Bus permit

The BBA has retained the services of Senior Counsel Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow and is seeking a stay on Floralia bus runs from Dangriga to Belize that are scheduled to start on Monday.

CITY OF BELMOPAN, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

After just four months and some days in operation, the newly formed bus company, Floralia, could be facing a judicial review of its road service permit – after a letter of notice of application for permission for such a review was forwarded to the chairman of the Belize Transport Board, Byron Sanchez, and other government officials by senior counsel Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, the attorney for the Belize Bus Association (BBA) and two major bus operators from the south, James Bus Line from Punta Gorda, and Griga Line from Dangriga. At this time, the bus operators are seeking a stay on an approved road service permit granted to Floralia to start doing runs from Dangriga to Belize City, a route that has traditionally

been the base of the two major operators. The new company, however, says that they met all requirements laid out by the Transport Board and were given approval after an arduous process.

Last week, the BBA threatened a national strike by all its members in response to the Ministry of Transport’s alleged reluctance to allow an increase of bus fares to offset the high price of fuel that is currently eating away at the bottomline of the bus operators. The applicants for the judicial review are saying Floralia was given permission to operate on their traditional routes without any consultation with, or consideration of, the established bus operators.

In December 2020, the company officially started its runs from Punta Gorda to Belize City, in direct conflict with the run already assigned to James

Bus Line, one of the applicants, which is a major bus operator from the south. The claimant is asserting that the decision to grant the permits was illegal and made without the application being presented/reviewed at meetings of the Transport Board, on which the BBA says they have a representative. They even claim that interested parties were not given ample time to submit objections, since the usual steps to gazette the approval were not followed.

So, the bus operators which have applied for the judicial review are suggesting that the permits were issued to the new bus operator under the cover of darkness, and thus, in the view of the claimants, the permits are illegal and should be quashed. As mentioned, the permit for the PG to Belize City run is already in effect, but approval was given to Floralia for a run from Dangriga to Belize, which is to commence today, Monday, March 14 – but the BBA and two major operators from the south are seeking to have the court grant a stay on the second permit, and prevent that run from beginning until the case is completed.

The owner and director of Floralia, Marvin Vanzie, in a local media appearance said that, in his view, the bus operators are motivated by fear of both the competition which Floralia buses bring to the industry, and a deadline put in place by the government for traditional operators to upgrade their bus fleets sometime this year.



Fire victim beaten by neighbors on Jasmine Street

(From page 1)



by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

A little after midnight on Friday, March 11, a 20-by-30-foot white cement bungalow home on Jasmine Street was damaged by fire, leaving reportedly five persons without a home.

Lincoln Vaughn, 67, was sleeping in his room when he was awakened by the flames that were inside of the home. Vaughn attempted to extinguish the flames, and during that attempt was burnt on various parts of his body, including his head, back, ears, and hands. He was able to exit the building, however, before receiving further

injuries.

Unconfirmed reports have indicated that five persons resided at the home: Vaughn, an elderly woman, and about two or three kids who were in the building at the time of the fire.

The Officer in Charge at the National Fire Service for the Belize District, Kenneth Mortis, has said that, although the cause of the fire is yet to be determined, he believes an electrical malfunction could have started the fire.

“We cannot directly say what caused the fire. The nature of this particular fire still [has] us a bit stumped, so to speak. We understand that the building did have electricity, contrary to the previous information received. We are

of the opinion that fire could have started as a result of an electrical flaw; the room itself poses as a fire load, and then the fire spread from there,” he noted.

Although the National Fire Service is still investigating the cause of the fire, arson hasn’t been ruled out yet. Mortis pointed out, however, that it would be difficult to determine why an individual would want to commit a malicious act towards an elderly man.

“The perplexing part of this is, you know, you’re looking at a 67-year-old; he should’ve been asleep, and we’re trying to figure out if this fire was a malicious act, what would’ve been the motive in trying to destroy this building and almost take the life of Mr. Vaughn. We are thankful that he’s up and on the way to recovery; however, that would be the final part of the puzzle that we need to put the pieces together in terms of who would want to start the fire and why,” Mortis said.

After exiting from the burning structure, Vaughn was reportedly beaten by his neighbors, and suffered a broken nose as a result of that beating.

“We know that he sustained damage to the nose. I think he broke his nose, and he had swelling to his face. Again,

it’s a very complicated situation, because what harm or what threat could a sixty-seven-year-old individual hold to the community? I was made to understand he’s well known by the neighbors in the Jasmine Street area. For whatever reason, these characters may have inflicted bodily harm on him. That is something we’re trying to determine ... we spent almost a majority of Saturday morning trying to gather as much information as we possibly can. However, it’s not something that anybody wants to come out and say, ‘well, this is what we know’. These are the types of situation that leave us in a limbo, and we just have to try to put the pieces together and see what we can come up with. Because, at the end of the day, we still need to figure out the reason why and the motive behind the beating, so those are the two factors that are up in the air that we cannot answer,” Mortis said.

Vaughn was transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for his injuries and was released sometime on Sunday.

The estimated cost of the damages to the home in which he lived is yet to be determined.

Budget presentation set for Tuesday



National Assembly

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Mar. 13, 2022

A special sitting of the House of Representatives, at which the 2022-2023 budget will be presented, is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. On Friday, the Office of the Clerk released a public notice announcing a reopening of one of the public galleries, with a limited seating capacity of 24 persons. Persons who desire to attend the sitting will have to ensure that they are vaccinated, have an ID card, and arrive very early, since persons will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis. Any item that is included on a list of prohibited items that has been a part of the protocol for House entry, will not be allowed inside the chambers. Any legal prohibited item will be held by officers upon inspection. And, of course, sanitization, wearing of face masks and physical distancing will all be required of those who sit inside the chambers of parliament.

Reports are that Alberto August, whom the chairman of the United Democratic Party has referred to as

“UDP chairman for life”, attempted, as a private citizen, to stage a protest at the steps of the National Assembly during Tuesday’s House meeting, but his request for permission to do so, which was sent in a letter to Commissioner of Police Chester Williams, was reportedly rejected by the COMPOL, who reportedly cited COVID-19 regulations as the reason for his refusal to grant such a permit. Reports are that the UDP has not decided to organize any protests at this time, so his attempt was an independent effort.

Of note, it is expected that the Government of Belize will include a \$1.5 million payment to the stevedores of the Port of Belize in the budget and will thus seek to obtain parliamentary approval for the disbursement prior to the hearing of a lawsuit brought by the Port of Belize that is based on a claim that parliamentary approval was not given for the payment. That case is scheduled to go to court on Wednesday, March 16.

Iguanas and hicatees being hunted illegally, says APAMO

The Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) urges Belizeans to abide by hunting regulations.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

The illegal hunting of iguanas and hicatee turtles has caught the attention of the Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) after a video showing persons catching these animals was circulated online. APAMO highlighted the importance of these types of animals to the local ecosystem in a press release that was issued on Friday, March 11.

“The Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) recognizes the value of all species to the environment, and highlights that some species are endangered and critically endangered – animals that have become so rare they are in danger of becoming extinct. This includes the Iguana (*Iguana iguana*), who are important seed dispersers for many native plants, and the Hicatee (*Dermatemys mawii*), who plays a critical role in the food web, both their protection is vital to the health of the ecosystem,” the press release noted.

The hunting of iguanas is traditionally done in March and April, since these are the months during which female iguanas carry their eggs. However, the season during which iguanas can be caught, has been closed since February 1, and will reopen on June 30.

The hicatee, a freshwater turtle, is another critically endangered species that is protected under the Belize Fisheries Act, and the season for



Hicatee turtles

hunting this animal—May 1 to May 31 – is also currently closed. Additional legislation prohibits possession of more than three turtles at any one time; as well as fishing for female turtles greater than 43cm (16 inches) or smaller than 38cm (14 inches) in length. It is also illegal to sell or purchase these turtles, and to transport more than five such turtles in any vehicle.

The release from APAMO concludes, “The overhunting and hunting of these species during the closed seasons will cause a drastic decline of wildlife populations. By not catching more than you are allowed and respecting closed seasons, we will help to ensure that these endangered species flourish and remain healthy for future generations. Let’s do our part and report illegal activities to the Forest Department (822-1525) and the Fisheries Department (224-4552).”



“No money, no love;” a time for sacrifice

“We kyahn make love without money. We kyahn make love on hungry belly. Johnny, you will be the only one I am dreaming of; you’re my turtle dove; but, no money, no love!” - The Mighty Sparrow

Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

Belize, our beloved country, is a beautiful jewel, and our Constitution boasts that we are a God-fearing nation of people who were blessed with God’s goodness in inheriting this precious 8867 square miles of land and sea to call our home. But these are not the best of times in Belize; and indications are that times will get tougher still. We had just begun to feel like we had survived the economic strangulation brought upon us by Covid-19 over the past two years; but like a drowning man gasping for air, as our heads seemed to be coming up above water, there are new obstacles looking to push us back down again. The Covid-induced curfew had just been lifted and the mask mandate scaled back a bit, the borders re-opened, and more fans allowed back inside the sports stadiums; life was beginning to make a steady climb back to normalcy, but all our high hopes were dashed when across the ocean, Russia invaded Ukraine, and the whole world may now be falling under another kind of pandemic. And, while we can only see on T.V. the devastation, destruction and casualties caused by the Russian missiles targeting Ukrainian cities and towns, here in Belize, like countries the world over, we are already feeling the effects of rising oil prices. As oil goes, so do most other commodities, especially imported items; and if times have been hard on our many unemployed citizens, it will now only get harder. Indeed, if this war is not quickly ended, as a people we may need

to all endeavor to learn the true meaning of sacrifice that is the annual focus among Christians at this time of year.

It is an undisputed fact that crime and violence were nowhere near the present level in our country at a time when our standard of living was much lower than today, in terms of living conveniences like running water inside our homes, electricity to most towns and villages, standing or ceiling fans in homes, and, especially since the proliferation of pawn shops and credit stores, with most homes now having a refrigerator, a sofa set, and a butane-burning stove/oven in the kitchen. Older folks can often be heard lamenting that when we had to “back water” from the neighborhood stand pipes, or traffic our “night soil” to the canals on a daily basis, and it was all about sandpaper and varnish for the old furniture at Christmas time along with some new linoleum for the floor, we were a more peaceful and happier people. Life was hard back then, but there were very few murders; and folks could walk anywhere in town, whether day or night, without fear of being robbed or killed by an intended or stray bullet. The word “gang,” when it was used in those days, only referred to groups of hard-working men at the waterfront

or in the woodcutting operations in the country, not to unemployed young men plying the illegal drug trade or engaging in violent crimes of robbery and murder. So, as a society we were poor back then, and there were problems; but crime and violence was not a major issue like it has become in the last three decades, since our annual murder rate has routinely jumped over a hundred. By international standards, we have been bordering civil war levels of murders in our once peaceful Jewel.

There has been a lot of analysis on how we got here. Right now, we have to focus on the fact that we are here, with an extremely high level of unemployment and underemployment that could in actuality be as high as 50%; and in a country where there is no provision for unemployment benefits, with the biggest part of our population being young people and growing, hungry children, it stands to reason that desperation will lead some to crime, and the “crab eena barrel” complex will instigate violence between rivals in the quest of the things that money can buy. With unemployment as high as it is, and the price of food climbing along with hikes in oil prices, things don’t look too nice in the crime and violence department.

By now it is abundantly clear that our problem is bigger than the police can handle. It has been openly admitted by our local experts that the police cannot solve our crime and violence problem alone. They are indeed overwhelmed by the numbers, and have a difficult time ensuring convictions, because a traumatized citizenry are often reluctant to risk their life by giving evidence against accused individuals. And then there is the matter of corruption, high and low, that further complicates and obstructs the work of sincere law enforcement officers.

But all is not lost, Belize. While the police try to clean up their own ranks and improve on their investigation and interdiction efforts, and other agencies try to develop new areas of employment to reduce the numbers of desperate youth who are vulnerable to the lure of gangs and crime, there is something that individual citizens, especially those in the better-off financial bracket, can do. In fact, it may be a case of self-preservation for members of the more affluent section of society, those who would like to save the Jewel, rather than packing up and leaving for foreign shores. Burglar bars can only do so much, and with the continually widening gap between the masses of hungry/desperate poor and the well-off in Belize — those comfortably cushioned bureaucrats, high-end technocrats and affluent business folks whose greatest dilemma is choosing between a new Lexus or a Prado — it is wise for those of us on the brighter side of the economy to seriously consider making some sacrifices to help the situation before it reaches a real breaking point of lawlessness in our streets, where criminal gangs brazenly rule sections of our town, as has happened in some other countries.

Gas gaan up! Diesel gaan up! Butane gaan up! Everything is going up. And the poor people bawl, “Laad, a kyan tek it no mo!”

If this Putin madness continues much longer, things may get really, really bad in our little Jewel, so that a few years from now we may be looking back with nostalgia at these “good old days.”

But, Belizeans are a resilient people; and we say we are God-fearing – Christians, Muslims, Baha’i, whatever religious sect or denomination. The time is near when we may all have to join in the effort, those who have, to see that there is a means of livelihood for those who don’t have. Some who have been entrusted with the authority and the competence to direct and guide the sharing of our economic pie, have focused on feathering their own nest, while the lot of the masses was left to flounder in distress and despair. Now we each have to lend a hand to bail this sinking ship, or we’ll all go down with it. This is a time for sacrifice and reaching out to help our falling brethren/sistren get back on their feet.

There is a saying, that when all else fails, “Love conquers all!” If we are to survive as a people, we Belizeans will need to begin living the true meaning of those words. When circumstances and failures have seen some of us hit rock bottom, encouraging words and prayers are fine, but just as important is the “backative”. No money, no love.



(estb. 1969)

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GOB to appoint a People's Constitution Commission



Hon. Henry Charles Usher – Minister of Political and Constitutional Reform

“Many of the laws are antiquated. Our Constitution was one that we were given; it didn’t come out of any constitutional assembly where the people had a say in what should be in the Constitution; 40 plus years later, it is time to look at our Constitution and see how we can improve it, where we can modernize it – maybe even rewrite it,” Minister Usher said.

It has long been documented, that in the rush for independence, Belize modeled its Constitution off those of fellow

Commonwealth Caribbean countries, which resulted in a set of laws that was approved by the Queen of England in July 1981, despite the hostility resulting from the Heads of Agreement proposal signed in March of that year. In September 1981, our independence was granted and the Constitution approved.

Minister Usher said that they have decided to form a constitutional commission to spearhead the reformation of our current laws.

“It depends on what the constitutional commission talks about. Last week, the Ministers’ strategic session, I gave a presentation to Cabinet as to the steps

going forward,” Minister Usher said. He added, “When you are looking at constitutional reform, then it’s looking at widespread consultation process, looking at legislation in our region, legislation throughout the world, where constitutions have been modernized or amended. Or you can take the approach just to say we just need to amend certain sections, or you can take the approach to say we need to rewrite the Constitution; we need to look at how we are governed, and I’m thinking that as the Prime Minister announced in his message after the strategic session that he is appointing a People’s Constitution

Commission. That commission will be looking at the very same question that we are asking today.” Minister Usher said.

Improving our legal system and modernizing legislation to bring the country in line with global legal trends are some of the major tasks the commission will have to tackle.

“The commission will be looking at this very same question that we are asking today—how can we improve the system that we have, that we have inherited from the UK and how can we modernize our laws to better serve our people,” Minister Usher said.

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 9, 2022

During a short interview last week, Minister of Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, said that the Briceño administration is in the initial stages of an effort to reform the country’s current Constitution and replace outdated laws with modern and improved legislations. This is one aspect of a process started by GoB to elevate the standard of governance of the people, Minister Usher said, and he further noted that it is a long overdue exercise, since the people of Belize were never given a chance to draft their own Constitution.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Embassy Belmopan is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the following position:

Position Name: Engineering Technician (Building Automated System)

Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-04

Closing date: March 18, 2022

Interested applicants must submit their application via the Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) system, a web-based system. To view and apply for this vacancy, visit the ERA site at: <https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/blz/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.htm>

Please visit the Embassy’s website for instructions on how to apply via the ERA system: <https://bz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

Note 1: Resumes **will not** be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

Note 2: Candidates **must** submit applicable required documentation by the closing date of this announcement. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in an ineligible application.

Notice is hereby given that SAHANA LIMITED

— is dissolved as of the 23rd of December, 2021

Notice is hereby given that CARNATION BUSINESS CORP.

- is dissolved as of the 10th of January, 2022

Notice is hereby given that ASCENDER ENGINEERING & CONSULTING CO., LTD.

- is dissolved as of the 17th of December, 2021

Notice is hereby given that MAXIMUS BUSINESS LTD

-is in dissolution as of the 18th February, 2022 and Stacy Gladys Eli is the liquidator.

Notice is hereby given that MELARDO HOLDING CORP.

-is in dissolution as of the 17th February, 2022 and Mr. Andrey Pedtechenskiy is the liquidator.

Notice is hereby given that Canweb Trading Limited

-is dissolved as of the 5th day of November, 2021

Notice is hereby given that Almine Management Ltd

- is dissolved as of the 5th day of November, 2021

Notice is hereby given that Flommel Ltd.

-is dissolved as of the 5th day of November, 2021

Notice is hereby given that Hunt Global Resources International Ltd.

- is dissolved as of the 5th day of November, 2021



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2021

CLAIM NO 414 OF 2021

BETWEEN:

(LILLIAN LOCKWOOD

CLAIMANT

(AND

(KEISHA CHRISTIAN

DEFENDANT

ORDER

The 17th day of February 2022

BEFORE THE HON. MADAM JUSTICE GENEVIEVE CHABOT

UPON HEARING Ms. Magalie Perdomo, Counsel on behalf of the Applicant and upon reading the Affidavit filed herein.

IT IS ORDERED that:

- (1) That service of the Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim dated 9th June 2021; Amended Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim dated 30th November 2021; and Amended Urgent Notice of Application dated 10th December 2021, with draft order, be effected by two consecutive publications in a principal newspaper of general circulation in the country of Belize on Keisha Christian, and that the said Keisha Christian acknowledge service within 14 days of the second publication.
- (2) The time for serving the Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim dated 9th June 2021; Amended Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim dated 30th November 2021; and Amended Urgent Notice of Application dated 10th December 2021, with draft order, is hereby extended to 30 days from the date of this Order.
- (3) That Costs of this application to be cost in the cause.

DATED the 25th day of February 2022

BY ORDER

DEPUT REGISTRAR

Worst thing in that video was gang

by Colin Hyde

The clip with the uncle or older brother giving the kid a drink and getting him to express allegiance to a gang caused dismay across the nation last week. I cast some blame for what happened there on unrealistic people who waste time and diffuse our energies in a way that makes it impossible for us to address our problems. It's hard to get the job done when otherwise intelligent people are vociferously promoting wild agendas, excuse me.

There were two things terribly wrong with the story: one, the child was way too young to be near strong drink, and two, the lesson from the elder, that "we da Gaza [gang]" or some like craziness, that was rank depressing.

There are some guys who hurry, hurry take their boys to the brothel to introduce them to sex. That's crazy. The boy will find it, and when he does, pray that he doesn't make it all there is to his life. Stop introducing kids and youth to adult things.

I believe the drink the elder gave the kid to sip had some alcoholic thing that tasted nice; some alcoholic

drinks are as soft as fruit juice on the taste buds, and when we see the kid drinking a liquid from what looked like a rum bottle, that was probably water.

Parents shouldn't encourage children to drink rum. The elder deserves a severe reprimand for that. But let's not even think about jail for that sip from a cup. Get real. The old *Woodward's Gripe Water* had 3.6% alcohol. *BlackTailNYC*, in the story "Do Kids in Germany drink beer?", said a 14-year-old minor in Germany can drink wine or beer if they are with a "custodial person", and at the age of 16 they can drink wine and beer unaccompanied. *AVEiNE*, in the story "When children could drink wine at school in France", says that up to 1956 children in school in that country were served up to half liter of wine each day, but after 1956 only children over 14 could get a glass. Aha, and then in 1981 the schools went dry, as in none at all.

Ritually, I would breakfast with my paternal grampa when he came home after being away at sea for some time. Together we sang a line from a little sea shanty, "early in the morning a sailor likes his brandy o,

brandy o, brandy o, a sailor likes his brandy o." After we sang he'd take a little shot of brandy, and then he would pour a little All Bran and milk into two bowls, one for me and one for him.

Get real. So much of our lives revolve around drink. God stopped Adam from—eat aapl. Jesus made the best wine for the people at the wedding. I saw a *National Geographic* documentary in which all the animals, from elephant to hippopotamus to rabbit to haligayta, were drunk. I think the land is Madagascar where they have a fruit that ferments and becomes potent alcohol inside the gut. What a bacchanal! The lions ate the fruit too. Can't have anybody sober around when everybody is drunk. Lion would have an easy feast!

That pic with the little fellow and his *yohoho bottle of rum*, haha, I saw myself with my younger brother, Ronald, and our cousin David, a rum bottle filled with a cocoa drink, our arms draped around each other's shoulders, staggering about as if we were in the Tenth Parade, and chanting, "we three da bum bali, we beat up anybody!" No adult set us up to play drunk. Look, if you wanted to block little kids from seeing inebriation you'd have to shut down the movies too. Oh, Ron doesn't drink, Dave takes a drink but he's no alcoholic.

No, no, no, don't encourage a kid to drink! What I thought was really disappointing was the gang lesson the elder was giving the kid. An adult has to be daft or chaansi to encourage a kid to see some virtue there. It's tricky turf just to ask kids to support the team you play for or ride with. But maybe we can't blame that irresponsible dude, because the responsible dudes are teaching little kids all kinds of things these days. Thanks to adults, there's no age of innocence anymore.

These folk and their obsession that alcohol is a terrible thing for grown people, they need to refocus. Tell the truth about alcohol; a little of it is good for most people. One solid bit of advice for young adults is that they make sure they are in the company of true friends when they're drinking, the kind of friend that will protect you so you doant imbibe too much, an du fool. Once I went out with some friends and when they got a little buzz they all wanted to pik fight. I didn't go out with them again. Don't drink with friends who get violent or overly stupid.

Protecting children must be our priority. We desperately need to work together. Marijuana is about to be freed up some more. We haven't reached there, and stories abound about adults giving children weed to smoke, weed in fudge and that kind

of thing. Stop scattering our forces with this misguided battle against adults drinking. All of our energies must be devoted to protecting the fragile minds of the young.

US's superstar ambassador to Belize

Going tame, I'll be among the interested spectators when the new US ambassador first sets foot in Belize. I'm not aware that she snuck in, in the dark of night. Maybe she is virtual because of Covid fears.

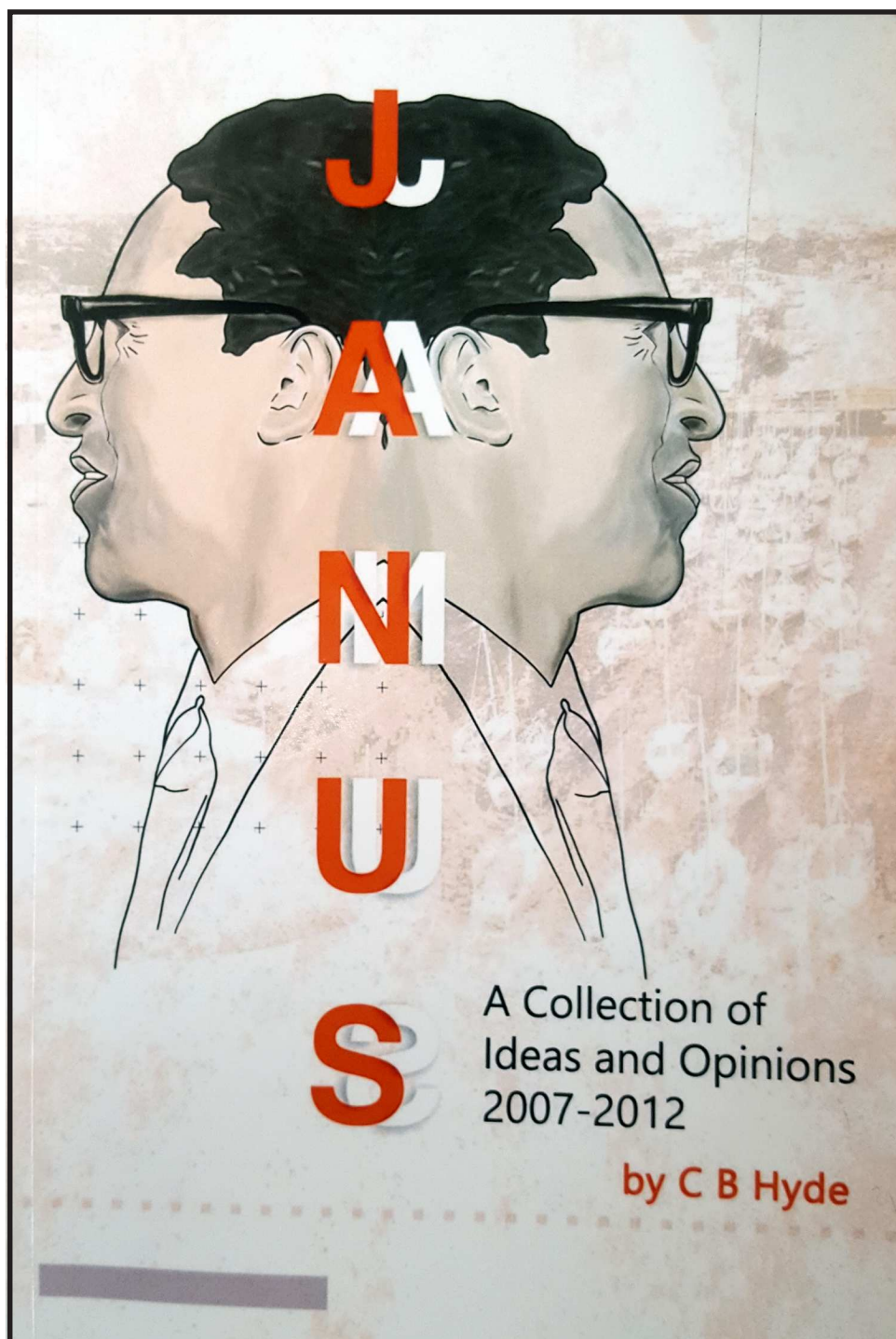
There are few if any clubs as exclusive as "best in the world", and for years the woman the US chose to represent it as ambassador to Belize, Ms. Michelle Kwan, was in that category. Michelle was a super figure skater, and while I've never touched an ice rink, I was a fan. It's no secret that we Belizeans cheer for American athletes like they were our own homegrown.

Understandably, the thousands and thousands of Belizeans who now live in the USA are absorbed with the great spectacle of American sports. Hn, the only thing they can't play is real football. It's just incredible that with all their investment in the sport, from bringing in the mighty Pele to display his talent live so that American kids could see true artistry up close, they haven't produced a single player that fires the imagination. I really didn't have to say such a bad thing about them. Well, it's the truth.

It's also the truth that their athletes have captured our imagination in so many other fields of athletic artistry, from boxing to baseball to basketball, to figure skating, which will never be a thing in Belize, because our ice melts faster than "a snowball in hell" when we take it out of the frij. We can't keep ice, but we can appreciate figure skating because beautiful is beautiful.

My dad, my older sister and my younger brother included figure skating on their list of "sports" to watch on NBC, CBS, and ABC, but I wasn't in until I read about Michelle in the sports magazines. Michelle was already twice world champion (in all she won five world titles) when she participated in the 1998 Winter Olympics, and missed gold in a heartbreaker. You know why Country & Western and the Blues are so popular. There is nothing like a heart getting crushed.

After feeling her pain in 1998 I was big in her corner in the 2002 Olympics. She was absolutely dominant after that 1998 disappointment, right up to the 2002 show, in which, bah, she fell short again, "only" came up with bronze. You could call those two bridesmaids, blips. For nearly a decade our new US ambassador was flat out the best.





“Sin dinero, no hay amor”; un tiempo para el sacrificio

“No podemos hacer el amor sin dinero. No podemos hacer el amor con el estómago hambriento. Johnny, serás el único con el que esté soñando; eres mi tórtola; pero, ¡sin dinero, no hay amor!” - The Mighty Sparrow

Lun. 14 de marzo de 2022

Belize, nuestro amado país, es una hermosa Joya, y nuestra Constitución se jacta de que somos una nación con un pueblo temeroso de Dios que fue bendecido con la bondad de Dios al heredar estas preciosas 8867 millas cuadradas de tierra y mar para llamar nuestro hogar. Pero estos no son los mejores tiempos en Belize; y todo apunta a que los tiempos se pondrán aún más difíciles. Acabábamos de comenzar a sentir que habíamos sobrevivido al estrangulamiento económico que nos provocó el Covid-19 en los últimos dos años; pero como alguien ahogándose que jadea por aire, mientras nuestras cabezas parecían estar saliendo del agua, hay nuevos obstáculos que buscan empujarnos hacia abajo nuevamente. El toque de queda inducido por Covid acababa de levantarse y el mandato de máscarillas faciales se redujo un poco, las fronteras se reabrieron y se permitió que más fanáticos regresaran a los estadios deportivos; la vida comenzaba a volver a la normalidad de manera continua, pero todas nuestras grandes esperanzas se desvanecieron cuando, al otro lado del océano, Rusia invadió Ucrania, y ahora es posible que el mundo entero esté cayendo bajo otro tipo de pandemia. Y, aunque solo podemos ver en la televisión la devastación, la destrucción y las bajas causadas por los misiles rusos que apuntan a ciudades y pueblos ucranianos, aquí en Belize, al igual que países de todo el mundo, ya estamos sintiendo los efectos del aumento de los precios del petróleo. Al igual que el petróleo, también aumentan los precios de la mayoría de los demás productos básicos, especialmente los artículos importados; y si los tiempos han sido difíciles para nuestros muchos ciudadanos desempleados, ahora será aún más difícil. De hecho, si esta guerra no termina rápidamente, como pueblo, es posible que debamos esforzarnos por aprender el verdadero significado del sacrificio que es el enfoque anual entre los cristianos en esta época del año.

Es un hecho indiscutible que el crimen y la violencia no estaban ni cerca del nivel actual en nuestro país en un momento en que nuestro nivel de vida era mucho más bajo que el actual, en términos de comodidades como agua corriente dentro de nuestros hogares, electricidad en la mayoría de los pueblos y aldeas, ventiladores de pie o de techo en los hogares y, especialmente desde la proliferación de casas de empeño y tiendas de crédito, la mayoría de los hogares ahora tienen un refrigerador, un juego de sofás y una estufa/horno de butano en la cocina. A menudo se puede escuchar a las personas mayores lamentándose de que cuando teníamos que cargar agua del chorro público del vecindario, o traficar nuestro “desecho nocturno” a los canales a diario, y todo se trataba de papel de lija y barniz para los muebles viejos en la época de Navidad junto con un poco de linóleo nuevo para el piso, éramos un pueblo más pacífico y feliz. La vida era dura en ese entonces, pero había muy pocos asesinatos; y la gente podía caminar por cualquier lugar de la ciudad, ya fuera de día o de noche, sin temor a que les robaran o los mataran con una bala perdida o intencionada. La palabra “pandilla”, cuando se usaba en esos días, solo se refería a grupos de estibadores o aquellos en las operaciones de tala de árboles en el país, no a jóvenes desempleados que practicaban el tráfico ilegal de drogas o cometían delitos violentos de robo y asesinato. Por lo tanto, como sociedad, éramos pobres en ese entonces y había problemas; pero el crimen y la violencia no eran un problema tan importante como lo han sido en las últimas tres décadas, ya que nuestra tasa anual de homicidios ha saltado rutinariamente a más de cien. Según los estándares internacionales, hemos bordeado niveles de guerra civil en cuanto a asesinatos en nuestra Joya que alguna vez fue pacífica.

Ha habido mucho análisis sobre cómo llegamos aquí. En este momento, tenemos que centrarnos en el hecho de que estamos

aquí, con un nivel extremadamente alto de desempleo y subempleo que en realidad podría acercarse más al 50%; y en un país donde no hay disposiciones para las prestaciones por desempleo, con la mayor parte de nuestra población formada por jóvenes y niños hambrientos y en crecimiento, es lógico que la desesperación lleve a algunos a la delincuencia, y el complejo del “cangrejos en barril” instigará la violencia entre rivales en la búsqueda de las cosas que el dinero puede comprar. Con el desempleo tan alto y el precio de los alimentos subiendo junto con los precios del petróleo, las cosas no se ven muy bien en el departamento de crimen y violencia.

A estas alturas, está muy claro que nuestro problema es más grande de lo que la policía puede manejar. Nuestros expertos locales han admitido abiertamente que la policía no puede resolver nuestro problema de delincuencia y violencia por sí sola. De hecho, están abrumados por los números y tienen dificultades para garantizar condenas, porque una ciudadanía traumatizada a menudo se muestra reacia a arriesgar su vida al prestar testimonio contra las personas acusadas. Y luego está el asunto de la corrupción, en lo alto y bajo, que complica y obstruye aún más el trabajo de los sinceros agentes de la ley.

Pero no todo está perdido, Belize. Mientras la policía trata de limpiar sus propias filas y mejorar sus esfuerzos de investigación e interdicción, y otras agencias intentan desarrollar nuevas áreas de empleo para reducir el número de jóvenes desesperados que son vulnerables a la tentación de las pandillas y el crimen, hay algo que pueden hacer los ciudadanos individuales, especialmente aquellos en el nivel financiero más acomodado. De hecho, puede ser un caso de autopreservación para los miembros de la sección más rica de la sociedad, aquellos a quienes les gustaría salvar la Joya, en lugar de hacer las maletas y marcharse a costas extranjeras. Las barras antirrobo solo pueden hacer tanto, y con la brecha cada vez mayor entre las masas de hambrientos/pobres desesperados y los acomodados en Belize, esos burócratas cómodamente protegidos, tecnócratas de alto nivel y empresarios ricos cuyo mayor dilema es elegir entre un nuevo Lexus o un Prado: es prudente que aquellos de nosotros que estamos en el lado más brillante de la economía consideremos seriamente hacer algunos sacrificios para ayudar a la situación antes de que llegue a un punto de verdadera ruptura de anarquía en nuestras calles, donde las bandas criminales gobiernan descaradamente sectores de nuestra ciudad, como ha sucedido en algunos otros países.

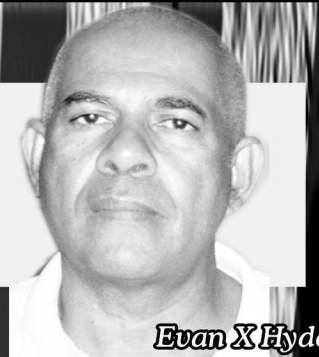
¡Subió la gasolina! ¡Subió el Diesel! ¡Subió el butano! Todo está subiendo. Y la pobre gente grita: “¡Dios, ya no lo soporto!”

Si esta locura de Putin continúa por mucho más tiempo, las cosas pueden ponerse muy, muy mal en nuestra pequeña Joya, de modo que dentro de unos años podamos mirar hacia atrás con nostalgia a estos “buenos viejos tiempos”.

Pero, los beliceños son un pueblo resistente; y decimos que somos temerosos de Dios: cristianos, musulmanes, bahá'ís, de cualquier secta o denominación religiosa. Se acerca el momento en que quizás todos tengamos que unirnos al esfuerzo, los que tienen, para ver que haya un medio de vida para los que no tienen. Algunos a los que se les ha confiado la autoridad y la competencia para dirigir y guiar el reparto de nuestro pastel económico, se han centrado en llenar su propio nido, mientras que la suerte de las masas se ha dejado a merced de la angustia y la desesperación. Ahora cada uno de nosotros tiene que dar una mano para rescatar este barco que se hunde, o todos nos hundiremos con él. Este es un momento para el sacrificio y para ayudar a nuestros hermanos/hermanas hundiéndose a recuperarse.

Hay un dicho que dice que cuando todo lo demás falla, “¡El amor lo conquista todo!” Si queremos sobrevivir como pueblo, los beliceños necesitaremos comenzar a vivir el verdadero significado de esas palabras. Cuando las circunstancias y los fracasos han hecho que algunos de nosotros toquemos fondo, las palabras de aliento y las oraciones están bien, pero igual de importante es el “refuerzo”. Sin dinero, no hay amor.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

There are at least two generations of Belizeans, which is to say, the post-independence/television/phone generations, which would have almost no idea of what is really involved in the present war between the aggressor Russia and the underdog Ukraine.

Insofar as foreign policy is concerned, Belize is in a somewhat tricky spot, because geopolitical and other circumstances have dictated that we have no choice but to be in favor of the United States where foreign policy issues are concerned.

The tricky part of that is that the neighbor republic which is claiming our Belizean territory is a long-time and favorite ally of these same United States. Ergo, we may have to look elsewhere than Washington if and when there is conflict between Guatemala City and Belmopan. I'm just saying.

Belizeans are a pragmatic people, it does appear. We are not passionate, combative or heroic like

the Cubans, who have withstood more than sixty years of terrible embargo pressure from these same United States.

Anyway, back to Russia and Ukraine. Please understand, I am not claiming to be any kind of expert here. But because I am a member of Belize's post-World War II generation, and because those of that generation who did tertiary work in education had to do a lot of reading, we have a more comprehensive sense of the Russia-Ukraine conflict than our younger people.

When the Russian Revolution occurred in 1917, a revolt of the working classes overthrew the czarist monarchy and the aristocratic classes. The new system was known as communism. It was officially atheistic, and favored the lower classes. Industrially, Russia, a feudal society for centuries, began to develop quite rapidly.

Russia after 1917 was known as the Soviet Union, or the Union of

Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). It included the Ukraine, Crimea, Belarus, and several other nations which became independent in 1991 after the Soviet Union collapsed, which is a long story in itself. The collapse of the communist Soviet Union was considered a great victory for the capitalist United States.

The core Russia, and the Ukraine which Vladimir Putin is now attempting to subjugate, are very wealthy areas of planet earth. They produce much of the world's wheat, oil, and natural gas. This war is about power. If Russia absorbs the Ukraine, Russia can look the United States and China in the eye. Perhaps the Russians already can, on the basis of their plethora of nuclear missiles, to which Putin is referring from time to time.

It appears to me that world power has recently been shifting from the West to the East. After World War II (1939-1945), the United States began emerging as a superpower, while the United Kingdom remained an imperial force, considered by most as the victors in the war. These are Western powers.

Adolf Hitler's Germany, the leader of the Axis powers (Japan and Italy) which fought against the British, the Americans, and the French, had been shattered and divided into two parts -- West Germany, controlled by the Americans, and East Germany, run by the Russians.

China and India, nation-entities, were nonentities at that time. But India, a British fiefdom for centuries, soon became independent and began growing rapidly. China was taken over by Mao's Communist Revolution in 1949, and began growing perhaps even more rapidly.

And my opinion is that it was Russia, sacrificing 26 or 27 million lives, which had really won World War II, even though it was the Americans who ended up defeating the Russians (1991) in the so-called Cold War which followed World War II.

The one thing about war is that the concept of "good guys, bad guys" does not stand up to scholarly analysis. War is about power and survival. War is hell. Human beings, at the end of the day, are just like animals.

The singular aspect of the present Russia-Ukraine conflict is that there is a reality which goes all the way back to when Hitler's fascist Germany invaded Stalin's communist Russia in 1941, a couple years after the two nations had signed

a nonaggression pact. The local cable companies have closed down Russian television transmission here, but the fact of the matter is that there is a powerful element in the Ukraine which the Russians consider German and pro-Nazi in nature. Russia is alarmed by Ukraine's attempts to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which would enable/force Western nations to come to Ukraine's military assistance if it is attacked. There are complications here.

There is clear pressure on Belizeans to look inwards for survival in the coming months and years. During World War II, our ancestors had to become more self-reliant, because our imports from Great Britain were being interrupted by German submarines. A similar situation is developing now, in that imports will become increasingly expensive when they are not downright unobtainable.

I would like to close with a brief look at the racial hierarchy across the Atlantic Ocean where people who look white are now fighting with other people who look white. We Belizeans are not used to that. Adolf Hitler, who started World War II, was driven by racial theories. He conceived of an ideal, superior, racial phenotype which would feature blonde hair and blue eyes. This appears to me to be the Scandinavian type, found in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and so on. Such a type is mixed up with the Anglo-Saxon group, which dominates Great Britain, Germany, and the Netherlands. The Spaniards, Portuguese, and even the French, are considered too "Latinized" to rank along with the Scandinavians. Such is the world of racial purists.

The Russians, and other Eastern Europeans, are considered Slavic; they are considered inferior by the Germans and other NATO members. Other people who live in so-called Eastern Europe, like Poles and Hungarians, are also considered Slavic. It is all quite complicated, beloved.


The one thing we know for sure is that we people of color, so to speak, are at the bottom of the totem pole. We have been offered a peaceful Jesus as a palliative for many centuries, ever since we were brutally subjugated by Europe. But now these people who offered us Christ have built terrible weapons which can destroy the planet which Christ's Father created. How weird it all is! It isn't worth it to become so scared any more. Man has become God.

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of **RAFAEL HUEZO** deceased of Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange District, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of **RAFAEL HUEZO**, deceased, late of 55 Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange District, Belize, who died on the 17th day of December, 2019 and in whose estate Grant of Administration has been granted to **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO** of 1900 Driftwood Bay, Belize City, Belize, should lodge claims or demands with the said **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO c/o Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 1/2 Miles Phillip Goldson Highway, P.O Box 486, Belize City, Belize** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **RAFAEL HUEZO**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which she shall then have had notice.

DATED this 4th day of March, 2022


BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
RAFAEL HUEZO

Ole time religion

The other evening I was on my daily walk; even during the cold winter you have to get those 10,000 steps in, you know, for longevity. The things we do to hang on to dear old life. Anyway, there was this perfect sunset over a field covered in snow, so I took out my iPhone, which was counting my careful steps, and took a photograph of this majestic end to the day. After I was through admiring the photo and sharing it instantly with friends and family, I suddenly realized that I had the world in my hands! Anything I wanted to know, or see, was in my hands, and all that I needed to do was to click! It is really amazing how far we've come with technology, so much so that some of us can't even use a pen or write in cursive anymore! There's little left to wonder about anymore, just google it!

On my way back from my walk I began to reminisce about my youth, my teenage years in the 60s. Now every generation, I'm sure, thinks that their teenage years were the best. For me, 1965 to 1970, in Belize, were the best of the best for us, heading towards adulthood. We had no cars, no phones, some of us were lucky enough to own a bicycle and a transistor radio. Our music came from BHBS, British Honduras Broadcasting Service, later Radio Belize. What a station that was! Caribbean music, Latin music,

American music, which included jazz, country, blues and soul music. On Saturday afternoons we listened to Top of the Pops from the BBC, with all the latest British pop music. Sunday evenings were a heavy dose of Mahalia Jackson and religious/gospel music. Then later in the evening, Everald Waight would play classical music and recite poetry, in his deep baritone. So we had a very good musical foundation.

We would go to house parties, dressed up in our banlon shirts and polyester bell foot pants, and boots, or loafers. We smelled of English Leather, or Brut, or Old Spice perfume. We had to have that gold chain, or you weren't properly dressed, and most of us young men lied about our female conquests! We were innocent and carefree, didn't know that we were poor; it didn't matter. We fought with our fists, and we all went on our way to live another day. There was turmoil in the world, but we lived in a bubble, enjoying the joys of youth. Oh! The miniskirts, oh the miniskirts!!

My point to all this is that I would willingly give up the iPhone, and all the other tech toys and sites we seem to not be able to live without today, for those days of innocence and wonder and awe and amazement. That time between childhood and becoming an adult. When you forced your sideburns or your mustache to

grow. Showing off in front of the beautiful, enticing girls, as long as you didn't drop inna kinel. For me, it was the best of times. We didn't have much, but we didn't know that. We just truly enjoyed what we had. And we were better for it.

"Where are the songs of spring, aye, where are they?

Think not of them, thou hast thy music too!"—John Keats, "Ode to autumn".

Glen



Belize Basketball Federation elections on April 2

SAN IGNACIO, Cayo District, Sat. Mar. 12, 2022

The Belize Basketball Federation (BBF) is an independent association composed of national and regional federations and associations which are involved in and are responsible for all aspects of the sport of basketball in the country of Belize. Such associations and local federations are deemed members of the BBF, Belize's national federation.

The BBF is the sole competent authority for men's and women's basketball throughout Belize and is recognized as such by the Federation Internationale de Basketball (FIBA).

In accordance with the approved General Statutes and Internal Regulations (2008) of the BBF, article 17.4, the elected Executive Committee shall automatically retire from office and elections become due. As a consequence, the due date for elections of new officers will be Saturday, April 2, 2022. Elections will be held at the Marion Jones Sports Complex, Belize City at 10 a.m.

Nominations, together with written acceptance by the nominees, for the positions of the Executive Committee

of the BBF, shall be submitted by member/District Associations or other interested parties in writing and shall be received by the Secretary General within ten (10) days after the dispatch of this notice. Nominations should be sent by email to bbfelections@gmail.com by 5 p.m., Friday, March 25, 2022. The Secretary General shall then circulate all nominations to BBF members by Monday, March 28.

The Executive Committee consists of the following roles: President, Secretary General, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer/Finance Officer, three Executive Officers and 3 additional members appointed by the Regional/District Associations. The BBF is a non-profit organization and all Executive roles are therefore served on a fully voluntary basis.

Full slates of candidates to fill all positions may be submitted but nominations for individual roles will be accepted. The general public is invited to witness the elections but only member associations of the Federation may cast votes. All retiring officers of the Executive Committee shall be eligible for re-election. The applicable Ministry of Health Covid-19 regulations must be adhered to at all times.

- press release -



BELIZE BIBLE COLLEGE

VACANCIES

A Vacancy exists at Belize Bible College, Yemeri Grove, Toledo District for the Following:

- Theology Professor

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree
- Fluent in English and Spanish
- At least 5 years' Tertiary experience
- Ability to work and communicate effectively with students, staff and administration.

Application Letters along with current curriculum vitae, copy of valid teacher licenses, degree certified and two recent letters of reference should be sent to:

Email: Belizebiblecollege22@gmail.com

Administration

Belize Bible College

FFB Announces NAWL Opening Season 2022

BELMOPAN, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) is happy to announce that the National Amateur Women's League returns on Saturday, March 19, with the participation of the following 11 clubs which have been divided into two groups based on the standings from the previous season:

Group A – Rumberas; Jewel Fury; San Pedro Pirates; Verdes Rebels; Sagitun Girlz.

Group B – Wagiya SC Ladies; Cayo Dreamers; Corozal United Warriors; Santa Elena Strikers; Juventus Girls; Bay City.

The tournament will be played in

a round-robin format which will produce a winner from each group. The winner of Group B is promoted to group A for the Closing Season, and the club with the least points from Group A will be relegated to group B.

The FFB thanks all clubs for working closely with our Competitions Director to meet all necessary requirements to start the competition. Fans are invited to stay tuned for details on upcoming matches and are encouraged to come out and support their favorite team.

- press release -

70 years of oppression against Palestinians

On the 2nd of March of 2022, at the Dáil Éireann, which is the Assembly of Ireland, Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett, who is an Irish People Before Profit/Solidarity politician, gave a very interesting speech. The full video can be found on YouTube under the heading “Deputy Richard Boyd Barret—speech from 2 March 2022”. The following is a segment of said speech, which I would like to share with you, our dear readers of this column:

“All of us have rightly condemned the crimes against humanity that have been committed by Vladimir Putin in

Ukraine, and the government has moved instantly within 5 days to sanction Putin’s regime and the strength of language that was used rightly against Putin as a barbarian, as a thug, as a murderer, as a warmonger, all of which are true. All of those things, all of those things, (when) applied to the state of Israel, in its treatment of the Palestinians, and yes! The government is concerned about its use of language and doesn’t feel it is appropriate to even use the word apartheid when Amnesty International, the most respected human rights organization

in the world and Human Rights Watch within a very short period of time, issued these damning reports saying that Israel since its foundation has been built on a system of oppression, domination, apartheid, and racism, involving the murder of unarmed innocent civilians on a regular basis.

Gaza is in a permanent state of humanitarian crisis, and yet you want to be careful about your language. You’re happy to correctly use the most strong and robust language to describe the crimes against humanity of Vladimir Putin, but you will not use the same strength of language when it comes to describing Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians when it is now being documented and detailed by 2 of the most respected human rights organizations in the world. You don’t even want to use the word apartheid. Five days—sanctions against Putin and his thugs; 70 years of oppression against the Palestinians and it wouldn’t be, what was the word you used? It wouldn’t be helpful to impose sanctions. Exactly the same types of sanctions you’ve just initiated against Vladimir Putin.

Will you support it? And I think the answer is clearly, you’re not going



by Clinton Canul Luna

to. And then we ask the question, why? Why? With such strength of feeling, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil and Green TDs stood up one after the other saying it was intolerable, the thuggery and the warmongering and the brutality of Putin. You wouldn’t stand for it, urgent action had to be taken, but we’ve got to be much more careful with the Palestinians and their treatment. No action, no sanctions, no outrage, words of concern will raise it, will call on them to do things. Now you see, if you’re going to have moral standards, those standards have to be consistent. Show some moral backbone, show some consistency, otherwise they are not standards at all, they are just cynicism.”—published on TikTok by fadyozuka.

fincasolan@gmail.com
 March 12, 2022
 Finca Solana
 Corozal Town



Concacaf Statement regarding the acts of violence that occurred in Queretaro, Mexico

www.concacaf.com
 Miami, FL, Mon. Mar. 7, 2022

The shocking acts of vandalism and violence that occurred last night in Queretaro, Mexico, have no place in football or society. The thoughts of everyone at Concacaf are with the victims of these awful events, and their families.

Concacaf wholly condemns these

types of behaviors. We call on the local authorities to fully investigate these criminal acts, and to hold accountable those who have tarnished our game.

The Confederation also believes that strong football sanctions must be applied and will provide any necessary support to the FMF and Liga MX as they investigate.

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of **WELMA NANCY HUEZO** deceased of Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange District, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of **WELMA NANCY HUEZO**, deceased, late of Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange District, Belize, who died on the 17th day of December, 2019 and in whose estate Grant of Administration has been granted to **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO** of 1900 Driftwood Bay, Belize City, Belize, should lodge claims or demands with the said **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO c/o Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 ½ Miles Phillip Goldson Highway, P.O Box 486, Belize City, Belize** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **EVELYN JAEL HUEZO** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **WELMA NANCY HUEZO**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which she shall then have had notice.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2022

BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
 Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
 WELMA NANCY HUEZO

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of **RITA EVANGELISTA RAMOS a.k.a. RITA RAMOS** deceased of No. 6819 Aloe vera Street, Belize City, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of **RITA EVANGELISTA RAMOS a.k.a. RITA RAMOS**, deceased, late of No. 6819 Aloe vera Street, Belize City, Belize, who died on the 7th day of March, 2017 and in whose estate Grant of Probate has been granted to **ANNE MELCHORA PALACIO a.k.a. ANNE PALACIO** of 2932 Clifton Betson Street, Belama Phase II, Belize City, Belize, should lodge claims or demands with the said **ANNE MELCHORA PALACIO a.k.a. ANNE PALACIO c/o Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, P.O Box 486, Belize City, Belize** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **ANNE MELCHORA PALACIO a.k.a. ANNE PALACIO** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **RITA EVANGELISTA RAMOS a.k.a. RITA RAMOS**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which she shall then have had notice.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2022

BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
 Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
 RITA EVANGELISTA RAMOS a.k.a. RITA RAMOS

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Hay al menos dos generaciones de beliceños, es decir, las generaciones posteriores a la independencia/televisión/teléfono, que casi no tendrían idea de lo que realmente está involucrado en la guerra actual entre el agresor Rusia y la Ucrania desvalida.

En lo que respecta a la política exterior, Belize se encuentra en una situación algo delicada, porque las circunstancias geopolíticas y de otro tipo han dictado que no tenemos más remedio que estar a favor de Estados Unidos en lo que respecta a cuestiones de política exterior.

La parte difícil de eso es que la república vecina que reclama nuestro territorio beliceño es un aliado favorito desde hace mucho tiempo de este mismo Estados Unidos. Ergo, es posible que tengamos que buscar en otro lugar que no sea Washington si hay un conflicto entre la Ciudad de Guatemala y Belmopán. Sólo digo.

Parece que los beliceños son un pueblo pragmático. No somos apasionados, combativos ni heroicos como los cubanos, que han soportado más de sesenta años de

terribles presiones de embargo por parte de este mismo Estados Unidos.

De todos modos, volvamos a Rusia y Ucrania. Por favor, comprendan que no pretendo ser ningún tipo de experto aquí. Pero debido a que soy miembro de la generación de Belize posterior a la Segunda Guerra Mundial, y debido a que aquellos de esa generación que hicieron un trabajo terciario en educación tuvieron que leer mucho, tenemos un sentido más completo del conflicto Rusia-Ucrania que nuestra gente más joven.

Cuando se produjo la Revolución Rusa en 1917, una revuelta de las clases trabajadoras derrocó a la monarquía zarista y a las clases aristocráticas. El nuevo sistema se conoció como comunismo. Era oficialmente ateo y favorecía a las clases bajas. Industrialmente, Rusia, una sociedad feudal durante siglos, comenzó a desarrollarse con bastante rapidez.

Rusia después de 1917 se conocía como la Unión Soviética o la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas (URSS). Incluía a Ucrania, Crimea, Bielorrusia y varias otras naciones

que se independizaron en 1991 después del colapso de la Unión Soviética, lo cual es una larga historia en sí misma. El colapso de la Unión Soviética comunista fue considerado una gran victoria para Estados Unidos capitalista.

La Rusia misma y Ucrania, que Vladimir Putin ahora está tratando de subyugar, son áreas muy ricas del planeta tierra. Producen gran parte del trigo, el petróleo y el gas natural del mundo. Esta guerra se trata de poder. Si Rusia absorbe a Ucrania, Rusia puede mirar a Estados Unidos y China a los ojos. Tal vez los rusos ya puedan hacerlo, sobre la base de su plétora de misiles nucleares, a los que Putin se refiere de vez en cuando.

Me parece que el poder mundial se ha estado desplazando recientemente de Occidente a Oriente. Después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial (1939-1945), Estados Unidos comenzó a emerger como una superpotencia, mientras que el Reino Unido siguió siendo una fuerza imperial, considerada por la mayoría como vencedora de la guerra. Estas son las potencias occidentales.

La Alemania de Adolf Hitler, el líder de las potencias del Eje (Japón e Italia) que lucharon contra los británicos, los estadounidenses y los franceses, había sido destrozada y dividida en dos partes: Alemania Occidental, controlada por los estadounidenses, y Alemania Oriental, dirigida por los rusos.

China e India, entidades-nación, eran minucias en ese momento. Pero India, un feudo británico durante siglos, pronto se independizó y comenzó a crecer rápidamente. China fue absorbida por la Revolución Comunista de Mao en 1949 y comenzó a crecer quizás incluso más rápidamente.

Y mi opinión es que fue Rusia, sacrificando 26 o 27 millones de vidas, la que realmente ganó la Segunda Guerra Mundial, a pesar de que fueron los estadounidenses quienes terminaron venciendo a los rusos (1991) en la llamada Guerra Fría que siguió a la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Lo único de la guerra es que el concepto de "chicos buenos, chicos malos" no resiste el análisis académico. La guerra se trata de poder y supervivencia. La guerra es el infierno. Los seres humanos, al final del día, son como animales.

El aspecto singular del actual conflicto Rusia-Ucrania es que existe una realidad que se remonta a cuando la Alemania fascista de Hitler invadió la Rusia comunista de Stalin en 1941, un par de años después de que las dos naciones firmaran un pacto de no agresión. Las compañías de cable

locales han cerrado la transmisión de televisión rusa aquí, pero el hecho es que hay un elemento poderoso en Ucrania que los rusos consideran de naturaleza alemana y pro-nazi. Rusia está alarmada por los intentos de Ucrania de unirse a la Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte (OTAN), lo que permitiría u obligaría a las naciones occidentales a acudir en ayuda militar de Ucrania si es atacada. Aquí hay complicaciones.

Existe una clara presión sobre los beliceños para que miren hacia adentro en busca de supervivencia en los próximos meses y años. Durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, nuestros antepasados tuvieron que volverse más autosuficientes, porque los submarinos alemanes estaban interrumpiendo nuestras importaciones desde Gran Bretaña. Una situación similar se está desarrollando ahora, en el sentido de que las importaciones se volverán cada vez más caras cuando no sean del todo imposibles de obtener.

Me gustaría cerrar con una breve mirada a la jerarquía racial al otro lado del Océano Atlántico, donde las personas que se ven blancas ahora luchan con otras personas que se ven blancas. Los beliceños no estamos acostumbrados a eso. Adolf Hitler, quien inició la Segunda Guerra Mundial, fue impulsado por teorías raciales. Concibió un fenotipo racial ideal, superior, que presentaría cabello rubio y ojos azules. Me parece que es del tipo escandinavo, que se encuentra en Suecia, Noruega, Dinamarca, etc. Tal tipo se mezcla con el grupo anglosajón, que domina Gran Bretaña, Alemania y los Países Bajos. Los españoles, portugueses e incluso los franceses son considerados demasiado "latinizados" para clasificarse junto con los escandinavos. Así es el mundo de los puristas raciales.

Los rusos y otros europeos del este se consideran eslavos; son considerados inferiores por los alemanes y otros miembros de la OTAN. Otras personas que viven en la llamada Europa del Este, como los polacos y los húngaros, también se consideran eslavos. Es todo bastante complicado, queridos.

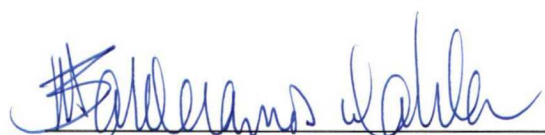
Lo único que sabemos con certeza es que nosotros las personas de color, por así decirlo, estamos en la parte inferior del tótem. Se nos ha ofrecido un Jesús pacífico como paliativo durante muchos siglos, desde que fuimos brutalmente subyugados por Europa. Pero ahora estas personas que nos ofrecieron a Cristo han construido armas terribles que pueden destruir el planeta que creó el Padre de Cristo. ¡Qué raro es todo! Ya no vale la pena asustarnos tanto. El hombre se ha convertido en Dios.

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of **THOMAS E. CHUILLI**, deceased of 71 Liberty Street, South Amboy, New Jersey 08879, USA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the *Administration of Estates Act*, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of **THOMAS E. CHUILLI**, deceased of 71 Liberty Street, South Amboy, New Jersey 08879, USA, who died on the 6th day of March, 2007 and in whose estate Grant of Administration with the Will Annexed has been granted to **BA NOMINEE SERVICES LTD.** of 3 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize the Lawful Attorneys of **DONNA KENNEDY** of No. 316 South Pine Avenue, South Amboy, New Jersey 08879 U.S.A., should lodge claims or demands with the said **BA NOMINEE SERVICES LTD.** c/o **Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, P.O Box 486, Belize City, Belize** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **BA NOMINEE SERVICES LTD.** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **THOMAS E. CHUILLI**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which it shall then have had notice.

DATED this 28th day of February, 2022



BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
THOMAS E. CHUILLI

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Peru's 'catastrophe' oil spill slams small-scale fishermen

The large spill is having a devastating effect on 'poverty line' fishermen who depend on small daily catches to make a living



Peru has said the spill of 11,900 barrels in front of a Repsol refinery is its "worst ecological disaster" [File: Martin Mejia/AP Photo]

PERU, Mar. 14, 2022 (Aljazeera) A huge recent oil spill in Peru which the government called an ecological "catastrophe" has wreaked havoc on the lives and livelihoods of many fishermen who rely on the small amounts of fish they harvest close to the shore for their daily income.

Walter de la Cruz scrambled down a large sand dune in the fog to reach a rock overlooking the Pacific Ocean, where he has fished for 30 years. He cast a hook into the waters off Peru's coast several times, with no luck. One attempt yielded a piece of plastic stained with oil.

De la Cruz, 60, is one of more than 2,500 fishermen whose livelihoods have been cast into doubt as a result of the large crude-oil spill at the Spanish-owned Repsol oil refinery on January 15.

"We are desperate," he said, counting on his fingers the debts that overwhelm him, including a bank loan, bills for water, electricity, gas, and school supplies for his two grandchildren.

The spill has had a devastating effect on fishermen who are among the most economically vulnerable in Peru. They harvest small amounts of fish very close to the coast, sometimes from small boats and sometimes from the shore, said Juan Carlos Sueiro, an expert on the economics of fishing with the international conservation group Oceana.

"They are on the poverty line. Their income varies from day to day," he said.

Peru has characterised the spill of 11,900 barrels in front of a Repsol

refinery as its "worst ecological disaster." The spill happened when the Mare Doricum, an Italian-flagged tanker, was unloading oil at the La Pampilla refinery, just off Peru's coast north of the capital. The ship's captain told the South American country's Congress that oil spilled into the ocean for at least eight minutes.

A report by United Nations experts estimates it involved about 2,100 tonnes of crude, well above the 700 tonnes the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited considers the threshold for a large spill — and an unprecedented amount for the type of crude that leaked. The oil was extracted from Buzios, the world's largest deep-water oil field and the most productive in Brazil.

Peru — which has a vast informal economy — does not have exact data on the number of fishermen affected, or of the people on the docks and ports who depend on the fishing industry, including restaurants, food vendors, and those who rent sun umbrellas or boats.

De la Cruz said he knew immediately that the oil would halt for the first time the activity carried out for centuries on Peru's Pacific coast.

"I saw the fruits of my livelihood destroyed," he said. "It's like if you have a store and someone comes and sets it on fire."

*Full article can be found at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/14/perus-catastrophe-oil-spill-slams-small-scale-fishermen>
First published by Aljazeera*

DFC workers reject proposed salary cut



Development Finance Corporation (DFC) Belize

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Mar. 11, 2022

This past Friday, office workers at Development Finance Corporation (DFC) branches across six districts of the country staged a protest during their lunch break in response to a proposed 10% pay cut. The workers, many of whom wore black, stood in front of their branch buildings and reportedly sang the union song, "Solidarity Forever".

While the Government of Belize recently announced the full reinstatement of public servants' salaries come July 1, the unionized workers of DFC have been facing off with DFC management for the past

eight months in an effort to avoid having their own salaries cut. Since June of 2021, the workers, represented by the Christian Workers Union, have been attempting to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement while seeking to avoid a 10% pay cut that has been proposed as one of the terms of that agreement.

This isn't the first time that DFC workers have stood up in protest. Back in 2006, the unionized workers staged a walk-off in response to the Government's decision to allow write-offs for holders of housing and student loans in the face of DFC management's decision to hold off on discussions regarding workers' wages and benefits.

Mother dies in RTA

A 38-year-old mother perished in a collision with a 4Runner on the Aguacate Lagoon Road in Spanish Lookout



ASP Fitzroy Yearwood - Communications Director of the Belize Police Department

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

A woman who resided in the Green Hills area of Spanish Lookout in the Cayo District lost her life as a result of a road traffic accident that occurred on Saturday, March 12.

Maria Norma Cedillo, 38, a Belizean housewife, along with her 8-year-old child, was traveling on her motorbike toward Green Hills along a route from Spanish Lookout when the motorcycle collided with a 1997 4Runner, which was being driven by Jesson Geovanny Guevara Perez, 24, a Guatemalan laborer of Bullet Tree Falls, Cayo District, who was heading from Aguacate Falls towards Spanish Lookout Village.

According to initial police reports, Perez was driving his vehicle on the

Aguacate Lagoon Road, 1st Avenue 70th Street, in Spanish Lookout, in a direction opposite to the one in which Cedillo was heading, when he allegedly miscalculated as he was swerving along a curve, which caused him to collide head-on into Cedillo's motorcycle. Cedillo was severely injured and died shortly after.

Her 8-year-old child, who was injured in the head and body, was transported to the Western Regional Hospital and is listed in a critical condition. Also, the lifeless

body of Maria Cedillo was transported to the San Ignacio Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

"I know that Mister Perez was immediately detained. I cannot say whether he has been charged as yet, but I know police officers already issued him with a Notice of Intended Prosecution, and the necessary blood and urine samples were requested. Whether he complies or not, it will be sent to us today," said Communications Director of the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood at a weekly police press briefing. It has been reported that Perez's vehicle was damaged on the front driver's side.

So far, it is unclear whether Cedillo or her child was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.



FFB holds one-day National Elite Youth Football championship finals

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) held the championship finals of its National Elite Youth Football Tournament 2022 in all four categories – U17 Women, U17 Men, U20 Women, and U20 Men at the FFB Stadium on Saturday, March 12. The championship finals were one-game affairs, while the semifinals were played on a home-and-away basis. After the games, trophies were awarded to the champion and sub-champion teams and individual awards for outstanding players in each category. Below are the results as provided by the FFB.

U17 Women Elite

With kickoff time scheduled at 9:00 a.m., Belmopan Elite took an early lead through Heidi Lopez (3'), but Stann Creek Elite rebounded with 3 goals, all from star striker Khalydia Velasquez (21', 75' & 89'), to secure the 3-1 victory and championship.

Congratulations to Stann Creek W-U17 Elite - FFB National Women's U17 Elite Champions 2022; and Belmopan W-U17 Elite - National Women's U17 Elite Sub-Champions 2022.

Individual awards were: Golden Boot (Top Scorer) – Khalydia Velasquez (Stann Creek Elite); Golden Gloves (Best Keeper) – Belinda Linarez (Belmopan Elite); Golden Ball (Best Player) – Khalydia Velasquez (Stann Creek Elite); and Best Defense – Shamika Lambey (Stann Creek Elite).

U20 Women Elite

Next was the U20 Women Elite, which started at 11:00 a.m., and again it was Stann Creek Elite coming from behind to take the championship. It was scoreless in the first half, with Cayo Elite then jumping to a 1-nil lead through Rashel Dawson (69'); but Stann Creek Elite responded shortly after with 2 quick goals from Shendra Casimiro (75' & 80'), and it was enough to secure the 2-1 victory and the championship for Stann Creek Elite.

Congratulations to Stann Creek W-U20 Elite - FFB National Women's U20 Elite Champions 2022; and Cayo W-U20 Elite - National Women's U20 Elite Sub-Champions 2022.

Individual awards were: Golden Boot (Top Scorer) – Shante Chacon (Belize Elite); Golden Gloves (Best Keeper) – Loraine Crawford (Cayo Elite); Golden Ball (Best Player) – Florine Vasquez (Cayo Elite); and Best Defense – Jesse McLaughlin (Stann Creek Elite).

U17 Men Elite

Action commenced at 2:00 p.m.

for the U17 Men Elite clash between Belize Elite and Mid-South Elite, and it went right down to the wire, being decided on penalty kicks. Regulation ended 3-3, after Belize Elite had taken a commanding 3-nil lead through Flayden Carter (11'), Jaymion Cacho (15') and Steven Rivera (37'); but Mid-South came roaring back with 2 goals from Santiago Makin (45+ & 80') and another from Dominique Palacios (75').

It was then on to overtime, and again it ended deadlocked, as Kenyon Smith (92') put Belize Elite up 4-3, and Miguel Canizalez (120') equalized it 4-4 in the last minute of overtime play.

It was high drama in this one, as the penalty kicks started with the first two attempts from both teams coming up empty – Steven Rivera and Keydenshay Bowen for Belize Elite, and Daniel Cadle and Keifer Cardinez for Mid-South. Three straight scores were then recorded, to complete the initial five penalty kickers with both teams tied at 3-3 on penalties. Scoring for Belize Elite were Kenyon Smith, Dixon Gamboa and Jaymion Cacho; while for Mid-South it was Santiago Marin, Carson Torres and Kevauhn Coc. But in the next penalty, Edward Humes connected for Belize Elite, and Orlando Jackson missed for Mid-South. And that was it, Belize Elite took the championship.

Congratulations to Belize M-U17 Elite - FFB National Men's U17 Elite Champions 2022; and Mid-South M-U17 Elite - National Men's U17 Elite Sub-Champions 2022!

Individual awards were: Golden Boot (Top Scorer) – Keffer Perteau (Belize Elite); Golden Gloves (Best Keeper) – Edward Humes (Belize Elite); Golden Ball (Best Player) – Daniel Cadle (Mid-South Elite); and Best Defense – Brandon Rogers (Belize Elite).

U20 Men Elite

Due to overtime and penalties in the U17 Men's final, the U20 Men's Elite final which was scheduled to kick off at 4:00 p.m. did not get under way until 5:00 p.m.; and it was another tough encounter in regulation. This one was 0-0 at the half, and still 0-0 at the end of ninety minutes of combat between Belmopan Elite and Belize Elite. However, after being still scoreless in the first 15 minutes of overtime, things abruptly fell apart for the Belize Elite team when star stopper/midfielder Michael Palacio was ejected. Belmopan Elite proceeded to score 3 goals and come away with the 3-nil victory with star striker Wilfredo Galvez netting 2 goals

Fully automatic gun found in Belize City

Police discovered a MAC-10 in the Back-A-Town area in Belize City

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Mar. 14, 2022

While conducting a search in the Back-A-Town area in Southside Belize City on Thursday, March 10, police discovered a MAC-10 fully automatic pistol.

“Our aggressive operation in the city geared at targeting gang members and their bases continues. Just moments ago, our team in the Back-A-Town area found this firearm. For those who don't know, this is a Mac-10 fully automatic weapon. It shoots 9mm rounds and is classified as one of the deadliest short [arms],” stated Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams.

The police also seized another firearm from the BLC (Backa Lands Crips) gang that operates in the



vicinity of Police Street.

The police have been actively conducting such operations in response to a spate of shootings and murders that have recently occurred in Belize City.

Bus Association calls off strike

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Rodwell Ferguson, made some recommendations that the BBA views as promising, and they are now going back to their membership to discuss those recommendations and chart a path forward.

“It's all depending on when we go back to our membership -- but as a responsible association, if we are dialoguing and we are seeing where we are going, we are seeing our headway then, as the president, I would tell my operators to hold back and see, you know. Let diplomacy actually have its way,” said Shaw.

The stance that is currently being taken is very different from the position of the BBA on Thursday last week, when the secretary of the BBA, Ewart Metzgen, said that Minister Rodwell Ferguson flatly denied the association's request for some form of relief for bus operators, who have been absorbing substantial increases in the price of fuel and in overhead expenses for years, without raising

bus fares.

Shaw said that they are acting in good faith—on the basis of government's assurance that it will not take more than two weeks to return to the BBA with a final decision, and while the details of the recommendations are still unknown, Shaw said that both the issue of fuel prices and the increase of the standard bus fare is to be discussed by Cabinet.

A meeting was held today for the parties to complete the discussion on all the details of the bus operators' demands and the recommendations from the Ministry.

“I'll be more satisfied when I see it materialize, but as I said, it's a step in the right direction, and actually, they are telling us basically what we want to hear, but we want to know that it'll materialize,” Shaw said.

He said that they will get in contact with their members for their feedback on the advancements made in the recent meetings and says they will utilize their online chat group to do so, since getting all their members in one physical location is sometimes difficult.

The threat of a nationwide bus strike is, for all intents and purposes, off the table for now, following the sit-down between the BBA executive and the government of Belize. The feedback from the membership—bus operators on the road every day who are shouldering the brunt of the fuel price increases and rising cost of living—will determine whether the recommendations are accepted.

(108' & 119') and the other coming from Kerdel Diaz (114').

Congratulations to Belmopan M-U20 Elite - FFB National Men's U20 Elite Champions 2022; and Belize M-U20 Elite - National Men's U20 Elite Sub-Champions 2022!

Individual awards were: Golden Boot (Top Scorer) – Wilfredo Galvez (Belmopan Elite); Golden Gloves (Best Keeper) – Isaac Castillo (Belmopan Elite); Golden Ball (Best Player) – Wilfredo Galvez (Belmopan Elite); and Best Defense – Corey Perteau (Belize Elite).

BNTU: touch one, touch all

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stevedores for the financial losses and hardships they experienced during the 20-plus years since the privatization of the port. At the last hearing, Justice Shoman granted an interim injunction to freeze the CWU's account to prevent the issuance of the funds paid by GoB to the stevedores, but the president of the union, Evan "Mose" Hyde, had indicated that they were experiencing blockages of other bank accounts belonging to the union and its members that was amounting to a financial blackout as a result of the order.

The BNTU, after discussion with the CWU and its members, has stated that the case "amounts to no less than a bold attack on Trade Unionism, as a whole, in our country." The BNTU is thus asking all unions in the country to consider the implications that the case brought by the Port of Belize Ltd. (seen by many Belizeans as a vicious attempt by an employer to cause economic pain to workers) can have on unionism in Belize and to join them in boycotting the Belize Bank.

"After in-depth discussions were complete, our Council unanimously voted that we stand in full support and solidary with our sister Union, the CWU, and in doing so, our action, in the first instance, will be to withdraw all our Union's accounts, those of both national and local branches, from the Belize Bank Limited," a release from the BNTU states.

"Through this medium, we also wish to call on all other sister Unions, under the Trade Union Congress of Belize, to fully consider the dire implication that the court

case against the CWU can have on all of us, as Trade Unions. The trumpet call of unionism is, 'Touch One, Touch ALL,' and therefore the time to come to the aid of our sister union is NOW!!!" the release, which was sent from the BNTU's Finance Department, states.

But the BNTU is going even further. It will be engaging in further discussions with its wider membership within the coming weeks, in an effort to lay the groundwork for what could be further action on the part of the union.

In its press release the union states, "The Trade Union movement is arguably one of the most important pillars in our democracy as a young nation, and we will not stand idly by and allow any individual, or entity to trample or try to destroy its existence."

When interviewed some weeks ago, Hector Guerra, one of the Port of Belize's attorneys, had pointed to the lack of parliamentary approval prior to the government's decision to enter the agreement with the CWU and disburse payment as the reason for the lawsuit. He said that if approval is granted, they would have to revisit the action. The Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, had earlier said that the government will seek the requisite parliamentary approval during the presentation of the budget for the new fiscal year at the next meeting of the House of Representatives, which is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, March 15. The PBL case that seeks to block the \$1.5 million disbursement to the stevedores goes back to court on Wednesday, March 16. The interim injunction is set to expire at 5:00 p.m. on that day.

Janelle Chanona is new NGO Senator

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following the resignation of former senator Osmany Salas who has gone on to work with the World Wildlife Fund. Chanona, who has been the acting Vice President of Oceana Belize since January 2014 and is also a former journalist, received 21 votes out of a possible 31, while candidate Dr. Sharmayne Saunders, nominated by the Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association and Haven House, received 10 votes. Chanona was nominated by the National Garifuna Council, the Belize Tourism Industry Association, and the Belize Audubon Society.

"I commit to honouring the vote of confidence that I've received today through hard work and inclusive representation... The contributions of the NGO community to national development via multiple sectors is tremendous, and their voices deserve to be amplified in the corridors of power in support of informed

decision making and good governance," said the senator-elect at Friday's BNN meeting.

Upon being officially sworn in at the next sitting of the Senate, which will take place later this month, Janelle Chanona will become the fifth woman senator. Chanona has stated that while the idea of playing a role in increasing the female representation in the Senate is certainly uplifting, she plans to continue to ensure that such representation is not merely a form of tokenism and hopes that, by means of her new position, she will act as a voice that amplifies the needs of others.

"I certainly was heartened by the fact that regardless of how the pendulum swung today, that the Senate would have gained additional female representation. I don't see where that has ever hurt in terms of having a female voice and representation in any circle in any quarters, so I am proud to be part of that number," she stated.

Churches oppose marijuana legalization

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Administration stepped forward to legalizing marijuana, here came the drug planes! As if Belize sent them a coded message!" the association added.

Of important note, however, is the fact that Belize has long been a transshipment point for the movement of drugs, particularly cocaine, from South America to the United States, and suspected drug planes have been landing in the country long before the decriminalization of marijuana, which occurred in November of 2017.

The NEAB previously criticized Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño in October of 2018 when he was Leader of the Opposition after he called for the full legalization of marijuana. Back then, the organization attributed the rise in crime and violence, specifically the murders of young men in Belize City, to the recent decriminalization of cannabis. And in October 2020, Minister of Home

Affairs and New Growth Industries, Hon. Kareem Musa, received backlash from the association for his comments regarding fully embracing the marijuana industry in Belize.

The NEAB has also previously stated that the legalization of weed could potentially further threaten the standing of the country's banking sector, which already has experienced a destabilization of its linkages with international banks.

"If this bill passes, we can expect increasingly serious harm to come to our youth, business, tourism and international banking relationships. With all the human and natural resources God has given to Belize, we have great potential for recovery and prosperity without resorting to the inevitably demoralizing and corrupting marijuana business," stated the press release, which then went on to say that, since the country's economy is already on the rebound, the government should aim to take what the NEAB calls a "healthy and more beneficial course."

Child Protective Services takes child seen drinking in video from mother

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boy being coaxed into drinking what appears to be rum have resulted in the boy being taken away from his mother by Child Protective Services. When the videos surfaced online last week, both the Police Department and the Department of Human Services had asked for the public's assistance in locating the boy as well as his caretakers. In one of the videos, the boy can be seen sitting on a bicycle while the male person filming the video encourages him to take a shot from a "Badman" bottle which contained a clear liquid. A woman's voice can also be heard telling the boy, "yuh have to tek a shot". In another video, the man behind the camera gives the boy a cup of what appears to be liquor and tells him to take a shot after instructing him to shout expletives and to pledge support for a local gang. According to the boy's mother, who subsequently spoke with local media, the man who filmed the video is the boy's older cousin.

"He was at home with his father," she said, and she explained to local

reporters that at some point, some of the boy's cousins came by and took him to "hang out" with them. The mother, who was at work during the incident, only found out about the videos after they had already made their way onto social media. Shortly after that, personnel from Child Protective Services came by and took her son away.

"We done give up the persons' name already. We done suspect da who do it," said the mother, who also said that when she saw the video, she couldn't believe what they were doing to her child.

In response to the videos, Commissioner of Police Chester Williams issued a statement, calling the act an outright case of child abuse.

"This clearly shows that some of us have certainly lost their sense of humanity, caring, and nurturing of our children," wrote the Police Commissioner on Facebook. He went on to request that anyone who knows the child or his parents contact him directly. Since then, the boy's parents have turned over the names of the relatives whose voices were heard in the videos to the police.

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- * Twin Supermarket, 5526 St. Thomas Street
- * Tow Tow Grocery Store, Mahogany Street
- * Julie Wong Store, Belama (by police station)
- * JB's Store, Mahogany Street
- * 88 Shopping Center, C.A. Boulevard
- * Freetown Drug Store
- * Publics, Philip Goldson Highway
- * Buca Shell, Philip Goldson Highway
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- * Xiomara Alcala c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies # 99 - 5th Avenue, Corozal Town
- * Elena Castaneda WE Store Gabriel Hoare Market #A8 6th Avenue, Corozal Town

INDEPENDENCE

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PUNTA GORDA

- * King's Texaco
- * NJV Pharmacy

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