

Belize's leading newspaper

BzeCitCo launches parking meter pilot project

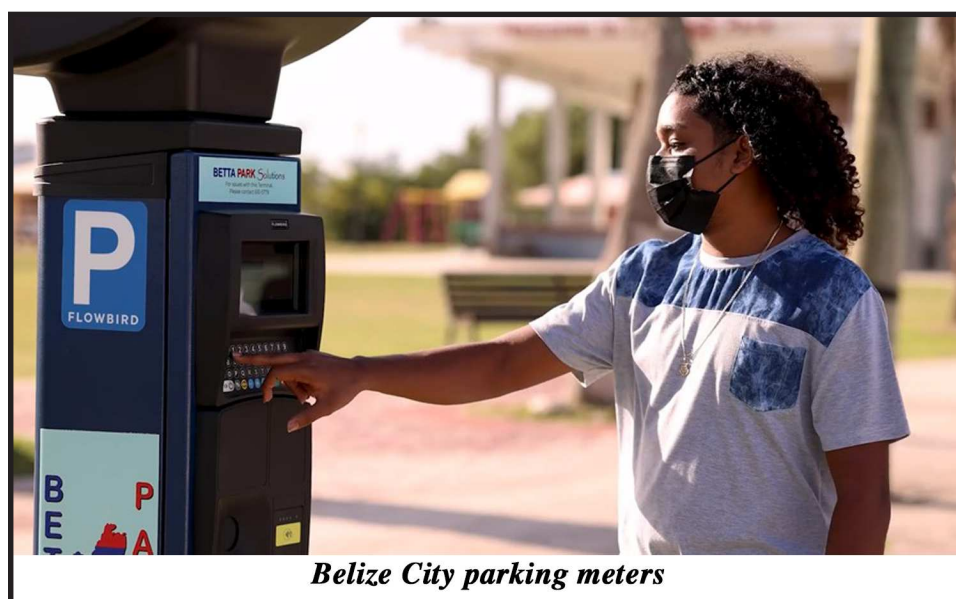
by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 4, 2022

The Belize City Council's Parking Meter Pilot Project was officially launched today. As a result, anyone wishing to conduct business in the Newtown Barracks area or on Albert Street will now be required to pay at the newly installed meters in order to park their vehicles. The project,

whose pilot phase is expected to last for one year, seeks to not only improve traffic in key areas of the city but also to transform Belize City into a "smart city" through continued urbanization. According to the City Council, the project also aims to provide more efficient and equitable use of city parking while reducing air

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Belize City parking meters

Jasmine Hartin to face Supreme Court trial



Jasmine Hartin

by *Kory Leslie (freelance writer)*

SAN PEDRO, Ambergris Caye, Thurs. Mar. 31, 2022

Last Thursday, March 31, 2022, Jasmine Hartin and her attorney, Richard "Dickie" Bradley, made another scheduled return to the San Pedro Magistrate's Court for a preliminary inquiry into the charges that have been brought against her. At the end of that inquiry, Hartin, who was charged with manslaughter by

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Shyne dumps Faber loyalists

The publication of two letters written by Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow to Governor-General Dame Froyla Tzalam has revealed that senators Darrell Bradley and Sheena Pitts will be replaced by Ms. Beverly Williams and Mr. Antonio Herrera

by *Kory Leslie (freelance writer)*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Apr. 5, 2022

Following the UDP's most recent national leadership convention which saw Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow elected as the party's leader, many were left wondering whether there would be a reorganizing of the power structure within the party. Last Friday, April 1, 2022, those speculations were confirmed, following the publication of two letters that Hon. Barrow presented to Governor



Antonio Herrera

Beverly Williams

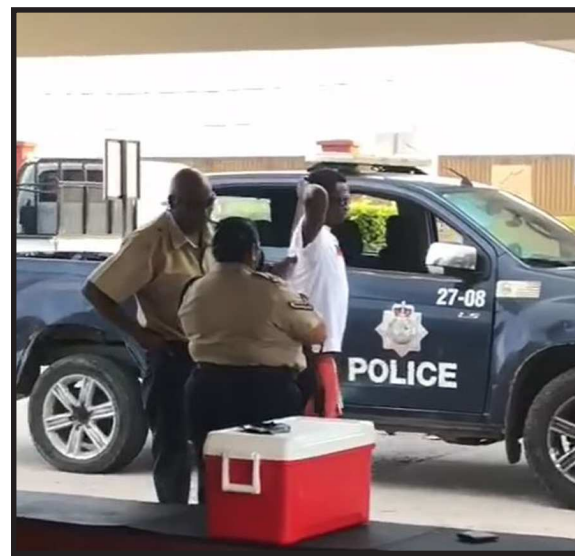
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Aggressive cop "roughs up" tour guide

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 4, 2022

Yet another instance of police brutality was caught on camera over the weekend. In a video that has since been posted on social media, a police officer can be seen approaching a young man and threatening him with dubious charges as he tried to catch a flight at the Belize



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Belize lights it up blue for Autism Awareness Month

(See story on page 4)



Motorcyclist crashes into parked cane truck

A Sarteneja motorcyclist perished this past Friday after colliding into a parked cane truck two miles outside of Orange Walk Town on the Remate Bypass.



Orlando Trejo, deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 4, 2022

A motorcyclist from the village of Sarteneja in the Corozal District met an untimely death this past Friday after

colliding with a cane truck parked on the right-hand side of the Philip Goldson Highway just two miles outside of Orange Walk Town on the Remate Bypass. According to police reports, at around 12:20 a.m., cane farmer and truck driver Victoriano Pott, 46, of San Jose Village, Orange Walk District, was en route to the Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSI) Tower Hill factory to deliver sugar cane when one of his truck's tires went flat. Pott pulled over to the side of the road to replace the damaged tire. As he did so, he felt something collide with the back of the truck. That was when he noticed 22-year-old Orlando Trejo lying on the ground and his motorcycle lying underneath the vehicle.

The 46-year-old cane farmer called

the police, but by the time they arrived, Trejo, who had suffered multiple face and body injuries, including a broken right leg, had already been taken to the Northern Regional Hospital, where he would later succumb to those injuries.

In response to the deadly collision, Communications Director for the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, expressed concerns regarding the safety of the general public, advising persons traveling in the area to avoid using the Remate Bypass, as it was designed for cane trucks, which sometimes do not have reflectors on them.

"We have a bypass in Orange Walk that was built for the use of these cane trucks and cane farmers. I try to encourage people that I meet not to

use that bypass. I know it cuts about 10 minutes off your trip, but this is a busy time for the cane farmers. I have been alerted by my staff that some of these trucks don't have actual reflectors; they just have the reflecting paint. I know that due to financial constraints the cane farmers are allowed to use that road sometimes without their vehicles being insured, so you're at a loss if you travel through that road designed for cane farmers and have a mishap. I am not [encouraging] cane farmers to break the law, but at the same time you, the general public, must take your safety seriously," stated ASP Yearwood.

Police have detained Victoriano Pott and have obtained urine samples from him which are still pending investigation.

"Girls Gone Crafty" in Belmopan

An initiative led by Belmopan artist Raquel Rodriguez in celebration of Women's Month saw several local women learn how to turn handmade crafts into income.

by Khaila Gentle

BELMOPAN, Mon. Apr. 4, 2022

The final few days of Women's Month saw the culmination of "Girls Gone Crafty"—an art initiative spearheaded by Belmopan artist Raquel Rodriguez (Raquel-ART) in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Development, Families, and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, which aimed to teach women how to turn handmade crafts into sources of income. The four-day initiative, which saw fifty women from all across Belmopan and its surrounding areas in attendance, took place at the Belmopan Market Plaza and concluded on March 26. Its participants learned how to craft a wide range of products, including jewelry, key chains, handbags, and coasters, many of which are often sold in the country's tourism industry. The women also learned the importance of branding as well as how to properly package items in preparation for becoming successful vendors and small business owners. And after spending time creating handcrafted items, they were given the chance to sell their work right off the bat, with the workshop setting up booths at the Belmopan Night Market.

Raquel Rodriguez, the owner of Raquel-ART and the facilitator behind the workshop, told *AMANDALA* that the motivation behind the project came from years of working as an artist in Belize both as a single mother and as a woman determined to make a living doing the thing she loves—creating art.

"Normally in the art world, you're just an artist, you're one person. However, this being alone, being by ourselves, pulling ourselves through the artwork, selling our art in tourism and all these things, that came to a screeching halt during COVID," she said. With the pandemic, her profitable work selling art came to a screeching halt. But shortly after, she would begin teaching art—a skill that would be put to good use during her workshop.

"Girls Gone Crafty was brought to my attention through CEO Tanya Santos with the Ministry of Human Development. And that was very important to me, because they asked me to do something for Women's Month," she said. She then went on to explain how teaching women to become economically empowered through art was the first thing that popped into her mind.

According to Rodriguez, the workshop was the product of a group effort, as the women were instructed not only by her but by several artisans from across the country as well. The soon-to-be vendors were also granted the opportunity to create a vendor's account with the National Bank of Belize, which, according to one of the participants, Miss



Monilee Aspinall, will make conducting sales much easier. Aspinall, who recently began selling crystal jewelry online, spoke with *AMANDALA*, explaining how the workshop has helped her to expand her skills as a small business owner.

"I started a small business making jewelry a couple months ago. Before the training, it was just me kind of sitting on YouTube stressing about where to get materials from, the technique, packaging, how to find customers, all that stuff—just doing that by yourself. And so with Miss Raquel, she gave us really the foundational things," said Aspinall, who expressed gratitude towards Raquel Rodriguez for providing them not only with crafting materials and lessons but with the chance to meet with persons who have been successfully making income as artisans.

"One of the things that is really hard in this business is that people are very tight-lipped with where they source their products from, because they view everyone as competition. So it was really nice being able to have something tangible and intangible of

being able to reach out to someone. That was definitely one of the highlights for me," she added.

The Girls Gone Crafty workshop provided the participants, all women of various ages, an opportunity to connect, not just with potential collaborators and customers, but with each other, as they shared stories of their experiences as small business owners and artists.

"Tears were shed in this workshop while so many shared these stories ... some of domestic violence or some just from the need to have money coming into their homes ... on the other hand, tears of joy were also spilled," stated a press release issued by Raquel-ART, which also gave kudos to one participant, Miss Nancy Reyes, who worked on all her products during the workshop with a 2-month-old baby in hand.

"It's so powerful how a small workshop can make such a huge impact on someone's life," expressed Rodriguez. She also told *AMANDALA* that she hopes to be able to bring Girls Gone Crafty to other parts of the country and is currently working towards getting the funding to do so.



Women's Commission honours twenty-one outstanding women

Twenty-one women from throughout the country were honoured by the National Women's Commission at the end of Women's Month

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 4, 2022

Twenty-one Belizean women from all corners of the country were honoured by the National Women's Commission and the Ministry of Human Development this past Thursday, March 31, for their contributions to their communities through their respective fields. The seventeenth annual Outstanding Women's Awards Ceremony, held in commemoration of the end of Women's Month, took place at the Belize Biltmore Plaza as part of the ministry's effort to celebrate women in various work fields, including the military, agriculture, and non-profit organizations.

Executive Director for the National Women's Commission, Thea Garcia-Ramirez, gave an address at the special event, during which she spoke on the importance of tackling gender-based issues year-round.

"Since last November, during the observance of sixteen days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the National Women's Commission under the leadership and guidance of Hon. Dolores Balderamos García, Minister of Human Development, Families and Children, and Indigenous People's Affairs decided that our fight against inequality, inequity, discrimination, and violence against women and girls in Belize would be relentless. Our promise was to fight beyond sixteen days and to ensure that the advocacy, education, and programs would attack it year-round. In keeping with that promise, this March, for Women's Month, we committed to 'Breaking the Bias' that keeps women back from realizing their full potential and representation at all levels of decision making in Belizean society, government, and the workplace," she said.

"While today, the government has ensured that women are represented in various stages of decision-making, women's representation is still lacking in the legislative branch, and we have worked tirelessly with our minister at the ministry, and with the Special Envoy at her office and the UN aid agencies, and all our stakeholders. But this is not nearly enough; women are still subject disproportionately to fighting the negative effects of gender-based violence, poverty, unemployment and underemployment, and even climate change. The women here today are an example of selfless devotion to the



Myrtle Bowen Andrewin and Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia

work that breaks down bias and promotes cultures and attitudes that make Belize better and stronger," Garcia-Ramirez added.

Also present was Executive Director of the Belize Family Life Association, Joan Burke-Skeen, whose keynote address focused on breaking the bias.

"As a country, we break the bias when more men are given the portfolio of the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs, allowing a greater understanding by our males and appreciation of the struggles and hardship of women, young girls, and children, especially in the equality and equity conversation. We break the bias when a female is given the portfolio of the Ministry of Works; we have many female engineers who can do a pretty good job. We break that bias when a female is given the portfolio of a minister or even CEO of Natural Resources. We break that bias when we have a female being our financial; women are the best money managers. We break the bias when a female is assigned and respected as the Commissioner of Police. We break the bias when a female will be assigned as Brigadier General of Belize Defence Force. We break the bias when our Madam Speaker of the House of Representatives is given the same level of respect and courtesy extended to her male counterparts by the members of what we call that honourable house. To break the bias, therefore, we must have the gut, and I want to say all of you here [are] being recognized today; you have the guts; that's why you're being recognized," she stated.

The women awarded at the ceremony this year were nominated by various agencies, including Haven House, the Women and Family Support Department, the Belize City Council, the Corozal Town Council, the Office of the Special Envoy, the US Embassy, the National Library Service, the YWCA, and others. The awardees received a commemorative plaque along with gift baskets brimming with groceries and other items.

Two killed in Cayo RTA's

A motorcycle accident in Santa Elena claimed the life of a member of the La Ruta Maya River Challenge team, "Faya Boyz" on Saturday. And in a separate road traffic accident on the Spanish Lookout Road, the wife of a high-ranking police officer lost her life.



Isaiah Sandoval and Lorelli Tzib, both deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 4, 2022

A daylight motorcycle traffic accident in Santa Elena Town, Cayo District, claimed the life of a member of the La Ruta Maya River Challenge team, "Faya Boyz" sometime after 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 2. And on that same day, at around 10:35 p.m., Lorelli Tzib, the wife of police officer ASP Nazario Tzib, died in a traffic accident that occurred near a wooden bridge outside the village of Selena at the end of the Spanish Lookout Road.

Twenty-six-year-old Isaiah Sandoval was riding a motorcycle, on which a 16-year-old female minor was a passenger, on George Price Street near Arts Welding Shop when they collided with another motorcycle, driven by 20-year-old Nigel Ramirez, who had been approaching from the opposite direction.

Both Sandoval and the female minor received head injuries, but while the young girl's injuries were deemed non-life-threatening, Sandoval, unfortunately, passed away after being rushed to the San Ignacio Hospital. Twenty-year-old Ramirez also received injuries, including one broken limb, and was transported to the hospital, where he was treated and later released.

Police are currently awaiting a toxicology report to determine whether alcohol was a factor that contributed to the collision of both motorcycles. Sandoval was a member of the Faya Boyz team that participated in the Belikin La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge last month.

Police are also investigating a fatal traffic accident that claimed the life of Lorelli Tzib, wife of ASP Nazario Tzib. According to initial reports, police arrived at the scene of the accident outside Selena Village on the Spanish Lookout Road at about 10:35 p.m. and saw a white Isuzu pickup truck overturned in a stream near a one-lane wooden bridge. They then discovered a woman, later identified

as Tzib—a 45-year-old resident of San Ignacio Town—trapped inside the pickup, while her husband, a police officer, ASP Nazario Tzib, lay in a semi-conscious state on the side of the road.

Police investigations revealed that ASP Nazario Tzib was traveling to Selena Village from Spanish Lookout when he lost control of the vehicle, which careened off the wooden bridge and overturned.

Nazario Tzib was transported to the San Ignacio Hospital for treatment; however, his wife, Lorelli Tzib, succumbed to her injuries.

Communications Director for the Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, told local media that there were no guardrails on the bridge toward which Tzib had been driving—making it an area in which accidents are more likely to occur. He also stated that the accident could have been a result of mechanical failure.

According to ASP Yearwood, ASP Tzib gave an interim report to the officers who went to the scene of the accident, and a thorough investigation is being done.

"He [Tzib] gave an interim report to the officers. Like I said, dealing with what took place and realizing that your loved one lost her life, we have to be very gentle with how we approach a situation like this. We're not giving him any preferential treatment, but at the same time we must realize the psychological effects of what took place out on that night, and I am certain investigators know how to approach this and will do it in the best interest of Mr. Tzib and the public that is waiting and listening, because of course we want to give the quickest version of what took place and the best version. At the same time, we want to be very thorough with our investigation," stated ASP Yearwood.

ASP Yearwood noted during a police press briefing that all the necessary procedures and tests have been done, and he extended his condolences to ASP Tzib and his family.

Face-to-face learning will soon resume— MoE



by Kory Leslie (freelance writer)

BELIZE CITY, Fri. April 1, 2022

In a press release issued this week, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology (MoECST) indicated that it has given the green light for all schools to return to their pre-pandemic modes of instruction, which means a complete return to face-to-face learning. This complete return to the classroom is expected to replace the current hybrid system of instruction which consists of both face-to-face lessons and online learning and which has been the arrangement at many local schools since its introduction in January, when over 250 schools were reopened. The rollout of that mix of in-person classes and online instruction had been deemed mostly a success after status reports from the Ministry of Health & Wellness shared in February showed that, despite a number of students and educators having been sent home after displaying symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, no major virus outbreaks were detected in any specific school. And one of the Ministry's more recent reports indicated that 549 out of Belize's 600 schools had been approved for hybrid learning, with more applications still coming in from the remaining institutions as of March 16.

Amidst such positive developments, GoB released Statutory Instrument No. 61 of 2022, which removed almost all COVID-19 restrictions, including the mask mandate in private and public establishments and the two-year curfew that had been imposed on Belizeans. The MoECST used that S.I.

as a springboard to announce via a press release on Friday, April 1, that the green light for face-to-face classes was being granted to all schools within the country.

The Ministry did, however, state that all existing safety protocols such as indoor mask-wearing, hand-washing, sanitizing and monitoring for COVID-like symptoms would continue to be of paramount importance for all students and educators.

The press release also went on to state that the Ministry is aware of the "varied circumstances and experiences" facing schools and will therefore allow staggered schedules to be maintained for those who are not fully ready to begin face-to-face lessons. nevertheless, teachers must be prepared to resume physical classes in the upcoming academic year.

"It is our position now that schools may begin to chart their return to pre-pandemic daily schedules. Where schools do not feel that their circumstances permit them to return fully in the immediate, they may continue to operate under the staggered schedules. All schools, however, will be expected to return to the full pre-pandemic schedules for the 2022-2023 academic year," stated the release from the Education Ministry.

The MoECST said that they will continue to work with public health experts in order to prioritize the well-being of all students. Notably, the Government of Belize has announced that it is in the process of trying to acquire vaccines for children ages 5-11 to propel the country closer to the 70% immunity mark.

Belize lights it up blue for Autism Awareness Month

(From page 1)

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Apr. 1, 2022

World Autism Awareness Month is observed annually in April, and this year Autism Belize, a community NGO made up of parents, volunteers, doctors, therapists, and psychologists that aims to spread awareness and acceptance of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), has once again launched its "Light It Up Blue" campaign as part of the month's activities. As blue is the official color for ASD Awareness, Autism Belize is asking businesses and anyone else wishing to show their support to light up their buildings with blue light bulbs or to wear blue clothing every Friday. The campaign has also been using the hashtags #AutismBelize and #LightItUpBlueBze for those wishing to show their support on social media.

The condition known as Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder is one that affects how a person thinks, feels, interacts with others, and experiences their environment. As the name of the disorder suggests, however, autistic persons can have a wide range of experiences and symptoms that differ from person to person—hence the use of the word "spectrum". Currently, there are approximately 70 million cases of Autism Spectrum Disorder recognized worldwide, with the number of occurrences increasing, thus making it one of the fastest growing developmental disorders in the world. Autism Awareness Month

is thus aimed at promoting the acceptance, inclusivity, and empathy that are required to promote change and support for those with ASD.

Royann Riverol, one of the volunteers working with Autism Belize and the mother of a boy diagnosed with ASD, spoke with AMANDALA and expressed hopes that the Autism Awareness (and Acceptance) campaign will promote a greater amount of engagement and support for autistic persons and their guardians.

"Not all kids with autism are the same. They are the most loving people you will meet but just need an extra bit of guidance and love as well as understanding. They are filled with lots of love, emotion and happiness. I want Belizeans to pay more keen attention and to not discriminate," she said.

In speaking with us, Riverol also said that over the past few years, she has seen an increasing number of Belizeans express support for, and acceptance of, those with ASD, for which she is truly grateful.

"For me, it took me three years to adapt after my son got his diagnosis, and I am still adapting as he grows. But apart from that, many people are very understanding, especially once they get to know exactly who or what they are coming across," she stated.


Throughout the month of April, Autism Belize will be hosting a wide range of events, all of which are listed on their website at <https://autismbelize.org>

Escapee Edward Saldano caught

by Khaila Gentle


BELIZE CITY, Mon. Apr. 4, 2022

Just two days after police issued a call for his recapture, 21-year-old Edward Saldano, who had escaped from the Magistrate's Court, is back in police custody. Saldano is the son of the recently murdered Edward "Scrub Board" Saldano, Sr., and was being held on remand for charges of armed robbery. When the announcement of the younger Saldano's escape was first made by police, it was stated that he was also wanted for questioning in connection with a murder (in addition to his escape from lawful custody.) We will cover more on the



WANTED BY POLICE


IN CUSTODY



Edward Saldano Age: 21 years DOB: 07.07.99. Belizean Stevedore of #105 George St. Belize City. Wanted for questioning in respect to a Murder, and Escape from Lawful Custody. He is of dark complexion slim built 5'8" in height, weighs approximately 150 lbs if seen kindly call 911 and report any sightings.

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Atrocity or Opportunity

Atrocity – “a shockingly bad or atrocious act, object, or situation” (merriam-webster.com); “the fact of something being extremely cruel, violent, or shocking” (dictionary.cambridge.org); “behaviour or an action that is wicked or ruthless” (collinsdictionary.com)

Sun. Apr. 3, 2022

The recent visit on Saturday, March 19, of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and his wife, Catherine, excited some strong words of protest from anti-colonialist activists in Belize, as elsewhere in their Commonwealth Caribbean “charm offensive” on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II’s reign. Particularly noteworthy was the demonstration/protest conducted by some residents of the Mayan village of Indian Creek who, as explained in the *Amandala* front page story of Tuesday, March 22, held up placards telling the Duke to “land somewhere else.” The villagers were apparently aggrieved “because they learned that Prince William is the patron of Flora and Fauna International (FFI), the conservation organization which reportedly owns a disputed 12,000-acre tract of land which the village of Indian Creek is claiming as communal property, used traditionally by the villagers.” Despite a last-minute change of their itinerary due to the protest, however, the royal couple were met with a warm welcome throughout their many stops on their Belizean tour, during which they were treated to a generous dose of the traditional Belizean hospitality. Aside from the Indian Creek protest, there was one other local (and perhaps more strongly worded) protest of the royal visit, and it came from a press

release by the UBAD Educational Foundation (UEF), which characterized the royal visit as “an atrocity”.

Throughout their week-long Belize tour, there was no visible groundswell of animosity or dismay expressed by Belizean citizens towards the royal couple, but UEF’s extreme reaction and attitude toward the visit of Queen Elizabeth II’s representatives may be regarded from two perspectives: an excessively harsh approach to a guest on a goodwill visit; or an intentionally abrasive wake-up call to a people largely still subjected to mental slavery resulting from the orchestrated historical ignorance of our colonial past. The charge of “atrocity” was apparently directed to the throne and its representatives at this time of “reparations” discussions, but the deeper meaning of the occasion and the sentiments unearthed suggests an opportunity to address a largely uninformed and unenlightened population still in need of historical empowerment.

While UEF’s release declared that “British colonizers visit to Belize in 2022 is an atrocity to our Afrikan ancestors, and Afrikan people living in Belize!” (a Jamaican group,

the Advocates Network, later stated in anticipation of the royal couple’s visit that ‘We see no reason to celebrate 70 years of the ascension of your grandmother to the British throne because her leadership, and that of her predecessors, has perpetuated the greatest human rights tragedy in the history of humankind’), this declaration has enjoyed little resonance in the general population, whose systemic dislocation from their own historical legacy is exemplified by a childlike innocence and blissful ignorance that may have served our people well in times of tranquility and peace.

Ironically, it is this acknowledged innocence and the absence of a strong national response to any possible military aggression, that has likely led a wise Belizean elder from the West to declare the idiocy of any move to distance ourselves from the monarchy at this time, when the verdict of the ICJ still hangs in the balance and, even if it is all in our favor, enforcement might be a concern against any belligerent behavior from our western neighbor. And that is not necessarily farfetched, considering the tentative response of big brother to the north to the current Ukraine situation, and in light of the fact that a Belize-Guatemala amalgamation has always been Washington’s proposed solution to the dispute. (See “Webster’s Proposals.”)

The role of history is supposed to be so we can use our knowledge of the past to better prepare for the future. But as Bob Marley sang, “None but ourselves can free our minds!” So, “from colonialism to nationhood;” but where has our educational system taken our masses of former “colonial subjects” on the road to “emancipating ourselves”?

There is a story about a ladder, and trying to reach the top of a hill. But the foot of the ladder is not planted and secured on solid ground, so it keeps sliding down, and the climber cannot reach the destination.

Our “brainwash” education system finally made a small step towards opening the minds of our bright young population (previously they had been teaching only “World History” and “European History” in high schools), when suddenly, around 1968 they introduced “West Indian History” into the high school curriculum for 3rd formers at SJC. This was supposed to be great progress on the road to enlightenment; but it was not enough to release the enquiring young minds from “mental slavery.” They did learn about Christopher Columbus “discovering the New World,” and John Hawkins and other ship captains from European nations engaged in the trade of enslaved Africans in the West Indies, and the various conflicts among them as they fought for the control of the wealth to be gained from their various colonies. Yes, of course, they taught us about the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, and how the Pope of Rome drew a line and shared the “discovered” lands of the “New World” (where the Aztecs, the Incas and the Maya had long inhabited), between Catholic nations Spain and Portugal. And some of us passed our GCEs in West Indian History. And we were supposed to be educated.

The “atrocity” that UEF is calling our attention to, is the web of ignorance that continues to stifle the growth and maturity of our nation, where enlightened citizens would no longer tolerate idiots and crooks to lead them, or feel that it is fine for the Duke to pay us a “charm” visit without first asking us to please accept his sincere apology for what was done to generations of our ancestors by his forebears, from which he is currently benefiting, and the negative effects of which are still haunting our masses of ignorant and poverty-stricken people in a land blessed with “wealth untold.” But then, “where ignorance is bliss,” there seems no urgent need for an apology in our present condition, which UEF characterizes as an atrocity.

In his visit and lecture at the then recently launched UEF Library back in the mid-1990s, Guyanese historian/anthropologist Dr. Ivan Van Sertima, who had authored the book *They Came Before Columbus* back in 1976, made reference to what

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(estb. 1969)

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Publisher: Evan X Hyde
Editor-in-chief: Marco Lopez
Business Manager: Jacinta Hyde
Make-up & Design
Artist: Andrea Dennison
Executive Secretary: Eden Cruz
Composer: Tyra Welch
Lithography: Clive Smith
Printer: Kent Brooks

Please email Correspondence:
editor_amandala@yahoo.com

Advertisements to:
amandalapress@yahoo.com

Mailing Address:
Amandala Press
3304 Partridge Street
c/o P.O. Box 15,
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UEF Mission Statement — March 10, 1996

1. We believe that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity of Belize are of paramount importance.

2. We believe that the single greatest challenge to the nationhood of Belize is distinction and discrimination among the ethnic groups of Belize.

3. We believe there are various types of racial discrimination in Belize, and that the racial discrimination against African people in Belize is part of a worldwide pattern which has existed for more than 500 years.

4. We believe that the working people of Belize, whatever their ethnic types, have lost ground and have lost rights in Belize over the last two decades.

5. We believe that there is a growing gap between the rich and the poor in Belize, a gap which will lead to the types of conflicts which have caused wars in Central America.

6. We believe that there is an alarming discrepancy between the education offered on the Northside and the education available on the Southside of Belize, where the majority of African Belizeans live. The Southside education systems are outdated, irrelevant, unattractive,

colonial, and racist.

7. The single greatest concern of the UBAD Educational Foundation (UEF) is the upgrading of the educational opportunities available to young African Belizeans, who have been the principal participants in the gang wars which have broken out in our urban areas.

8. The UBAD Educational Foundation will seek the accumulation of funds and resources to pursue its educational programs, but the UEF is non-profit in nature.

9. We believe the discrepancy in the educational opportunities being offered to our children and young people cannot be addressed by the political parties, because that is not the job of political parties. There is the need for a private, community-based institution to upgrade the educational systems available for African Belizeans, hence the UBAD Educational Foundation, formed on Sunday, March 10, 1996.

10. The primary concern of the Foundation is the education of African Belizeans, but the UBAD Educational Foundation is not racist or discriminatory in nature. All Belizean young people may participate in systems and programs created by the UBAD Educational Foundation.

Atrocity or Opportunity

Continued from Page 5

he called, "The Colombian Room," within which the colonial educational system had succeeded in enclosing and confining the minds of generations of "educated colonial subjects," so that our vision of the world and of ourselves was limited and distorted. The "Colombian Room" to which our minds had been confined began in 1492 with the so-called "discovery of the New World by Columbus." The ancestors of Belizeans of African descent entered that narrative as slaves, from the slave trade with Mother Africa. Going forward, it was all about the ups and downs of the logwood, sugar or mahogany business of the white slave masters, with little focus on the struggles for freedom of the black slaves. Religion was used as an effective tool to pacify the slaves, and keep them praying and waiting for that "pie in the sky" in the hereafter. And where religion was concerned in the colony of British Honduras

(Belize), it was all about the Messiah, Jesus, whether Anglican or Catholic or Methodist. But to find our Lord Jesus, we had to skip our minds back to "the beginning of time" in the Christian era with the birth of Christ. So, from that first Christmas onwards to 1492, things were very fuzzy where the past history of our African ancestors was concerned. It was all about slavery after 1492 in the "Colombian Room," and nothing about the great kings and kingdoms and universities in Africa that came before and preceded the rise of Europe from their Dark Ages.

Our revered "church-state" education system needs to dig a lot deeper, and at least close this massive, gaping historical hole in the minds of our youth, from Jesus and Christianity up to 1492, and that will have to involve a discussion of Muhammad and the rise of the religion of Islam, as well as the later appearance of Baha'u'llah and the Baha'i faith. But maybe that's why it hasn't happened. And that is an atrocity.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Residential Security Equipment Technician
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-08
Closing date: April 15, 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.hms>

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Trades Helper
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-07
Closing date: April 14, 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.hms>

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.

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of **ROBERT WILLIAM MCCLELLAN**, deceased of No. 1280 SW 152nd Lane, Ocala, Florida 34473, U.S.A.

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 **ROBERT WILLIAM MCCLELLAN**, deceased of No. 1280 SW 152nd Lane, Ocala, Florida 34473, U.S.A, who died on the 26th day of May, 2019 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 **THERESA BARTON a.k.a THERESA L. BARTON** of No. 106 Commerce Street, No. 107, Lake Mary, Florida 32746, 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 **ROBERT WILLIAM MCCLELLAN**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which it shall then have had notice.

DATED this 24th day of March, 2022


BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
ROBERT WILLIAM MCCLELLAN

Different visions is not “divide and conquer”

by Colin Hyde

To advance her position Ms. Cristina, of the Julian Cho Society (JCS), has every right to be trotting out that much-used “divide and conquer” charge. It’s up to those of us who are listening to decide if it should stick. Hmm, I’ve done some digging into this “divide and conquer” accusation levied on the devil British, but that will have to wait.

What is the lady’s business about? Ms. Coc and her followers apparently want about one million acres, about 17% of little Belize, to be classified as customary lands, lands that will be developed/managed at the direction and discretion of her and her group. Whoa there, if you put aside a million acres in Toledo, that’s 87% of the district; you leave only 149,000 acres for the rest, 13%.

I don’t have ALL the information, because all the details are not yet in on the exact positions of those at the negotiating table, but I’m listening and I’m not completely green about the application of “customary land rights”. What we know for sure is that the parties involved don’t agree, and that there is very tough talk that the devious control method called divide

and conquer is being used.

The gulf between private and communal is wide. Privately owned land doesn’t exist under customary law. Privately owned land can be bartered, mortgaged, rented, and it is taxed by GOB. Can customary land law be changed? Well, as shown in Botswana, the administration of the land can be changed. On the website land-links.org, under the heading “INTEGRATING CUSTOMARY LAND TENURE INTO STATUTORY LAND LAW”, it is stated, “Whereas the power to allocate land under customary tenure rested with chiefs and headmen, the law shifted this authority to local land boards, semi-autonomous corporate bodies made up of a combination of locally elected and government appointed officials.” (from found at the website land-links.org)

If we were to look back a thousand years, or even 500 years, and if the land area that is “customary” is as our JCS says it is, 1,000,000 acres, we would have to tweak things because it wouldn’t be fair to Belize. This is not the Belize District that we are talking about here. More than 50% of the land in the Belize District isn’t good for much, while much of the land

in Toledo West is of the kind that could help Belize deliver on its boast that it would become one of the breadbaskets of the Caribbean.

The group led by Mr. Ch’oc is apparently saying no, we cannot possibly aspire to take control of this relatively large area, solely for the use and enjoyment of our group. He is speaking primarily for the glory of Belize. It seems to me that others are making the glory of Belize secondary.

Cristina was our darling. If she were inclined to beauty pageants in her youth, coupling her good looks with her poise and intelligence, she had it. She, Greg and others were fighting for a great and noble cause, and the judge smiled on her and Greg and all our brothers and sisters in Mayaland, Belize. But the judge did not tell the GoB how much land should fall under customary land law. He said the Maya of Toledo and the government leaders should sit down and in good faith work it out.

Do not yield to vaulting ambition. Greg is just trying to make sure we don’t lose the bigger picture. There’s a difference in vision, and if we are sincere and respect each other, we’ll make progress together. I have my ideas on the divide and conquer subject as reportedly executed by the British masters of that game. What we have here, it is only a difference of visions.

the penalties. *Krem News* said that as of April 1, anyone caught with prohibited plastics can be prosecuted. Anyone found with 10 or more single-use plastic items, GOB will seize those, and if you are caught with more than that, you could also get fined.

There was a time when we all used bags made of heavy plastic or canvas, and they were nearly forever. Those days are here again. Bah, there’ll be a few stumbles while making the shift. A couple weeks back my younger sister presented two pieces of cheese for our weekly *boaka*, and a part of that was a very disappointing story. One piece was covered in real plastic and the other in fake, and the piece in fake tasted really off. I hope false plastic doesn’t interfere with the flavor of the chicharón, the real *boaka*.

PS. Hmm, this for the alert purists: the best I could come up with for *boaka* is *boucan*, which the Wikipedia says is “a frame for drying meat over a fire, or the dried meat itself.” The Wikipedia said food served with drinks in a Spanish bar is called “tapa.” I’m leaning with the pirates. Aha, the best chicharón has a little piece of meat on it. Maybe it’s only in Belize we eat the real deal fried juicy hog skin and green plantain for *boaka*. Whoa there, I haven’t traveled much, soh me noh know.

James Elijo says God has soft spot for Abou

“Even people that claim to be atheist, [say] they don’t believe in God—but we can see sometimes when we speak with atheists, we actually come face to face with some of the most divine expressions, some of the most deeply reflecting divine thoughts, and so this clearly lets us know that there is this linkage that we share with our Creator.” James Elijo—Leadership Consultant/Trainer; Writer, Educator; Baha’i.

A mí, atheists who are worldly GOOD need to recognize that the fundamental fairness and kindness in them comes from their religious upbringing, their immersion in the essential lessons about good and bad when they were children.

Taking a Christian turn, the Apostle Paul taught us that it is by Grace, not Works that we are saved. So, we don’t have any say about reward for people who believe they are so smart they no longer need the “God business”. Hn, it’s natural to think they would squirm forever in hell for having the gall to declare that He is just a figment of our imagination.

The Bahá’ís believe that the soul is freed from the body when we die, and that if while here in the body we develop and perfect ourselves, the next life can bring great joy. Aha, these deniers might not be denied. That’s what I gather from what Brother James said. *Abou Ben Adhem, may his tribe increase...*

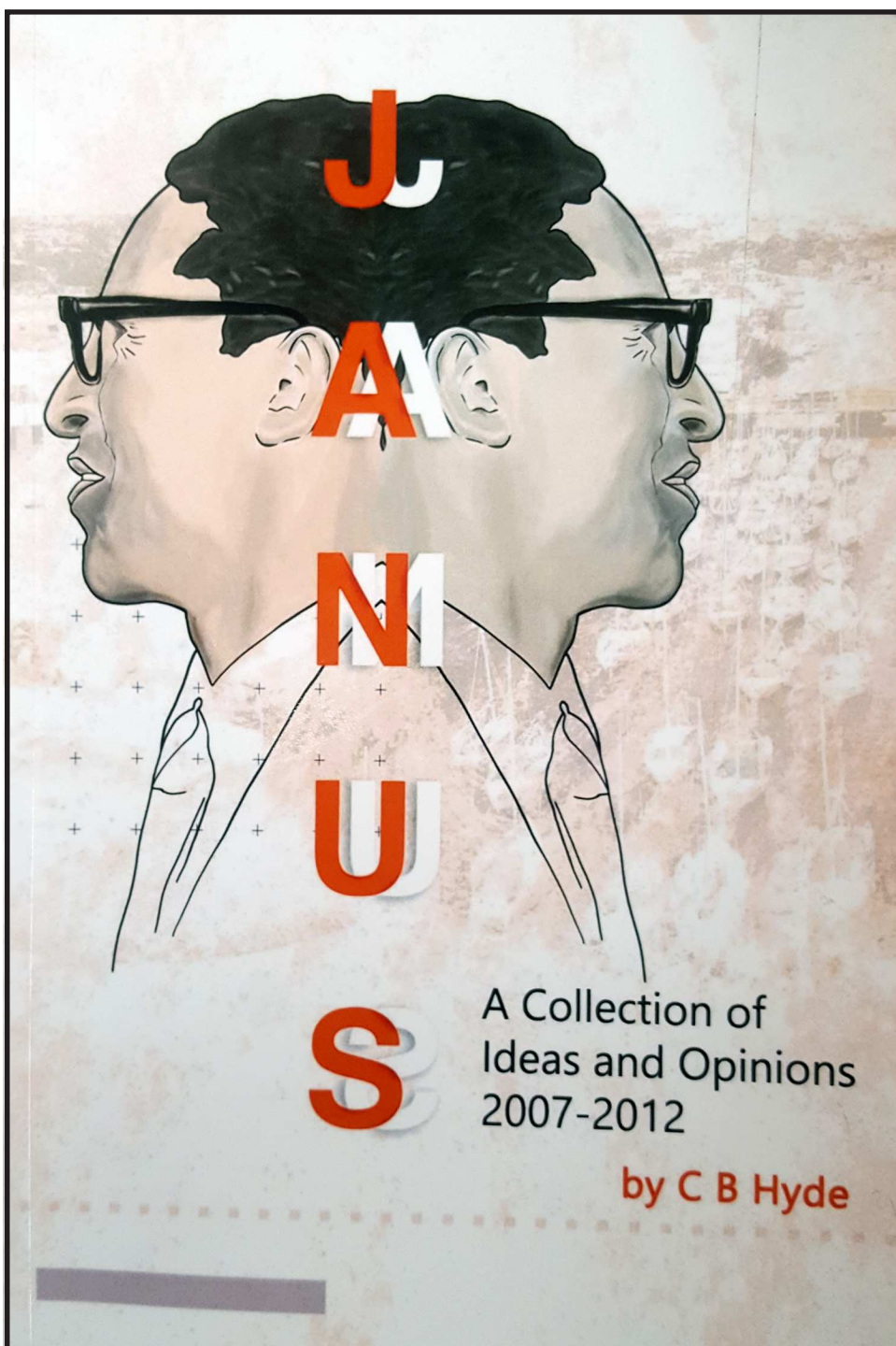
Looks like you lost, Brother Romel

I can’t find the letter with the valid points Brother Romel Cuello laid out when he made a call for us to step lightly with our move to prohibit single-use plastic, but I think he wrote about the high cost it would add to doing business, and the difficulty of replacing such a cheap, readily available item.

I remember there was a story on the net about replacements for single-use plastic, due to it not being so benign. Aha, *Global Citizen*, with explanations, says biodegradable single-use water bottles, biodegradable plastic bags, bamboo straws, clothes made with “recovered” plastic, and plastic roads, are not all they are made out to be.

But if there was any fight left for single-use plastic, it’s over, not only in Belize. Last week *USA Today* ran a story, by Mike Snider, in which he says micro plastic is not only in our air, water, and food, it has now been found in our blood. Snider said “Plastic particles were found in the blood of more than three-fourths (17 out of 22) of the Netherlands-based donors who participated” in a study in that country.

The end is here now; from the UDP’s Minister Figueroa to the PUP’s Minister Habet, single-use plastic bags at the shops and plastic cups for the fresco are retired. Ouch, here are





Atrocidad u Oportunidad

Atrocidad: "un acto, objeto o situación chocantemente malo o atroz" (merriam-webster.com); "el hecho de que algo sea extremadamente cruel, violento o impactante" (dictionary.cambridge.org); "comportamiento o una acción que es malvada o despiadada" (collinsdictionary.com)

Domingo 3 de abril de 2022

La reciente visita el sábado 19 de marzo del duque y la duquesa de Cambridge, el príncipe Guillermo y su esposa, Catalina, suscitó algunas fuertes palabras de protesta de activistas anticolonialistas en Belize, como en otras partes de su "encantadora ofensiva" en la mancomunidad caribeña con motivo del 70 aniversario del reinado de la reina Isabel II. Particularmente notable fue la manifestación/protesta realizada por algunos residentes de la aldea maya de Indian Creek quienes, como se explica en la nota de la portada de *Amandala* del martes 22 de marzo, levantaron pancartas que le decían al Duque que "atterrizara en otro lugar". Aparentemente, los aldeanos se sintieron agraviados "porque se enteraron de que el Príncipe William es el patrocinador de Flora and Fauna International (FFI), la organización de conservación que, según se informa, posee un terreno en disputa de 12,000 acres que el pueblo de Indian Creek reclama como propiedad comunal, utilizado tradicionalmente por los aldeanos." Sin embargo, a pesar de un cambio de último minuto en su itinerario debido a la protesta, la pareja real recibió una cálida bienvenida a lo largo de sus muchas paradas en su gira por Belize, durante las cuales recibieron una generosa dosis de la tradicional hospitalidad beliceña. Aparte de la protesta de Indian Creek, hubo otra protesta local (y tal vez más enérgica) de la visita real, y provino de un comunicado de prensa de la Fundación Educativa UBAD (UEF por sus siglas en inglés), que caracterizó la visita real como "una atrocidad".

A lo largo de su gira de una semana por Belize, no hubo una oleada visible de animosidad o consternación expresada por los ciudadanos beliceños hacia la pareja real, pero la reacción y actitud extremas de la UEF hacia la visita de los representantes de la reina Isabel II puede considerarse desde dos perspectivas: una actitud excesivamente severa a un invitado en una visita de buena voluntad; o una llamada de atención intencionalmente abrasiva a un pueblo que en gran medida todavía está sujeto a la esclavitud mental como resultado de la orquestada ignorancia histórica de nuestro pasado colonial. La acusación de "atrocidad" aparentemente fue dirigida al trono y sus representantes en este momento de discusiones sobre "reparaciones" pero el significado más profundo de la ocasión y los sentimientos desenterrados sugieren una oportunidad para dirigirse a una población en gran parte desinformada y poco ilustrada que todavía necesita empoderamiento histórico.

Si bien el comunicado de la UEF declaró que "¡la visita de los colonizadores británicos a Belize en 2022 es una atrocidad para nuestros antepasados africanos y para el pueblo africano que vive en Belize! (un grupo jamaicano, the Advocates Network, más tarde afirmó en anticipación de la visita real de la pareja que 'no hay razón para celebrar los 70 años de la ascensión de su abuela al trono británico porque su liderazgo, y el de sus predecesores, ha perpetuado la mayor tragedia de derechos humanos en la historia de la humanidad'), esta declaración ha tenido poca resonancia en la población general, cuya dislocación sistémica de su propio legado histórico se ejemplifica con una inocencia infantil y una dichosa ignorancia que puede haber sido útil para nuestro pueblo en tiempos de tranquilidad y paz.

Irónicamente, es esta inocencia reconocida y la ausencia de una fuerte respuesta nacional a cualquier posible agresión militar, lo que probablemente ha llevado a un sabio anciano beliceño de Occidente a declarar la idiotéz de cualquier movimiento para distanciarnos de la monarquía en este momento, cuando el veredicto de la CIJ aún pende de un hilo e, incluso si todo está a nuestro favor, la ejecución podría ser

una preocupación contra cualquier comportamiento beligerante de nuestro vecino occidental. Y eso no es necesariamente descabellado, considerando la respuesta tentativa del hermano mayor del norte a la situación actual de Ucrania, y en vista del hecho de que una fusión de Belize y Guatemala siempre ha sido la solución propuesta por Washington a la disputa. (Ver "Propuestas de Webster").

Se supone que el papel de la historia es que podamos usar nuestro conocimiento del pasado para prepararnos mejor para el futuro. Pero como cantó Bob Marley, "¡Nadie más que nosotros mismos puede liberar nuestras mentes!" Entonces, "del colonialismo a estado de nación"; pero ¿adónde ha llevado nuestro sistema educativo a nuestras masas de antiguos "súbditos coloniales" en el camino de "emanciparse a nosotros mismos"?

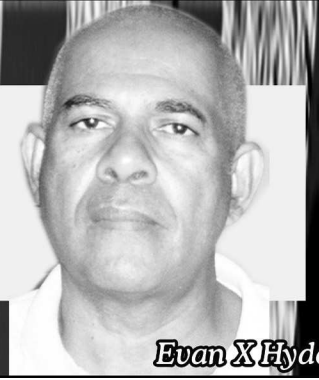
Hay una historia sobre una escalera y tratando de llegar a la cima de una colina. Pero el pie de la escalera no está plantado y asegurado en tierra firme, por lo que sigue deslizándose hacia abajo y el escalador no puede llegar a su destino.

Nuestro sistema educativo de "lavado de cerebro" finalmente dio un pequeño paso hacia la apertura de las mentes de nuestra población joven y brillante (anteriormente habían estado enseñando solo "Historia mundial" e "Historia europea" en las escuelas secundarias), cuando de repente, alrededor de 1968 introdujeron "Historia de las Indias Occidentales" en el plan de estudios de la escuela secundaria para los alumnos de tercer año en el Colegio San Juan. Se suponía que esto sería un gran progreso en el camino hacia la iluminación; pero no fue suficiente para liberar a las jóvenes mentes inquisitivas de la "esclavitud mental". Aprendieron acerca de Cristóbal Colón "descubriendo el Nuevo Mundo", y John Hawkins y otros capitanes de barcos de naciones europeas involucrados en el comercio de africanos esclavizados en las Indias Occidentales, y los diversos conflictos entre ellos mientras luchaban por el control de las riquezas a ser obtenidas de sus diversas colonias. Sí, por supuesto, nos enseñaron sobre el Tratado de Tordesillas de 1494, y cómo el Papa de Roma trazó una línea y compartió las tierras "descubiertas" del "Nuevo Mundo" (donde los aztecas, los incas y los mayas habían habitado durante mucho tiempo), entre las naciones católicas España y Portugal. Y algunos de nosotros aprobamos nuestros Certificados Generales de Educación (GCE por sus siglas en inglés) en Historia de las Indias Occidentales. Y se suponía que debíamos ser educados.

La "atrocidad" sobre la que la UEF llama nuestra atención es la red de ignorancia que continúa sofocando el crecimiento y la madurez de nuestra nación, donde los ciudadanos ilustrados ya no tolerarían que los guíen idiotas y ladrones, o sintieran que está bien que el Duque nos haga una visita "de encanto" sin antes pedirnos que por favor aceptáramos sus más sinceras disculpas por lo que sus antepasados hicieron a generaciones de nuestros antepasados, de lo que se está beneficiando en la actualidad, y cuyos efectos negativos aún acechan a nuestras masas de personas ignorantes y azotadas por la pobreza en una tierra bendecida con "riquezas incalculables". Pero entonces, "donde la ignorancia es felicidad", no parece que haya una necesidad urgente de una disculpa en nuestra condición actual, que la UEF caracteriza como una atrocidad.

En su visita y conferencia en la biblioteca de la UEF, recientemente inaugurada a mediados de la década de 1990, el historiador/antropólogo guyanés Dr. Ivan Van Sertima, autor del libro *They Came Before Columbus* en 1976, hizo referencia a lo que llamó: "El Salón Colombiano", dentro del cual el sistema educativo colonial había logrado encerrar y confinar la mente de generaciones de "súbditos coloniales educados", de modo que nuestra visión del mundo y de nosotros mismos era limitada y distorsionada. La "Sala Colombiana" a la que habían sido confinadas nuestras mentes comenzó en 1492 con el llamado "descubrimiento del Nuevo Mundo por

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

When I was a young university student in the United States running around with black activists, I didn't want to hear anything about the fact that there were Africans who had enabled and facilitated the kidnapping and enslavement of their own African people for their own enrichment and the enrichment of European slave traders. But, facts are stubborn things: Africans sold other Africans.

In the Western media nowadays, we hear a lot about all the brutality taking place in the Ukraine, which has been

attacked by Russia, but we Belizeans know very, very little about what has occurred in Zaire (previously the Belgian Congo) over the last six decades since the country, perhaps the richest in the world where natural resources are concerned, was granted political independence by Belgium in 1960.

It is generally accepted that Patrice Lumumba was an honest, sincere leader who wanted the best for his Congolese people, but there was another Congolese, a man by the name of Moise Tshombe, who controlled

the wealthy Katanga province, who was prominent in the murder of Lumumba because, like some of the African chiefs in the slavery days, he was on the payroll of the European predators.

We don't have to go anywhere to see that the paradigm of Africans participating in the butchering of other Africans remains a terrible reality, because almost every day in Belize some black youth kills another black youth with a high-powered automatic pistol.

In a previous column, I explained

to you that the Russian people are not considered classic Europeans by the "tappa tappa" Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon Europeans. But the Ukrainians are considered fully European. The Russians are considered a Slavic people, whatever that means. To us, as Belizeans of color, however, we see the Russians and the Europeans as basically the same thing -- white people.

Anyway, so much for Russians and Ukrainians. It has been very, very painful to me to watch our own Belizean people of color accept all the pieces of silver handed out by Vladimir Ashcroft for the crushing of the interests of black Belizeans. The excuse is that this is what attorneys do. This is their professional modus operandi. They don't see right and wrong, as such. It's all about pipers, moneys, and tunes.

In the larger sense, human beings do very cruel things to other human beings because we want power and money. Western companies wanted control of Congolese resources at the lowest possible prices, so they paid for the murder of Patrice Lumumba, who wanted the best possible deals for his Congolese people. The Russians are murdering the Ukrainians because they want control of Ukrainian resources in order to become more powerful and wealthy.

What is puzzling for people like me is how God and religion fit into planet earth's reality. There are some of us who do cruel things while masquerading as Christians. These are Belizeans who are considered the successful ones of our country. But Jesus said clearly and pointedly that His kingdom was not of this world.

And so, one of Christ's parables which I cherish most is that of The Rich Young Man. He asked Jesus what he should do in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus said, obey the commandments. The Rich Young Man replied that he had been doing this, obeying the commandments, from the time he was a child. Jesus said, okay then, leave all you have and follow me. The Rich Young Man turned and walked away: he could not bear to give up his material possessions.

Ashcroft is the Belizean Anti-Christ. He brings material possessions for his favorites, wonderful material possessions. In return for these possessions, some of us have sold out our people. This is historically characteristic of an oppressed people. From the time we encountered the oppressor Europeans more than five centuries ago, they have been the oppressors, and we have been the oppressed. Those of us who want to be successes, have to sell out our own kind. This truth is undeniable.



Belize Water Services Limited

PRESS RELEASE

March 31, 2022 For Immediate Release

BWS has asked the PUC to review its Final Decision for 2019-20 Full Tariff Review Proceeding

Pursuant to the Section 32 of the Public Utilities Commission Act, Belize Water Services Limited has formally written to the Public Utilities Commission to request a review of the Decision made in its 2019-20 Full Tariff Review Proceeding (the "2020 Decision").

The 2020 Decision would have caused an across-the-board 2.25% tariff increase to become effective April 1, 2022.

In an effort to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting impact on the lives of our customers and Belize's economy, BWS felt that asking the PUC to review its Decision was the right thing to do.

The PUC has been asked to expedite the review and in the interim, the PUC has instructed BWS to suspend implementation of the scheduled rate adjustment pending the outcome of its review.

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Customers are encouraged to report any water supply issues via BWS Toll Free at 0-800-CALL-BWS (0-800-2255-297) or WhatsApp 614-BWSL(614-2975).

BWS: Delivering Water and More ...
 For more information regarding this or any other BWS Release, please contact:
 Corporate Communications at Tel: 222-4757 Ext. 1405 or 1408
 or via e-mail at pr@bws.com.bz

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Cuando era un joven estudiante universitario en los Estados Unidos corriendo con activistas negros, no quería escuchar nada sobre el hecho de que había africanos que habían permitido y facilitado el secuestro y la esclavitud de su propio pueblo africano para su propio enriquecimiento y el enriquecimiento de los traficantes de esclavos europeos. Pero los hechos son obstinados: africanos vendieron a otros africanos.

En los medios occidentales hoy en día, escuchamos mucho sobre toda la brutalidad que está sucediendo en Ucrania, que ha sido atacada por Rusia, pero nosotros, los beliceños, sabemos muy, muy poco sobre lo que ha ocurrido en Zaire (anteriormente el Congo Belga) durante las últimas seis décadas desde que el país, quizás el más rico del mundo en cuanto a recursos naturales se refiere, obtuvo la independencia política de Bélgica en 1960.

Generalmente se acepta que Patrice Lumumba era un líder honesto y sincero que quería lo mejor para su pueblo congoleño, pero había otro congoleño, un hombre llamado Moise Tshombe, que controlaba la rica provincia de Katanga, que se destacó en el asesinato de Lumumba porque, como algunos de los jefes africanos en la época de la esclavitud, estaba en la nómina de los depredadores europeos.

No hace falta ir a ninguna parte para ver que el paradigma de los africanos participando en la matanza de otros africanos sigue siendo una terrible realidad, porque casi todos los días en Belize algún joven negro mata a otro joven negro con una pistola automática de alto calibre.

En una columna anterior les expliqué que los rusos no son considerados europeos clásicos por los “preeminentes” europeos escandinavos y anglosajones. Pero los ucranianos son considerados completamente europeos. Los rusos son considerados un pueblo eslavo, lo que sea que signifique eso. Sin embargo, para nosotros, como beliceños de color, vemos a los rusos y los europeos básicamente como lo mismo: gente blanca.

De todos modos, suficiente con los rusos y los ucranianos. Ha sido muy, muy doloroso para mí ver a nuestra propia gente beliceña de color aceptar todas las piezas de plata entregadas por Vladimir Ashcroft para aplastar los intereses de los beliceños negros. La excusa es que esto es lo que hacen los abogados. Este es su modus operandi profesional. No ven el bien y el mal como tales. Se trata de gaiteros, dinero y melodías.

En un sentido más amplio, los seres humanos hacemos cosas muy crueles con otros seres humanos

porque queremos poder y dinero. Las empresas occidentales querían el control de los recursos congoleños a los precios más bajos posibles, por lo que pagaron por el asesinato de Patrice Lumumba, que quería los mejores tratos posibles para su pueblo congoleño. Los rusos están asesinando a los ucranianos porque quieren controlar los recursos ucranianos para volverse más poderosos y ricos.

Lo que es desconcertante para la gente como yo es cómo Dios y la religión encajan en la realidad del planeta tierra. Hay algunos de nosotros que hacemos cosas crueles mientras nos hacemos pasar por

cristianos. Estos son beliceños que son considerados los exitosos de nuestro país. Pero Jesús dijo clara y puntualmente que Su reino no era de este mundo.

Y así, una de las parábolas de Cristo que más aprecio es la del joven rico. Le preguntó a Jesús qué debía hacer para entrar en el reino de los cielos. Jesús dijo, obedece los mandamientos. El Joven Rico respondió que él había estado haciendo esto, obedeciendo los mandamientos, desde que era un niño. Jesús dijo, está bien, deja todo lo que tienes y sígueme. El Joven Rico dio media vuelta y se alejó: no podía soportar renunciar a sus

posesiones materiales.

Ashcroft es el Anticristo de Belize. Él trae posesiones materiales para sus favoritos, maravillosas posesiones materiales. A cambio de estas posesiones, algunos de nosotros hemos vendido a nuestra gente. Esto es históricamente característico de un pueblo oprimido. Desde el momento en que nos encontramos con los europeos opresores hace más de cinco siglos, ellos han sido los opresores y nosotros hemos sido los oprimidos. Aquellos de nosotros que queremos tener éxito, tenemos que vender a los de nuestra propia especie. Esta verdad es innegable.



Why Your Sleep Is Impacted by Electric Lights

by Tony Hicks on March 17, 2022
— Fact checked by Maria Gifford

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/why-your-sleep-is-impacted-by-electric-lights>

A new study published in the journal PLOS Biology says the light humans experience in daily life heavily influences body rhythms, with around-the-clock access to electric lights combined with reduced exposure to natural sunlight leading to disruptions in sleep.

According to the study, the combination negatively impacts human health, well-being, and productivity.

The research also recommends how people should be exposed to bright light during the day and evening to contribute to healthy body rhythms, restful sleep, and daytime alertness.

What to know

An international team of scientists led by Timothy Brown, PhD, from the UK's University of Manchester, and Kenneth Wright, PhD, from the University of Colorado Boulder, have

put together what they say is one of the first evidence-based, consensus recommendations for healthy daytime, evening, and nighttime light exposure.

“These recommendations provide the first scientific consensus, quantitative, guidance for appropriate daily patterns of light exposure to support healthy body rhythms, nighttime sleep, and daytime alertness,” Brown said in a statement. “This now provides a clear framework to inform how we light any interior space, ranging from workplaces, educational establishments, and healthcare facilities to our own homes.”

The guidelines will be meant to help lighting and electronics industries design healthier environments and improve how we light homes, workplaces, and public buildings.

The researchers say light affects our daily patterns of sleep and alertness through a specialized cell in the eye using a light-sensitive protein called melanopsin, which is different from proteins in the eye's rods and cones supporting vision (upon which traditional ways of measuring “brightness” are based).

Melanopsin is most sensitive to light residing in a specific part of the visual spectrum (blue-cyan light). The

team developed a new light measurement standard tailored to this unique property called melanopic equivalent daylight illuminance.

Researchers analyzed data across a range of laboratory and field studies, which they say proved that the new measurement approach can reliably predict the effects of light on human physiology and body rhythms.

By doing so, it could allow the team to form widely applicable and meaningful recommendations as to how we should use — and not use — light in our daily lives.

The researchers say their next step will be integrating recommendations into formal lighting guidelines, which currently focus on visual requirements rather than light's effects on health and well-being.

They expect increasing sophistication in LED lighting technology and the availability of low cost light sensors to increase the ease with which people can optimize their personal light exposure to best support their own body rhythms.

How screens can affect your health

A study published in the journal PNAS from the Center for Circadian and Sleep Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine focuses on light's negative effects on sleep and human health.

The researchers found that sleeping even just one night with a dim light, such as a TV set with the sound off, raised the heart rate and blood sugar levels of healthy young people.

The dim light entered the eyelids and disrupted sleep despite the



New World Order

For many years, the United States has been sanctioning countries that do not adhere to its policy or its system. We have the example of Cuba that has been under 6 decades of a commercial, financial and economic blockade. We also have Venezuela, which is also suffering from sanctions because it does not adhere to the United States' system. Each country (or the people of each country) is supposed to be free to decide what kind of regime they want to live under. And in a democracy, when the majority of the people say something, the minority has to agree. This does not mean that the minority does not have certain rights. Of course, they have the same rights as anyone, but the majority that makes the decision on any matter, be it internal or external to that country, is a democracy.

However, over time we have realized that between 1900 and 1946, about 80 million people have died in wars here and there, countless wars; they give reasons, but it is not true. With time, one becomes aware that there is a mythology, a lie. The war against Vietnam—when marine biological or chemical weapons were dropped, all that history is already written. The war in the Middle East against Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran, Syria, the Palestinians, where their

land has been stolen, they have been killed, massacred, their children are in jail, all that information has been in the public domain. Although Western countries have tried to hide what is happening in the world with their modern technology, it is not possible, since other countries also have advanced technology which can uncover the truth.

So, we got the news. The news reaches us. If the communication system of each country is bought or to gain privileges does not disclose certain information for public knowledge, this has allowed our people to live in ignorance. What is happening elsewhere is a very different thing. Why? Because they can also be sanctioned for the same freedom of expression. When it comes to freedom of expression, it is about the truth, not assumptions or lies. When it comes to lies, it is fine, as there are people who lie or defame against another person. It's okay to take those people to court to pay for a crime they committed against another person. But when it comes to things that are happening in different countries, we know the reason why that information should not be hidden, cut short or put aside, because the military power of the world wants it that way. That, in my perspective, is a democratic

dictatorship—not those that the United States classifies as dictatorships because they do not adhere to their demands. No. The same country that already talks about democracy and freedom is a dictator, and so is the leader of the other countries that have joined them to dictate.

How do they want the new world order that was implemented by them to continue? Now, they are screwed up. The bullet backfired in their face because of the sanctions that they implemented against Russia. Things have turned around. It is not Russia's fault that the world economy has fallen. It is the person who has put, or the country that has put, the sanctions that prohibit any trade or banking transactions with Russia, so this country cannot supply resources to European consumers, in this case, gas, which is received, paid for in euros and later frozen by the same European bank because of the sanctions implemented by the United States. If these European consumers want to continue purchasing gas, they will have to pay in rubles. A Russia/China banking system is already set up in China where the European countries can purchase rubles to pay for the services they need from Russia, and this has already been implemented from



by Clinton Canul Luna

April 1st.

It is not Russia's fault. The blame belongs to the people or the person or the system or power that imposed those sanctions. It is obvious that the most powerful military country of the world has people who believe in their ideology. People who are from a certain place love the culture and history of that place. Just as we will see people from England, France, Germany, Spain, Russia, etc., they love their land, they love their culture, they love their history, they will fight to preserve that. But where the hell are you going with your Monroe doctrine, which was assumed that it was for America? What are you doing beyond the Atlantic? What do you have over there? Those people have their way of life, just like those from the Middle East. These people have thousands of years of living in a certain way, a custom, a culture and their language. What the heck do you want to implement over there? The American way of life?

Is there something happening in such a brain, because according to the principles, the laws of the United Nations say the opposite. I think it's time to review it. And as many leaders of the different ideologies have said, it is time to change not only the United Nations, but the offices where it is located. After what NATO was created for, it is time for it to disappear. England has stolen the gold from Venezuela. And now Russia's money has been stolen because of the imposed sanctions. Which country would have confidence to deposit their money in the banking system in this new world order? Another world order is needed, something similar to the multipolar method which would include the participation of all countries in an equal way and the distribution of the wealth in a fair manner. However, let me end this essay by saying that in the month of March, which is recognized as Women's Month, there were all kinds of beautiful speeches uplifting women, nonetheless discriminated against on the Belizean national flag. That is a factual proof that we live in a macho country where, whosoever it may be, had assumed that with time science would have advanced to change a man into a woman. That way we would have a woman and a man on the flag, which is more logical and a teaching on how God created man in a Christian country like Belize.

fincasolan@gmail.com
 April 3, 2022
 Finca Solana
 Corozal Town

Mario Cimoli succeeds Alicia Bárcena as ECLAC Secretary

Bárcena, who served for almost 14 years, was the first woman ever appointed to the role of ECLAC Executive Secretary

by Khaila Gentle

SANTIAGO, Chile, Fri. Apr. 1, 2022

After almost 14 years of service, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Alicia Bárcena, was replaced this past Friday, April 1, by Argentine economist Mario Cimoli. Cimoli, who was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, has been working with the UN—and ECLAC—for over 20 years and was previously the commission's Deputy Executive Secretary.

"This has been the brightest phase of my professional career. For nearly fourteen years, I have contributed to giving weight, influence, and opportunity to the body of transformative, progressive and egalitarian convictions that distinguish ECLAC's present thinking," said Bárcena at her outgoing ceremony held at the commission's headquarters in Chile.

When she was appointed as Executive Secretary back in July 2008, Alicia Bárcena became the first woman to ever hold the title. According to a release issued by

ECLAC, during her period of service, she often emphasized the importance of combining economic growth, equality, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability for the continued development of the Latin American and Caribbean regions. At her last public appearance as the commission's secretary, she participated in ECLAC's Debt, Genders, and Care Seminar, held in Buenos Aires this week. During the seminar, she remarked that in order to guarantee the economic autonomy of women throughout the region, "we must break statistical silence, raise the visibility of monetary management of care faced by women, reverse debt associated with care at home, and close gender gaps regarding access to and use of the financial system."

Bárcena also pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a number of women having to leave the labor force, something which was



Interim ECLAC Secretary Mario Cimoli with Alicia Bárcena (Source: ECLAC)

also highlighted during the commission's report on the region's economic growth over the past year.

The ECLAC is one of five regional United Nations commissions, created with the purpose of contributing to the economic growth of Latin America and the Caribbean and strengthening economic ties between nations. Previously this year, the former Executive Secretary delivered the presentation of ECLAC's report on the growth of the region's economy. It was during that report that a positive outlook was issued for Belize's economic rebound—with a projected growth rate of 6.2%.



Playoffs start in Santa Elena & San Ignacio Basketball Tournament

by *Karim Juan*

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Sun. Apr. 3, 2022

The Santa Elena and San Ignacio Basketball Tournament 2022 wrapped up its regular season on Friday night and tipped off its playoffs on Saturday night at Falcon Field in San Ignacio Town.

This coming Friday night, April 8, will see 4 teams do battle in the semi-finals; and Saturday night will be the third place game, followed by the championship game, then the distribution of trophies and cash prizes.

Below are the scores from the games played this past weekend. In Group B, Mora Town, Coast Guard

and 501 Falcons finished the regular season with a 1 – 2 record, with Coast Guard getting eliminated due to points differential, while SHJC Scorpions finished the regular season undefeated with a 3 – 0 record. However, 501 Falcons withdrew from the tournament, giving the #3 seed to Coast Guard in Group B.

Friday, April 1, Reg. Season games

(Group B) Coast Guard (1-2) over Mora Town (1-2), 63-61. Coast Guard – Jason Elis 19 pts; Brandon Flowers 13 pts; Daniel “Buddy” Nolberto 7 pts. Mora Town – Raymond Gongora 13 pts; Greg Fisher 12 pts; Uwani Arzu 6 pts.

(Group B) SHJC Scorpions (3-0) over 501 Falcons (1-2), 63-55.

Scorpions – Tevaughn Lennan 13 pts; Ulrick Humes 12 pts; Karl Williams 11 pts. Falcons – Kevin Hamilton 14 pts; Jason Vasquez 14 pts; Marcel Richards 10 pts.

Saturday, April 2, Playoff Elimination games

(Group A) Venom (#2) over Roots (#3), 67-53. Venom – Elvert “PG” Ariola 19 pts; Joel Montejo 19 pts; Lisani Lambey 12 pts; Allizair Rhaburn 10 pts. Roots – Emani Enriquez 18 pts; Zookrani Kwatamani 10 pts; Shelton Defour, Jr. 9 pts.

(Group B) Coast Guard (#4) over Mora Town (#3), 69-53. Coast Guard – Brandon Flowers 18 pts; Daniel “Buddy” Nolberto 14 pts; Jason Ellis 8 pts. Mora Town – Raymond

Gongora 25 pts; Dominic Gill 10 pts; Greg Fisher 7 pts.

In the playoff schedule for this coming weekend, games will be played at Falcon Field in San Ignacio Town.

Upcoming playoff schedule:
Friday, April 8, Semi-finals
7:30 p.m. - Assassins (#1) vs Coast Guard (#4)

9:00 p.m. - SHJC Scorpions (#1) vs Venom (#2)

Saturday, April 9, Finals
7:30 p.m. – (3rd Place Game)

Loser vs Loser

9:00 p.m. – (Championship)
Winner vs Winner

10:30 p.m. - Distribution of trophies, individual awards & cash prizes

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Francis Hauze gets Individual Award in CCAC

by *Dominique Noralez*

Francis Hauze is a 22 year old Freshman at Calumet College of St Joseph in Whiting, Indiana majoring Graphic Design and minoring Sports and exercise fitness hailing from Belize City, Lake Independence.

Earlier in the season of the CCSJ Crimson Wave Hauze led his team to a new single match record of 43 Kills with a hitting percentage of 0.613%.

Though the teams journey came to an end in a fiery and nail biting semifinal 5set game against Judson University on April 1st 2022, Hauze was able to snag the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year and the First Team awards which he shares with his Venezuelan Team Mate, Pedro Castillo.

A release from the CCAC states, “Rounding out the list of top individual award winners were Calumet College of St. Joseph’s Pedro Castillo (Barquisimeto, Venezuela) and Francis Hauze (Belize City, Belize), both of whom shared CCAC Freshman of the Year accolades. Castillo ranked third in the nation in attack percentage (.360)

Castillo also placed 17th in the NAIA in kills per set (3.79) to go along with his 1.93 digs-per-set average and 49 blocks over 80 sets played covering 21 matches.

Hauze’s other numbers included a .306 attack percentage (17th in the nation), 1.61 digs per set and 39 aces in his 74 sets played covering 19 matches.”

The CCSJ Volleyball Team’s official Instagram notes that Hauze is ranked #3 in the USA in kills per set with 4.72.

For more on the conference awards: <http://www.ccacsports.com/SIDHelp/m/a%7C4097.php>.

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U15 basketball camp starts in Corozal

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Mar. 30, 2022
 On Saturday, March 26, on the heels of the lifting of most Covid-19 restrictions and the resumption of contact sports, the Corozal Sports Council, along with the Corozal Town Council, launched the first day of its U15 basketball camp at the

Andres Campos Civic Center. The U15 camp is aimed at imparting skills training and self-discipline to its young participants.

Hailal Jundi, camp coordinator, is projecting that the number of camp attendees—a total of 20 at the start of the camp— will keep increasing after the end of each session.

“What we are planning to do for the next session, I brought it up to the chairman along with the Mayor, is that maybe on Saturday we can hold 2 - 3 sessions, because I’m sure, and I know by next week there will be a lot of children that would want participate and to be a part of the camp. So what we are going to do, we’re going ask 2 [or] 3 persons to

assist us, so one person will hold in the morning from 10:00 to 11:00, second person from 12:00 to 1:00 and the third person will hold from 3:00 to 4:00 so that we don’t let anybody down,” said Jundi.

Rigo Vellos, the mayor of Corozal Town, also spoke exclusively with AMANDALA about the significance of the U15 camp for the kids and the town of Corozal.

“We know we’ve been locked up for two years and change, so it was a great feeling knowing that we can finally go back to some type of normalcy. We have started with the football camp here in Corozal, and now today, it’s the first day of basketball camp, under 15 and we’re

so grateful for that. I know our youth have been waiting for so long for an opportunity to go out and play some type of sport. Today, we have kids [from] all walks of life, and kids that love basketball but have not got the opportunity to learn the basics, and we have kids that know the basics and just want to improve. It’s all about having fun and finding ways to keep them occupied so they don’t go about lingering doing the wrong things. We want to invest in our youth and this is one way how the [Corozal] Town Council has found a way to be able to reach out and invest through sports,” said Mayor Vellos.

The camp will be a recurring event on Saturdays.

Atrociudad u Oportunidad

Continúa de página 8

parte de Colón”. Los ancestros de los beliceños de ascendencia africana ingresaron a esa narrativa como esclavos, del comercio de esclavos con la Madre África. En el futuro, se trataba de los altibajos del negocio de la madera de tinte, el azúcar o la caoba de los amos blancos de esclavos, con poca atención a las luchas por la libertad de los esclavos negros. La religión se usó como una herramienta efectiva para pacificar a los esclavos y mantenerlos orando y esperando ese “castillo en el aire” en el más allá. Y en lo que se refería a la religión en la colonia de Honduras Británica (Belize), todo se trataba del Mesías, Jesús, ya fuera anglicano, católico o metodista. Pero para encontrar a nuestro Señor Jesús, tuvimos que retroceder en nuestras mentes al “principio de los tiempos” en la era cristiana con el nacimiento de Cristo. Entonces, desde esa primera Navidad en adelante hasta 1492, las cosas fueron muy confusas en lo que respecta a la historia pasada de nuestros antepasados africanos. Todo se trataba de la esclavitud después de 1492 en la “Sala Colombiana”, y nada de los grandes reyes, reinos y universidades de África que vinieron antes y precedieron al surgimiento de Europa desde su Edad Media.

Nuestro reverenciado sistema educativo de “iglesia-estado” necesita cavar mucho más profundo, y al menos cerrar este masivo y enorme agujero histórico en la mente de nuestra juventud, desde Jesús y el cristianismo hasta 1492, y eso tendrá que involucrar una discusión de Mahoma y el surgimiento de la religión del Islam, así como la aparición posterior de Bahá’u’lláh y la fe bahá’í. Pero tal vez por eso no ha sucedido. Y eso es una atrocidad.



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Man Allegedly Beaten to Death by BDF

by *Khaila Gentle*

ORANGE WALK TOWN, Mon.
Apr. 4, 2022

A grieving mother is currently demanding justice for her son after he succumbed to injuries sustained from being brutally assaulted in Orange Walk Town last week Friday. Thirty-eight-year-old Estevan Baeza was allegedly beaten by a BDF soldier, Private Raheem Williams, after the two men got into an altercation somewhere near Central Park. Baeza, who had sustained injuries to the head and throat, was rushed to the Karl

Heusner Memorial Hospital but eventually succumbed to his injuries.

Baeza's mother, who had been waiting for her son to return home when she got the grim news, told local media that the altercation between the thirty-eight-year-old and the BDF Soldier was over a lighter.

"He punched him, he threw him on the ground, he stomped him in the face, burst his head, burst his throat, he couldn't breathe," she said.

Police have since detained Private Williams and he is awaiting charges. We will cover this story in detail in the Friday issue of AMANDALA.



Estevan Baeza, deceased

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Man allegedly got up to 90 COVID vaccine shots so he could sell the vaccination cards

Article Published by CBS News

Berlin — A 60-year-old man allegedly had himself vaccinated against COVID-19 dozens of times in Germany in order to sell forged vaccination cards with real vaccine batch numbers to people not wanting to get vaccinated themselves.

The man from the eastern German city of Magdeburg, whose name was not released in line with German privacy rules, is said to have received up to 90 shots against COVID-19 at vaccination centers in the eastern state of Saxony for months until criminal police caught him this month, the German news agency dpa reported Sunday.

The suspect wasn't detained but is under investigation for unauthorized issuance of vaccination cards and document forgery, dpa reported.

He was caught at a vaccination center in Eilenburg in Saxony when he showed up for a COVID-19 shot for the second day in a row. Police confiscated several blank vaccination cards from him and initiated criminal proceedings.

It wasn't immediately clear what impact the approximately 90 shots of COVID-19 vaccines, which were from different brands, had on the man's health.

German police have conducted many raids in connection with forgery of

vaccination passports in recent months. Many COVID-19 deniers refuse to get vaccinated in Germany but at the same time want to have the coveted COVID-19 passports that make access to public life and venues such as restaurants, theaters, swimming pools or workplaces much easier.

Germany has seen high infection numbers for weeks, yet many measures to rein in the pandemic ended on Friday. Donning masks is no longer compulsory in grocery stores and most theaters but it is still mandatory on public transportation.

In most schools in Germany, students also no longer have to wear masks, which has led teachers' associations to warn of possible conflicts in class.

"There is now a danger that, on the one hand, children who wear masks will be teased by classmates as wimps and overprotective or, on the other hand, pressure will be exerted on non-mask wearers," Heinz-Peter Meidinger, the president of the German Teachers' Association, told dpa. He advocated a voluntary commitment by teachers and students to continue wearing masks in class and on school grounds, at least until the country goes on a two-week Easter holiday.

Health experts say the most recent surge of infections in Germany - triggered by the BA.2 omicron subvariant- may have peaked.

On Sunday, the country's disease control agency reported 74,053 new COVID-19 infections in one day, while less than a week ago it had reported 111,224 daily infections.

Overall, Germany has registered 130,029 COVID-19



Shyne dumps Faber loyalists

Continued from Page 1

General, H.E. Froyla Tzalam regarding the appointment of two new UDP senators.

In his letters, Hon. Barrow advised that the GG declare the seats of then UDP senators Sheena Pitts and Darrell Bradley vacant. He then proceeded to nominate Ms. Beverly Williams and Mr. Antonio Herrera to fill each vacancy respectively. Both newly instated senators had been candidates in Belize's 2020 general elections, with Ms. Williams seeking, as a UDP standard bearer, to become the area representative for Belize Rural Central, and Mr. Herrera vying to be the area rep of the Corozal Southeast division. Both had been unsuccessful.

Prior to these announcements, Beverly Williams had been serving as the party's 2nd Deputy Party Leader, while Antonio Herrera was

serving as the Party Caretaker. In a personal statement shared via Facebook, Hon. Barrow congratulated both members on their appointments and thanked Bradley and Pitts for their contributions to the Senate. In that statement, Hon. Barrow also indicated that Bradley will now be assigned to serve as the party's Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade as well as the Chair of Special Committees on the Central Executive. while Sheena Pitts will now serve as the Shadow Attorney General and Chair of Policy and Planning on the Central Executive.

Darrell Bradley had replaced former senator, Khalid Belisle, who was installed by former UDP leader Patrick Faber on June 4, 2021, but was later removed by Hon. Barrow on June 28, 2021. Sheena Pitts, however, had retained her post after being nominated by Faber on December 8, 2020.

Why Your Sleep Is Impacted by Electric Lights

Continued from Page 10

subjects being asleep with their eyes closed.

The study pointed out that heart rate typically drops at night, slowing down as the brain repairs and rejuvenates the body. Numerous studies have shown that an elevated heart rate at night can be a risk factor for future heart disease and early death.

"The results from this study demonstrate that just a single night of exposure to moderate room lighting during sleep can impair glucose and cardiovascular regulation, which are risk factors for heart disease, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome," the study's author and the school's chief of sleep medicine, Phyllis Zee, MD, PhD, told

deaths.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/man-allegedly-up-to-90-covid-vaccine-shots-vaccination-card-sales/>

Northwestern Now. "It's important for people to avoid or minimize the amount of light exposure during sleep."

The Northwestern team recommended not turning any lights on while sleeping. If you need to have a light on (for example, for safety reasons) make it a dim light that is closer to the floor.

They also said the light's color is important.

Amber or a red-orange light is less stimulating for the brain. Don't use white or blue light, and keep light far away from the sleeping person.

They also recommend blackout shades or eye masks for people who can't control outdoor light, and you should move your bed so the outdoor light isn't shining on your face.

View full article at <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/why-your-sleep-is-impacted-by-electric-lights>

Article Published by Healthline.com

BzeCitCo launches parking meter pilot project

Continued from Page 1

pollution usually caused by carbon emissions from vehicles cruising to find space. Despite it being only the first day, the Communications Manager at the Belize City Council, Miss Erin Garnett, has informed AMANDALA that there has already been a noticeable increase in available parking spaces in the usually heavily congested areas.

Since the announcement of the

pilot project, many Belize City residents have voiced their questions and reservations about the initiative. To address those concerns, the City Council will be holding a public consultation meeting, which includes a question and answer segment, at the House of Culture this Thursday, April 7 at 6:00 p.m. Additionally, the meeting will be broadcasted live on the council's Facebook page. While the parking meter project is still in its early stages, the City Council has

expressed that it hopes Belize City residents will attend the public meeting being held this Thursday in order to give feedback on their experiences throughout this first week. The council has also shared that it will continue to post updates and notices on its social media in order to sensitize the public on how to use the meters. One such post outlines the steps to be taken when using the parking meters, and another details the parking meters schedule: while the meters will be non-operational on Sundays and national holidays, they will be active from Monday to Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and from Friday to Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For now, the Parking Meter Pilot Project will be implemented on Albert Street from its intersection with Orange Street to the intersection with Dean Street as well as from the exit of the Ramada

by Wyndham Princess to Midtown Restaurant on Newtown Barracks. According to the Belize City Council, parking meter assistants will be present in those areas to ensure a smooth transitional period. Those assistants will also be offering parking meter cards, which will be used instead of physical cash to carry out transactions. The cards, which can be topped up with various values of cash and do not expire, will also be available at any City Council cashier. The cost of parking at the meters is \$3.00 per hour (and \$1.50 for half an hour).

Those using the meters are required to insert their license plate number along with their estimated parking time. After paying the corresponding fee using their meter card and receiving a receipt, they should then display that receipt on the dashboard of their vehicle.

Jasmine Hartin to face Supreme Court trial

Continued from Page 1

negligence for the shooting death of Senior Superintendent of Police, Henry Jemmott, was informed that she must now present herself to the Belize City Supreme Court at the opening of the next court session on June 13, 2022.

Since early March, Hartin and her attorney have been reviewing over 160 articles of evidence previously submitted by the prosecution. Based on those articles of evidence, which were handed over to Hartin during multiple hearings as part of a process geared at providing her with full disclosure of the evidence that would be brought against her in trial, San Pedro Magistrate Christina Perrera determined that the case was fit to be tried in the Supreme Court.

After the preliminary inquiry, attorney Richard "Dickie" Bradley shared with local media that prosecutor Roman Andrews presented twenty-six statements and twenty-five exhibits to the court which encompassed all available evidence that can be used to build a case against Hartin. The Crown Counsel in the Director of Public Prosecution's (DPP) Office will now have to determine which of those articles of evidence will make it to the Supreme Court.

Bradley also told reporters that he and his client are willing to consent to a paper committal, which would make it possible for witness statements and other forms of evidence to be presented to the court without witnesses being present. Those statements and pieces of evidence would be inventoried as exhibits. Bradley said that the procedure would not be challenged until a later stage in the judicial process. As a result of the Magistrate's ruling, Jasmine Hartin must now report to the Supreme Court in Belize City (rather than to the San Pedro Magistrate's Court) at the start of sessions in June.

The \$30,000 Supreme Court bail met by Hartin in June of 2021 thus remains in place, and she is still to report daily to the police station in San Ignacio. Hartin's attorney also further clarified that the fact that she now reports to the Supreme Court for her hearings, does not necessarily indicate that her trial will begin at the start of Supreme Court sessions in June. He instead stated that her case will be placed in a queue and that, given the current state of affairs in Belize's judicial system, it may take some time before a presiding judge determines a date for case management and for the trial to proceed.

Aggressive cop "roughs up" tour guide

Continued from Page 1

City Municipal Airport. The video footage, recorded on a cell phone, shows two police officers—a male and a female—at the Belize City Municipal Airport conducting searches on the young man. The male police officer, however, quickly grew aggressive, hurling profanities at the young man as he made forceful physical contact with him.

The victim, who can be seen complying with the officers' request in the video, filmed the ordeal himself. Upon noticing that the young man was filming what was taking place, the male police officer slapped the phone from the young man's hand while threatening to charge him with assaulting a police officer.

The behavior of the officers has been decried by many, including Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, and Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Shyne Barrow.

During Monday's police press briefing, the Police Department's Communications Director, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, spoke on the matter, and stated that such behaviour will not be tolerated in the force.

"I have seen the video about six times. It was sent to me by friends, of course. It is very unfortunate that our police officers operated in such an unprofessional manner, and I can assure the general public that our Commissioner of Police and Minister of Police don't tolerate behaviour like this. The use of so [many] obscenities along with his behaviour, and I think at one point I saw the person's phone or device that they were using fell to the ground. I am certain that the Corporal should have taken control

of the situation, and that is why we promote people as supervisors. When you see an officer going off tangent, you, the supervisor, should come in as that controlling person where you could have backed away from that situation so to not to have him embarrass the department and himself any further," he stated, lamenting the fact that the female corporal accompanying the male police officer did nothing to deescalate the situation.

"If you as the supervisor didn't know what your role was at that time to bring that situation to normalcy or even put it to a complete halt. I cannot say that from what I saw in the video that this person was being in any way life-threatening to the police or incorporative," commented ASP Yearwood.

ASP Yearwood further stated that the Police Department will not penalize persons who are recording police searches and said that no officer should feel offended if a person is recording them. He also outlined the protocol for police searches and noted that it is impractical for multiple officers to be present during a search with only one witness present.

Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Shyne Barrow expressed his concerns about the incident and noted that no police officer should conduct themselves in such an unprofessional manner when dealing with the public. He also stated that the Opposition condemns any abuse of the public by those who have sworn to serve.

Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Home Affairs, also commented on the incident. He pledged that swift action will be taken to penalize those involved.

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Our email address for business & advertising are
amandalapress@gmail.com and amandalapress@yahoo.com
For news, letters and articles: editor_amandala@yahoo.com