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Cansino family devastated; Emir found dead

The body of Emir Cansino, Jr., whose loved ones had been engaged in a desperate effort to locate him, was found on the John Smith Road, where he had been dumped by his killers.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

The frantic search for 20-year-old Emir Cansino, Jr., who disappeared after leaving the home of a friend on Baymen Avenue in the early hours



Emir Cansino, Jr., deceased

of Monday morning, ended in heartache for his family, as their worst fears were realized. His body, which had already started to decompose, was found off the John Smith Road on the George

Price Highway on Thursday, May 5, at about 2:00 in the afternoon. Shortly after, his father, Emir Cansino, Sr.,

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Judiciary being restructured



Belize 2022 Legal Year Opening

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

Today, Cabinet announced that it has given its recommendation to the Attorney General, Hon. Magali Marin Young, for her to introduce a bill that

will restructure the upper court system in Belize in an effort to "improve the efficiency, accuracy and consistency"

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Footballer, 19, killed by stadium caretaker



Chris Rodriguez, deceased

by Charles Gladden

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Wed. May 4, 2022

A teenage football player who was a member of the World FC team in Cayo was brutally stabbed multiple times with a knife by the caretaker of the Norman

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UDP leader supports weed legalization



Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

The United Democratic Party held a press conference on Wednesday to address several pressing issues currently affecting the country. During the press conference, UDP leader Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow reiterated his

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Silk Caye's SOE



Eworth Garbutt speaking to Coast Guard officials at Silk Caye

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 4, 2022

The erosion of islands and coastal areas in Belize and across small island states all over the region has been a daunting and ever-present reality for residents living and making a living in those pristine locations. In Belize, over the holiday weekend, the residents of

Placencia took it into their hands to save the last public, but ever-shrinking island, Silk Caye, in their locality from being completely submerged in the Caribbean sea as a result of unrelenting erosion in the area. Southern Silk Caye is the last of

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Silk Caye's SOE



Works to Save Silk Caye

Placencia residents attempted to construct a 135-foot wall on Silk Caye to avert the erosion of the southern island, but were faced with opposition from Belizean officials,

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three islands that have been severely impacted by erosion in the area, and although this island remains in existence while the other two have virtually disappeared, it has lost a vast chunk of its land mass and fauna since 2010.

Over the course of two days of intense voluntary work, however, almost 250 residents of the area and tourism stakeholders from Placencia lent their labor to the construction of an 135-foot wall barricading what remains of the island from the constant, battering waves of the sea. This effort, however, spearheaded by Eworth Garbutt, a career fisher and tour guide, was met with opposition from the Fisheries Department and the Belize Coast Guard, who were called upon to put a stop to the works.

“Over the weekend, we were contacted by the Fisheries Department on Saturday, the 30th of April, to conduct an operation in support of Fisheries at Silk Caye. The mission was to deliver a message to some individuals that were out there doing some groundwork at Silk Caye. When we arrived at that location we found about 25 to 30 persons at that location with about 10 to 12 boats,” Rear Admiral Elton Bennett of the Coast Guard told local media in an interview yesterday.

When the Coast Guard arrived, they found those persons doing the groundwork for the construction of the sea wall to prevent further erosion.

“They had materials, construction material, they had beach sand, they had cement mixer at that location, and they were prepared to do some reclamation of the beach, and we delivered that message on behalf of the Fisheries Department, and we advised them to cease what they are doing. Those individuals continued. They expressed the urgent need of getting that beach in a position where it would not further deteriorate or further erode. We did what we could have done on that day; the following day the count increased,” Bennett noted.

Approximately 200 persons were on Silk Caye on the next day, Sunday, all working on the construction of the wall to prevent the further erosion of the beach. The Coast Guard, however, in attempting to arrest persons, had to stand down in an effort to prevent the escalation of the situation into a large confrontation.

“We attempted to arrest those individuals; from what I gather from the Patrol Commander on the ground, it

could have escalated into a situation that we did not want. The patrol commander was very, very smart, in terms of dialoguing with those individuals and dragging that process out. Following on from there, we arrested and charged two individuals that were there at the location; that occurred in Placencia yesterday, and so the Fisheries Department will now follow through in terms of prosecuting those cases against those individuals that were in violation,” Bennett said.

According to the Rear Admiral, the persons engaged in the work were in contravention of Regulation 15(1) of the Fisheries Act, Revised Edition 2000.

“That requires any individual who would be constructing or doing any beach work in a marine reserve to go through the procedures to get the approval from the Fisheries Department, who also have to get an EIA done from the Department of the Environment; that procedure was not followed,” Bennett said.

Eworth Garbutt and one other person have since been charged for the violations, and Bennett says they will try to arrest and charge as many of those persons who were involved as they can.

Garbutt told local reporters that their response to the erosion of the last remaining Silk Caye was not a knee-jerk one, but that it had been planned, and that they had assessed the situation extensively before acting. Following his arrest, and after he had contacted an attorney, Garbutt told local media about what has so far been accomplished.

“I finished phase 1, which will be making a brick wall of 135 feet. It’s unprecedented, and nothing like that ever done in the country, and I am assuring you, even in the world, with zero machine,” he said.

He then commented on the swift, and seemingly severe, response of the authorities:

“... I have never seen the Coast Guard reacted so quick to something yet. We have had infractions going on left and right where people are dredging here and doing other things, but when it’s for community, all of a sudden.... But for me, I know what I did. I didn’t do anything against the law, as far as what I was made to understand — dredging and filling — two different scenario there. Because this thing is so environmentally friendly; we are using the same biodegradable stuff, the old trees, the coconut,” he said.

He further noted that the situation is a crisis that had to be addressed right away. He told *7News*’ Jules Vasquez, “Jules, this is a state of emergency. I live in a country of laws and rules and regulations, and I have always never violated them and never will.”

Admiral Elton Bennett, Commandant of the Belize Coast Guard, however, commented that there are plans to address

UDP leader supports weed...

At a press conference held this Wednesday by the United Democratic Party, Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow reiterated his support for marijuana legalization, but said he has no problem with differing views on the matter within the party.

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stance on the legalization of marijuana, but also stated that the views within the party, at least when it comes to the recent push for a referendum by the Church, vary from person to person—something which he has no problem with.

Barrow’s comments were made after he was asked what he thought about the fact that Denny Grijalva, the UDP caretaker of the Orange Walk Central division, was one of the religious leaders present at Belize House for the church leaders’ submission of petition signatures to the Governor-General on Tuesday. Grijalva, who is reportedly a pastor, had told *7News* that he garnered several thousand signatures for the petition—all belonging to UDP supporters in agreement with the call for a referendum.

In regards to Grijalva’s key role in the gathering of signatures to trigger the referendum, Barrow said that he has no qualms with such involvement by a UDP caretaker in the referendum process:

“As far as the referendum is concerned, the United Democratic Party did offer our support for the churches, if it is in fact that they feel that the way to decide this pressing matter was through a referendum. I personally support legalization of marijuana, but the United Democratic Party is not monolithic; we are not homogenous; we have a diverse pool of people and personalities and beliefs, and I believe this is an issue where there is room for distinct opinions and beliefs and so I have no difficulty with Mr. Grijalva participating in his passion

for a referendum,” he said.

When asked what he thought of the fact that the Church has reached such a pivotal point in their push for a referendum, Hon. Barrow said that, if a referendum is held, he would continue to campaign for a “yes” vote for the legalization of marijuana. He also noted, however, that all the leaders of the party are free to make a decision on whatever they feel is best based on their own values.

A Cabinet brief released on Thursday acknowledged the Church’s recent submission of petition signatures in order to begin the process of issuing a writ of referendum. According to the brief, the signatures will now be vetted by the Elections and Boundaries Department.

“Cabinet is committed to continuing to shepherd the process with respect for all concerned and considers this an inspiring and encouraging part of Belize’s democratic system. Cabinet remains confident that in the end the right and best decisions will be made as a country,” the brief further stated.

The UDP press conference was led by Hon. “Shyne” Barrow alongside UDP chairman Michael Peyrefitte, and newly instated senators Beverly Williams and Anthony “Tony” Hererra. Several shadow ministers were also present.

Other areas of discussion were the country’s current crime situation and the Prime Minister’s recent intervention in an enforcement procedure being carried out by the Forestry Department on the premises of the owner of Botanical Garden by Roselyn, Diani Chan.

the erosion at Silk Caye, but that studies must be done to ensure that any effort to address the problem does not harm the surrounding environment or eco-system. “I know that the Silk Caye Marine Reserve is very, very important for Belize, in terms of tourism, in terms of fisheries, and in terms of just maintaining a pristine marine environment for Belizeans. And I am aware that the Fisheries Department and the Blue Economy [Ministry] are very interested in doing some work on the island. They just want to ensure that what material goes out there does not impact or throw off the ecosystem, and that level of work done on the island is done properly in terms of getting an Environmental Impact Assessment done. So, you can know what type of material, and where best to put those materials. So that’s the procedure that we want to follow,” he said.

In regard to such planning, however, Garbutt remarked, “While they are doing studies, we have seen the result. That’s the beautiful thing about studies; that’s why I use the analysis of someone being on an emergency needing a surgery. We see the next one side of this one already died. The middle Silk Caye have died, and now we have out one coming next from 10 coconut trees, it’s at 3 right now. So while they are studying, I am studying what is happening right now. They will study until we die; that’s all they will do—study, study and nothing will come out of their study. It’s just while they study, we are dying.”

He further commented, “... I think a lot of people feel threatened because, imagine what takes you to do in 10 years with millions of dollars, this community will end up doing it in 2 weekends. We have done halfway through in one weekend, and we are not asking the government for a dollar. How could you compare quality a product if you give a contract to two different person, one for profit and one because your life depend on it ... all chips are in for this job to get it right. When it comes to the standard of that breakwall is, it wasn’t bypassed, any dollar wasn’t cut. We actually went—they say they need the Geotech, it’s like a blanket; instead of putting one, we put 4.”

For now, the structure created by the residents of Placencia to prevent the further erosion of Silk Caye is by all indications still standing. These mitigation efforts to stem the tide of erosion across small island developing states are becoming more prevalent, as the impacts of climate change drive rising sea levels, erosion, and catastrophic events that tear away at these vulnerable landmasses.

A release issued by the Belize Fisheries Department yesterday noted that the reclamation work, while valiant, was being carried out in a high-biodiversity conservation zone — the conservation zone of the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve

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PM Briceño urges US prez to end sanctions against Cuba

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

Following a trip to Cuba, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, who is currently the Chairman of the Caribbean Community, called on US president Joe Biden to invite Cuba to the 9th Summit of the Americas. Additionally, just two months ago, CARICOM had called for the inclusion of both Cuba and Venezuela at the Summit of the Americas at its Thirty-Third Inter-Sessional Meeting held in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, in March of this year.

It is possible that CARICOM members, including Belize, might decide to not attend the summit if the US does not comply with their request. According to Prime Minister Briceño, the US is urging states like Belize and other countries to be in attendance at the summit, which is set to take place sometime in June, but there has not yet been any announcement by the Caribbean Community that a decision has been made on the matter.

“When we had the Heads of Government meeting in March here in Belize on the first and second of March, the issue of the Summit of the Americas came up and whether Cuba and Venezuela were going to be invited or not, we felt that if we have the ‘Summit of the Americas’ then everybody should

be invited,” Prime Minister Briceño said.

“We made that decision then, but since that decision we have been having meetings with different officials of the US government. We have former Senator Chris Dodd that was visiting us. I’ve been on the phone with him; he met with us in Barbados, making a case as to why it is important for us to be able to attend to the Summit of the Americas. While I was in Cuba, we had a Zoom meeting with Vice President Harris, where again we spoke on different issues...but during the entire discussion again they were making the point that it is important for CARICOM to be able to attend the Summit of the Americas,” explained Hon. Briceño, who said that in the next few days he will be in meetings with his CARICOM counterparts and they will be engaging in discussions in an attempt to reach a final decision.

“In the next few days, I will be in contact with our colleagues to find out what is going to be the final decision,” Hon. Briceño said.

CARICOM has taken a firm stand in support of the removal of the US economic embargo that has caused immense suffering for the people of Cuba for over 60 years. For 29 years in a row, the United Nations General Assembly has voted on and passed a



Havana Cuba

resolution demanding the end of the US economic blockade against Cuba, but despite this, the measures have been made even more extensive and severe.

In January 2021, the US designated Cuba a State Sponsor of Terrorism, seen in many circles as a hypocritical and cynical designation by the US. CARICOM, for its part, has outrightly rejected the enforcement of the embargo against Cuba.

In its final declaration of the 7th CARICOM-Cuba Summit meeting, the parties agreed in clause 21 to, “Reject the imposition of unilateral coercive measures and, in that context, call for an immediate and unconditional end of the economic, commercial and financial blockade implemented by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba, and the termination of the US persecution of Cuban financial transactions, the relentlessness of which has increased. Reiterate our firm rejection of the enforcement of extraterritorial laws and measures, such as the Helms-Burton Act, which grossly violate International Law and undermine the sovereignty and

interests of third parties.”

Prime Minister Briceño said that while the absence of any CARICOM members at the Summit of the Americas may not have any meaningful effect in changing the US stance on Cuba, it is nonetheless important to recognize that the embargo against Cuba borders on criminality.

“I think it is verging on criminality. It is unfortunate what they have done because of the amount of punishment that they are putting on the Cuban people, that the Cuban people are suffering, in some instances because they cannot get medicines,” PM Briceño said.

He shared that on his trip he met a family who recounted to him the tragedy of losing their mother simply because of not having the medication needed to keep her alive within the country because of the blockade.

“I am urging President Biden and the US government to remove those sanctions from the people, because it is the Cuban people that are suffering, and we stand in solidarity with the Cuban people,” Prime Minister Briceño said.

Proposed amendment could allow for divorce on grounds of incompatibility

“Too many times the Family Court is bogged down with acrimonious family proceedings that are not conducive to the family healing and moving on, with children being affected by such proceedings,” states Thursday’s Cabinet brief.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

At this week’s Cabinet meeting, a recommendation was made to the Attorney General for the introduction of a bill at the next sitting of the House of Representatives that will allow for the separation of married couples on the basis of incompatibility. According to a Cabinet brief released on Thursday, the bill seeks to amend the Marriage Persons (Protection) Act, Chapter 175 in the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020.

Currently, a woman is allowed to apply for judicial separation before the Family Court on any of the following grounds: her husband has been convicted of an aggravated assault upon her; or he has been sentenced to a fine of more than \$50 or imprisonment for more than two months for that aggravated assault; he has deserted her; he has been guilty of cruelty to her or her children; he has willfully neglected to maintain her or her infant children; he is a habitual drunkard; he knowingly had a venereal disease but insisted on having intercourse with her; he has compelled her to submit herself to prostitution; or he has been guilty of adultery.

A husband, on the other hand, can currently file for separation on any one



or more of four grounds, which are as follows: his wife is a habitual drunkard; she is guilty of being cruel to him or his children; she has been guilty of adultery; or she has deserted him.

The proposed amendment would remove these grounds and replace them with incompatibility as the primary basis for divorce. According to the Cabinet brief, this is because “Too many times the Family Court is bogged down with acrimonious family proceedings that are not conducive to the family healing and moving on, with children being affected by such proceedings.”

The briefing also noted that none of the proposed amendments will affect the Protection against Domestic Violence under the Domestic Violence Act, nor will they affect the rights to maintenance for spouses and children.

UDP: Minister Musa and COMPOL Williams must go

Senator Michael Peyrefitte, UDP Chairman and Shadow Minister for National Security, said that both the Police Minister, Hon. Kareem Musa, and the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, should resign.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

On Wednesday, May 4, the United Democratic Party (UDP) held a press conference to address some of the major issues and challenges facing the country.



Senator Michael Peyrefitte, UDP Chairman and Shadow Minister for National Security

The primary focus of the press conference, which was headed by UDP leader Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow,

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Fatal RTA on PGH

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

A fatal traffic accident occurred tonight between miles 4 and 5 on the Phillip Goldson Highway police

reported late tonight. No details are forthcoming as yet but passersby have confirmed seeing an apparent motionless body on the scene.

Footballer, 19, killed by stadium caretaker

Chris Rodriguez, 19, was stabbed numerous times with a knife by the caretaker of the Norman Broaster Stadium in San Ignacio Town after being told by the caretaker that he had to pay a fee to practice in the stadium.

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Broaster Stadium in the Welcome Center area in San Ignacio Town, Cayo District, on Tuesday, May 3, after being told by the caretaker that he had to pay a fee to practice in the stadium.

According to initial reports, the victim, Chris Rodriguez, 19 (who later died of his injuries), and his 17-year-old cousin were playing football at the stadium when they were approached by the stadium's caretaker, Fausto Teck, who asked them if they had purchased tickets to be in the facility—following a recently implemented requirement that football teams pay a fee for a day of practice at the stadium. Rodriguez and his cousin both answered no and then were asked to leave the premises.

Ultimately, the young men decided to leave, but while they were exiting the field, they met Teck standing by the steps, and according to Carlos Rodriguez, the uncle of the victim, Teck told the two teens “that he’s the one that owns that field, and if he wants, he could make them come back, but if he wants, he could make them never come back in that stadium.” It has been reported that at that point Teck was approached by Rodriguez, which led to an argument between Teck and the two teens that escalated into a physical altercation, during which Teck stabbed Rodriguez multiple times in the neck and body.

Rodriguez was taken to the San Ignacio Community Hospital and later to the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan, where he passed away at around 1:15 a.m. on Wednesday, May 4.

Manuel Rodriguez, the father of Chris, told local media that he was training horses when he received a telephone call from someone who informed him that his son had been stabbed.

“I was shocked [and] surprised for [them] calling me for something like that, because I know Chris is not a troublemaker. Chris avoids trouble. If you tell Chris something, he’ll walk away, and for him to get stabbed, something had to [go] wrong or spark up Chris to react [and] a fight to occur. I would never imagine I would get a call like that that Chris got stabbed, to be honest with you,” he said.

It is not the first time that the father has had to deal with a tragedy of this nature. The father became a widower after Daisy Miralda, the mother of his now deceased son, who was his common-law wife at the time, and her sister were killed by someone with whom her sister had been in a common-law relationship.

In 2016, Chris Rodriguez’s mother, Daisy Miralda, 29, and his aunt, Miriam Mai, 39, were brutally murdered inside Mai’s business, Betty’s Beauty Salon, in San Ignacio Town by Andy Bustillos, 31, Mai’s ex- common-law husband.



Fausto Teck - charged with murder

According to archive reports, Bustillos offered Mai a gift in an attempt at reconciliation; however, Mai rejected the offering. Bustillos then pulled out a pistol and fired a single gunshot at her, then turned to Miralda, who tried to intervene, and fired another single gunshot in the direction of her forehead.

According to Manuel Rodriguez, who was left to raise his children alone, his son, Chris, had continued to be an exemplary son and student, despite the tragic loss—something that made the single father proud.

“It was rough for me as well, living with your common-law [wife] and they take your common-law [wife] away from you and the kids are much smaller and then you have to raise [them] as a single father. You hear a lot about single mothers, but people don’t look at great fathers, like [me], to move on with their kids. I admire my kids. They struggled. Chris was a bit older; he took it I would say as a mature guy.... He probably was hurt on the inside, but he had a strong mind and strong heart to finish school, and I’m proud of him. He did great in school. I told him from the beginning, ‘I’m proud of you, son! You did it on your own,’ because I was out working and he did it on his own, and I applaud Chris for that. And he had a dream to become a great football player, and he was chasing his dream, but it was cut short very quickly. They didn’t give him time to achieve his goal,” said the grieving father.

The uncle of Chris Rodriguez, Carlos Rodriguez, said that his 17-year-old son, who was with Chris at the time of the stabbing, is “[much] traumatized.” “He doesn’t want to come out [of] the house and he’s crying. I’m trying to talk to him [but] he doesn’t want to hear anything because he blames himself. Maybe he could’ve done something. But I said maybe if he tried to intervene maybe he would’ve been the one to get stabbed because he [the caretaker of the stadium] is a big guy. This is what

Cansino family devastated; Emir found dead

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confirmed his identity.

Prior to Cansino’s disappearance, he had left his home on Sunday, May 1, between the hours of 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. en route to the Park Fest, which was held at the BTL Park in Belize City. Subsequent to that event, he was seen at around 4:00 a.m. the following morning leaving a friend’s home on Baymen Avenue. It was reportedly the last time anyone saw him alive.

There had initially been reports that Cansino had left his friend’s home on a bicycle; however, that wasn’t the case, as surveillance camera footage showed him at around 4:03 that morning standing with some friends in that area before meeting his untimely demise.

On Tuesday, May 3, he was reported missing to police by his mother, Sheryl Jones, a nurse in the labor and delivery section of the Karl

Heusner Memorial Hospital, who became concerned on Monday evening when her son had not returned home and had called his father, Emir Cansino, Sr. to express her concern. Since that report was made, several search parties, including other KMHM nurses, were involved in efforts to locate Cansino, which led to the discovery of his body on Thursday afternoon. He was wearing the same clothing that he wore on Sunday night, and there were multiple apparent gunshot wounds on his body.

According to Cansino, Sr., a friend had said that, “they left the party and went to his house, then he fell asleep and got up and say he was going home. He got on his bike to go home, but he never reached.”

Currently, several persons are in police custody who are believed to be connected to the murder of Emir Cansino, Jr.

Judiciary being restructured

The Attorney General, Hon. Magali Marin Young, will be introducing a Senior Courts Bill to replace the Supreme Court of Belize with a new High Court, and to amalgamate that High Court and the Court of Appeal to form the new Senior Courts of Belize.

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of the judicial system of Belize.

The announcement was first made by AG Young at the opening of the Supreme Court earlier this year. She had stated, “Under a newly restructured Court of Appeal, a new High Court, there is to be a Chief Justice whose judicial function is to be recast to administratively supervise the performance of all High Court and Court of Appeal judges and allowing for him or her to sit on either court from time to time in the important matter of his or her choosing.”

In today’s Cabinet release, GoB stated that the new Senior Courts Bill will be an amalgamation of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act and the Court of Appeals Act, and will result in the restructuring of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, which will be brought under under one umbrella as the Senior Courts of Belize.

The office of the Chief Justice, currently held by Michelle Arana (Ag), will be transformed into a role that will include administratively heading both the Supreme Court, which will become known as the High Court, and the Court of Appeal.

New offices such as that of Senior Judges, Masters, Judicial Assistance personnel, and the Chief Registrar will be introduced in the Criminal and Civil divisions of the Senior Courts, and specialized divisions such as the Constitutional and Public Law Division, Family and Trust Law Division, and Commercial Law Division will also be added. The Chief Justice will also have the freedom to create new divisions, if necessary.

The bill to introduce the accompanying amendment to the Belize Constitution that will provide for these changes is expected to be introduced by the Attorney General in the near future.

“Cabinet has also given its approval for the introduction of a bill to address consequential amendments to the Belize Constitution to provide for the additional judicial office holders as well as to provide for the office of the Chief Justice to be the administrative leader of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal as well as for the renaming of the Supreme Court to that of the High Court. The office of the President of the Court of Appeal is being retained, but shall be subject administratively to the office of the Chief Justice,” the release from Cabinet states.

happened and he’s [much] traumatized,” he said.

In addition to the heartbroken relatives of Chris Rodriguez, the members of the World FC team in Cayo to which Chris Rodriguez belonged are also grieving.

The head coach of the team, Javier Habet, told local reporters. “I really don’t have the words to express how I feel right now, but I’m really sad, and I think the whole community feel this one. I just don’t have the words to say it right now, but this was a promising, talented, young fellow and it’s just

senseless how they took away the man’s life, and I just feel emotional already. I just can’t right now.”

“He was, I don’t want to say one of the best, but he was in the top three positions in the whole team. His position was a centre back defensive player, and he was pretty much one of the best for the entire tournament. Last season, he was the MVP with the defence. He got the best defence last tournament. That says a lot about his talent, and he as young, a 19-year-old,

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Our leaders should be squirming

If our political leaders were anything like captains of ships, who as a point of honor are the last to leave their vessel if it is the casualty of a blunder or a natural disaster, they wouldn't sleep at nights and they'd suffer from major bouts of the squirms when visiting with leaders of disciplined nations.

In our political system, which is more complicated than running a ship, much of the glory for successes and flak for failures go to the Prime Minister. Not too far behind the PM is the Cabinet, which by law has collective responsibility for everything that happens in the country under their watch. What has been happening under the watch of governments since independence should make every individual who holds or has held a leadership position cringe. Murders, rapes, armed robberies, and fatal traffic accidents too, have been escalating at rates way beyond the growth of our population.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Attorney General's Ministry are directly responsible for dealing with violent crimes, but not by a long shot should the ministers in charge of those departments be alone in feeling the pain and hanging their heads in shame. Indeed, we all have blame for the rampant violence in our country. But, though none can say they have no blame for this failure, we elect people to lead, and we pay them well and exalt them with the title "honorable", with the expectation that they will help us deliver on our constitutional obligation to protect the lives and limbs of all within our 8,867 square miles.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The numbers say that our country is very soft on crime. It's all about results, and ours are dismal. Our leaders shouldn't be sleeping well at nights, and they should be uncomfortable sipping whiskey and wine with leaders who have done the work to keep their people safe.

Our dire situation isn't hopeless. Everyone believes that if we were better at solving crimes we would have less of it. More than a decade and a half ago, one of our governments promised to improve our forensics capabilities to help us get justice in the courts, but a lot more needs to be done in that area. Just about the only effective thing the GOB has done to improve the conviction rate was to replace trial by jury with trial by judges for the more sensational murder cases.

A major complaint of the police is that the people are not eager to assist them with critical information. On the surface, it would seem that the people are content to coddle dangerous criminals, but a closer look shows a different story.

In the book, *Like Bush Fire*,

by social scientists Dr. Herbert Gayle, Ms. Virginia Hampton and Ms. Nelma Mortis, some very unflattering things are said about the police. The police are ill-equipped, and over the 40-plus years since independence, political leaders have interfered in their work, the department has been corrupted by the proceeds of the illegal drug trade, and repeated defeats in the courts by criminal lawyers have demoralized them.

The Belizean people don't trust the police. To make Belizeans feel safer about sharing information with police, there's a Crime Stopper system that allows them to share what they know anonymously, but that hasn't translated to more convictions in the courts, definitely not significantly. For a time, community policing was catching on, but maybe because of lack of support by the police, or distrust in the police, that is now largely dormant.

The Commissioner of Police has said that the department has very quietly weeded out many corrupt officers, but because we are dealing with a problem that has festered for decades it will take some time for public confidence in the police to increase. While the department is working on cleaning up itself, it might be good to consider setting up a special group of cops who are run by a board that is vetted by/answerable to the Senate. This would serve to lessen political interference and increase confidence.

Considerable investment must be made in the Belize Crime Observatory (BCO) so that it can be more effective in gathering the information it needs to make it an effective deterrent to violent crime. The BCO needs more staffing, and tertiary institutions in the country must get involved in the research to provide the organization with data that gets into the gut of violent crime—murders, rapes, armed robberies. Knowledge is power. With more information, the police and people will be better positioned to address our weaknesses.

Until better times, say goodbye to pigtail and corned beef; eat more eggs

The Statistical Institute of Belize report this week which stated that the overall national inflation rate for goods and services purchased by Belizean households in March 2022 was 5.7%, is just putting a number to what Belizeans have been aware of for some time now. The cost of living keeps going up, at a rate that might be equal to or greater than what was seen at the time of the Great Depression, which forced labor hero Antonio Soberanis and the Labor and Unemployed Association to take to the streets, and caused the 1949 devaluation, which followed the Second Great War.

This rise in the cost of goods and services is happening at a time when our earnings are mostly static, or going down. We need to get through this period, and one way, as a caller to the WuB said on Tuesday morning, is for us to become thrifter in our spending.

A cry went up when the price of a lowly tin of imported corned beef rose to an incredible \$9.50, and prior to that the pain was about the increased price of imported pigtail. We need to stop crying over the price of pigtail, and corned beef. What we need to do is eat more locally produced eggs.

A good-sized egg has 6 to 8 grams of protein, while a tin of corned beef has 56 grams. What's the fuss over the food in the can? With \$9.50, the price for a tin of corned beef which contains 56 grams of protein, we can buy about 2 1/2 dozen eggs, with 210 grams of protein.

According to the *WorldAtlas*, the Japanese eat an average of 320 eggs per year, and the Chinese eat 300. The website thekitchn.com

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Four decades of friendship: Visit of the President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to Belize.

Mexico was not only the first country to establish diplomatic relations with Belize when it declared its independence from the United Kingdom on September 21, 1981, but also, in the preceding years, it closely followed the process from a perspective attached to international law, honoring the principle of self-determination of peoples.

Throughout four decades, our countries have made substantial progress in building a bilateral relationship characterized by permanent dialogue and coordination of their positions in regional forums.

This is the third meeting between the Mexican president and Prime Minister Juan Antonio Briceño. During the visit, the signing of the Letter of Intent between both governments for the implementation of the *Sembrando Vida* project is planned. The project intends to train and offer support to producers in rural Belize to implement agrosilvopastoral production with a view to generating jobs and strengthen their food security.

In terms of educational collaboration, Mexico will add three technically oriented campuses to the Escuelas México program that already operates in that country. Likewise, our governments are committed to exchanging experiences and good practices in infrastructure, particularly around the Mayan Train, and the negotiations of the Agreement on Air Transport are resumed, which will facilitate the touristic ties.

In the commercial field, progress is anticipated in the Memorandum of Understanding for the Strengthening of Bilateral Economic Relations, which will promote the commercial relationship in order to take advantage of its potential as a border country that has an important dynamic of exchanges.

On the other hand, Belize joins the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency

(ALCE) which facilitates satellite observation of meteorological phenomena that affect us.

In the multilateral arena, the Belizean government actively supported Mexico's pro-tempore presidency in CELAC, 2020-2021. In the face of the health emergency resulting from the COVID pandemic, Mexico helped speed up regional access to vaccines and specialized medical equipment. As a result, Belize obtained ventilators and 200,000 doses of vaccines from our country.

Faced with the devastating effects of climate change, expressed in the tropical storms Eta and Iota of 2020 that affected the Mexican southeast and Central American countries, our government provided assistance relief to Belize. It should also be remembered that Belize is one of the main beneficiaries of the Mesoamerica Hunger-Free program, dependent on the Mexico Fund and supported by the FAO.

At the regional level, Belize holds the presidency of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which coincided with Mexico's pro-tempore presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Association of the Caribbean States, which favored coordination between them.

In September of last year, within the framework of the commemoration of the birth of José María Morelos y Pavón and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the leaders held a productive meeting. With this visit, the friendship and good relationship and the will to advance on issues of common interest are endorsed.

Op-ed in the framework of the visit of the President of the United Mexican States, His Excellency Andrés Manuel López Obrador

Until better times, say goodbye to pigtail and corned beef; eat more eggs

Continued from Page 5

says the average American consumes 279 eggs per year. In 2008 *7News* reported that Belizeans ate 110 eggs; in 2011 *belizepoultry.com* reported that Belizeans consumed 141 eggs, and in 2020 *News5* reported that egg consumption in Belize had gone up to 170 per person.

We need to double our consumption of eggs. Eggs are healthy, and there are dozens of ways to prepare them. Eggs are easy to produce. A family in an urban area doesn't need to set aside much space for a few layer hens. They can feed the birds with scraps, and with a little supplemental feed a layer can produce over 200 eggs in a year. The next big thing from the Ministry of Agriculture must be a laying hen for every household.

Car flips on Boom-Scotland Halfmoon Road; 1 dead

Sergio Eck, 23, was killed and three others, including a minor, were injured when a Nissan Altima that Eck was driving flipped several times on the Burrell Boom-Scotland Halfmoon Road, and landed in the bushes.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 4, 2022

Early on Tuesday morning, May 3, Sergio Eck, a 23-year-old man who was driving a Nissan Altima from Burrell Boom to Scotland Halfmoon, was killed when his car flipped several times on the Boom-Scotland Halfmoon Road. Three persons who were in the car with him were also injured as a result of the accident.

Eck was driving a blue, four-door Nissan Altima from the Butter Cup Estate outside Burrell Boom to Scotland Halfmoon at about 3:30 a.m. when he lost control of the vehicle, which flipped several times and ended up in the nearby bushes on the right side of the road. Eck died at the scene.

The other passengers who were in the car at the time of the accident—Roshane Flowers, 25; Kia Flowers, 22; and Karrie Flowers, 16, from Scotland Halfmoon received non-life-threatening injuries and were



Sergio Eck, deceased

transported to Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH) for medical treatment.

Eck's body was transported to the KMH and he was pronounced dead by medical officials.

Police have collected samples of Eck's body fluids to determine whether he was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident, and they are now awaiting the results of a postmortem exam.

VACANCY FOR LEGAL SECRETARY

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NOTICE: Columbus Central University School of Medicine hereby informs the public that India Shine Academic Services Ltd. is not authorized to conduct any business on behalf of the University.

Tragedy on top of tragedy

by *Evan X Hyde*

Between 1978/79 and 1987, I lived at my Aunt Chrystal's house on First Street in King's Park, Belize City. One of my neighbors there was Mr. Michael Usher, who had been one of my SJC basketball idols in the late 1950s when I was still at Holy Redeemer Boys School.

Mr. Mike was a People's United Party (PUP) stalwart, a Belize City Councillor five decades ago. One of the things he used to say over and over was, all we need is sand lots: the children and young people will make use of them for sports and healthy recreation.

Belize City had begun to lose its open spaces, especially on the Northside and just outside of Belize City, because a demand for housing and commercial real estate was beginning to overwhelm the old capital. Southside would lose Yabra Field and Hostel Field: only Rogers Stadium, formerly

Edwards Park, would remain.

In the middle 1980s, under the first United Democratic Party (UDP) government, Belize City, incredibly to me, would lose the precious open spaces many generations of our people had known as the Newtown Barracks. The politicians began the attack on the Barracks by building a large, modern hotel.

Unbeknownst to us natives, someone somewhere had decided that the country was going to become tourism-focused. (This had not been Mr. Price's vision.) Passports were being sold by the bucketful. Massive tracts of land were being alienated to foreigners, both by government and private interests.

Then one day it began to become clear to us Garden people that the Barracks hotel, which opened a gambling casino just across the street from the MCC in the latter part of the 1990s, if I remember correctly, had its sights on the MCC Garden, a religious

space for football and cricket since 1960 for us natives.

Kremandala fought tooth and nail for years and years to protect the Garden. A UDP City Council under Zenaida began to abuse and violate the playing surface of the Garden with mass concerts, which required the use of large trucks and tractors.

Kremandala continued to fight. The power brokers just refused to understand. We needed the Garden: our youth need the space.

Our fight was, I would say, in vain. The Barrow government actually sold a piece of the Garden's space to the hotel/casino for their parking. Over the past weekend, a 23-year-old youth who was trying to claim his vehicle from the hotel/casino parking lot inside the Garden, was shot and killed in the early morning hours when it was still dark.

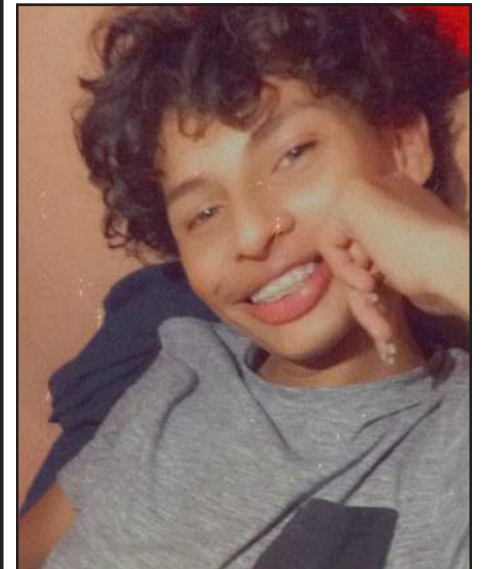
The reason I had to say something now is because just a couple days later, a Cayo teenager who was practising

football in San Ignacio's beautiful, venerable Norman Broaster Stadium, was stabbed and killed, apparently by the stadium's caretaker, who had been tasked to collect a new National Sports Council fee for the use of the grounds. This was absolute tragedy on top of the MCC Garden parking lot tragedy.

Tired as I am, I still had to say something now. There is a philosophical connection between these two incidents of young death by violence. The philosophical connection is that the people who run things in The Jewel have laughed off Kremandala's arguments for space and sports for more than five decades. They will continue to laugh us off, and our Belizean youth will continue to die.

Can't you see this is madness?

20-year-old dies in Orange Walk RTA



Charles Calderon, deceased

by *Khaila Gentle*

ORANGE WALK TOWN, Tues. May 3, 2022

A traffic accident in Orange Walk Town claimed the life of a 20-year-old young man last Wednesday. According to official police reports, on the morning of Wednesday, April 27, 20-year-old Charles Calderon had been riding his green Meilun motorcycle on Benque Viejo Street when a black pickup truck being driven by Ann Marie Burns Hall—a 39-year-old resident of Orange Walk—collided into him. While the truck sustained damage to the front left side, Hall did not receive any injuries.

At about 11:00 that morning, police visited the Northern Regional Hospital, where they saw Calderon in the emergency room with extensive head injuries. The 20-year-old would eventually succumb to those injuries one day later, after being transferred to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital.

Police are investigating the matter.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Sapphire Beach, Ambergris Caye, Belize District

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San Pedro	7	8150

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REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
San Pedro	7	10795 (H12) (H13) (H14) (H 15) (H16)

(Being incomplete concrete buildings held under strata titles on **SEAFRONT** Parcel No. 10795 situate at **Sapphire Beach, Ambergris Caye**, the freehold properties of Messrs. Land Trust Limited)

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En nuestro sistema político, que es más complicado que dirigir un barco, gran parte de la gloria por los éxitos y las críticas por los fracasos son para el Primer Ministro. No muy lejos del PM está el Gabinete, que por ley tiene la responsabilidad colectiva de todo lo que sucede en el país bajo su supervisión. Lo que ha estado sucediendo bajo la vigilancia de los gobiernos desde la independencia debería hacer que cada individuo que ocupa o haya ocupado una posición de liderazgo se estremezca. Los asesinatos, las violaciones, los robos a mano armada y los accidentes de tráfico mortales también han ido aumentando a un ritmo que va mucho más allá del crecimiento de nuestra población.

El Ministerio del Interior y el Ministerio del Fiscal General son directamente responsables de abordar los delitos violentos, pero ni de cerca los ministros a cargo de esos departamentos deben ser los únicos que sientan el dolor y agachen la cabeza avergonzados. De hecho, todos tenemos la culpa de la violencia rampante en nuestro país. Pero, aunque nadie puede decir que no es culpable de este fracaso, elegimos personas para liderar, les pagamos bien y las exaltamos con el título de "honorables", con la expectativa de que nos ayuden a cumplir con nuestra obligación constitucional de proteger las vidas y miembros de todos dentro de nuestras 8,867 millas cuadradas.

La prueba del budín está en comerlo. Los números dicen que nuestro país es muy blando con el crimen. Se trata de resultados, y los nuestros son pésimos. Nuestros líderes no deberían dormir bien por las noches, y deberían sentirse incómodos bebiendo whisky y vino con líderes que han hecho el trabajo para mantener segura a su gente.

Nuestra terrible situación no es desesperada. Todo el mundo cree que si fuéramos mejores resolviendo crímenes tendríamos menos. Hace más de una década y media, uno de nuestros gobiernos prometió mejorar nuestras capacidades forenses para ayudarnos a obtener justicia en los tribunales, pero aún queda mucho por hacer en esa área. Casi lo único efectivo que ha hecho el Gobierno de Belize para mejorar la tasa de condenas fue reemplazar el juicio por jurado con juicio por jueces para los casos de asesinato más sensacionales.

Una de las principales quejas de la policía es que la gente no está dispuesta a ayudarlos con información crítica. En la superficie, parecería que la gente se contenta con mimar a los criminales peligrosos, pero una mirada más cercana muestra una historia diferente.

En el libro *Like Bush Fire*, de los científicos sociales Dr. Herbert Gayle, Virginia Hampton y Nelma Mortis, se dicen algunas cosas muy poco halagadoras sobre la policía. La policía está mal equipada, y durante los más de 40 años desde la independencia, los líderes políticos han interferido en su trabajo, el departamento ha sido corrompido por las ganancias del tráfico ilegal de drogas y las repetidas derrotas en los tribunales por parte de los abogados penalistas los han desmoralizado.

El pueblo beliceño no confía en la policía. Para que los beliceños se sientan más seguros al compartir información con la policía, existe un sistema Crime Stopper que les permite compartir lo que saben de forma anónima, pero eso no se ha traducido en más condenas en los tribunales, definitivamente no de manera significativa. Durante un tiempo, la policía comunitaria se puso de moda, pero tal vez debido a la falta de apoyo de la policía, o la desconfianza en la policía, ahora está en gran parte inactiva.

El Comisionado de Policía ha dicho que el departamento ha eliminado silenciosamente a muchos oficiales corruptos, pero debido a que estamos lidiando con un problema que se ha

enconado durante décadas, tomará algún tiempo para que aumente la confianza del público en la policía. Si bien el departamento está trabajando en limpiarse, podría ser bueno considerar la creación de un grupo especial de policías que estén dirigidos por una junta que sea examinada por/responsable ante el Senado. Esto serviría para disminuir la interferencia política y aumentar la confianza.

Se debe realizar una inversión considerable en el Observatorio del Crimen de Belize (BCO por sus siglas en inglés) para que pueda ser más eficaz en la recopilación de la información que necesita para que sea un disuasivo efectivo para los delitos violentos. El BCO necesita más personal, y las instituciones universitarias del país deben involucrarse en la investigación para proporcionar a la organización datos que lleguen al corazón de los delitos violentos: asesinatos, violaciones, robos a mano armada. El conocimiento es poder. Con más información, la policía y las personas estarán mejor posicionadas para abordar nuestras debilidades.

Hasta tiempos mejores, despídanse del rabo de cerdo y la carne curada; coman más huevos

El informe del Instituto de Estadística de Belize de esta semana, que indicó que la tasa de inflación nacional general de bienes y servicios comprados por los hogares beliceños en marzo de 2022 fue del 5,7 %, se trata simplemente de ponerle una cifra a lo que los beliceños conocen desde hace algún tiempo. El costo de vida sigue subiendo, a un ritmo que puede ser igual o superior al que se registró en la época de la Gran Depresión, que obligó al héroe laboral Antonio Soberanis y a la Asociación de Trabajadores y Desempleados a salir a la calle, y provocó la devaluación de 1949, que siguió a la Segunda Gran Guerra.

Este aumento en el costo de los bienes y servicios está ocurriendo en un momento en que nuestras ganancias son mayormente estáticas o están disminuyendo. Necesitamos superar este período, y una forma, como dijo una persona que llamó al WuB el martes por la mañana, es que seamos más ahorrativos en nuestros gastos.

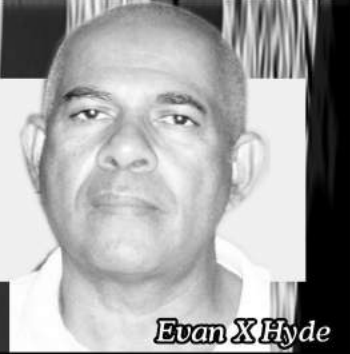
Un grito se elevó cuando el precio de una humilde lata de carne curada importada subió a un increíble \$ 9.50, y antes de eso, el dolor fue por el aumento del precio del rabo de cerdo importado. Tenemos que dejar de llorar por el precio del rabo de cerdo y la carne curada. Lo que tenemos que hacer es comer más huevos producidos localmente.

Un huevo de buen tamaño tiene de 6 a 8 gramos de proteína, mientras que una lata de carne curada tiene 56 gramos. ¿Cuál es el alboroto por la comida enlatada? Con \$9.50, el precio de una lata de carne curada que contiene 56 gramos de proteína, podemos comprar unas 2 ½ docenas de huevos, con 210 gramos de proteína.

Según WorldAtlas, los japoneses comen un promedio de 320 huevos por año y los chinos comen 300. El sitio web thekitchn.com dice que el estadounidense promedio consume 279 huevos por año. En 2008, 7News informó que los beliceños comían 110 huevos; en 2011 belizepoultry.com informó que los beliceños consumían 141 huevos, y en 2020 News5 informó que el consumo de huevos en Belize había aumentado a 170 por persona.

Necesitamos duplicar nuestro consumo de huevos. Los huevos son saludables y hay docenas de maneras de prepararlos. Los huevos son fáciles de producir. Una familia en un área urbana no necesita reservar mucho espacio para unas pocas gallinas ponedoras. Pueden alimentar a las aves con sobras y, con un poco de alimento suplementario, una ponedora puede producir más de 200 huevos al año. El próximo gran paso del Ministerio de Agricultura debe ser una gallina ponedora para cada hogar.

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

Almost two decades ago, someone I held in high esteem (now deceased) said to me, seemingly out of the blue, "I don't know why the British don't come and take back their country." (He spoke in Creole.) I was taken aback, because the speaker was a man of the world who normally spent little time considering/discussing things political.

I have spent a lot of time over the years looking at this statement, examining it from as many angles as I could, and my conclusion was that the opinion expressed was as a result of the breakdown of law and order in this country of Belize (formerly British

Honduras), which had been granted political independence by the British in September of 1981.

When the British granted Belize independence, they had refused to give Belize a military defence guarantee insofar as the longstanding claim/threat to the territory by the republic of Guatemala, which is Belize's neighbor to the west and the south, was concerned.

And yet, less than a year after Belize's independence, in April of 1982 in fact, the British went to war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands. A Wikipedia page on the topic describes the conflict as a "ten-week undeclared war," but 649

Argentine military personnel were killed and 255 British. (Three Falkland Islanders were killed during the hostilities.) The British are considered to have been the victors in the conflict.

There was a very interesting phase in the war when the tide appeared to have swung Argentina's way after they began to use the sophisticated French Exocet missile to sink British ships. (Remember, the British had to travel thousands of miles from England to the war zone in the South Atlantic.) It appeared the British succeeded in convincing the French to stop selling the Exocet to Argentina, and the advantage thereupon swung back to Great Britain.

The nature and timing of the Falkland Islands war are most relevant to Belize. In the first instance, the British shed blood for the Falkland Islanders, who are of European ancestry. Secondly, all the Latin countries in South and Central America were in diplomatic and moral support of Argentina in the matter of Las Malvinas, which is the Argentine name for the Falklands. Thirdly, the United States, our planet's superpower, found itself in a pickle, because Great Britain is probably its most important international ally, but American relations with the South and Central American republics are also of great concern for Washington.

One of the things I have learned over the course of my life on planet earth is that violence is of massive importance, although the clerics and the diplomats and the intellectuals worldwide all try to play down the war factor.

Take the case of Belize. Our ancestors were violently enslaved and colonized by the British, but the education system and religious processes here were dominated by the so-called Anglican Church until the Caste War in Yucatan in 1847 began a surge in Roman Catholicism when Mexican refugees from that war settled here.

Our understanding of God and Jesus Christ was orchestrated by the same people who had brutalized us. Remember, the Anglican (or English) church is the only one in Christendom where the head of the state is the head of the church. The state and the church are one and the same in Britain. Incredible, but true.

The British were so powerful internationally for so many centuries that they became understated in their imperialism. The British did not have to prove themselves to themselves or to anyone else. The sun did not set on the British empire, as it has been famously said. The British ruled the world.

My column today is a personal look at how impressed I was as a young boy and young man by the surging power of the Roman Catholic Church in British

Honduras. The Anglicans, represented at the high school level by St. Michael's College for boys and St. Hilda's College for girls, were so laid back that they appeared to have been surpassed by the Catholics.

The supreme Anglican native here was Sir W. H. Courtenay, the grandfather of Senator Eamon Courtenay, Belize's current Foreign Minister. Rt. Hon. George Price, a practising Roman Catholic and former aspirant to the priesthood, took over leadership of the anti-British People's United Party (PUP) in 1956, and the British charged him with sedition in 1958. He was defended in the Supreme Court by the aforementioned W. H. Courtenay, who had led the pro-British opposition to the PUP in the early 1950s and was considered the colony's finest attorney at the time.

Mr. Price was acquitted. Which of us can say when the Courtenays and the Prices, the Anglicans and the Catholics, became as one? It would appear that this had become the case by 1961 when Mr. Price's PUP won all 18 seats under a new Ministerial constitution granted by the British. (Sir Courtenay became the first Speaker of the House.) As a result of that PUP landslide victory in 1961, Belize appeared to become a virtual one-party state for most of the 1960s. Hon. Philip Goldson was like "the boy standing on the burning deck." He was all the opposition in Belize. (And yet, the record shows he had decided to become a Roman Catholic in the 1950s.)

Today in 2022, the dominant banking and business force in Belize is an Englishman who is very, very British. In their military incarnation, called BATSUB, the British are very and typically understated in Belize. Mayhap they are still ruling us, while discreetly allowing our youth to slaughter each other.

There is little to learn of any consequence or gravitas in Belize's social media, beloved. If you are a serious student, I would recommend you begin your study of the present situation in Belize by reading Peter Ashdown's amazing essay, "The Problem of Creole Historiography." I will end by going back to 1993, when the then Governor-General, Dame Minita Gordon, surprisingly appointed yours truly as her choice for Senator in the 1993-1998 administration of the United Democratic Party (UDP) under the late Dr. Manuel Esquivel. At the time, I was naive enough to believe that Dame Minita was under the rule of the Rt. Hon. George Price. Now I understand that Governors-General are ruled from Buckingham Palace. The British were, as always, understated. And cold.



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- (g) Serves as Coroner and conducts inquests into unnatural deaths;
- (h) Can be assigned to any judicial district within Belize;
- (i) Attends conferences, workshops and training in relation to capacity building of the Magistracy;
- (j) Prepare Memorandum of Reasons for Decisions in a timely manner;
- (k) Assists with the training needs of the department as required;
- (l) Prepares appeals as required;
- (m) Prepares statistics and reports as required;
- (n) Must be computer literate with word processing proficiency;
- (o) Is accountable to the Chief Justice, Chief Magistrate and the Judicial and Legal Services Commission.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Secretary
Judicial and Legal Services Commission
Treasury Lane
P.O. Box 399
Belize City
Belize

Deadline for receipt of applications: May 15, 2022

Note: Only suitable qualified applicants will be acknowledged.

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Hace casi dos décadas, alguien a quien tenía en alta estima (ya fallecido) me dijo, aparentemente de la nada, “No sé por qué los británicos no vienen y recuperan su país”. (Habló en criollo.) Me quedé desconcertado, porque el orador era un hombre de mundo que normalmente pasaba poco tiempo considerando/discutiendo cosas políticas.

He pasado mucho tiempo a lo largo de los años asesorando esta declaración, examinándola desde tantos ángulos como pude, y mi conclusión fue que la opinión expresada fue el resultado de la ruptura de la ley y el orden en este país de Belize (anteriormente Honduras Británica), a la que los británicos le habían concedido la independencia política en septiembre de 1981.

Cuando los británicos concedieron la independencia a Belize, se habían negado a dar a Belize una garantía de defensa militar en lo que respecta al reclamo/la amenaza de larga data al territorio por parte de la república de Guatemala, que es vecina de Belize por el oeste y el sur.

Y, sin embargo, menos de un año después de la independencia de

Belize, en abril de 1982, los británicos entraron en guerra con Argentina por las Islas Malvinas. Una página de Wikipedia sobre el tema describe el conflicto como una “guerra no declarada de diez semanas”, pero murieron 649 militares argentinos y 255 británicos. (Tres isleños de las Malvinas murieron durante las hostilidades). Se considera que los británicos fueron los vencedores del conflicto.

Hubo una fase muy interesante en la guerra cuando la marea parecía haber cambiado a favor de Argentina después de que comenzaron a utilizar el sofisticado misil francés Exocet para hundir barcos británicos. (Recuerden, los británicos tuvieron que viajar miles de millas desde Inglaterra hasta la zona de guerra en el Atlántico Sur). Al parecer, los británicos lograron convencer a los franceses de que dejaran de vender el Exocet a Argentina, y la ventaja volvió a Gran Bretaña.

La naturaleza y el momento de la guerra de las Islas Malvinas son muy relevantes para Belize. En primera instancia, los británicos derramaron sangre por los habitantes de las Islas Malvinas, que son de ascendencia

europea. En segundo lugar, todos los países latinos de América del Sur y Central estaban en apoyo diplomático y moral de Argentina en el asunto de Las Malvinas, conocidas como Falklands en inglés. En tercer lugar, Estados Unidos, la superpotencia de nuestro planeta, se encontró en un aprieto, porque Gran Bretaña es probablemente su aliado internacional más importante, pero las relaciones estadounidenses con las repúblicas de América del Sur y Central también preocupan mucho a Washington.

Una de las cosas que he aprendido a lo largo de mi vida en el planeta tierra es que la violencia tiene una importancia enorme, aunque los clérigos, los diplomáticos y los intelectuales de todo el mundo tratan de minimizar el factor de la guerra.

Tomemos el caso de Belize. Nuestros antepasados fueron esclavizados y colonizados violentamente por los británicos, pero el sistema educativo y los procesos religiosos aquí estuvieron dominados por la llamada Iglesia Anglicana hasta que la Guerra de Castas en Yucatán en 1847 inició un aumento en el catolicismo romano cuando los refugiados mexicanos de esa guerra se establecieron aquí.

Nuestra comprensión de Dios y Jesucristo fue orquestada por las mismas personas que nos habían brutalizado. Recuerden, la iglesia anglicana (o inglesa) es la única en la cristiandad donde la cabeza del estado es la cabeza de la iglesia. El estado y la iglesia son lo mismo en Gran Bretaña. Increíble, pero cierto.

Los británicos fueron tan poderosos a nivel internacional durante tantos siglos que su imperialismo fue subestimado. Los británicos no tenían que probarse a sí mismos ni a nadie más. El sol no se ponía en el imperio británico, como se ha dicho célebramente. Los británicos dominaban el mundo.

Mi columna de hoy es una mirada personal a lo impresionado que estaba cuando era niño y joven por el poder creciente de la Iglesia Católica Romana en Honduras Británica. Los anglicanos, representados en el nivel secundario por el Colegio Varonil San Miguel y el Colegio Femenil Santa Hilda, eran tan relajados que parecían haber sido superados por los católicos.

El supremo nativo anglicano aquí fue Sir W. H. Courtenay, el abuelo del Senador Eamon Courtenay, el actual Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Belize. El Muy Honorable George Price, un católico romano practicante y ex aspirante al sacerdocio, asumió

el liderazgo del Partido Unido del Pueblo (PUP) antibritánico en 1956, y los británicos lo acusaron de sedición en 1958. Fue defendido en la Corte Suprema por el antes mencionado W. H. Courtenay, quien había liderado la oposición probritánica al PUP a principios de la década de 1950 y era considerado el mejor abogado de la colonia en ese momento.

El Sr. Price fue absuelto. ¿Quién de nosotros puede decir cuándo los Courtenay y los Price, los anglicanos y los católicos, se convirtieron en uno? Parecería que esto se había convertido en el caso en 1961 cuando el PUP del Sr. Price ganó los 18 escaños bajo una nueva constitución ministerial otorgada por los británicos. (Sir Courtenay se convirtió en el primer presidente de la Cámara). Como resultado de esa victoria aplastante del PUP en 1961, Belize pareció convertirse en un estado virtualmente de partido único durante la mayor parte de la década de 1960. El Honorable Philip Goldson era como “el niño parado en la cubierta en llamas”. Él era toda la oposición en Belize. (Y, sin embargo, el registro muestra que había decidido convertirse en católico romano en la década de 1950).

Hoy en 2022, la fuerza bancaria y comercial dominante en Belize es un inglés que es muy, muy británico. En su encarnación militar, llamada BATSUB, los británicos son muy y típicamente discretos en Belize. Tal vez todavía nos gobiernan, mientras permiten discretamente que nuestra juventud se mate entre sí.

Hay poco que aprender de cualquier consecuencia o seriedad en las redes sociales de Belize, queridos. Si usted es un estudiante serio, le recomendaría que comience su estudio de la situación actual en Belize leyendo el increíble ensayo de Peter Ashdown, “El problema de la historiografía criolla”.

Terminaré volviendo a 1993, cuando la entonces Gobernadora General, Dame Minita Gordon, sorprendentemente nombró a su servidor como su elección para Senador en la administración de 1993-1998 del Partido Demócrata Unido (UDP por sus siglas en inglés) bajo el finado Dr. Manuel Esquivel. En ese momento, fui lo suficientemente ingenuo como para creer que Dame Minita estaba bajo el gobierno del Muy Honorable George Price. Ahora entiendo que los gobernadores generales son gobernados desde el Palacio de Buckingham. Los británicos fueron, como siempre, discretos. Y fríos...

BE PART OF OUR VISION

Applications are invited for the position of Optometrist

The successful candidate will be responsible for examining eyes and visual system, diagnose problems or impairments, prescribe corrective lenses and provide treatment. The candidate will also be required to travel within Belize where Optometrist coverage is required.

Key Duties:

- Conduct eye exams, provide diagnosis, and prescribe corrective eye glasses, contact lenses or other treatment options.
- Tests for various eye diseases caused by systematic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure, and refer patients to an Ophthalmologist if necessary.
- Educate and counsel patients on related products and services.
- Educate and counsel patients on contact lens care, visual hygiene, lighting arrangements, safety factors, correct reading habits and good nutrition and hygiene.
- Schedule servicing, repairing, calibrating or regulating of devices and equipment to ensure that results are accurate.

Qualifications and Required Experience/Skills:

- A Graduate/Post Graduate degree in Optometry from an accredited school approved by the Medical Council.
- Minimum of three (3) years experience as Optometrist.
- Must be registered at the Ministry of Health.
- Proficient in the use of Optical Diagnostic Equipment and Devices.
- Working knowledge of current and emerging training tools and learning aids.
- Posses a valid driver's license, class 'A', is an asset.
- Being bilingual would be an asset (English and Spanish).



Please send resume to:
Director of Human Capital, Unicomer (Belize) Limited
E-mail: human_resources_bz@unicomer.com

Closing date for applications: May 20th, 2022

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PU Peez should scold Ms. Chan

by Colin Hyde

Both PM Briceño and Agriculture Minister Mai say that in the name of business they intervened in the Ms. Chan/Forestry Department standoff. These are smart guys, and it's great for them, a noble objective to be so concerned about promoting business, for our country desperately needs success stories in this area. But by all calculations, this one might end up in the bad bargain category, the one labeled "penny wise, but pound foolish".

Not overlooking CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), which is a very important aspect of this case, we all know about trade wars. Minister Mai was just telling us a story last week about a container of Belizean products that is not being given special treatment by a Caribbean neighbor. It's not impossible that some big country is offering the product at a cheaper price, and we are being stalled until we get frustrated. Out there it can get pretty rough. We don't want to give anyone fodder to reject our produce.

Belizeans really have to understand that our Quarantine Department is the most important defense we have for animal, plant and fish life in our country. People go abroad, they see things, and

they want to bring them back to Belize. Some try to sneak in their organisms, and they run into the Quarantine Department. Some accept their error, and their organisms are destroyed. Some run to the minister. Ai, the protective PUP should complain to Ms. Chan. At the least, her fever for a few exotic plants made their leaders look weak.

It appears in this case that Minister Mai was too eager to HELP, and calling on the PM compounded the felony. You have to ask WHY Ms. Chan felt she had to bring in plants that need special clearance? It's possible she didn't know better. Why weren't the uncertified plants separated from the shipment and the rest allowed to go on to Ms. Chan's nursery? Or were they? The PM was right that the plants needed special attention. You can't blame him for wanting to assist. But it appears he persevered, and that's a different horse.

In all the discussions, the PUP leaders have insisted that their efforts were solely on behalf of business. But if I had to guess, I would say Ms. Chan has some friends in the PUP. The party lost some face on this one. Maybe they'll claim membership in the human race and ask for some allowance for their sin, but the people had it to the gills with the previous band, so there's very little slack in the rope. The people are demanding that the successor be

better than the predecessor. Boy, that predecessor was a bad one.

The Quarantine Department needs to produce some infomercials showing the importance of guarding our borders. Many "good" plants and animals we grew up with are not native to Belize. In the plant world, mango, coconut, blackberry (Java plum), orange, flamboyant, and a number of others are not native to Belize. But some bad ones have gotten in. There are enough painful stories in the plant world to make us all understand why we have to be very careful. Itchgrass, a native of Asia, has become one of our worst weeds. We must vigilantly be on guard to protect our flora and fauna.

It indeed would be excellent if we made some infomercials to educate our people about the work of the Quarantine Department, which involves ministries such as Forestry, Agriculture, and Fisheries, but maybe we won't see any of those right now, not until Minister Mai recovers from being so helpful.

Referendum should be held over two weeks

The referendum pushers have said they'll be taking their sacks of petitions to the Governor General (GG) this week – that's a formality -- and from there the evidence for a referendum will be loaded onto the church buses and shipped to Belize City, to the Office of the Chief Elections Officer. Ordinarily the vetting process for the petitions shouldn't take more than 2 months, and a referendum would be held shortly after, but how do you phrase a question on a law that is not yet settled?

The referendum pushers are after overturning a law that is up for amendment. It will be interesting to see what Elections and Boundaries does with petitions signed by 18-year-olds about a matter that involves people who are 21 or older. I expect that people over 80, ahem, will be the anti-weed's best demographic. You can't separate veteran dogs from the old tricks they learned in the era when the world was warped against weed smoking.

There'll be much referendum talk in the coming weeks, and the first suggestion from me is that it be held over a period of two weeks, not one day. If the referendum is held over a period of a couple weeks, including weekends, the GOB won't need to give a holiday. Employers will be happy for that. Covid stole a lot of time.

Ouch, a one-day referendum, tactically that would play into the hands of the referendum pushers. They are spoiling to ruin the legalization process, feverish, chomping at the bit, high if you

ask me, while most of us who are in favor, against propaganda, are looking at different parts of the law to see how they can be improved. Feverish will get it done in a single day. Lukewarm needs a more timely process.

Those referendum bohgas will be up early guzzling coffee, some swigging from the night before, to tank up on the caffeine boost so they won't run out of gas in the long lines. They'll want to be singing songs too, but I can't think of a one from John Wesley or Joseph Niles that will serve an anti-weed rally. Indeed, all the proper chants belong to the weed heads...doctors smoke it, lawyers too...no, no, not pastors, they imbibe caffeine.

The government doesn't need to collect petitions to hold a referendum, so it would be good for them to get a number of other questions on the ballot. It is local currency that the GOB will be spending to conduct the referendum that the churches are pushing for, and our money they must spend wisely.

I'll be very unhappy with Godwin...

...if he does like Patt and Barrow, as some media houses have suggested. It's all about the pedigree. We know where Barrow came from. He's a robed one, a group that has tons to answer for, in regard to the decay in our country, and he made much of his mint in the service of the man who took over our telephone company and creamed off the value of voice. I said Barrow made a mint. What, whenever you see the robed crowd hanging around the rich and famous, they are rolling in a fat retainer.

I don't know much about Señor Patt. All we've got is that he went to school and got a degree. And, after the raucous caucus where the UDP hierarchy decided on the future of John from 'pan who had too many bad friends to be trusted at the helm, I recall this Mr. Patt was extremely rude when speaking with the press.

Now, Godwin, we all know where he came from. That man was our grand champion. Sure, he got a little *sully* when he went to work for the UDP government, but which monkey who climbs that high ever exits office with his backside completely clean? There's a lot of mess in that territory. I say a man can lose his sainthood and still hold on to his, ehm, core virtues.

I say, Godwin, try and clear your name, Braa, but don't sue the poor people. By the way, this for that, Mr. Barrow: whatever happened to those million-dollar projects we were told we would get from the BTL deal?



Vacancies at Julian Cho Technical High School



Julian Cho Technical High School invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the following posts:

- 1 Math Teacher – Temporary (August to November 2022)
- 1 Technical Drawing Teacher – Temporary (August to November 2022)
- 1 Principles of Accounts/Spanish Teacher – Temporary (August to November 2022)

Qualification for Teacher:

- (a) Bachelor's Degree or Higher in the subject area with pedagogical training preferred, however an Associate Degree in the subject area may be considered.
- (b) Teaching experience at the secondary level would be an asset.
- (c) Good communication skills and a willingness to uphold the mission of Julian Cho Technical High School.

Application package must include:

- A letter of application and resume
- Certified copies of diplomas and certificate/s
- Sealed transcript from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Birth certificate or Passport
- Certified copy of Social Security Card
- Recent Medical Certificate
- Recent Police Record
- Valid Teacher's License (Secondary level)
- Two recent letters of recommendation

*ALL COPIED DOCUMENTS MUST BE CERTIFIED BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.


Salary:

Salary will be in accordance with the government pay scale based on qualification.

Application packages must be addressed to:

Secretary
Board of Governors
Julian Cho Technical High School
P.O Box 171
Toledo District
Belize, Central America

Deadline for applications is Monday May 23, 2022.



can be heard on the following frequencies:
96.5FM in Belize City, Punta Gorda Town, Santa Elena, Cayo and Carmelita Village;
91.1FM in Ladyville and Independence;
101.1FM in Dangriga Town, Camalote Village and Caye Caulker

Two Belize City murders over Labour Day weekend

Tariq Jordan Ciego, 23, and Erwin Pitter, 19, were murdered over the three-day weekend

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. May 3, 2022

On Monday, May 2, a public and bank holiday, two Belize City men, Tariq Jordan Ciego, 23, and Erwin Pitter, 19, were murdered—Ciego at the start of the day, and Pitter as the day was coming to an end. And there have been unconfirmed reports that the shooting of Pitter might have been an act of retaliation for the killing of Ciego hours before.

At about 2:00 on Monday morning, Ciego was shot near the MCC Grounds after leaving a concert he had attended at the Princess Ramada Hotel poolside. He had reportedly been walking toward his vehicle, which was parked near the MCC Grounds, when a lone gunman reportedly shot him three times in the back and left him for dead.

About two hours later, at approximately 4:05 a.m., after the event was over, attendees of the event, including the persons who had accompanied him to the event, discovered Ciego's lifeless body. A cousin of his who works as a security guard at the Princess Ramada Hotel was also alerted after hearing screams, and went to the scene, after which he notified family members. Ciego was transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

"The time that he alleged that he left that concert and when his body was found is a wide gap when it comes to crime, and investigators are trying to piece together leads that they believe could help them [identify] a suspect," stated Communications Director of the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy



(l-r) Tariq Ciego and Erwin Pitter, both deceased

Yearwood, in regard to the investigation of the incident.

"... We have a lot of different angles that we're looking at, because we wouldn't know if there wasn't any witness at the time. The moment that it took almost two hours for him to be found [and] we know even if a witness is identified they would have called in," Yearwood further stated.

According to ASP Yearwood, security officers have been seen in the MCC parking lot during the daytime but are not always present at the booth at night.

"[As] I said, we're examining all different angles. We are at a loss for right now," he said.

According to ASP Yearwood, Ciego, who was known to be a passionate football player, was not apparently involved in any type of criminal activity.

It has been speculated by some persons, however, that the murder of a teen on Monday night might have been related to Ciego's death. Erwin Pitter, 19, who was also known as "Punta King," was killed that night in the Lake Independence area of Belize City.

According to police investigations, Pitter left an area on Holy Emmanuel Street to purchase food on McKenzie Street after 10:00 o'clock, on Monday night, but when he reached his destination, a vehicle drew near to him and several shots were fired at him.

Britney Jones, sister of the deceased Pitter, told us the events that transpired before her brother's untimely demise and how she found out what had taken place.

"I came here yesterday in the afternoon, and my brother was sitting at home eating and doing his different stuff at home. So the last thing he told me was 'sister, I love you!' and he gave me ten dollars to buy some snacks for the baby and I left. When I left I went to sleep at home, but at around 6:30 this morning I see so [many] missed calls and so [many] texts from people saying 'RIP,' but I don't know what happened, so I read one of the texts and it said that my brother is dead, but I said, 'no I just spoke to him yesterday!' and when I read it I asked where and they said, at the back of Martin's, because he beat drums and it looked like he went to beat drums and he got hungry and went to buy and that's where he got attacked," said Jones

Jones believes that her brother's death was the result of a love triangle in which he was supposedly involved.

"To be honest with you, on [the family's] behalf, he had a girlfriend or something right, but not gang as in gang member, and he was getting threatened from the girlfriend, maybe from her gentleman or something like that. I only that I can say that I know. I can't say it's her and I can't say it's him, because I don't know who, but I'm just saying in the background that he got threatened," said Jones.

According to ASP Yearwood, before his untimely death, Pitter worked as a



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The US Government-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has selected Belize as one of only two countries in the world for a five-year government to government grant to fund a program aimed at reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth.

The Government of Belize (GOB) through the Ministry of Finance, **Economic Development**, and Investment, intends to contract a team of individual consultants to form a Compact Development Team in Belize that will work together with a U.S.-based MCC Team to conduct a diagnosis of the constraints to economic growth, prepare concept notes, develop project proposals, and plan for project implementation.

The Belize Compact Development Team will be led by a National Coordinator who will manage the team, engage key stakeholders across all sectors, and bear responsibility for the overall performance and work quality of the team. The Education and Workforce Development Specialist will be a member of this team and will, working closely with the MCC and other members of the Compact Development Team (CDT), coordinate the identification of potential projects that address the human capital constraint to growth; ensure that those projects are designed in a technically sound manner, reflect international good practice, and meet MCC's Investment Criteria; draft the concept note and concept paper that describe an education project in detail; and provide input into the analysis of policy and institutional issues.

Vacant Post
1. Education and Workforce Development Specialist

Remuneration: Competitive salary and benefits are offered, commensurate with academic level, work experience and other relevant strengths of the winning candidate. Kindly follow the below link for further details.

<https://med.gov.bz/>

Interested candidates are requested to submit ONE PDF File that shall include: **a)** Letter of Interest indicating the post being applied for; **b)** the curriculum vitae, **c)** copies of university degrees, and **d)** the names of 3 references.

Subsequently the top 3 applicants for the post will be interviewed.

Deadline for application is **13 May 2022 at 4:00pm**. Application can be sent via email to: econdev@med.gov.bz or hand delivered to the address indicated below:

Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Economic Development
Sir Edney Cain Building
Ground Floor, Right Wing
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Any request for clarification should be sent via email to econdev@med.gov.bz no later than **6 May 2022**. Responses will be provided within three days.

Belmopan residents protest police inaction in murder case

Residents of Belmopan held a peaceful protest on Friday demanding justice for Akeem Thimbriel and Shawn Lopez, whose 2016 double murder remain unsolved. Pastor Irving Thimbriel, father of Akeem Thimbriel, is calling out the police and the DPP for what he calls incompetence and carelessness.

by Khaila Gentle

BELMOPAN, Fri. Apr. 29, 2022

On Friday, April 29, just over twenty Belmopan residents took part in a peaceful demonstration to express their outrage over the lack of police efforts to investigate the still unsolved double murder of Akeem Thimbriel and Shawn Lopez, which took place six years ago on May 1. The protest, organized by Pastor Irving Thimbriel, the grieving father of Akeem Thimbriel, was held because the families of the victims strongly believe that the evidence available in connection with the case is sufficient for an arrest to be made.

That evidence, says Pastor Thimbriel, includes ballistics test results and a cell phone left behind at the murder scene, which is believed to belong to a police officer. Despite this, however, no arrests have been made in connection with the double homicide, and the family feels that the police's inaction constitutes a dereliction of duty by investigating officers.

Following the demonstration, Thimbriel spoke with local media and expressed gratitude to all those who turned out. He also noted that last week's arrest of the country's former Ambassador to the European Union, Alexis Rosado, was a major driving

force in motivating him to speak up once again.

"If we've reached this place where we can arrest an Ambassador, why is it, then, that in our case, and the case of many other persons, how come nothing can be done about those things where so much evidence is there on the table?" he stated.

While being questioned by local reporters, Thimbriel called out the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for not doing her job.

"The DPP six years ago gave directives to the police to pick up six pieces of information. Now six years have elapsed—six years. What



Pastor Irving Thimbriel, father of Akeem Thimbriel

is the system doing in regards to the DPP not doing their job?" he said. According to the DPP, says Thimbriel, the information that she had instructed police to obtain was never received.

"So who is actually following up on these things? What system is in place? Because, one, the police failed with not providing that information—which is very basic, because they told me what was required—and two the DPP is lackadaisical in her duties because she should have been pressing for this to happen. Six years, and we are on the media all the time asking and nothing," he added.

The grieving father told local media that he will continue to go to the media as many times as is necessary to trigger any form of action that could bring about justice for his son. In the past, Thimbriel was able to garner support from the previous Prime Minister of Belize, the Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, who helped him to obtain a report from the police—a report that he says was rife with inaccuracies.

"You know, when I read that report, that report has a date that is one year wrong signed by the [then] Deputy Commissioner of Police and by the [then] officer in charge of Belmopan," he said.

In May 2016, cousins Akeem Thimbriel and Shawn Lopez were gunned down near Thimbriel's home in Camalote Village. The two young men had been walking in the village when an assailant stopped beside them in a grey 4-door pickup and opened fire. Initially, police had taken into custody a man and a woman believed to have orchestrated the shooting as well as one of the alleged gunmen. The shooting is believed to have been the result of an earlier altercation between the woman arrested, her boyfriend, and the actual intended target—a friend of the two men who lived nearby.

Since the day of his son's death, Pastor Irving Thimbriel has alleged that the police may have been involved in the killing. This is because of what one woman, who is believed to have seen the occupants of the pickup, told him.

"My son got so many shots, it was



FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT (FIU)



VACANCY FOR SENIOR COMPLIANCE OFFICER

The Senior Compliance Officer, under the direction of the Director and Deputy Director, will be responsible for the implementation and management of the Unit's anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism, and countering the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (AML/CFT/CFP), risk-based supervision of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) in accordance with the Money Laundering and Terrorism Prevention Act (MLTPA) and the Financial Action Task Force's Recommendations.

Qualifications/Experience/Skills:

1. Master's or Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, Accounting, Finance or related discipline;
2. Certification in AML/CFT/CFP compliance (ACAMS / FIBA) preferable; Knowledge of the domestic legal and regulatory framework related to anti-money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (ML/TF/PF);
3. Ability to conduct complete, efficient, thorough and ethical AML/CFT/CPF compliance examinations;
4. Three to five years professional work experience in the financial services industry;
5. In-depth knowledge of the FATF 40 Recommendations;
6. Report writing skills;
7. Strategic planning skills;
8. Managerial and supervisory skills;
9. Ability to develop and deliver training activities;
10. Good interpersonal, multi-tasking, organizational, analytical and research skills;
11. Knowledge of Microsoft Office suite;
12. Audit experience would be an asset.

Core Duties:

- Lead the implementation and ongoing development of a sound risk-based supervisory framework for DNFBPs;
- Develop a good understanding of ML/TF/PF risks associated with the various DNFBP sectors as well as at entity level;
- Monitor the evolving ML/TF/PF risk environment, identify emerging risks and respond promptly with appropriate supervisory actions to mitigate risks as it relates to the DNFBP sectors;
- Implement a supervisory strategy that effectively directs supervisory focus to higher or emerging ML/TF/PF risks.
- Supervise the examination of entities in the DNFBP sectors to ensure that they have effective AML/CFT/CFP policies in place and where issues are identified, provide targeted guidance and feedback;
- Review and sign off on inspection reports and remedial action plans, and ensure the ongoing monitoring of deficiencies identified;
- Direct/and or oversee remedial actions and exercise of enforcement powers in a dissuasive and proportionate manner, based on the results of examination of DNFBPs;
- Prepare reports and decision papers to be presented to the Director including but not limited to progress reports based on agreed targets;
- Maintain statistics for example as it relates to measures adopted and sanctions imposed in the context of enforcing compliance guidelines for the DNFBP sectors;
- Supervise the pool of Compliance Officers and provide them with on-going training;
- Develop and execute training workshops and programs geared towards increasing the awareness of AML/CFT/CFP obligations amongst the DNFBP sectors;
- Provide advice and support to the Director on matters relating to the supervision of DNFBPs;
- Work along with the Legal Officer to develop and keep up to date guidelines for the DNFBP sectors;
- Assist with Strategic Planning for the Unit including preparation of an annual action plan;
- Assist in the activities of the National Risk Assessment exercise and ongoing assessment of national risks;
- Keep confidential the private, personal and corporate information at the FIU; and
- Carry out any other duties as may be assigned by the Director from time to time.

Salary and Benefits: Negotiable, depending on qualifications and experience. Further details of salary and benefits will be provided during the interview session.

Interested persons can submit their: (a) letter of application, (b) resume, (c) copy of a valid ID, and (d) three letters of recommendations and (e) police record to:

Human Resources Manager, Financial Intelligence Unit,
P.O. Box 2197, Belize City, Belize
or email to secretary@fiubelize.org no later than **MAY 6, 2022**.



BELMOPAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

VACANCY exists for the following post at the Belmopan Comprehensive School, for the period 1st September – 30th November 2022.

1 Business Teacher	-	Temporary (3 Months)
1 Social Studies/History Teacher	-	Temporary (3 Months)
1 English/Literature	-	Temporary (3 Months)

Teaching Qualifications: A Bachelor's Degree in the subject area with educational component. An Associates Degree with teaching experience may be considered.

Applicants should submit:

- Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae,
- Certified copy of qualifications,
- Certified copy of teaching license,
- **Original** transcript,
- Copy of social security card,
- Copy of birth certificate,
- **Original** police record,
- Medical form
- Two letters of recommendation from most recent employer (must be from within the last year)

Deadline: Wednesday May 16th, 2022

Applications must be addressed to:

**Secretary
Board of Management
Belmopan Comprehensive School
South Ring Road
Belmopan**



BELMOPAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

VACANCY exists for the following posts at the Belmopan Comprehensive School:

1 Assistant Bursar	-	Full Time
5 Security Guards (1 female, 4 males)	-	Full Time
1 Janitor	-	Full Time

Assistant Bursar Qualifications: A High School Diploma in Business or related field.

The applicant must portray a knowledge of basic accounting, cashier experience and excellent public relations skills. Knowledge in QuickBooks is an asset. Should have an aptitude for working with figures and must be able to maintain confidentiality.

Applicants for the post of Assistant Bursar should submit:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copy of Qualifications
- **Original** Transcript
- Certified copy of Social Security
- Certified copy of Birth Certificate
- **Original** Police Record – from within the last 3 months.
- Two letters of recommendation from most recent supervisor and/or colleague – from within the last year
- Certified medical report - a medical examination completed within the last two months.

Security Guard Qualifications: A Primary School certificate with experience in the security field.

Applicants for Security Guard post should submit:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum Vitae
- **Certified** copy of Primary School Certificate
- **Certified** Copy of Social Security Card
- **Certified** Copy of Birth Certificate
- **Original** Police Record
- Two letters of recommendation from most recent supervisor and/or colleague – from within the last year
- Certified medical report - a medical examination completed within the last two months.

Janitor Qualifications: A High School Diploma is preferred but a Primary School Certificate may be considered along with skill and experience.

***Note that job may require heavy lifting and operation of some machinery. Must have a class 'E' (All) Driver's License.**

Applicants for the post of Janitor can pick up an application form from the main office.

Deadline: Wednesday May 16th, 2022

Applications must be addressed to:

**Secretary
Board of Management
Belmopan Comprehensive School
South Ring Road
Belmopan**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE A.D 2022

CLAIM NO. 1 OF 2022

ASCENDANCY BELIZE LTD.

CLAIMANT

AND

GIOVANNI FOSTER

DEFENDANT

TO: GIOVANNI FOSTER of Main Middle Street, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize

TAKE NOTICE that Claim No. 1 of 2022 has been commenced against you in the Supreme Court of Belize, by **ASCENDANCY BELIZE LTD.** a company duly incorporated under the Laws of Belize with registered office situate at 84 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize in which the CLAIMANT'S claim is for monies owing by the Defendant to the Claimant, being principal and interest due and payable on account of a loan advanced to the Defendant under and by virtue of a Charge and Memorandum Accompanying Charge executed by the Defendant inclusive of legal fees:

AND it has been ordered that service of the Fixed Date Claim Form of 4th January, 2022 on you be effected by this advertisement.

AND you are required to enter an appearance within fourteen (14) days of the second publication of this Notice of the Fixed Date Claim Form by causing an appearance to be entered for you at the Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Belize.

AND you are required to attend court on Thursday, June 2nd, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. before the Honorable Madam Justice Lisa Shoman at the Supreme Court of Belize to defend the said Claim.

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the said Claimant may proceed therein, and Judgment may be given in your absence.

You may appear to the said Claim by entering an appearance in person or by your attorney at the Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Belize.

DATED the 28th day of April, 2022.

CAVE LOCHAN WATSON LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant
Cor. Landivar & 4th Streets, Kings Park
Belize City, Belize

FOR RENT

Deluxe Apartment – 3,000 sq. ft., West Landivar, 3rd Storey, 1 Master Bedroom, 2 Regular Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 1 Utility Room, Stainless Steel Appliances, Quartz Kitchen and Vanity Counter Tops, Air Conditioned, Burglar Barred, Hurricane Shutters, Standby Electrical Generator, Private Parking, Security Cameras.

House – 2,600 sq. ft., Bally Garden, Mile 4, Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Upstairs and Downstairs, 1 Master Bedroom, 3 Regular Bedrooms, 1 Office, 1 Utility Room, 3 Bathrooms, Hard Wood Cabinets, Air Conditioned, Burglar Barred, Fenced, Hurricane Shutters, 3-Car Driveway, Landscaped, Large Property, Sea View.

House – 3,600 sq. ft., Orchid Garden, Belmopan City, Upstairs and Downstairs, 1 Master Bedroom, 3 Regular Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, 1 Office, 1 Utility Room, Appliances, Air Conditioned, Burglar Barred, 2-Car Garage, Fenced, Landscaped, Large Property.

**ONLY SERIOUS INQUIRIES
LONG TERM LEASES PREFERRED
6102950**

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

**“Press Prediction; 38-41-27
Boledo stats thru 6th to 13th May 2022**

In boledo news, the thirties series has not played for 56 days now. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 38-41-27-32-54-85. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 2847-9625-7763. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 753-212-969-480-692-059. Get ready Belize, some dinero will be coming our way this week for sure. Guaranteed says “Press” Cadogan. 55 is still out for over 1 year 6 months and 3 weeks now, 26 is still out for over 1 year 3 months and 2 weeks now. Then 03 is also out over 1 year 2 months 3 weeks exact. 12 joined the crowd on the 22nd of April, 38 just completed 1 year on the 3rd of May, 47 just joined the crowd also on the 29th of April. These are 6 numbers out over 1 year; join those hard numbers into some beautiful Jackpots. The ending 2 ball played some 17 times already. Keep your eyes open for 12 and 32. Remember to read your Psalms: 72-91-23. Good luck to all buyers. Next week more lucky numbers.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Verdes’ Krisean Lopez was the MVP of the League

Local Football results and updates

In local football news, the FFB had their awards ceremony at the Biltmore Plaza on Friday Night. Verdes FC was unbeaten for the 2 seasons. They accumulated 28 points in each of the 2 seasons,



**MVP Krisean Lopez
Verdez FC top striker**

won 9 games and drew the last one - 2 seasons in a row. Krisean Lopez was the MVP again. Mr. Lorin

Frazer was the manager of the year for a record 5 times. Terry Gordon was the Master of Ceremonies. The Altitude FC was the runner up champion for 2 straight seasons, Dalton Eiley and Ashley “Tossas” Torres are still their backbone, FFB President Sergio Chuc, vice president Cruz Gamez, Mr. Marlon Kuylen and Mr. Godfrey Arzu. Mr. Christobal Mayen one of Belize’s best player coach all-time for Berger 404 was there, the evening was cozy and very entertaining from the different speeches, the next season will have more teams.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**Miami heat will beat the Philadelphia 76ers in 5 games
NBA Playoffs Results and**

Predictions

In NBA Playoffs action, the Boston Celtics swept the Brooklyn Nets in 4 straight games. Jason Tatum was very outstanding alongside Jalen Brown and Robert Williams. Then the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Toronto Raptors in 6 hard games, Joel Embiid got a ruptured bone in his face because of an elbow by Raptors center Siakam. In the other 2 series, the champions Milwaukee Bucks crushed the Chicago Bulls in 5 games, Chris Middleton will be missed down the stretch of the series. In the West, the Phoenix Suns beat the New Orleans Pelicans in 6 games. Devin Booker is back alongside Chris Paul their leader, then the Golden State Warriors beat the Denver Nuggets in 5 games,



**Steph Curry
Golden State Warriors**



**Ja Morant
Memphis Grizzlies**

Steph Curry was very outstanding off the bench with over 25 points a game. The Dallas Mavericks beat the Utah Jazz in 6 games, Luka Donæia will face off against Devin Booker, the Suns in 6 games. Then the Warriors in 7 games against Ja Morant and the Grizzlies, the Celtics will still beat the Bucks in 7 games. Then the Miami Heat will beat the Philadelphia 76ers in 5 games, they are too deep. Next week more results and predictions.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

Real Madrid and PSG have won their league already

International Football Results



**Sadio Mane
Liverpool striker**

In international football action, Real Madrid and PSG have won their league already. The La Liga and Ligue 1 in France. The EPL has not been decided as yet, Manchester City has a one-point lead on Liverpool 80 to 79. There are only 4 games remaining. Sadio Mané is

one of Liverpool’s top striker with Mohamed Salah, they beat Villareal 2 nil in the first leg of the UEFA semi-final game, Mané scored the second goal. Then Manchester City beat Real Madrid 4 goals to 3 in the other semi-final game. The 2 EPL teams are looking forward to the final for the UEFA Champion of Champions games showdown, Karim Benzema had 2 goals in the loss. Next week more results and final predictions.

INTERNATIONAL BOXING

Saul “Canelo” Alvarez will TKO Dmitry Bivol in less than 8 rds of action

International Boxing Predictions and Updates

In international boxing action, this Saturday night from Las Vegas MGM,



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

the light heavyweight championship will be on the lime, Saul “Canelo” Alvarez 57-1-2-48 KOs will TKO Russian Dmitry Bivol 19-0-15 KOs in less than 8 rounds of actions. The fight will be very exciting and very entertaining, Saul loves to fight for the Mexican public because of Cinco de Mayo, Mexico’s Independence Day. Errol Spence, Jr. TKOed Yordenis Ugas some 3 weeks ago in the 10th round. Terence Crawford and Spence are in negotiations. Tyson Fury TKOed Dillian Whyte in the 6th Round 2 weeks ago. The Charlo Brothers want Canelo Alvarez very badly, next week more stats.



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE VACANCY NOTICE

Suitably qualified applicants are invited to fill the position of:

DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court will be responsible to serve and function as deputy chief administrator of the General Registry of the Supreme Court

Applicants must:

- be a qualified Solicitor, Barrister or Attorney-at-Law of at least ten (10) years call to the bar in a Commonwealth jurisdiction; and
- have administrative experience within the public sector; or at a supervisory/management Level.

Interested persons may download an application package from the Supreme Court’s Website – www.belizejudiciary.org or request in writing from:

The Secretary
Judicial and Legal Services Commission
Belmopan City, Cayo District
Belize, Central America
Telephone number: 822-2204 or 822-2235
email address: ceo@mps.gov.bz

Deadline for receipt of applications: **May 15, 2022**

Note: Only suitably qualified applicants will be acknowledged. The Judicial and Legal Services Commission does not bind itself to make an appointment from among those persons who apply.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

LICENSED AND CERTIFIED AUCTIONEER, SHELDON N. C. ARNOLD
WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WITH RESERVE PRICES.

STANN CREEK PROPERTIES TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND
BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY JANUARY 18TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.



Location: Block 31 Parcel – 635 Registration Section, Valley Community/ Alta Vista, Stann Creek District.
Description: Land containing 1.209 Acres, Vacant lot being the freehold property of Frans L. Faux.



Location: All that piece or parcel of land containing 729.20 S.M being 292 Nurse Ceferina Gomboa Street Dangriga Town.
Description: A concrete bungalow structure with a gross floor area of 1,133 sft The same is occupied as a family home with 3 b rooms & 1 bathroom an complete with kitchen, dining, living and laundry room spaces. The structure is fully tiled, secured, plastered & painted being the freehold property of Joseph M Roaches.



Location: 242 Toucan Street, Mango Creek, Village, Stann Creek District.
Description: Lot - 679.437 square meters with an elevated bungalow of mixed construction, containing 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, kitchen and porch areas, being the property of Jeanne R. Longworth.



Location: Lot No. 80, containing 696.66 sq. m. situated in San Juan Village, Stann Creek District.
Description: A concrete family home consisting of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living, dining and kitchen room spaces, being the freehold property of Maria Maldonado.

Sheldon N.C. Arnold
P.O. BOX 666, Belmopan
Cell # 615-8308 or 624-5200
Email: info@arnoldenterprise.com
Website: www.arnoldenterprise.com
Terms - Cash 10% Deposit, Balance in 14 days
Financing Available, Call Ahead For Details



Belmopan residents protest police inaction in murder case

Continued from Page 13

incredible that he even survived; he lived for about an hour and a half after the incident, and they took him to the hospital. The person who came and saw the whole thing, she said that when she went to the vehicle she said the guys had on the camouflage for the police force and they were in a vehicle marked as an F150," Thimbriel told Love News reporters in May 2016.

When pressed about those accusations, the then Officer in Command at Belmopan, ACP Howell Gillett, expressed reluctance to speak on the matter, as it had not gone to court as yet.

"It doesn't matter. The investigation will guide us and tell us who the perpetrator or perpetrators are, and whomever it is will be dealt with. It seems that there was a relationship issue and there was somebody who was sent there to hurt the other party, and that is what led to these double murders. For me to get to details I would be sharing the case on the media and I wouldn't want to do that, because this case hasn't been taken to the court as yet," he had stated.

No charges were ever brought against the arrested persons, reportedly because police had requested a ballistics test for the shell casings found at the scene.

"They found a slug in my son's hand, and when they did the ballistic test on that slug, they found the gun. That person was allowed to walk away and go to the States. One time when I went to them [the police] and asked for the information, they couldn't even tell me where the file was. So who is actually following up on these things? What system is in place?" said Pastor Thimbriel on Friday.

Following the protest, the families of Akeem Thimbriel and Shawn Lopez delivered letters expressing their concern and discontentment to Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño; area representative of Cayo South, Hon. Julius Espat; Minister of National Security, Hon. Kareem Musa; Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Cheryl Lyn Vidal.

"The family is appealing to these officials to intervene and eliminate the perversion of justice in this and other 'cold cases', which we further feel will reduce vigilante justice and by extension crime in our country, a long-standing, seemingly unsolvable problem in Belize," stated a press release issued by Thimbriel's family.



Specific Procurement Notice Communication Equipment N° CABEI-G-003-2147/2022 One Stage-One Envelope



April 29, 2022

1. SOURCE OF RESOURCES

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), as part of the services it provides to its beneficiary partner countries, is granting total funding for the Procurement of **Communication Equipment** for the Price Barracks, Fairweather Camp, Camp Belizario, Air Wing and Eyles Camps (**Belize Defense Force**) within the framework of the **Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)**.

2. EXECUTING AGENCY AND BUYER OF THE BIDDING PROCESS

2.1 Buyer's background

The Executing Body (EB) for the BISP is the Ministry of Finance, **Economic Development**, and Investment. The Ministry of **Economic Development** will be responsible for the execution of the Programme and all its components, reporting all progress to CABEI and ensure the execution of each component under the terms established for CABEI formulation and approval. The execution of BISP components will be carried out by the Co-Executors: Belize Police Department, Belize Defense Force, Belize Coast Guard and National Forensic Science Services.

2.2 The **Ministry of Economic Development** is responsible for the present Procurement process for which it invites suppliers of goods and services to submit bids for this procurement in a sealed envelope.

2.3 The Supplier will be selected and awarded in accordance with the procedures of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration as established in the Procurement Policy for Procurement of Goods, Works, Services and Consultancies with CABEI resources and its Regulations, (DI-52/2020 and PRE-40/2021) which can be found on the following web site: <https://www.bcie.org>.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

3.1 General Objectives of the Procurement: acquisition of **Communication Equipment** for the **Belize Defence Force**.

3.2 The Buyer makes available to interested parties all the documentation related to this Procurement necessary for the preparation of bids.

Such information will be available electronically, free for of charge:

a. Fordownloadonthe Ministry of Economic Development's Website: www.med.gov.bz/bisp-tenders and the Ministry of Finance's Procurement Portal <https://blz-cppnb.caricom.org/epps/home.do>.

b. Additional information regarding the preparation of proposals can be communicated by emailed to: procurementofficer.bisp@med.gov.bz and copied to projectcoordinator.bisp@med.gov.bz.

Any cost to obtain the documents are Non-Refundable. The nominal charge amounts needed are to cover printing and shipping costs.

3.3 Bids for this invitation to bid shall be received no later than **June 1st, 2022, until 9:00 am** at the following physical address below:

3.4 Bids must be sent to the address below no later than **Wednesday June 1st, at 9:00 a.m. local time**. Bids will not be permitted in electronic form. **No late bids will be accepted**. Bids may be opened publicly, in the presence of the representatives designated by the Bidder at the address listed on **Wednesday June 1st, at 9:15 a.m.**

3.5 All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Maintenance Declaration".

3.6 The address referred to above is:

Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme
#1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor, Unit 3
Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone Number (822-4728)

Ref: Belize Integral Security Programme (N° CABEI-G-003-2147/2022)

Visit us at 
www.amandala.com.bz

Russia's report on the invasion of Ukraine

I am very appreciative to Brother Colin Hyde for taking the time to read my writings and excerpts on different subjects. When it comes to the marijuana industry, I care less; it does not affect me. I am an old man who is already on his way out. I won't be here to deal with the future that includes not only marijuana but all the different drugs that are used by those who make up the alliance. However, when it comes to the issue of Russia/Ukraine, we also have to look at the different empires that rose and fell because of the same treatment that was given to the lower class, including our ancestors who were enslaved. The so-called democratic system that the alliance says is good for humanity has become a dictatorship. As the United Kingdom

Secretary of External Affairs, Liz Truss, said, "We need a global NATO to ensure that democracies like Taiwan's can defend themselves". In reference to this I commented that they need a dictatorial global NATO. Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the following information, which I find to be of importance:

Russian forces shoot down a Su-25 military plane in southern Ukraine

Published: RT
April 30, 2022

The aircraft was targeted by Russian anti-aircraft defenses deployed in Kherson province.



*A Su-25 of the Ukrainian Air Force
Wikipedia / CC BY-SA 4.0 / Ministry
of Defense of Ukraine*

Russian air defense forces have destroyed a Su-25 ground-attack aircraft of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Russian Defense Ministry spokesman said. The demolition took place in the town of Chervony Yar, in the province of Kherson, in southern Ukraine. The head of the Russian

by Clinton Canul Luna

National Center for Defense Management, Mijaíl Mizíntsev, announced on April 26 that the Russian Army controls the entire Kherson region. Russian anti-aircraft defenses also shot down two unmanned aircraft over Vladimirovka and intercepted 12 shells from the Smerch multiple rocket launcher near Kamenka, both located in the Donetsk People's Republic. At the same time, the Russian Aerospace Forces destroyed two command posts, nine fortifications and concentration points for troops and military equipment, as well as five ammunition and fuel depots. More than 200 troops and 23 armored vehicles were also neutralized. Missile and artillery forces attacked 319 personnel and material assembly areas, 12 command posts and two ammunition depots. In total, since the start of the special operation, the Russian Army has destroyed 143 planes, 112 helicopters, 660 unmanned aerial devices, 279 anti-aircraft missile systems, 2,678 tanks and other armored vehicles, 308 multiple rocket launchers, 1,196 field artillery units and mortars, as well as 2,503 special military vehicles.

fincasolan@gmail.com
April 30, 2022
Finca Solana
Corozal Town

Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo in Mexico is a yearly celebration held on May 5, which commemorates the anniversary of Mexico's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, led by General Ignacio Zaragoza.

The victory of a smaller, poorly equipped Mexican force against the larger and better-equipped French army was a morale boost for the Mexicans. Zaragoza died months after the battle from an illness, and a larger French force ultimately defeated the Mexican army at the Second Battle of Puebla and occupied Mexico City.

More popular in the United States than in Mexico, Cinco de Mayo has become associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture. Celebrations began in California, where they have been celebrated annually since 1863. The

Please turn to  Page 24



Specific Procurement Notice Office Equipment N° CABEL-G-004-2147/2022 One Stage-One Envelope



April 29, 2022.

1. SOURCE OF RESOURCES

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), as part of the services it provides to its beneficiary partner countries, is granting total funding for the Procurement of **Office Equipment for the Belize Defense Force** within the framework of the **Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)**.

2. EXECUTING AGENCY AND BUYER OF THE BIDDING PROCESS

2.1 Buyer's background

The Executing Body (EB) for the BISP is the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment. The Ministry of Economic Development will be responsible for the execution of the Programme and all its components, reporting all progress to CABEI and ensure the execution of each component under the terms established for CABEI formulation and approval. The execution of BISP components will be carried out by the Co-Executors: Belize Police Department, Belize Defense Force, Belize Coast Guard and National Forensic Science Services.

2.2 The **Ministry of Economic Development** is responsible for the present Procurement process for which it invites suppliers of goods and services to submit bids for this procurement in a sealed envelope.

2.3 The Supplier will be selected and awarded in accordance with the procedures of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration as established in the Procurement Policy for Procurement of Goods, Works, Services and Consultancies with CABEI resources and its Regulations, (DI-52/2020 and PRE-40/2021) which can be found on the following web site: <https://www.bcie.org>.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

3.1 General Objectives of the Procurement: acquisition of **Office Equipment for the Belize Defense Force**.

3.2 The Buyer makes available to interested parties all the documentation related to this Procurement necessary for the preparation of bids.

Such information will be available free of charge:

a. For download on the Ministry of Economic Development's Website: www.med.gov.bz/bisp-tenders and the Ministry of Finance's Procurement Portal <https://blz-cppnb.caricom.org/epps/home.do>.

b. Additional information regarding the preparation of proposals can be communicated by emailed to: procurementofficer.bisp@med.gov.bz and copied to projectcoordinator.bisp@med.gov.bz

Any cost to obtain the documents are Non-Refundable. The nominal charge amounts needed are to cover printing and shipping costs.

3.3 Bids for this invitation to bid shall be received no later than **Tuesday May 31st, 2022, until 9:00 a.m.** at the following physical address below.

3.4 Bids must be sent to the address below and bids will not be permitted in electronic form. **No late bids will be accepted.** Bids shall be opened publicly on **Tuesday May 31st, 9:15 a. m.** in the presence of the representatives designated by the Bidder, at the address listed below.

3.5 All Bids must be accompanied by one "Bid Maintenance Declaration".

3.6 The address referred to above is:

**Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme
#1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor, Unit 3
Belmopan City, Cayo District
Belize, Central America
Telephone Number (822-4728)**

Ref: Belize Integral Security Programme (N° CABEL-G-004-2147/2022)



THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean invites applications from suitably qualified nationals of Belize and Caribbean nationals residing in Belize

This is not an international post

JOB ID NO.: 41697
 CLOSING DATE: May 9, 2022
 POST TITLE: Programme Assistant
 POST LEVEL: GS-5
 CATEGORY: Fixed Term
 POST NUMBER: 00108545
 POST TYPE: Non-rotational
 DUTY STATION: UNFPA Sub-regional Office, Belize
 DURATION: One year (renewable)
 ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: UNFPA Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean

Organizational Setting and Location

Under the overall supervision of the Director of the Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean, based in Jamaica, and direct supervision of the Belize Liaison Officer, the Programme Assistant supports the design, planning, execution and management of UNFPA's programme by providing administrative, programmatic and operational support, including supply chain and logistical support in humanitarian contexts.

Job Purpose

The Programme Assistant will provide support to ensure that the business processes are followed in the processing of financial transactions related to office management and operations. He/she is instrumental in facilitating administrative support and office management/operations using and developing appropriate mechanisms and systems - particularly Atlas ERP- and ensuring compliance with established procedures

Duties & Responsibilities, *Inter alia*:

- Provides substantive programmatic and logistical support for UNFPA programmatic interventions, workshops, capacity building activities, commemoration of International Days, review meetings with stakeholders, advocacy and public information events, and other initiatives, including those within the joint UN framework.
- Ensures timely and efficient support to office financial and administration tasks including payment of vouchers, bills, travel tickets, per diem for meeting participants, consultancies, vendor creation, raising of requisitions, purchase orders, procurement of goods and services and other related processes.
- Maintains petty cash and effects payments when authorized by the appropriate official of the SRO.
- Assists the Liaison Officer in compiling data relevant for the conduct of advocacy and policy support activities, establishing and implementing mechanisms to systematically assess the achievement of results, participating in review meetings and evaluation missions and preparing regular inputs to status and progress reports, including analysis of data from Atlas ERP.
- Supports advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Sub-regional Office by compiling and synthesizing relevant background material for use in discussions and public events. Assists in establishing and maintaining networks of donor and public information contacts and provides assistance in organizing and conducting donor meetings. Supports posting of relevant material on social media pages as per internal communication mechanisms.
- Represents UNFPA in joint UN mechanisms as required including for joint security and duty of care efforts, implementation of the Business Operation Strategy, and contributes to enhancing UNFPA visibility through internal and external communications and social media engagement and monitoring with UN and partners.

Requirements:

To apply please go to: <https://bit.ly/UNFPASPC> for the detailed Job Description and instructions. **Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**

Note:

- There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process.
- UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV or AIDS and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status.
- UNFPA provides a work environment that reflects the values of gender equality, teamwork, respect for diversity, integrity and a healthy balance of work and life. We are committed to maintaining our balanced gender distribution and therefore encourage women to apply.



POSITION TITLE: Administrative Officer
ANTICIPATED START DATE: 15 May 2022
REPORTS TO: Technical Officer
LOCATION: Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District

Administrative Officer (AO) is responsible for the administrative and clerical services. She/he will be working under the supervision of the Technical Officer. She/he will be required to take direction and work intuitively to support the completion of the regional office goals and objectives in a professional manner.

Description:

The position of Administrative Officer of the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) is a full-time position which will define and lead the Regional Administrative Programme under the authority of the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) and in compliance with the aims, objectives and values of the Federation. The position will require working closely with all staff members across all areas including but not limited to, finance, revenue, marketing, communications, operations and strategy.

Key Responsibilities

The Administrative Officer shall hold the following responsibilities:

- 1. Coordinate the administrative activities in an effective, up to date, and accurate manner by:**
 - Actively participates in the regional department's strategic planning sessions;
 - Works cooperatively with all team members to support the achievement of work plan activities designed to achieve identified goals and objectives;
 - Operates office equipment such as computers, fax machines, photocopiers, voice mail messaging systems and computer scanning equipment to complete office tasks;
 - Performs clerical functions such as preparing correspondence, receiving visitors, arranging conference calls, and scheduling meetings for the technical officer or designate;
 - Coordinates and organizes meetings and conferences including meeting venue bookings, catering requirements, sets up the room with audio-visual equipment and flip charts;
 - Prepares meeting agendas, records and distributes meeting minutes;
 - Coordinates any required repairs to office equipment;
 - Maintains adequate office supply.
- 2. Administrative and clerical support to the Technical Officer in accomplishing their roles and responsibilities. This includes**
 - Assists in the development and distribution of schools, clubs, and academies training schedules;
 - Produces forms and correspondence as required;
 - Produces and/or assists in the production of all required internal and external reports;
 - Coordinates activities with the technical officer;
 - Assists in the development of the regional office budget and ensures spending remains within acceptable variances.
- 3. Coordinator of the regional office's information, reporting, and communication strategies and activities. This includes:**
 - Develops or maintains an accurate and up to date records management system (electronic and hardcopy files);
 - Stores, retrieves and disseminates information for schools, clubs and academies;
 - Prepares detailed presentations and reports as required by the Technical Officer;
 - Ensures the safeguarding of all confidential files;
 - Provides regional website updates to the Football Federation of Belize IT department to ensure up to date department information is posted on the intranet/website; Keeps the BFA Facebook page up-to-date.
 - Creates databases and/or processes to accomplish tasks.
- 4. Other duties as may be assigned from time-to-time.**

Experience & Knowledge Requirements:

- Minimum high school diploma or higher education;
- Minimum 2 years' experience in the field of administrative / business;
- Must possess strong organization, evaluation and problem solving skills;
- Must be able to communicate effectively in writing and verbally;
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office, Excel and PowerPoint;
- Must be able to work flexible hours;
- Organization skills and the ability to effectively manage resources;
- A team player, with an ability to build consensus and collaborate with the Football Federation of Belize.

Remuneration:

Based on qualifications

Applications:

To apply, candidates should send a Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae to the Assistant General Secretary of the Football Federation of Belize Headquarters by 4:00 p.m. May 5, 2022 to: Email: luis_pena@footballfederationbelize.bz

Hope and change

Barack Obama was elected the first black president of the United States on mostly his very optimistic message of hope and change. The country was going through an almost depression-era-like economy in 2008/09, and his message resounded favorably with the majority of Americans. I believe that one of the most important missions of a government is to give its citizens hope that their lives will improve, hope that the lives of their children will be better, with schools, employment, and a safe environment in which to grow. I also believe that the Briceño government was given a mandate to fulfill these promises to the Belizean people, just as the Obama administration was, given what they had been through in the later years of the previous administrations. In Belize, it was a cesspool of corruption, stagnation, and a blatant disregard for the dire straits that the country was in, economically, socially, and maybe even spiritually. And so the people came out en masse, and voted, for hope, for change!

We expect our leaders to lead, not in a righteous way (that's for the churches), but to lead with dignity and respect for their citizens. To show impartiality always, not to become caught up in tit for tat, or intervening in matters that are not for the good of the country, just for some special few. When a party is elected, especially the manner in which this party won in the last election, it tells you that they were supported by members of the opposing party, in very large numbers. It doesn't mean that these voters changed parties; they voted for change, and hope.

This flowers-gate incident is very disappointing and very distracting at the same time. When the leader of a country becomes involved in the flowers minutiae, he is not paying attention to urgent matters of state, like inflation, unbelievably high fuel costs, crime, etc. He is responsible for the state of the nation, and his various ministers, and their subordinates, handle everyday problems that might arise. There is no reason for the leader of the country to become personally involved in something this trivial, that members of the ministry related to the department in question have control over, including the responsibility for its smooth management—such as adhering to the laws and rules, and making sure that those rules are followed to the letter of the law, not to be changed by whims and fancies.

We are always afraid of speaking truth to power, and hold back for fear of retribution. But we don't live in Russia, or China. Living in a democracy gives us that right, to call out wrongs when we see them, and thank goodness Belize is a democracy, and so a free press flourishes! No one is above the law, although sometimes it seems that way, and we should always hold our leaders' feet to the fire when they wander off the path of good governance. The people voted for hope and change, I believe, not for the same ole, same ole!



Institution: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Country: Belize

Project: Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMPII)

Sector: Waste Management

Abstract: Senior Accounts Clerk for the Solid Waste Management Project II(SWMPII).

Loan No.: 3684/OC-BL

Deadline: May 13, 2022

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the *Inter- American Development Bank (IDB)*, towards the cost of the Solid Waste Management Project II and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards to hiring of a Senior Accounts Clerk.

The Objective of the consultancy is to assist the Financial Specialist in the overall financial and accounting management and administrative control functions for the Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMP II) Solid Waste Management Authority, the Technical Cooperation TC BL 1105 and the operations of the transfer stations.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, the Executing Agency, now invites interested eligible individual to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualification and experience required to provide these consultancy services listed below.

A) SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Accounts Clerk shall:

- 1) Support the Financial Specialist in all aspects of financial- accounting management of the Project, Technical Cooperation TC BL 1105 and the operations of the transfer stations SWMP.
- 2) Monitor and report on expenditures against budget on a continuous basis.
- 3) Preparation of annual budget and quarterly requests for dereservation of funds for operations SWMP I & II,
- 4) Maintaining accurate Quick Books financial accounting records for the Project in line with the standard accounting principles and the financial reporting requirements of the IDB.
- 5) Keep an updated fixed assets inventory from the various sources of Project funding (IDB & counterpart funding), the Technical Cooperation TC BL 1105 and the operations of the transfer stations SWMP I & II
- 6) Prepare and submit a reconciliation of the accounts for IDB funds and Government of Belize counterpart funds monthly.
- 7) Ensuring that Social Security Contribution are paid on time.
- 8) Management of the inventory of all BSWaMA assets.
- 9) Provide all supporting documentation required for Bank disbursement requests.
- 10) Assist the Financial Specialist in facilitating external and internal audits.
- 11) Ensure that all financial documents and voucher copies are filed appropriately.
- 12) Responsible for verifying that tipping fees are being collected from all sites and paid in as revenues.
- 13) Preparation of wages for all operation personnel
- 14) Responsible for the monthly analysis of operation cost.
- 15) Upkeep of Income Tax Register and regular reconciliation with Income Tax Department. Provide any information required by the Income Tax Department.
- 16) Annual returns to the Contractor General on contracts/agreements signed during the year.
- 17) Preparation and submission of gratuity payment request for project staff.
- 18) Timely submission and follow-up of all payroll maintenance (new hire, contract renewal, deductions etc.) for project staff.
- 19) Preparation of all purchase orders.
- 20) Any other duties assigned from time to time.

B) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The Person Engaged will have at least an associate degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Auditing or related discipline. A bachelor's degree will be an asset. At least five (5) years general work experience. Three (3) or more years demonstrated professional experience in financial – accounting management. Experience in financial reporting and disbursement procedures of the IDB, World Bank, or other international donor organization is preferred. The Person Engaged must be proficient in the use of QuickBooks. Ability to work well on a team and fluency in English are essential. Excellent oral and written communication skills.

The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual Consultants must provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultants method and other procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: *Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank - GN-2350-15*, and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies.

Further information can be obtained at the email address below during office hours: Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. local time.

Expressions of interest must be submitted electronically and must include a signed application letter, Curriculum Vitae (CV), copies of academic qualification, and the names and contact information of two professional references no later than Friday May 13, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. local time. **Application must be submitted via one consolidated PDF document; only complete packages will be processed.** Packages must be sent to the address below:

Solid Waste Management Authority

Attn: Procurement Officer
3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
Tel: (501) 802 1527
PO Box 285
E-mail: GladdenM@gobmail.gov.bz

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

LICENSED AND CERTIFIED AUCTIONEER, SHELDON N. C. ARNOLD WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WITH RESERVE PRICES.

CAYO DISTRICT PROPERTIES - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY JANUARY 18TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.



Location: Block - 24, Parcel - 3760 Being Registration Section - Society Hall, Cayo District
Description: land containing 8730 sqft. Vacant Lot being the freehold property of Larry R Leslie.



Location: Block: 1, Lot No. 92 containing 1184.397 Sq. Yds. situate in St. Margaret's Village, Cayo District.
Description: The property is a concrete bungalow occupied as a single family residence. It comprises of three bedroom, one bathroom and kitchen, living and dining area, and a laundry room being the Freehold Property of Rueben A. Parham.

ORANGE WALK PROPERTIES- TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY JANUARY 18TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.



Location: Block 4, Parcel 625/1, Registration Section, Guinea Grass, Orange Walk District.
Description: All that piece or parcel of land containing 1023.519 SQM. Includes 1 concrete family home with 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living, dining, kitchen and laundry rooms, being the Leasehold property of David R. Perrera and Maria G. Magana.



Location: Block 1, Parcel 126, Registration Section, Douglas Village, Orange Walk District.
Description: A concrete detached family home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, small front porch, fully fenced, with living, dining and kitchen being the freehold property of Roman F Nicholson.



COROZAL PROPERTIES- - TO BE AUCTIONED AT HUMMINGBIRD FURNISHINGS COMPOUND BELMOPAN CITY ON TUESDAY JANUARY 18TH, 2022 AT 11:00AM.



Location: Block 1, Parcel 715, Registration Section-Sarteneja Village, Corozal District.
Description: A concrete detached family home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, back porch, living and kitchen rooms, fenced being the freehold property of Graciliano Rivero.



Location: Block - 3, Parcel - 820, Registration Section - Sarteneja Village, Corozal District.
Description: All that piece or parcel of land containing 871.0 S.M. A concrete family home consisting of 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 entrance, living, dining, kitchen rooms being the freehold property of Hermina and Alejandro Gongora.



Sheldon N.C. Arnold
 P.O. BOX 666, Belmopan
 Cell # 615-8308 or 624-5200
 Email: info@arnoldenterprise.com
 Website: www.arnoldenterprise.com
Terms - Cash 10% Deposit, Balance in 14 days
Financing Available, Call Ahead For Details





INVITATION TO QUOTE- GOODS

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project
Sector: Transport
Abstract: Equipment for the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Loan No.: Loan 4616/OC-BL
Deadline: 2:00 p.m. (Belize Local Time) on May 20, 2022

- The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of the additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the Supply of **Additional communication Strategy -Road Safety signs** under the Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed quotation from eligible and qualified suppliers for the supply of the following item: **Additional communication Strategy -Road Safety signs**.
- Bidding will be conducted through Shopping procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required **Road Safety Signs** from the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, located on the First Floor of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab Building, Power Lane, Belmopan by emailing pmupcmow@gmail.com AND mow.project3344@gmail.com.
- Quotation must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.
- Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of **Road Safety Signs** specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be **Inclusive of General Sales Tax**.
- Your quotation(s) should be submitted as per the following instructions and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of supply in the attached Quote Submission Sheet.
 - VALIDITY OF THE OFFER:** Your quotation(s) should be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of receipt for quotation(s).
 - SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.
- The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the offer which complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and represents the lowest price.
- Quotation must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 pm (Local Belize Time) on May 20, 2022**. Electronic quote **will not** be permitted. Late quote will be rejected. Your quotation should be in the English language in the required format or other similar, acceptable format should be addressed and submitted to:

Attention of (Name): Mr. Rolando Chan, Program Coordinator
Program Management Unit

Address: Program Management Unit
First Floor – Soils Lab
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, Belize

Phone #: 822-1942/822-0100

Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com AND mow.project3344@gmail.com

La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital

Has vacancies for the following positions:

**General, Family and Preventative Medicine
Physician**

Radiologist

Interested individuals are asked to submit their resumes
before May 15, 2022

Resumes may be sent to:

Human Resource Dir., PO Box 17, San Ignacio, Cayo
hrdirector@lalomaluz.bz

If further information is needed, please call us at:
824-2087 or 824-2050 during the hours of
8am to 5pm.








JOIN A GREAT TEAM!

We are looking for a strategic and innovative leader with strong commercial acumen to join us as:

SENIOR MERCHANDISE MANAGER

WHAT WILL YOU BE RESPONSIBLE FOR?

Contribute to the development of the merchandise strategy to ensure sustainable, profitable growth and reinforce our leadership position within the Belize market. The incumbent will partner with the Country Managing Director and Regional Merchandising to develop annual merchandise strategies and targets to deliver the company plans.

REQUIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management or related field.
- Minimum of five (5) years experience in a managerial role in a medium to large retail operation.
- Ability to determine appropriate commercial strategies, including product life cycle management to achieve sales and business targets.

- Ability to manage product category by determining price points and margins to maximize market share, gross margin and stock productivity.
- Sales and budget forecasting.
- Working knowledge of supply chain management particularly demand planning, purchase order management and inventory control.

APPLY BY SENDING YOUR RESUME TO:
human_resources_bz@unicomer.com by May 16th, 2022

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Churches take petition signatures to the GG

On Tuesday, representatives of Belize's churches took 21,108 petition signatures to Belize House, which is the official residence of the Governor-General, in Belmopan.

by Khaila Gentle

BELMOPAN, Tues. May 3, 2022

The push for a referendum on the Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Control and Licensing Bill reached a pivotal point this Tuesday when representatives of the Council of Churches delivered over 20,000 petition signatures to the residence of the Governor-General, known as Belize House, in Belmopan. The submission of those signatures—over two thousand more than the requisite 18,900 (10 percent of registered voters)—is expected to trigger the commencement of the process of issuing a Writ of Referendum, which includes verification of the signatures by the Elections and Boundaries Department.

Before the meeting with the Governor-General in Belize House, Belmopan pastor Louis Wade, who has been a primary spokesperson of the Council of Churches' attempt to trigger a referendum, spoke with local media about the effort that went into collecting so many signatures in what some have called record time. According to Wade, it took a total of ten days to collect the first 13,000 signatures and another five days to garner five thousand more.

"It was a lot of work because we are trying to do it in record time, because you have to strike while the iron is hot and while the issue is on the forefront of the minds of Belizeans," said Wade.

Some signatures, belonging to persons who were not registered voters or could not be found in the Elections and Boundaries' online records (in many cases because they had not participated in a reregistration exercise a few years ago) had to be excluded from the total number of valid signatures, but, eventually, said Wade, they succeeded in collecting the amount needed to trigger a referendum.

In response to the news of the submission, the Government of Belize issued a press release, expressing commitment to continuing the legislative process "with respect for all concerned."

"Under Section 2 of the Referendum Act, signatures have been submitted to the Governor-General to commence the process of issuing a Writ of Referendum. Over the last year and four months, the government has repeatedly demonstrated its good faith and commitment to the consultation process in relation to the passage of the Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Control and Licensing Bill," stated the release.



Churches take petition signatures to the GG

The Church has maintained that the Government's consultations with concerned parties, however, have been minimal—an assertion that was reiterated by both the Senator representing the Churches, Bishop Moses Benguche, and Pastor Louis Wade at the press conference that was held after the meeting with the Governor-General.

Senator Benguche, who made a brief statement at the opening of the press conference, remarked that the petition signatures—which total 21,108—represent the voice of Belizean people from all walks of life, and that, in the eyes of the Church, the decision to legalize marijuana is a "backward and retrograde step being undertaken in the name of new growth industry."

"These signatures are all true and real. The signatures represent the voice of the Belizean public. It includes a former Prime

Minister. It includes bankers, CEOs of different companies across the length and breadth of this nation. It represents people from every walk of life, Rastafarians and community leaders. It is telling us here and now that though this petition for referendum was first proposed by the Church, it is no longer just the Church calling for a referendum. But it is the entire country of Belize," said the Church Senator.

Bishop Benguche also addressed the recent airing of commercials which, he says, point to the fact that previous petitions have often failed due to an insufficient number of valid signatures. He stressed, however, that the signatures being submitted to the Governor-General have all been thoroughly vetted.

"We will be very cautious, and we will

Please turn to Page 24



#2609 Mercy Lane, Belize City, Belize
P.O. Box 1988
Ph: 223-5698 / 223-6783
www.heritageibt.com

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of Director Customer Relations of Heritage Bank

Heritage Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Oscar Salazar as the Director of Customer Relations of Heritage Bank Limited effective 3rd May 2022. He has served in the banking sector for the past 18 years. His extensive experience and career began with Scotiabank (Belize) in 2003 where he held multiple positions, namely Assistant Manager Credit, Account Officer, Account Manager, and Client Relationship Manager. In 2017, Mr. Salazar served as Director Corporate & Commercial Banking of Scotiabank (Belize) until its acquisition. Thereafter, he remained in this role with the Belize Bank Corporation up until March 2022.

Mr. Salazar holds a Master's of Business Administration from Murray State University, a Bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Belize, and a Bachelor's of Law from the University of London. During his career he has garnered numerous trainings in the areas of AML, strategic thinking, coaching and leadership. He has served on several Boards of community organizations including the Rotary Club of Belize Sunrise, Cayo Volleyball Association, and Crime Stoppers Belize.

The Board of Directors, Management, and Staff of Heritage Bank welcomes the addition of Mr. Salazar to the Executive Management Team. We look forward to working with him in realizing Heritage Bank's vision within the context of three underlying tenets, SECURITY, INTEGRITY and STABILITY which continue to be the prescribed framework for how we conduct the business of the Bank.



Oscar Salazar
DIRECTOR CUSTOMER RELATIONS

NOTICE

**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 6/2022**

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$67,408,200.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 18 May 2022 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 17 August 2022.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 13 May 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, 18 May 2022.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

**Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627**

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

26 April 2022



**CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE**

\$36,001,000 Fixed Rate Notes

The Government of Belize (GoB) is offering to the public \$36,001,000 in Five-Year Fixed Rate Notes. Application forms are available on the Central Bank's website: www.centralbank.org.bz, and may be submitted via email to InvestmentsWeb@centralbank.org.bz. The Central Bank reserves the right to accept or reject all or any application.

Issuer	Government of Belize
Amount	\$36,001,000
Denomination	\$1,000 or multiples thereof
Issue Date	17 May 2022
Settlement Date	17 May 2022
Closing Date	16 May 2022
Price	Sold at Par
Currency	Belize Dollar

Structure	Tenor	Amount	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date
	5 Years	\$36,001,000	3.5%	17 May 2027

Principal Repayment The principal amount will be repaid on 17 May 2027 the Maturity Date.

Interest Payment All interest on the Notes accrues from the date of issue and will be payable in Belize dollars, semi-annually on November 17 and May 17 in each year until maturity.

Payment Instructions Payment is to be made to Central Bank's account: **GLICORP0402627** at any commercial bank.

Fiscal/Paying Agent Central Bank of Belize

Security These Notes are backed by the full faith and credit of the GoB.

Tax Status Interest earnings on the notes are tax exempt.

Transferability Successful applicants will have the option to transfer ownership.

Additional Information Central Bank of Belize, Telephone (501)223-6194 Exts. 140/141/142/143 www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES – BACAB ECO PARK; Los Lagos, Belize District; Pomona Extension, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sale currently running and will expire Monday 9th May 2022 at the times listed on the website:



REGISTRATION SECTION Ladyville/Lords Bank BLOCK 4 PARCEL 64

(Being the following improvements/developments:

- a) **Caretaker's House** – (Being an elevated timber building [13 ft x 26 ft] + front porch [6ft x 13ft.])
- b) **Welcome Center** – (Between the parking lot and swimming pool and is comprised of several buildings being timber and masonry block walls, concrete floor, thatch roof and covered walkway approximately [16 ft. x 40 ft.])
- c) **Outdoor Bar** – (Being a thatched roof outdoor bar with tiled countertops + built-in stainless-steel buffet/ shelf cabinet)
- d) **Palapa Bar area with another open palapa** – (Being thatched roof, concrete floor, and half walls of palmetto sticks)
- e) **Swimming Pool** - (Timber planks and palmetto palm sticks board walk (100 meters long) leads to the pool area [approximately 6000 sq. ft]. Pool is reinforced concrete, tiled walls and is divided into two sections – kiddie section [2ft. deep]: Mushroom shape concrete waterfall: Adult section [4.5 ft. deep]: - rock waterfall + surrounded by concrete court with stone finish)
- f) **Pool Side Restaurant** – (Being a large thatch roof palapa – eating area + kitchen + cashier section + bartending area + water filter section + full male & female bathroom with storage lockers + showers + changing rooms)
- g) **Bathroom and locker storage area** – (Being a concrete building comprising of a female and male restroom, cut stone walls, roof galvalume roofing, and floor tiles)
- h) **Gift Shop** – (Being a small palmetto structure with concrete floors, palmetto walls, palmetto batten windows & doors, roof galvalume pitched supported by timber roof frame.)
- i) **Office and supplies storeroom** – (Being masonry block walls, with galvalume roofing material [12ft. x 15ft.])
- j) **Pasture for horses** – (Pastured sections are fenced with barbed wire supported by wooden posts)
- k) **Parking Lot**
- l) **Bicycle House**
- m) **Horse riding Pad and trail**
- n) **Horse riding equipment building**
- o) **Pool court with small palapas with table and seat**
- p) **Power supply and control station**
- q) **Water Supply Tower**
- r) **Swimming pool water pump house**
- s) **Kayak Pond**

and Parcel No. 64 (36.526 acres) located south of Ridge Lagoon Residential Estate, Burrell Boom Road, Belize District, the freehold property of Mr. Francis Smith & Maria Smith/Messrs. BACAB Eco - Park)

2. PARCEL NO. 6969 LOS LAGOS, LADYVILLE, BELIZE DISTRICT:



REGISTRATION SECTION Ladyville/Lord's Bank BLOCK 16 PARCEL 6969

(Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house 31 ft. X 36 ft. + 12 ft. X 12 ft. in front + two storey concrete building 25 ft. X 40 ft. behind, containing [front concrete bungalow dwelling house] 2 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms + living room + dining room + pantry + verandah + study + staircase [attached 2 storey concrete building] Ground Floor – 1 bedroom with kitchenette and bathroom + laundry room + half bathroom + carport; First Floor – 1 bedroom with bathroom + sitting room + games/entertainment room + 2 balconies TOGETHER with fenced lot 554.290 S.M., the freehold property of Ms. Stella Marie Rudon)

3. LOT NO. 59A POMONA VILLAGE EXTENSION, STANN CREEK DISTRICT:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 59A, comprising 696.567 square metres situate in Pomona Village Extension, Stann Creek District, Belize shown on Plan 504 of 2011 attached to Minister's Fiat (Grant) No. 504 of 2011 more particularly shown and delineated on a Plan of Survey by Licensed Surveyor Kirk. M. Emmanuel registered and recorded at the Lands and Surveys Department, Belmopan, Cayo District in Register 29 8087. (Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [approx. 935 sq. ft.] containing 3 bedrooms + 1 bathroom + living/dining/kitchen + balcony TOGETHER with lot [696.567 S.M.] situate in Pomona Village Extension, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Mr. Thurman Williams)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - www.belizebank.com (foreclosure listing)

**TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE: 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Face Book: Belize Auctions**



Why Taiwan's Participation in the World Health Assembly Is Important

*By H.E. David Kuan-Chou Chien,
Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Belize*

The 75th World Health Assembly (WHA) will take place in Geneva from May 22nd to 28th this year. However, due to political considerations, the World Health Organization (WHO) has not extended invitation to the Government of Taiwan, and the exclusion of Taiwan in WHA is severely jeopardizing global health.

Since 2009 to 2016, Taiwan has been invited to the WHA as an observer and shared its remarkable experience in the field of healthcare as well as preventing the spread of various contagious diseases. Moreover, Taiwan has utilized digital technologies, such as apps, web-based tools and other information technologies to combat the pandemic, and has enhanced cooperation and exchanges with international research teams to contribute to the global fight against COVID-19.

For the past two years, Taiwan's antipandemic efforts, and its cooperation with partners worldwide, including Belize, have demonstrated that Taiwan is a force for good. It has also shown that Taiwan is willing and able to join the global efforts to combat the pandemic and tackle the myriad challenges of the postpandemic era. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded the world that disease knows no borders. Taiwan is an indispensable partner on the path to global postpandemic recovery and hopes to work with WHO and nations worldwide to jointly overcome this crisis. As a result, Taiwan calls on every nation to support its bid to attend the 75th WHA as an observer. Only the popularly elected government of Taiwan can represent 23.5 million people at the WHO and protect their right to health. Taiwan also urges our international friends and partners to continue to staunchly support our participation in the global health network to enable Taiwan to contribute even more in the postpandemic era.

Our voice has been echoed by the Government of Belize led by Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister, Hon. Kevin Bernard, Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Sen. Eamon Courtenay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and many other members in the Cabinet and the National Assembly, who have shown their support to us, urging WHO to invite Taiwan to participate in the WHA. On behalf of the Government and people of Taiwan, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all Taiwan's precious friends in Belize for their staunch support. In addition, since the International Nurses Day is coming on May 12th, I would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all frontline healthcare services providers in Belize for safeguarding our health.

In conclusion, we firmly believe that Taiwan's involvement in the WHA can make the world a safer place to live. WHO must seek appropriate methods for Taiwan's institutionalized and regular participation in all WHO meeting, mechanisms and activities. (E)

Churches take petition..

Continued from ▶ Page 22

also continue to monitor these commercials. We believe, however, that our Governor-General will do the right thing and the proper thing by sending the signed petitions to the Election and Boundaries Commission to do the right thing by auditing these petitions," he said.

"We expect our Government to respect the will of the people—call a referendum and let the people of Belize decide," he added.

According to the Church Senator, the meeting with the Governor-General was a fruitful one, during which H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam was "quite receptive" and spoke with the representatives not only on the petition but also on other issues plaguing the country.

Last week, the Bar Association of Belize released a publication that addressed the Cannabis Bill and the call for a referendum in the context of local laws and legal provisions that are currently in place. In that document, it noted that in Belize, referendums are non-binding, meaning that the Government has no obligation to abide by the results of a referendum. When asked about this and the possibility of the Government not yielding to a "yes" vote, Pastor Louis Wade stated, "We believe that we live in an open society. The Government needs to prove that by abiding by the rules of the Referendum Act."

And when questioned on the possibility of a majority "no" vote in the referendum, Senator Benguche stated that the church will respect whatever result they get.

"The church will respect whatever the result is. The church has never been afraid of bringing forward the referendum. Put it to the referendum, and the church will respect the will of the people. So we're not afraid as to whether it's a yay vote or a nay vote—we have never said that. What we have been consistent with is 'put it to the referendum'," he said.

Cinco de Mayo

Continued from ▶ Page 17

day gained nationwide popularity in the 1980s due to advertising campaigns by beer, wine, and tequila companies; today, Cinco de Mayo generates beer sales on par with the Super Bowl. In Mexico, the commemoration of the battle continues to be mostly ceremonial, such as through military parades or battle reenactments. The city of Puebla marks the event with various festivals and reenactments of the battle.

Cinco de Mayo is sometimes mistaken for Mexico's Independence Day — the most important national holiday in Mexico — which is celebrated on September 16, commemorating the Cry ("Grito") of Dolores, in 1810, which initiated the war of Mexican Independence from Spain.

excerpted from Wikipedia

Hulse files lawsuit against Commission of Inquiry



Godwin Hulse at Commission of Inquiry hearing

report which is housed in section 18, I found it to be absolutely reckless, irresponsible, malicious and an attempt at character assassination. The commission covered themselves by using the terminology 'it is also more likely than not'. Nobody puts that in a report which is supposed to be accurate and is supposed to report the findings of serious investigations. That is what you call 'cover your A' words, more likely than not."

He had further asserted during that exchange, "I have had 2 Mahindra's.

The first was purchased by myself. I paid for it from Motor Solutions in May 28, 2012, to be exact, just after the Agricultural Show. I bought that first Mahindra. I ran that Mahindra for 6 years and 3 months and then I purchased the second one, the one I am currently using, license plate C-38754.... A simple check at the Licensing Authority would have shown that those were licensed in my name from the day of purchase. So I can only conclude that this is an attempt at some form of character assassination—'we wah get Mr. Hulse, because have had some deal' and so it's worthless, it's malicious, it's irresponsible and, of course, as I said it's reckless The commission never got in touch with me, never called me, never touch base with anyone associated with me."

Since Hulse made those statements, the former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, and the current Corozal North area representative, who was formerly the

Minister of Lands, Hugo Patt, have filed a successful lawsuit in the Supreme Court. Those parties now await a hearing at which the award in damages is to be determined by Justice Lisa Shoman.

In separate lawsuits, Barrow and Patt sued the Commission of Inquiry for its findings, which named the two complicit in the sales of government assets in breach of the regulations set out by the Finance and Audit Reform Act. The report further stated that those sales amounted to special favours in many instances.

The claimants say the Commission did not allow them the full opportunity to respond to the allegations made against them in the published findings and as such violated their rights to natural justice. Justice Lisa Shoman issued a consent order in the Hugo Patt case which indicated that the Commission failed to deliver a Salmon letter to Patt outlining the documented findings and did not give him a chance to present a defence. In addition to this, she ordered that parts of the Commission's findings that were seen to be harmful to Patt's reputation be struck out and expurgated from the findings.

On April 7 of this year, Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow then presented to the court the amount he was seeking in damages on behalf of his client, Hon. Hugo Patt, who was once a member of Barrow's Cabinet. Barrow submitted to the court that an award in the range of \$100,000 was being sought as compensation for damages to Patt's reputation. He then indicated that he was seeking an additional award for Patt that could be as high as \$200,000 and that would serve as "vindication" for Patt in the face of the types of allegations made against him—including corrupt dealings while he was Minister of Lands. The total amount to be awarded to Patt could thus be as high as \$300,000.

Barrow himself, through his attorney, Naima Barrow, is claiming to the court that he should be compensated as much as \$450,000 due to the damage that he believes the report caused to his public reputation.

The attorney for the government of Belize, Senior Counsel Douglas Mendez, had argued, however, that the demands for such large amounts of compensation had not been bolstered by any evidence that the Commission of Inquiry's accusations were false. No such evidence to disprove the Commission's claims had been presented on behalf of either Barrow

or Patt, he said.

It remains to be seen what sort of compensation might be sought by Minister Hulse in court.

Last Friday, when asked about Minister Hulse's claim, chairman of the Commission of Inquiry, Andrew Marshalleck, said that while the claim had not yet been served, they were "aware of it". In regard to what remedies Hulse might be seeking in court, Marshalleck stated, "It looks to me like a cut and paste of what Mr. Barrow and Mr. Patt have claimed. Even the type-set looks the same. So, I expect it's the same thing, but I haven't had a chance to properly study it."

The overarching issue, in this case, is whether or not the Commission overstepped its authority to issue what is being perceived as declarations of criminality, reserved for the jurisdiction of the courts. The attorney for the Commission says that the pronouncements were non-binding and are in no way an overreach into the judiciary's jurisdiction. The Commission maintains that no persons in question were found innocent or guilty of any purported crimes listed in the findings.

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 4, 2022

Reports are that former Immigration Minister and Minister of Agriculture under the previous UDP administration, Godwin Hulse, has filed a claim in the Supreme Court against the Commission of Inquiry for its published findings on the sale of government assets over the last 13 months of the Barrow administration. At the time of publication, Hulse had said that he had not been made privy to the findings, nor had he been allowed to present a defence to counter such claims.

The Commission of Inquiry's report had stated that "It is also more likely than not that the Honorable Godwin Hulse also acquired a 2013 Mahindra Pickup (which he continues to regularly use) in the name of Carl Gillett during the relevant period." After becoming aware of the presence of such a statement in the report in January of 2022, an outraged Hulse had told 7News, "When I read that portion of the

Two Belize City murders...

Continued from Page 12

delivery man.

"From what I read about him, he was a delivery man, and for you to be a delivery man in this city, you would have to be somebody of almost impeccable character. As we all know that it's a serious thing to travel in various zones in this city," commented Yearwood.

7News reported in its newscast, however, that, "when the police stopped the vehicle that had fled the murder scene, a known gang member, believed to be linked to the other murder victim, was found inside."

Jones said that she will remember her younger brother as someone who loved to punta and was always dancing.

"He was sweet. He loves to dance, he beat drums all of his life. He loves to punta, and that's him. He's always lively. He's not someone who would talk much, but he talks to us. He [is] always lively and always is around me," said Jones.



Maud Williams High School

Email: mwhseducate@gmail.com

TEACHERS WANTED

At MWHS our students come first and we work tirelessly for our students' success. This positive determination means that we provide our students with a positive, caring school environment with ample opportunities for students to do well.

If you believe that you are qualified and can add value at MWHS, you are invited to apply to fill the following VACANCIES for September 2022

- Business (Temporary September-November)
- Mathematics (Temporary September – November)
- English Language (Permanent)
- Home Economics (Permanent)
- Building Maintenance (Permanent)

Deadline: June 10th, 2022

Teaching Qualifications:

- Preferably a Bachelor's Degree in the content areas with pedagogical training.
- An Associate Degree with teaching experience will be considered.

Applicants should forward:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum vitae
- Two recent recommendations
- Copy of transcript
- Certified copy of teaching license
- Certified copies of qualifications
- Copy of Police Record

Short listed candidates are asked to bring to the interview original transcripts, policerecord and completed medical form.

Address to: Secretary
Board of Management
Maud Williams High School
Corner Dolphin and Raccoon Streets
Belize City

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY Beverly Lane, Independence Village, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Heritage Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described property. Sales currently running and will expire Monday 16th May 2022 at 10:00 am.

Parcel No. 376 Beverly Lane, Independence Village, Stann Creek District



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situate in Independence Village, Stann Creek District and being lot number 376 and shown on Plan 1887 (2 of 2) containing 555.6 square yards and recorded at the Land Titles unit, Belmopan TOGETHER with all buildings and erections thereon. (Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house containing [three bedrooms + two bathrooms + laundry room + semi-enclosed garage] and lot 555.60 S.Y. situate on Beverly Lane, Independence Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Mr. Juan Omar Coe and Ms. Melonie Coe)

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

Email: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

Face Book: [Belize Auctions](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuctions)

“Run, Walk, Dance for Autism” concludes Autism Awareness Month



Image Source: Belize City Council on Facebook

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. May 3, 2022

Autism Awareness Month concluded this past weekend with several walkathons, marathons, and motorcades taking place all over the country. The events were all a part of Light It Up Blue—the month-long Autism awareness campaign spearheaded by the NGO, Autism Belize.

Throughout April, Autism Belize—and other organizations across the globe—have been helping to spread awareness and acceptance of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) both virtually and in person. We spoke with Christy Almeida, the founder of Autism Belize, about the positive reception that this month’s activities, including the concluding events held on Saturday, received in the community.

Almeida told us that even from very early in the month, the support was overwhelming.

“It was really amazing to see how many people were willing to put on blue; they were using social media—that was tremendous—you know, the blue donuts, and the blue ice cream. These things took off without us even approaching some of these companies,” she said.

At the start of the campaign, Autism Belize asked that throughout April persons light their houses and businesses with blue bulbs to show support. And according to Almeida, the tremendous show of support resulted in blue lightbulbs being sold out at various hardware stores in Belize City within just one week.

Almeida also said that they encouraged companies to “teach blue” and made over twenty presentations to various businesses around the country—something which she sees as one of the campaign’s greatest successes.

“So they invited us in, organizations and companies, to give a little talk and sensitization presentation on Autism. We ended up doing twenty-two presentations in the month of April to companies. Some of them were different departments, because they were so large, and some of them were a little bit more in-depth,” she said.

Those presentations covered Autism and disability etiquette as well as sensitization towards other disorders and disabilities.

“In total, we did twenty-two [presentations] for companies and organizations, and then we ended with our countrywide event. In Corozal, they had the ‘Run, Walk, Dance Blue’, because they had the music and everything. And all of the events were really in partnership with the different town and city councils,” she stated.

Almeida expressed gratitude towards all the volunteers and other organizations that made the countrywide events possible and was particularly thankful for Payal Chulani, a young junior college student whose advocacy and volunteer work helped ensure the attendance of 150 persons at Corozal’s first-ever Autism Belize event.

Elsewhere in the country, there were marathons and walkathons, including a Walk and Glow run in Orange Walk, and a Blue 4 Autism Walk that commenced at BTL Park in Belize City and had a turnout of about 450 people.

And while this year’s Light it Up Blue campaign was a success, Almeida says that there is still more work to be done.

“Someone asked me, well, should we be promoting awareness or acceptance, and I know we’re still at the awareness stage—a lot of people still have no clue what Autism is. And that’s why this month, for our second year for the campaign, we are still focusing on awareness,” she said.

Still, however, Autism Belize is looking forward to being able to one day go much further than spreading awareness and to begin teaching about acceptance and inclusivity.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a condition that causes varying social and behavioral challenges for those on the spectrum. Persons with ASD may communicate, interact, and even learn differently from non-autistic persons or persons who are “neurotypical”.

While it has been reported that ASD is 4.3 times more prevalent among males than among females, the reality is that Autism in women often goes undiagnosed or even misdiagnosed. Several studies have found that women often do not exhibit the stereotypical symptoms used for diagnosing Autism and they have also been found to be better able to conceal or mask their symptoms.



LA INMACULADA CREDIT UNION LIMITED

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

La Inmaculada Credit Union Ltd. is currently accepting applications for:

- 1 CASHIER for the Belmopan Branch
- 1 ACCOUNTS/OPERATIONS CLERK for the Belmopan Branch
- 1 OFFICE ASSISTANT/ MESSENGER for the Orange Walk Branch

EDUCATIONAL & EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

I. CASHIER:

- An Associate’s Degree in Accounting, Business Administration or related field.
- Work experience in related field will be an asset

II. Accounts / Operations Clerk

- A Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration or related field.
- Three Year’s work experience in related field

III. Office Assistant/ Messenger:

- An Associate’s Degree in Business Administration or related.
- Work experience in related field will be an asset.

All Prospective applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Proficient in Microsoft Office Applications – MS Word, MS Excel etc.
2. Must have strong initiative, assertiveness, be results-oriented, analytical and self-motivated
3. Ability to maintain high ethical and professional standards
4. Ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality and integrity
5. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
6. Excellent planning and organizational skills
7. Excellent Time Management Skills
8. Ability to work well under pressure
9. Be team oriented, proactive and possess a positive attitude
10. Be willing to work flexible hours
11. Be fluent in English and Spanish, both written and oral
12. Knowledge in Anti-Money Laundering & Combating the Financing of Terrorism Laws will be an asset.
13. Knowledge of the banking industry in Belize and general regulatory procedures mandated by the Central Bank of Belize. (Knowledge of the Credit Union Act will be an Asset).
14. Be willing to travel as required and possess a valid Driver’s License Class A.

All Applicants must provide along with their application letter, two (2) recent letters of reference, Curriculum Vitae, Recent Police Record, Junior College and/or University transcripts with copies of diploma.

Applications that are emailed must be sent in **one single PDF file**. A receipt of payment for a recent police record will be accepted. Only complete applications will be considered.

Applications must be sent by **May 18th, 2022** addressed to:

General Manager
La Inmaculada Credit Union Ltd.
5 Park Street
Orange Walk Town
Email: hr@licubelize.org

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview.



Belize Water Services

Public Notice

BWSL ANNUAL REVIEW PROCEEDING SUBMISSION

On May 3, 2022, Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) made its submission to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), following its announcement that it intended to request a review of the Decision made in its 2019|2020 Full Tariff Review Proceeding, based on Exceptional Circumstances as defined in the Public Utilities Commission Act.

If approved by the PUC, it would provide for additional funding for much needed improvement to the safety and reliability of Belize's water and sanitation systems and for the protection of the most vulnerable customers.

In 2019, BWSL submitted a Full Five-Year Business Plan (FFBP) for the current FTP to the PUC as part of the regulated review requirement for the FTP review. The business plan included a financial model and projections based on planned future activity and the expected financial results. That submission was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In consideration of the financial hardships faced by our customers, particularly small businesses and residential consumers, BWS is proposing a minimal rate increase, in some cases, in order to make the necessary capital investments to expand its operations and maintain the usual customer service levels.

During the remainder of the FTP, BWS is planning to expend approximately BZD \$95 million of capital improvements including sewer collection and treatment systems, water expansion projects, water supply projects, meter replacement, capital renewal and replacement, and similar projects. These projects are funded from a blend of tariff revenue, available reserves, additional debt, and Government of Belize (GOB) assistance.

The new submission proposes, among other things, to implement a rate structure that will differentiate between residential and non-residential properties and will introduce a customer assistance programme for senior citizens.

BWSL proposes to keep rates the same or even lower for residential and low consumption non-residential customers. However, some increases are requested for non-residential customers. These are expected to provide an increase of 5% in overall revenue to help the utility maintain operations and perform some level of capital investment for the remaining three years of this Full Tariff Period.

Rate payers will have an opportunity to participate in the PUC's review of the submission, in the coming weeks, when the PUC will conduct public consultations.

The submission can be seen at the PUC's and BWS's offices and websites.

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



KREM Television Program Guide

Shoa Wiself, Si Wiself, Bee Wiself!!!

Questions or comments may be forwarded via email to

Phone: 202-5848 kremtelevision@yahoo.com

Friday, May 6 to Thursday, May 12, 2022

FRIDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: Muammar Gaddafi Qaddafi Biography
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 7:30 p.m. Documentary: Internet Hackers
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Documentary: Ethiopia And The History Not Seen
- 9:56 a.m. Movie: Soylent Green
- 11:17 a.m. Documentary: 12 Years a Slave
- 1:31 p.m. Movie: Something To Think About
- 2:52 p.m. Documentary: Malcolm X
- 5:11 p.m. Movie: Emma
- 6:15 p.m. Documentary: Lucky Dube- The Man & The Music
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Movie: I Can Only Imagine
- 1:50 p.m. Documentary: The Rising Countries - Dubai, China, Russia, India, Korea
- 2:34 p.m. Movie: The Butler
- 4:39 p.m. Documentary: The Great Barrier Reef
- 5:30 p.m. **Sunday Review (repeat)**
- 7:00 p.m. Sunday Jazz
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

MONDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: America's Great Divide
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Belizean Legend: WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF BELIZEAN OLYMPIAN ALTHEA MOSES!
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

TUESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: Amanda Gorman Activist and National Youth Poet Laureate Amanpour and Company
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Ted Talk: How to Achieve Your Most Ambitious Goals _ Stephen Duneier _ TEDxTucson
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

WEDNESDAY

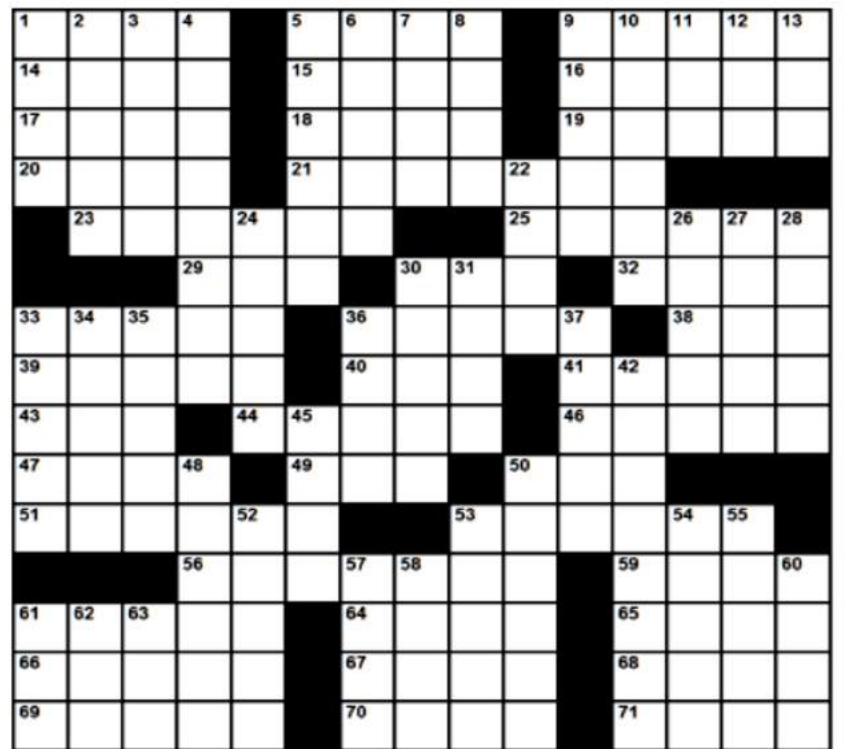
- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Thornwell 1981 Glynn Turman
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 7:30 p.m. Belizean Legends: Ras Indio
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

THURSDAY

- 6:30 a.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Stew (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: Riverbend
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Lost Civilization - Africa
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**



Daily Printable Crossword Puzzle - 05-03-2022



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Across

- 1. Cry of contempt
- 5. Hard or soft ending
- 9. Apply antifreeze
- 14. Bow, in music
- 15. A stytic
- 16. Resident of an Indonesian island
- 17. Dive down
- 18. Stead
- 19. Agenda entries
- 20. Boot bottom
- 21. Mitigates
- 23. Detroit athlete
- 25. Bad blood
- 29. Bear hand
- 30. Existed
- 32. Classic Chevy model
- 33. Block, in a way
- 36. Be a scribe
- 38. Eccentric
- 39. Online periodical
- 40. Affected manner
- 41. African antelope
- 43. Alley target
- 44. Very soft and liquid
- 46. Here and now
- 47. Common scent
- 49. Gas pump abbr.
- 50. Cry over a mouse
- 51. Singer Brewer
- 53. Skillful
- 56. Paper art
- 59. Cry of derision
- 61. Famed fur tycoon
- 64. Part of i.e.
- 65. On leave
- 66. Bake, in a way
- 67. Supernatural power, in Polynesia
- 68. False face
- 69. Down at the heels
- 70. Doggie bag bits
- 71. Add to the pot

Down

- 1. Bidding word
- 2. Warship deck
- 3. Circular windows
- 4. Folksy
- 5. Clumsy rolling about
- 6. Extra terrestrial
- 7. Feels regret
- 8. Aussie flock
- 9. Supernatural spirit
- 10. Foregoes restaurants
- 11. Common contraction
- 12. Car shaft
- 13. Naval off.
- 22. 90-degree heading
- 24. Trims to a point
- 26. Simple unit
- 27. Lobe in the mouth
- 28. Indonesian dish
- 30. Squeeze out water
- 31. Breezy
- 33. Military warehouse
- 34. Chemical compound
- 35. Less significant
- 36. Abate
- 37. ATM button
- 42. Tokyo Bay port
- 45. Asian sea
- 48. Best performance ever
- 50. Plant problems
- 52. Brief apology
- 53. Actor's actor
- 54. Buffalo Bill, for one
- 55. BLT base
- 57. Exec's car
- 58. Hebrew month
- 60. Brat
- 61. Ninny
- 62. Common pronoun
- 63. Adjust an ascot

Crossword answers for last edition

The answers below are for the puzzle appearing in the last edition of the Amandala. The answers for the above puzzle will appear in next issue of this newspaper.



Daily Printable Crossword Puzzle - 04-28-2022 - Answers



PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Belmopan City

BY ORDER of the **Government of Belize**, Licensed Auctioneer **Mr. Fitzgerald A. Joseph** will auction for sale the following unserviceable vehicles, motorcycles and office equipment on site at the **National Police Training Academy**, located in Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize on **Saturday, the 14th day of May, 2022** commencing at **9:00 a.m.**

NUMBERS	YEAR	VEHICLE MAKE	MODEL	TYPE	COLOR
1.		LIFAN	M/C	M/C	BLUE
2.		LIFAN	M/C	M/C	RED
3.		HONDA	TORNADO	M/C	BLACK
4.		HONLEI	HL-125-2C	M/C	RED
5.		LIFAN	250	M/C	RED/BLACK
6.		LIFAN	250	M/C	BLUE
7.		LIFAN	250	M/C	BLUE
8.		LIFAN	250	M/C	RED
9.		MEILUN	ML	M/C	RED
10.		TORNADO	XR-250	M/C	BLACK
11.		LIFAN	250	M/C	RED/BLACK
12.		LIFAN	250	M/C	RED/BLACK
13.		YAMAHA	ROYAL STAR	M/C	WHITE
14.		HONDA	125	M/C	RED
15.		HONDA	WAVE	M/C	BLACK
16.		LIFAN	200	M/C	RED/BLACK
17.		LIFAN	200	M/C	BLUE/BLACK
18.		HONDA	STORM	M/C	GREY
19.		LIFAN	250	M/C	BLUE
20.		LIFAN	250	M/C	RED
21.	2018	LIFAN	250	M/C	BLUE
22.		GREAT WALL	WINGLE	PICK UP	WHITE
23.		QP	200CC	M/C	RED
24.	2015	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup	Grey
25.	1997	Chevy	Astro-van	VAN	WHITE
26.	2013	Ford	F-150	Pickup	Blue
27.		Cherokee	SUV	Jeep	Silver
28.	2009	Ford	Fuion	car	Grey
29.	2001	Thomas	Bus	Bus	Black
30.	2013	Nissan	Urvan	Van	White
31.	2013	Mahindra	Pikap	Pickup	Brown
32.	2008	Isuzu	D-MAX	Pickup	Black
33.	2006	Mitsubishi	Pajero	SUV	White
34.	2007	Nissan	Frontier	Pickup	white
35.	2009	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup	Green/Silver
36.	2008	Isuzu	D-Max	Pickup	Gold
37.	2009	Isuzu	D-Max	Pickup	White
38.	2009	Isuzu	D-Max	Pickup	White
39.	2009	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup	Silver
40.	2002	Ford	Ranger		Beige
41.	2009	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup	White
42.	2009	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup	white
43.	2013	Volkswagen	Amarock	Pickup	Sand Beige
44.	2001	Dodge	Ram	Pickup	White
45.	2008	Mitsubishi	Montero	SUV	White
46.	2007	Mazda	Pickup	Pickup	Silver
47.	2011	Great Wall	wingle	Pickup	White
48.	2007	Toyota	Hilux	Pickup	White
49.	2013	Ford	Expedition	SUV	Blue
50.	2013	Nissan Frontier		Pickup	
51.		New Holland TM120		Tractor	
52.		Ford 3040		Tractor	
53.	2011	Greatwall Wingle		Pickup	
54.	2009	Yamaha		Motorcycle	
55.		Chevy Avalanche		Pickup	
56.		Toyota Hilux		Pickup	
57.	2007	Toyota Hilux		Pickup	
58.		Isuzu D-Max			
59.		Massy Fergusson 290		Tractor	
60.	2013	Ford	Expedition	SUV	Blue
61.	2013	Ford	Expedition	SUV	Blue
62.	2012	Nissan	Urvan	Van	White
63.		Toyota	4-Runner	SUV	Black
64.		Great Wall	Wingle 5	pickup	
65.	2016	Great Wall	Wingle	pickup	Black
66.	1997	Ford	Van	Van	Green
67.	2003	Saturn	vue	car	Silver
68.	2015	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup	Silver
69.	2010	Hyundai	Tucson	SUV	Steel Blue
70.	2012	Nissan	Civilian	Van	White
71.	2005	Mitsubishi	Endeavor	SUV	Green
72.	2008	Isuzu	D-Max	Pickup	ue
73.	2009	Toyota	Hilux	Pickup	Blue
74.	2013	Ford	F-150	Pickup	Blue
75.	2013	Ford	F-150	Pickup	F-150
76.	2016	Great Wall	Wingle	pickup	White
77.	2011	Ford	Pickup		Dark Blue
78.	2000	Nissan	Altima		Blue
79.	2017	Isuzu	D-Max	Pickup	Blue
80.	2005	Ford	Focus	car	Red
81.	2009	Chevrolet	Silverado	Pickup	Burgundy
82.	2005	Chevy	Equinox	SUV	Red
83.	1999	Toyota	Sienna	van	White
84.	2017	Isuzu	D-Max	Pickup	Blue
85.		Nissan	Sentra	Car	Silver
86.	2016	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup	Grey
87.	2005	Madza	Pick-up	Pickup	Grey
88.	2011	Isuzu	D-max	Pickup	Red
89.	2007	Toyota	Landcruiser	Ambulance	White
90.	2012	Nissan	Navara	Pickup	Red
91.	2016	Joylong	Van	van	White
92.	2017	Foton	View	van	White
93.	2000	Mitsubishi	L-200	Pickup	Green
94.		Ford	F-150	Pickup	Brown
95.		Motorcycle/Frames (Blue)			DG01X-020147
96.		Motorcycle/Frames (Blue)			JS15H42A03 2100682
97.		Motorcycle/Frames (Blue)			3T5-005913
98.		Motorcycle/Frames (White)			L1855-6014341
99.		Motorcycle/Frames (White)			L1855-6014366
100.		Motorcycle/Frames (White)			JYS3TS002T A069508

101.		Motorcycle/Frames (red)			MD0207DK4 01503
102.		Motorcycle/Frames (red)			MD0207DK4 01792
103.		Motorcycle/Frames (red)			MD0207DK
104.		Motorcycle/Frames (red)			
105.		Router	1900 Series	1941	FTX182482h 2
106.		Router	1900 Series	1941	FTX145822n
107.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC202511Q D
108.		Router	800 Series	C887	FTX184181G M
109.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC1946EQ
110.		Router	800 Series	C880	FTX1834806 H
111.		Router	800 Series	C880	FTX171283K
112.		Router	1941 Series	1941	Ftx182482J M
113.		Router	800 Series	C887	FTX184181G V
114.		Router	800 Series	C880	Ftx173785W X
115.		Router	800 Series	C880	FTX1834806 Q
116.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC202511R B
117.		Router	1900 Series	1941	FTX170485A K
118.		Router	800 Series	C880	FTX1834807 7
119.		Router	800 Series	C800	FTX1826812 4
120.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC2150L0U 7
121.		Router	800 Series	C880	ftx18268126
122.		Router	800 Series	C880	FTX1834806 M
123.		Router	800Series	C887	fjc202511QA
124.		Router	800 Series	C880	FTX1834806 K
125.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC2016L2D T
126.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC202511Q 3
127.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC202511R A
128.		Router	800 Series	C887	FTX184181X
129.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC202511R 3
130.		Router	800 Series	C887	FTX1841818 H
131.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC2025L18
132.		Router	800 Series	C880	FTX1826812 2
133.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC1931e0A 6
134.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC202511R 8
135.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJc1933E06 X
136.		Router	801 Series	C887	FJC1946E3jn
137.		Router	802 Series	C888	FJC222412X E
138.		Router	800 Series	C887	FJC202511q 7
139.		Switch	1920-48G	JG927A	CN56GP70K H
140.		Switch	1920-8G	JG920A	CN52GP018 Y
141.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	CN58GP30L R
142.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	CN54Gp31T 0
143.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	CN58Gp30K L
144.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	CN58Gp30Ib
145.		Switch	1920-48g	JG927A	CN56GP73B V
146.		Switch	1920-48G	JG927A	CN56GP70J V
147.		Switch	1920-48G	Jg927A	CN61Gp75H
148.		Switch	1920-48G	Jg927A	CN56GP70T
149.		Switch	1920-24G	JG924A	CN58GP403 5
150.		Switch	1920-48G	JG927A	CN59GP707 1
151.		Switch	1920-8G	JG920A	CN56GP00F G
152.		switch	1920-8G	JG920A	Cn56Gp002 P
153.		Switch	1920-8Gq	JG920A	CN56GP437 X
154.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	CN54GP31 WH
155.		Switch	1920-24G	JG924A	CN56GP43V R
156.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	CN54GP31S 0
157.		Switch	1920-16G	Jg923A	Cn5670JR
158.		Switch	1920-16G	Jg923a	CN56gP01c7
159.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	Cn2Cp01CF
160.		Switch	1920-16G	Jg923A	CN55Gp03JP
161.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	CN54Gp329 C
162.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	Cn54Gp3151
163.		Switch	1920-16G	JG923A	CN0C752K2 8298
164.		Ethernet Extender	Patton	CL2302/4ET H	00A0BA0B0 3E8
165.		Ethernet Extender	Patton	CL2302/4ET H	00A0BA0B0 3E3
166.		Ethernet Extender	Patton	CL2302/4ET H	00A0BA0BC F8B
167.		Ethernet Extender	Patton	CL2302/4ET H	00A0BBA0B CF95

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Alexander Evans takes Belize to the “World Cup of Steelpan”

The third-ever PanoGrama steel pan competition commences this Friday. Belizean pannist Alexander Evans and 23 others from across the globe will be vying for a grand prize worth over \$6,000 USD.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 4, 2022

For the first time ever, Belize will be taking part in the virtual solo steel pan competition known as PanoGrama, which commences this Friday, May 6, at 6:00 p.m. local time. The competition will feature 24 pannists from nine different countries, including Belizean musician, composer, and pannist Alexander Evans. Evans, who is the first Belizean to ever participate in the competition, told AMANDALA that he is looking forward to representing Belize, which is often underrepresented in many Caribbean undertakings.

“A lot of times in the rest of the Caribbean, people don’t really know that much about us, don’t really know that much about Belize, sometimes don’t even know that we are considered part of the Caribbean and that we are a member of CARICOM,” he stated.

“It’s something that means a lot to me, you know, to kind of offer a little bit more visibility in that Caribbean

space for Belize,” he added.

Evans, who has been a steel pannist since 2007, has played with Pantemptsers Steel Orchestra and was also the founding director of Pandemonium Steel Band in Belize City. His view on the scope of steel pan music, however, changed tremendously after he attended Panorama in Trinidad & Tobago for the first time.

“In Belize, we don’t typically get to see pan on that level—we’re talking about 120 players in each large band on stage at the same time, and not just the magnitude, but the intricacy and the caliber of music being played. So that then kind of inspired me to go back to Trinidad in 2016 and actually play, actually participate in Panorama...and in doing so I became one of the group of four of us, the first Belizeans to participate in Panorama’s large band finals,” he stated.

Evans was also the first Belizean to enroll in the University of the West Indies’ music program (with the steel pan as his primary instrument).



Steel pannist and musician, Alexander Evans; PanoGrama founder Nevin Roach

Defined as the “World Cup of steel pan,” PanoGrama was founded during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic by Trinitobagonian pannist Nevin Roach, who had been inspired by live entertainment shows on social media.

“Just like everybody else, I was hopping from livestream to livestream on Instagram, on Facebook, on YouTube—you know, just trying to keep occupied and entertained. And after a while, I started to think, ‘well, you know, I could do something for pan,’” said Roach.

Roach told us that he wanted to create something entertaining and was inspired by Panorama—the annual steelpan competition that takes place around Carnival time in Trinidad and Tobago—which was cancelled in 2021 due to the pandemic.

“I wanted to bring that sort of vibe to Instagram. And a fusion of Panorama and Instagram gave me ‘PanoGrama’. So there I was, hosting an international competition during the pandemic,” he explained.

The first-ever PanoGrama was hosted on Roach’s Instagram (@inev88) page from April 24 to May 3, 2020. Since then, it has made its way onto YouTube and Facebook. In 2021, it made its debut on television in Barbados, and this year, after having secured an international television deal, it will also be streamed on television across the Caribbean, in the US, and in Canada.

Both Belize and St. Kitts and Nevis will be making their PanoGrama debut this year. When asked about his sentiments towards the tremendous growth that the virtual event has seen over the past three years, Roach told us that it’s been overwhelming and difficult to put into words.

“I continue to be grateful for the opportunities that come. Everything

positive that happens is just a constant reminder to me that this is something good and it can become even better,” he said.

The launching of PanoGrama was not without its challenges. Roach says that, from the very start, it was difficult getting persons on board, since he was not a well-known pannist on the international scene and since it was a new concept. Still, however, he prevailed, eventually even getting the endorsement of Pan Trinbago, the

world governing body for steelpan.

According to Roach, since its inception, one of the main focal points of PanoGrama—outside of ensuring that artists and musicians get paid—has been providing pannists with the opportunity to expand their platform, develop their skills, and, ultimately, succeed as musicians.

AMANDALA also spoke briefly with Alexander Evans on the intricate and interesting role that steelpan plays in connecting Belizeans with their Caribbean identity and culture, especially for those who identify as Afro-Caribbean.

“The steelpan is a phenomenal instrument. It is the youngest member of the percussion family. It is the newest acoustic instrument—and the only one to have been invented in the last 100 years,” he told us, adding that the steelpan was invented in Trinidad and Tobago as a direct act of resistance against post-colonial oppression, shortly after the banning of drums and other aspects of African culture on the island.

Participants of this year’s PanoGrama competition will include skilled pannists from Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Canada, France, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, and the USA. While the preliminary segment of the competition will commence this Friday and run through to Sunday, May 8, semifinals will take place on May 29 and the finals on June 12. Pannists will be competing for prizes worth over \$6,000, including an all-expenses-paid trip to the Bahamas, a steel tenor pan and case, and a private session with a world-renowned steel pannist. The competition will be streamed on the PanoGrama YouTube channel at youtube.com/panograma.

Cop seen in video assaulting civilian

Belize City cop caught on camera assaulting a civilian on Princess Margaret Drive

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

Over the Labour Day weekend, video footage of a man being assaulted by a policeman on Princess Margaret Drive in Belize City near the Heritage Bank ATM was circulated on social media. In the footage of the incident, which reportedly took place close to midnight, a police officer can be seen approaching a person who is using the phone on his camera to film the officer and hitting him so forcefully that he caused his cell phone to fall out of his hand, while using profanity in the process.

When asked about the incident at a police press briefing, the Police Department’s Communications Director, ASP Fritzroy Yearwood, replied, “I don’t usually comment on these types of videos unless there’s an official report, but yes, I saw that video, and I can assure you that an investigation was launched immediately. We know that the officer in that video is from Belize City and the Precinct Commander has been tasked to investigate that properly.”

He further stated, “What we’re hoping for [is] that the person in that video would come forward and give us a formal report, but I can tell you on our side. One, our legal office has already made certain directives and



Cop assaults civilian

that officer will be dealt with internally regardless if we have a virtual complainant or not. We have been saying to our officers for quite some time that it is okay if people believe they want to video the police doing their job. If you are doing your job at the highest level of professionalism, you should have no problem with them, and at the end of the day, if you go against what we consider one of the department’s policies, then you will be dealt with internally, regardless.”



What next!?!? Dios mio! Condolences to the family of slain footballer, Chris Rodriguez

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

Sometimes all we can do is cry, or cry out. So many wrong things converge in a calamity beyond all our wildest expectations.

Sports is our refuge in times of social distress, and is supposed to be an avenue to success when closed doors are all around in a youth's struggle to achieve something in this life. It takes effort, and it is often fun to train with a team or group of fellow footballers; it takes tremendous desire and ambition in the sport to endure the physical challenges of training alone or with only one fellow baller. That's hard work, and not the occasion to expect or anticipate anything but tired bodies and personal satisfaction with having accomplished the sacrifice of spent energy and effort towards greater achievement in the sport one loves. It's the hard way, but it should be the safest way for a youth inclined to self-sacrifice and discipline.

Rules are rules, however misguided, and hindsight is always twenty-twenty. It used to be the norm a few decades ago, that an elder, retired baller would be given the job of caretaker for the sports field in his area. Youthful, energetic sportsmen will always push the boundaries, and want to break some of the rules of the groundskeeper, like riding a bike across the well cared-for grass field. And they will run away when chased and threatened by the elder in charge. It was part of the sport. It sounds strange for such a task to be given to a young and vibrant 20-year-old, who should himself be burning energy in one sport or the other. Dealing with adventurous and often rebellious children and youth is always a challenge for older folks. But now it's children in

charge of children, and we know not what other social or neighborhood factors might be at play, making a tense situation become explosive.

Cayo must be in shock, and so is the rest of the football family in Belize. This is just too weird to be real. What a senseless and astronomical waste!?! Young Chris Rodriguez was a talented footballer putting in hard work on his craft while others idle away their time or get involved in dangerous activities. Caretaker is a word that must be analyzed deeply; caretaking of any object or commodity must always be tempered with greater care for what is of the ultimate value, human life. The care of the field is supposed to be for the benefit of footballers. How can a sane mind proceed from adjudicating a rule infraction by a zealous youth, to the use of deadly force against the rule breaker?

Mind boggling! Perhaps, the lesson from this immense tragedy is that a new policy will require a mature age and personality/character psychoanalysis for any applicant to the post of stadium caretaker in the future.

Not since December 1964 when a lady motel manager in Los Angeles pulled a gun and shot dead her internationally renowned guest, who was arguing with her about his lost items, have the circumstances of a life lost been so stubbornly difficult for a logical mind to accept. Crazy! There must be more to the story than that.

From the sports desk we join the whole football community of Belize in extending our sincere condolences to all the family members of a young and promising footballer. Rest In Peace, brother Chris Anthony Rodriguez.



Chris Rodriguez, deceased

Khalydia leads Fury to first victory in NAWL Week 4

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

Searching for their first victory after a slow start in the National Amateur Women's League (NAWL) 2022 Opening Season, defending champions Jewel Fury finally entered the win column in their Week 4 game this past weekend. Moving up to third place in the Group A standings, Jewel Fury is set to clash this coming weekend with undefeated division leaders Rumberas of Mango Creek, Independence. (See standings below.)

Saturday, April 30

In Group A on Saturday afternoon at the M.A. Stadium in Independence, Rumberas shut out visiting San Pedro Pirates, 3-0, with goals from Quinah Caliz (27' & 84') and Roshanny Narvaez (32').

Meanwhile, in the other Group A encounter at the Norman Broaster Stadium, defending champion Jewel Fury blasted home standing Verdes Rebels, 6-1, with 4 goals coming from rookie sensation Khalydia Velasquez (36', 48', 54' & 93') and the other 2 from Fatima Romero (22' & 26'), while Shayla'Lee Flowers (80') got the lone goal for the Rebels.

Sunday, May 1

On Sunday in Group B at the Ricalde Stadium, it was the visitors, Wagiya United SC coming away with a 4-0 victory over Corozal United Warriors, courtesy of goals from Tenechia Zuniga (2' & 21'), Jaelin Cacho (8') and Celeni Portillo (14').

The other Group B match on Sunday afternoon saw two teams from the Cayo District in action at the Norman Broaster Stadium, and it was Cayo Dreamers putting the sleeper on Santa Elena Strikers with an 8-0 score, 5 of those goals coming from Jehniah Arnold (18', 60', 69' 72' & 77'), 2 from Daysi Paiz (17' & 46') and the other from Sara Torres (45').

This coming weekend, undefeated Rumberas gets tested by surging Jewel Fury in Week 5 action.

Upcoming NAWL Week 5 schedule:

Saturday, May 7

3:00 p.m. – (A) Sagitun Girlz vs Verdes Rebels – M.A. Stadium in Independence

4:00 p.m. – (A) Jewel

Fury vs Rumberas –

Isidoro Beaton Stadium

3:00 p.m. – (B) Wagiya

United SC vs Cayo

Dreamers – Carl

Ramos Stadium

3:00 p.m. – (B) Bay

City FC vs Corozal

United Warriors –

Carolina Football Field

(Resting: San Pedro

Pirates and Santa Elena

Strikers)

NAWL 2022 Opening Season							
Week #4 Standings at Sunday, May 1, 2022							
DIVISION-A	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Rumberas	2	1	0	5	0	5	7
Sagitun Girlz	2	0	1	6	5	1	6
Jewel Fury	1	1	1	7	3	4	4
San Pedro Pirates	1	1	2	3	7	-4	4
Verdes Rebels	0	1	2	1	7	-6	1
DIVISION-B	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Bay City FC	3	0	0	22	0	22	9
Wagiya United SC	2	0	1	13	4	9	6
Cayo Dreamers	2	0	1	11	5	6	6
Corozal United Warriors	0	0	2	0	7	-7	0
Santa Elena Strikers	0	0	3	0	30	-30	0

Please turn to



Caesar Ridge ends Top League with back-to-back victories; PLB next?

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022

Reports were late coming out of the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) secretariat on the final Week 10 of its Top League 2021-2022 Closing Season, which ended on the weekend of April 23-24. Most notably in that last week of games was the second consecutive victory by Belize City's Caesar Ridge FC over long standing PLB entrant Wagiya United SC at the MCC Grounds.

In other Week 10 games, already crowned champion Verdes FC maintained their undefeated status with a 0-0 draw against Altitude FC at the M.A. Stadium in Independence on Saturday night, April 23. And also on Saturday, out at the Ambergris Stadium, the San Pedro Pirates demolished Garden City FC, 6-0, with goals from Horace Avila (9' & 48'), Moises Hernandez (31' & 55'), Kyle Budna (52') and Jesse Smith (77').

The other game was on Sunday afternoon at the MCC Grounds in Belize City, and diehard city fans finally got a treat, as it was an exciting see-saw contest that saw the home team, Caesar Ridge FC emerging victorious in injury time by a 4-3 score, to record their second victory of the tournament and move up the standings, pushing their opponents Wagiya United SC into last place. (See standings below.) Shaking the net for Caesar Ridge were Orlando "Bredda" Velasquez (18'), Mathias Barriga (20'), Naim "Neemo" Wilson (57') and Denmark Gill (90+3'); while Wagiya SC goals were by Izon Gill (14'), Steven Verdugo (31') and Timothy Estero (82').

FFB Top League Closing Tournament 2021-22							
Final Week #10 Standings at Sun. Apr. 24, 2022							
TEAM	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Verdes FC	9	1	0	28	2	26	28
Altitude FC	5	3	2	15	8	7	18
San Pedro Pirates FC	5	2	3	15	7	8	17
Garden City FC	2	3	5	6	19	-13	9
Caesar Ridge FC	2	1	7	9	26	-17	7
Wagiya SC	1	2	7	7	19	-12	5

FFB Top League 2021-22 Closing Season		
Top scorers at Wk 10, Sun. Apr. 24, 2022		
TEAM	PLAYER	Goals
Verdes FC	Juan Carlos Lopez	5
Verdes FC	Krisean Lopez	5
Altitude FC	Andres Orozco Sarabia	5
Verdes FC	Jovaunn Ramos	4
Garden City FC	Shawn Young	3
Wagiya SC	Warren Moss	3
Verdes FC	Edwin Vileda Bernal	3

With the return of the Premier League of Belize (PLB) tournament expected to take place sometime in July or August, speculation is strong that the positive showing of Caesar Ridge FC in the closing weeks of the FFB Top League may aid in their lobby for a spot in the PLB tournament. Whatever, fans are eagerly anticipating the much more intense competition they have gotten used to in PLB tournaments which routinely feature a four-team playoff at the end of regular competition.

Sports Ministers, NSC express condolences to family of Chris Anthony Rodriguez

BELMOPAN, Wed. May 4, 2022

The Minister of Youth, Sports & Transport - Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth, Sports & Transport - Hon. Gilroy Usher and the National Sports Council of Belize (NSC) express heartfelt condolences to the Rodriguez family on the loss of

Chris Anthony Rodriguez.

The unfortunate incident regrettably occurred at one of our sporting facilities in San Ignacio, Cayo.

The NSC is working closely with the police department in their investigation for justice to prevail.

-press release -

Week 5 results from OWFA 1st Division Amateur Tournament

by Ben Ramos, Jr. - OWFA Regional Administrator

ORANGE WALK TOWN, Wed, May 4, 2022

The Orange Walk Football Association (OWFA) 1st Division Amateur Tournament 2021-2022 Closing Season continued over the weekend with Week 5 games at the Louisiana Football Field on Saturday evening, April 30, and Sunday all day, May 1. Below are the results:

Saturday, April 30

In the opener at 7:00 p.m., Yo Creek La Ceiba FC came from behind to defeat Guinea Grass FC, 3-1, with a goal each from Allen Castillo (49'), Zamir Bonilla (86') and Edimir Carrillo (87'); after Zender Ramirez (21') had given Guinea Grass the early lead.

It was the same score in the nightcap, but in this one Louisiana FC led all the way, as they dropped Trial Farm Jaguars FC, 3-1, with a goal apiece from Leonardo Nob (22'), Carlos Nob (30') and Marin Nob (46'). Trial Farm avoided the shutout with a late goal from Ismael Guerra (88').

Sunday, May 1

Five games were on the schedule for Sunday, and in game 1 at 9:00 a.m. it was San Antonio FC rolling over Carmelita FC, 5-0, with goals from Omar Duran (14'), Liam Reyes (40'), Augustine Mendez (59') and Axel Jones (72' & 82').

Game 2 was another shutout, as Young Ballers FC crushed Cave Tubing FC, 4-0, with 3 goals from Jesse August (20', 45' & 59') along with an own goal by Cave Tubing's Jordi Castillo (85' OG).

In game 3 at 1:00 p.m., San Jose Pumas FC and Palmar FC played to a 1-1 draw. Victor Novelo (25') put Pumas in front, but Juan Diaz (41') equalized before the half for Palmar.

Game 4 was a real blow-out, as Caribbean Rum Boyz FC unleashed an 8-0 shellacking on San Fran FC. Sharing the scoring for the Rum Boyz were Raheem Eagan (2' & 38'), Camilo Sanchez (3', 14' & 42'), Nazim Aldana (19') and Andir Chi (27' & 43').

And in game 5 at 5:00 p.m., Guinea Grass Lazio FC drew, 2-2, with Galacticos FC. Guinea Grass grabbed an early 2-nil lead with goals from Aiken Aguilar (8') and Nadit Narvallez (9'), but Galacticos came roaring back with goals from Jeffrey Herrera (20') and Luis Witz (26') to secure the 2-2 draw.

OWFA 1st Division Group A								
	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Young Ballerz FC	5	4	1	0	9	0	9	13
San Antonio FC	5	4	0	1	14	4	10	12
Carmelita FC	5	3	1	1	9	8	1	10
Galacticos FC	5	2	2	1	13	8	5	8
Charlies Cave Tubing	5	2	0	3	8	13	-5	6
Louisiana FC	5	1	1	3	3	10	-7	4
Trial Farm Jaguars FC	5	1	0	4	8	14	-6	3
Guinea Grass Lazio FC	5	0	1	4	6	13	-7	1

OWFA 1st Division Group B								
	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Caribbean Rum Boyz FC	5	5	0	0	19	1	18	15
Progreso FC	4	2	1	1	10	3	7	7
Guinea Grass FC	4	2	0	2	13	8	5	6
Yo Creek La Ceiba FC	4	2	0	2	12	7	5	6
Palmar FC	4	1	3	0	8	5	3	6
San Jose Pumas FC	4	0	1	3	2	11	-9	1
San Francisco FC	5	0	1	4	1	30	-29	1

Two weeks of regular season remain and then it's the playoffs.

Sports Ministers, NSC express condolences to family of Chris Anthony Rodriguez

BELMOPAN, Wed. May 4, 2022
 The Minister of Youth, Sports & Transport - Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth, Sports & Transport – Hon. Gilroy Usher and the National Sports Council of Belize (NSC) express heartfelt condolences to the Rodriguez family on the loss of Chris

Anthony Rodriguez.
 The unfortunate incident regrettably occurred at one of our sporting facilities in San Ignacio, Cayo.
 The NSC is working closely with the police department in their investigation for justice to prevail.
 - press release -



Khalydia leads Fury to first victory in NAWL Week 4

Continued from Page 31

GOAL SCORERS

Club	Name	Goals	NAWL-A
Jewel Fury	Khalydia Velasquez	4	A
Sagitun Girlz	Karisha Coe	3	A
Rumberas FC	Quinah Caliz	2	A
Jewel Fury	Fatima Romero	2	A
San Pedro Pirates	Iamara Baptist	2	A
Rumberas FC	Roshanny Narvaez	1	A
Sagitun Girlz	Zulma Ortega	1	A
Sagitun Girlz	Surma Alfaro	1	A
Sagitun Girlz	Sabrina Eiley	1	A
Jewel Fury	Ada Cordova	1	A
Verdes Rebels	Sharla'Lee Flowers	1	A
San Pedro Pirates	Olivia Dacosta	1	A
Rumberas FC	Carlene Tillett	1	A
Rumberas FC	Roshanny Martinez	1	A

Club	Name	Goals	NAWL-B
Bay City FC	Anahie Blanco	6	B
Cayo Dreamers	Jehniah Arnold	5	B
Bay City FC	Alisha Terry	3	B
Bay City FC	Darina Tzul	3	B
Bay City FC	Kaite Jones	2	B
Bay City FC	Shante Chacon	2	B
Bay City FC	Aaliyah Herbert	2	B
Wagiya United FC	Shadette Lino	2	B
Wagiya United FC	Tenechia Zuniga	2	B
Wagiya United FC	Jaelin Cacho	2	B
Cayo Dreamers	Daysi Paiz	2	B
Cayo Dreamers	Sara Torres	2	B
Cayo Dreamers	Jehnia Arnold	1	B
Cayo Dreamers	Allyshia Bowman	1	B
Bay City FC	Miriam Villamil	1	B
Bay City FC	Nora Ramirez	1	B
Bay City FC	Jocelyn Sho	1	B
Wagiya United FC	Celeni Portillo	1	B
Wagiya United FC	Maria Ical	1	B
Wagiya United FC	Erin Elijio	1	B
Wagiya United FC	Jessie Mclaughyn	1	B
Wagiya United FC	Chelsia Velasquez	1	B
Wagiya United FC	Leah Mariano	1	B
Wagiya United FC	Rainelle Moss	1	B

Ferguson speaks on youth, sports, and crime



Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Youth and Sports

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 5, 2022
 While being interviewed yesterday, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, commented on the recent murder of 19-year-old footballer, Chris Rodriguez, who was allegedly killed by the caretaker of the Norman Broaster Stadium, after being ordered to leave the stadium, where he had been playing football with a cousin, because he had not paid a recently introduced fee. Ferguson indicated that Rodriguez and his cousin should not have been required to pay a fee to practice in the stadium, since only football teams, and not individual players, are being charged for daily use of the stadium. While Ferguson's ministry is responsible for ensuring that appropriate facilities and safe spaces are available for youth to engage in various types of sports and recreational activities, he said that they are still trying to develop protocols to govern the operations within the ministry after the four months during which he has been at the helm.

"Our responsibility as the Ministry of Sports, we [are] supposed to provide the facilities for these young people, so as we are now in the process of trying to take over the ministry and trying to understand it, we have to put certain protocols in place to say, you know, if we are going to have these stadiums available, it will be for all young people," Minister Ferguson said.

He pointed, however, to the cost of maintaining these facilities and said that if the cost of a utility such as electricity was reduced or subsidized, it would be easier to provide the necessary spaces for sporting and recreational activity free of cost to young people—and he said that

this is something he is attempting to accomplish.

"Right now we are trying to find a way that we can get the electricity bill to be reduced, because that by itself is a cost. Once we can get that reduced or completely written off, then we can say 'okay, the facilities can be available for these young people to have their activities'," Ferguson said.

He did not indicate whether such measures would be taken to ensure the free usage only of the Norman Broaster Stadium or free access to sporting facilities across the country.

While securing these safe spaces for athletes is an ongoing effort within the ministry, Ferguson said that in the interim they are planning to hold a number of sports tournaments in an attempt to ensure that the youths of the country have the opportunity to engage in wholesome activity.

"It's a difficult situation, because it's basically happening for the last 15, 20 years or even more, and as the Minister responsible, it hurt my heart to see this continue to escalate, and I am putting every effort to figure out how we can curb it. I don't know if it will be possible, but I'm doing my best. So, as the Minister of Youth and Sports in particular, that's why I'm going to start the basketball competition across the country, to keep them away from these activities weh paat they idle, so I'm hopeful that that will help and we will continue from basketball on to volleyball and keep them busy throughout the year," Ferguson said.

Minister Ferguson also took the opportunity to comment on another challenge being faced by youth across the country—lack of transportation to and from school. The issue was recently highlighted when the Secretary of the Belize Bus Association, Ewert Metzgen, in response to a leaked memo on bus fares which included a directive for bus operators to charge students half price, said that the Ministry of Education is already paying out millions for school bus contracts, and that students should catch those buses or be charged the full rates as regular passengers.

"So why will you look at the bus operators and tell them that you have to charge the students half price when you, the government, already catering for them? You provide school buses free of charge to them." Metzgen had remarked during a recent interview.

It is to be noted, however, that those school bus contracts provide transportation only for primary and high school students, and not for those

attending tertiary level institutions.

Minister Ferguson confirmed that the memo which provoked such a response from Metzgen was a leaked document and that the Ministry is still in discussion on bus fares. He said that the operators have indicated that they cannot afford to cut prices in half for students.

The insufficient number of school buses on the road to cater to students is an unmistakable factor in the lack of access to transportation for students, many of whom wake up at very early hours in the morning to be able to meet

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Man shot by police at checkpoint

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Tues. May 3, 2022

A routine police checkpoint became the scene of a shooting incident last Saturday after the relative of a man suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol reportedly resisted police's efforts and was shot by an officer. Sometime around 5:00 that evening, a Dodge Ram pickup truck, driven by one Wilmer Ruiz, was stopped by traffic personnel at the Monkey River junction on the Southern Highway. According to police reports, the traffic officers, having smelled a strong aroma of alcohol emanating from the vehicle, suspected that Ruiz was intoxicated and sent out a request for police assistance. Two police officers attached to the Bella Vista substation, PC Jerrison Jones and PC Oscar Chiac, responded to that request.

Upon arriving at the checkpoint, the officers asked Wilmer Ruiz to exit the vehicle so that a breathalyzer test could be done on him. The driver obliged and followed the officers to the Traffic Department vehicle. His passengers, Edwin and Alex Ruiz, however, also exited the pickup and began following the officers.

The officers claim that, although they instructed the two men to return to their vehicle, Alex Ruiz began advancing towards them. That was when one officer fired a warning shot in the air which went unheeded by Ruiz. According to the officers, a struggle then ensued, and the officer's gun went off, injuring Ruiz.

The Police Department's

Communications Director, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, spoke about the incident at Tuesday's police press briefing, and asked that members of the public be more cooperative when Traffic Department officers are performing checks.

"We are just asking the general public to be more cooperating with the Traffic Department personnel also. They have a job to do, just like the police, and give them the same level of respect that you would give a police officer when requested of you to present certain documents," he said.

According to Yearwood, the vehicle being driven by Wilmer Ruiz did not have a valid license sticker, which may have contributed to his resistance and the eventual scuffle.

Alex Ruiz was transported to the Mango Creek Polyclinic and later transferred to the Southern Regional Hospital for treatment. He has since been released.

Since the incident, the Commissioner of Police has ordered both an internal and a criminal investigation into the matter to determine what charges Ruiz, who had been given medico-legal forms, and the officer who pulled the trigger will face, if any at all.

"We are anticipating that charges will be levied. We at the Police Department usually wait until the doctor certifies the degree of your injury—may it be grievous harm or wounding—whatever that medical officer certifies your injury to be is what the police will charge for," said ASP Yearwood.

UDP: Minister Musa and COMPOL Williams must go

Continued from Page 3

who was accompanied by UDP chairman Michael Peyrefitte and newly appointed UDP senators Beverly Williams and Anthony Herrera, was the surge in crime in the country, which the UDP says the Briceño administration has failed to address, as well as corruption in government and the upcoming village council elections.

During the conference, UDP chairman and Shadow Minister for National Security, Senator Michael Peyrefitte, pointed to the number of murders in the first four months of the year—with 43 murders being recorded during that period this year, whereas in 2021, from January to April, there were 30 murders.

Peyrefitte then attributed the increase to a lack of competence on the part of the Police Minister, Hon. Kareem Musa, and called for his resignation, but he further went on to suggest that the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, should resign from his post as well.

"We repeat our call for the Minister of Police and his CEO to resign. I called for the resignation of the Minister and the CEO repeatedly, because when it comes to the national security apparatus, he only has one responsibility, you know. That's the police, just police... We are looking at a situation where you have a person with one portfolio [who] can't perform, has not the respect of the Police Department, has not the respect of the citizenry, and not the respect of those people who should fear the

national security apparatus, and I'll say something else; I'll add to that. And it's not an easy add for me to say. This man has come from far; he has done well for himself, he's a hard worker, he's tenacious, but people, he is not getting the job done. The Commissioner of Police also needs to consider, look within himself, and think whether or not he needs to step aside and give way to some new blood. He's not cutting it. In my view, the Police Department needs a new Commissioner. It needs to be shaken up," said Peyrefitte.

Commissioner Williams responded to Peyrefitte's suggestion in a social media post on Wednesday, May 4.

"Some people stay in a corner and pray for crime to increase, with the hope that they can get on board a political tide to take them where they want to be. The complexity of crime requires a multi-sectoral approach, and that is why our Minister and our department have teamed up with other ministries and departments to form a multi-sectoral approach to fight crime. Yes, we cannot expect this approach to erase all the damage that was done for over a decade," stated Williams.

The Police Commissioner further remarked in the post, "... I am happy that I have served as Commissioner under both political parties and know what both crime-fighting strategies are. This is what makes the situation seems rather political, the fact that the messenger knows well that the crime problem existed before and that during his time as minister we did a lot to address it and it still persisted then. So how now does he expect it to just go away?"

Footballer, 19, killed...

Continued from Page 4

so much talent ahead of him," Habet further said.

The fatal stabbing of the teenager is being seen as particularly troubling, not only because an exemplary teen who had already suffered from personal tragedy was killed, but also because of the senseless nature of the circumstances that led to the stabbing—a recently implemented fee system that many youths and athletes were unaware of, and to which even the divided San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council had unitedly objected.

"I can understand this stadium being used for a tournament and you will charge the committee to use the stadium because we are charging to come in, I can see that, but at least leave it open for the youths to train and we go from there!" stated Earl Trapp, the mayor of San Ignacio and Santa Elena.

One of the members of the town council headed by Trapp, Matthew Preston, further explained, "I've been trying to get in contact with the Minister of Sports, and hopefully they can get a meeting with the Town Council with the National Sports Council, with the Minister of Sports, so we can see what we can do to remedy this, because again we barely have facilities here in San Ignacio and Santa Elena, and where are the kids gonna play."

Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon.

Rodwell Ferguson, later told the media that in fact Rodriguez should not have been told to pay a fee, since only teams, and not individual players, are being charged for the use of the stadium at this time.

"It's very unfortunate, and I want to offer my condolences to the family. A young man's life was cut short. He was only 20-years-old, and I don't know the intricacies of what is being charged, but I spoke to the director this morning when I came in, and he told me that it's a charge per team... When I checked with the sports director he told me that nothing was needed. Only teams when they come in they pay a \$15 fine to use the stadium for the day. So, I guess it just transpired and then the end result was really devastating," Minister Ferguson said.

The Sports Minister further noted, "... it's the reality; you can't change it, but as the Sports Council, we have to do things differently. I have to put rules and regulations in place to have them understand what is the protocol as a caretaker and what you're supposed to do, and, this, I don't know."

A statement released by police today confirmed that 20-year-old Fausto Teck, a Belizean caretaker who resides in San Ignacio Town, was formally arrested and charged for the crime of murder in connection with the fatal stabbing of Chris Rodriguez that occurred on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Ferguson speaks on youth...

Continued from Page 33

the school buses and who otherwise cannot afford the daily cost of transportation. In the rural areas, the buses at times cater to several villages and sometimes carry more persons than what has been designated as their maximum capacity.

"The operators are complaining that they can't afford to charge half price...so then they have to figure how they can recover their cost by picking up these passengers and charging a reasonable fee based on the expenses, and so when the

release was actually leaked, it was an internal memo to try to figure what is the best possible solution. It was leaked to the media, but I'm quite sure that we are going to resolve that issue maybe by next week and issue another press release to say, alright this is what is going to happen with the school transportation and the commutes when it comes to students," Ferguson outlined.

For now, access to free, safe sporting facilities and transportation to schools remain two problems faced by young people that the ministry must solve.

Silk Caye's SOE

Continued from Page 2

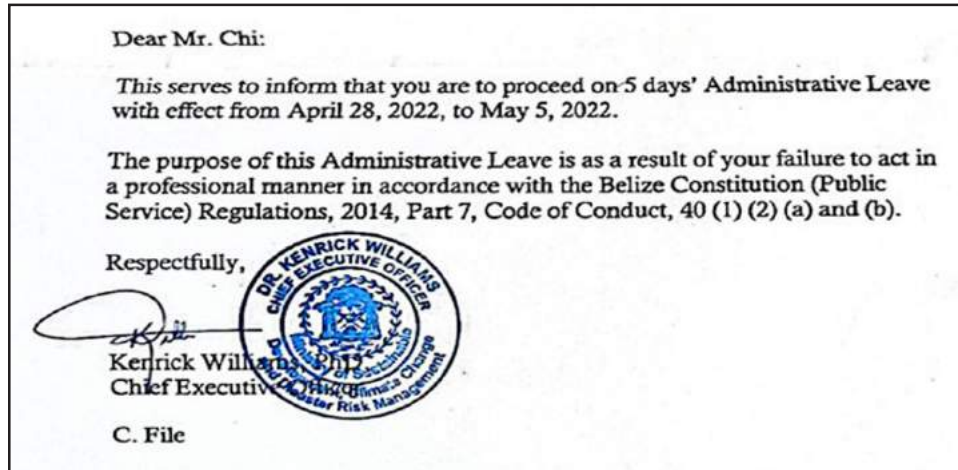
(GSSCMR). These protected areas are currently managed by the Fisheries Department and Southern Environmental Association (SEA).

The release states, "The Fisheries Department hereby emphatically expresses its concern over the activities that transpired. Fully cognizant of the urgent actions needed to counter the impacts of climate change to this and other islands within the Marine Protected Areas Systems, the department has been working with its co-managers to address these threats in a manner that is strategic and environmentally safe."

Additionally, the release noted, "This most recent case is of special concern because the site being altered is within a high biodiversity Conservation Zone where only non-extractive use is allowed. Furthermore, any activity to be conducted within a marine reserve requires a license or authorization in accordance with Sub-Sections 15 (1) (b), (c), (d) and Section 16 of the Fisheries Resources Act, Revised Edition, 2020 ([Documents – Fisheries Department](#)). The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations also requires that for Schedule I projects such as the above, an Environmental Impact Assessment be completed."

PSU condemns placement of Chi on admin leave

The PSU, in addition to pointing to glaring procedural errors in the process that led to a decision to place Forestry Department officer Daniel Chi on administrative leave, has stated that the placement of Chi on admin leave is an unlawful punitive



BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 4, 2022

The commemoration of International Workers Day for public officers in Belize occurred on May 1 and 2 amidst rising tensions between the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister John Briceno, and the Public Service Union (PSU), which has come to the defense of a public officer employed by the Forestry Department whom the union says is being unjustly punished for doing what the protocols within his department and international conventions to which Belize is a signatory, required him to do: removing endangered/invasive plants classified as prohibited species by his department and the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA).

On April 12, that officer reportedly bristled at a directive given by Prime Minister Briceno via phone for him to desist from confiscating those prohibited plants from a local plant seller, Diani Chan, owner of Botanical Gardens by Roselyn, after an initial call by the Prime Minister had resulted in the handing over of the plants, which were initially being held by BAHA/Customs for inspection, to Chan. According to Prime Minister Briceno, the officer, before hanging up the phone, responded in a rude manner and maintained that he would comply only with orders given by his supervisor.

Briceno had indicated, when relating the incident to local reporters, that he would be “speaking with the Minister” about the behavior of the officer. “I’m not shying away from that,” he had said. Days later, reports emerged that two persons had been placed on administrative leave: an unnamed representative from BAHA, and the Forestry officer, identified as Daniel Chi, who was notified via a letter from the Ministry of Sustainable Development; Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management, that he would be placed on administrative leave from Thursday, April 28, until tomorrow, May 5.

The president of the PSU, Dean Flowers, however, has pointed to a number of procedural errors that he observed when he read the letter, signed by Dr. Kenrick Williams, the CEO in the Ministry of Sustainable Development. Flowers went on to describe the measure as “punitive and petty”, among other things.

“From the onset, there are fundamental issues with the letter that was served to brother Chi,” Flowers said. “The letter does not suggest that any investigation is to take place,” he pointed out.

According to Flowers, what that

investigation would reveal could indicate further ethical violations by the Minister of Agriculture, Jose Mai, and Prime Minister John Briceno, since Flowers suggests that the remarks made by Hon. Briceno to reporters during an interview on the matter — specifically claims that Chi “sat down the phone on him” — were misleading.

“One thing I want to clarify from the very onset, the public has been misled into thinking that the officer in charge ‘sat down’ or ‘cut off’ the Prime Minister. As the Prime Minister said in his interview, the officer ‘set down phone pan ah’; I believe, that is what he suggested. I want to clarify that at no point in time did Mr. Chi had a phone in his possession. I want to state categorically that at no point in time did the Prime Minister call Mr. Chi on his phone and spoke to Mr. Chi on Mr. Chi’s phone. Neither did the Prime Minister call any other law enforcement agency that was there, to speak with them or to speak with Mr. Chi, Mr. Chi had no phone in his possession, in his hands; as a matter of fact, his hands were occupied with removing the illegal plants. Whether or not the Prime Minister was speaking to the ‘mother-in-law’ — in an attempt to intimidate or speak to Mr. Chi, I don’t know. The investigation on the case will prove on whose phone,” Flowers stated..

Unconfirmed reports are that the call in question was either a video call or was placed on speakerphone, and was made by the Prime Minister to the phone of a person on the scene of the Forestry Department’s operation to remove the flagged plants. It is also being claimed that Chi at no time hung up on the Prime Minister directly. Flowers said that he believes the narrative being presented is an attempt to downplay a relationship that may exist between Cabinet officials and the importer of the plants.

“It suggests that once again, there is an attempt to downplay the relationship that may very well exist, whether, business-wise, family-wise, business interest-wise, we don’t know, but it exposes that there is an attempt to downplay the true relationship that may very exist between the importer and the Minister of Agriculture or the importer and the Prime Minister. Because, man, the swiftness in which they have moved to try to discipline and intimidate this officer — all public officers for that matter — because I want to say that as the president, I am really, really encouraged by the support that public officers across this country have given to brother Chi for

Pentagon: US training Ukrainian troops

CLINTON CANUL LUNA

Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the following, which I find to be of utmost importance:

The Pentagon reveals that the US is training Ukrainian troops in Europe

Posted: RT
30 April 2022

He also reported that the possibility of carrying out a “virtual training” is being considered so that the instructors, who are outside the country, can train the military on Ukrainian territory. Ukrainian military personnel are receiving US training in Europe amid the conflict with Russia, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby revealed on Friday. “I can announce that the US has started training with the Ukrainian Armed Forces on key systems at US military facilities in Germany,” the Defense Department spokesman said during a briefing. According to Kirby, these trainings are part of the coordinated program between the US Army Europe-Africa Command and Berlin, in which Ukrainian troops are learning how to operate artillery, radar systems and armored

vehicles. “This new training effort in Germany and elsewhere in Europe directly supports recent US security assistance packages designed to help Ukraine,” the spokesman said, detailing that Washington has committed more than \$4.3 billion to the Ukrainian Army since 2021. He also clarified that the other locations, which have not been disclosed, could change over time, but stressed that the training has already occurred outside Ukraine, particularly in the handling of howitzers they provided. Kirby emphasized that the Pentagon has no plans to send its instructors to Ukraine. “The training we will do will be outside” the country, he stressed, while informing that the possibility of carrying out a “virtual training” is being considered so that the instructors, who are outside the country, can train the military on Ukrainian territory. For her part, Canada is also training Ukrainian servicemen on the M-777 howitzer in Europe, Canadian Defense Minister Anita Anand reported during her visit to the Pentagon.

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April 30, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

being bold enough to not answer to the request or demand of a person on the other side of a phone that was on speakerphone.” Flowers said..

He added, “There is much behind this relationship, and this da nuh just wa lee San Roman importer.”

Flowers further indicated that the union is fully capable, and has all intentions, of defending Chi all the way to the Supreme Court if needs be, adding that union members are demanding this course of action and that he may well nominate Chi for a public service award next year.

“Public officers are demanding of this union to support him and to ensure that he is nominated for one of those public service awards next year, and I will be nominating him for either the Prime Minister or the Governor-General’s Award. I want to put that out there one time, soh nobody betta nuh come ask mi fi wa nomination. Because I will be nominating Danny for either the Prime Ministerial or the Governor-General Award next year for recognition of long-standing public officers,” the PSU president said.

In regard to remarks made by both the Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture that many public officers have fallen short of professional standards in the execution of their duties, and that they have not exhibited appropriate public relations skills or a business-oriented mindset, Flowers said that any such deficiencies are the fault of not only the current Minister of Public Service, but all previous Public Service Ministers and Cabinets in the country, rather than the workers.

“These very Ministers, especially the very senior Ministers, have been part and parcel of the recruitment process of public officers. They go recruit public officers, they put them in the public service without no training; perhaps some do not even have the requisite qualifications, and then they turn around and want to not put the blame on the Belizean people for why it is that the public service may have within its mix public officers who have poor public relations. That is not the fault of the Public Service Union; that is the fault of the all-powerful and dictatorial Cabinet. That is

the fault of every single former Minister of Public Service who allows themselves to be disrespected by their colleagues in that the regulation for selection and recruitment has not been followed. That is additionally the fault of the Ministry of Public Service for not ensuring that when a public officer is recruited that there is a proper induction training for the public officer which includes, first and foremost, public relations and then secondly understanding and being able to interpret and apply the law and regulations that govern them within the public service and by extension the act that governs their respective ministries or department that they work in., so that falls squarely on the Ministry of Public Service and the all-powerful dictatorial Cabinet that we’ve grown to accept as the norm,” Flowers said.

It might be of interest to note that, when interviewed by 7News’ Jules Vasquez this week, Dr. Elma Kay, who has been described as the official “scientific authority on CITES [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora]” remarked that the Forestry Department rightfully exercised authority that was assigned to it under the CITES Convention when it engaged in the inspection and possible confiscation of endangered or invasive plants, and that the intervention by Cabinet ministers in such a process cannot be viewed as good governance.

“I think, in general, interventions of those types — just normally not seen as good governance, because there are things in place,” she remarked. She further stated, in reference to steps made by the Forestry Department to enforce CITES regulations, “.. that is their job as the management authority. They have been appointed by the government of Belize as the management authority for the convention, and so as the management authority they are within their rights to ask the proper questions, request the proper documentation and how they deal with infractions you would have to ask them, but basically yes, they are within their rights as the duly appointed management authority for the country.”

BELIZE CITY
 Always 'bout The People
 COUNCIL

*Mother's Day
 Edition*



SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES

- JAMES BRODIES
- MILANI PALACE
- BELIZE BANK LTD.
- FERMINA'S STORE
- BARGAIN BUSTER
- WILLIAM QUAN
- HOFIUS LTD.
- LAVISH BOUTIQUE
- SENSATION X-TREME
- MEDINA'S HOUSE OF JEWELRY
- NOW & FOREVER
- TROPIGAS
- DOONY'S
- BRILLIANCE STORE
- TRIMZ
- MIKADO
- CELLULAR WORLD
- DIGI BELIZE
- CARRY ON ELECTRONICS
- SMART
- MS. MAR CHEAP SALE
- DIBARY
- TROPICANA
- MIRAGE
- MIAMI FASHION
- GOLDEN BAY

BEAUTY

- D' GLOW UP
- HELLO BODY BELIZE
- NARI SELF CARE
- LUXURY SKIN & BODY
- MAHI SALON
- NIKA'S SEA MOSS

HIGHLIGHTS

- KIDS ZONE
- PRESTIGE AUTO SALES
- READY CALL CENTER BPO
- WONDERLAND BELIZE
- ACCELERATOR PROGRAM
- AMERICAN IMPORTS
- SAGICOR INSURANCE
- DYS ENTREPRENEURS
- MAYA'S ELECTRONICS
- BELIZE CHARITABLE RAFFLE

CLOTHING/ACCESSORIES

- DIVA'S PARADISE
- J'ADORE BOUTIQUE
- LA FASHION
- JEWELRY GALORE
- TRINKETS & TREASURES
- STITCH BY SHAN
- MINT & COMPANY
- HANGER CLOTHING
- A&A JEWELS
- PEACOCK BARGAINS
- SAKAR FASHION BOUTIQUE
- K'S CLOSET CLUB
- SOL HANDMADE CLAY JEWELRY
- AC NATURAL SHELL & JEWELRY
- DDS CREATION
- FORT GEORGE WOMEN'S GROUP
- TAPS ESSENTIALS
- PAM'S JEWELRY

GIFTING

- FLORASOL
- FLOWERS BY ALMA
- XAMS FLOWER SHOP
- GLITTER & GLUE
- ATHANEE CREATIVE TOUCH

FOOD/PASTRIES

- JERRY'S FRUITS
- PRU'S KITCHEN
- DON CEVICHE
- SILVIA'S KITCHEN
- OTTO'S BBQ
- ANG'S DELIGHTS
- CHICKEN LICKIN'
- ROTARACT CLUB BAKE SALE
- SR SWEETS
- MAMA ROSA
- OLGA'S FIYYAHHAAT KITCHEN
- DESSA'S DELIGHTS
- KHY'S KREAMY KREATION
- CHICKEN DREAD

ENTERTAINMENT/DRINKS

- BOWEN & BOWEN
- LIZARD JUICE
- BRAIN FREEZE MARGARITAS
- SANGRIA MIA
- PREMIUM WINES & SPIRITS
- GRACEKENNEDY (BELIZE)
- MADISCO
- SURPASSING SILENCE BAND
- BLUE STEEL SOUNDS
- PROJECT X
- RUMAJAY MAS
- FLAVORFIZZ SHACK