

Belize's leading newspaper

Bus driver charged with murdering partner

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 27, 2022
 Augustine Gonzalez, 44, a Belizean bus driver of Santa Familia Village, has been arrested and charged with the crime of murder for killing Ima Azucena Landero, his common-law wife at Legends nightclub, on Bullet Tree Road in San Ignacio, Cayo, on Saturday, June 25.
 According to initial police reports, at around 12:55 a.m. a female approached David Gordon, the security guard on duty at the nightclub, and told him that there was blood seeping out of the women's restroom. When Gordon went to the restroom to



(l-r): Augustine Gonzalez, arrested and charged for murder; Ima Azucena Landero, the murder victim

Please turn to **▶ Page 15**

Youth killed in Ladyville Milpa area



Iwin Palma - deceased

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 27, 2022
 Iwin Palma, 24, was shot multiple times and left for dead by a lone gunman sometime after midnight on Sunday morning in the Milpa area of

Please turn to **▶ Page 15**

Father of 6 killed on Friday morning

Paul Panton, 59, was ambushed and executed in his taxi after being called by an unknown person seeking a cab ride.

BELIZE CITY, Fri. June 24, 2022
 On Friday morning sometime after 6:00, Paul Panton, 59, a taxi driver who lived in King's Park in Belize City, was killed in his cab by an unknown assailant who shot him in the back of the head. Prior to his death, Panton had received a call from a still unknown

would-be passenger that took him from the Cinderella Plaza Taxi Stand, where he was usually stationed, to Heart Street

Please turn to **▶ Page 15**



Paul Panton - deceased

Suspected drug plane lands in southern Belize

by Charles Gladden

SUNDAY WOOD, Toledo District, Mon. June 27, 2022
 In the wee hours of Sunday, June 26, a suspected drug plane landed in the southern part of Belize, in



Drug plane lands in southern Belize

Please turn to **▶ Page 15**

Shyne reps Belize at 2022 BET Awards

See story on page 2



Shyne reps Belize at 2022 BET Awards

Dominique Noralez reps the region at Commonwealth Youth Forum 2022

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Fri. June 24, 2022

Dominique Noralez is currently the Regional Representative for the Caribbean on the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC), and as part of her new role, she traveled to Kigali, Rwanda, last week to attend the Commonwealth Youth Forum 2022. The three-day forum, which was attended by hundreds of youth delegates from across the Commonwealth, was one of many held during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022 (CHOGM 2022). There, those youth delegates had an opportunity to inform Heads of Government on what they felt were issues that demand more attention.

Upon returning to Belize, Noralez spoke with the media about the outcome of the forum, including the Youth Declaration—a series of policy recommendations that were finalized and presented to the Commonwealth Heads of Government during last week's meeting. According to the 25-year-old writer and activist, this year's forum, while much different from her experiences in London in 2018, was fruitful. "We at the Youth Forum did it quite differently this time. I don't remember it being this way when I was in London in 2018, I believe.



Dominique Noralez -- Regional Representative, Commonwealth Youth Council (3rd from the right)

What we did was action labs—so young people get to split up based on what their passions, what their expertise are and you work on creating this project or pitching this project proposal that then would feed into the Declaration," she said.

The process of creating the Youth Declaration, says Noralez, was a long one. "The declaration has not been released yet. It was a year-long process—it started well before the Commonwealth Youth Forum (the CYF)

would have started. So, young people would have been engaged for over a year. It was drafted and redrafted, edited, and re-edited. Then, at the CYF the action plans that would have come out would then be integrated into that," she said. Those action plans, which have since been presented to the Heads of Government, focus on numerous issues, including migration, technology, and the environment.

"And so we've done our part. And so we ask, like I said in the interview with BBC, I want to see money and skills and technical assets be put behind these objectives. We can dream all we want. A young person, he's from the United Kingdom, he said that we could have all these ideas but they're just ideas without money. And so we need money to be able to do our jobs and, of course, the technical capacity to manage those funds to get these objectives finished," expressed Noralez.

Also discussed at the Youth Forum were the courses of action that the CYC executive hopes to take throughout the next two years. Noralez was elected as the Caribbean representative on the Council in 2021 and was officially sworn in earlier this month. She is the first

Belizean to sit on the council, and she told local reporters that while the road towards being elected was a long one, winning was a beautiful experience.

"I for sure will be leaning a lot on Belize's youth development structure to make sure that in my tenure as the first Belizean in this space, to make sure that Belize benefits as much as it can, but of course, keeping in mind that I represent the Caribbean, so my work has to extend beyond the borders of Belize," she stated. "Winning is always a beautiful thing and knowing that you couldn't have done it by yourself but there's a committee of people that were supporting, whether by mentorship or by gathering people around you to make sure that they vote for you because you have to gather African nations, Asian nations, Pacific nations, and you have to have those people see your perspective and so, yeah, so that was a beautiful thing," she later added.

For years, Dominique Noralez has been an advocate for youth development in Belize. She is currently a student at the University of the West Indies, pursuing an undergraduate degree. She is also a frequent contributor to the AMANDALA.

Shyne reps Belize at 2022 BET Awards

In a special tribute to his former boss, Diddy, who is being honored with the 2022 BET Lifetime Achievement Award, Shyne rocked the BET Awards with a remake of his hit single "Bad Boyz".

LOS ANGELES, Mon. June 27, 2022

The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Moses Michael Levi Barrow, known more popularly by his stage name "Shyne", made an appearance at the 2022 BET Awards, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California yesterday. The former Bad Boy rapper took many in the audience by surprise when the signature Barrington Levy vocal introduced his 2000 hit single "Bad Boyz". It's been a long ride for the New York rapper-turned-Belizean politician, who in his tribute to Diddy, saluted the music mogul as a producer of his legend, and many others.

The story goes that Shyne was signed by Diddy on the spot when world-famous DJ Clark Kent heard him freestyling and immediately took him to see the founder of Bad Boy Records. At the time Kent was working on The Notorious B.I.G.'s first posthumous album, *Born Again*. Shyne's voice and classic New York rap style, reminiscent of Biggie's voice, captured the American rap faithful.

At the budding of what looked like a promising career, having released tracks that made it to the top of the charts, giving him international renown, the 20-year-old was caught up in a 1999 club shooting that resulted in 3 people being injured. According to Shyne, he was defending his friends from the

alleged instigator Matthew "Scar" Allen, and was forced to make the rash decision. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison after being convicted of attempted murder, assault, and reckless endangerment.

Many thought he would never set foot in the United States, much less appear on one of the biggest music stages in the world, the BET Awards, after being deported in 2009 back to Belize. But in August of this year, he was granted a US visa and returned for the first time in 12 years to the US. He has made a few other trips since then, with the most recent being this jaunt over the weekend to rep his former Bad Boy boss, and in the process Belize.

He told VICE, "It's great, I love BET, but I'm really here for Diddy."

In his performance, he covered just the first couple bars and hook of the classic track, albeit with cleaner lyrics, reflective of the current era of his life. As a huge projected Belize flag was flown from the backdrop of the stage, Shyne spitted, "Mandela, Barack, shook the feds, Prime Minista the nexta, what your point is? My point is revolutionary for your minds pointed, I'm anointed, 4 point 6, or do I say more? Or do you get the point BET! Belize!"

The Leader of the Opposition was accompanied by Stig the Artist at the 2022 BET Awards.

Kathleen "Mams" Maud Meheia, JP

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 20, 2022

Funeral services were held this afternoon at St. Martin De Porres Church in Lake Independence for Kathleen "Mams" Maud Meheia, JP.

She was born on November 1, 1952, and passed on June 10, 2022.

Mams was the wife for 52 years of Edward "Bart Logan" Sanchez, Sr.

She was the stepdaughter of the late Wilfred Nicholas, Sr., an officer of the UBAD party from 1972 to 1974 and one of the founders of the UBAD Educational Foundation (UEF) in 1996.

The funeral services were conducted by Fr. Jeremy Zipple, S. J.

The Eulogy was read by the Hon. Cordel Hyde, Deputy Prime Minister of Belize.

Pallbearers were Edward Sanchez, Sr.; Tafaree Sanchez; Wilfred Nicholas, Jr.; Edward Sanchez, Jr.; Jason Sanchez; and Bernard Pitts.

The Kremandala organization and the



UEF extend deepest condolences to the family and friends of the late Kathleen Meheia, a royal lady to be sure. May she rest in peace.

CHOGM 2022: Mayor Wagner speaks at Sustainable Cities Initiative



Mayor Bernard Wagner at the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative

The Belize City mayor took part in a high-level panel discussion on sustainable urbanization across the Commonwealth.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Sun. June 26, 2022

Belize City mayor Bernard Wagner, one of a few Belizeans who represented the country at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022, took part in the “A Call to Action on Sustainable Urbanization across the Commonwealth” side event as well as at the Commonwealth Business Forum last week.

Day two of the official side event featured a high-level panel discussion on “Empowering Cities to Deliver,” which saw Mayor Wagner speak on building sustainable cities.

“As municipal leaders, we must be empowered to introduce innovative financial instruments for resource mobilization to attain sustainable infrastructure; proliferate renewable energy; stimulate local economic development; promote the culture richness of our municipalities; promote

sports and healthy living; to improve food security and other things that combine to boost true economic development. We have the vision. We have the partnerships,” stated the Mayor.

According to the Belize City Council, at the event, the Mayor also had the opportunity to discuss partnerships that the council has developed with different sectors and organizations in order to deliver on its priorities.

He participated in the high-level panel discussion alongside Thembi Nkadimeg, Deputy Prime Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, South Africa; Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Kenya; and Stephen Twigg, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Mayor Wagner also attended the Commonwealth Business Forum, hailed as the first and largest in-person gathering for governments and businesses across the Commonwealth since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. It focused on economic post-pandemic recovery as well as the role that the Commonwealth has to play in rebuilding and reinvigorating the global economy.

Coast Guard officer stabs stepdaughter

BELIZE CITY, Fri. June 24, 2022

A Coast Guard officer is on the run from police after stabbing his stepdaughter on Tuesday evening in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk. Alberto Espinoza, 34, a resident of Trial Farm, reportedly got into a heated argument with his 18-year-old stepdaughter, Daxia Martinez.

The altercation led to him cutting the teen on the face and stabbing her in another part of her body, the communication director of the Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, said in a press briefing today.

“We know that we have issued a



Alberto Espinoza

warrant for him. He is wanted for wounding. We have made contact with his superior officers and we are asking the general public in trying to locate Mr. Espinoza,” Yearwood said.

Commandant of the Belize Coast Guard, Elton Bennett, told local media that Espinoza has not reported to duty since the altercation. Police say that besides this most recent report, there have been other reports made against him.

Yearwood explained, “We know that we have other reports in connections with this same Alberto Espinoza. By all

Please turn to Page 4

US Supreme Court rolls back abortion rights after 50 years

US president Joe Biden says that the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v Wade has pointed the country down an “extreme and dangerous” path and that rights surrounding contraception and same-sex marriage may be targeted next.



Protests for and against abortion rights (Photos by Gayatri Malhotra and Maria Oswalt)

by Khaila Gentle

WASHINGTON D.C., Sun. June 26, 2022

After a historic ruling in which the US Supreme Court decided that the constitutional right to abortion within the country no longer exists, more than twenty-five states are expected to either fully outlaw or severely limit abortions.

“The constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision,” wrote Justice Samuel Alito who, along with four other conservative justices made up the majority vote to overturn Roe v Wade—the landmark court decision from fifty years ago that made abortion a constitutional right. Three of the justices who make up that majority—Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett—were appointed by former US president Donald J. Trump.

The court’s liberal justices, who voted against overturning Roe—Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan—wrote a joint dissent, described by CNBC reporters as “scathing.”

“The majority would allow States to ban abortion from conception onward because it does not think forced childbirth at all implicates a woman’s

rights to equality and freedom,” they stated.

“A State can force her to bring a pregnancy to term, even at the steepest personal and familial costs,” they added.

In addition to Roe v Wade, the majority also voted to toss out the 1992 court decision made in Planned Parenthood v Casey, which upheld abortion rights and reaffirmed Roe. The controversial ruling, passed on Friday, June 24, came as part of a case titled Dobbs v. Jackson and grants individual states autonomy over their own abortion laws. It is likely to result in abortion being banned or severely restricted in the majority of America’s Southern states, and millions of persons seeking abortions will now have to cross state lines to do so—a reality that experts say will most severely impact women of colour.

“Women of color, poor women, Black women are often the canary in the coal mine on these issues,” said Melissa Murray in the *Washington Times*. Murray is a law professor at the New York University and the author of the book *Cases on Reproductive Rights and Justice*. “Their experience really telegraphs where we are going with this,” she added.

Please turn to Page 4



Turmoil at St Francis Xavier Credit Union continues

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 27, 2022

The turmoil at St Francis Xavier Credit Union (SFXCU), the second largest credit union in the country, continues this month after the dismissal of two branch managers. According to a circular from the credit union's board of directors dated June 22, Caye Caulker branch manager Rafael Dominguez, Jr., and San Pedro branch manager Lina Garcia were both terminated "as a result of the violation of the St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Ltd. code of ethics and the Misuse of Confidential Information."

The allegation being made against the two former branch managers is that they obtained and dispersed confidential information pertaining to members publicly via fake accounts. The letter regarding their dismissal bears the signatures of all the credit union's board members, including its president, Roy Smith.

In response, a group of persons who refer to themselves as the "Ad Hoc Committee for Change" and who claim to represent members of the credit union issued a press release on Friday, condemning the dismissal of the two managers.

"Both Ms. Lina Garcia, San Pedro Branch Manager and Mr. Rafael Dominguez Jr, Caye Caulker Branch Manager, received their letters of discharge as employees of the St. Francis Xavier Credit Union," the press release states.

Over a month ago, over a dozen members of the credit union protested what they believed was the wrongful termination of Rafael Dominguez, Sr., the credit union's former general manager. Those members are now condemning the termination of Garcia and Dominguez, Jr., both relatives of the former GM, claiming that it is a personal attack against the senior Dominguez and his team.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Former general manager at SFXCU, Rafael Dominguez, Sr.

for the credit union was held on Sunday, June 26. The Committee for Change in their press release stated that the former general manager is "prepared to take back the reigns" at the meeting and that members are in full support of him.

"The present Board of Directors continue to carry out intimidation and manipulation over all departments and staff of the Credit Union, with vile, threatening approach of subjugation," stated the release.

When the media caught up with him at the AGM, Dominguez, Sr. expressed confidence in the fact that the members of the credit union are in support of him. He also expressed his hopes that at the credit union board elections taking place later this year, the members will be able to see the changes in the credit union administration that they have been demanding.

Earlier in the year, the board of directors had issued a letter to Dominguez, Sr. informing him that his five-year contract, which was set to expire in April, would not be renewed. The decision, however, has been opposed by the members of the credit union who believe that Dominguez adequately fulfilled his duties while serving as general manager.

Gina Scott's Belize School of Music recital

BELIZE CITY, Sun. June 26, 2022

Congratulations are in order for the Belize School of Music, led by Gina Scott, which held its first post-COVID piano recital at the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts this afternoon.

Ms. Scott offers special thanks to Xunan Baldwin, an honored guest

performer; Marilyn Young, the president of NICH; the staff of the Institute of Creative Arts; and Jordan Can for graphic design and a pre-concert musical performance.

Of course, appreciation is also extended to all the parents and guardians of the students and performers.

Coast Guard officer stabs...

Continued from Page 3

means, we will continue to look for him until either he comes and hands in himself, or we will find him, where charges will be levied against him. I know that this young lady's injuries were classified as wounding. I know that investigators are investigating two other incidents believed to be committed by him, before this incident on Wednesday. I know that they are looking for him for some other traffic infractions.

While neither the police nor the public know the nature of the disagreement which led to the stabbing, Yearwood

noted that mere words do not give one the right to harm another.

"Regardless of the size of the crime, the fact remains that he is wanted and we are asking the general public assistance in trying to locate him. She is saying that he attacked her after just having words. I don't know what the words or content of their conversation was, and he cut her in the face and some other part of the body. The thing is, no one has the right to harm you, whether it is because of words or something you would have done to them. He could have done the manly thing and walked away," he said.

Man killed in Gungulung

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 27

A man identified by police as Darell Alvarez, 35, was reportedly shot dead in the Lake Independence area tonight. His body was found near a public water pump just recently, with apparent gunshot wounds.

The lifeless body has since been transported to the KMH. There is no indication of what the 35-year-old resident of Supal Street was doing in the area. Details to be released by police tomorrow.



Darell Alvarez – deceased

Police seek suspect for shooting of Jordan Bradley

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 27, 2022

Police are searching for one person who they believe is responsible for the fatal shooting of 26-year-old Jordan Bradley, a resident of 4th Street in the Kings Park area of Belize City, who lost his life when two gunmen fired at him while he was playing checkers with friends in a yard on 11th Street in Kings Park.

Reports have indicated that Bradley was at #9 11th Street playing checkers, a game that he loved, when a white Dodge Caravan came from the direction of I Street onto 11th Street and went around the block before returning. Upon the van's return, two gunmen exited the vehicle and sprayed bullets in the direction of the group of men in the yard, and while the others escaped injury, Bradley was fatally wounded.

According to the communications director of the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, the police are searching for a person of interest who they believe is responsible for the murder of Bradley.

Currently, the motive for the murder of Bradley remains a mystery for the Police Department, since they are doubtful that he was the intended target.

"Whether or not you were the intended target, you ended up being that target, and yes, while I want to sway away from the actual fact, Mr. Bradley lost his life due to the location that he was at that time. Whether or not the



Jordan Bradley, deceased

other persons that were playing checkers with him, that would be determined after our investigators have established [a] motive," ASP Yearwood told reporters.

Police are also trying to determine whether the murder of 26-year-old Jeffery Buller which took place on June 18 on 6th Street in the Kings Park area and Bradley's murder are related.

"I cannot say definitely that we're not looking at it, but we are examining several angles, and we hope that this person that we are looking for could bring some form of closure to this investigation, and we are very hopeful to find this person still. I believe that this person is still in Belize," ASP Yearwood said.

US Supreme Court rolls back abortion rights after 50 years

Continued from Page 3

Since its passing, numerous lawmakers, women's rights organizations, and abortion rights activists have condemned the decision—as has US president Joe Biden. In a statement given shortly after the ruling was made, President Biden stated that the nation is being pointed down "an extreme and dangerous path." The US president also referred to the decision as "a realisation of an extreme ideology and a tragic error by the Supreme Court".

While polls have shown that the majority of Americans did not want *Roe v Wade* to be overturned (one poll by

Monmouth University found that 64% believe abortion should be legal or legal with limitations), those opposed to abortion have been celebrating the decision. Conservative justice Clarence Thomas wrote a concurring opinion with the majority vote in which he stated that cases that established rights regarding the use of contraceptives and same-sex marriages should also be reconsidered.

The decision made on Friday came just one day after the Supreme Court passed down another controversial ruling—one that struck down the New York law which requires persons to have a license for carrying guns outside their homes.



Consultation and democracy

About sports fields and school buildings

Monday, June 27, 2022

Our Belize Constitution makes reference to the working of the democratic process as being necessarily dependent on our elected representatives making decisions and taking actions on behalf of the people who have empowered them to do so by their majority vote in elections, and as being the only practical way to get things done on behalf of the people. As it is explained in the Preamble to the Constitution in section (c), "... the will of the people shall form the basis of government in a democratic society in which government is freely elected by universal suffrage and in which all persons may, to the extent of their capacity, play some part in the institutions of national life..." Of course, it is impractical for one to expect any government to come back to the people on every decision that must be made. But there are times, and there are matters of such magnitude and long-reaching impact, that it is considered necessary to consult with the people through a referendum, one such matter being any proposed settlement of the Guatemalan claim to Belizean territory. However, it would seem from past history that our governments seldom feel the urge to come to the people for their blessing when making decisions on big investment projects, whether they be road construction, office buildings, housing construction, or a major infrastructure project. Thus, there have been huge projects with long-term cultural and

economic impact that were never discussed with the masses, or their approval sought in any form of meaningful consultation.

The habit from our colonial days, when important decisions were generally handed down by whichever governor was in charge, seemed to have taken root by the time our local leaders attained "self-government" in 1964 and later "independence" in 1981. All the discussions and plans for the building of the new capital following the destruction of Belize City by Hurricane Hattie in 1961, were done by our elected leaders and their British consultants. The Belizean people (British Hondurans then) just received the news when it was announced at public meetings or on the government-controlled British Honduras Broadcasting Service (B.H.B.S.), then later Radio Belize. The masses of citizens would be happy to get some jobs, and a new site for the capital away from hurricane tidal waves was a no-brainer. Of course, everyone would support that proposal. But were they ever

asked? The choice of site was another matter that was left up to the brilliance of our inspired leaders, led by Premier George Price.

Decisions, decisions, so many decisions to be made, and the only way to gauge the pulse of the people was by person-to-person contact in Wednesday clinics, grassroots gossip-sharing at the Central Market, or in trips across the country to meet with citizens in the various villages and towns, and sometimes through small gatherings. Those were the days when only a few people had a telephone in their home and most long-distance communication was by inland mail or airmail to foreign countries. Ever since Universal Adult Suffrage in 1954, voters have depended on the people they elected to office to work on their behalf to get things done for the country so that all could benefit. They placed their faith in those leaders, and trusted them to lead and guide them on the path to nationhood, which was the dream of one day shaking off the exploitative yoke of colonialism and finally having full control of our destiny and whatever wealth the nation had to offer its citizens. That faith was tested sometimes, but the hunger of the masses for independence was strong enough to overcome any doubts or fears arising from the Guatemalan threat.

After Independence, when our economic woes had led to the first change in administration, the message reaching the masses was that the new leader, Manuel Esquivel, believed in "strong government;" meaning he was comfortable tackling the hard work of governance with very limited effort to seek feedback and the go-ahead from an electorate that had already given their overwhelming stamp of approval for his team in office. Decisions were made, and things were done in the people's name, and that's the way it was.

But the times they were "a-changing" indeed; and with another change of government on September 4, 1989, suddenly there was an explosion of unrestricted communication with the people when the first private radio station, Krem Radio, hit the airwaves on November 17. And soon, with the new voices and panel discussions on the *Kremandala Show*, and then the advent of the *Dikie Bradley Talk Show* on Krem, Belize would never be the same again. People from all over the city and the country could call in ("no call no name") and express their views on any matter, including actions by the government.

It wasn't too long afterwards that other private radio stations began popping up all over, and then it was cable television taking off, while BTL was pushing the nation full steam ahead into the modern age of telecommunication.

By the mid to latter-1990s, the internet was exploding, and cell phones were becoming the order of the day. And the capacity for consultation just kept getting better and better by the decade, with e-mail, Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, etc. etc.

The problem is, it seems that our elected politicians were not too enthused by this new capacity for consultation with the people to get their feedback and approval, especially when there was funding available for large and expensive projects. Whatever consultation is said to have been done, it is often only superficial and hardly impacts the decision already made. For example, when "big things" were reportedly happening behind a twenty-foot-high zinc fence surrounding the old Central Market near the Swing Bridge, it was only when the work was almost completed that curious citizens realized that our Central Market was gone, and a new Commercial Building

Please turn to **Page 7**



(estb. 1969)

Business and editorial offices:
3304 Partridge Street, Belize City, Belize, Central America is printed twice weekly by the Amandala Press.

Telephones: 501-280-4703/
501-202-4477

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

Please email Correspondence:
editor_amandala@yahoo.com

Advertisements to:
amandalapress@yahoo.com

Mailing Address:
Amandala Press
3304 Partridge Street
c/o P.O. Box 15,
Belize City, Belize

Amandala's website:
amandala.com.bz



Hon. Henry Charles Usher

by Khaila Gentle

Forest officer Chi's fate still uncertain

Forest officer Daniel Chi is facing serious disciplinary action, and possible dismissal from the Forest Department, after refusing to go against protocol and release one plant seller's quarantined species at the request of the Prime Minister. Hon. Henry Charles Usher says Chi's fate now rests in the hands of the Public Service Commission.

BELIZE CITY, Wed. June 22, 2022

Minister of Public Service, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, says that the fate of Forest officer Daniel Chi, who was previously placed on administrative leave for allegedly hanging up the phone on the Prime Minister in April after refusing to comply with the PM's orders, is in the hands of the Public Service Commission. Hon. Usher told the media on Wednesday that, while an application has been made to the Commission for Chi to be subject to further disciplinary action, he does not know what exactly has been requested.

"What I can say is that disciplinary procedures are in the Public Service Regulations. There's a procedure that has to be followed. And as far as I know, that procedure has been followed by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, in terms of what has been done with the leave and then the

suspension and so on," said Minister Usher.

Last week, the CEO of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Dr. Kenrick Williams, indicated that a recommendation had been sent to the Public Service Commission for Chi's dismissal on the grounds of insubordination.

Readers will recall that in April, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño told the media that Chi had hung up the phone on him, but not before rudely refusing to comply with the PM's directives—allegedly indicating to the PM that he only followed the instructions of his supervisor. Chi reportedly did this in response to the Prime Minister's request that the officer desist from confiscating the imported plants of plant seller Diani Chan, whose CITES documentation had been found to be incomplete, and who had reportedly been in the process of bringing in plant species deemed as endangered or invasive under the CITES regulations. The Prime Minister, outraged by Chi's response, had told the media that he would be bringing up the matter with the Ministry of Sustainable Development.

"So I will be speaking to the Minister. I'm not shying away from that," an indignant Briceño had said, after remarking that the public officer would likely not have talked to former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, in such a manner.

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 May 5.

In the letter, Chi was told, "The purpose of this administrative leave is as a result of your failure to act in a professional manner in accordance with the Belize Constitution (Public Service) Regulations, 2014. Part 7, Code of Conduct, (40) (1) (2) (a) and (b)."

When asked whether Chi's reported actions, which can be deemed minor misconduct, truly merit such serious disciplinary action, both the Sustainable Development CEO and the Minister of Public Service, were evasive. Hon. Henry Charles Usher stated that it's up to the Public Service Commission to determine whether Chi's infraction warrants such an extreme disciplinary measure, and since the matter is still ongoing there is not much else that he can say.

"Well, it is still a live matter, so I wouldn't want to comment on what decision could or should be made. What I can say is, as you rightly said, there are two kinds of infractions in the Public Service—there are minor infractions and major infractions. Now if the determination is made by the Commission that this is an infraction that warrants such a disciplinary measure, then they will make that decision, no?" he said.

On several occasions, the Public Service Union (PSU) has spoken out on Chi's behalf, and has asserted that the officer is being unjustly punished for simply following protocol. PSU president Dean Flowers has even gone as far as refuting the Prime Minister's claims and calling them misleading.

"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," Flowers had stated.

An AMANDALA article dated Wednesday, May 4, had even made reference to Flowers' declaration that "the union is fully capable, and has all intentions, of defending Chi all the way to the Supreme Court if needs be" and that the PSU president 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, so nobody better come ask me if I will be nominating Danny for either the Prime Ministerial or the Governor-General Award next year for recognition of long-standing public officers," that article had quoted Flowers as saying.

When asked to comment on the Public Service Union's condemnation of the actions being taken against Chi, the Public Service Minister said that the PSU is just doing its job.

"The Public Service Union wouldn't be doing its job if they didn't get out there and stand up for their public officers. So, I certainly would never say anything negative about the work being done by the union in terms of their advocacy and defence of public officers," he said.

According to Minister Usher, the Public Service Commission is expected to meet this Friday.

Interestingly, this week, Diani Chan, the owner of Botanical Gardens by Roselyn whose plants Chi had been attempting to confiscate, made her first public comments to LOVE News. She seemed to hesitate in indicating whether the actions being taken against Chi are too severe—first saying "he does not deserve", before noting that actions have "consequences" and that public officers should be "soft" when interacting with the public, whose tax dollars are used to pay them. She also noted that she was once a public officer herself and that she has "no bad mind" toward Chi.

It is worth noting as well that, when interviewed by 7News a little over a month and a half ago, 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 Forest 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 Forest 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," she had said.

Consultation and democracy

Continued from Page 5

was in its place. And some years later, when the remodeling of Battlefield

Park and the major re-routing of traffic in downtown Belize City was being considered, some "consultation" was done with drivers on Orange Street and probably Albert Street to get their views on the proposed blocking off of the two outlet lanes bordering the Belize Bank and the one bordering Brodies Store; but no numbers were ever published to indicate the "yea" or "nay" views from the public. The same with the works done at Memorial Park that removed all the citizen-sponsored marble-surfaced benches that once adorned the perimeter of the park. The beautiful Belize Civic Center is perhaps the most striking evidence of lack of consultation with the populace. As the over \$33-million-dollar structure began to take shape, curious citizens wondered about the apparent lack of ventilation, and if, as it seemed, the building was to depend on air-conditioning. And so it was, a wonderful "white elephant" that is too expensive for sporting groups to profitably utilize.

In this day and age, our leaders should appreciate that the facilities now exist for quick, effective and economical consultation with citizens when there are major decisions on projects being made that may have great and long-lasting impact on the social and cultural life of the community. At the very least, citizens have a right to know before decisions are finalized. Belizeans should not be in the dark if there is a decision being contemplated to replace the old Swing Bridge with a modern, fixed cement bridge. They might want to have a say on that. And, with the current scarcity of playing fields in Belize City, if the Education Ministry thinks it is prudent to discard the old Technical football field, and put another ITVET building on the grounds instead, such a major move should involve some consultation. It may just be that many past Technical students, as well as sporting groups who have enjoyed use of the field over the years, would appreciate at least being first afforded some time to grieve before the first piles are driven, or a platform to forward their emotional or logical arguments on why they don't think it is a good idea.

Fudge-making Minister

by Colin Hyde

He's a lawyer by profession, and if his passion was there, the trophies on his wall would include a long list of guilty parties whom he helped to beat the system, or if he is a rare conscientious type, a mountain of thank-you notes from the innocent downtrodden for his successful efforts to fight off chaansi people. That's not where his heart is. Our Home Affairs Minister dreams of a tall white cap and apron, wants to be a cook, a confectionery maker.

LLB hell, when he appeared on a morning show with some young people at Channel 7 he was making fudge, showing off his dexterity with a wooden spoon and a tin of condensed milk. Can't the parents of these young people teach them how to cook? What's that

you said—no decent parent will teach the young ones how to whip up the kind of fudge they were making? Why, it's only peanuts and wangla you put in that. Stop your obsession with weed. Follow the math; if you put herb in fudge, there'll be none for the brownies. Hn, if that man is really spicing fudge, I recommend that his next demo be on Plus TV. He'll have to bring his A-game, so the pot doesn't boil over.

Wherefrom does this man get time to be making fudge when he and the Foreign Minister should be about putting back into the law all the things they took out to please the people who are now pushing for a referendum. What world is that man living in, making fudge like he doesn't have a care and absolutely nothing of import to do? So what if it was before 8 o'clock? As a representative, his every waking second

should be devoted to us. Bah, making fudge on our time, when properly he should be about expunging all those crazy things they put into the law to appease people who are fighting to maintain the miserable status quo.

No, oh no, no, no, Louis

The other morning, Louis from Plus TV, all excited, showed a video of cartel members driving through a police checkpoint in Guatemala as though they had diplomatic license plates. Fair enough to warn us about cartels, but the whole thing got muddled when Louis said that's what we're going to grow up to be like if we legalize marijuana. Whoa there, somebody is reading the book upside down.

The math here is 1, 2, 3, and the Americans can tell us all about it. There are no rum cartels driving through police checkpoints over there. But they used to, back in the day when alcoholic drinks were prohibited in that country. How did the Americans end those violent years? Simple: they legalized drinking.

The ABC formula for creating a cartel is to make illegal something that people want. The Americans know that. Following that cartel creation line, cocaine is illegal in the US, so there should be cocaine cartels driving through checkpoints in the US like they have diplomatic plates. The reason why they are not is because the Americans got smart.

The Americans transported their fight against drugs overseas. They fight it on the sea, in the air, on the land, in our countries. They still have issues at home, but we deal with the bulk of the corruption and violence over here.

When you bring the big hammer approach instead of sticking with the legitimate tool—education, education, and more education, you get cartels. Belizeans, these heart-and-soul religion guys are sincere, and if we wait 20 years we'll hear them apologize for their myopic approach. But there's no satisfaction in telling people, I told you so. We just can't afford to wait for them to turn the book right side up.

Was US Supreme Court abortion blow enough to save their union?

When the things that divide us are too strong, we walk on the other side of the street to avoid seeing each other, which is a lot better than meeting up and coming to blows. In a healthy democracy we get by with, 'I give you this and you give me that', but when there is nothing I can give you or you can give me to make the beautiful compromise, that's a gulf too wide to cross. Then it is better that we live on opposite sides of town.

There's a deep divide in the US over abortion rights and gay marriage. For all their serious racial issues, gun rights issues, drugs issues, welfare program issues, it's a wonder how they've held together this long. Whoa there, people can get over every mountain, cross every sea, but when the divide is rooted in religion, there will be no reasoning.

There are Muslim groups that allow abortions, for reasons from endangerment of the mother to rape and incest, and there are Christian groups that aren't 100% against it. A story on *Healthline*, "Meet the Religious Groups Fighting to Save Abortion Access" says the Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church are not hardline against a woman's right to choose, as the Catholics and Southern Baptists are.

Where religious leaders are against abortion, there is no bend. My gudnis, it is a black man leading them. Everyone thought the power was with Obama, but da man is Clarence Thomas, backed up by a white woman wife who was supporting the most ludicrous teef-dielection claim. We have heard about the wicked PUP and their scientific invisible ink, and there might be more than a little truth about the blue raising the dead on election-day and the reds giving plane tickets to Belizeans abroad, but yu ain't heard nohtn until yu meet the Americans, whose fraud allegations led to January 6, the day of their worst infamy!

Before getting back to the charge Clarence is leading over there, one point being made about abortion is that this is a woman's thing, so men should stay out. In the world of gender, who can forget Representative Pantón's impassioned speech in the House in support of the pardon for Miss Nora Parham? How poorly they think of us. Tracy really didn't have to say—it was a jury of 12 men!

Keeping the light on gender, with a little family flavor, I heard Dean B speak up for Tracy's UDP sister, Sista B, the lady who is set on making a record for non-representation. Hmm, there might be some money in it, maybe even an international book deal. But she might just get derailed if the PUP follows through with its call that she be, recalled. Whoa, there's irony here. You can count on less than 5 fingers the number of reforms introduced by Dean B. One of them, that no one can hold the PM's job 4 times, blocked his path and almost led us to the other John. And another of his reforms could lead to Sista B being chased from outside the House.

I wish the smart PUP could find another word for their agenda. Whenever I hear the word, "recall", I think of the opening words to Burning Spear's great song which begins with the line... "Lets' recall some great men". Hmm, there's nothing great about holding a seat to please your brother, and Finnegan.

The way I understand this outlawing of Roe v Wade in the US, which made abortion legal, the decision is to allow states to decide their destiny. In every country, district, community in the world, murder is the most serious crime, and it is the interpretation of many that a fetus must get the full respect of a human being.

I won't go into why I support a woman's right to decide, but in the interest of living together, for those who want to keep their union intact, maybe it's best that on this one they live apart. Yes, those for, in their states, and those against, in their states.



TRADEWINDS

Captain and First Mate required...

TradeWinds is a global yacht chartering company that offers high-end 7-day consecutive charters (2 or 3 weeks contiguous sailing) to its guests with the result of: "Best Vacation Ever." We're looking for an experienced Captain and First Mate (crew couple) that are willing to commit for a minimum of one year on one of our sailing vessels based in Placencia.

You both will be expected to demonstrate first class boat handling skills. Captains should have the RYA (commercially endorsed) Sailing Skipper's license or its practical equivalent. The First Mate must hold the level 2, Basic Food Hygiene qualification. Both of you will have a valid STCW qualification and one of you should be a qualified Dive Master (or quickly become one). **Captains** should demonstrate sound leadership and hosting skills, have solid charter delivery experience, together with a good grasp of boat maintenance. They are expected to Assist the First Mate, and split the cleaning chores, such as dishes, cabins, and midweek turnaround. **First Mates** need to go the extra mile in food delivery, taste, presentation and being a well-rounded hostess, are their passion while able to assist the Captain where needed and with boat handling.

Interested crew couples should send an up-to-date CV containing reference contacts, together with a covering email stating why they should be considered for the positions to:

geoff@trade-winds.com

Occasionally we have need of Relief Captains or First Mates, if the above criteria fit your experience and flexible personality, kindly send your Resume & References with availability.



Consulta y democracia

Sobre campos deportivos y edificios escolares

Lunes, 27 de Junio de 2022

Nuestra Constitución de Belize hace referencia al funcionamiento del proceso democrático como necesariamente dependiente de que nuestros representantes electos tomen decisiones y realicen acciones en nombre de las personas que les han facultado hacerlo mediante su voto mayoritario en las elecciones, y como la única manera práctica de hacer las cosas en nombre del pueblo. Como se explica en el Preámbulo de la Constitución en la sección (c), "...la voluntad del pueblo formará la base del gobierno en una sociedad democrática en la que el gobierno es elegido libremente por sufragio universal y en la que todas las personas puedan, en la medida de su capacidad, desempeñar algún papel en las instituciones de la vida nacional..." Por supuesto, no es práctico que uno espere que cualquier gobierno vuelva a la gente sobre cada decisión que debe tomar. Pero hay momentos, y hay asuntos de tal magnitud e impacto de largo alcance, que se considera necesario consultar con el pueblo a través de un referéndum, siendo uno de esos asuntos cualquier propuesta de solución al reclamo guatemalteco sobre territorio beliceño. Sin embargo, parecería por la historia pasada que nuestros gobiernos rara vez sienten la urgencia de acudir a la gente en busca de su bendición cuando toman decisiones sobre grandes proyectos de inversión, ya sea la construcción de carreteras, edificios de oficinas, construcción de viviendas o un gran proyecto de infraestructura. Por lo tanto, ha habido grandes proyectos con un impacto cultural y económico a largo plazo que nunca fueron discutidos con las masas, o su aprobación buscada en cualquier forma de consulta significativa.

El hábito desde nuestros días coloniales, cuando las decisiones importantes generalmente las tomaba el gobernador a cargo, parecía haberse arraigado cuando nuestros líderes locales lograron el "autogobierno" en 1964 y luego la "independencia" en 1981. Todas las discusiones y los planes para la construcción de la nueva capital luego de la destrucción de la Ciudad de Belize por el huracán Hattie en 1961 fueron realizados por nuestros líderes electos y sus consultores británicos. El pueblo beliceño (entonces hondureños británicos) recibía la noticia cuando se anunciaba en reuniones públicas o en el Servicio de Radiodifusión de Honduras Británica (B.H.B.S. por sus siglas en inglés), controlado por el gobierno, y luego Radio Belize. Las masas de ciudadanos estarían felices de conseguir algunos trabajos, y un nuevo sitio para la capital lejos de los maremotos de los huracanes era una obviedad. Por supuesto, todos apoyarían esa propuesta. Pero, ¿alguna vez se les preguntó? La elección del sitio fue otro asunto que se dejó en manos de la brillantez de nuestros inspirados líderes, encabezados por el *premier* George Price.

Decisiones, decisiones, tantas decisiones por tomar, y la única forma de tomarle el pulso a la gente era a través del contacto personal en las clínicas de los miércoles, los chismes populares en el Mercado Central o en viajes por todo el país para reunirse con los ciudadanos en las distintas aldeas y municipios, y a veces a través de pequeñas reuniones. Esos eran los días en que solo unas pocas personas tenían un teléfono en su hogar y la mayoría de las comunicaciones a larga distancia se realizaban por correo terrestre o correo aéreo a países extranjeros. Desde el Sufragio Universal de Adultos en 1954, los votantes han dependido de las personas que eligieron para el cargo para trabajar en su nombre para cumplir por el país para que todos puedan beneficiarse. Pusieron su fe en esos líderes, y confiaron en ellos para que los condujeran y guiaran en el camino hacia estado nación, que era el sueño de un día sacudirse el yugo explotador del colonialismo y finalmente tener el control total de nuestro destino y cualquier riqueza que la nación tenía para ofrecer a sus ciudadanos. Esa fe fue puesta a prueba a veces,

pero el hambre de independencia de las masas fue lo suficientemente fuerte como para superar cualquier duda o temor que surgiera de la amenaza guatemalteca.

Después de la Independencia, cuando nuestros problemas económicos llevaron al primer cambio de administración, el mensaje que llegó a las masas fue que el nuevo líder, Manuel Esquivel, creía en un "gobierno fuerte"; que significa que se sentía cómodo abordando el arduo trabajo de la gobernabilidad con un esfuerzo muy limitado para buscar comentarios y el visto bueno de un electorado que ya había dado su abrumador sello de aprobación a su equipo en el cargo. Se tomaban decisiones, y se hacían cosas en nombre del pueblo, y así eran las cosas.

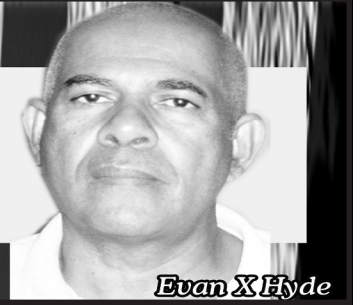
Pero los tiempos en verdad estaban cambiando; y con otro cambio de gobierno el 4 de septiembre de 1989, de repente hubo una explosión de comunicación sin restricciones con la gente cuando la primera estación de radio privada, Radio Krem, salió al aire el 17 de noviembre. Y pronto, con las nuevas voces y paneles de discusión en el *Kremandala Show*, y luego el advenimiento del *Dikie Bradley Talk Show* en Krem, Belize nunca volvería a ser el mismo. Personas de toda la ciudad y el país podían llamar ("no nombren a nadie") y expresar sus puntos de vista sobre cualquier asunto, incluidas las acciones del gobierno.

No pasó mucho tiempo después de que otras estaciones de radio privadas comenzaron a aparecer por todas partes, y luego despegó la televisión por cable, mientras que BTL empujaba a la nación a toda máquina hacia la era moderna de las telecomunicaciones.

Ya para mediados y finales de la década de 1990, Internet estaba explotando y los teléfonos celulares se estaban convirtiendo en el orden del día. Y la capacidad de consulta fue mejorando cada década, con correo electrónico, Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, etc. etc.

El problema es que parece que nuestros políticos electos no estaban demasiado entusiasmados con esta nueva capacidad de consulta con la gente para obtener su opinión y aprobación, especialmente cuando había fondos disponibles para proyectos grandes y costosos. Cualquiera que sea la consulta que se dice que se ha hecho, a menudo es solo superficial y apenas afecta la decisión ya tomada. Por ejemplo, cuando supuestamente sucedían "grandes cosas" detrás de un cerco de lamina de seis metros de alto que rodeaba el antiguo Mercado Central cerca del Puente Giratorio, solo cuando el trabajo estaba casi terminado, los ciudadanos curiosos se dieron cuenta de que nuestro Mercado Central había desaparecido y en su lugar se instaló un nuevo Edificio Comercial. Y algunos años más tarde, cuando se estaba considerando la remodelación del Parque Battlefield y el importante cambio de ruta del tráfico en el centro de la ciudad de Belize, se realizó alguna "consulta" con los conductores de la Calle Orange y probablemente la Calle Albert para obtener sus puntos de vista sobre el propuesto bloqueo de los dos carriles de salida que bordean el Banco Belize y el que bordea la tienda Brodies; pero nunca se publicaron números para indicar las opiniones de "sí" o "no" del público. Lo mismo con las obras realizadas en el Parque Memorial que retiraron todos los bancos con superficie de mármol patrocinados por ciudadanos que alguna vez adornaron el perímetro del parque. El hermoso Centro Cívico de Belize es quizás la evidencia más llamativa de la falta de consulta con la población. A medida que la estructura de más de 33 millones de dólares comenzó a tomar forma, los ciudadanos curiosos se preguntaban sobre la aparente falta de ventilación y si, como parecía, el edificio iba a depender del aire acondicionado. Y así fue, un maravilloso "elefante blanco" que es demasiado caro para que los grupos deportivos lo utilicen

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

I believe I won about seven gold medals for academics at the high school level of St. John's College between 1959 and 1963. (The late, incredibly gifted Ivan Gillett won all the gold medals for oratory.)

I did not become swell-headed, the main reason being that inside my family I could see at least two members, my dad and one of my maternal uncles, who were clearly my superiors in matters of the mind. Plus, when the Jesuit scholastic, Alvin Roy, began teaching algebra in my first year at SJC, I quickly realized this was territory where I was going to struggle.

The education system in Belize in my youth was liberal-arts oriented, you see, in the sense that it emphasized reading and writing, areas in which I was comfortable.

The point I want to get to is this, that our European masters felt it was

important that we, their colonial subjects, should grow up with the opinion that they were superior to us people of color in the intellectual sphere.

This is one of the reasons it is so important for you to read Malcolm X's autobiography, because he shows us how much magnificent brain talent was being destroyed in the oppressed black cities and towns of America.

One of the benefits of slavery for our European slave masters was the fact that our ancestors did almost all the heavy lifting, as it is said, so that European children could dedicate themselves to matters of the mind -- research, experiment, etc. The reason the European can go to the moon is because our ancestors were growing and harvesting the cotton and the sugar cane. I'm just saying. The European could push his children into science and medicine and so on.

So then, we Belizeans are now confronted with the fact that the coronavirus has wreaked havoc on our education system. Our children have lost a lot of ground.

Be that as it may, my thesis here is that we in Belize will never get off the ground educationally as a people unless and until the state takes over education and relegates the churches to their principal focus, which is God and salvation and redemption and so on.

The scholars will tell you that the reason the Europeans began to educate the natives in their colonial territories was because the Europeans wanted to prepare a native clergy to do missionary and education work for their faiths. I'm not saying there is anything wrong about this. It's just that this is 2022, and the emphasis for us Belizeans of color has to be on survival in the here and now.

My great grandfather on my father's

side was a blacksmith and mechanic. I feel that his skills would be more relevant to Belize's development than my reading and writing background. Again, this consciousness contributes to humbling me.

In these days of computers, internet and social media, no one is paying any attention to Shakespeare and Dickens. These are great writers in the English language whom my generation learned to hold in high esteem, because this was how the education system was in those days. Shakespeare and Dickens used to be big time. Today, who can say?

Around us, we can see two education systems which have been massively successful, compared to ours. These are the Cuban system and the Mennonite system. You will immediately condemn the Cuban system as communist. So then, what do you have to say about the Mennonite system, wise guys?

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Creo que gané unas siete medallas de oro por desempeño académico en nivel de la escuela secundaria del Colegio San Juan (SJC por sus siglas en inglés) entre 1959 y 1963. (El difunto e increíblemente talentoso Ivan Gillett ganó todas las medallas de oro en oratoria).

No me volví presuntuoso, la razón principal siendo que dentro de mi familia podía ver por lo menos a dos miembros, mi papá y uno de mis tíos maternos, quienes claramente eran mis superiores en asuntos de la mente. Además, cuando el escolástico jesuita, Alvin Roy, comenzó a enseñar álgebra en mi primer año en SJC, rápidamente me di cuenta de que este era un territorio en el que iba a tener dificultades.

El sistema educativo en Belize en mi juventud estaba orientado hacia las artes liberales, verán, en el sentido de que enfatizaba la lectura y la escritura, áreas en las que me sentía cómodo.

El punto al que quiero llegar es este, que nuestros amos europeos sintieron que era importante que nosotros, sus súbditos coloniales, creyéramos con la opinión de que eran superiores a nosotros, gente de color, en la esfera intelectual.

Esta es una de las razones por las que es tan importante que lean la autobiografía de Malcolm X, porque nos muestra cuánto magnífico talento cerebral estaba siendo destruido en las ciudades y pueblos negros oprimidos de Estados Unidos.

Uno de los beneficios de la esclavitud para nuestros amos europeos fue el hecho de que nuestros antepasados hicieron casi todo el trabajo pesado, como se dice, para que los niños europeos pudieran dedicarse a los asuntos de la mente: investigación, experimentación, etc. La razón por la que los europeos pueden ir a la luna es porque nuestros antepasados cultivaban y cosechaban el algodón y la caña de azúcar. Sólo digo. El europeo podría

empujar a sus hijos hacia la ciencia y la medicina, etc.

Entonces, los beliceños ahora nos enfrentamos al hecho de que el coronavirus ha causado estragos en nuestro sistema educativo. Nuestros hijos han perdido mucho terreno.

Sea como fuere, mi tesis aquí es que nosotros en Belize nunca despegaremos educativamente como pueblo a menos y hasta que el estado se haga cargo de la educación y relegue a las iglesias a su enfoque principal, que es Dios y la salvación y la redención, etc.

Los eruditos les dirán que la razón por la que los europeos comenzaron a educar a los nativos en sus territorios coloniales fue porque los europeos querían preparar un clero nativo para hacer trabajo misionero y educativo para sus religiones. No digo que haya nada malo en esto. Es solo que estamos en 2022, y el énfasis para nosotros, los beliceños de color, debe estar en la supervivencia aquí y ahora.

Mi bisabuelo por parte de mi padre era herrero y mecánico. Siento que sus habilidades serían más relevantes para el desarrollo de Belize que mis conocimientos de lectura y escritura. Una vez más, esta conciencia contribuye a humillarme.

En estos días de computadoras, Internet y redes sociales, nadie les presta atención a Shakespeare y Dickens. Estos son grandes escritores en la lengua inglesa a quienes mi generación supo tener en gran estima, porque así era el sistema educativo en esos días. Shakespeare y Dickens solían ser grandes. Hoy, ¿quién puede decir?

A nuestro alrededor, podemos ver dos sistemas educativos que han tenido un éxito masivo, en comparación con el nuestro. Estos son el sistema cubano y el sistema menonita. Inmediatamente condenarán al sistema cubano como comunista. Entonces, ¿qué tienen que decir sobre el sistema menonita, sabios?

Consulta y democracia

Continúa de página 8 En la actualidad, nuestros líderes deben apreciar que ahora existe la capacidad para una consulta rápida, eficaz y económica con los ciudadanos cuando se toman decisiones importantes sobre proyectos que pueden tener un impacto grande y duradero en la vida social y cultural de la comunidad. Como mínimo, los ciudadanos tienen derecho a saber antes de que se finalicen las decisiones. Los beliceños no deberían estar a oscuras si se contempla la decisión de reemplazar el antiguo puente giratorio con un moderno puente fijo de cemento. Es posible que quieran opinar sobre eso. Y, con la escasez actual de campos

de juego en la Ciudad de Belize, si el Ministerio de Educación cree que es prudente descartar el antiguo campo de fútbol en el campus del viejo Colegio Técnico y colocar otro edificio para educación técnica y vocacional en el lugar, una medida tan importante debería implicar algunas consultas. Puede ser que muchos antiguos estudiantes del Colegio Técnico, así como grupos deportivos que han disfrutado del uso del campo a lo largo de los años, apreciarían al menos tener un tiempo para su duelo antes de que se coloquen los primeros pilotes, o una plataforma para enviar sus argumentos emocionales o lógicos sobre por qué no creen que sea una buena idea.

John has big dreams! (Part 3)



by Clinton Canul Luna

His way of life had automatically changed, since he had gotten such a good job and was getting such a hefty salary. He now lived better, he had a good house, he had his personal driver, his truck, he had his good bed to sleep in. His life had completely changed, so much so that he was no longer called John, but instead, they called him Honorable John. With time, he got into the habit of exercising. On an early Friday morning, he went out as usual, at 5:00 in the morning to do his jogging, which consisted of 6 miles, 3 going and 3 returning. However, he woke up at the break of dawn because he wanted to feel the first rays of sunrise penetrate into his body, which boosts a chemical in the brain called serotonin and that can give you more energy and help keep you calm, positive and focused.

Ever since John learnt to read, he developed a passion for books, and in one of those he read that little recommendation, and obviously he wanted to be positive, energetic, and in good condition. Apart from him greeting the sun at dawn, he also enjoyed breathing in the fresh sea breeze, so every morning he would walk on the edge of the beach. Another little recommendation he had read in one of his beloved books was that the iodine, salt, and magnesium present in sea air can reduce the symptoms of asthma, promote respiratory health, improve allergies and skin problems, and stimulate the immune system. It also helps in relaxation. On that same Friday morning, one of his old friends from the underworld named Tom, saw him and yelled at him:

Tom: "John, how are you?"

(John just raised his hand and greeted

him, but Tom continued...)

Tom: "Wait for me, John. I want to talk to you! I want to tell you something! What, you don't remember me anymore?"

Then John stood up and replied, "Of course, Tom, I remember you perfectly."

Tom: "Well, I want to ask you a question, John, because the boys, our male and female companions have told me to ask you when I see you and now that I have seen you, I want to ask you that question."

So, John tells him:

John: "Tom, do me a favor. You know I appreciate you and all my friends, but I want to ask you a favor. When I'm alone it's fine for you to call me John, but when you see me in a crowd, refer to me as Honorable John."

Tom: "That is fine, John. Whatever you say."

John: "Let's see, what question did you want to ask?"

Tom: "It's that they don't understand what is happening with the price increase and they hear that the culprit is Russia. What do you know about that?"

John: "Look Tom, it's a pretty big topic to go into and right now I can't do it because I'm doing my exercises and then I have work to do, but I invite all of you on Sunday morning at 8:00. I'm going to explain it to you then."

Tom: "But where are you inviting us?"

John: "At the Rainbow Beach."

Tom: "Rainbow Beach? Where is Rainbow Beach?"

John: "What do you mean where is it? Where it always was."

Tom: "No, I think they call it Water Park now."

John: "No, that seems to be a private company; it seems that it is a private beach. I do not know that beach."

Tom: "Well, the one beside it."

John: "Oh, I know what you're talking about. Where there was a house they called 'Rest House' where the Father of the Nation stayed every time he visited Corozal. The British soldiers also used to stay there, and the children that gathered were given chocolate and biscuit. Is that the place you're talking about?"

Tom: "No, because that place is already called Water Park."

John: "Oh, and what happened to it?"

Tom: "Well, look, the coconut trees were planted by a man from the UDP and he also installed a public bathroom."

John: "Well, what does that have to do with anything?"

Tom: "I'm asking if you mean that place."

John: "No, I don't mean that place. I mean a place that has always been called Rainbow Beach."

Tom: "Ah, John, you haven't noticed, but they put a sign on which says that it's Rainbow Park."

John: "Oh no, Tom. Rainbow Park is the one in front of Civic Center; that's Rainbow Park; the other one is Rainbow Beach."

Tom: "Well, look. I don't know who is making so many name changes without saying anything and, well, we already know what Rainbow Beach is and what Rainbow Park is, but so many changes that they make, and we don't even know anything about it."

John: "Well, whatever it is, you know

what I mean. I'm going to talk to my boss. My boss, as you know, is from the 'Blue Economy'. I'm going to ask him to lend me a tent and chairs so you can sit down. What would you like to eat?"

Tom: "Hey, we'd like some tamales."

John: "Well, tamales. And to drink?"

Tom: "Well, you know."

John: "No, no, no, no. I can't invite you to that. They won't allow me. I'm going to talk to my boss to see if he gives me permission to be able to entertain, plus we need your votes."

Tom: "Well, some horchata."

John: "Well then, tamales with horchata. There, at 8:00 in the morning at Rainbow Beach."

Tom: "But what if they're playing volleyball?"

John: "No. Well, there's the other piece over there; we can do it there. All that will be fixed by Sunday. Don't worry. We'll see each other there, and I'll explain to you the little I know about the issue of the war and the economic situation where prices are rising everywhere. Everything went up."

Tom: "Okay, Honorable John. Well, see you on Sunday then."

John: "Yes, Tom."

fincasolan@gmail.com

June 25, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town



Why You Don't Need to 'Keep It Together' Around Kids Right Now

Just a few days before the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, I got a text message from my 11-year-old son in the middle of the day — somewhat unusual, since he knows he's not supposed to text during school.

"I'm OK right now," it read, "but I'm in a lockdown, and if worse comes to worst I love you."

I had to read the message a few times before the words actually made sense. When they did, my head spun, I felt cold and hot all over, and I had to lean against a wall to steady myself.

For the next 2 hours, I waited for official updates from his school, my stomach knotting and churning all the while.

My son and I established, over a flurry of text messages, that he was safe in a classroom "with advantages for escape" and mostly feeling calm. He joked about the lockdown possibly being due to a bear visiting the school grounds.

Still, I could tell he was scared. He asked

me to give each of our pets "lots of love" from him and warned me not to call, just in case.

Turns out, the school went into lockdown after some students reported that another student had brought a gun to school. It ended up being a rumor — I'm extremely fortunate my son never faced any real danger.

Later, when we talked through the day, he said he hadn't wanted me to worry about him. I assured him he'd done just the right thing texting me, no matter how frightened I'd been.

I didn't detail in words exactly what I had feared, but I also didn't hold back. I reminded him it was OK to feel scared, upset, even angry, and that talking about those feelings could help us work through them.

Parents have to face the reality of school shootings every day

The experience drove home the current nightmarish reality of parenting in the United



States: Sending a child to school each morning means acknowledging the chance they won't come home.

To add to the nightmare, children have to face that reality themselves each time they run through an active shooter drill or learn about the most recent school shooting.

If you think that sounds overly dramatic, consider this:

In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that firearm-related injuries had overtaken traffic accident injuries to become the leading cause of death for children and adolescents.

That means more U.S. children (anyone between the ages of 1 and 19) die by acts

of gun violence than by any other cause of death, including:

- car crashes
- drug overdose or poisoning
- suffocation
- drowning
- illness or accidental injury

In the face of data like that, how are you supposed to hide your fear, frustration, and anger in front of your kids when news of yet another school shooting breaks? I argue that you *shouldn't* keep those emotions to yourself — and experts largely agree.

Full article can be viewed by [healthline.com](https://www.healthline.com)

First published by Healthline

Humanity vs Nature



Photo taken with a drone showing the size of the extraction site; road can be seen in lower left corner about 30 meters in width

by: *Fredric Consejo*

Belize is a Caribbean country on the northeastern coast of Central America. It is bordered by Mexico to the north, the Caribbean Sea to the east, and Guatemala to the west and south. It has an area of 22,970 square kilometres (8,867 sq. miles) and a population of 419,199 (2020). Its mainland is about 290 km (180 miles) long and 110 km (68 miles) wide. It has the lowest population and population density in Central America. It is considered a tax haven. (Wikipedia)

For whatever reasons/motives, the government of Belize decided in 2019 to ask for a loan of 50 million US dollars from the government of Taiwan for the improvement of the road between the town of Corozal (district of Corozal) and the village of Sarteneja (located in the same district). Sarteneja is the largest fishing community and the second largest village in Belize. It recorded a population of 3,500, according to a 2016 estimate. The name Sarteneja is a Castilian distortion of its original Mayan name “Tza-ten-a-ha”, which means ‘water between the rocks’. (Wikipedia).

On November 14, 2019, the date on which the work officially began, Channel 5 television announced: “With a 50-million US dollar loan from the government of Taiwan, the groundbreaking took place today of a stretch of 27 miles of road from Corozal to Sarteneja... The work is expected to be completed in more than four years and is one of the biggest infrastructure projects up north.” On the same day, 7News reported: “Remus Li-Ko Chen, Ambassador of Taiwan to Belize: ‘This very important infrastructure project, I must emphasize, is truly brought here out of the goodwill of Taiwan for the people, communities and businesses of Corozal. According to the OECC feasibility study, this project will contribute substantially to reduce travel time, enhance road safety, increasing investment opportunities and prosperity and uplifting for both communities within this project area and all Belizean people alike’. Hon. Rene Montero—Minister for Fisheries: ‘This project is 27 miles. It will involve the replacing of 2 ferries. We will replace them with 2 bridges, and that will assist the people

living in that area, because you can bring economic benefits. It will reduce the time moving from Corozal to Sarteneja. This project will take 54 months and a Taiwanese company got the contract to construct this road because they have experience in Central America and the region and this project will take 54 months to complete’.”

Two years later the topic reappeared in the media and on October 8, 2021, breakingbelizenews.com quoted a statement: by the Taiwan Embassy: “this project will benefit local communities tremendously, as well as boost the economic development in the northern region of Belize”.

A 380-page study of the environmental impact of this project was released by Belize’s Department of Public Works in January 2020. It contains very comprehensive information such as bridge projects, road layout, safety, pollution, social issues, hydrological data, excavation of raw materials... just to name a few. On page 200 of this study, under the chapter 6.3.2 “Evaluation of Material Sources”, the sub-chapter 6.3.2.2, “Site selection criteria,” defines the following: “Reduced Footprint, sites that have the ability to yield large volumes of material within a limited acreage, limestone hillocks with lateral exposure exceeding 20 m relative to surrounding topography, limestone and marl areas with an elevation that allows for minimum depth of extraction of 3m relative to surrounding topography without breach of the water table, gravel sites with gravel deposit extending 3m or deeper.”

The photo presented here was taken with a drone at an altitude of 500 meters with a 35mm equivalent focal length: 24mm. In order to be able to assess the size of this extraction site, you have to look at the road in the lower left corner; its width is about 30 meters. The greatest distance on this site, therefore, seems to be close to 750 meters. In the lower center, dirt transport trucks are parked. The green surfaces appear to be groundwater rising from too deep an excavation, and none of the criteria set out in the abovementioned chapter appear to be applied.

Please turn to Page 14

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Vacancies exist for the following positions. Successful candidates will be required to obtain a security clearance and undergo a medical examination.

(1) Housekeeper (2 positions):

BASIC FUNCTION OF THE POSITION:

Duties include day-to-day housekeeping, organizing, dusting, vacuuming, laundry services, changing and maintaining bedding, ironing, cleaning floor and counter surfaces, assisting with plans for events and functions, serving at these functions, shopping for household supplies, maintaining shopping records and inventory, pet care (if applicable), tending to house plants, identifying maintenance issues, and escorting staff. All responsibilities shall be completed on time and thoroughly, with utmost integrity and honesty, and in a manner representing the highest U.S. standards of customer service.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- At least two years prior experience in housekeeping is required
- A good command of reading, writing, and speaking English is required
- Must have initiative, good interpersonal skills and flexibility

(2) Chef:

BASIC FUNCTION OF THE POSITION:

Duties include but are not limited to planning, budgeting, shopping, preparing and presenting a variety of meal services for the residence and for events of 2 to 200 guests. With an understanding of nutritional balance and essential elements, the Chef’s repertoire must include a diverse and wide range of cooking styles and meal types, including appetizers for receptions, baked goods, desserts, and the ability to create vegetarian/vegan meals and cater to gluten sensitivities. The Chef will also be required to maintain expense records for each event or function, create menus, manage inventory, and assure the highest standards of safety, cleanliness, and proper food preparation and storage. The Chef is required to plan menus in advance and carry out the actual purchasing of supplies and ingredients necessary to produce the dishes reflected in the set menus. All responsibilities shall be completed on time, with integrity and honesty, and in a manner representing the highest U.S. standards of customer service.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- At least three years of culinary experience in a hotel/restaurant setting is required
- Associate Degree or completion of culinary/catering certificate program or in the absence of an Associate Degree, five years of culinary experience in a hotel or restaurant setting
- Must have a fluent command of reading, writing, and speaking English, and the ability to follow recipes and cooking instructions of varying complexity
- Must have initiative, good interpersonal skills and flexibility

WHO MAY APPLY: Applicants must be in possession of a Belize social security card valid for employment and/or a resident/work permit, and be eligible for appointment under Belize’s local laws.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates must submit a letter of application, current résumé, two references and all other applicable supporting documentation by email to BelmopanJobs@state.gov. All applications must include in the subject line which position they are applying for (eg: **Employment Application for Chef position**). Incomplete applications will not be considered. For a complete copy of the position description listing all duties and responsibilities, please send an email to BelmopanJobs@state.gov or call at 822-4011, Ext. 4242. The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday, July 1, 2022**.



Round 1 Week 1 of National Amateur Interdistrict Championship

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 27, 2022

Twenty (20) teams from the ten (10) country zones paired off in combat over the weekend for the first leg of a home-and-away series, the first round of competition in the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) 2022 National Amateur Interdistrict Championship. At the completion of the home-and-away series, the 10 winners along with the 6 best losers from Round One will be combined together for the knockout Round of 16 which follows.

There has been a slight change in the Round One format. It was previously announced that Round One would be one game only, after which the 10 winners and 6 best losers would advance to the Round of 16; but after some complaints and agitation from the clubs, it was agreed to let Round One be a home-and-away affair, a much more fair approach by all account.

In Round One Week One this past weekend, 5 games were scheduled for Saturday and 5 for Sunday.

Saturday, June 25

At 4:00 p.m. at the Victor Sanchez Union Field in Punta Gorda, it was the visitors, Atletico FC from Belmopan coming away with the 4-1 victory over Silver Creek FC of Toledo. Atletico goals were by Tyriq Ciego (55'), Wilfredo Galvez (40') and Sean Caliz (67' & 76'); while Michael Saki (78') got the lone goal for Silver Creek.

Meanwhile, at the Louisiana Football Field in Orange Walk, it was the home team, Caribbean Rum Boys prevailing, 3-0, over the visiting Corozal United Ballers. The Rum Boys got a brace from Nazim Aldana (51' & 57') after Francisco Rivas (7') had opened the scoring early.

At 6:00 p.m. at the Ricalde Stadium in Corozal, it was a real battle to the end, with the home team, Libertad FC prevailing, 4-3, over Bella Vista FC from Independence. Shaking the net for Libertadores were Gregory Banner (20'), Shedrick Swaso (44' & 80') and Ardon Budna (58'); while Bella Vista goals came from Wilmer Echeveria (22' & 55') and Eduardo Martinez (80').

Also with a 6:00 p.m. kickoff, it was a see-saw battle at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium where a late strike by Danny Jimenez, Jr. secured a 3-3 draw for his visiting team, Benque Verdes Jrs. against Belmopan's Galacticos FC. Jalen Myers had a hat trick (27', 37' & 57') for Galacticos; while Danny Jimenez struck twice (30' & 89') and Byron Manzanero (32') got the other goal for Benque Verdes Jrs.

Meanwhile, it was another tight contest at the Marshalleck Stadium in Benque Viejo, where home team ZBoys FC and visiting Bambas FC from Midsouth played to a 1-1 draw. Marshan Lozano (11') gave Bambas the early lead,

but Darren Mis (29') equalized for ZBoys.

Sunday, June 26

The Victor Sanchez Union Field was the scene of a more intense battle, starting at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, where home standing Mavericks FC seemed close to a 3-1 victory; but a late surge by Lake-IFC from Belize City produced 2 goals to secure a 3-3 draw. Jaren Lambey (31' & 63') and Estevan Nicholas (76') hit the target for Mavericks; while Lake-I got a goal each from Deltroy Gamboa (19'), Francis Arana (83') and Floyd Jones (89').

Meanwhile, at the Santa Elena Complex in Cayo, first half goals by Sydney Petillo (28') and James Martinez (42') were enough to give Hopkins Ibayani from Stann Creek the 2-1 victory over Santa Elena Royal United, whose only goal was by Lavaun Garnett (48').

Here at the MCC Grounds in Belize City, home team Kelly Street Bombers got an early lead through Steven "Breds" Baizar (10'), but Griga Conquerors FC came back strong in second half with goals from Izon Gill (63') and Wayne Ford (71') to come away with the 2-1 road win.

It was a double-header out at Ambergris Stadium on Sunday, with matches scheduled for 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. In the opener, home fans were disappointed as visiting Progreso FC from Orange Walk shelled San Pedro's Jokers FC, 5-1, with goals from Jaheim Augustine (45+' & 50'), Richard Omoruyi (46'), Zamir Bonilla (90+') and Ryan Gonzalez (62'); while Luis Hyde's (52') goal prevented the shutout for Jokers.

San Pedro fans got something to cheer about in the nightcap, however, as their Conquerors FC claimed a 3-1 victory over Flames FC from Cayo. Conquerors got a goal apiece from Osllyn Valle (26'), Edilberto Caliz (33') and Jose Rubi (58'); while Manuel Romero (69') scored for Flames.

The decisive second leg of Round One is next.

Upcoming Round 1 Week 2 schedule:

Saturday, July 2

6:30 p.m. – Bella Vista FC vs Libertad FC – M.A. Stadium in Independence

7:00 p.m. – Atletico FC vs Silver Creek FC – Isidoro Beaton Stadium

7:00 p.m. – Verdes Juniors vs Galacticos FC – Marshalleck Stadium

Sunday, July 3

4:00 p.m. – Flames FC vs Conquerors FC – Norman Broaster Stadium

4:00 p.m. – Griga Conquerors FC vs Kelly Street Bombers – Carl Ramos Stadium

4:00 p.m. – Bambas vs ZBoys – M.A. Stadium in Independence

4:00 p.m. – United Ballers vs Caribbean Rum Boys – Ricalde Stadium

Benque and San Ignacio/Santa Elena Basketball Tournament nears playoffs

by Karim Juan

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Mon. June 27, 2022

Week 3 of the Benque and San Ignacio/Santa Elena Basketball Tournament continued this past weekend at the Resilience Center at the Victor Galvez Stadium in San Ignacio Town. The Under 15 and Under 18 teams will battle in a best-of-three playoff series while the top 4 teams in the Open division will advance to the semi-finals. Below are the regular season scores, standings and the upcoming schedule.

Friday, June 24 results

(Under 18) Love Soul Mambas, 79-29, over Snipers. Love Soul Mambas – Zoren Deceninck 22 pts, Kishawn Usher 20 pts, Eliel Landero 17 pts. Snipers – Christian Baiza 8 pts, Emerson Corrales 6 pts.

(Open Male) Assassins, 95-26, over Vikings. Assassins – Shemar White 31 pts, Dominic Gill 14 pts, Denzel Nunez 12 pts, Aaron Allison 10 pts. Vikings – Alvan Gentle 12 pts, Isaac August 5 pts.

(Open Male) Venom, 72-30, over Tigers. Venom – Elvert "PG" Arriola 34 pts, Joel Montejo 16 pts, Johan "Cutto" Bermudez 8 pts. Tigers – Brandon Anderson 8 pts, Rupert Hendy 5 pts.

Saturday, June 25 results

(Under 15) Assassins Jr., 28-17, over Benque Basketball Academy. Assassins Jr. – Jeremy Carbajal 17 pts, Roy "Sonny" Valentine 7 pts. Benque Academy – Hua Qiang Zhao 11 pts, Byron Rosas 4 pts.

(Open Male) Outdoors, 56-49, over West Kings. Outdoors – Alejandro Baptist 16 pts, Kevin Brown 11 pts. West Kings – Kieran Dart 24 pts, Matthew Morales 19 pts.

(Open Male) Venom, 54-52, over Assassins. Venom – Johan "Cutto" Bermudez 11 pts, Allizair Rhaburn 10 pts, Elvert "PG" Arriola 10 pts, Frank Fuller 9 pts. Assassins – Shemar White 18 pts, Jamie Carbajal 15 pts, Ryan "Mentes" Carbajal 8 pts.

Below are the standings with 2 weekends remaining for the regular season.

OPEN				
TEAM	Games Played	Wins	Losses	Points
Venom	5	5	0	15
Assassins	4	3	1	10
Outdoors	3	3	0	9
West Kings	3	1	2	5
Benque No-Hops	3	0	3	3
Vikings	3	0	3	3
Tigers	3	0	3	3
UNDER 15				
TEAM	Games Played	Wins	Losses	Points
Assassins Jr.	2	2	0	6
Benque Basketball Academy	2	0	2	2
UNDER 18				
TEAM	Games Played	Wins	Losses	Points
Love Soul Mambas	1	1	0	3
Snipers	1	0	1	1

Below is the schedule for this coming weekend. The games for this weekend will be played at the Deacon Basketball Court in Benque Viejo Town.

Upcoming schedule:

Friday, July 1

6:30 p.m. – (U18) Snipers vs Love Soul Mambas

7:30 p.m. – (Open) Vikings vs Benque No-Hops

9:00 p.m. – (Open) Tigers vs Outdoors

Saturday, July 2

6:30 p.m. – (Open) Vikings vs West Kings

7:30 p.m. – (Open) Venom vs Outdoors

9:00 p.m. – (Open) Benque No-Hops vs Tigers

4:00 p.m. – Progreso FC vs Joker – MCC Grounds
 FC – Louisiana Football Field 6:30 p.m. – Hopkins Ibayani vs Santa Elena Royal – Carl Ramos Stadium
 4:00 p.m. – Lake-I FC vs Mavericks



Jewel Fury “on the ropes” at Leg 1 of NAWL Group A Semifinals

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 27, 2022

Leg 1 in the Semifinals of the National Amateur Women’s League (NAWL) 2022 Opening Season kicked off over the weekend, and defending champions Jewel Fury lost their Group A semifinal opener on the road to San Pedro Pirates, who need only a draw in the return match this weekend to eliminate the defending champs from the playoffs.

On Saturday night, June 25, out at the Ambergris Stadium, defending champions Jewel Fury lost the first leg of the Group A semifinals to San Pedro Pirates by a 2-1 score. The Pirates took a late first half lead through Elva Nunez (40’), but shortly after second half started, Group A leading goal scorer Khalydia Velasquez (49’) got the equalizer for Jewel Fury. It looked like a draw game until near the end when Iamara Baptist (89’) scored the game winner for the Pirates. Leg 2 of their semifinal should be a monster this coming weekend in Belmopan.

Earlier in the afternoon in the other Group A semifinal Leg 1 at the M.A. Stadium in Independence, it was the Sagitun Girlz cruising to a 3-0 win over their Independence counterparts Rumberas FC. Sagitun got a goal apiece from Sabrina Eiley (57’), Reah Burgess (78’) and Jurshia Zuniga (87’) and will be in the driver’s seat for the return match this weekend.

Meanwhile, at the Norman Broaster Stadium in San Ignacio, it was a northern invasion as Corozal’s Bay City FC ran

over home standing Santa Elena Strikers by an 11-0 margin in Leg 1 of their Group B semifinal. Sharing the scoring for Bay City were Darina Tzul (19’), Group B leading scorer Anahie Blanco (14’, 38’, 46’ & 56’), Aaliyah Herbert (20’, 27’ & 47’) and Kaite Jones (29’, 31’ & 79’).

The other Group B semifinal was at the Carl Ramos Stadium in Dangriga where Wagiy United SC blanked the visiting Cayo Dreamers, 3-0, with goals from Angie Delcid (14’), Rainelle Moss (55’) and Shiniki Mena (77’).

Leg 2 of both the Group A and Group B semifinals are set for this Saturday, July 2. While the Bay City – Santa Elena Strikers rematch is a foregone conclusion with the 11-0 Bay City victory in Leg 1, the situation is not as decisive for Wagiy SC and Sagitun Girlz who both won their semifinals by a 3-0 margin, and the Jewel Fury vs San Pedro Pirates clash with only 1 goal separating them will undoubtedly be the game to watch this weekend.

NAWL Semifinals Leg 2 schedule:

Saturday, July 2

4:00 p.m. – (A) Jewel Fury vs San Pedro Pirates – Isidoro Beaton Stadium

4:00 p.m. – (A) Rumberas FC vs Sagitun Girlz – M.A. Stadium in Independence

4:00 p.m. – (B) Bay City FC vs Santa Elena Strikers – Ricalde Stadium

4:00 p.m. – (B) Cayo Dreamers vs Wagiy United SC – Norman Broaster Stadium

National Basketball Tournament completes Week 2 games at Marion Jones

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 27, 2022

The National Basketball Tournament 2022, being coordinated countrywide by the National Sports Council, completed its Week 2 games for Belize City on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, June 22 and 23, at the Marion Jones Sports Complex. There are 6 teams in the U15 category, 7 in the U18, and 11 in the Open category of the Belize City competition.

Remaining Week 2 results

Wednesday, June 22

(Open) Westland defeated Belama Gators, 56-37. Westland – Alex Ariola 17 pts. Belama Gators – Travis Baptist 15 pts.

(Open) Island Ballaz over Eagles SC, 61-53. Island Ballaz – Raymond Gongora 18pts. Eagles SC – Ryan Michael 25 pts.

(Open) No Limit, 62-40, over

Garcia’s Motors. No Limit – Brandon Rogers 18 pts. Garcia’s Motors – Jarret Davis 12 pts.

Thursday, June 23

(U15) 24/8 defeated Little Jaguars, 33-22. 24/8 – Amare Rhys 4 pts. Little Jaguars – Ajare August 8 pts.

(U18) We Got Game over Boy Warriors, 54-30. We Got Game – Jared Mena and Cameron Heusner 11 pts each. Boy Warriors – Fitzroy McClaren and Tyrique Flowers 9 pts each.

(U18) 501 Gators, 46-27, over FSN Vision – Jahred Bodden 10 pts. FSN Vision – David Maheia 11 pts.

(U18) ABS Hard Rock crushed OTM Ballers, 94-11. ABS Hard Rock – Devin Moody 16 pts. OTM Ballers – Marquis Rodriguez 6 pts.

(Open) Complex Titans, 72-67, over Boom Ballers. Complex Titans – Francis Arana 24 pts. Boom Ballers



El Salvador’s abortion ban: ‘I was sent to prison for suffering a miscarriage’



Elsy served 10 years in prison for aggravated homicide after she suffered a miscarriage

by Will Grant

BBC News, San Salvador, El Salvador

The news from the US that women face tighter restrictions on abortion has been felt in El Salvador, which itself has very strict laws preventing access.

In February, four women sat down before the full glare of El Salvador’s press. Between them, they had served nearly 50 years in prison.

Their crime was to have the misfortune of suffering a miscarriage - in a country with one of the strictest abortion laws in the world.

Among them was Elsy.

In June 2011, Elsy was pregnant and working as a domestic worker in her hometown. She remembers going to the toilet at work, where she apparently passed out.

When she came to a little later, she was surrounded by police officers. Her baby was gone. Her boss had reported her for terminating the pregnancy.

At her trial, Elsy was sentenced to 30 years for aggravated homicide. She served 10 before campaigners managed to get her sentence shortened.

“I felt terrible in prison, all I could think of was the 30 years,” Elsy told the BBC. “I thought I’d never see my mother or any of my family again.”

Elsy tried to distract herself in jail. She got her high school diploma, participated in workshops and volunteered at the prison church.

Yet it wasn’t enough to stop her from entering a dark place in her head.

“I just kept thinking, ‘Why? Why did

those who testified against me do this?’”

Now back living with her family, Elsy says her sentence was simply an “injustice which happens” in El Salvador. She points out there are many still going through what she did.

As recently as May, a woman identified as “Esme” was sentenced to 30 years, also for aggravated homicide following a miscarriage.

But protests have been difficult since the country’s controversial president, Nayib Bukele, imposed a state of exception giving the police wide-ranging powers of arrest.

Mariana Moisa is one of the leading women’s rights activists in El Salvador. She is part of the “green wave” abortion rights movement sweeping across Latin America.

Ms Moisa says their battle isn’t just to free the women or even change the law, but to shift attitudes in society.

“We have to keep working, it depends on us and not the political parties”, she says at her organisation’s headquarters in San Salvador. “We have to face up to our reality and promote real cultural changes.”

Over in the United States, the US Supreme Court has overturned a ruling that made abortion a constitutional right.

Campaigners like Ms Moisa fear this will strengthen the hand of conservatives across Central America.

The US would do well to look south, she warns, to see how an outright ban can lead to “denying women their freedom in these circumstances”.

Changing attitudes in El Salvador won’t come easily, though.

Padre Vito Guarato is a home for abandoned children in San Salvador, many of whom have some form of disability.

Five-year-old resident Ana Lucia has microcephaly, where children are born with significantly smaller heads, possibly due to infection with the Zika virus.

Lying in her cot, surrounded by donated teddy bears, Ana Lucia needs

Please turn to **Page 14**

– Malcolm Gallego – 17 pts.

Upcoming Week 3 schedule:

Monday, June 27, 2022

4:00 p.m. – (U15) Future Champs vs Little Jaguars

5:00 p.m. – (U15) Grace Primary vs 501 Gators

6:00 p.m. – (U18) FSN Vision vs Ladyville Dream Ballers

Tuesday, June 28

5:30 p.m. – (Open) Island Ballaz vs Westland

6:30 p.m. – (Open) Garcia’s Motors vs Belama Gators

7:30 p.m. – (Open) Eagle’s SC vs

No Limit

Wednesday, June 29

4:00 p.m. – (U18) FSN Vision vs OTM Ballers

5:00 p.m. – (U18) Boy Warriors vs 501 Gators

6:00 p.m. – (U15) ABS Hard Rock vs 501 Gators

7:00 p.m. – (U18) ABS Hard Rock vs Car Guys

Thursday, June 30

5:30 p.m. – (Open) Boom Ballers vs Tuff E Nuff

6:30 p.m. – (Open) Trucker’s Posse vs Complex Titans

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Gabriel D. Wrobel,
Associate
Professor of
Anthropology,
Michigan State
University

Two trophy skulls, discovered by archaeologists in the jungles of Belize, may help shed light on the little-understood collapse of the once powerful Classic Maya civilization.

The defleshed and painted human skulls, meant to be

worn around the neck as pendants, were buried with a warrior over a thousand years ago at Pacbitun, a Maya city. They likely represent gruesome symbols of military might: war trophies made from the heads of defeated foes.

Both skulls are similar to depictions of trophy skulls worn by victorious soldiers in stone carvings and on painted ceramic vessels from other Maya sites.

Drilled holes likely held feathers, leather straps or both. Other holes served to anchor the jaws in place and suspend the cranium around the warrior's neck, while the backs were sawed off to make the skulls lie flat on the wearer's chest.

Flecks of red paint decorate one of the jaws. It's carved with glyphic writing that includes what my collaborator Christophe Helmke, an expert on Maya writing, believes is the first known instance of the Maya term for "trophy skull."

What do these skulls — where they were found and who they were from — tell us about the end of a powerful political system that thrived for centuries, covering southeastern Mexico, all of Guatemala and Belize, and portions of Honduras and El Salvador? My colleagues and I are thinking about them as clues to understanding this tumultuous



How did military conflict fit into the end of a mighty civilization? AP Photo/Moises Castillo

period.

What ended a civilization?

The vast Maya empire flourished throughout Central America, with the first major cities appearing between 750 and 500 B.C. But beginning in the southern lowlands of Guatemala, Belize and Honduras in the eighth century A.D., people abandoned major Maya cities throughout the region. Archaeologists are fascinated by the mystery of what we call "the collapse" of this once powerful empire.

Earlier studies focused on identifying a single cause of the collapse. Could it have been environmental degradation resulting from the increasing demands of overpopulated cities? Warfare? Loss of faith in leaders? Drought?

All of these certainly took place, but none on its own fully explains what researchers know about the collapse that gradually swept through the landscape over the course of a century and a half. Today, archaeologists acknowledge the complexity of what happened.

Clearly violence and warfare contributed to the end of some southern lowland cities, as evidenced by quickly constructed fortifications identified by aerial LiDAR surveys at a number of sites.

what purpose? A higher speed generates an additional fuel consumption and represents, therefore, a new source of pollution. On an elevated road (to be out of the water in the rainy season), without side safety rails, of which the speed will be limited to 90 km/h, will we be safer than on a dirt road where we could hardly reach 50 km/h?

50 million US dollars, 100 million Belize dollars. When we know that the village of Sarteneja distributes in its drinking water network salt water with a rate of total dissolved solids higher than the safety standards, there is reason to believe that a better use of such amounts could be made in a country ranked 184th out of 210 for its GDP by the World Bank in 2018.

Article shared by Fredric Consejo. Written as a part of his participation in the international contest: "Environmental Photography Award 2022" — Humanity vs Nature

Trophies made from human skulls hint at regional conflicts around the time of Maya civilization's mysterious collapse

Trophy skulls, together with a growing list of scattered finds from other sites in Belize, Honduras and Mexico, provide intriguing evidence that the conflict may have been civil in nature, pitting rising powers in the north against the established dynasties in the south.

Piecing together the skulls' social context

Ceramic vessels found alongside the Pacbitun warrior and his (or her — the bones were too fragmentary to confidently determine sex) trophy skull date to the eighth or ninth century, just prior to the site's abandonment.

During this period, Pacbitun and other Maya cities in the southern lowlands were beginning their decline, while Maya political centers in the north, in what is now the Yucatan of Mexico, rose to dominance. But the exact timing and nature of this power transition remains uncertain.

In many of these northern cities, art from this period is notoriously militaristic, abounding with skulls and bones and often showing war captives being killed and decapitated.

At Pakal Na, another southern site in Belize, a similar trophy skull was discovered inscribed with fire and animal imagery resembling northern military symbolism, suggesting a northern origin of the warrior it was buried with. The presence of northern military paraphernalia in the form of these skulls may point to a loss of control by local leaders.

Archaeologist Patricia McAnany has argued that the presence of northerners in the river valleys of central Belize may be related to the lucrative trade of cacao, the plant from which chocolate is made. Cacao was an important ingredient in rituals, and a symbol of wealth and power of Maya elites. However, the geology of the northern Yucatan makes it difficult to grow cacao on a large scale, necessitating the establishment of a reliable supply source from elsewhere.

At the northern site of Xuenkal,

Mexico, Vera Tiesler and colleagues used strontium isotopes to pinpoint the geographic origin of a warrior and his trophy skull. He was local from the north. But the trophy skull he brought home, found atop his chest in burial, was from an individual who grew up in the south.

Other evidence at a number of sites in the southern highlands seems to mark a sudden and violent end for the community's ruling order. Archaeologists have found evidence for the execution of one ruling family and desecration of sacred sites and elite tombs. At the regional capital site of Tipan Chen Uitz, approximately 20 miles (30 kilometers) east of Pacbitun, my colleagues and I found remains of several carved stone monuments that seem to have been intentionally smashed and strewn across the front of the main ceremonial pyramid.

Trophy skulls and power dynamics
Archaeologists are not only interested in identifying the timing and the social and environmental factors associated with collapse, which vary in different regions. We're also trying to figure out how specific communities and their leaders responded to the unique combinations of these stresses they faced.

While the evidence from just a handful of trophy skulls does not conclusively show that sites in parts of the southern lowlands were being overrun by northern warriors, it does at least point to the role of violence and, potentially, warfare as contributing to the end of the established political order in central Belize.

These grisly artifacts lend an intriguing element to the sweep of events that resulted in the end of one of the richest, most sophisticated, scientifically advanced cultures of its time.

This article is republished from The Conversation, a nonprofit news site dedicated to sharing ideas from academic experts. It was written by: Gabriel D. Wrobel, Michigan State University.

Humanity vs Nature

Continued from ▶ Page 11

To carry out this project at the exorbitant cost of 50 million US dollars for 44 km, or 1.13 million per kilometer, several hundred hectares of jungle will have been cleared and burned. The fertile upper layer of the soil having been removed, very few species of plants will be able to grow in the limestone of the abandoned sites. No facilities for wildlife, such as tunnels to cross the road are planned. Is there a real gain for the population?

The debt is growing. Air pollution generated by burned trees, by gases emanating from road tar, by trucks transporting millions of cubic meters of earth, surplus tar and concrete spilled on the extraction sites. Is it useful for the welfare of humanity?

Yes, some people have a job and can support their families and 3,500 people are less isolated. Yes, also, we will go faster from Corozal to Sarteneja, but for

El Salvador's abortion ban...

Continued from ▶ Page 13

round-the-clock attention. Her carers do everything they can to provide her with a comfortable and dignified life.

But in truth, with no option to abort in El Salvador, some parents see little choice but to abandon.

"I think the mothers should assume their responsibility", says Rosa Evelyn, one of the managers at the church-run children's home.

"If God bestowed upon you the virtue of becoming a mother, then you must be one for as long as God allows it," she says.

It's a view shared by many in this traditionally Catholic nation.

What's more, the fastest-growing religion in Central America today is evangelical Christianity.

As its reach grows, so too does its political clout, with evangelical values

and views increasingly present inside parliament.

Guillermo Gallegos, one of the vice presidents of the national assembly, is staunchly anti-abortion.

He insists decriminalisation would never pass the first legislative hurdle, "even where the mother's life is at risk".

"In any case where that little creature still has life," he tells me, "then I lean towards saving it over saving the mother".

In a national address on the anniversary of his third year in office, President Bukele applauded a plan, led by his wife, to make childbirth safer in El Salvador's public hospitals.

Abortion, though, remains strictly off limits, even in cases of incest or rape - an entrenched view now bolstered by the ruling of the US Supreme Court.

First published by BBC News

Father of 6 killed on Friday morning

Continued from ▶ Page 1

in the St. Martin's area. He was found in his vehicle, a white Toyota 4Runner, with a single gunshot wound, after his car reportedly crashed into the fence of a resident of the area.

"It would want to appear that, that person may have boarded the vehicle, in a pretentious state of wanting a cab, and then that person did their execution. We have received several tips so far," Police Communications Director, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, said in an interview this afternoon.

He said that the Police Department had come across information indicating that Pantan may have been involved in a transaction with an unnamed family member that possibly went awry, and that might have led to his death.

"We are following some information that he may have been involved in some form of business with a family that is very upset right now. I don't know if their business went sideways; the information would want to suggest that this is as a result of some form of business that went bad between him and those other parties," Yearwood noted.

Yearwood further indicated that the police will try to access video footage from the surveillance camera in the area, and hope to get any help they can from eyewitnesses from the area.

Yearwood told reporters, "Whenever an incident occurs, we try to narrow it down so that we can know exactly which cameras to review, and we are hoping that investigation will get some meaningful material from these surveillances. We also rely a lot on eyewitnesses, and we know that on a Friday, 6:30 in the morning, a lot of people will be on their way to work, but we also know that the St. Martin's area, a lot of people even when they see they would pretend to be blind, so we are asking the general public if you have seen something that would help us to establish who is the orchestrator of this most recent murder to give us a call."

The victim's wife of 30 years, Judith Young Pantan, stated during a brief

interview, that the victim was seeking asylum in the US after being deported 4 years ago. He had been at the US border with Tijuana just three weeks ago when he was sent back to Belize. His wife also said that he had lived in the US for about 30 years, adding that their 6 children, the oldest 32 and youngest 14-years-old, are all devastated by the loss of their father.

"He worked as a cook in a care facility with elderly people, and he always tells me that, oh, the elderly people think he's very sweet, and I said, oh, they don't know you at home, but he was a very caring father, he took care of his kids, we had 6 children together. When I'm at work he would pick them up to come home, he would cook; when I get here there will be food for me, he's a cook. So, he was pretty quiet, so I don't even think he would have not even one enemy. Why? My question is why?" Pantan said.

She also commented that while the family loves their home country, and would want to someday move back home, the crime in Belize is making the paradise into a "hellhole".

Pantan further stated that in their almost daily conversation he commented on the state of crime in the country and what he perceived as inaction by the government to stem the mounting crisis and that this was another reason that he wanted to return to the US to be with his family. He even hinted that he was being threatened, she said.

"My only words are to the government, not even to the police. Belize—I think the government, the prime minister, runs the police department, and I think the police is doing what all they can and what they are taught to do. I think the government is the one that needs to step up and try to figure out what they need to do about these senseless killings and murders. In that way, we as Belizean-Americans can move home and feel safe in our own country," Pantan said.

Police are still investigating Pantan's killing. At this time they are trying to locate his phone and pinpoint the last persons to have made contact with him.

Bus driver charged with murdering partner

Continued from ▶ Page 1

investigate the matter, he saw Gonzalez stabbing a now-deceased Landero with a knife.

Gonzalez proceeded to inflict injuries to himself in his abdomen area and also attempted to harm Gordon but failed to do so. Gordon was then able to subdue Gonzalez and handcuffed him until the police arrived at the scene, after which he was transported to the San Ignacio Community Hospital for treatment and then to the San Ignacio Police Station, where he was detained.

Landero's body was also transported to the San Ignacio Community Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival. The couple have two children who are now left orphans.

On Sunday, June 26, Gonzalez was formally arrested and charged with the crime of murder.

Police are yet to determine whether Gonzalez was under the influence of alcohol or some other substance at the time of the incident, and but family has confirmed a history of domestic abuse between Gonzalez and Landero that might have led to the murder.

The victim's niece, Luistia Aguirres, has confirmed that her aunt was in a relationship with Gonzalez for about 8 years and that they shared two kids together. She further noted that Gonzalez hadn't shown any signs of jealousy or violent behavior until later on in the relationship.

"When he first came into the family, we never thought that he would be that kind of person. Like, after [a few] years he showed his real personality. He used to beat her several times, and I spoke to her and I just told her to leave that man," she said.

Aguirres mentioned that Ima Landero had recently started to work at the nightclub in order to assist Gonzalez in paying the bills, since he had been unemployed.

"They both agreed that she will work because he needed help in everything. Things for his cycle, she will bring the money; things to finish her house, she will bring the money, because he wasn't working, so she was doing everything. Even for the kids, she was working,"

said Aguirres.

Ramon Galvez, the owner of the Legend 2000, described to local reporters what was captured on the surveillance camera on the night of the stabbing.

"What we saw on the camera is that the guy put his shirt over his head and just his face was showing, and he had a knife on the side, and he walked right past 4 or 5 persons that [were] standing in front of the bathroom and he walked right inside that bathroom just to kill that young lady. And the way we saw in that bathroom, the young lady was using the bathroom because all the blood was on the toilet and the toilet seat, and it sprayed. That guy came to kill [her] because he didn't cut her on her face; that was a serious stab. And that lady [bled] fast. It's like moments. By the time the police came, they said she had a little pulse but that was her last breath," Galvez highlighted.

"... To me, if somebody comes to harm somebody just to harm, they would've maybe cut the girl on her face, beat her up in the bathroom, and walked out. He refused to come out of the bathroom. If he had a different mindset, he would've said 'I'm done doing damage to her, you all take care of the rest, I'll walk out of here. Arrest me or do what you want to me' No, he locked himself up in that bathroom and watched that bleed by that toilet," he added.

According to Galvez, his establishment is currently being renovated to prevent any other such incidents from occurring. Galvez said that the ladies' restroom will be relocated to the front for more protection and the male restroom will be secured so that no one can go in to do harm.

Galvez also noted that he and his security personnel had not been prepared for an attack of this sort that was carried out in such an unexpected manner.

"We were not equipped for someone to come lock themselves into a bathroom. We are more equipped for somebody coming and [trying] to stab somebody in front of anyone. But something like that, there's no way we could've prevented that," he said.

Suspected drug plane lands in southern Belize

COMPOL confirms that a drug plane landed in southern Belize

Continued from ▶ Page 1

Sunday Wood, Toledo, which is situated about 3.4 kilometers from Conejo village near the Sarstoon Temash National Park, and has been cleared several times by villagers of that neighboring country reports say.

Information is sparse at the moment; however, an initial report is indicating that the suspected narco-jet landed in the country sometime around 2:00 a.m. and two persons from a nearby village are believed to have assisted the narco-

traffickers, who are currently on the run and are being sought by police.

The suspected narco-jet had initially been heard and observed circling Bladen village, but due to police presence, the jet diverted and landed on a farm in Sunday Wood.

Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams has confirmed to local media that the narco jet landed in the southern part of Belize.

The COMPOL has indicated that he will be sharing more information with local media tomorrow, Tuesday, June 28.

Youth killed in Ladyville...

Continued from ▶ Page 1

Ladyville, police said today at a weekly police press briefing. Unconfirmed reports are that he had been involved in a prior confrontation with a person from a call center and made a report to police on the 16th of June, and one person was arrested.

He was found dead off a road in the Milpa area by police, who were notified of shots being fired by residents of the area. They found Palma with multiple gunshot wounds, dressed in blue short pants, a white t-shirt, and a black warm cap, with a Nike slipper on his foot.

Palma, who had been wounded in the head, right forearm, and right side of the buttocks, was transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The Police Department's communication director, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, told reporters that they believe that the murder of Palma is likely connected to the prior incident involving the call center employee, in connection with which he had made a report.

"I know that on the 16th of June, Mr. Palma made a complaint to the police. The full content of that complaint I will not get into, but I know that we made an arrest, reference that complaint, and we at the Police Department believe that the person that was arrested for that incident...that the two incidents are probably related, so the investigators are looking at that angle and other angles. Most definitely, that is the most recent incident," Yearwood said.

He said that a male person was charged with aggravated assault against Palma.

**Our email address for business & advertising is
amandalapress@gmail.com**



Sales Agents

BELIZE CITY

- * Puma Roundabout
- * Puma, 2 Mls.
- * Shell Service Station, C.A. Boulevard
- * Community Drug Store
- * William Supermarket, C.A. Boulevard
- * Fuel Logistics/Bel-China
- * Puma Freetown
- * Cambranes
- * J & K Supermarket
- * Twin Supermarket, 5526 St. Thomas Street
- * Tow Tow Grocery Store, Mahogany Street
- * Julie Wong Store, Belama (by police station)
- * JB's Store, Mahogany Street
- * 88 Shopping Center, C.A. Boulevard
- * Freetown Drug Store
- * Publics, Philip Goldson Highway
- * Buca Shell, Philip Goldson Highway
- * James Brodie & Co., Albert St., and Philip Goldson Highway
- * 1st Choice Pharmacy
- * Save-U Supermarket

PLACENCIA

- * Placencia Office Supplies

LADYVILLE

- * Puma Service Station
- * Shell Service Station
- * Low's Supermarket

ORANGEWALK

- * One Stop Service Station
- * People's Store

BENQUE

- * Eduard Cambranes
- 6 Diaz St., Benque

CAYO

- * Amini Habet
- C/o Shell Service Station
- San Ignacio
- * Venus Store

BELMOPAN

- Dakers Stationery & Books
- * Hydes Mini Market
- * First Choice Variety Gift Shop
- * Shell Service Station
- * Medicare Plus Pharmacy

STANN CREEK

- * Xaibel Service Station
- * S & S One Stop
- C/o Uno Belize
- * St. Vincent Convenience Store

COROZAL

- * Aguilar Car Care Products # 60 4th Avenue, Corozal Town
- * Xiomara Alcala c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies # 99 - 5th Avenue, Corozal Town
- * Elena Castaneda WE Store Gabriel Hoare Market #A8 6th Avenue, Corozal Town

SAN PEDRO

Rocks Shopping Center

INDEPENDENCE

- * G N J Mart

PUNTA GORDA

- * King's Texaco
- * NJV Pharmacy

Amandala business and editorial offices:
3304 Partridge Street, Belize City, Belize, Central America
is printed twice weekly by the
Amandala Press.

Telephones: 501-280-4703/202-4477

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