

Belize's leading newspaper

Caged and forgotten!

Derrick Uh, 20, was found dead after being detained and kept in a locked police van for over 14 hours. He was reportedly forgotten by the officers who confined him. "HE WAS LEFT THERE WORST THAN AN ANIMAL," his sister posted on social media.



Derrick Uh, deceased

by Marco Lopez

COROZAL, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

A family is seeking answers from the Police Department; their loved one, 20-year-old Derrick Uh, a resident of Cristo Rey, died after being detained and apparently forgotten inside a locked police prison van for almost 14 hours. According to reports, Uh was found dead around 5 o'clock on Sunday evening, after being inside the van from around 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, when he was confined, reportedly for

drunkenness at the San Joaquin Fair being held in Corozal.

The prison van was taken to the Corozal Police Station, where it was parked, but the victim, Uh, was never taken out of the van and placed in the cell block. The Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, reported that two to three officers were involved in the detention, and somehow they all purportedly forgot that the man was still at the back of the prison van — their memory being jolted only after another officer found the youth dead,

reportedly with his lips swollen and with ruptures on its surface due to the sweltering heat.

"Yesterday evening, when the driver of the van, who usually takes the vehicle to prison to ferry prisoners went to service the van to make sure it was roadworthy for today, he discovered the lifeless body of the young man in the back

Please turn to ▶ Page 15

Faber kicked out of UDP Central Executive



Hon. Patrick Faber, kicked out of UDP Central Executive

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

It took exactly one month for the United Democratic Party – which at the July 15 sitting of the House of Representatives seemed to have reunified – to sink back into its recent trend of bitter squabbling. The most recent source of acrimony among party members is a recent letter sent by UDP chairman, Michael Peyrefitte (on the directive of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the UDP) to Hon.

Please turn to ▶ Page 14



Ashley Lightburn – Miss Belize 2022 (Photo Credit: Miss Universe Belize)

Ashley Lightburn is Miss Universe Belize

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

The Miss Universe Belize Pageant concluded on Saturday with 25-year-old Ashley Lightburn of Belize City emerging victorious as Miss Universe Belize 2022. Lightburn, who is an adjunct lecturer of mathematics at the University of Belize and is also

pursuing a Master's degree in International Business Administration, will go on to represent the country at the 71st Miss Universe Pageant set to take place this December.

Lightburn has stated that during Saturday's competition, she gave her heart and soul on stage. Her victory came after the participation of the contestants in swimsuit, evening gown,

Please turn to ▶ Page 15

BDF soldier dies while returning from colleague's funeral

Lance Corporal Roxanne Hill lost her life in a road traffic accident after attending the funeral of another BDF soldier, Private Micah Miguel, who reportedly took her own life.

by Charles Gladden

COTTON TREE, Cayo District, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

The life of 37-year-old Lance Corporal Roxanne Goff Hill of the Belize Defence Force came to a tragic end on Thursday, August 11, at around 6:40 p.m. when the vehicle in which she and ten other BDF soldiers were traveling collided with a Toyota 4-Runner that was traveling in the

opposite direction near Cotton Tree village in the Cayo District. Ironically, the soldiers had been on the way back from the funeral of Micah Miguel, a young female soldier, 23, which had been held in Hopkims village in the Stann Creek District, when the tragic accident occurred.

Hill had been seated on the passenger side of the BDF van when, between Miles 42 and 43 on the George Price Highway, the van collided head-on with



Lance Corporal Roxanne Goff Hill, deceased

a Toyota 4-Runner that apparently swerved into the lane to avoid ramming

Please turn to ▶ Page 15

SSB to invest \$3 million in repairs on McKoy Building

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

The David L. McKoy Building in Belmopan, which houses the Social Security Board and headquarters as well as the Office of the Prime Minister, was inaugurated in June, 2021. Today, that building, an \$8.2 million investment via the Social Security Investment Fund, is in need of retrofitting, and the SSB is expected to spend an additional \$3 million on repairs.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño briefly addressed the matter during an interview with the media last week, during which he noted that the building was badly designed.

“The architect supposedly seems to have made a number of—or overlooked a number of things that should have

been in the design. We could have made it political, but we did not. We decided that now we have a problem. We have the people’s money. We just can’t walk away from it. And Social Security is going to spend the extra money to be able to repair it, because we have to fix it,” he said.

During the inauguration ceremony last year, the Investment Chairman of the SSB, Reynaldo Magaña, stated that the SSB’s investment in the construction of the building was expected to be recovered in ten years at an 8.2% rate of return.

“This is a solid investment, in the investment portfolio that will generate the necessary returns to keep the fund fluid, to service short-term and long-term benefits for the people of Belize for years to come,” Magaña said.

National Adaptation Plan for coastal areas launched

The government of Belize is hosting consultations with key stakeholders in three coastal communities to gather data



Kennedy Castillo, CEO of Ministry of Blue Economy



Dr. Osmond Martinez, Belize NDA to GCF

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

The impact of climate change on the coastal areas and marine ecosystems in Belize is expected to be just as severe or in some cases worse than what is projected for small island developing states across our region. We have seen the erosion of coastlines and cayes, a noteworthy level of coral bleaching caused by rising sea temperatures, and the impacts of storms such as Eta and Iota, which have caused historic floods in the country. The climate change reality is ever-present for Belize, and, today, after stakeholder consultations, the country launched its National Adaptation Plan to begin actively addressing its impacts on Belize’s coastal and marine areas.

The Ministry of Economic Development, which is the National Designated Authority for the Green Climate Fund in Belize, has played an active role in looking at the adaptation systems needed by the government to brace for the expected effects of global warming on Belize.

CEO in that ministry, Dr. Osmond Martinez, said that this national adaptation plan is the first developed for

Belize that addresses the coastal areas, and he expects that they will determine what mechanisms and systems must be put in place, and will establish a proper system to collect empirical data, that will hopefully guide decision-making and policy.

He said that stakeholders, during consultations that have been held, highlighted issues pertaining to erosion and the need to replant mangroves along the coast, the rising sea temperatures, and sargassum problems, among many other issues.

Today, the Ministry of Blue Economy started its own consultation as a part of the adaptation project. In total, four Climate Change Vulnerability and Livelihood consultations for the coastal area and fisheries are planned in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and Belize’s NDA, the Ministry of Economic Development.

“The consultations are a deliverable of the GCF readiness project entitled, ‘Enhancing adaptation

Classroom learning resumes across country

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

As a new school year approaches, schools across the country are preparing to fully resume a mode of learning that was the norm prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic: face-to-face learning in the classroom.

When members of the local media caught up with the Minister of Education, Hon. Francis Fonseca, he remarked that the nation’s education system is ready to make a full restart.

“It’s obviously been a challenging period for education and for our country, but we believe our education system is ready to make a full restart. So we’ve been working with all of our stakeholders in education, and we’re excited about the opportunity this year. We’ve been doing a lot of work over the summer. We’ve had a very good ‘Let’s Catch Up’ summer program, and still going on, to try to help targeted groups of young people so that they’re better ready for the new school year. So a lot of work has been going on, and we think we’ll have a very successful academic year,” said Hon. Fonseca.

Hon. Fonseca also noted, in regard to a program that has been introduced to provide free education to four Southside schools: “We’re on target



Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education

with the Education Upliftment Project, ‘Together We Rise’—four government schools on the Southside of Belize City, so things are going well. That’s a comprehensive program that not only provides free tuition and fees but also provides a healthy start [for] feeding programs in each of these schools. We provide our students with uniforms, books, with digital devices and we’re also doing infrastructure work at these schools to improve the learning environment. So everything is on track, and we’re excited for the new school year.”

Call center agent stabbed; friend charged



Jose Velasquez, charged with multiple offenses



Bryan Coleman, stabbing victim

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

Jose Velasquez, 28, a resident of Courtney Crescent, in Belize City, has been charged in connection with the stabbing of Bryan Coleman, a 23-year-old call center agent, which occurred early on Friday morning, August 12.

Coleman and Velasquez were reportedly socializing with a group of friends, after returning from a night out, when an argument erupted between the two at around 1:00 a.m.

It was reported that Velasquez left, and presumably headed home, but he returned to the group with a knife and proceeded to stab Coleman.

Coleman was taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital for medical treatment, and survived the attack.

Since then, Velasquez has been charged with attempted murder, the use of deadly means of harm, and dangerous harm.

Velasquez is expected to be arraigned in court this week.

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

Women Parliamentarians accept Louis Wade's apology



Louis Wade – Plus TV host

by Khaila Gentle



Hon. Valerie Woods – Women Parliamentarians Caucus chairperson

BELMOPAN, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

On the morning of August 11, Pastor Louis Wade, during Plus TV's *Rise and Shine* morning show, apologized for the offence caused by the "unfortunate interpretation" of comments he made on July 26.

"We seek to apologize to those who found offense with my comments," said Wade.

The Plus TV host also stated that the comments he made on the *Rise and Shine* show in July were not intended "as a reference to a gender" nor were they intended "to be understood as a derogatory or disrespectful meaning to genitalia of a woman."

"I apologized on July 28, 2022 for the unfortunate interpretation, which was not intended nor premeditated and is truly regrettable," he added.

On that same day, both the Belize Broadcasting Authority (BBA) and the Women Parliamentarians Caucus acknowledged Wade's apology, with the BBA writing a letter to the interim chair of the Caucus, Hon. Valerie Woods, thanking them for bringing attention to the "questionable language" used by Wade.

"He has assured the BBA Board that he in no way made those comments with the intent to be demeaning and to inflict any harm whatsoever. His word choice was cause for public concern; as a consequence, Mr. Wade has retracted said comments and has given a formal

apology," wrote BBA chairman, Evan Tench.

In response to that letter, as well as Wade's statement, Hon. Valerie Woods said that it is a step in the right direction. The Speaker of the House of Representatives thanked the BBA and Plus TV for addressing the issue.

"There will always be those who don't get it, who don't agree that this should have been taken on or don't consider the importance and impact of language. The hope is to increase the numbers who do," she said.

On Friday, August 12, the National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB) issued a press statement expressing support for Pastor Wade and referring to the public demand for accountability from him as a part of "recent efforts to completely mischaracterize him for various ulterior agendas."

In the release, the NEAB states that "after two separate explanations, clarifications, and apologies from Pastor Wade, the persistent untrue attacks raise severe questions as to ulterior motives of some of those seeking to vilify and discredit him."

"We affirm Pastor Louis Wade, Jr. as a man of God and urge all Belizeans to use discernment concerning whatever motives of those who persist in wrongfully attacking him," added the NEAB.

PM comments on Pharmacy Express loan application withdrawal

"It shows, or it gives proof, that the system is working," Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño said.



Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

Last Thursday, the Social Security Board (SSB) released a statement informing the public that the 7-million-dollar loan application made by Pharmacy Express, a private company which owns four drug stores in the Fort Street Tourism Village (FSTV), has been withdrawn. The withdrawal of the application seemed to have been prompted by public opposition to the possible loan. Those entities which opposed the granting of a loan to the company included the Ministry of Health and Wellness, which subsequently carried out a raid on the company's Belize City drug stores at the FSTV. It has been confirmed that the company was operating without having been granted the required license to sell pharmaceuticals by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, and as a result, the ministry lodged its written opposition to the loan application (the only written objection recorded) and informed the SSB that the company was not in possession of a pharmaceutical license.

When speaking to local reporters about all the events stemming from the announcement that the SSB was reviewing the company's loan application, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño noted that the way things unfolded, and the outcome of that process—the company's withdrawal of its loan application—show that "the system is working." He said that although a proverbial firewall exists between SSB and the government of the day, the statutory body still cannot act totally independent of the policies that are in place.

"Social Security Board, they have an investment committee within Social Security. From that, it went to the investment committee for the board, for support to the board. Based on that, it went to the board, and then the board decided that they would approve that loan," PM Briceño said.

The next step, he noted, was the notice of investment issued by the SSB to get feedback from the public. It was at this point that the proposal was subject to a firestorm of opposition within the public domain, and a subsequent late Sunday evening release issued by the MOHW that cited "concerns" over the proposal.

"The most important thing was that the Ministry of Health and Wellness realized that, hold on, this company has been operating without a license, so if they are operating without a license, then that would be a reason to be disqualified, but I am told that the company decided to withdraw its loan application, and so that's where it ended," PM Briceño said.

According to the PM, the loan application went before two investment committees inside the Social Security Board without being aware that the applicant company was not in possession of the required license to carry out the sale of pharmaceuticals. When asked if this should be an indictment of the SSB's investment committee, the PM replied, "This should be a lesson to everyone, especially, particularly the investments committee, but even the board, that they have to make sure that they cross all the T's and dot all the I's before they approve a loan for any company, because at the end of the day this is the people's money and we need to do everything possible to protect the people's money."

As it pertains to any legal implications that may arise from last week's raid of Pharmacy Express' drugstores at the Fort Street Tourism Village, the PM said that he was informed that warrants were presented. Attorneys for the owners of the company, Julius and Angela Zabaneh, had told local media that the raid was illegal, and that the government should expect a lawsuit. So far, there are as yet no indications that any legal action has been taken.

Aviation hub concept has great potential, says Civil Aviation CEO

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will be conducting safety audits on its Member States next year, and according to the CEO in the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Blue Economy, Kennedy Carrillo, the Ministry expects, undoubtedly, a pass for Belize.

In preparation for the audit, COCESNA and the Federal Aviation Administration have committed technical support to Belize—expected to be the first country in the region that will be audited, come next year.

"We have done a lot of work, and

we've had to play catch up on a lot that had not been happening, but also we have COCESNA, who are our technical partners who will be coming in country to assist us," said Carrillo.

The audit is expected to focus on how effectively member states that are a part of ICAO have implemented critical elements of a safety oversight system. It will tackle eight audit areas: Primary Aviation Legislation and Civil Aviation Regulations, Civil Aviation Organization, Personnel Licensing and Training, Aircraft Operations, Airworthiness of Aircraft, Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation, Air Navigation Services, and Aerodromes and Ground Aids.

"It's an opportunity for them to come and find out if our country should really be certified to be providing the airline services that are coming to Belize," explained CEO Carrillo.

When it comes to legislation and regulations, the CEO says that the Ministry has worked with Cabinet to approve at least eight regulations that "were sitting on desks."

ICAO serves as the global forum of

States for international civil aviation. Not only does the organization conduct compliance audits, but it also develops policies and standards for civil aviation, provides assistance, and builds aviation capacity for its Member States.

"Some of this can have an impact on the decision of airlines to travel to Belize, and so we are moving very quickly to prepare for that 2023 audit," added the CEO.

PUP Chairman meets Belmopan City Council

BELMOPAN, Fri. Aug. 12, 2022

Chairman of the People's United Party, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, mediated a meeting between the members of the Belmopan City Council and the area representative for the municipality, Hon. Oscar Mira, to address the infighting that has been ongoing within the council. Last week we reported on the apparent tension which seemed to be reaching a boiling point inside the Belmopan CitCo — the most recent source of contention being a release issued by the office of the mayor that named councilor Pauline Soberanis-Tillett as deputy mayor, without a vote among council members. Tillett subsequently declined the appointment following the issuance of an unsigned press release, seemingly by some councilors. Belmopan mayor, Madam Sharon Palacio, and all the councilors, two of whom joined via Zoom, were present at Friday's intervention and, according to reports, have mended fences in order to move forward with the work of the people of Belmopan.

"The Belmopan City Council was elected by the people of Belmopan to serve the residents of Belmopan. They were elected by a big majority; they were elected as a team, and they continue to work as a team. They have pledged today to continue that work, and they will make sure that the residents of Belmopan receive the absolute best service working together with the area representative for Belmopan," the PUP chairman said.

While he gave reassurances of a sound working relationship going forward, he explained that the release issued by the office of the mayor on the appointment of a deputy mayor was "jumping the gun".

"In March of this year, councilor Darren Swasey was elected by the council, by his colleagues to be the Deputy Mayor. At that meeting it was also decided that there would be a rotation so that everyone would have a chance to be the deputy mayor of Belmopan. Of course, before the next person is selected, there had to be a meeting to make that selection. This meeting did not happen in time, and so that press release went out — really it was jumping the gun a little bit in terms of who would be the next Deputy Mayor of Belmopan," Usher stated.

A caucus meeting is to be held on August 31. Such meetings are usually scheduled to take place on the last Wednesday of the month, but the tension within the council has caused significant time to pass by since a meeting was last convened. Usher informed that until such a meeting is held, and a vote is carried out for a new person to hold the post of deputy mayor, councilor Darren Swasey will remain in the post.

Following the issuance of the release by Mayor Palacio, some councilors took to social media to criticize the move, and in the process placed internal council matters in the public domain. The PUP Chairman said this behavior is not condoned.



CITCO team following meeting with party Chairman

"We want to be very clear that the party does not condone this type of behavior coming out, these negative comments, the negative post being put out there when really what should be done is that you have a proper meeting inside," the PUP chairman said.

For Mayor Palacio's part, she said that with a consultative approach, opinions will necessarily clash.

She said, "Today, was a very good example of the usage of the consultative approach, whereby you can see us here today and opinions clash, definitely, but we come out with a unified approach. The people of Belmopan elected us for a reason, and we don't have a lot of time remaining, so the bottom-line is,

from here onward, we will ensure that the people of Belmopan get exactly what they deserved."

The current deputy mayor, Swasey, was also at the head table and said, "While we will never stop having disagreements, we will never agree on every single thing, today we have found a unity of purpose, as is one of the tenets of the People's United Party, and we will move forward."

The intention of the council is to have all councilors get a chance to serve as deputy mayor, as was agreed in the March election. This is a first according to Usher, and is being seen as a progressive step.

He said, however, "But also the

decision has to be made by the council as to who that person will be, and even if there is a change in portfolios and so on, that's done at the caucus level."

Area representative for Belmopan, Hon. Oscar Mira, in his contribution from the head table, noted that while the council and his constituency office have separate mandates, they both work for the people of Belmopan.

Mira said, "I will continue working with the Belmopan City Council. As it is said before, we might have differences in priority, but at the end of the day it is for us to find common ground and work towards serving the people of Belmopan."

Mayor Palacio is still confident that the team will be able to achieve the goals they promised to the voters of Belmopan.

"The goals that we set out to accomplish will be accomplished, and all of you, everybody, the entire country, the entire Belmopan, the entire world need to understand that we as a council inherited garbage; everything was in a disarray," she said.



Nicholas Watson, deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

Police are investigating the death of 37-year-old Nicholas Watson of Santa Rita Layout, who lost his life on the Hummingbird Highway while riding his

Gilharry Band singer dies in motorcycle accident

motorcycle to work this morning.

Details are sketchy at the moment; however, initial reports received by AMANDALA are indicating that Watson was riding his motorcycle on his way to work when he lost control of the bike near the Mile 6 junction of the Hummingbird Highway and crashed into a guard rail. He reportedly died almost instantly due to the impact of the collision.

Watson, who was a vocalist in the Gilharry Happiness Band in the early 2000's, was well-known throughout Corozal Town and parts of the Corozal District.

"He started his singing career as a member of the Gilharry Happiness Band in the early 2000s [and] he used to work with me because I was the keyboard player for the band. So that's when he

started, and he sang with us until the band closed down. He ventured into other bands here in Corozal," said David Watson, an uncle of the deceased.

Watson leaves behind two kids; a boy, and a girl.

A post-mortem examination is yet to be done on Watson's body.

In related news, police are still trying to identify the victim of a hit-and-run accident in Bella Vista Village on Sunday, August 14.

According to initial reports, an unidentified man, labeled as "John Doe", was hit by a vehicle in the vicinity of the village's water system. John Doe was taken to the Independence Polyclinic, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Police are yet to identify the driver of the vehicle who caused the death of John Doe.

CEO, Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation

Plans for the proposed aviation hub city include establishing a hub for commercial flights, a regional hub for cargo, and even a training school for air traffic controllers.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

CEO in the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, Kennedy Carrillo, says that the Ministry's proposed aviation hub could provide an opportunity to not only attract tourists but to also establish a regional cargo hub. Back in July, Hon. Andre Perez, the Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, proposed to Cabinet a plan for the transformation of one of Belize's airports and the surrounding area into an aviation hub. That plan, which



Philip Goldson International Airport



Conquering hate

“We recognize there is this issue with gangs in our communities ... This gang warfare is not good for the city; it is not good for the country ... listen, all of us feel the same pain. All of us feel the same challenges. Why would you growing up, as you turn from a child to a youth, begin to harbor this hate? That is what is happening in our community. There is this strong hatred in our community, and it (crosses) political lines, it crosses communities; it is rampant in the urban areas. And so we ... want to be certain in changing that mindset.” - Belize City Mayor, Bernard Wagner at the closing of the CITCO Youth Innovation Summer Camp. (See page 3, *Amandala* of Friday, August 12, 2022.)

Monday, August 15, 2022

Milestones, like birthdays and anniversaries, are occasions for us to reflect on our past journey as we forge ahead in trying to enjoy this life that God has given us, and in trying to make it better for ourselves and our loved ones near and far; for our community, country and the world at large; and especially for the children, and those yet unborn to inherit this blessed earth. And as *Amandala* marked its 53rd anniversary this past Saturday, we can't help but acknowledge that, with all the challenges and obstacles facing our founding organization, UBAD, in our Belize communities back in 1969, there was still an abundance of “peace and love” throughout those communities, despite the “haad time” and poverty that existed then, leading many to seize the earliest opportunity to “go through di back” to the States. In the poorest of communities, we said “the struggle goes on”; but unlike today in 2022, there was not the pervasive language of hate, about “turf” and “beefs” and “disrespect” sparking retaliation and lethal violence; or the frequent news reports of cold-blooded “hits”, broad daylight executions and

home invasions; and just as disturbing, the establishment of myriad gang-dominated areas, so that youths are often restricted in their movements in the city due to gang rivalries that could quickly become violent and even lethal.

There were always “bases” and “gangs” in the old capital, and there were sometimes rivalries, mostly played out in sporting encounters; but it was never a life and death affair. And there was not this hatred, of one gang for another, that has become rampant within our communities, and that has come to dictate the course of living for the recent and current generations of young Belizeans.

The gangs themselves are not the problem; the violence and lawlessness are; and the anger and hatred that spawn this violence and crime are the well-spring of this current wave that has engulfed our social fabric for the past few decades. And with the persistent futility of many Band-Aid efforts over the years, it is now clear that if the root is not tackled seriously, this problem will remain with us and grow even more in the coming years. *Amandala* sounded the warning over five decades ago, and the message to “pharaoh” remains the

same today: “Let my people go!”

What is a gang, but a group of individuals working together in unity and cohesion to achieve an objective? On the old waterfront, and even still today, there are work gangs at the Port that perform an important task of removing cargo from ships and delivering them to our customs warehouses. There are work gangs in the field in various endeavors, be it agricultural or industrial-type work. The negative stigma of “gangs” is obviously because of this particular brand of illegal gang activities that has become a part of our troubled existence in recent times. And “where did it all begin”?

Well, we have seen it all unfold before our eyes, those of us who “will see”. We’ve always had poverty here, and despite that, we had a “whole lotta love.” And we’ve always had crime too, but on a much smaller scale, so that the justice system could cope with the situation, and thus all were encouraged to “walk the straight and narrow path.”

But, as a writer from St. Louis observed in *Amandala* recently, come the 1980s and you “drop drugs,” “drop guns,” and some fast-moving cash to “pay crooked cops,” and suddenly we have a big gang problem in Belize. And all the preaching from the pulpits and the political rostrums has not gotten to the root of this problem, which has kept growing bigger each time it seems the head has been chopped off. Nothing much changes when a notorious gang leader is incarcerated or killed. Another takes his place.

If we are serious about wanting to solve this problem, then, like our Mayor suggested, we have to be real. It’s about “changing that mindset.” When we were all poor, we struggled together, helped one another, and yes, quarreled sometimes. But in this new reality, with drugs and guns and fast-moving cash, suddenly a few of us are “making it”, and others want “a piece of the action.” Competition in business becomes fierce, and there is a bigger boss from “high society” running the show, so for the “small fries” in our various neighborhoods, it’s “dog eat dog” and survival of the fittest. Gang warfare is inevitable as long as gangs are involved in the illegal drug business. Because it is illegal, gangs must battle to maintain their “turf”, their area of doing business – sales. Simple. And the burning poverty in their communities becomes breeding grounds for the gangs to enlist new “soldiers” and gain sympathy and support from those who receive “help outs” and “hand-outs” from time to time. It’s not rocket science. Gangs are sustained by the loyalty from impoverished communities who accept from the gang leaders the help they don’t get from “society”.

We can hire a thousand more police officers, or call more and more “states of emergency”; but the problem is not going away. We’ve been “barking up the wrong tree” for too long. An old Kriol proverb says, “Full belly tell hungry belly, ‘kip heart’.” In more modern times, the artist Tanya Carter sang, “You’ve got to show me, that your love is real.” And some of us put it another way: “Put your money where your mouth is.”

This is where we are in 2022. Many Belizeans are poor, but we are a wise people. Desperation will always make some people do wrong things. And if the obscenely wealthy amongst us do not care that there are masses of desperately poor citizens trying to figure out “weh di next meal di cohn from,” then things may have to get a lot worse to make them “get the sense.” The Mayor may be on to something; but the financiers of our two major political parties may not be on board with that approach. They believe in big business and trickle-down crumbs for the masses. Government’s recently announced “\$40 Million Micro-Small-Medium Belizean Enterprises” initiative could be a meaningful thrust towards spreading the love and pushing back the walls of hate in our communities, but a lot depends on how this project is executed.

Keep watch, Belizeans! There are big financial sharks about, and they are always looking for a feeding frenzy for themselves. Our leaders must think of the suffering masses first. After the land, we need the food, and our people will “flee from hate.” Feed the hungry, work the land, and bring back the love, Belize!



(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:
Composer: Tyra Welch
Lithography: Clive Smith
Printer: Kent Brooks

Please email Correspondence:
editor_amandala@yahoo.com

Advertisements to:
amandalapress@yahoo.com

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

Amandala’s website:
amandala.com.bz

All stakeholders should get a place on the PCC—an opportunity Belizeans didn't get in '81

by Wellington C. Ramos, Adjunct Professor of History and Political Science

Continue from page 22, Friday, August 12, 2022, AMANDALA issue #3577

The Webster Proposals (cont.)

Belize had not yet achieved self-government, and so the delegates were members of the Executive Council, which comprised Hon. George Price, who later became Prime Minister of Belize; Mr. Albert Cattouse; and Hon. Louis Sylvester, along with Hon. Harrison Courtney, Sr., as the delegation's legal adviser.

The main thrust of these negotiations was to seek a solution to the dispute through economic cooperation. The parties agreed to request the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) to undertake a study of the implications of closer economic cooperation between Belize and the Central American states with a view to Belize joining the Central American Common Market. It was also agreed to establish a tripartite committee, to be composed of representatives from Guatemala, Britain and Belize charged with the task of promoting mutual economic and social development between the peoples of Guatemala and Belize.

Although ECLA was commissioned to undertake the study contemplated, little else emerged from the agreements reached at San Juan. The tripartite committee was never appointed and diplomatic relations between the U.K. and Guatemala were broken in 1964, when Belize achieved internal self government. Guatemala protested that the U.K. had failed to consult her on this constitutional advance for Belize as she was obliged to do.

In June 1965, Britain, in consultation with Belize, agreed with Guatemala to submit the dispute to a Mediator appointed by the United States Government. The Mediator, Mr. Bethuel M. Webster, delivered his report in April 1968, in the form of a draft Treaty, the main provisions of which may be summarized as follows:

i. Article 1 of the draft treaty provided that British Honduras would be granted independence under the name of Belize not later than 31st December 1970.

ii. Article 2 obliged Belize and Guatemala to grant to each other's goods free entry through their ports and free transit through predetermined routes of each country.

iii. Under Article 3, the port of Belize City would be declared a duty-free port for the benefit of Guatemala and placed under the control of a supra-national Authority. Guatemala was obliged, at the request of Belize, to provide similar facilities for Belizean goods.

iv. Article 4 guaranteed nationals of each country free movement in the territory of the other as well as the right to the same treatment as was accorded by each country to its own citizens. This included the right to freely acquire and dispose of personal real property.

v. Under Article 9, Guatemala and Belize agreed to establish a supra-national Authority to be charged with



Wellington C. Ramos, Adjunct Professor of History and Political Science

the responsibility of carrying out certain powers and functions, including the supervision and control of free ports, as well as the designation of transit routes. Britain was required to pay to the Authority US \$4 million to assist the Authority to perform its functions under the Treaty.

vi. Article 10 provided that Belize would join CACM before 31st December 1970 with financial assistance from Britain.

vii. Article 13 obliged Guatemala and Belize to consult and cooperate with each other on such matters of mutual concern in foreign affairs as may be raised by either government.

viii. According to Article 14, the defence of Belize would be handled within the framework of the Inter-American Treaty of 1947, to which Belize would accede. In that event it would not be necessary for Belize to conclude bilateral defence arrangements with any other country.

The plan placed the defence, foreign affairs and, to a certain extent, the economy of Belize under Guatemalan control after independence. The normal channel of communication to international bodies by the Belize government was to be through the Guatemalan government. The two governments were to consult on matters of external defense, but this was tantamount to Belize being subjected to the dictates of Guatemala. Even the provision of internal security in Belize, a responsibility expected with independence, was to be the subject of consultation and co-operation. Belize was to accept a customs union with its neighbor, which was to be allowed free access to its Caribbean ports and territorial waters. It was to be rewarded with Guatemala's support for its entry into the Central American community and into the Inter-American community and in particular into the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

In sum, it is believed that the proposals exclusively committed Belize to a hemispheric destiny as a satellite or department of Guatemala.

Nowhere in the document was it stated that the Guatemalan claim was revoked. Nor was Belize explicitly given the right to seek membership in the Commonwealth, the United Nations or international bodies outside of the Inter-American system. She was, in short, denied the prerogative of an independent state to choose, or reorder at least some

of the priorities of her future.

With regard to the country's internal politics, the proposals also made few concessions to the dominant, traditional social values. For example, degrees granted from outside Belize or Guatemala were excluded from the reciprocal recognition of educational qualifications. This undermined the dominant British orientation of the educational system in Belize and, in the absence of post-secondary facilities, virtually decreed Guatemala as the new center of higher learning for Belizeans.

Bearing in mind the great disparity between Guatemala and Belize in terms of population and resources, the end result of these proposals, taken together, would have been the effective domination of Belize by Guatemala. Belize accordingly declared that these proposals were totally unacceptable. Indeed so unacceptable were they, that unrest and disturbances erupted in Belize even before the government had an opportunity to signify its total rejection of the proposals as incompatible with the aspirations and rights of the people to achieve full sovereignty as a free and independent nation.

Requests were made to the government of the U.K. "to seek other means by which the Anglo-Guatemalan dispute may be satisfactorily and honorably settled so as to allow the country to pursue its unimpeded course to unfettered and sovereign independence." On 20 May, 1968 the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Michael Stewart, announced that since the draft Treaty was not acceptable to Belize, it was not acceptable to the British Government. The British should not have included the Heads of Agreement as a pretext for Belize to be granted our independence.

By doing this they were placing an undue burden on the government and citizens of Belize that they could not accept. They also knew what happened when the Webster Proposals were handed down to the Belizean government and citizens in 1968. A Constitution is the most sacred document a nation and people have in a democracy.

Under the conditions in which Belize was granted its independence on September the 21st 1981, the British government and the Government of Belize were both not acting democratically. The British government wanted to get rid of the colony of Belize and its citizens because they saw the people and country as an economic burden to them. They forgot the slavery they imposed upon some of our citizens of Belize in order to secure free labor, centuries of exploiting Belize's natural resources to the benefit of their citizens in Great Britain, and the atrocities they committed against the Maya and the Garifuna people in the southern part of Belize before it became a part of the country of Belize.

On the other hand, Premier George Price and his People's United Party wanted independence from Great Britain, even if we were not granted a Defense Guarantee from Great Britain to protect us from a Guatemalan invasion. He saw Independence as the only way for Belize and its citizens to build their nation. This

I considered to be a huge risk to take. Guatemala has been threatening to invade Belize on several occasions prior to and after our Independence, and Belizeans should never ignore their threats. The territorial Guatemalan claim to Belize remains unresolved to this day, and the matter has been submitted to the International Court of Justice for a final resolution. Whether the ruling of the court will satisfy these two nations is yet to be seen.

This process to now be carried out by the People's Constitutional Commission should be the most significant constitutional deliberations our country has ever held since the birth of our nation, Belize, in 1981 and all stakeholders should be welcomed to participate in it. I would like to see the commission deal with all the serious problems our country has been facing since our Independence. Some of the issues that I am concerned about are the lack of independence of the three branches of government, namely the Executive, Judiciary and Legislative; too much power given to the Prime Minister and his Ministers; continued interference of the Prime Minister and Ministers in the daily duties and functions of the police and civil servants; the unequal distribution of our nation's wealth and resources; corruption; the inequality in distribution of lots and lands; race discrimination problems; the abuse of power by the Prime Minister and the members of his government, unfair hiring practices, vindictiveness by government in power; the absence of civil rights agencies to enforce our laws to protect all of our citizens, despite their ethnicity; the buying of our citizens' votes without any penalty; the use and abuse of ministerial discretion; the need to grant Indigenous citizens their rights based on the UNDRIP treaties, international law, conventions and our Constitution, especially as it relates to their rights and jurisdiction over their lands and all issues that are stifling Belize's progression toward being a nation to reckon with in the future.

I am convinced that If we have a successful constitutional reform process, Belize will become the nation that we yearn for as one people and one nation. If not, we shall remain a nation that is fragmented without a true purpose to benefit all of us as citizens of this beautiful nation that we all dearly love, Belize.

ADVERTISE WITH US

AMANDALA

Belize's leading newspaper!

Call

280-4703

Ernestine



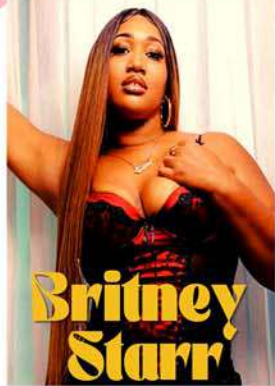
Supa G



TR Shine



Cozmo Boy



Britney Starr



Jalmito



King Rome

MARTINS FEST

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

MAHOGANY STREET

STARTING FROM 10 IN THE MORNING

★ Sweet Pain Band 3.0 Chico Ramos ★

★ PAPA JOHN ★ YG ★ J MONEY ★ XKLUSIVE Soundz ★

★ BLUE
STEEL ★

THERE IS GOING TO BE A KIDS ZONE WITH RIDES, BOOTHS FROM VARIOUS BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS. FOOD WILL BE ON HAND ALL DAY MAHOGANY STREETS FLAVORS AND QUALITY.



Conquistando el odio

“Reconocemos que existe este problema con las pandillas en nuestras comunidades... Esta guerra de pandillas no es buena para la ciudad; no es bueno para el país... miren, todos sentimos el mismo dolor. Todos sentimos los mismos desafíos. ¿Por qué al crecer, cuando pasas de ser un niño a un joven, comienzas a albergar este odio? Eso es lo que está pasando en nuestra comunidad. Existe este fuerte odio en nuestra comunidad, y (cruza) líneas políticas, cruza comunidades; es rampante en las áreas urbanas. Y entonces... nosotros queremos asegurarnos de cambiar esa mentalidad”. - El alcalde de la Ciudad de Belize, Bernard Wagner, en la clausura del campamento de verano de innovación juvenil del Consejo. (Ver página 3, *Amandala* del viernes 12 de agosto de 2022).

Lunes, 15 de Agosto de 2022

Los hitos, como los cumpleaños y los aniversarios, son ocasiones para que reflexionemos sobre nuestro viaje pasado a medida que avanzamos tratando de disfrutar esta vida que Dios nos ha dado y tratando de mejorarla para nosotros y nuestros seres queridos cercanos y lejanos; para nuestra comunidad, país y el mundo en general; y especialmente para los niños, y los que aún no han nacido para heredar esta bendita tierra. Y mientras *Amandala* celebraba su 53° aniversario el sábado pasado, no podemos dejar de reconocer que, con todos los desafíos y obstáculos que enfrentaba nuestra organización fundadora, UBAD [por sus siglas en inglés], en nuestras comunidades de Belize allá por 1969, todavía había abundancia de “paz y amor” en esas comunidades, a pesar de los tiempos difíciles y la pobreza que existían entonces, lo que llevó a muchos a aprovechar la primera oportunidad de “irse mojados” a los Estados Unidos. En las comunidades más pobres dijimos “la lucha sigue”; pero a diferencia de hoy en 2022, no existía el lenguaje generalizado del odio, sobre “territorio” y “rivalidad” y “falta de respeto” que desencadenaba represalias y violencia letal; o los frecuentes reportajes de noticias sobre “golpes” a sangre fría, ejecuciones a plena luz del día y allanamientos de morada; e igualmente inquietante, el establecimiento de innumerables áreas dominadas por pandillas, de modo que los jóvenes a menudo ven restringidos sus movimientos en la ciudad debido a las rivalidades entre pandillas que rápidamente podrían volverse violentas e incluso letales.

Siempre hubo “bases” y “pandillas” en la antigua capital, y a veces hubo rivalidades, en su mayoría se desarrollaban en encuentros deportivos; pero nunca fue un asunto de vida o muerte. Y no existía este odio, de una pandilla por otra, que se ha vuelto desenfrenado dentro de nuestras comunidades, y que ha llegado a dictar el curso de vida de las generaciones recientes y actuales de jóvenes beliceños.

Las pandillas en sí no son el problema; lo son la violencia y la anarquía; y la ira y el odio que engendran esta violencia y crimen son el manantial de esta ola actual que ha engullido nuestro tejido social durante las últimas décadas. Y con la inutilidad persistente de muchos esfuerzos de curitas a lo largo de los años, ahora está claro que si la raíz no se aborda con seriedad, este problema permanecerá con nosotros y crecerá aún más en los próximos años. *Amandala* hizo sonar la advertencia hace más de cinco décadas, y el mensaje al “faraón” sigue siendo el mismo hoy: “¡Deja ir a mi pueblo!”.

¿Qué es una pandilla, sino un grupo de individuos que trabajan juntos en unidad y cohesión para lograr un objetivo? En la antigua zona costera, y aún hoy en día, existen cuadrillas de trabajo [llamadas “work gangs” en inglés con la palabra ‘gang’ teniendo también la definición de pandillas] en el puerto que realizan una importante labor de retirar carga de los buques y entregarla a nuestros depósitos aduaneros. Existen *work gangs* en el campo en diversas labores, ya sea de tipo agrícola o industrial. El estigma negativo de los “gangs” se debe obviamente a este tipo particular de actividades ilegales de pandillas que se ha convertido en parte de nuestra problemática existencia en los últimos tiempos. ¿Y “dónde empezó todo”?

Bueno, lo hemos visto todo desarrollarse ante nuestros ojos, los que “veremos”. Aquí siempre hemos tenido pobreza y, a pesar de eso, teníamos “mucho amor”. Y siempre hemos tenido delincuencia también, pero en una escala mucho menor, para que el sistema de justicia pudiera hacer frente a la situación, y así se animó a todos a “caminar por el camino recto y angosto”.

Pero, como observó recientemente un escritor de St. Louis en *Amandala*, llega la década de 1980 y “dejan caer las drogas”, “dejan caer las armas” y algo de dinero rápido para “pagar a los policías corruptos”, y de repente tenemos un gran problema de pandillas en Belize. Y toda la prédica desde los púlpitos y las tribunas políticas no ha llegado a la raíz de este problema, que se ha ido agrandando cada vez que parece que le han cortado la cabeza. Nada cambia mucho cuando un notorio líder de una pandilla es encarcelado o asesinado. Otro toma su lugar.

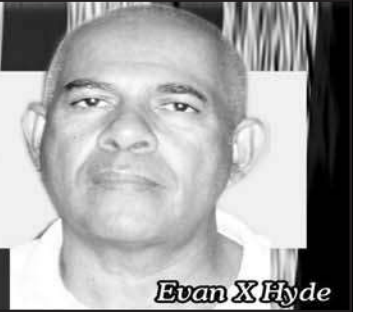
Si de verdad queremos resolver este problema, entonces, como sugirió nuestro alcalde, tenemos que ser reales. Se trata de “cambiar esa mentalidad”. Cuando éramos todos pobres, luchábamos juntos, nos ayudábamos unos a otros y, sí, a veces nos peleábamos. Pero en esta nueva realidad, con drogas y armas y dinero en efectivo que se mueve rápidamente, de repente algunos de nosotros estamos “triunfando”, y otros quieren “una parte de la acción”. La competencia en los negocios se vuelve feroz, y hay un jefe más grande de la “alta sociedad” que dirige el espectáculo, por lo que para los “pelagatos” en nuestros diversos vecindarios, es “perro come perro” y la supervivencia del más apto. La guerra entre pandillas es inevitable mientras las pandillas estén involucradas en el negocio de las drogas ilegales. Debido a que es ilegal, las pandillas deben luchar para mantener su “territorio”, su área de negocios: las ventas. Simple. Y la pobreza extrema en sus comunidades se convierte en caldo de cultivo para que las pandillas enrolen nuevos “soldados” y ganen la simpatía y el apoyo de quienes reciben “ayudas” y “dádivas” de vez en cuando. No hace falta ser un genio. Las pandillas se sustentan en la lealtad de las comunidades empobrecidas que aceptan de los líderes de las pandillas la ayuda que no reciben de la “sociedad”.

Podemos contratar mil policías más, o pedir más y más “estados de excepción”; pero el problema no va a desaparecer. Hemos estado “ladrando al árbol equivocado” durante demasiado tiempo. Un viejo proverbio criollo dice: “barriga llena, dice a barriga hambrienta, manténganse esperanzados”. En tiempos más modernos, la artista Tanya Carter cantó: “Tienes que mostrarme que tu amor es real”. Y algunos de nosotros lo expresamos de otra manera: “Pon tu dinero donde está tu boca”.

Aquí es donde estamos en 2022. Muchos beliceños son pobres, pero somos un pueblo sabio. La desesperación siempre hará que algunas personas hagan cosas malas. Y si a los obscenamente ricos entre nosotros no les importa que haya masas de ciudadanos desesperadamente pobres tratando de descifrar “de dónde vendrá la próxima comida”, entonces las cosas tendrán que empeorar mucho para que “entiendan la realidad”. El alcalde puede haber dado con algo; pero los financistas de nuestros dos principales partidos políticos pueden no estar de acuerdo con ese enfoque. Creen en los grandes negocios y en las migajas que se filtran para las masas. La iniciativa recientemente anunciada por el gobierno de “\$40 millones para micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas beliceñas” podría ser un impulso significativo para difundir el amor y hacer retroceder los muros del odio en nuestras comunidades, pero mucho depende de cómo se ejecute este proyecto.

¡Manténganse en alerta, beliceños! Hay grandes tiburones financieros por ahí, y siempre están buscando un frenesí alimentario para sí mismos. Nuestros líderes deben pensar primero en las masas que sufren. Después de la tierra, necesitamos la comida, y nuestra gente “huirá del odio”. ¡Alimenten a los hambrientos, trabajen la tierra y traigan de vuelta el amor, Belize!

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

A diaspora friend of mine last week e-mailed me some video footage of what looks like new weaponry developed by Lockheed Martin, an American company which specializes in military equipment. The weaponry was really awesome.

Around the same time, the American cable television channels were reporting that the Russians had suffered the destruction of seven of their warplanes, the worst such one-day disaster for the Russians since World War II.

It is reasonable to speculate that the Russian problem may have been caused by the Ukrainians' making use of all the high-tech weaponry they have been given by the Americans.

Meanwhile, the Russians have taken over the largest nuclear plant in Ukraine, and they are using said plant to store some of their war equipment. A successful Ukrainian attack on such a plant could result in massive nuclear catastrophe.

Now all this is taking place for me around August 8, a day I was thinking may have been the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by the United States in 1945. I did an online search and found that the United States had dropped atomic bombs (one each) on Hiroshima on August 6 and on

Nagasaki on August 9 of 1945.

Belizeans, you must note that the anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were ignored by the American television stations we watch in Belize. Hundreds of Japanese died in the most horrible way you can imagine, and victims continued dying from the effects of the bombs for many years afterwards.

Now a loyal American may argue that the Japanese were refusing to surrender, months after Germany had fallen to the Americans and the Russians, and months after the German Nazi leader, Adolf Hitler, had committed suicide, along with his mistress, at the end of April of 1945.

The third Axis ally, Italy, had long since seen their Fascist leader, Benito Mussolini, run out of town by the Allies (the United Kingdom, the United States, and their allies such as the French Resistance forces.)

Searching the online information on the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, I discovered that the United States had been obliged to get permission from the British before bombing the two large Japanese cities. How interesting, beloved.

It was also of great interest to me that Japan's Emperor Hirohito did not

announce his nation's unconditional surrender, in a radio address, until August 15. Why did he take so long? All I can say is that the Japanese people have a historical culture of incredible militarism and bravery. If this is of interest to you, you should seek to read the novel SHOGUN, written by James Clavell, I believe.

The testing for all these nuclear weapons took place in islands in the South Pacific — beautiful, pristine creations of Almighty God. The damage to the environment was horrific. You can watch the television channels of the “developed nations” of the world, and they do not speak about this.

So now we are looking at this phenomenon they are calling “climate change.” I'm not a scientist. But it seems to me logical to assume that the atmosphere above planet earth has been severely compromised by all these nuclear tests and bombings carried out by the “developed nations” of the world, the same ones who send their missionaries to us to drill us in Judeo-Christianity. In fact, Israel, supposedly the chosen people of God, became a nuclear power some years ago.

About fifteen or twenty years ago, I said to a very good friend of mine, that

there are certain projects which are too big for Belize. My friend was vehement in his disagreement with my thesis. He did not feel anything was too big for Belize. A few days ago, I heard the PLUS TV Christians with the same type of thinking my friend had proposed to me: nothing was too big for Belize.

But Don Hector Silva, who is a strong PLUS supporter, called the show to disagree with the “big projects” people. He noted the Dan Davis story in the 1950s, the Dan Ludwig story in the 1960s (I think), and one other example which I don't remember presently, during the leadership of the Rt. Hon. George Price, when Mr. Price's caution definitely proved well-advised, as time went along.

I said to you last week that, personally, I am an anachronism. But where our world has reached today should be carefully studied by these younger generations who will make key decisions all over the planet. There are some valuable lessons in the coronavirus pandemic. If we insist on overwhelming The Jewel with projects and people from all over the planet, we may have to stop and think things over. You can see that a few of us have gotten rich off big projects and big people. A few Belizeans get rich: you and I feel pain.

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

La semana pasada, un amigo mío de la diáspora me envió por correo electrónico algunas imágenes de video de lo que parece ser un nuevo armamento desarrollado por Lockheed Martin, una compañía estadounidense que se especializa en equipos militares. El armamento era realmente impresionante.

Casi al mismo tiempo, los canales de televisión por cable estadounidenses informaban que los rusos habían sufrido la destrucción de siete de sus aviones de combate, el peor desastre de un día para los rusos desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Es razonable especular que el problema ruso puede haber sido causado por el uso que los ucranianos le han dado a todo el armamento de alta tecnología que les dieron los estadounidenses.

Mientras tanto, los rusos se han apoderado de la planta nuclear más grande de Ucrania y la están utilizando para almacenar parte de su equipo de guerra. Un exitoso ataque ucraniano en una planta de este tipo podría resultar en una catástrofe nuclear masiva.

Ahora, para mí, todo esto está ocurriendo alrededor del 8 de agosto, un día que pensé que podría haber sido el aniversario del bombardeo atómico de Hiroshima por parte de los Estados Unidos en 1945. Hice una búsqueda en línea y encontré que los Estados Unidos

había lanzado bombas atómicas (uno cada uno) en Hiroshima el 6 de agosto y en Nagasaki el 9 de agosto de 1945.

Beliceños, deben tener en cuenta que los aniversarios de los bombardeos de Hiroshima y Nagasaki fueron ignorados por las estaciones de televisión estadounidenses que vemos en Belize. Cientos de japoneses murieron de la manera más horrible que puedan imaginar, y las víctimas continuaron muriendo por los efectos de las bombas durante muchos años después.

Ahora, un estadounidense leal puede argumentar que los japoneses se negaban a rendirse, meses después de que Alemania cayera ante los estadounidenses y los rusos, y meses después de que el líder nazi alemán, Adolf Hitler, se suicidara, junto con su amante, al final de abril de 1945.

El tercer aliado del Eje, Italia, había visto mucho tiempo antes a su líder fascista, Benito Mussolini, expulsado de la ciudad por los Aliados (el Reino Unido, los Estados Unidos y sus aliados, como las fuerzas de la Resistencia francesa).

Buscando información en línea sobre los bombardeos de Hiroshima y Nagasaki, descubrí que Estados Unidos se había visto obligado a obtener el permiso de los británicos antes de bombardear las dos grandes ciudades japonesas. Qué interesante, queridos.

También me interesó mucho que el

emperador Hirohito de Japón no anunciara la rendición incondicional de su nación, en un discurso por radio, hasta el 15 de agosto. ¿Por qué tardó tanto? Todo lo que puedo decir es que el pueblo japonés tiene una cultura histórica de increíble militarismo y valentía. Si esto les interesa, deberían leer la novela SHOGUN, escrita por James Clavell, creo.

Las pruebas de todas estas armas nucleares se llevaron a cabo en islas del Pacífico Sur, hermosas y prístinas creaciones de Dios Todopoderoso. El daño al medio ambiente fue terrible. Pueden ver los canales de televisión de las “naciones desarrolladas” del mundo, y no hablan de esto.

Así que ahora estamos viendo este fenómeno que llaman “cambio climático”. No soy un científico. Pero me parece lógico suponer que la atmósfera sobre el planeta tierra ha sido severamente comprometida por todas estas pruebas nucleares y bombardeos realizados por las “naciones desarrolladas” del mundo, las mismas que nos envían sus misioneros para examinarnos sobre judeo-cristianismo. De hecho, Israel, supuestamente el pueblo elegido de Dios, se convirtió en potencia nuclear hace algunos años.

Hace unos quince o veinte años, le dije a un muy buen amigo mío que hay ciertos proyectos que son demasiado grandes para Belize. Mi amigo fue

vehemente en su desacuerdo con mi tesis. No creía que nada fuera demasiado grande para Belize. Hace unos días, escuché a los cristianos de PLUS TV con el mismo tipo de pensamiento que me había propuesto mi amigo: nada era demasiado grande para Belize.

Pero Don Héctor Silva, quien es un fuerte partidario de PLUS, llamó el programa para expresar su desacuerdo con la gente de los “grandes proyectos”. Señaló la historia de Dan Davis en la década de 1950, la historia de Dan Ludwig en la década de 1960 (creo) y otro ejemplo que no recuerdo actualmente, durante el liderazgo del Muy Honorable George Price, cuando la cautela del Sr. Price resultó definitivamente bien aconsejada, con el paso del tiempo.

Les dije la semana pasada que, personalmente, soy un anacronismo. Pero el lugar al que ha llegado nuestro mundo hoy debe ser cuidadosamente estudiado por estas generaciones más jóvenes que tomarán decisiones clave en todo el planeta. Hay algunas lecciones valiosas en la pandemia de coronavirus. Si insistimos en abrumar a La Joya con proyectos y personas de todo el planeta, es posible que tengamos que parar y pensar las cosas. Pueden ver que algunos de nosotros nos hemos enriquecido con grandes proyectos y gran gente. Unos cuantos beliceños se hacen ricos: usted y yo sentimos dolor.

The "Neo-Cons" — Part II



by Clinton Canul Luna

Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you Part 2 of the following analysis, which I find to be of much interest. It was posted on Youtube in Spanish by Diario Público under the heading "**Los 'neocons': ¿quienes son y que tienen que ver con las guerras recientes? - Inna Afinogenova**" (The 'neocons': who are they and what do they have to do with recent wars? - Inna Afinogenova) on July 29, 2022. It is as follows:

With such opinions at such critical times, anyone would think that his political career, or at least his diplomatic career, would be over. Nothing is farther from reality. Currently he is serving as deputy secretary of state in the Biden administration. He is undoubtedly a conciliatory figure and is far from being under suspicion for the handling of a crisis like the current one, taking into account the interests of all those involved. Another of the illustrious neoconservatives must also ring a bell; his name is Elliot Abrams — a specialist in Latin American issues. During the Reagan administration, he became involved in the Iran-Contra

scandal, which involved financing the Nicaraguan contra movement to attack the Sandinista government and doing so by selling weapons to Iran and through drug trafficking, no less. He is also linked to the US-trained death squads that murdered some 1,000 people in the village of El Mozote in El Salvador. Trump's former security adviser, John Bolton, who a few weeks ago acknowledged having participated in a few coups there, is another representative of this current, and we could list more and more names, but the question one asks at this point is: How did they manage to influence both the foreign policy of an entire country and the minds of all kinds of people, both inside the US and abroad?

I'll give you a keyword: think tanks — respectable academic institutions, strategic think tanks, these independent bodies that train countless political analysts that will frame all US foreign policy. The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, the Henry Jackson Society, the Hudson Institute, the New American Century Project, the Institute for the Study of the Internet and perhaps the best known, the NED, the National Endowment for

Democracy. Last February, a few weeks before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Mind Presse portal published an investigation in which it stated that the NED spent some 22 million dollars to finance nationalist youth organizations and train politicians and media related to the US in Ukraine, a country that the head of the NED baptized as the jackpot in Europe. All this theory would obviously have much more weight if Russia had never invaded Ukraine, because, with the invasion, any information on the subject that does not follow the prevailing narrative is almost automatically discredited as pro-Russian and disqualified. But the fact is that neither is the neocon movement something that the supporters of conspiracy theories have invented, nor is the war in Ukraine the first nor the second nor the third that occurs with these people influencing the policies of the most powerful country of the world.

They can take it seriously or not; that's up to them. Our task is to tell it, because, as we said at the beginning, this war has its nuances beyond the two native war

propaganda that are currently so fashionable in the media and on the networks. Jeffrey Sachs concludes that the neocons are going to lose out of the war in Ukraine and compares it to other wars such as Iraq or Afghanistan. If we were allowed to disagree with him, I would say that at the moment the only ones who come out on top are precisely the neocons. Ukraine is losing its population and territories. Russia is also seeing how part of its population is dying, is isolating itself more and more and is applying policies much more typical of those same neoconservatives than of those who oppose or oppose them, and the one who seems to be winning is thousands of kilometers away eating popcorn.

(The End)

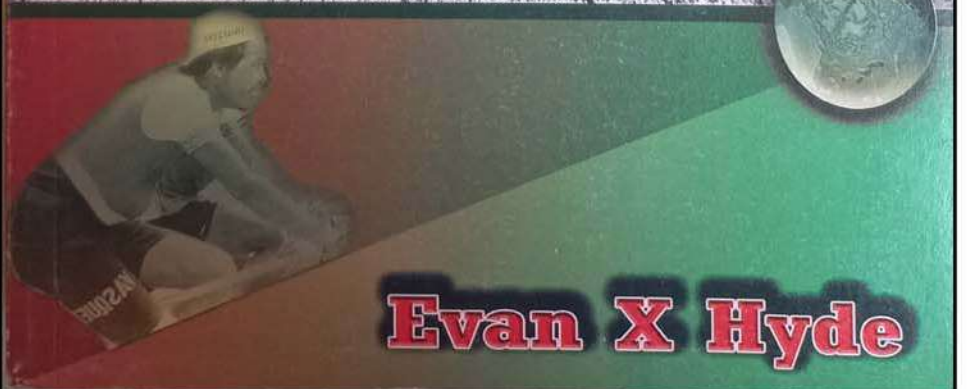
fincasolan@gmail.com
August 13, 2022
Finca Solana
Corozal Town

North Amerikkkan Blues



by Evan X Hyde

SPORTS, SIN AND SUBVERSION



Evan X Hyde

Marcus Garvey Birthday!

by Colin Hyde

Referendum postponement regret grrr

Up, you mighty people, accomplish what you will! Emancipate yourself from mental slavery; none but ourselves can free our minds! The 20th century saw many great heroes, and for me Marcus was the greatest, most fascinating of them all.

On August 17, 1887, Marcus Garvey was born in Jamaica. Marcus entered a world where the definition of good looks was the Jesus phenotype the Europeans displayed in the churches—blond, straight hair, blue eyes, narrow face, and white. The Europeans were having an unchecked run, until Marcus came along to restore black pride and teach us about economic independence.

I am proud that my country rolled out the red carpet for Marcus. I am proud that one of my great-grandmothers was a member of his United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). I am proud that Isaiah Morter gave much of his wealth to the UNIA cause. I am proud that Samuel Haynes worked in the production of the *Negro World*, and that despite the governor here prohibiting it, it had a wide circulation. I am proud of Vivian Seay and Cleopatra White and our Black Cross Nurses. I join with all the Garveyites in remembering Marcus.

Former third party leaders Paul Morgan and Patrick Rogers were on the WuB early last week discussing this move by the government to form the People’s Constitutional Commission, tasked with making comprehensive reforms, and both men say the GOB has no such mandate—such a reform not being one of their 2020-2025 manifesto promises. I’m not for this constitution commission either, so I have no complaint there.

The present government does have a super majority, thanks to the UDP messing up badly, and with their special advantage they can change just about any part of the constitution they want. But they’re taking advantage here. In a previous column I opined that they were pushed into this overreach by the social partner senators, but that’s no excuse, and that’s not my beef today.

I have a beef with Paul. The brother is great, but I have to complain about him using the postponed referendum on marijuana as an example of Belize not following the Constitution. He should have left that one alone. As for the caller to the WuB who was so upset that the churches had postponed the referendum, I have to ask: does she hate marijuana and felt the nay side could

deliver a death blow to ganja in a referendum; does she love marijuana and was disappointed about the business delay; or is she a big UDP who felt the churches would win this round and the government would look bad? I think all parties who are angry with the churches over the agreement to postpone should pull an Oceana: get their own referendum going.

If we are sincere we will accept that a referendum on the recently passed Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Control and Licensing Bill of 2022 is a pot of confusion. Why did 20,000 individuals sign it? Did they just like the idea of a referendum? Are they against all legitimization of weed, including decriminalization? Are they for legalizing ONLY for local use and for tourists? Are they against the hemp industry? Are they ONLY against the big business side of the industry included in the recently passed law?

The government and the churches need to be applauded for their maturity in, one, agreeing to the postponement, and, two, promising that the law won’t be implemented without a referendum. The GOB estimated it would cost between 3 and 5 million dollars, a very steep price with 60% poverty in the land, our economy battered by Covid-19, a war in Europe, high fuel prices, high prices of everything, and a threat of monkey pox. A referendum would also take up a lot of our time, and we’ve lost so much of that recently.

The churches felt strongly against weed, and thousands felt strongly that this business should go to a referendum. Ouch, people bex because the GOB was big enough to say, okay, we’ll hold a while, and the churches were big enough to say, thank you for holding.

Last thing on this referendum: it was obvious that the GoB wasn’t campaigning to win a yes vote. Having just come through a GoB campaign for us to go to the ICJ, we all know what one of those looks like. There must have been some hesitation in the GoB camp about going the whole hog. From the outside, it looks like prior to the EBD declaring that the churches had gotten the necessary 20,000 votes, the GoB had decided to hold off if they cleared

that hurdle.

Shouldn’t grab at everything

I’ve been waiting for this assault on Louis to abate, this assault prompted by Caleb’s problem with him representing the media, because I have my own beef, and I don’t want to be in on no dohbl benk. It’s not like the brother can’t handle. That man has armies fighting for him. It’s just that I wouldn’t want the whiff of the sin of *chaansi* piled on my head too.

Wade’s words, while clearly not used in a sexual way, came up short of the glory. His detractors say they are using the moment as a teaching lesson. If you have any agape love, you’ll feel for Louis, because he has never used those words before, that’s my bet, and there are so, so many others who have had a free run.

Haha, it’s like a wicked little devil got into Louis. He was so, so – absolutely not, he wasn’t that “p” word that rhymes with hissed. Boy, I hate that one too, hate it – yaa, Louis was so, so feeling it, so up for this giant task of fixing the constitution. Trust me that what he was feeling was no coffee high. I’m thinking the kind of high in Brother Ramirez’s story, “Rum pahn top a rum.” Yu getting the sense.

The fire was shooting up in our brother’s bones about the task ahead, and that’s when the *chaansi* devil said, say it, say it. I am certain he hesitated – do I, do I – and out popped that p-word, which he must have heard for the first time while reforming unfortunate drug addicts, and that w-word that rhymes with puss, which is the equivalent of another p-word, the one that rhymes with skunk.

I did say we don’t need to be fretting too much about Louis. He isn’t going to the cross alone. You see how many people are flying in to defend his hide? Neri is here; he flew in. I hear Kerm flew in on the weekend. And that big, bad Giovanni who some people so badly misread as one who would sell out his friends and principles, well he proved them wrong; he’s at his brother’s side, ready to burn tires if it’s

Please turn to **Page 12**



VACANCY

Registrar and Chief Marshal, Caribbean Court of Justice

The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission invites applications from suitably qualified applicants for the position of Registrar and Chief Marshal, Caribbean Court of Justice.

The Job Description and Application form are available on the Court’s website at <https://ccj.org/rjlsc-recruitment-update-2-2/>.

Applications should be emailed to recruitment@rjlsc.org or delivered to:

The Human Resources Manager
Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission
#134 Henry Street, Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago, 101010

no later than **Friday 2nd September 2022 by 4:00 p.m. Atlantic Standard Time.**

Candidates may be required to make themselves available for an interview when notified.

The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission:
Constituted under the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY St. Margaret Village, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running until 15th October 2022. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until this property is sold.



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 92 situate in St. Margaret Village, Cayo District, TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [1,813 sq. ft.] containing 3 bedrooms + 1 bathroom + living/dining/kitchen + Laundry + Veranda and fenced Lot [approx. 10,800 sq. ft.] situate in St. Margaret Village, Cayo District, the freehold property of Mr. Reuben Parham and Ms. Maria Parham)

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions

Shooter of man in DVD store pleads guilty



Jermaine Franklin, deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Aug. 15, 2022

In June 2017, Jermaine Franklin, 36, was shot several times in the back shortly after he entered Teddy's Music, a DVD/CD store on King Street, and was left for dead. The man accused of firing those shots, Kashief Gallego, 30, has, after spending 5 years on remand at the Belize Central Prison, pleaded guilty to the murder.

A little after 6:30 p.m. on the evening of the murder, Gallego, who resided at #72 East Canal at the time—just a half block away from Teddy's Music, reportedly followed Franklin into the store (pretending to be a customer), and not long after, he fired a number of



Kashief Gallego, shooter

shots at Franklin, then fled the scene.

When Gallego was detained by police, he gave a caution statement to them in which he said, "Yesterday, I saw him at Teddy's and I took it [personally]. There was no one behind the motive; it was personal between me and him."

On Thursday, August 11, he appeared in court before Justice Susan Lamb and entered a guilty plea for murder. He was represented by attorney Erin Alexis Quiros.

Gallego is set to return to court on September 23 for his sentence hearing.

Sacrifice

There's this series on CNN about Patagonia, a thousand-mile stretch of land at the bottom of the world that borders Chile and Argentina, and just a short distance from Antarctica! It is one of the least inhabited areas on this fair earth, rich with creatures rarely seen, with many endangered species, ancient forests and vegetation! I have never seen more beautiful pictures of Mother Nature, and her very disruptive, controversial, unending fight with those that don't understand her, don't care for her, and are very selfish in enriching themselves at her expense. That includes not only humans, but animals like beavers, who are alien to the Patagonian environment. They were imported to improve the region's fur trade, but instead have decimated hundreds of thousands of acres of forests, that cannot regenerate like those in North America! It is an incredible series, eye-opening and so informative, especially in regard to the fragility of our environment.

I use the word "sacrifice" as a tribute to those who selflessly fight to preserve this garden of Eden, who have chosen service over financial gains. There are scientists and philanthropists, lawyers, doctors, and ordinary people, who have dedicated their lives to make this environment safe. And to me, the most remarkable of all these servants of nature, are the ones who used to hunt and kill and destroy! Fishermen, hunters, fortune seekers who now are

fighting for continued existence of this, the rarest place on earth. Some of these people have given up everything, and survive on the kindness of strangers, to do the right thing! To protect these species from the clutches of corporations and from those who are trying to earn a quick buck, without any regard for the havoc and destruction they are causing, because of their callous indifference and greed!

We in Belize have a duty to preserve our delicate ecosystem with the same vigilance. Anyone can say that they are environmentally friendly, or conscious, but actions speak louder than words. The people of Gales Point, the people of Placencia, trying to save their heritage from the threats of unfriendly development and natural erosions are to be commended, supported! All those communities that are threatened with the unmerciful wrath of global warming, climate change, should be supported! We should all fight to keep plastic out of our waters, treat our piece of earth with the delicacy it requires, and make sure that those bringing us promises of prosperity aren't just Trojan horses in disguise! We have to be ever vigilant, ever respectful, of our own little Patagonia!

"Turn wheresoever I may, by night or day,

The things which I have seen, I now can see no more!" Wordsworth.

Glen

Conditions that led to Micah Miguel's death to be investigated

The acting Chief of Staff of the BDF says that the internal investigation into the claims made by Private Micah Miguel before her death will be as transparent as possible.

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Aug. 14, 2022

A team has been assembled to investigate the events that may have pushed BDF soldier Micah Miguel to take her own life, says the acting Chief of Staff of the Belize Defence Force, Lt. Colonel Jermaine Burns. According to Lt. Colonel Burns, that team includes two representatives from the Ministry of Human Development, as well as persons from the Police Department, which will ensure neutrality and transparency.

"The BDF has picked their team already, and we are already doing what we need to do as preparation for this investigation," said Lt. Colonel Burns.

The internal investigation is expected to begin sometime this week.

The 23-year-old soldier took her own life on July 29 at the home of her aunt and was laid to rest on Thursday. The Belize Defence Force made an agreement with Miguel's family that the investigation would commence after her funeral.

"We didn't want to be going back-



Lt. Colonel Jermaine Burns – Acting Chief of Staff, BDF

and-forth with them too much, and we wanted that when we got information tangible enough to discipline anyone, if that needs to be the case, we wouldn't having them guessing, and it would be something solid from us to say, 'this is what we know took place', explained Burns.

The media had been made aware of Micah Miguel's death and the circumstances surrounding it by her family, who claim that she had been a victim of physical and psychological abuse at the hands of her colleagues at the Price Barracks BDF compound. According to the Chief of Staff, those persons believed to be behind that abuse have been named already, although their identities cannot be disclosed.

Marcus Garvey Birthday!

Continued from Page 11

necessary for the defense.

Turning to my beef, I think Louis needs some history lessons. You wouldn't want to encounter him in a physical fight if he is anything in that arena like he is in verbal warfare. Mr. Wade will grab at everything and try to use it for his end. Now, why would he grab at a Canadian soldier connected to that terrible crime last weekend in Hopkins, and say he is the type of people we are attracting with the

proposed weed law?

Louis needs to learn about the history of Belize. He can start with some fun reading, with Hart Tillett's historical novels, *Exiles No More* and *The Reef Afire*. Wounded and defeated soldiers were here, Braa. He needs to read up about the Caste War. Wounded and defeated soldiers came along with civilians, Braa. He needs to read about wounded and defeated soldiers coming to Belize after the American Civil War and settling down in the south of the country.

Our email address for news, letters and articles is editor_amandala@yahoo.com

"There are text messages, and there are pictures out there, and I hope that those text messages and pictures get to the right persons that are investigating this case. I hope that those persons are dealt with with the strictest regulations against them, if it is in fact that they come into question for this matter," he said.

The allegations by the family of Micah Miguel compound previous ones made by former members of the force that a culture of abuse exists within the BDF. Lt. Colonel Burns says that when he first heard of the alleged abuse, he was distraught.

"I was very concerned about the way, I would say, the culture has changed ... I didn't believe then that

we would have people of that sort in our organization," he said.

Lt. Colonel Burns told the press that he feels the honourable thing to do is to give both Micah Miguel and her family some form of justice.

"There's a lot of rumours around in respect to the case with Private Micah. There's a lot on social media. It's unfortunate that as soon as someone says something or alludes to something, that everybody else just pulls along the same line. We want to remember Micah for the good soldier she was and the inspiration she is to the females on the force. We want to remember her for standing up, and in many ways she has inspired other soldiers to stand up," he said.



C-Ray Cycling Club congratulates Goran and Gabrielle Gabourel

by Ray "Catt" Cattouse

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 11, 2022

The C-Ray Cycling Club extends congratulations to Goran and Gabrielle Gabourel on their spectacular performances in the 2022 Intelligentsia Cup in Chicago, Illinois. Goran competed in the junior male category (15-18 years) placing 4th overall, and Gabrielle competed in the junior women's category (15-18 years) placing 5th overall.

The 2022 Intelligentsia Cup was their first experience in criterium racing. Lacking any training in this highly technical form of racing, they took on the challenge to further their development in the sport. Their results are truly commendable as they competed among some of the best cyclists in the US.

Goran was forced to abandon his race on Day 2 of the event because of a broken derailleur on his bike due to a crash that resulted from torrential rainfall and an extremely slippery course on Day 2. However, he picked up two impressive finishes on Day 3 and Day 8, podiuming 3rd on both days. He also had impressive

4th place finishes on Day 1 and Day 6. Heading into Day 9 of the event, Goran ranked 4th overall. Unfortunately, he clipped his wheel on the last turn heading into the sprint in the final lap and almost suffered a fall which forced him to free wheel to avert a crash. Later that day he went on to challenge himself in the Cat 3 race and went down in a spill that happened in front of him. Due to a badly swollen and painful wrist, he was unable to compete on the last day of the race, Day 10, but managed to secure 4th place overall in the 10-day event.

Gabrielle had equally impressive results, placing 3rd on Day 3 on one of the most technical courses, and she wrapped up Day 5 with a spectacular finish, placing 2nd. Unfortunately, on Day 9, ranking 3rd overall in the competition, Gabrielle suffered a massive fall as a cyclist lost control on a turn and crashed into her, knocking her off her bike. Despite her violent fall, Gabrielle finished the race. Several injuries which included a mild concussion prevented her from competing on the last day of the race. In spite of these setbacks, Gabrielle remarkably finished the



event in 5th place overall.


The Intelligentsia Cup was beneficial and rewarding for both athletes. The tremendous exposure that they acquired served not only to further their growth, but also to measure their competence to excel on other platforms outside Belize, the Caribbean and Mexico where their performances have also been exceptional.

It is with tremendous gratitude that we thank and acknowledge our sponsors for teaming up to provide Goran and Gabrielle with the opportunity to compete in the 2022 Intelligentsia Cup. Your solicitous contribution to assist two dedicated junior cyclists achieve their goals is concrete proof of your commitment to helping our young people develop their talents which is one of the

best ways of giving back to the community.

Our sponsors include: The Minister of Youth, Sports & E-governance - Hon. Rodwell Ferguson; The Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations - Hon. Anthony Mahler; Dion Leslie - Leslie's Imports; Buca Puma Belmopan; AJ's Group International; Best Care Pharmacy; Michael Cattouse (Chicago, USA); Arlen Cadle (Chicago, USA); John Harris (Chicago, USA); Feliciano Gill (Chicago, USA); Paul Trejo (Chicago, USA); Syd Williams; LA Sweat/ Kaya Cattouse; Insurance Center of Belize; Chon Saan Palace.

Everyone who joined the live stream and cheered them on, or have supported them in any way: Thank you!



AMANDALA is now **ONLINE!**

You can now access Amandala's Mid-week and Weekend issues Online by logging on to our website at <https://amandala.com.bz/news/> and joining our membership portal today!

Steps to access E-paper

Five easy steps to get unlimited access to weekly E-paper, archived publications, and a host of other exclusive content.

1. Go to Amandala's website
2. Navigate to the Subscribers area
3. Choose a membership level
4. Checkout using our secured portal
5. Log in to the members-only section

All Power to the People!

Tel: 501-280-4703 OR 202-4477 Emails: amandalapress@yahoo.com OR amandalapress@gmail.com
 Fax: +501-222-4702

National Adaptation Plan...

Continued from Page 2

planning and increasing climate resilience in the coastal zone and fisheries sector of Belize', and will take place in Belize City on August 15 and 16, 2022; in Dangriga Town on August 19, 2022, and in San Pedro Town on August 22, 2022," the release states.

This National Adaptation Plan project was launched in February 2022 and is said to be geared toward increasing the resilience of the coastal zones and

fisheries sector in Belize to climate change impact. The improvement of data collection systems and the development of a comprehensive adaptation plan for the various sectors are key goals.

The main outcomes of the project, as outlined in the February press release, are "strengthened adaptation planning governance and institutional coordination, use of evidence-based design adaptation and solutions for maximum impacts in Belize, and increased adaptation finance."

Faber kicked out...

UDP chairman, Michael Peyrefitte, said today that Faber's reinstatement is conditional on compliance with a request to delete social media posts attacking the party's reputation. Those posts are still on the former party leader's official Facebook page.

Continued from Page 1

Patrick Faber, former party leader and area representative for the Collet Division, to notify him of his immediate removal from the party's Central Executive.

Today, during an interview, Peyrefitte said that Faber's removal took place after he failed to heed several requests to take down posts published on his official social media page condemning the party's current leadership, and according to Hon. Faber, a trend of dictatorial behavior and departure from the UDP constitution. The videos and text posts are similar in tone and content to scathing videos and commentary circulated by Delroy Cutkelvin, who was recently kicked out of the party by the Ethics and Integrity Committee last month.

Chairman Peyrefitte said, however, that expulsion is not a punitive measure being considered for Hon. Faber as yet and that he hopes it never reaches that point. Instead, he said, the party's Central Executive is simply trying to initiate a conversation with the former party leader about what they perceive to be an ongoing attack on the reputation of the party. Hon. Faber has refused to take down the social media posts, and just this evening directed a fresh attack at current party leader, Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow.

"Shyne insists on running a dictatorship, systematically violating the UDP constitution and trying to silence those who speak out against him. Honorable Tracy Panton, an upstanding and inspiring parliamentarian who came within two votes of becoming Party Leader, is unconstitutionally removed from the Central Executive Council and replaced with a junior politician of questionable ethics and integrity," Hon. Faber posted this evening.

Over the weekend, Melvin Hewlett was endorsed to become the Eastern Regional Leader of the UDP, replacing Albert area representative, Hon. Tracy Panton. Chairman Peyrefitte said that she and others were placed as interim leaders, and were never legally put in place by means of an election. He said that Hewlett was the only person to submit his name for the region and was therefore chosen.

Hon. Faber's comments before this endorsement were, "It's the height of nonsense when you illegally remove a winner to replace her via an unconstitutional process, with a man who



Michael Peyrefitte, Chairman of UDP

barely got 500 votes in the general elections. Are we really serious about fixing our party? How can a novice lead the largest and the traditionally most important region of our party? We have tried to discuss these idiotic moves privately in our party to no avail."

These comments were made on August 13, three days after a motion passed by the UDP's CEC.

"You were officially notified on August 11th, 2022 and you still have not complied with the CEC's insistence that your public attacks of the party and its members be removed from your official Facebook immediately," the letter to Hon. Faber states.

The post this evening on Hon. Faber's official page stated, "Former UDP Leader Honorable Patrick Faber rightly condemns the move as idiotic. So now, the unholy trinity running the UDP has removed Honorable Patrick Faber, the former leader, from the Party's executive in order to silence him. From undemocratic to downright unbelievable."

While tensions seem high once again in the UDP, Peyrefitte hopes that this move brings the issue to a head and prompts the various sections of the party that are at odds to come to the table, but he implied that with the various factions all seeking to lead the party, these clashes are inevitable.

"For some people, when several people want the one particular thing and that thing cannot be chopped in two, not even by Solomon, it is that thing or no thing, and when several people will have it at any cost, then that is an issue that you will have. There is nothing that you can do to appease them," Peyrefitte said. He added, "We have a leader of the party, and you have to respect that leader."

CEO, Ministry of Blue Economy...

Continued from Page 1

includes an initial feasibility study, was well-received by Cabinet. According to CEO Carrillo, when it comes to the aviation hub, the potential is great, and as a part of its plan, the Ministry of Civil Aviation is looking into the possibility of opening a training school for air traffic controllers.

At present, Belize's air traffic controllers are trained in Spanish in El Salvador. According to Carrillo, establishing a school at the proposed aviation hub would not

only allow for the officers to be trained in English but could also provide training for persons from other parts of the Caribbean.

"There's also a maintenance hub as well, where aircrafts can land in Belize, and we have the technical expertise also to do this. So the potential is great and we're very excited about it and moving forward very quickly with it as well," said Carrillo.

The feasibility study to be conducted by the Ministry for the proposed hub will include determining whether or not it will be located in Belize City, though according to the Civil Aviation CEO, it is unlikely that

Alleged killer of security guard captured by police

by Charles Gladden

ARMENIA, Cayo District, Thurs. Aug. 11, 2022

After being on the run from the police for about two weeks, Jeremio Xol, who is suspected of killing a primary school security guard, was finally captured by authorities.

On July 27, the Police Department released a wanted poster that informed the public that the police were in search of Xol, who was wanted for questioning in connection with the ongoing investigation into the murder of a 33-year-old security guard of Armenia Government Primary School, Oscar Chiac.

At around 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, Chiac left his home en route to the school to replace the other security guard who had previously been on duty and to start the night shift. However, he was seen



Jeremio Xol

around the village socializing and drinking with others, and at some point he got into an argument with three other male persons which possibly resulted in his violent death.

At around 9:50 a.m. the following day, Chiac's motionless body was found in a crouched position in a pool of blood on the second floor of one of its buildings. There were reportedly blunt force injuries on his body when it was found.

At the time, police detained two other persons along with Xol in connection with the murder, but those two—20-year-old Bernabe Xol, and a 16-year-old minor—were released from police custody. Police then, based on evidence gathered, pinpointed Xol as the primary suspect.

Charges are yet to be levied against him.

Roaring Creek man charged for fatal RTA

Jermano Bol, 55, was charged for multiple road traffic offenses which claimed the life of Max Samuel Pop.

by Charles Gladden

COTTON TREE, Cayo District, Thurs. Aug. 11, 2022

Multiple charges have been brought against Jermano Bol, 55, a Roaring Creek resident, in connection with a fatal road traffic accident between Miles 43 and 44 on the George Price Highway that claimed the life of Max Samuel Pop, 27, a Franks Eddy Village resident. The incident took place on Sunday, August 7, in the vicinity of King's Children's Home in Cotton Tree Village in the Cayo District.

According to reports, Bol was driving his red Toyota pickup truck along a route that leads from Belmopan to Belize City, when he collided with Pop's truck, which had been traveling in the opposite direction. As a result of the collision, Pop received severe head and body injuries and reportedly died on the spot, while Bol was transported to the Western Regional Hospital for medical treatment.

Police tested blood samples from Bol which were taken while he was at the Western Regional, and the results confirmed that Bol had been under the influence of alcohol while driving his vehicle. He was thus charged with manslaughter by negligence, causing death by careless conduct, driving a motor vehicle without due care and attention, driving a motor vehicle with alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit, and negligent grievous harm.

Pop's grieving wife, Brenda Lara, who had been in the truck with Pop at the time of the accident, told 7News that they were heading home after traveling to Benque



Jermano Bol, charged for multiple traffic offenses

when Pop attempted to pull the truck to the side because they saw Bol's vehicle swerving on the road.

"...We were coming from Benque, from the border... we were going to pick up his brother to drop him at his house, and when we reach by children's home we saw this vehicle coming like swerving on the road and the man, he was drunk, and he said, 'Babe, I'll just pull on the side because that man is drunk', and he was going off the road, and when I felt, I just gone blank and when I woke up my little brother was taking me out of the vehicle and I saw Sam on the other side and he was trapped in the vehicle. He couldn't come out. I tried to take him out, but some people reach and told me not to because he was still breathing slightly. I was talking to him; he was bleeding from his ears, his nose, and he just... and the young lady from Cotton Tree, she assisted me, she said 'he's still breathing'. The ambulance took long; it took like about fifteen minutes to reach. When the paramedics reach, they told me he had already passed away," she said.

the Philip Goldson International Airport will be the designated location.

"We do not think it is going to happen

there because of the limited space. But there are options, definitely, there are options," she said.

Caged and forgotten!



Continued from Page 1

of the van. It was taken to the Corozal Hospital, where it was pronounced dead," COMPOL Williams said.

Commissioner Williams went on to say that both a criminal and an internal police investigation have since been launched, and emphasized that no stones would be left unturned in investigating this tragedy.

"Those police officers who are responsible for placing the young man in the back of the vehicle will have to be dealt with some way or the other. The file will be prepared and sent to the DDP Office for instructions, and then we move forward from there," Williams said.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) will determine if and what criminal charges will be levied against the officers involved. COMPOL Williams has noted, however, that the officers who were deployed at the fair were improvising, since there is no detention center in the village, and they were thus using the police prison van as a makeshift cell during the festivities.

Uh, who was detained at the fairgrounds, would have had adequate ventilation leading up to the parking of the van at the Corozal Police Station. Whether or not he was unconscious or was, as reports say, intoxicated, has not been confirmed, but the conditions that led to his death were almost certainly excruciating.

"It is a secure area to keep prisoners, so long as the engine is running and the air is circulating, and in the absence of a police station and cell, they were improvising, which I cannot kill them for that. But the thing is, when they arrived at the police station, they ought to have made sure that the young man was removed from the van, and that was where things went wrong," Williams said.

Police Commissioner Williams additionally noted that no noise was heard coming from the van on Sunday, and no signs that the victim was trying to escape were visible inside the holding area of the prison van.

It will be up to the courts to determine whether or not leaving the young man in the vehicle was intentional and not an oversight on the part of the officers involved.

When asked if there are any indications of foul play — some intention of the officers to harm Uh— Williams responded, "While I have seen some discourse on social media, to the effect that the officers intentionally left the young men, I just

can't buy that. I don't think that they would do something like that, and again to prove a person's intent, is extremely difficult. Again, I say that they are humans beings. I don't want anybody to think that we are defending the police, cause I am not defending the actions. I said that what they did was wrong and has to be dealt with, but at the same time I must be fair, and cannot make assertions that are not supported by evidence."

He added, "I cannot say that it was deliberately done, but certainly there is some degree of gross negligence and carelessness, and that is what we are looking at."

The Police Department is also bracing for a lawsuit that will likely be brought by Uh's family.

"Certainly, the family will have a right to sue, and I am certain that they are going to sue, and we have to pay the price," Williams said.

Investigators are currently piecing together the facts pertaining to this terrible incident. Williams said that he has not spoken to the officers involved in the incident as yet, but feels terrible as the head of the Police Department.

"Honestly, I feel terrible, and I feel for the family. I cursed enough yesterday, and if it would not be unethical to curse on the media, I would curse right now, because it really pisses me off," he commented, adding, "I can ensure the public that we are not going to cover nothing. We are going to be open and frank with the people and let the people understand exactly what transpired," Williams told local reporters.

At the time, he had not spoken to Uh's family as yet, but he said that he will perhaps reach out to them. Family members, friends and many members of the public who are shocked by the manner of Uh's death have taken to social media to call for justice for the young man.

One of his sisters, Vanessa Uh, posted, "What I feel the most is the way you died. You suffered so much. I couldn't be at your side and pray for you."

Another of his sisters posted, **"#JusticeforDerrick** - My little brother was just a young man full of life. I know sometimes he was in problems but he just never did something that bad to deserve to be killed that way. If he did something wrong why they didn't report he and just put him in jail and let us know. Where is CHESTER and where is our PRIME MINISTER to all things

Ashley Lightburn is Miss Universe Belize

Continued from Page 1

and question-and-answer segments.

"I've always enjoyed challenges, and this experience has been no different. Fortunately, the judges saw my everything: my love, my passion, my authenticity, my vulnerability and even my flaws and still found me fit to represent our Jewel. I am forever grateful for this decision," she said.

Lightburn is a strong advocate for women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), and she herself holds a

Bachelor's degree in Pure Mathematics. She has also hosted and participated in Belize's Annual Mathematics Symposium.

Lightburn made her first public appearance as Miss Universe Belize on Sunday at the Belize City House of Culture for the Queen of the Bay Sashing Ceremony and Gala.

The first runner-up for the pageant was doctoral candidate Alina Scott of the Cayo District, while Placencia's Samantha Singh, editor-in-chief of Bent Pin Press, was second runner up as well as Miss Popularity.

BDF soldier dies while returning from colleague's funeral

Continued from Page 1

into a bus in front of it.

Lance Corporal Hill reportedly died on the spot, while her 10 other colleagues received various degrees of injuries to their bodies.

Lieutenant Colonel Jermaine Burns, Chief of Staff in the Belize Defence Force, explained to reporters that the 4-Runner entered into the lane of the oncoming BDF van to avoid crashing into a bus in front of it that was seemingly making a left turn but aborted the attempt and pulled back into the lane after it saw the oncoming BDF van.

Lt. Col. Burns also indicated that the driver of the van, Lance Corporal Mansfield Danderson, displayed no signs of being intoxicated.

Burns said that Hill was a courageous member of the force and was one of the first women in the

force to take up the challenge of flight training.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment issued a press release in the wake of Lance Corporal Hill's death.

"Whenever such incidents occur, many lives are negatively impacted; not only physically and financially, but also psychologically by the pain and grief it causes," the release noted.

The Ministry of Economic Development and the Second Road Safety Project Executing Unit extended their condolences to the family of Corporal Hill and wished a speedy recovery to those injured in this incident.

Hill was celebrating her birthday on the day she tragically lost her life. She leaves behind her common-law husband of 7 years, and her two children.

happening. In fact Police are supposed to protect us not to do this things. We pay them and this is just heartless to tell us that supposedly 'we forgot about him'. My brother suffered and he even took off his clothes and was trying to survive . HE WAS LEFT THERE WORST THAN AN ANIMAL With what excuse they will come now?????I don't wish this to no one but we need justice..."

The Young Leaders Alliance of Belize issued a statement calling for a thorough investigation and justice, saying that the action of the police amounted to manslaughter by negligence.

"YLAB recognizes this undoubtedly cruel and unconscionable act as nothing less than manslaughter by negligence," the release states.

The Prime Minister also released a statement on the incident. That release, which refers to the death of Uh as a "tragedy beyond comprehension", goes on to state, "As a father of three sons, I grieve along with the parents and loved ones of Derrick Uh. Based on preliminary information received, his death was a tragedy and a travesty, and I stand with the rest of the nation in demanding full and complete answers."

The Prime Minister went on to make the following pledge in the release: "As

Prime Minister, I can assure the family of Derrick Uh, and the nation, that no stone will be left unturned in the investigation of events leading to his death. There will be no excuses taken, and no delays in getting to the bottom of what appears, at this time and without medical evidence, to be heinous and criminal neglect."

"I am saddened, appalled and disgusted. We all should be. I extend heartfelt condolences to his family," the Prime Minister further stated.

The Opposition, the United Democratic Party, issued a release of their own, in which they stated that the party "demands a transparent and impartial investigation into the death of young Derrick Uh and emphatically condemns the gross negligence of his arresting officers that resulted in hours of inhumane torture and eventual death."

The UDP goes on in the release to "extend condolences to the Uh family and friends and offer legal or any other form of support that may be needed to seek justice for Derrick."

"Fourteen hours, imagine being shackled in a hot prison box for fourteen hours, crying out for help as your life force slowly slips away. Nobody could have heard Derrick's cry in that dark van on a sweltering summer day," states the UDP in the concluding paragraph of the release.



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 amandalpress@yahoo.com
For news, letters and articles: editor_amandala@yahoo.com