

# Carnival 2022: more than just a fete

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Sat. Sept. 3, 2022

Despite some fears that unfavorable weather or perhaps even gun violence would mar its return, revelers and onlookers from across Belize City turned out en masse for the long-awaited 2022 Carnival Road March. And, thankfully, on Saturday, September 3, the atmosphere pervading the streets of the old capital was mostly one of joy and excitement, to say the least.

After two long years, Belizeans were back outside for a day of revelry that was in complete contrast to the dismal undertone of much of what has taken place in the country and in Belizeans' lives over the past two years.

It began at the break of dawn, with the return of J'ouvert, where paint, water, and mud were in no short supply. For a moment, it had seemed as if the mood of the festivities would have turned sour, after an unfortunate

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Photo courtesy Briheda Haylock

## OW man killed - shot 16 times

by Charles Gladden

ORANGE WALK, Mon. Sept. 5, 2022

Early on Sunday morning, September 4, 24-year-old Ramon Espat was shot at 20 times on Aurora Street in Orange Walk Town. He was wounded by 16 of those shots, and subsequently died as a result.

Police say that Espat was standing in front of an establishment on Aurora Street at around 12:30 a.m. when a lone gunman, who was heading in the direction of Guadalupe Street, walked past him and proceeded to fire a barrage of bullets at Espat.

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Ramon Enrique Espat, deceased

## Public consultation on Waterloo project held

*What will happen to the 20,000 plus signatures of Belizeans opposed to the project? An Environmental Officer from the DOE said that the NEAC would have to recommend that a public hearing be called.*

Story on page 4

## DFC, CWU and Labor Dept. meet on redundancies

*Another meeting among representatives from the CWU, DFC, and the Labor Department took place on Monday afternoon.*



Evan "Mose" Hyde, president of CWU



Belizario Carballo, Assistant General Manager, DFC

See story on page 15

## New Chief Justice, Louise Blenman, sworn in

**Acting Chief Justice, Michelle Arana, will go on to serve in the Court of Appeal**

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Sat. Sept. 3, 2022

Guyanese jurist, Louise Blenman, has been sworn in as Belize's new Chief Justice. Blenman will be replacing Kenneth Benjamin, who retired in March 2020. Justice Michelle Arana, who served as acting Chief Justice and

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Justice Louise Blenman



# Public consultation on Waterloo project held

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Sept. 2, 2022

Last night, a three-hour public consultation session was held by the Department of the Environment (DOE) on the proposed construction of a cruise terminal and expansion of the cargo facility at the Port of Belize Ltd. compound by its principal, Waterloo Investment Holdings. The session was held in Belize City at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza and was attended by Belize City residents and a number of individuals who belong to groups which would be directly impacted by the outcome of the consultations. Persons from a range of groups that oppose the project, as well as individuals who support Waterloo's unceasing push for project approval, posed questions to the panel at the session, and some made brief but passionate presentations either for or against the project. The tentative date for the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) to begin deliberation on the project is September 19, and the period for the submission of feedback from the public was extended to September 14, 2022.

Last week we reported that over 20,000 Belizeans signed a petition indicating opposition to the project, and those signatures were presented to the Government of Belize via a public handover to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Hon. Orlando Habet. However, according to Environmental Officer Kenrick Gordon, whether or not the signatures of those 20,000 persons will have an impact on the process will depend on the NEAC, which will decide whether to recommend to the Department of the Environment that a public hearing be held in response to the voices of those 20,000 Belizeans.

"In terms of the 20,000 plus signatures, what we are having today is the public consultation. The public consultation is the opportunity for the project proponents to provide information to the public and have this feedback. This is not a public hearing. A public hearing is now the requirement of the department to have this same



**Panel at Thursday night's public consultation on Waterloo's proposed development of a cruise terminal and expansion of the cargo facility at the Port of Belize Limited**

consultation between the public and the Department of the Environment, that is determined based on the public's interest." Gordon explained, adding that this was his personal understanding of what is outlined in the legislation.

"Now I haven't seen the petition or the signatures," he went on to say, "But if it is that the questions were geared towards providing some information that could be deliberated on within the NEAC, the NEAC will make a recommendation to the DOE and say 'listen, based on the amount of signatures that were presented to the government of behalf of this project, it is now that we need to conduct a public hearing which will then be between the Department and the public'," Gordon said.

He said how that hearing is conducted would have to be determined, but suggested that a methodology like that of the FPIC protocol could possibly be utilized in order to have the voices of those who oppose the project heard.

Luis Munoz, the project lead, said that the only new component of this project since the 2021 rejection by the NEAC of a previous EIA submitted by the developers is that the proposed offshore dumping of dredged material was completely removed from this new EIA. They also inputted information

that the DOE had indicated was missing from the previous EIA. In the recently submitted ESIA, it is being proposed that millions of cubic meters of the dredged material be placed in nearshore and onshore locations in the area of the port. The issue of placement of this material has been one of concern for Belize Water Services Limited, which had issued a statement last year which pointed out that the material would be dumped between its sewer ponds and on top of an important mangrove wetland used for daily treatment of about 1.6 million gallons of wastewater, which is then discharged through canals into the Caribbean Sea.

The letter, in addition to noting that the mangroves serve as a vital natural polisher that further treats effluent before it reaches the sea, stated that "BWS is greatly concerned by the developer's proposal to dredge and to place 7.5 million cubic meters of dredged material between the location of BWS's sewer ponds and the Caribbean Sea."

"BWS anticipates a serious disruption of the established treatment process, as well as an increase in the challenges of meeting the regulated effluent limits for discharges from domestic wastewater treatment systems into Class 1 waters," the company further said.

One of the project leads from Piedroba Consulting Group, Jelle Prins, claimed at the public consultation, however, that they have been in conversation with BWS for nearly 8 months.

"We are currently talking to them and executing the drafting of a memorandum of association that defines the relationship going forward, that ensures that we as a developer will not interfere with the treatment process and the outflow, and I think they're satisfied with the direction that we've taken," Prins said. However, BWS has made no indication of a change in its position or mentioned any talks currently ongoing with the developers.

Last week, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Orlando Habet mentioned that the law was silent on the matter of the resubmission of an EIA, and the environmental officers at the session stated something similar—explaining that because the laws of the country do not explicitly prohibit such a resubmission, they accepted the new submission from Waterloo after the rejection of its 2019 EIA.

Munoz in his remarks confirmed that what has been submitted is a new EIA. He stated, "The EIA process that we are sitting with today is an iteration of several different processes. The first EIA was submitted in 2020; we went through a public consultation and on the basis of that public consultation and generally listening to the public we eventually changed one element of the EIA, which was the removal of the offshore placement of dredged material, and we resubmitted that as an addendum to the EIA one. That addendum was publicly heard almost exactly a year ago. We went through the NEAC process ... various requests were made by the NEAC to clarify certain points, and we felt that we answered those. The NEAC felt that we didn't, but ultimately, based on our conversations with the DOE and a number of different consultations with the DOE, it was concluded that the most appropriate process was to submit a third stand-alone EIA that combines all those different elements in a single document."

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño had suggested that this new EIA was a part of an ongoing process, but the DOE representative confirmed that what was submitted is a new EIA. As a result, this EIA appears to be subject to the stipulations laid out in the Blue Bond agreement signed in late 2021, which requires that all EIAs be paused until the regulations governing the process are updated and improved.

Environmental Officer Kenrick Gordon explained, "This EIA, the 2022 EIA, is a new EIA that is submitted to the department. The previous EIA that was submitted in 2019, we've considered that process closed. The developers and the project components had decided to put the tribunal process a stay; however, the law is silent when it comes to the resubmission of a project, so they decided to submit this new EIA to the department, and in doing so we took them through the process. What we felt is that considering the previous EIA had lacked that information, the department had closed the first EIA process. We made the decision that we were going to incorporate those in this new EIA terms of reference, and at this point, we felt that the information in regards to the request made by the department has been incorporated in this EIA, and now we take it to the NEAC to see if, in fact, they did address all those issues."

We will have more on the public consultation in the upcoming weekend issue.

## Man attacks ex-common law with a hammer

CAYO DISTRICT, Mon. Sept. 5, 2022

A resident of Cayo is currently in police custody after attacking his ex-common-law wife with a hammer. The woman, Mindy Novelo, reported that her ex, Edin Chi, approached her on Saturday evening while she was in the Corozalito area of the Cayo District and attacked her with a hammer, inflicting several injuries.

The attack was non-fatal, fortunately, since persons who were in the area came to the aid of Novelo. Shortly after, Chi

was detained.

Novelo was subsequently transported to the hospital for treatment, where her injuries were classified as grievous harm. Chi has since been charged with grievous harm, use of deadly means of harm and attempted murder.

He was arraigned this morning in the Magistrate's Court in Cayo. There were previous reports of domestic incidents involving Chi and Novelo, said Sr. Supt. Hilberto Romero during today's press briefing.



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# Howell Gillet returns to Belmopan



Howell Gillett

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 5, 2022

Just a few weeks before the retirement of Deputy Commissioner of Police Deziree Magdaleno, a number of transfers are taking place within the Belize Police Department. Most notable is the transfer of Howell Gillet, who had recently returned to Belize City to head the Eastern Division in March of this year, to Belmopan, where he will be heading the Community Policing division of the department for the entire country, while Hilberto Romero will replace him as the new Commander of the Eastern Division, and Aaron Guzman has been selected to be the new Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP).

The replacement of Gillett by an officer of a lower rank is the third time there has been a change of the person holding the post of Commander of the Eastern Division in less than a year.

While some might view Gillett’s transfer as a demotion, Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, explained otherwise when he spoke to the local media.



Aaron Guzman

“We have ACP Howell Gillett, who has been doing a very good job in Belize City as well, one of his big strengths is community policing, and now we will be moving him up to head community policing. ACP Guzman will then be taking on the DCP role. As you know, ACP Guzman was [in] community policing, but now he is moving up as Deputy Commissioner of Police. I would not consider this a demotion by any stretch; it’s a parallel move. In fact, he’s going to head an entire Community Policing desk, which is for the entire country of Belize, and [as] I said, that is something that we recognize is one of his strengths, is reaching out to the business community, reaching out to the students, to the schools, engaging the community, and that is truly one of the big points for us in PlanBelize. If you look at PlanBelize, community policing is one of the areas that we want to focus on and that certainly has been enhanced, not just by him but by all police officers. Over the last two years, there has been a greater effort towards community policing, so I do not in any way consider that a demotion,” he said.

# PM Briceño leads Caribbean delegation to Berlin

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 5, 2022

For the past ten days, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño has been out of the country on duty leave as he leads a Caribbean delegation on a working visit to Berlin, Germany. The Prime Minister is acting in the capacity of the Vice President of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Initiative, SIDS DOCK, whose goal is to assist small island nations with creating a sustainable energy sector and achieving a 25% increase in energy efficiency by the year 2033.

He was accompanied by Ambassador Stuart Leslie; the Chargé d’Affaires from the Embassy of Belize in Brussels, Raineldo Urbina; Chief Tourism Officer from the Ministry of Tourism & Diaspora Relations, Raymond Mossiah; and Wolf Kahles, Belize’s Honorary Consul to Stuttgart, Germany. The delegation also included technical experts from the SIDS DOCK Secretariat.

As part of the working visit, the Prime Minister has been discussing the future of renewable energy in Belize with top-level sustainable energy experts such as Martin Lugmayr of the United Nations Industrial Development



Organization (UNIDO). A central part of that discussion is the mitigation of the threat of sargassum through potentially utilizing it in the country’s energy sector via waste-to-energy technology.

According to Prime Minister Briceño, discussions were also held on issues related to governance, the environment, peace and security, and cooperation between Germany, Belize, and small Caribbean island states. He met with several German officials, including the Minister of State in the Foreign Federal Office, Dr. Tobias Lindner; State Secretary Christiane Rohleder of the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection; and the Leader of the German Green Party, Mr. Omar Nouripour.

During his trip to Germany, Prime Minister Briceño also acknowledged the six-million Jewish lives lost during World War II with a visit to Berlin’s Holocaust Memorial. The Prime Minister noted on his Twitter account that the visit was “particularly pointed,” for him as he comes from a multicultural nation. Along with photos of the memorial, the Prime Minister shared a quote by Winston Churchill: “Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

# Southern roads being repaired

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing is at work on restoring the condition of the roads in the rural communities in the Toledo District

by Charles Gladden

TOLEDO DISTRICT, Mon. Sept. 5, 2022

This morning video footage surfaced on social media of residents of a village in the Toledo District engaged in a peaceful demonstration, during which they demanded that the roads in their community be improved.

The state of the roads, which were already in poor condition prior to the overwhelming rainfall over the last few weeks, has rapidly worsened. This morning was the first day of classes for primary school students across the country, and children from rural Toledo weren’t able to attend classes, as their school bus bogged on the road.

In a release issued by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Development, and Housing, the ministry has deployed a team consisting of three road engineers from Belmopan along with its road maintenance operators and equipment from the MIDH’s Stann Creek Road Maintenance Unit to spend seven days engaged in the restoration of eleven roads in rural Toledo. These include,



MIDH improving roads down south

among others, the Boom Creek Road, Conejo Road, Corazon Road, Laguna Road, Aguacate Road, and Monkey River Road.

The Toledo District contains 379 miles of roadway, with the majority being comprised of gravel-surfaced roads, especially in the rural communities. The MIDH is encouraging community residents to inform them of the poor conditions of the roads that may be affecting them.

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# Energy transition and climate resilience: catalysts for growth and inclusion

by Mahmoud Mohieldin and Mario Cimoli

Intensifying climate change, the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and global food and energy security challenges are stalling decades of progress against poverty, hunger, income and gender inequality. ECLAC estimates that the LAC region’s economy will grow 2.7% this year and 16 countries are yet to recover pre-pandemic GDP levels. The region’s structural challenge of low investment is becoming entrenched, standing at 19.7% of GDP, below the levels in much of the developed and emerging world.

To achieve the transformations required to address the climate crisis, trillions of dollars of investments are needed and the mobilization of inclusive financing at a scale that does not exacerbate country debt is essential. Yet, developed countries have not even fulfilled the \$100-billion commitment by 2020 from all sources, agreed to in 2009. As many developing countries face rising debt and stretched fiscal space, new forms of cooperation, innovative instruments and grant and concessional financing must gain priority over debt-based instruments.

In Latin America, gross public debt of central governments is at levels seen 20 years ago (52.1% of GDP), and in the Caribbean at 84.1% of GDP. Climate change vulnerability also affects risk evaluations and the cost of public debt.

We need to transform commitments to action and translate global pledges to regional and local solutions. LAC is well-positioned to benefit from the climate transition. The regional resource endowment is strong in relevant inputs from lithium to copper to wind and solar. Clean and affordable energy can bridge social gaps and be a catalyst to growth in productive sectors and address the secondary impacts of fossil energy prices on rising food prices. In the most urbanized developing region (80%), investments in electromobility and infrastructure can render the growing transport sector sustainable and regional manufacturing capacities and natural resources can be leveraged. Climate transition can promote productive change and social inclusion if supported by coherent investments, through what ECLAC has termed the big push for sustainability and the simultaneous implementation of the SDGs.

Addressing the asymmetry between contributing little to global emissions

but suffering the effects of the climate emergency is urgent for Caribbean SIDS and vulnerable countries in Central America, which face insufficient access to debt relief and concessional financing options. Financing flows for adaptation constitute a small fraction of those dedicated to mitigation efforts. Innovative solutions, debt for climate adaptation swaps, natural disaster clauses in debt management and the establishment of a Caribbean Resilience Fund need international support.

The Economic Commissions of the United Nations are partnering with the incoming Egyptian Presidency of COP27 and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions for COP26 and COP27 to organize five regional forums “Towards COP27: Regional Forums on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate

Action and the SDGs”. The forums bring together public and private sector stakeholders to catalyze investment in climate mitigation and adaptation. The innovation of the forums lies in creating spaces to showcase a catalogue of projects ready to be financed, discuss the creation of an enabling environment and instruments to mobilize financing for projects that correspond to the needs of the five regions, address climate change holistically and narrow the gap in financial flows aligned with the Paris Agreement.

Mahmoud Mohieldin is the UN High-Level Climate Change Champion for COP27 to be convened in Egypt in November 2022 and Mario Cimoli is the Acting Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

## Letters to the editor

### It Is Not Only About Racial Profiling!

The Editor,  
AMANDALA,  
Belize City,  
Belize

Dear Sir,

I would be grateful if you bring this other point of view to your readers. Thank you.

The racism experienced by Mr. Barrington Myvett at the Belize international airport while visiting Belize, which he highlighted in the edition of 3rd September, 2022, of your newspaper, is nothing new. What is also not new is that his two traducers, who are officials of Belize’s Customs service, were, like him, Black Belizeans. Countless Black Belizeans arriving home on a visit, including myself, have either had a similar experience or witnessed it happening to others. Indeed, the white tourists, some of whom may be even carrying drugs, are routinely and solicitously waved away without their luggages checked, while hapless Black Belizeans, despite having nothing to declare, have their suitcases turned upside down, with their personal effects in full display to all and sundry milling around.

But tourism is not the sole culprit of mental slavery. Long before the tourist industry made its pernicious inroads into Belize, Black Belizeans of a certain age group well know what the expression, “Me com hat in han, boss” conjures. This is when weak-minded individuals, who happen to be members of a persecuted and discriminated ethnic group, are afflicted with a severe attack of inferiority complex, particularly when interacting with ethnic groups or races they consider superior to them. This is often manifested in extreme obsequious behaviour, to the point of self-abnegation. And, to further compensate for their loss of self-respect, they then viciously turn on their own

people in pathetic displays of power to harass and humiliate. There is also the urgent desire to curry favour and “show Massa” how efficient and loyal they are!

One of the strangest pieces of advice I received from my mother when I began travelling out of Belize, and based off her own experiences was, “try to avoid dealing as much as possible with minority ethnic immigration and customs personnel and WOMEN”. Why? Her response was that they are usually very insecure people and therefore need to prove to their white superiors that they are more than up to the task of doing a good job. Thus, they tend to go overboard and overplay their roles! “They will grill you far more than whitey and put you through many changes, all to show how scrupulous and efficient they are”, my mother explained.

But since that time, so long ago, nothing has changed. Recently, I had a particularly ignorant encounter at London’s Heathrow airport with a Sikh border control official who wanted to know what I was doing with a Belizean passport, as if he could not read English and see that the passport indicated that I was born in Belize City, Belize, many, many moons ago and did not look like an Inuit! Which goes to show how insidious and pervasive the hatred of self, kind and others like you in the same racist boat can be. Slavery and the colonial experience, whether in Belize and India, or America, after all these centuries, still manage to cast a long and sinister shadow on Black and Brown psyches in a myriad of conscious and subconscious ways.

So Black people in particular, including Black Belizeans, suffer to a large extent a double jeopardy — both from the external “enemy” and their “me com hat in han, boss” acolytes within.

Thérèse Belisle-Nweke  
The writer lives in Lagos, Nigeria.

## Justice must be served— Hon. Musa

**Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa echoed Police Commissioner Chester Williams’ pledge that a review will be done of the notes of evidence from the tribunal which found Elmer Nah and Manuel Caliz not guilty of the internal charges against them.**



Corporal Elmer Nah



PC Manuel Caliz

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 5, 2022

During an interview on Friday, Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, told local reporters that a second look will have to be taken at the notes of evidence which led a police tribunal to hand down a not guilty verdict in the case of Corporal Elmer Nah and PC Manuel Caliz. In last Friday’s issue, we reported that, following the proceedings of a tribunal within the Police Department, Nah and Caliz were found not guilty of a Failure to Obey A Lawful Order. The internal charge was brought against them after a large stash of ammunition was found in a vehicle they were in that was

stopped at a checkpoint in Independence Village. This took place the day after a brazen drug plane landing near Bladen Village in Toledo, in connection with which other police officers, who like Nah and Caliz were members of the Commander of Operations Strike Team (COST), were also indicted.

Minister Musa told local media that along with the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams, he will also review the notes of evidence that led to the decision that was ultimately handed down. Last November he commented





# Size matters. Where to, Belize?

Monday, Sept. 5, 2022

“If I knew then, what I know now ...” That is often the lament of some old folks, looking back on their life and what might have been.

As a nation, there are some big decisions that our leaders have to make, decisions that are so big in potential impact, for better or for worse, that it is deemed necessary for them to come back to the people for their guidance and approval. One such case was the decision to go to the ICJ. And such is currently the case with two mega-projects being pushed by developers/investors, and whose potential negative impact on the natural environment in parts of Belize, our precious Barrier Reef and our pristine natural habitat in the Manatee area, are being carefully considered by all who are concerned about the future for generations to come.

The developers keep arguing that Belize needs to follow the rest of the world and go bigger in ship size for economy of scale. They want to pack in the cruise tourists by more thousands to maximize their profit; all well and good. And shipping costs would be reduced for the cargo also, with more profits for the port. Meanwhile, up north in Sugar City, with new strategies to realize profits from the use of bagasse to generate electricity, cane farmers are battling hard with the giant investor, ASR/BSI, who wants to keep all the savings for themselves and their shareholders. So, savings, yes; but for whom?

We are a relatively small country, but with a huge variety of attractions on land and sea, and all amazingly within a short distance of our international airport, so a visitor can see a whole lot of what Belize has to offer in a single day, and all in the

company of a warm and friendly people. That’s what makes us so unique. Small as we may be, we are something special, indeed. But the developers/investors are insistent that we have to bring in these big, monster ships, as other places are doing, or the cruise lines will decide to stop coming to Belize. Really? Is that supposed to frighten us? And they say it’s nothing to fret about; they just need to widen and deepen the access channel by dredging some 7.5 million cubic meters of material so that the big giant cruise and cargo ships can come in to the proposed Waterloo cruise terminal at Port of Belize. And it is almost the same down in Manatee with the Vulcan company, who will want to dredge a corridor so their ships can come close to receive the thousands of tons of quarried limestone they plan to dig out of the hills in Manatee to ship to the U.S.

Some Belizeans are red-eyed with the developers/investors’ promise of jobs, but many Belizeans are also worried about the lurking dangers to Belize’s precious land and sea resources, our Barrier Reef and the pristine natural terrain and wildlife habitat in Manatee which large-scale strip mining may destroy forever. Cruise tourism is not the only kind of tourism, and the tour guides in Manatee know quite well the value of what they have in nature’s blessings to preserve.

Economy of scale is a reality in business for profit; but bigger is not always better, especially when the target product can become seriously damaged or degraded and spoiled by overcrowding. In some cases, going too big can make one vulnerable to disaster. We do need to step back and think this thing out carefully, before we get badly burned, and end up killing our golden goose. A good example of getting big and burned, is the case just over a decade ago of the Nova shrimp farm in Ladyville. Many factors were involved, and that’s a story in itself, but the fact is that the Nova Ladyville farm was quite profitable, with 27 production ponds in 1998. It ballooned to quadruple its size to 93 ponds in a couple years’ time, and a hurricane struck in September of 2000, with Taura virus following, and market prices soon nose-dived following 9/11. And soon Nova shrimp farm, by far the biggest in Belize, was no more. But its little Ladyville neighbor, Caribbean Shrimp farm, which was/is one-twentieth the size of Nova Ladyville, went through all that and is still going strong, focusing on a high-quality product, organic, to command top prices on the world market. As reported in this past Tuesday’s *Amandala*, they recently received certification from the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC). So, if you’re small, you can go for quality and still make big gains. Where do we want to go, Belize?

It sounds like somebody is getting greedy, and maybe selfish, which isn’t strange. Belize has the largest LIVING Barrier Reef IN THE WORLD. And you mean to tell us that, if Belizeans are reluctant to risk damage to this World Wonder by dredging up millions of cubic meters of sea-bottom sludge to make room for monster ships, that the regular tourist ships will stop coming to Belize?

We await the deliberations of the NEAC; but if they make an about turn and are now inclined to favor the developers/investors, it would be wise of the DOE to hold a public hearing before signing off on either of these projects. After all, those quickly garnered 20,000 plus signatures for the “Save the Reef” campaign do mean something. And although COLA is apparently leaderless and dispersed, and the Opposition is in disarray, there is obviously a large, still quiet segment of informed Belizeans who, if pinched beyond their bearing point, like the nurses did a few days ago, may feel the patriotic urge to demonstrate their displeasure in the streets this September. In such a climate of intense dissatisfaction with the status quo, it only takes a spark, and a charismatic leader to emerge from the woodwork, and we could suddenly be witnessing the beginning of something new in our political climate, something outside the realm of PUDP.

But good leadership is about responding to the cries of the people with respect and meaningful intervention, as recently exhibited by Health Minister Hon. Kevin Bernard following the nurses’ walk-out demonstration. All is not lost. There is collective responsibility in Cabinet, which is where the final call will be made. And while a few voices have been strong and loud, others have been silent or non-committal. When the roll is called, some will side with the people, and others may take the side of mammon. Inevitably, Belizeans will do what they have to do, because “Only the people can save the people!”

Happy Tenth, Belizeans!



(estb. 1969)

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# Man arrested for failed assassination attempt on Argentinian vice president

**A man held a pistol at point-blank range in front of Vice President Christina, but the gun misfired.**

by Khaila Gentle

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Thurs. Sept. 1, 2022

A 35-year-old Brazilian man living in Argentina has been arrested after attempting to assassinate that country’s vice president, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, this past Thursday night. In a moment caught on camera, the 35-year-old man raised a handgun to the vice president’s face as she greeted supporters in front of her home, but the loaded weapon misfired, leaving her unharmed. Not long after, the suspect was grabbed by bystanders and eventually apprehended by police.

“Christina is still alive because, for some reason yet to be confirmed, the gun ... did not fire,” said Argentina’s president, Alberto Fernández, in a national broadcast shortly after the incident.

The video recording of what officials are calling a failed assassination attempt has been widely shared online and across news channels. In it, Fernández de Kirchner covers her face and crouches down

right after the gunman pulls the trigger, though she has since told local media that she did not see the weapon.

The gunman has since been identified as one Fernando Sabag Montiel, who has lived in Argentina since 1993 and was employed as an Uber driver. According to a report by *The Guardian*, upon searching his home, investigators discovered two boxes containing 100 bullets. Montiel remains in custody while police investigations continue.

Christina Fernández de Kirchner, a two-time former president, has been hailed as Argentina’s most prominent political leader—and one who is as divisive as she is popular, having faced numerous accusations of corruption.

Reports coming out of Argentina suggest that there has been a growing climate of violence between the vice president’s supporters and the opposition—owed mostly to charges of corruption that were filed against her in court this year.

Back in August, prosecutors called for Fernández to be permanently banned from public office and imprisoned for 12 years for



**The moment a gun is aimed at Cristina Fernández de Kirchner**

irregularly awarding public works contracts to a friend’s construction company. According to a report by the *LA Times*, Kirchner’s alleged fraud—charges which she has vehemently denied—costed the country up to \$1 billion.

President Alberto Fernandez has supported Fernández de Kirchner throughout her trial, calling her a victim of “persecution by the courts and media.”

“When hate and violence prevail over debate, societies are destroyed and situations like these arise: attempted assassination,” tweeted Argentina’s economy minister, Sergio Massa.

In response to the attempted shooting, Argentina’s security minister, Anibal Fernández, declared Friday a national holiday to give people the chance to stand “in solidarity” with the vice president.

## Hon. Mahler: Hell No to Vulcan

**“We don’t need that type of investment here in this country,” Minister Mahler stated in a recent interview.**

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Sept. 2, 2022

The Minister of Tourism, Hon. Anthony Mahler, has gone on the record before to reject the advances of the multi-billion-dollar US-based mining company Vulcan Materials. He shared that he was the first to bring it up to Cabinet – after it was brought to his attention months ago by some friends of his living in Gales Point village. Minister Mahler, who is an avid fisherman and who frequents the surrounding fishing spots in the Manatee and Sibun River area, said pointedly, “We don’t need that type of investment here in this country.”

“I was the first one to bring it to Cabinet,” Minister Mahler stated during a recent interview, “because I go to the Gales Point area often. I go fishing in Manatee River and Sibun, and so I go up there. I have some friends up there, and they brought it to my attention many, many months ago, and I brought it to the Cabinet,” Minister Mahler said.

He further mentioned that he had brought it up in a previous sitting of the House of Representatives.

“If you go back to the House, you will see one of my presentations. I say ‘Hell No To Vulcan,’” Mahler said.

Vulcan Materials Company is still hoping to get an audience with the government after having a daylong meet-and-greet session with the villagers of Gales Point. They were met, however, largely by villagers who rejected the proposed projects and who are focused on preserving the heritage



**Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism**

of the area.

The company has been on an offensive to acquire the land at White Ridge Farm near Gales Point which houses the “Sugar Hills”, which are rich in limestone the company is eager to mine and send back to the United States for infrastructural projects. Recently, in May of this year, the company’s mining operation in one part of Mexico was shut down. The President of the country, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, said the impact of Vulcan’s mining amounts to “ecological catastrophe.”

“We don’t need that type of investment here in this country,” stated Minister Mahler.

## Brothers stabbed during J’ouvert

**Calvert Young, 33, and his younger brother, Keon Young, 31, were stabbed while participating in the Carnival J’ouvert**

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 4, 2022

While participating in the pre-carnival festivities over the weekend, two brothers, Calvert Young, 33, and Keon Young, 31, both of North Front Street, were stabbed at the corner of Majestic Alley and Queen Street.

According to an initial police report, at about 5:25 in the morning on Saturday, as the participants in the J’ouvert were nearing the junction of Majestic Alley and Queen Street, an assailant, who was also in the crowd, approached the siblings as they were enjoying the festivities and stabbed Calvert in his lower back and

Keon in his lower abdomen.

Calvert was reported to be in critical condition but underwent surgery at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH) and was listed as being in a stable condition, while Keon was treated and released shortly after.

Senior Superintendent of Police Hilberto Romero, Deputy Commander for the Crime Investigation Branch, told local reporters that police are not aware of any previous altercation involving the brothers that could have led to the Saturday morning attack.

“There were police officers there at the event. Some were at the front, some were at the back and some were around the crowd, but somehow this person came. There were a lot of people there, so he managed to get inside this large crowd and inflicted stab wounds [on] these persons,” said Romero.

No arrests have yet been made in connection with the stabbing, but police are investigating.

## 16 Cubans in police custody

by Charles Gladden

SAN PEDRO, Ambergris Caye, Mon. Sept. 4, 2022

Sixteen Cuban nationals, fourteen males and two females, with ages ranging from eighteen to thirty-six years old, spent the weekend in police custody after the boat in which they were traveling drifted to a location about three miles outside of San Pedro Town near Coco Beach Resort



**Cubans in custody**

on Thursday night.

According to reports, the group left Grand Cayman on August 26 on their way up north to either Mexico or the





Ernestine



Supa G



TR Shine



Cozono Boy



Britney Starr



Unltd



King Rome

▲▲▲

MARTINS

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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.





# El tamaño importa. ¿Hacia dónde, Belize?

Lunes, 5 de septiembre de 2022

”Si supiera entonces, lo que sé ahora...” Ese es a menudo el lamento de algunas personas mayores, que recuerdan su vida y lo que podría haber sido.

Como nación, hay algunas decisiones importantes que nuestros líderes deben tomar, decisiones que tienen un impacto potencial tan grande, para bien o para mal, que se considera necesario que vuelvan a la gente para su orientación y aprobación. Uno de esos casos fue la decisión de acudir a la CIJ. Y ese es actualmente el caso de dos megaproyectos impulsados por desarrolladores/inversores, y cuyo posible impacto negativo en el medio ambiente natural en partes de Belize, nuestra preciosa Barrera de Coral y nuestro hábitat natural prístino en el área de los manatíes, se están considerando cuidadosamente por todos los que se preocupan por el futuro de las generaciones venideras.

Los desarrolladores siguen argumentando que Belize necesita seguir al resto del mundo y aumentar el tamaño de los barcos para lograr una economía de escala. Quieren acomodar a más miles de turistas de cruceros para maximizar sus ganancias; todo bien. Y los costos de envío también se reducirían para la carga, con más ganancias para el puerto. Mientras tanto, en el norte en la Ciudad del Azúcar, con nuevas estrategias para obtener ganancias del uso del bagazo para generar electricidad, los agricultores de caña están luchando duramente con el gigante inversionista, ASR/BSI, que quiere quedarse con todos los ahorros para ellos y sus accionistas. Entonces, ahorro, sí; pero para quién?

Somos un país relativamente pequeño, pero con una gran variedad de atracciones en tierra y mar, y todas asombrosamente a una corta distancia de nuestro aeropuerto internacional, por lo que un visitante puede ver mucho de lo que Belize tiene para ofrecer en un solo día, y todo en compañía de una gente cálida y amable. Eso es lo que nos hace tan únicos. Por pequeños que seamos, somos algo especial, de hecho. Pero los desarrolladores/inversionistas insisten en que tenemos que traer estos grandes y monstruosos barcos, como lo están haciendo en otros lugares, o las líneas de cruceros decidirán dejar de venir a Belize. ¿En serio? ¿Se supone que eso debe asustarnos? Y dicen que no es nada de lo que preocuparse; solo necesitan ensanchar y profundizar el canal de acceso dragando unos 7,5 millones de metros cúbicos de material para que los grandes cruceros y buques de carga puedan llegar a la terminal de cruceros de Waterloo propuesta en Port of Belize. Y es casi lo mismo en Manatee con la compañía Vulcan, que querrá dragar un corredor para que sus barcos puedan acercarse para recibir las miles de toneladas de piedra caliza extraída que planean excavar en las colinas de Manatee para enviar a los Estados Unidos.

Los ojos de algunos beliceños están agrandados con la promesa de empleo de los desarrolladores/inversionistas, pero muchos beliceños también están preocupados por los peligros que acechan a los valiosos recursos terrestres y marinos de Belize, nuestra Barrera de Coral y el terreno natural prístino y el hábitat de vida silvestre en Manatee, que en gran parte la minería a cielo abierto a gran escala puede destruir para siempre para las generaciones venideras. El turismo de cruceros no es el único tipo de turismo, y los guías turísticos en Manatee saben muy bien el valor de lo que tienen en las bendiciones de la naturaleza para preservar.

La economía de escala es una realidad en los negocios con fines de lucro; pero más grande no siempre es mejor, especialmente cuando el producto de destino puede dañarse o degradarse gravemente y

estropearse por el hacinamiento. En algunos casos, ir demasiado grande puede hacer que uno sea vulnerable al desastre. Necesitamos dar un paso atrás y pensar en esto con cuidado, antes de quemarnos gravemente y terminar matando a nuestra gallina de los huevos de oro.

Un buen ejemplo de crecer y quemarse es el caso de hace poco más de una década de la granja camaronera Nova en Ladyville. Muchos factores estuvieron involucrados, y esa es una historia en sí misma, pero el hecho es que la granja de Nova en Ladyville fue bastante rentable, con 27 estanques de producción en 1998. Creció hasta cuadruplicar su tamaño a 93 estanques en un par de años, y un huracán golpeó en septiembre de 2000, seguido del virus Taura, y los precios del mercado pronto cayeron en picada después del 11 de septiembre. Y pronto la granja camaronera de Nova, por mucho la más grande de Belize, ya no existía. Pero su pequeño vecino de Ladyville, Caribbean Shrimp Farm, que era/es una vigésima parte del tamaño de Nova Ladyville, pasó por todo eso y aún se mantiene fuerte, centrándose en un producto de alta calidad, orgánico, para alcanzar los precios más altos del mercado mundial. Como se informó en el *Amandala* del martes pasado, recientemente recibieron la certificación del Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC). Entonces, si es pequeño, puede optar por la calidad y aún así obtener grandes ganancias. ¿A dónde queremos ir, Belize?

Parece que alguien se está volviendo codicioso, y tal vez egoísta, lo cual no es extraño. Belize tiene la barrera de coral VIVA más grande DEL MUNDO. ¿Y quieren decirnos que, si los beliceños son reacios a arriesgarse a dañar esta Maravilla del Mundo al dragar millones de metros cúbicos de lodo del fondo del mar para crear espacio para barcos monstruosos, los barcos turísticos regulares dejarán de venir a Belize?

Esperamos las deliberaciones del NEAC; pero si dan un giro y ahora se inclinan a favorecer a los desarrolladores/inversionistas, sería prudente que el Departamento del Ambiente (DOE por sus siglas en inglés) convoque una audiencia pública antes de aprobar cualquiera de estos proyectos. Después de todo, aquellas rápidamente conseguidas más de 20,000 firmas para la campaña “Salvemos el arrecife” significan algo. Y aunque COLA aparentemente no tiene líderes y está disperso, y la Oposición está desorganizada, obviamente hay un segmento grande y aún silencioso de beliceños informados que, si se les pellizca más allá de su punto de quiebre, como les sucedió a las enfermeras hace unos días, pueden sentir ansias patrióticas de manifestar su descontento en las calles este mes de septiembre. En tal clima de intensa insatisfacción con el statu quo, solo se necesita una chispa y un líder carismático para emerger de la nada, y de repente podríamos estar presenciando el comienzo de algo nuevo en nuestro clima político, algo fuera del ámbito del PUDP.

Pero un buen liderazgo se trata de responder a los gritos de la gente con respeto e intervención significativa, como lo exhibió recientemente el ministro de Salud, Kevin Bernard, luego de la manifestación de huelga de las enfermeras. No todo está perdido. Hay responsabilidad colectiva en el Gabinete, que es donde se hará la última llamada. Y mientras algunas voces han sido fuertes y ruidosas, otras han sido silenciosas o evasivas. Cuando se pase la lista, algunos se pondrán del lado del pueblo, y otros se pondrán del lado de mamón. Inevitablemente, los beliceños harán lo que tengan que hacer, porque “¡Solo el pueblo puede salvar al pueblo!”

¡Feliz diez de septiembre, beliceños!



# Tom Greenwood’s “Canal Fever” story shouldn’t be ignored

by Colin Hyde

Tom Greenwood, our former army general turned tour operator and defender of our environment, said at the Waterloo consultation on Thursday night that the massive dredging the company will do if the NEAC gives them the yes, could bring the deadly yellow fever upon us, as what followed in a century past when a canal was dug up in Belize. Whoa there, I believe Greenwood got his diseases crossed. I believe the “fever” that was about when the canal was dug, it must have been cholera.

In my search for epidemics in our country, I came across this bit at Ambergriscaye.com: “in 1884, Governor Roger T. Goldsworthy endorsed the dredging of the canals in Belize City. The inadequately completed job left sewage piled on the banks of the South Canal, causing a yellow fever epidemic. In 1891, Governor Cornelius A. Moloney lost his wife, Constance, to yellow fever just two weeks after her arrival in Belize. As he was warned to leave her in London, the Governor blamed himself for her death and secluded himself for two weeks.”

The experts would have to tell me what yellow fever has to do with dredging mud, because that is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes, the deadly Aedes Aegypti breed that transmits

Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika. That yellow fever is nothing to play with. It was havoc in our part of the world for sure.

Yap, Greenwood said yellow fever, but the name of this canal fever he was talking about must be cholera; I believe that’s the disease that was on his mind. There was a big outbreak of cholera in the 1860s in our country, and there have been other notable outbreaks here. There’s more than one “cholera” cemetery in our country.

The medical people say cholera is caused by a bacterium called *Vibrio cholerae*, and unlucky individuals who catch it come down with the worst kaagalayra (*cagalaria*). The main spreader of cholera is contaminated water and food, and the disease is most prevalent in crowded areas that have poor sanitation. Over the centuries, millions the world over have been killed by cholera, but fortunately it isn’t the scourge it once was. There are treatments with antibiotics, and salts. There are a couple other serious *Vibrios*, and they’re a big reason why our marine products for export have to be lab-certified before they are put on a plane or ship.

Ah, I believe the veteran king of the press conference just got his wires crossed. It happens when we get older. But his crossing up wires after he got his emeritus doesn’t compare with

Price’s foul ups after he went into retirement. Price signed a lot of documents that were different from positions he held when he was in his prime. Men change with time, but complete about turns are unheard of; it only happens when you stay around too long, or have ambitious friends.

It is a serious matter Tom Greenwood brought up, and our experts must go the extra mile to prevent any serious disease outbreaks if the project gets over all the hurdles. Without Waterloo, the water around Belize City is already not too healthy. If I recall correctly, the EIA on Stake Bank’s Port Coral has restrictions on people bathing around the island certain times of the year.

This story I found, “How to avoid flesh-eating bacteria at the beach this summer”, by Britni R. McAshan—you can check it out at *TMC News* (Texas Medical Center) at the website [tmc.edu/news](http://tmc.edu/news)—is right up the canal Mr. Greenwood was warning us about. McAshan said the experts say there are several bacteria that cause serious flesh diseases, and one of these terrible flesh-eating bacteria, *Vibrio vulnificus*, causes “roughly 80,000 illnesses each year and results in 100 deaths” in the United States. The infections are found where river and salt water meet, and it is common in beach areas.

## Those prophets in Israel smoked weed

Those of us who know we come short of the glory of God because we can’t carry the shoes of Jesus the Christ, also know that He, quite likely, and many of the Bible prophets, most definitely, smoked weed. That marijuana thing is native to Asia, and those Three Wise Men would have used it to make their journey from the Orient more bearable. Those guys didn’t get into cars or jet planes. They made the trip by foot and camel back. Their feet and backsides, you bet they were sore, and they didn’t have Tylenol.

Ben Yakas, in a story in *Gothamist*, “Menorah bongos and Talmudic toking: The secret history of Judaism and cannabis”, says Jewish historian Eddy Portnoy has found strong evidence about the use of weed in the Jewish world. Portnoy reported that “the intertwined history of Judaism and marijuana dates back to the Bible” with references “in Exodus, Song of Songs, the Talmud and other traditional Jewish texts to a plant known as *KaNeH-Bosem* (phonetically related to the word *cannabis*), which is translated as ‘fragrant reed’ or ‘aromatic cane.’”

The story says “an archeological dig in Israel a few years ago found two altars in the ruins of a third-century BCE

synagogue [and] on top of these altars were burned substances: one had the burned residue of frankincense, and the other had the burned residue of cannabis.” The Jews not only used weed as incense, it was also anointing oil for the high priests.

Yakas said that Jews follow the laws of the country they’re in, hence they didn’t use weed when in Western nations, but when in countries where it was accepted, such as Morocco, “it was a tradition for Moroccan Jews to sprinkle hashish in the couscous for wedding parties.”

These Evangelical “Jews” in our midst, it is proper that they should follow the laws of the land, but their insistence on trying to influence the laws on weed is a case of them reaching beyond their terms of reference.

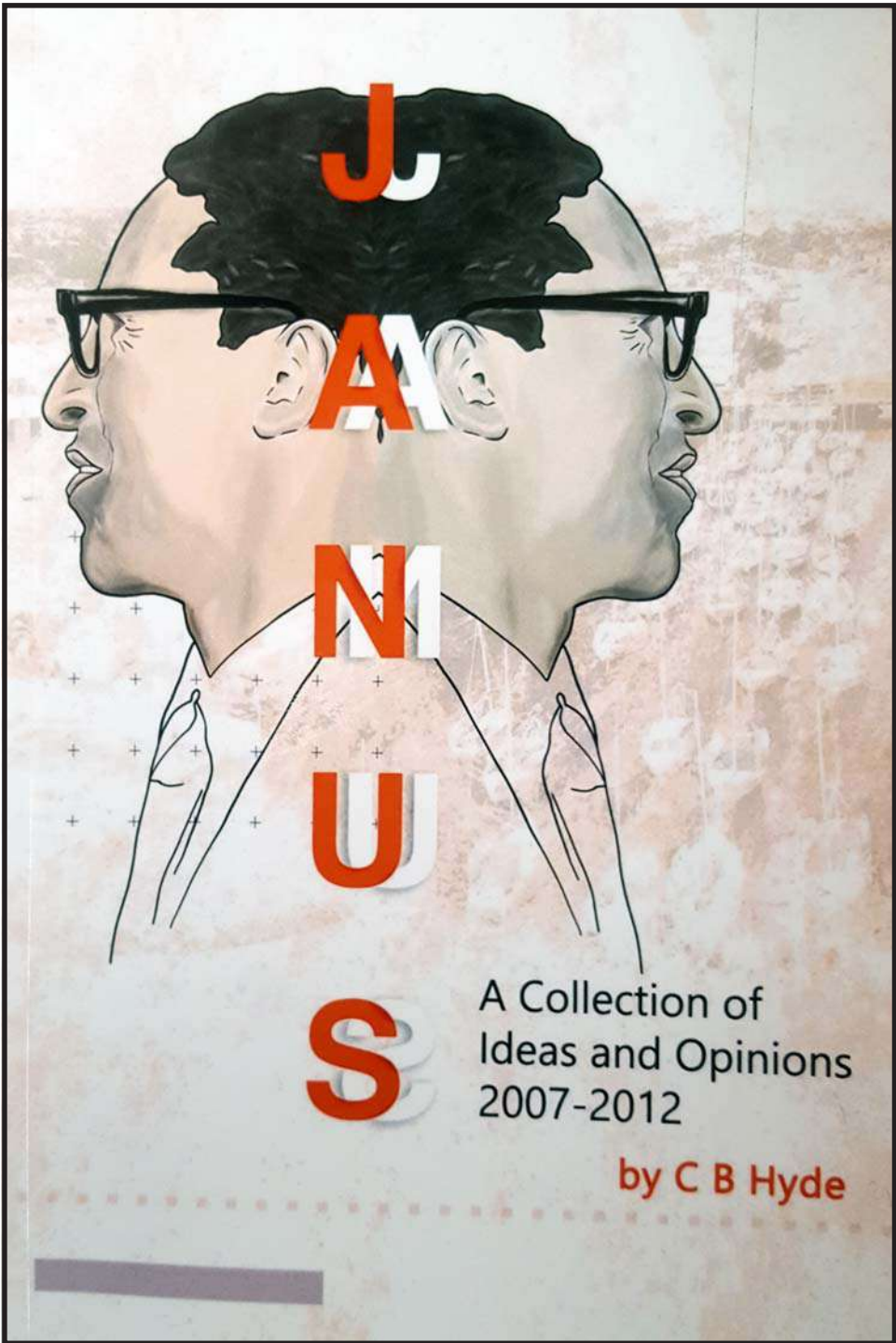
## Three anti-monarchs in semi-retirement

I saw a pic of the Mighty JC Arzu on the sea front in Peini, and I got to thinking, wow, that’s the life, but before I could get jealous, I realized that his fun in the sun is good for us too, because in that ambiente, politics must be far from his mind. JC is young enough to make a big comeback to the airwaves, and hopefully by then we’ll have roundly defeated this ambition he shares with other semi-retirees, Bill Lindo and Patrick Rogers, that we remove the Queen as titular head of our country.

You know that Patrick scuttled a promising political career with this obsession of his, of blaming the Queen for the excesses of these little people we elect into government. Rogers is from the belly of the Blue, so it was an easy jump for him to the House. But when he came of age, the party had already gone full-blown capitalist, and he has a very socialist philosophy, which is a good thing about him. As they say, nobody’s all bad.

Lindo, he’s originally from the Red camp, but he switched over to the Blue, been on that side for over 40 years. He’s been on again/off again in their inner circle, because he too has some Roots philosophy. Hmm, ever since Ralph Fonseca took the PUP on a capitalist path, Lindo has been on shaky ground with the power brokers in the party.

JC’s a free thinker, clearly not aligned with either of the big camps. I suspect he’s got roots in the PUP, but I won’t rain on his holiday. Most every dark cloud has its silver lining, and there’s my wee bit of joy on the retirement of an icon: one less voice on the airwaves clamoring to interfere with our beautiful friendship, one less voice pushing to replace the Queen on our money.



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Written by Shawn Radcliffe on August 26, 2022 — Fact checked by Jennifer Chesak — (Healthline.com)

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Schools, daycares, and other settings serving children and adolescents do not need to take extra precautions against monkeypox, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The agency advises these facilities to “follow their everyday operational guidance that reduces the transmission of infectious diseases.”

This includes washing hands regularly, disinfecting surfaces and shared objects, and asking children, staff, and volunteers to stay home when sick.

“At this time, the risk of monkeypox to children and adolescents in the United States is low,” the CDC said on its website, along with a series of Frequently Asked QuestionsTrusted Source.

As of August 24, more than 16,000 monkeypox infectionsTrusted Source have been reported to the CDC, with at least one case in all states and the District of Columbia.

But only a small number of cases have occurred in school-age children. CDC dataTrusted Source published August 21 show that of reported cases, six were in children 0 to 5 years old, seven in children 6 to 10 years old, and four in

children 11 to 15 years old.  
This is based on nearly 70% of reported cases with age data available.

While “parents should be aware of monkeypox,” they should not be “overly concerned at this point,” said Dr. Amanda D. Castel, a professor in the department of epidemiology at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Dean Blumberg, a professor in the division of pediatric infectious diseases at UC Davis Health in Sacramento, Calif., agreed with the CDC’s assessment of the low risk of monkeypox to children.

“[The monkeypox virus] is not easily transmitted, and there are signs that people are contagious, such as when they have the rash,” he said.

There has been some new evidence that monkeypox may be able to be spread by people who are asymptomatic, but it’s unclear if that is a common issue.

**Rash is the most common monkeypox symptom**

Rash is one of the most common symptoms of monkeypox. People may also have fever, chills, muscle aches, or a headache.

Children have similar symptoms as adults, However, other conditionsTrusted Source can cause a rash in children, such as chickenpox, measles, allergic skin

# CDC Offers Monkeypox Guidance for Schools and Daycare Centers



reactions, and drug-related reactions.  
So, “if your child has a rash, don’t panic,” said Castel. “It could be something else.”

Most cases of monkeypox in children and adolescents get better on their own without treatment, according to the CDCTrusted Source.

Some children are at higher risk of severe disease, including children under 8 years of age, with an immune-compromising condition, or with certain skin conditions such as eczema, severe acne, or burns.

CDC dataTrusted Source shows that during the current outbreak in the United States, the majority of monkeypox cases have been associated with sexual contact or close intimate contact.

However, the monkeypox virus can infect anyone — including children — who has close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact with someone with monkeypox, the CDC saidTrusted Source.

In spite of that, Blumberg said children are unlikely to have this kind of contact in school settings.

“Although children might horse around with each other, there are very few children who are going to have prolonged skin-to-skin contact with other students or staff at school during normal school activities,” he said.

Some exceptions, he said, would be activities such as wrestling and similar sports.

“But I think coaches and other school staff are well-versed in excluding children who have rashes from participating in that sort of activity,” he said.

Monkeypox virus may also spread by touching contaminated objects, fabrics, and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox, although the CDC guidance said this route of transmission has been less common during the current outbreak.

**Isolation not required after all exposures**

In addition, the CDC said that children, staff, and volunteers generally do not need to be excluded from a school, daycare or other setting if they have been exposed to monkeypox and do not have symptoms.

“I don’t think this can be stressed enough,” said Castel, “but we really have to talk about monkeypox in a non-stigmatizing way, and try to be fact-based in our discussions.”

The CDC’s guidance for schools and daycares echoes its recommendations for the general publicTrusted Source, which

said that people exposed to monkeypox virus can continue their daily activities as long as they do not have signs or symptoms of monkeypoxTrusted Source.

In its guidance, the CDC said in some cases involving a high-risk exposure, the local health department may limit a person’s participation in certain activities.

In addition, boarding schools, overnight camps, and other residential settings should follow the agency’s guidance for congregate living settingsTrusted Source.

Blumberg said schools and daycares already have “robust” experience and policies for dealing with staff or children who are sick or potentially contagious, including those with a rash or fever that may indicate a contagious infection.

In addition, parents should monitor their children for symptoms before sending them to school or daycare.

“If your child is sick, they should stay home,” said Castel. Also, “if they develop a rash — which often happens in children — one that is perhaps accompanied by a fever, parents should reach out to their pediatrician or health care provider.”

Blumberg said clinicians can also help determine the cause of a child’s rash.

“If any parent or school staff has concerns about a rash potentially being monkeypox, they should make sure to have it evaluated,” he said, “because now there is widespread testing availability.”

**Keeping monkeypox in perspective**

Overall, Castel thinks the CDC guidance is “pretty comprehensive.” However, she would also like to see the information presented in a way that describes the distinct risks for different age groups.


“What a parent does with a toddler in terms of prevention — helping them learn how to wash their hands regularly and that kind of thing — is different than [talking to] an adolescent or college student that might be involved in some close intimate relationship,” she said.

In addition, she urges parents to keep monkeypox in perspective as we head into the fall.

“The risk of monkeypox [for children and adolescents] is very low currently,” she said, “but we also need to make sure that kids are getting their routine childhood vaccinations — including polio, and hopefully soon the COVID boosters, if they’re eligible.”

“That will help children be prepared and healthy as we launch into this new school year,” she said.

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# Biden's mouth is writing checks the US military can't cash — Part 3



by Clinton Canul Luna

Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the following, which I find to be of much interest. Below is the final part of Scott Ritter's "Two-Front War: Biden's mouth is writing checks the US Military can't Cash," which was posted on Youtube by RonPaulLibertyReport on July 4, 2022:

That's a sign of a professional. The Russians are winning hands down, and they are going to win hands down. There's nothing that can happen to stop this, nothing, but there's a problem. We can make the cost for Russia very high. We make it so high that it actually becomes painful, and if we make it too high, then we have what we call a game-changing moment, and we're on the verge of reaching that—we're providing Russia, fighting the Ukrainians with weapons that are not going to change the outcome of the war. They are not—High Mars is not going to change the outcome of the war. The M777A2, with its X-caliber round is not going to change the outcome of the war. Even if they get the harpoon anti-shipping missile, it's not going to change the outcome of the war, but what it will do is kill Russians. It will kill Russians in large numbers, and this will make it more difficult for Russia to win its victory in a reasonable timeframe. It'll drag this conflict out. Now Russia will win, but the price paid by Russia will be very high, and the price paid by Ukraine will be even higher, and for all the people that say we have the little Ukrainian flag on our thing, we've identified ourselves, go to hell, because if you care, if you care about the Ukrainian people, if you give a damn about humanity, then you'd want this war to be over today, because all that's going to happen between now and the inevitable determination of this conflict, is tens of thousands of Ukrainians are going to die, Ukrainian infrastructure will be destroyed.

But that's not even the worst that can happen. The worst that can happen is when Russia decides that America has gone too far. You see, this is not a war that's being fought in Ukraine; it's a special military operation. You should probably look into what that means. It means that Russia is carrying out pretty much a punitive police action to punish Ukraine for eight years of violence inflicted on the Russian population of the Donbass. This was not a war of conquest; this was not a war of domination. Yes, they did some things in Kiev to shape the battlefield, but the primary objective is to close with and destroy 60 to 100,000 Ukrainian troops that were threatening Donbass, and the Russians are achieving that as we speak, but the price that they're paying is very high, and we're treating it as if it's a war. We have a Defense Minister Secretary who has said that the purpose of the United States is basically to bleed Russia dry, to achieve a strategic victory by making the Russians pay such a heavy price that they are no longer able to threaten Europe. Well, if you're a Russian

listening to that, what are you thinking? Okay? No, guys, let me just remind you of the name Qasem Soleimani. You remember that name? Qasem Soleimani was the Iranian general who provided weapons and training and assistance to Iraqi insurgents while we were occupying their country, and he is credited with killing five to 600 American soldiers as part of this, and we hate him so much, we hate him so much that we assassinated him; we held a grudge and we killed him. Well, you know what, we are Qasem Soleimani now. We are doing what Qasem Soleimani did to us, but this time we're doing it to the Russians, and they're paying an even heavier price. We are creating bitterness, anger, resentment, in Russia, and at some point they're going to cross the line and they're going to fire missiles outside of Ukraine into American targets, into NATO targets, and now we're talking a real war, one that we won't win.

Joe Biden, you're writing checks the American body can't cash. That's a statement of fact, and I'll leave with this because I was talking about a two-front war. As bad as Russia is, there's this other place on the other side of the world called Taiwan, and it's going to get worse. You know, Americans, we tend to believe our own propaganda sometimes, and right now we have the media—if you read it, they're saying that the United States is trying to teach Taiwan the lesson of Ukraine. I wish they would, because the lesson of Ukraine is, you're going to get your butts kicked if you take on the Chinese. That's the real lesson. Your economy is going to be destroyed, your nation will collapse, you're going to lose hundreds of thousands of people. That's the real lesson. But no, the lesson is, if you fight hard and you fight early and you inflict a lot of casualties, the Chinese can't win, and they're going to back off and they're going to, they may not, they might even be deterred against attacking. The problem with this thinking is just like we don't know Russia, and I think you hit it 100% correct. I mean, I've talked about this in the past hour. The American political machinery right now is advised by some of the most ignorant people about Russia. I call them the Putin whisperers. People who think they know Putin. They've never met Putin, but they've read, they've written PHD theses on how bad Putin is, and they believe their own propaganda, and we make policy based upon an absolute dearth of knowledge of Russia and what the reality is.

Well, if there's a nation that we don't understand as much as Russia, it's called China. We don't understand China at all. We think that China is a weak nation, we think China can be intimidated, we think China's economy is not as strong as the Chinese like to believe it is, even though, over the past 15 years China has three successive five-year plans that have brought 300 million people out of poverty into the middle class. Hell! We got 300 million people in America, and we can't get

half that number out of poverty, and yet we have the superior economy. No, the Chinese are serious. The other thing the Chinese have been doing is the same thing Russia did, watching us, listening to us, observing us, studying us, and they've built a military that is impressive indeed. It's not combat-tested, because the Chinese are pretty smart. They don't go to war. They believe in a strong economy, they believe that if you don't go to war you have more money to spend on, oh, high-speed trains, good infrastructure, bridges. They're not perfect, no one's perfect. I'm not sitting here saying that I want to live in China. I don't! I want to live in this country. I would just like us to do half the things in infrastructure maybe the Chinese have been doing, maybe my roads won't have potholes, maybe my trains will run on time, maybe the subway station I'm not threatened to die every time I step in by concrete falling off the roof, these would be nice things to have, but the other thing that the Chinese are doing is they're serious just like Putin, don't bluff.

I mean that's one big lesson to take away from this thing: Putin don't bluff. When Putin says he's going to do something, he's going to do it, and I think he's proven that. So, when Medvedev says we're going to strike decision centers, that's Putin speaking; they don't bluff, they're going to strike decision centers and then we're going to deal with the consequences. China has said, if you act in a manner which indicates that Taiwan is pursuing a path towards independence, that Taiwan is no longer accepting that it is part of China, that if you seek to improve the military of Taiwan, so they are emboldened into believing that they can actually withdraw and withstand a Chinese counter-strike, then we have no choice but to pursue non-peaceful means of unifying Taiwan. They didn't just make this up. And then, you know, we have this way of thinking in America where we say the "Russians and Chinese are very impulsive people, very impulsive, they just knee-jerk reaction to everything." Putin's been saying this stuff about NATO and stuff since 2000, 2001, it came to the forefront in 2007 at the Munich Security Conference, he's repeated it over and over again; there's nothing new about this. China, in 2005, passed a law, the anti-succession law. It's linked to their constitution, and it basically says that if Taiwan, that the policy of China is the peaceful reunification of Taiwan, that's what they want, and they're willing to bend over backwards to make this happen and be as patient and wait as long as possible, but the moment Taiwan starts to act in a manner that looks as though they're going to be independent, it will be instantaneous. China will go in there and they will crush them.

Well, what has happened in the last couple days? Ladies and gentlemen, we have the President of the United States traveling to Asia where someone says,

if China attacks Taiwan, what will America's policy be? Well, we'll defend them. But what happened to our policy of strategic ambiguity, where we were pretending that we weren't going to defend them, so we modified the Chinese so that the Taiwanese wouldn't act impulsively? That's out the window, but that's okay, that's just words. Words mean nothing, but then Tammy Duckworth shows up in Taiwan. She's sponsoring a bill that promises a couple things. One, to put pre-positioned military hardware on the soil in Taiwan so that American troops can fly in and marry up with this equipment so we can rapidly come to the defense. This will never happen, ladies and gentlemen. Why? Because China will invade Taiwan. China will invade Taiwan sooner rather than later. We're not only in danger of getting involved in a war in Europe that we can't win, we're in danger of promulgating a conflict in the Pacific we can't win. That's a two-front war that we can't win. We can't win it.

So, why are we doing it? Because we have a commander-in-chief whose mouth has no checks and balances, we have a population which has been made stupid, I guess, that's the most polite word I can, from exposure to a media that's no longer in the business of informing the American people but entertaining the American people. You remember that old line, if it bleeds, it leads? Nothing bleeds more than war, and there's nothing immediate the mass media likes more than a war that they can put out there every day—change the narrative, make it horrible, make it... and the American people tune in like the compliant little brain-dead people they are, and they just eat it up, because other people are dying, because Ukrainians are dying, because the Taiwanese are going to be dying. But let me just give you a news flash: when we go to war against Russia and we go to war against China, we're going to be dying, and it's not going to be in small numbers. This isn't Afghanistan, this isn't Iraq, this isn't where a bad week was seven Americans dying. This is where a bad hour is five thousand Americans dying, this is where a bad day is fifteen thousand, twenty thousand Americans dying, this is where a bad week is sixty to eighty thousand Americans dying in conflicts we can't win, unless we go nuclear and then nobody wins, everybody loses. Joe Biden, your ego and your mouth are writing checks the American body can't cash. Thank you very much.

(The End)

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)  
September 4, 2022  
Finca Solana  
Corozal Town





# Is It COVID or Long COVID? Your Organs May Know

by **Natalie Slivinski** (<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20220819/is-it-covid-or-long-covid-organs-may-know>)

Aug. 19, 2022 – There’s little doubt long COVID is real. The federal government recognizes long COVID as a condition and said in two reports issued in August that one in five adult COVID-19 survivors have a health condition related to their illness.

COVID-19 can damage multiple organs in the body. Sometimes this damage leads to long COVID; sometimes other reasons are at play. Doctors are beginning to sort it out.

There’s a difference between long COVID and an acute infection with lasting effects, doctors say.

“COVID itself can actually cause prolonged illness, and we don’t really call that long COVID,” says Nisha Viswanathan, MD, a doctor at UCLA Health in Los Angeles. But if symptoms extend beyond 12 weeks, that puts patients in the realm of long COVID, she says.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe and can keep people from resuming their normal lives and jobs. Sometimes they last for months, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Multi-Organ Damage

Lung scarring and other lung problems are common after COVID, says Leora Horwitz, MD, an internal medicine specialist at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine. Even after a mild case, people can have breathing issues for months, a team at Johns Hopkins Medicine says in an online briefing. One study published in the journal *Radiology* found damage in people a full year after a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Some people have persistent heart, kidney, liver, and nervous system problems after COVID-19. A study published in 2020 in the journal *JAMA Cardiology* found 60% of people who had COVID-19 had ongoing signs of heart inflammation. Nearly a third of people hospitalized for COVID-19 get kidney damage that can become chronic, and some end up needing dialysis or a transplant, says C. John Sperati, MD, a kidney specialist at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore.

This might be, in part, because SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, directly infects the cells in many organs.

Nicole Bhave, MD, a cardiologist at University of Michigan Health, is concerned that COVID-19 appears to increase the risk of heart problems in some people.

“Some of the uptick may just be recognition bias, in that people with symptoms are seeking care,” she says.

“But there’s definitely a biological basis by which COVID could tip people over into a new diagnosis of heart failure.”

## Inflammation

Inflammation is probably a key part of the long-term effects of COVID-19.

Some people have a serious immune reaction to COVID-19 called a cytokine storm, says Nitra Aggarwal Gilotra, MD, a cardiologist at Johns Hopkins Medicine. This release of inflammation-causing molecules called cytokines is meant to attack the invading virus. But it can be so severe that it wreaks havoc on healthy tissues and organs and causes lasting damage – if patients even survive it.

In some people, inflammation can affect the heart, causing myocarditis. Myocarditis symptoms include chest pain, breathlessness, and heart palpitations. Though rare, it can be serious and can raise the risk of other heart problems, including heart failure, down the line.

Long COVID may also trigger an autoimmune condition, says Eline Luning Prak, MD, PhD, a pathologist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Long COVID can share many hallmark symptoms with autoimmune diseases, including fatigue, widespread pain, memory problems, and mood disorders, Prak says.

## Blood Clots

Studies have shown the overcharged inflammatory response to COVID-19 can cause blood clots. This sometimes overwhelming clotting was an early hallmark of COVID-19 infection, and when clots restrict blood flow in the brain, lungs, kidneys, or limbs, they can cause long-term damage. Some can be deadly. Researchers in Sweden found patients were at risk of deep vein thrombosis – a blood clot usually in the leg – up to 3 months after infection and at higher risk of a blood clot in the lung, called pulmonary embolism, for as long as 3 months.

## Viral Reservoirs

The virus itself may also linger in a patient’s body, causing continued symptoms and, potentially, new flare-ups. Harvard Medical School’s Zoe Swank, PhD, and colleagues reported in a pre-print study that they found pieces of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the blood of most patients with long COVID symptoms they tested – some as long as a year after infection. The study has not yet been peer-reviewed.

Another team found evidence of the virus in stool up to 7 months later, which suggests the virus hides out in the gut. Other early studies have found bits of viral RNA in the appendix, breast tissue, heart, eyes, and brain.

## Diabetes

Diabetes is a risk factor for getting severe COVID-19, and multiple studies have shown people can get diabetes both while battling infection and afterward. One study of veterans found COVID-19 survivors were about 40% more likely to get diabetes over the next year.



# Germany signs deal to return Nigeria’s Benin Bronzes

*French art historians have estimated that some 90% of Africa’s looted cultural heritage is believed to be in Europe.*



**Benin art objects and bronzes are pictured at the Linden Museum in Stuttgart, Germany on June 29, 2022 [Louisa Off Reuters] (Reuters)**

Thurs. Aug. 25, 2022 (Al Jazeera)

Germany has signed an agreement to transfer ownership to Nigeria of the Benin Bronzes, among Africa’s most culturally significant artefacts, looted in the 19th century.

The signing was done on Thursday between the Foundation of Prussian Cultural Heritage (SPK) and Nigeria’s National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) to transfer their ownership from the Ethnological

Museum collection in Berlin to Nigeria.

British soldiers took hundreds of bronzes – intricate sculptures and plaques dating back to the 13th century onwards – when they invaded the Kingdom of Benin, located in what is now southwestern Nigeria, in 1897.

The artefacts ended up in museums around Europe and the United States and for years, African countries fought

**Please turn to ► Page 14**

Some studies have suggested a few ways this might happen. Insulin-producing cells in the pancreas have SARS-CoV-2 receptors – a type of molecular doorway the coronavirus can attach to. Damage to these cells could make the body less able to produce insulin, which in turn can lead to diabetes. The virus could also disrupt the balance in the body or cause inflammation that leads to insulin resistance, which can develop into diabetes, Ziad Al-Aly, MD, of the Veterans Affairs St. Louis Health Care System, and colleagues wrote in *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology*.

## Nervous System Issues

People who get COVID-19 are also more vulnerable to postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS). This affects what’s known as the autonomic nervous system, which regulates blood circulation, and includes those things that happen in your body without your having to think about them, like breathing, heartbeat, and digestion. POTS can cause common long COVID neurologic symptoms, including headaches, fatigue, brain fog, insomnia, and problems thinking and concentrating. “This was a known condition prior to COVID, but it was incredibly rare,” says Viswanathan, the UCLA Health doctor. “After COVID, I’ve seen it with increasing frequency.”

## Long-Term Outlook

Lasting issues after COVID-19 are

much more likely after a moderate or severe infection. Still, plenty of people are battling them even after a mild illness. “As for why, that’s the billion-dollar question,” says Horwitz, the internal medicine specialist. “It’s well-known that viral infections can cause long-term dysregulation. Why that is, we really just don’t know.”

Whether it’s virus hiding out in the body, long-term organ damage, or an autoimmune reaction likely differs from person to person. “I’m believing, increasingly, that it’s a combination of all of these, just based on how different patients are responding to different medications,” says Viswanathan. “One patient will respond to something beautifully, and another patient won’t at all.”

But it’s clear a significant number of people are facing long-term health struggles because of COVID-19, which has infected at least 580 million people globally and 92 million – likely many more – in the U.S., according to Johns Hopkins University.

Even a small increased risk of conditions like heart disease or diabetes translates to a huge number of people, Horwitz says. “If even 1% of people getting COVID have long-term symptoms, that’s a major public health crisis, because that’s 1% of pretty much everybody in the country,” she says.

*First published by WebMD.com*





# Softball Nationals MVP Shadalee Ho receives C.L.B. Rogers Award



(l to r) MVP Shadalee Ho and Leslie Rogers

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 5, 2022

The XXX National Women’ Softball Championship which concluded on Sunday, August 28, at Rogers Stadium was followed immediately after by the awards ceremony, the highlight of which was a special award to tournament MVP Shadalee Ho of national champions, Beacon.

The above picture shows Leslie Rogers presenting a new bike along with the C.L.B. Rogers MVP Softball Nationals 2022 plaque to Ms. Shadalee Ho.

Leslie Rogers, of 1970s Charger football fame, and later a softball coach for many years, is the son of former Deputy Prime Minister of Belize, the late Hon. C.L.B. Rogers.

# SSBA Tournament 2022 tips off out west

by Karim Juan

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Sun. Sept. 4, 2022

The San Ignacio & Santa Elena Basketball Association (SSBA) tipped off its annual basketball tournament this past weekend at the Resilience Center at Victor Galvez Stadium in San Ignacio Town. There are teams in the Under 7, Under 10, Under 12, Under 15, Under 18, Female, and Senior categories. There are 32 teams participating with approximately 400 players in the tournament. Games will be played every Friday and Saturday night, and the tournament is slated to finish in November.

Below are the scores from games played this past weekend.

Friday, September 2

(Under 7 – Female) Shabla Events, 8-7, over OBs OJ. Shabla Events – Mariah Chi 8 pts. OBs OJ – Khaleesi Flores 5 pts, and Nyah Dacak 2 pts.

(Under 7 – Male) Mambas, 8-3, over

Joseph Freights & RGM Trading. Mambas – Micah Meza 4 pts, and Zane Laurence 4 pts. J.F. & RGM Trading – Ezekiel Castillo 2

(Under 12 – Male) Q & M Construction, 8-6, over KG Equine & Ove FM. Q&M Construction – Xzavien Pascual 6 pts, and Devan Allison 2 pts. KG Equine & Ove FM - Xzavien Pascual 6 pts.

(Under 18 – Male) Joehann Construction, 40-18, over JDB. J. Construction – Jeremy Carbajal 13 pts, Kenroy Nunez 7 pts, Rowhan Romero 7 pts, and Andre Pinelo 7 pts. JDB – Ydnic Crawford 8 pts, Israel August 6 pts, and Kishawn Usher 4 pts.

(Seniors) Assassins, 69-46, over West Side. Assassins – Kyron “Tut” Molina 17 pts, Shemar White 16 pts, and Jamie Carbajal 10 pts. West Side – Kevon Laurie 11 pts, Jahiem Ciego 10 pts, and Raheem Thurton 9 pts.

(Seniors) NBB Pay Elites, 57-54, over Venom. NBB Pay Elites – Kevin Brown

# Belizean sports/music/cultural legend, “Winty J” “J Vibes” passes

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 5, 2022

Belize’s old school veterans of football and music in Belize are in mourning again, as we received the news on Saturday that our beloved brother, a real cultural icon in football and music, Vincent “Winty J” or “J Vibes” Johnson had left this life on Friday. Winty J, who had been sharing his time between Mahogany Heights and Dangriga, had been ailing for some time.

In his youth in the mid-1960s, Winty J was a member of the original Messengers Combo, and he understudied the legendary Louis “Bembe” “Di Mugga” Garbutt of Independence football fame, so that his idol’s nickname also stuck on him for a while, as fans began calling him “Lee Mugga.”

According to Rudolph “Bolo” McKoy of the Yabra Football Club, “When Winty J returned from New York he played daily at Yabra field until he was about 60 years old. I last spoke to him about 4 months ago when he came by the Yabra club house.”

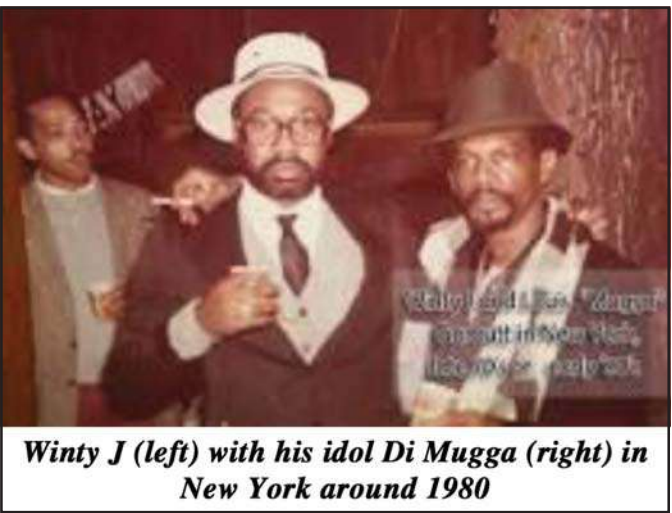
Bolo also shared: “He may go down as the oldest semi-pro player in Belize’s history. At the age of 53 he played with Yabra Dolphins in the semi-pro league.

He only played one half, but it was historical.”

We can say for a fact that Winty J took great pride in his game, and he played “sense ball”, taking great care in his passing.

We’ll have more about this brother “for all seasons” in our next issue.

Our sincere condolences from all of Kremandala to the relatives and friends of our departed brother, Vincent “Winty J” “New Yorker” “J Vibes” Johnson.



Winty J (left) with his idol Di Mugga (right) in New York around 1980



Winty J behind the Zinc Fence around 2016

17 pts, Jayden Lopez 12 pts, and Akeem Watters 11 pts. Venom – Joel Montejo 16 pts, Frank Fuller 9 pts, and Allizair Rhaburn 9 pts.

Saturday, September 3

(Under 10 - Coed) Caracara, 12-0, over CK Restaurant. Caracara – Allyson Revers 8 pts, and Raheem Smith 4 pts.

(Under 10 – Coed) Codd’s Drug Store, 9-2, over Eskimo Ice. Codd’s Drug Store – Jonathan Requena 2 pts. Eskimo Ice – Jaelon Juarez 1 pt, and Liam Dacak 1 pt.

(Under 15 – Male) Tyre Center, 11-10, over Tolacca Restaurant. Tyre Center – Mikhail Saquil 6 pts, and Sheheen Urbina 5 pts. Tolacca Restaurant – Isaiah Ayuso 8 pts, and Jian Young 2 pts.

(Under 18 – Male) Atlantic Bank, 29-28, over Recino’s Imports. Atlantic Bank – Khalil Usher 10 pts, Jamie Mangar 6 pts, and Chris Valdez 3 pts. Recino’s Imports – Tayshawn “Pawdy” Haylock 16 pts, and Mynor Lizarraga 6 pts.

(Female) Western Queens, 32-27, over Vegan Roots Sisterhood. Western Queens – Joeline Williams 12 pts, Shirley Codd 8 pts, and Jasmine Armstrong 8

pts. V.R. Sisterhood – Isisita Kwatamani 17 pts, and Kwahseita Kwatamani 10 pts.

(Seniors) Assassins, 92-62, over Vegan Roots Brotherhood. Assassins – Shemar White 16 pts, Darnell “Shabba” Oden 12 pts, Kyron “Tut” Molina 12 pts, Robert Jeffries 10 pts, Aaron Allison 10 pts, and Santiago “Dados” Clark 10 pts. V.R. Brotherhood – Emani Jobar Enriquez 30 pts, Shelton Defour, Jr. 11 pts, and Zokraa-I Kwatamani 9 pts.

Below is the upcoming schedule. All games will be played at Victor Galvez Stadium.

Friday, September 16

6:30 p.m. - (Under 10 - Coed) Caracara vs Codd’s Drug Store

7:00 p.m. - (Under 10 - Coed) Big-H vs CK Restaurant

7:30 p.m. - (Under 15 - Female) Royal International vs San Ignacio Hotel

8:00 p.m. - (Under 18 - Male) Joehann Construction vs Recino’s Imports

8:30 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Alpha vs West Side

9:30 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Venom vs NextGen Ballers



# Carnival 2022: more than just a fete

Continued from Page 1

stabbing incident that took place in the early morning. But, with the assurance of the Police Department that all would be well, the turnout at carnival later in the day was, for the most part, unaffected.

Shortly after 1:00 p.m., Belize's carnival bands, new and old, were on the road—music and color flooding the streets from Central American Boulevard to the Marion Jones Sports Complex on Princess Margaret Drive. Onlookers lined the pavement as their favorite bands, floats, and tumblers made their way along this year's route.

At the end of the day, Soca Moca Mas Band secured the first place prize for the Senior Category of the road march—a repeat of their 2019 victory. In celebration, the group held a motorcade through the city.

In second place was Mother Nature's Creations, who took the first place crown for Carnival King & Queen. Placing third was Trenchtown Masqueraders. In the Junior Category, Soca Massive emerged victorious, with Mother Nature placing second and Collet Royal Revelers placing third.

To some, carnival is just another party in the long lineup that is the September Celebrations. In fact, this year's celebration was criticized by some who questioned why the energy invested into "feting" is never invested into work,



Photo courtesy Briheda Haylock



Photo courtesy Briheda Haylock

church, or protest. To others, though, carnival is much more than just another fete. Throughout the Caribbean, the celebration has intricate ties to African resistance and emancipation. In Belize, it is also a testament to Belizean culture and creativity. Here, carnival is believed to have begun in the year 1975 (roughly 142 years after the first Caribbean carnivals began in Trinidad) when a group of women got together to brainstorm a way to liven up the September celebrations. What they came up with was a parade through the streets of Belize City that would grow and evolve over the years, influenced by other Caribbean carnivals as well as the Miami

Carnival, held by the Caribbean diaspora.

With the return of Carnival in 2022, many are already looking forward to a celebration that is even bigger and better, come 2023.



Call us at:  
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## Putin orders 10% boost in Russian troop numbers

Thu. Aug. 25, 2022 (BBC)

**Russia's president has signed a decree which could see 137,000 service personnel added to the country's armed forces in the coming months.**

Currently Russia has a limit of just over a million military personnel and almost 900,000 civilian staff.

Vladimir Putin's decree comes amid a recruitment drive around the country, with large cash incentives on offer.

Western officials say 70-80,000 troops have been killed or wounded since Russia invaded Ukraine six months ago.

There have been reports that recruiters have even been visiting prisons, promising inmates freedom and money.

The UK Ministry of Defence said in a statement two weeks ago that volunteer battalions being set up in several Russian regions were likely to form part of a new army corps.

But it said "very limited levels of popular enthusiasm for volunteering for combat in Ukraine" meant it would be difficult to find the required number of troops.

Russia had initially promised a short, decisive campaign when it invaded



Russia has been trying to modernise its army in recent years, including by increasing numbers of contract soldiers (Reuters)

## Germany signs deal to return Nigeria's Benin Bronzes

Continued from Page 12

to recover them.

Germany returned the first of the sculptures to Nigeria in July.

Thursday's agreement, which the SPK described as the most extensive transfer of museum artefacts from a colonial context to date, covers 512 objects which ended up in Berlin in the aftermath of the 1897 looting.

The first objects will be physically returned to Nigeria this year. About a third of the treasures will remain on loan in Berlin for at least 10 years and exhibited at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. The loan might be extended.

"This represents the future

concerning the artefacts issue; a future of collaboration among museums, a future of according respect and dignity to the legitimate requests of other nations and traditional institutions," said NCMM's Abba Isa Tijani.

He urged museums outside Germany to emulate the agreement.

French art historians have estimated that some 90 percent of Africa's cultural heritage is believed to be in Europe. African countries have long sought to get back works pillaged by explorers and colonisers as Western institutions grapple with the cultural legacies of colonialism.

First publish by Al Jazeera

Ukraine in February, but fierce Ukrainian resistance has stalled its progress and in recent weeks front lines have hardly moved.

Volunteers or conscripts?

**The decree, published by the Russian president's office (in Russian),** stipulates that "the numerical size of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation should be set at 2,039,758, including 1,150,628 military personnel".

Currently the limit is set at 1,013,628 military personnel, though the actual number before the start of the invasion was thought to be closer to 900,000.

The decree asks the government to provide funds from the federal budget for this purpose. It will come into force on 1 January 2023.

However, it is not clear whether

numbers will be increased by recruiting more volunteers or broadening conscription.

Currently Russian men aged 18 to 27 are subject to the call-up, although many are able to avoid or reduce the term of their service - usually one year - through medical exemptions or by enrolling for higher education.

Russia initially denied sending conscript soldiers to Ukraine, but several officers were disciplined after cases came to light of conscripts being forced to sign contracts and in some instances being taken prisoner.

Under Russian law, conscripts are required to undergo four months' training before being sent to the war.

First published by BBC News



# DFC, CWU and Labor Dept. meet on redundancies

BELMOPAN, Mon. Sept. 5, 2022

The walkout at the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) last Thursday morning has triggered yet another round of meetings between DFC reps and the representative of its unionized workers, the Christian Workers Union (CWU). DFC recently carried out a redundancy exercise which resulted in the termination of three employees last week, but the union has objected to the way the redundancy exercise took place, which it says deviated from the protocol laid out by the Labour Act, and it has thus brought the Labor Department into the discussions. Friday’s meeting was attended by union president Evan “Mose” Hyde, who told local media that they are simply ensuring that the process is being followed in accordance with the Labour Act.

“What the union is there to do, is to ensure that in that case, the worst case scenario, the worst case scenario which is not a pleasant thing to have happen—is that it is not being done in a way that is not consistent with what is laid out in the Labour Act, for obvious reasons. You just can’t have anybody just cry redundancy at any old time. It has to be done properly, so that’s what it is that we are involved with, and we have individuals whose lives are impacted by this, and we have to act in their interest,” he said.

Hyde went on to state that at this time the union and the management of DFC have very different views on the matter of redundancy, which happens to be just one part of an overall organizational restructuring that is taking place within the DFC. Some steps forward were taken at the meeting on Friday, Hyde said, and he expressed hopes that they could further build on that progress in the meeting to be held this afternoon.

Assistant General Manager of the DFC, Belizario Carballo, has said that in total 10 posts were determined to be redundant after the approved organizational restructuring was carried out. In an interview following the meeting, he stated that this upgrading of the DFC started as far back as June 9, and the CWU was involved since that time.

“We have been engaged with both the Christian Workers Union and the

Labour Commissioner,” Carballo said, adding that the legislation stipulates that the employer merely “inform and consult” as a part of the process. “Whilst our position is that we have done so, the CWU is of a different view, and so today, and like I said this process started from the 9th of June and since then we have had significant submissions, discussion, disclosures about the who, the why, the when, and the how, all of that. Today, what has brought us together is that we have proceeded with three of the terminations as planned, but clearly, there is an issue with it,” Carballo said.

CWU president Hyde said that the views of the DFC and the union diverge when the parties consider what are the requirements of those affected by the redundancy, and how the process should be carried out.

“With the participation of the Labor Department, we are trying to get to some agreed way forward to deal with that difference of opinion,” Hyde said.

Carballo commented that the redundancy exercise is just one process in an overall organizational restructuring being undertaken by the DFC, as mentioned, and Hyde noted that other areas are also being looked at as a part of this process.

“This is a process that is simultaneous, redundancy, that matter of salary reduction, the matter of the reductions of benefits. This has been an ongoing conversation, negotiations and obviously the DFC management has its marching orders and its core understanding of what is to be done and how it is to be done, and the union has its own – we are guided by our membership,” Hyde said.

In total, the posts of 5 persons were terminated, although 10 posts were determined to be redundant. Two of the five tendered their resignations and received some type of compensation, and the employment of three others was terminated last week, triggering the walkout.

“As part of the process of informing staff, two members who would have been made redundant opted to be paid immediately, and so those two have already been paid about a month or so ago, and now these are the last 3,” Carballo said.

# New Chief Justice, Louise...

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who opted to not apply for the position, will go on to serve in the Court of Appeal.

Earlier this year, a press release from the Government of Belize revealed that, after advertising the position of Chief Justice both locally and throughout the Caribbean, they had received a total of eight applications, though none were from Belizean applicants. Justice Blenman and the seven other applicants went through a vetting process that included an interview panel conducted by senior members of the Bar Association. Based on her qualifications, her experience, and her interview, Blenman was recommended favourably to the Prime Minister for appointment as Chief Justice.

Justice Louise Blenman has been in the field of law for over thirty years now, including serving as a High Court judge in Anguilla in 2003. She was later appointed to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal in 2012 and served there up until recently. She has also served in senior judicial positions in St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and Antigua and Barbuda. She holds an Honour’s Degree in Law from the University of the West Indies, which she obtained in 1986.

Justice Blenman took the oath of office in Belmopan on Friday, before Governor General Dame Froyla Tzalam.

“I am Guyanese by birth, St. Lucian by naturalisation and Caribbean by inclination. I am a Caribbean woman jurist. Similarly, Belize is Caribbean, and therefore we have that in common. I am greatly honoured to be given the opportunity to serve the people of Belize as Chief Justice,” said Justice Blenman, who noted that Belize reminds her of her home country, Guyana.

The new Chief Justice added that she intends to willingly share her experience and expertise with the people of Belize, as she is of the firm belief that the Caribbean is stronger when its people act unitedly.

Justice Michelle Arana, who attended the swearing-in ceremony, congratulated Justice Blenman in a social media post on Friday and expressed her well wishes. Justice Arana also stated that she is looking forward to continuing to serve the people of Belize after she is elevated to the Court of Appeal in the next few weeks.

In reflecting on her time spent as acting Chieft Justice since April 2020, Justice Arana noted that she managed to steer the administration of justice in Belize through the COVID-19 pandemic, despite shortage of judicial personnel, and many other crises.

“I thank all the international donor agencies for their support in providing resources to strengthen the administration of justice,” she wrote.

# OW man shot - shot 16 times

Continued from Page 1

Espat was hit several times in his back, as well as in his left and right rib cage, abdomen, and right arm, and in his right leg. He was also shot once in the back of the head. He later succumbed to his injuries at the Northern Regional Hospital.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Hilberto Romero, Deputy Commander for the Crimes Investigation Branch, told local reporters at Monday’s police press briefing that two suspects are being sought in connection with the killing of Espat, and they are currently trying to determine the motive for the crime.

“We are working on a motive at this time. We are seeking these two persons [whom] we believe can assist in this investigation. We are presently looking for them, but we are not been able to find them as yet. We are looking at the background of the suspect as well as the deceased, and we will try to see if we find a connection,” he said.

Senior Superintendent Romero noted that Espat had a few run-ins with the law before his death.

On Monday, a post-mortem examination was conducted on Espat’s body, and his death was classified as a result of acute cranioencephalic traumatic injuries due to multiple gunshot wounds.

# Justice must be served...

Continued from Page 9

that he felt that the amount of ammunition found in the vehicle was excessive, and since Nah was on leave, he should not have had such ammo, which was the property of the Police Department, in his possession.

As mentioned, the payload was found in the vehicle with the two men, who are also accused of being involved in the plane landing at Bladen Village. They are currently out on bail, and the matter is before the Supreme Court. The two men remain on interdiction, since they still, along with several other accused men collectively referred to by the media as the Bladen 11, must answer to the criminal charges brought against them for suspected involvement in the Bladen drug plane landing.

The vehicle in which they were found, reports say, belong to Nah, the nephew of former Commander of

Operations ACP Marco Vidal. The police officer who Musa believes “took the rap”, for Nah, PC Richard Arnold, testified to the tribunal that he had signed for the ammunition that was later found, but according to COMPOL Chester Williams, the ammunition was not found in the vehicle in which Arnold purportedly had placed them, but in Nah’s vehicle.

Williams said that he could not understand how the presiding adjudicator arrived at a not guilty verdict and pointed out that the standard of proof used in the tribunal might have been the standard used in a criminal proceeding, rather than the type used in a civil case, which is what should have been used.

The results of this tribunal will be reviewed by the COMPOL, who also said that they will review the testimony given by the police officer who claims to have signed for the ammunition.

# 16 Cubans in police custody


Continued from Page 6

United States, and after a day of being out at sea, their vessel, *Fishn N’ Wishn*, began experiencing mechanical malfunction, which caused them to drift out at sea for seven days before they neared the Ambergris Caye shore.

When the group arrived onshore, they immediately asked the locals for fuel so that they could resume their

journey, but, after receiving medical attention, they were taken into police custody, since they had entered the country without proper documentation.

On the following day, the group was taken to Belize City, where they were detained, and the Immigration office is reportedly preparing to charge them. However, the group is seeking legal assistance, as they believe no charges should be brought against them.



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- \* 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
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Pharmacy
- \* Save-U Supermarket

## PLACENCIA

- \* Placencia Office Supplies

## LADYVILLE

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

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- \* Eduard Cambranes
- 6 Diaz St., Benque

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- San Ignacio
- \* Venus Store

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

## STANN CREEK

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- C/o Uno Belize
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## COROZAL

- \* Aguilar Car Care Products # 60 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Corozal Town
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## SAN PEDRO

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