

Belize may take Honduras' Sapodilla Cayes claim to the ICJ

A motion was passed in the Senate to allow Belize to sign on to the Pact of Bogotá in an effort to take Honduras' claim over the Sapodilla Cayes to the ICJ.

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

On Monday, members of the Senate debated on whether Belize will be able to take yet another territorial claim, this time by Honduras, to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Leader of

Government Business in the Senate, Hon. Eamon Courtenay presented the motion in which he asked the Senate to allow the government to accede to the Pact of Bogotá, which requires nations who have signed that treaty to settle their

Please turn to ▶ **Page 4**



New e-passport system launched

▶ See story on page 2 ▶



The new design of Belize's e-passport

Young football coach dies in hospital

by *Charles Gladden*

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

Manuel Salvador Manzanero, also known as "Mela", 38, a football coach residing in Calcutta Village in the Corozal District, died of a heart attack

Please turn to ▶ **Page 4**



Manuel Manzanero, deceased

Court transformation finalized



Senator Eamon Courtenay



Senator Michael Peyrefitte

BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022
Today, the Senior Courts Bill and 12th Constitutional Amendment were

passed in the Senate, finalizing the

Please turn to ▶ **Page 4**

Waterloo submits responses to DOE questions



Port of Belize proposed development

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Oct. 21, 2022
The developers of the Waterloo Holdings Limited project who are seeking

approval for the proposed construction

Please turn to ▶ **Page 9**

People's Constitution Commission Act passed in Senate



BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

The People's Constitution Commission Act was passed today in the Senate following its third reading, but according to Senator Eamon Courtenay, although the Minister of Constitutional and Political Reform will use his authority to ensure that the Kriol Council is assigned a seat on that commission, no amendment was made to allow them that representation in the schedule today.

"The nation Kriol Council is a member and has been designated a member under the power that the Minister will have to designate additional members," Courtenay said in his introduction today.

The commission is expected to take

18 months to two years to complete a report and deliver it back to the Cabinet, which may pass a resolution to either amend or repeal and replace the Constitution. According to GoB, consultations will take place both in the country and outside Belize, and matters such as the system of governance, the form of representation in Belize, and the provisions for wider rights and opportunities for citizens will be addressed.

Today, senators debated the bill at its second reading and raised issues of ministerial interference and powers afforded to Cabinet members. We will have more from the debates in a subsequent issue.

Riversdale fisherman arrested for arson

Forty-eight-year-old Raymundo Castellanos was arrested and charged for starting the blaze that destroyed his niece's home, killing her three dogs.

by *Khaila Gentle*

RIVERSDALE, Stann Creek District, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

A young woman from the Riversdale Community, located on the Placencia Peninsula, has lost her entire home, along with her beloved pets, in a fire that took place on Thursday, October 20. Twenty-four-year-old Zulma Aguirre, a hotel manager, reported to police that while she was at work someone informed her that her house was on fire. The blaze destroyed Aguirre's entire home, causing over \$115,000 in losses, including an outboard engine valued at \$10,000. It also took the lives of Aguirre's three dogs—two Huskies and a Chihuahua.

Police have since arrested and charged a 48-year-old Belizean fisherman by the name of Raymundo Castellanos for the crime.

According to ACP Alden Dawson, Regional Commander of the Eastern Division, Aguirre claimed that she had



The blaze that destroyed the home of Zulma Aguirre

been involved in an altercation with a family member over an issue regarding her dogs. That family member, Castellanos, who is Aguirre's uncle, then threatened her that he would burn down her house. He was subsequently arrested and charged for the crime of arson.

Unconfirmed reports are that Castellanos has been aggressive

New e-passport system launched



The new design of Belize's e-passport launched by PM John Briceño and Hon. Aamon Courtenay

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

Today the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration held the official launch ceremony for the country's new e-passport system. The Electronic Passport Issuance and Control System (ePICS) has been hailed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, as a secure and more efficient upgrade to Belize's former, and outdated, system. The passports carry an electronic chip, which, according to Hon. Courtenay, holds numerous security features to safeguard holders' personal information. The launch, he said, is the culmination of an effort which began in February 2021, when Cabinet approved the procurement of a new passport system.

In addition to enhanced security features, the new passports, which were produced by Canadian Bank Note Limited, also come with new modern designs that highlight a theme of national pride. The designs were done by a team of officials from the Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration.

Today, Minister Courtenay handed the Governor General, H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam, the first new e-passport. He also presented Prime Minister John Briceño with a framed set of passports and passport memorabilia.

"Domestically, a passport serves as an important document of identity and nationality. It certifies who the bearer is and that you are a Belizean. Internationally, the passport is the most widely recognized and accepted document used to enter a foreign country," he said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Immigration says that it is confident that the new electronic system will elevate security and eliminate the corruption and fraud associated with passport issuance. It will also help the ministry better address the increasing demand for passports. According to Minister Courtenay, over the past two years, the number of passports issued has increased dramatically, going from

towards numerous other villagers in the past. Many of them, Aguirre included, often made reports to the police regarding his behavior.

Police investigations continue.

13,830 in 2020 to 23,521 in 2021, to 37,855 this year to date.

"To address this dramatic increase in demand and the expected surge in applications for the new passports, we will have online appointments to manage applications. Our objective is to end the long lines and hours of waiting at our immigration offices," he said.

With the launch of the ePICS system, the passport application process will now be mostly online, save for photo taking and signing the passport. Visitors to the Immigration Department's official website will note that its passport application section is up and running and that, more importantly, passport fees are currently the same—\$50.00 for an adult passport with a 10-year validity and \$30.00 for a passport for children under the age of 16.

Previously, a leaked image had led to reports that the application fee for the new passports could have been increased by almost 400%, at \$200 for an adult passport. Those reports, however, were never confirmed, or acknowledged, by the Ministry.

With the transition to an online system, there will now be a total of seven locations across the country that are able to accept passport applications—Corozal Town, Orange Walk Town, Belize City, San Pedro Town, Belmopan, Dangriga Town, and Punta Gorda Town. Previously, there were only three such locations. There will also now be seven overseas locations accepting applications: London, Taipei, Washington, New York, Chicago, Coral Gables, and Los Angeles.



Advertise with us!
The newspaper with the greatest circulation in Belize

#3304 AMANDALA Drive
 Belize City.
 Telephones: 501-280-4703/
 202-4477

amandalapress@yahoo.com

Minor possibly drugged and raped



LADYVILLE, Belize District, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

Police are investigating the rape of a minor that they believe occurred sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning. One man, a 25-year-old Belizean, has since been charged by the police, and the investigation of the incident is ongoing. Reports are that the minor was at a wake on Friday night in Ladyville but eventually went to the Eruptions nightclub with some friends. Police say that she reported taking a few drinks before becoming completely unconscious.

The victim was allegedly found by police sleeping nude in a vehicle near Mile 10 1/2 on the Philip Goldson Highway on Saturday morning, and told the officer she had no memory of how

she got to the area, but that she was robbed and raped. According to police, the minor said that the last thing she recalls is being at a wake in Ladyville before going to the nightclub.

Ladyville police are now reviewing camera footage of what occurred in the night club that night as a part of their investigation to determine what might have taken place. The Police Department is also determining whether there are grounds for revoking the club's liquor license. They said that the 25-year-old man who has since been detained and charged with the crime of rape is cooperating with police. No toxicology report to determine definitively if the minor was drugged has yet been completed and passed on to investigators.

Coast Guard boat set on fire



Burnt remains of Belize Coast Guard boat

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

A 38-foot Boston Whaler vessel belonging to the Belize Coast Guard and docked at the Coast Guard's headquarters near Mile 5 on the George Price Highway was set ablaze after 8:00

p.m. on Saturday night, October 22. Police have detained one person so far in connection with the incident.

According to the Captain of the Belize Coast Guard, Greg Soberanis, before the vessel was set ablaze, it was dry-docked on the compound for maintenance, which is rotationally done.

Reports have indicated that members of the Coast Guard saw someone on the vessel a few minutes before flames were seen, and that person is suspected of being the person responsible for setting the fire and is currently being questioned by the police.

The Fire Department, along with members of the Police Department's CIB (Crime Investigation Branch) as well as an investigation unit from the Belize Coast Guard are investigating what caused the blaze. Allegations have surfaced that the individual seen on the boat at the time was stealing fuel when the fire was started.

"There's a lot of speculations and allegations going around. I don't want to get into allegations, but we're looking at various angles as it relates to what may have occurred, and so we leave that in the hands of the investigative team at this time so that we could make a definite determination as to what the cause of the fire was," said Captain Soberanis.

"... once the investigative team has



Greg Soberanis, Captain of the Belize Coast Guard

arrived at a firm position as it relates to what was the cause of the fire, and if it is deemed to be a fire that had a human intervention, it was ignited by the human component or the human factor, then the individual or individuals who were not supposed to be on that vessel will be dealt with internally by the Coast Guard and externally as a criminal offense," he added.

Captain Soberanis additionally noted that, since there is now one less vessel in the Coast Guard's operational fleet, additional vessels will be deployed to continue its customary rotation.

"This is definitely a significant loss for us as it relates to the vessel being a part of our operational fleet. However, we do have additional vessels that we will be incorporating into the deployment rotations. So while the vessel is [a] significant loss for us, we are prepared to deal with eventualities such as these," he said.

"... the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Bennett, [does] have a strategic development plan for the Coast Guard as it relates to additional vessel acquisition, and so anticipate in the near future we should be getting some additional vessels," Captain Soberanis added.

The Boston Whaler vessel along with its three 250 HP engines was valued at 332,000 USD.

Man found dead on Hopkins Beach

Abraham Lincoln Rodriguez, a mentally challenged man, was found dead by a security guard on duty on the shore in front of Hamanasi Resort in Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District.

by Charles Gladden

HOPKINS, Stann Creek District, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

Abraham Lincoln Rodriguez, a mentally challenged man, was found dead at around 2:55 p.m. on the shore in front of Hamanansi Resort in Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District, by a security guard on Saturday, October 22, and was subsequently identified by his father.

According to reports, when the body of Rodriguez, who was described as being six feet tall with dreadlocks, was



Abraham Lincoln Rodriguez, deceased

discovered, blood was coming out of his mouth and nose. However, the police have said that there was no physical sign of injuries on his body, and that they do not suspect foul play.

Nonetheless, a post-mortem examination will be conducted on his body to determine whether his death was the result of drowning or another cause.



ACP Alden Dawson, Regional Commander, Eastern Division

Man found dead on Southern Highway

by Charles Gladden

SAN ANTONIO, Toledo District, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

Leon Bol, 34, a farmer from San Antonio Village, Toledo District, was found dead on the Southern Highway on Friday, October 21.

According to initial reports, Bol was

walking on the road in San Antonio when he was hit from behind by a motorcycle, and as a result of the forceful hit, he fell to the ground and sustained a number of injuries.

Bol was found by his aunt, who said that he was dressed in a black T-shirt, a pair of brown Dickies pants, and a pair of rubber boots. Beside him was a

black and blue knapsack, which contained some food items.

Bol's motionless body was transported to the Punta Gorda Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. His body will soon undergo an autopsy.

No persons have yet been detained in connection with the incident, as police are investigating.

Court transformation finalized

Continued from Page 1

transformation of the judiciary. Senator Eamon Courtenay says the bill is modeled after the court systems in the Eastern Caribbean and Jamaica, thus the reason for the selection of Chief Justice Madam Louise Blenman, who has served as a justice of appeal on the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. But one objection raised by lead opposition senator, Michael Peyrefitte, highlights a possible conflict, since according to him, the holder of the Chief Justice post would be able to influence decisions in the High Court and Court of Appeal.

He suggested that the Chief Justice would be able to sit on both courts, but the senator for the business community, Kevin Herrera, pointed out that section 189 of the legislation bars the Chief Justice from sitting on cases that she has heard in a lower court. This provision, however, is still not sufficient, according to Herrera.

“The issue that Senator Peyrefitte raised was precisely the one that we have raised as well. We had some significant issues with respect to the apparent conflict,” Senator Herrera said. “With respect to the Chief Justice hearing a case at the High Court and the potential to hear that case as well at the Court of Appeal. It seems as if though there was an attempt to address that issue, in paragraph 189.”

That section of the Senior Courts Bill states, “notwithstanding that the Chief Justice has jurisdiction to hear and determine matters before the Court of Appeal, the Chief Justice shall not hear

and determine a matter before the Court of Appeal if the Chief Justice presided over that matter when the matter was before the High Court.”

Senator Herrera noted that while he thinks that it was addressed, there is still the appearance of a potential conflict, since the Chief Justice can influence who hears a case in the appellant court.

“If it is in the Chief Justice’s interest that a certain judge who might be more lenient or something on a case, he then can appoint that judge to hear that case in an attempt to influence a potential outcome. While it may have been addressed in paragraph 189, I still think to a certain extent the appearance of it which may give rise to further appeal possibly,” Senator Herrera said.

He suggested that the issue be addressed to ensure the objectivity of the courts is unquestionable and to further strengthen the bill.

Senator Courtenay also posited that there is a difference between controlling a court and controlling judges.

“I have supreme confidence in the Chief Justice, and supreme confidence in the judges of the Court of Appeal, to suggest, even as a matter of perception, that the Chief Justice would sit down and look at judges and try to pick one, and not this one and not the other, is disrespectful and bordering on contempt,” he said.

He went on to point out that the Chief Registrar in consultation with the President of the Court of Appeal, will select the judges who sit on appeal cases, not the Chief Justice.

Young football coach dies in hospital

Continued from Page 1

while waiting in the Accident and Emergency section of the San Ignacio Hospital for medical attention on Sunday, October 23.

Reports have indicated that after a football game, Manzanero began to feel unwell and decided to seek medical attention at the hospital at around 6:45 p.m. However, according to some reports, after he had waited for an extensive period at the hospital, Manzanero collapsed face-forward on the floor in the emergency room.

A number of persons on social media posted remarks of indignation online—with some persons even accusing medical professionals of the hospital of negligence due to the amount of time that allegedly passed while Manzanero was waiting for treatment. It has been even been alleged that only one medical professional was present at the time that Manzanero entered the hospital.

However, Dr. Jorge Polanco, Deputy Director of Health Services at the Ministry of Health, spoke to members of the local media via Zoom, this afternoon, Monday, October 24, to address the allegations made against the hospital.

According to Dr. Polanco, when Manzanero entered the hospital and sought medical help, his blood

pressure was assessed, and a medical officer ascertained that he was hypertensive and wasn’t taking his medication. He also claimed that before Manzanero began feeling uneasy, he had reportedly consumed an ‘exotic’ drink. Polanco said that personnel at the hospital gave Manzanero a couple of medications to ease his pain, and he was advised to wait and rest.

Polanco claimed that, fifteen minutes later, Manzanero said that he felt better and asked to use the restroom. When Manzanero returned from the bathroom, said Polanco, he began to feel uneasy, and personnel at the hospital began assessing his blood pressure, and shortly after he collapsed on the floor.

Attempts were made to resuscitate Manzanero around 7:15 p.m., but those efforts failed.

Dr. Polanco also noted that while one doctor might be on shift in the Emergency section of the facility, multiple physicians are also on duty at the hospital.

“When they report to their shift, they would report to the ward that they are assigned to. In regards to who controlling, we have an Acting Chief of Staff and that person is responsible for those persons on the shift reporting to their shift. It’s not like you can punch in and disappear, because it’s a

Belize may take Honduras’ Sapodilla Cayes claim...

Continued from Page 1

disputes through peaceful means.

The Pact, also known as the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement, was adopted at the International Conference of American States on April 30, 1948 and enforced on May 6, 1949. It also requires nations to exhaust all their regional dispute-settlement mechanisms before taking the matter to the United Nations Security Council and invoking the jurisdiction of the ICJ.

Since 1982, Honduras has claimed the Sapodilla Cayes as part of its territory. Article 10 in that country’s constitution states, “The territories located on the mainland within its territorial limits, its inland waters and its islands, islets, and the cays in the Gulf of Fonseca, which historically, geographically, and legally correspond to it belong to Honduras” and then goes on to list a number of islands that also “historically, geographically, and legally belong to it,” including the Bay Islands, the Swan Islands, and the Cays Zapotillos (Sapodilla Cayes), among others.

The Sapodilla Cayes are the southernmost range of cays in Belize, located about an hour and a half by boat ride from Toledo. Guatemala also has a claim over them, along with much of southern Belize. The Belize/Guatemala territorial dispute is currently before the ICJ, and according to Minister Courtenay, there is a chance that Honduras’ claim over the cays could ultimately affect the final outcome.

“Once the ICJ becomes aware of the claim by Honduras to the Sapodillas, there is a significant risk that the court would not delimit the maritime areas that appertain to the Sapodillas, thereby leaving unresolved a large part of our maritime entitlement,” he stated.

This would mean, he added, that sovereignty over a very important part of Belize’s sovereign domain—the cays and the maritime areas pertaining to it—will remain unresolved.

Belize has attempted to get Honduras to recognize its sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes through dialogue, but those attempts have proven unfruitful. And so, the Government of Belize is hoping to be able to sign onto the Pact of Bogotá and thus take the matter to the ICJ.

While the motion was supported by Business Senator Kevin Herrera, NGO Senator Janelle Chanona, and Church Senator Bishop Alvin Benguche, UDP Senator Michael Peyrefitte said that the decision to take Honduras to the ICJ should be made by the people rather than the Senate.

Senator Peyrefitte criticized the government for its timing in the presentation of the motion.

“This is not one of those treaties we just enter into on a Monday morning,” he said. “This issue affects our claim... We are in the middle of this game and you are coming to us, telling us now that you want to involve a third player in the ICJ [and the] unfounded Guatemala claim against Belize,” he said.

The UDP Senator lamented the government’s decision to take action against a state which he says has made no official indication that it is interested in interfering in the Belize/Guatemala case. He pleaded to the members of the Senate to not allow the passing of the motion and to let the people of Belize decide, via referendum, whether they wish to involve another party in the matter. Senator Peyrefitte also claimed that involving Honduras could delay the ICJ’s decision on the Belize/Guatemala territorial claim for another three to four years.

The social partner senators, while they supported the motion, questioned why information on Honduras’ claim over the Sapodilla Cayes was not included in the initial educational campaigns that preceded the referendum on whether to take Guatemala’s territorial claim to the ICJ.

Minister Courtenay argued that it would be counterproductive to take the matter to a referendum, since the time needed for preparation would prevent the matter from being submitted to the ICJ before it makes its ruling on the Belize/Guatemala dispute. He also noted that the only person in the Upper House able to answer the question of why Honduras’ claim was not included in the educational campaign is Senator Peyrefitte himself, who “championed the referendum”. He also chastised the UDP senator for politicizing a matter of national importance.

“The Opposition knows what the stakes are. They know that if we do not use the Pact of Bogotá to have the Honduran claim to the Sapodillas resolved at the ICJ... the strong risk now is that the court will not delimit all the areas pertaining to Guatemala and Belize, and that it might not even determine Belize’s sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes as against Guatemala,” said Senator Courtenay.

While he was legally unable to disclose reasons, he also added that Belize’s case in the ICJ would be prejudiced if it did not involve Honduras as well.

The motion was passed and has been referred to the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee for consideration.



Call us at: 202-4477

small hospital, so if the persons expected to be there are not, it would be noted, and for sure the Chief of Staff would be inquiring why that person is not on his or her ward,” he said..

When a reporter questioned the credibility of Dr. Polanco’s statement regarding the incident, he pointed out

that a security guard who was on duty at the hospital at the time noted that Manzanero was immediately taken to A&E upon arrival and was treated.

Dr. Polanco said that a post-mortem examination will be done to determine Manzanero’s cause of death, since it was claimed that he died from a heart attack.



“No cutting corners”; but P.M. wary of Waterloo?

“Stand Up, Belizean!” – Bredda David & Tribal Vibes

Monday, October 24, 2022

Minister Louis Farrakhan declared that, “You’re small, but you’re powerful!”, referring to our little Belize in a strong message delivered at Bird’s Isle back in 1975. Indeed, this little Jewel keeps “punching above our weight,” though often in the wrong categories. On the bright side, we have blazed a trail now being followed by other countries with our Blue Bonds debt swap for environmental conservation; just last week our Belize High School Robotics Team returned with Gold from the First Global Challenge 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland; Belize remains the undisputed 3-peat world champions in Pok Ta Pok (Mayan ball game); and our wonderful climate, beautiful people, excellent sport fishing and amazing tourist sites and resorts make the Jewel a top destination for visitors from across the globe. But we have our down sides, too many, in fact. One day soon, hopefully, our national football team will begin gaining serious respect from the rest of Central America and the Caribbean. Our country’s image suffered for a number of years while our flag (“of convenience”) was being flown all over the world on foreign vessels guilty of major international fishing, labor and human rights violations. And, as small as we were, and once proud of our “peaceful haven of democracy” at our Independence in 1981, in a matter of two short decades following the introduction of crack cocaine, television and a massive influx of refugees from war-torn Central America, by the turn of the century Belize was, and remains among the most murderous states on the planet. Worldpopulationreview.com lists the “10 countries with the Highest Murder Rates (per 100k people) in 2017,” and our little Belize was listed at #7 in the world with a rate of 37.8, for 142 murders that year.

But we will get back to those depressing numbers another time. Right now, we want to look more closely at how we handle ourselves as a people,

and specifically how our elected leaders handle our affairs when dealing with large international entities looking to do business in Belize, especially in cases where the impacts of their particular endeavour, good and bad, may rest with us for generations to come. In that regard, we would want our country to be among the top performers in the world, when it comes to protecting our patrimony while getting the best possible outcome for the citizens of Belize. So far, after the nightmare of the Super Bond, the negotiated deal with the Nature Conservancy looks like a big plus for Belize; not perfect, but a big plus still, compared to where we were before. Kudos to our government leaders who navigated us through that process, but we must “keep watch with the angels” to ensure that they don’t get careless and spoil the Blue Bond deal in the future, or we might find ourselves back at “square one”.

With the spotlight recently on the drafting of a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) for Belize, it does appear that we may be on the right track; but there is still a worrisome measure of doubt and pliancy revealed in the language used by P.M. John Briceño when discussing the decision-making process in regards to the latest E.I.A. submission for the Port of Belize’s Waterloo cruise tourism project.

(See “Belize starts drafting its

Marine Spatial Plan” on page 46 of *Amandala* for Friday, October 21, 2022.) In joining hands with The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) Belize Program Director, Julie Robinson at the launch of the “Marine Spatial Plan design process” at the Belize Best Western Biltmore Plaza in Belize City on Wednesday, October 19, Prime Minister John Briceño sounded the right notes, declaring his “government’s commitment to ensuring the wise use of the blue natural capital for the benefit of all of us.” The TNC program director had explained “in a letter sent to the CEO in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management last month that the creation of the plan, which is to be spearheaded by the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI), is a ‘public, participatory process... that is based on science, information and local knowledge’... and ‘can be used to decide the best locations’... for ‘industrial and large commercial developments such as cruise and cargo ports.’”

The TNC director had also noted to the CEO, “that it would be best that an MSP be completed before decisions are made about such high-impact projects.” Moreover, she added that, “An MSP can be an important asset for Belize when applying for large grants or loans, as it demonstrates that there is an integrated plan for the coastal and marine waters for uses and activities.”

In an interview earlier in the week (See “No cutting corners for Waterloo, says PM” on page 36 of *Amandala* for Friday, October 21, 2022), P.M. Briceño had assured citizens that, “We must follow the process, and that applies for somebody that’s investing 1 million to one that’s investing 300 million,” and that “... we’re not going to cut corners, because even if we were to attempt to do so, other people are going to sue, and it’s going to end up in court.” He maintained that “... We are going to abide by what the EIA tells us, and if the EIA says yes, it’s a good project under whatever conditions, it will have the full support of the government; but if the EIA tells us that it should not be done for X, Y, Z, then we as a government will abide by that.”

Meanwhile, it is noted, as the article mentions, that “The company has made its own legal threats, claiming that the Government of Belize could be in breach of the UK-Belize investment treaty and that they could resort to international arbitration if the company is denied approval of the project.”

Having recently been on the losing end of a lawsuit, our prime minister may be a bit tentative in dealing with this financial Goliath who has yet to lose an international arbitration case against the government of Belize. Dodging a clash with the banking mogul whom many consider to be a past sponsor of the PUP, Hon. Briceño alluded to the nature of the marketplace to work itself out, while remaining cautious with the government’s position: “So, a part of it has to be where the private sector decides which way to go, as opposed to the government deciding, well, oh, this is the one that we want to build; because should we do that, then we are going to end up in court also. We need to follow the law.”

There are members of his own Government who have come out strongly in support of Waterloo, because of the supposed \$400 million to be invested; but likewise there are many other considerations and possible repercussions with generational impact that are being weighed by environmental, social and financial experts. Buying some time, the P.M. also remarked that the first draft of a National Ports Policy, which should be a prerequisite before any cruise port project is considered for approval, has been completed, but it has not yet come to Cabinet.

When the first draft of the Waterloo cruise project E.I.A. was rejected by the National Environmental Assessment Committee (NEAC) in December of last year, it was reported that Waterloo officials claimed they had been approached for bribes, but they have never given any evidence to back up that claim. All are humans: members of the NEAC, the National Ports Authority, and all those involved in the development and design of the Belize Sustainable Oceans Plan (BSOP) – namely, officials from the Ministry of Blue Economy, representatives of the Fisheries Department, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI).

When all is said and done, if the process works as it should, P.M. John Briceño and his Cabinet will still have to make the final call after reviewing the recommendations of the “experts.” They may also be guided by the words of Minister of the Blue Economy, Hon. Andre Perez, who noted that “challenges, conflicts, and controversies may arise, but the MSP will be viewed as a guiding document to protect the country and will enable all stakeholders to stick to the principle of developing the nation sustainably.” Stand up, Belizeans!



(estb. 1969)

Business and editorial offices:
3304 Amandala Drive
(formerly Partridge Street),
Belize City, Belize,
Central America
is published twice weekly by
Amandala Press.
Telephones: 501-280-4703/
501-202-4477

Publisher: Evan X Hyde
Editor-in-chief: Marco Lopez
Business Manager: Jacinta Hyde
Make-up & Design: Deshan Swasey
Artist: Tyra Welch
Composer: Clive Smith
Lithography: Kent Brooks
Printer:

Please email Correspondence:
editor_amandala@yahoo.com

Advertisements to:
amandalapress@yahoo.com

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

Amandala’s website:
amandala.com.bz

Nurses Association demands that Health Ministry reduces risks that nurses face

The Vice President of the Nurses Association says she hopes the fatal accident in Ranchito, which left ten persons, including two nurses, injured, will prompt the Health Ministry to put safeguarding the well-being of healthcare workers higher on the Ministry's priority list.

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Oct. 21, 2022

The vice president of the Nurses Association of Belize, Shirley Cruz, says that the Ministry of Health and Wellness has been forthcoming with its response to the association's demands for better policies that safeguard the well-being of healthcare workers. According to Cruz, who spoke with our colleagues at KREM News on Friday, the recent collision between a *busito* (mini-bus) and an ambulance in Ranchito Village, which claimed the life of 21-year-old Jorge Vargas and left two

nurses injured, will, hopefully, serve as an eye-opener for the Ministry—and the greater public.

Cruz said that both nurses received minor fractures and have since been discharged from the hospital. But the discourse surrounding the protection of the well-being of healthcare workers, as well as motor vehicle drivers' failure to respect the right of way of ambulances, which was sparked by the accident, has continued.

On Tuesday, October 11, an ambulance transporting a sick child and her mother from the Corozal Community Hospital to the Karl



The ambulance involved in a fatal RTA in Ranchito Village

Heusner Memorial Hospital, after having to overtake a truck, collided head-on with a *busito* traveling to Corozal Town. Inside the *busito* were five students, including Vargas. The crash claimed the 21-year-old student's life and injured a total of ten persons, including the driver of the ambulance and the two nurses who had been accompanying him.

Shortly after the accident, the Nurses Association issued a press release extending condolences to the family of Jorge Vargas and calling on motorists to pull over when they hear or see an ambulance on the road. The Association also made several demands to the Ministry of Health and Wellness that, if fulfilled, could help reduce some of the risks and burdens associated with transporting patients in ambulances. One of those demands is the revision of the ambulance allowance granted to nurses accompanying those patients. At present, those nurses receive a compensation of \$50 per trip, which Cruz says covers little to no expenses and would certainly not cover any medical expenses, were an accident to occur. The association has also suggested that the government hire more Emergency Medical Technicians to compensate for a shortage of nurses.

Cruz noted that the Ministry has responded positively to their requests, but added that implementing any kind of effective change will take some time.

"We put some solutions forward. We were suggesting trying to see if there was the possibility of having EMTs in place in every hospital, especially the regional hospitals, who are responsible to transfer patients to Karl Heusner most of the time or from small community hospitals to the regional hospitals. We wanted to have EMTs, but that is another issue, since this post has to be created, and officials have to be trained. It is a long and difficult process that cannot be solved right

away," she stated.

The Association also asked that the government invest in insurance packages for nurses so that, if they are involved in an accident while transporting a patient, they can afford medical care if necessary. Cruz says that the packages are something that the association has been lobbying for, for quite some time now.

"For some time we have been saying, you know, this might happen, and we don't want for it to happen, but when it does, what will the outcome be? You know the cost of living is extremely high now. Medical expenses are through the roof—it's almost as if only rich people can get sick, because everything is expensive," she said.

According to the association's vice president, nurses have had countless close calls while on the road in ambulances.

"When we have to transfer patients, we have had to travel under rainy conditions, sometimes flooding on the highway, speeding vehicles. We have to travel in the middle of the night, so yes, it is a high-risk endeavor, and this is the reason we have brought forward all these concerns—because we have been fearful of such things happening to us, to our patients, to our colleagues, the ambulance drivers," she explained.

The Nurses Association has since met with the Ministry, and together they have been looking into solutions for the many issues faced by nurses—issues which have prompted some to leave the country in search of greener pastures.

"We're looking into these things because we want to retain our nurses in our homeland," Cruz stated.

"These are things that we have been bringing forward to our Minister and the Ministry and, like I said, we have had favorable responses from the ministry. It's only that it's something that takes time," she later added.

Emancipate yourself from hypocrisy, lies

The hypocrisy of our colonial masters — not former colonial masters because they are still our colonial masters — is frightening, embarrassing:

At the end of his speech, during the question-and-answer session, a French journalist asked Joaquim Chissano, the then president of Mozambique and chairman of the African Union, what his position was on the Mugabe dictatorship and how dictators like Mugabe are a major threat to African integration. And here is President Joaquim Chissano's response:

*One of the greatest threats to African integration is foreign control. I took my round of presidency of the OAU in July 2003 (just after that of Thabo Mbeki). In the middle of one night, I received an urgent call from the President of the Republic of Benin telling me that he was in an emergency situation.

"I immediately thought it was a military coup, because Benin had experienced many military coups. He replied: 'No, it's worse than a military coup. The President of France has just sent a special envoy to warn me that if we don't immediately pay our 10% to France, we will have serious consequences. The 10% is one of 3 agreements that all French-speaking countries signed with France as conditions for France to grant us independence in 1960.

'The 3 agreements were that:

'(1) Each of us will adopt the CFA as our common currency and will be 100% controlled by France,

'(2) Each of us will pay France 10% of our export earnings in return for France guaranteeing our sovereignty and security,

'and (3) Each of us will keep our national reserves in France, and if we draw from them without France's consent, it will be considered a loan that we will repay to France with interest.

'Now, due to a serious financial crisis that Benin is currently facing, my

Cabinet and I have decided to suspend all payments to foreign governments until we return to normal. The Special Envoy refuses to accept our explanation!

'So could you please help us mobilize African Union Member States to support us in this fight with France? Please?'

Chissano said he couldn't believe his ears. He was shocked. He then replied to the President of Benin: "My Comrade Brother President, please remain very firm.

"I will take care of this matter very quickly. *I'm not sure the President of France (Jacques Chirac) will listen to me, so I'm going to call former President Nelson Mandela whom they revere to intervene, then I'll get back to you*.

Chissano added that when he called and told the story to Nelson Mandela, the latter was even more shocked than he (Chissano). He was flabbergasted. *He immediately called President Jacques Chirac and told him it was worse than apartheid*!

In short, France eventually waived Benin's payment for that year, but said that if Benin refused to pay for the following year and beyond, it would be responsible, as it is a binding treaty that he has signed.

So goes FranceAfrica! These chords are incredible. But why don't we teach that at school and at university. Why are they not popularized. I am sure that among us there are people who will not be able to believe that such one-of-a-kind agreements exist and are still in force.

This is still going on. And our colonial masters, their intellectuals and media see nothing wrong about this. They talk about it. This is not taught in our schools. It is not part of our political discourse. But they are busy and endlessly talking to us about Russia and China!

First Publisher by Zambia Today

Mental patient beaten to death by two men

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

This afternoon police announced the passing of 43-year-old John Jeffers, who had been at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in a critical state after being beaten unconscious by two men. The incident took place on Friday night at a store on Racecourse Street.

The victim, said to be a resident of George Street, suffers from a mental illness, according to police. Police have not pinpointed any apparent motive for the attack, but they are seeking two persons for questioning. The two men being sought are Brandon Hertular and an individual known only as "Baptist" or "Cheese" to police.

US Embassy donates trucks to BDF

by Charles Gladden

LADYVILLE, Belize District, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

On Thursday, October 20, the United States Embassy donated five military trucks valued at over a million dollars to the Belize Defence Force as a part of the US-Belize security cooperation agreement, which promotes national and regional security.

The high-powered military trucks were donated through the United States Foreign Military Financing program, a US Department of Defense initiative that enables partner countries to improve defense capabilities and contribute toward common security goals.

The purpose of the donation, which is a follow-up on a previous donation in 2020 of six military trucks, is to increase the BDF's ability to transport troops and supplies throughout the country in response to natural disasters and to participate in international military exercises.

"We're proud of this latest donation that's come under the Foreign Military Financing Program. This is part of a total of \$1.6 million donated in the last year. This will provide a mobility platform for the Belizean Defence Forces to mobilize their troops to deploy wherever is needed and however is needed. It's also an important component of inner-operability as we exercise jointly to beat natural disaster and border security challenges jointly," said US Chargé d'Affaires, Leyla Moses Ones.

Acting Chief of Staff for the Belize Defence Force, Lieutenant Colonel Jermaine Burns, noted to reporters that the previous six trucks that were received in 2020 require repair.

"Back in 2020, we got about six of these trucks, but you'd imagine the [number] of operations we have across the western and southern border and internal operations, we have been stretched thin in terms of mobility, so these trucks are going to fill some of



BDF receives trucks from US Embassy



the gaps when it comes to our operations and far to reach areas," he said.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Vacancy exists for a Chef to work at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Michelle Kwan.

Successful candidate will be required to obtain a security clearance and undergo a medical examination.

BASIC FUNCTION OF THE CHEF POSITION:

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

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

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

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

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates must submit a letter of application, current résumé, two references and all other applicable supporting documentation by email to BelmopanJobs@state.gov.

All applications must include in the subject line the position they are applying for (eg: **Employment Application for Chef position**). Incomplete applications will not be considered. For a complete copy of the position description listing all duties and responsibilities, please send an email to BelmopanJobs@state.gov or call at 822-4011, Ext. 4231. The deadline for submitting applications is **Sunday, October 30, 2022**.

Minister Musa says UEF's Emancipation Day concerns will be "taken into consideration."

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Oct. 21, 2022

Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, says that the concerns of the UBAD Educational Foundation (UEF) regarding the observance of Emancipation Day on August 1 rather than July 31 are being taken into consideration.

Last week, in an article dated Wednesday, October 20, AMANDALA reported that UEF chairperson, YaYa Marin Coleman, had written to the Government of Belize expressing the organization's objection to GoB's decision to observe the public and bank holiday for Emancipation Day in 2023 on Monday, July 31, as opposed to the actual date, which is August 1.

Marin Coleman, in an interview with KREM News, highlighted the fact that August 1, 1838, the day when enslaved Africans became liberated, holds great significance for the descendants of those Africans around the globe. As such, she said, having the holiday on any day other than August 1 would be a disservice to



Hon. Kareem Musa

Belizeans of African descent.

According to Hon. Kareem Musa, the committee in charge of overseeing the assignment of public and bank holidays has "noted the contribution from UEF."

Hon Musa said that the committee, which includes representatives from the churches, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will be taking UEF's recommendation into consideration. He also added, however, that if the committee "sees it fit" to change the date, that change would likely take effect in the year 2024.



“Nada de tomar atajos”; pero ¿P.M. precavido acerca de Waterloo?

“¡Levántate, beliceño!” –Bredda David & Tribal Vibes

Lunes, 24 de octubre de 2022

El Ministro Louis Farrakhan declaró que, “¡Son pequeños, pero son poderosos!”, refiriéndose a nuestro pequeño Belize en un fuerte mensaje entregado en Bird’s Isle en 1975. De hecho, esta pequeña Joya sigue “golpeando por encima de nuestro peso”, aunque a menudo en las categorías equivocadas. En el lado positivo, hemos abierto un camino que ahora están siguiendo otros países con nuestro canje de deuda de Bonos Azules para la conservación del medio ambiente; la semana pasada, nuestro equipo de robótica de Belize High School regresó con el oro del First Global Challenge 2022 en Ginebra, Suiza; Belize sigue siendo el indiscutible tres veces campeón mundial de Pok Ta Pok (juego de pelota maya); y nuestro clima maravilloso, gente hermosa, excelente pesca deportiva y sorprendentes sitios turísticos y centros turísticos hacen de la Joya un destino principal para visitantes de todo el mundo. Pero tenemos nuestras desventajas, demasiadas, de hecho. Un día cercano, con suerte, nuestra selección nacional de fútbol comenzará a ganarse el respeto serio del resto de América Central y el Caribe. La imagen de nuestro país sufrió durante varios años mientras nuestra bandera (“de conveniencia”) ondeaba por todo el mundo en embarcaciones extranjeras culpables de importantes violaciones internacionales a la pesca, la mano de obra y los derechos humanos. Y, tan pequeños como éramos, y una vez orgullosos de nuestro “refugio pacífico de democracia” en el momento de nuestra Independencia en 1981, en cuestión de dos décadas después de la introducción del crack, la televisión y la afluencia masiva de refugiados de la América Central devastada por la guerra, ya para el cambio de siglo, Belize estaba y sigue estando entre los estados más asesinos del planeta. Worldpopulationreview.com enumera los “10 países con las tasas de asesinatos más altas (por cada 100.000 personas) en 2017”, y nuestro pequeño Belize figura en el puesto número 7 del mundo con una tasa de 37,8, con 142 asesinatos ese año.

Pero volveremos a esos números deprimentes en otro momento. En este momento, queremos ver más de cerca cómo nos manejamos a nosotros mismos como pueblo, y específicamente cómo nuestros líderes electos manejan nuestros asuntos cuando tratan con grandes entidades internacionales que buscan hacer negocios en Belize, especialmente en casos donde los impactos de su esfuerzo particular, bueno y malo, permanecerían con nosotros en las generaciones venideras. En ese sentido, nos gustaría que nuestro país se encuentre entre los mejores del mundo, cuando se trata de proteger nuestro patrimonio y obtener el mejor resultado posible para los ciudadanos de Belize. Hasta ahora, después de la pesadilla del Súper Bono, el acuerdo negociado con Nature Conservancy parece una gran ventaja para Belize; no es perfecto, pero aún así es una gran ventaja, en comparación con donde estábamos antes. Felicitaciones a nuestros líderes gubernamentales que nos guiaron a través de ese proceso, pero debemos “vigilar con los ángeles” para asegurarnos de que no se descuiden y arruinen el acuerdo del Bono Azul en el futuro, o podríamos encontrarnos de nuevo en “punto de partida”.

Con el centro de atención recientemente en la redacción de un Plan Espacial Marino (MSP por sus siglas en inglés) para Belize, parece que podemos estar en el camino correcto; pero todavía hay una medida preocupante de duda y flexibilidad revelada en el lenguaje utilizado por P.M. John Briceño al hablar sobre el proceso de toma de decisiones con respecto a la última E.I.A. presentada para el proyecto de turismo de cruceros de Waterloo en Port of Belize.

(Consulten “Belize starts drafting its Marine Spatial Plan” en la página 46 de *Amandala* para el viernes 21 de octubre de 2022). Al unirse a la Directora del Programa de Belize de The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Julie Robinson, en el lanzamiento del “proceso de diseño del Plan Espacial Marino” en el Best Western Biltmore Plaza de Belize en la Ciudad de Belize el miércoles 19 de octubre, el Primer Ministro John Briceño hizo sonar las notas correctas, declarando su “compromiso del gobierno para garantizar el uso sensato del capital natural azul para el beneficio de todos nosotros”. La Directora del Programa de TNC había explicado “en una carta enviada el mes pasado al director ejecutivo del Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible, Cambio Climático y Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres que la creación del plan, que será encabezado por la Autoridad

e Instituto de Gestión de la Zona Costera (CZMAI por sus siglas en inglés), es un ‘proceso público y participativo... que se basa en la ciencia, la información y el conocimiento local’... y ‘puede utilizarse para decidir las mejores ubicaciones’... para ‘grandes desarrollos industriales y comerciales como puertos de cruceros y de carga’”.

La Directora de TNC también le había señalado al CEO, “que sería mejor que se complete un MSP antes de que se tomen decisiones sobre proyectos de tan alto impacto”. Además, agregó que “un MSP puede ser un activo importante para Belize al momento de solicitar grandes subvenciones o préstamos, ya que demuestra que existe un plan integrado para las aguas costeras y marinas para usos y actividades”.

En una entrevista a principios de semana (consulten “No cutting corners for Waterloo, says PM” [“Nada de tomar atajos para Waterloo, dice P.M.”] en la página 36 de *Amandala* del viernes 21 de octubre de 2022), P.M. Briceño había asegurado a los ciudadanos que “hay que seguir el proceso, y eso aplica para alguien que está invirtiendo 1 millón a uno que está invirtiendo 300 millones”, y que “...no vamos a tomar atajos, porque aunque intentemos hacerlo, otras personas van a demandar y va a terminar en los tribunales”. Sostuvo que “...vamos a acatar lo que nos diga la EIA, y si la EIA dice que sí, que es un buen proyecto en las condiciones que sea, va a tener todo el apoyo del gobierno; pero si la EIA nos dice que no se debe hacer por X, Y, Z, entonces nosotros como gobierno lo vamos a respetar”.

Mientras tanto, se señala, como se menciona en el artículo, que “La empresa ha hecho sus propias amenazas legales, alegando que el Gobierno de Belize podría estar violando el tratado de inversión entre el Reino Unido y Belize y que podrían recurrir al arbitraje internacional si a la empresa se le niega la aprobación del proyecto”.

Habiendo estado recientemente en el lado perdedor de una demanda, nuestro primer ministro puede estar un poco tentativo al tratar con este Goliat financiero que aún no ha perdido un caso de arbitraje internacional contra el Gobierno de Belize. Esquivando un enfrentamiento con el magnate bancario a quien muchos consideran un patrocinador anterior del PUP, el Honorable Briceño aludió a la naturaleza del mercado para resolverse por sí mismo, al mismo tiempo que permanecía cauteloso con la posición del gobierno: “Entonces, una parte tiene que ser dónde el sector privado decida qué camino tomar, en lugar de que el gobierno decida, bueno, ah, este es el que queremos construir; porque si hacemos eso, también terminaremos en los tribunales. Tenemos que cumplir la ley”.

Hay miembros de su propio Gobierno que se han manifestado fuertemente a favor de Waterloo, por los supuestos 400 millones de dólares que se invertirán; pero también existen muchas otras consideraciones y posibles repercusiones con impacto generacional que están siendo sopesadas por expertos ambientales, sociales y financieros. Ganando algo de tiempo, el P.M. también remarcó que se completó el primer borrador de una Política Nacional de Puertos, que debería ser un requisito previo antes de considerar cualquier proyecto de puerto de cruceros para su aprobación, pero aún no ha llegado al Gabinete.

Cuando el primer borrador de la E.I.A. sobre el proyecto de cruceros de Waterloo fue rechazado por el Comité Nacional de Evaluación Ambiental (NEAC por sus siglas en inglés) en diciembre del año pasado, se informó que los funcionarios de Waterloo afirmaron que habían sido contactados para sobornos, pero nunca dieron ninguna evidencia para respaldar esa afirmación. Todos son humanos: miembros del NEAC, la Autoridad Portuaria Nacional y todos aquellos involucrados en el desarrollo y diseño del Plan del Océano Sostenible de Belize (BSOP por sus siglas en inglés), es decir, funcionarios del Ministerio de Economía Azul, representantes del Departamento de Pesca, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) y la Autoridad e Instituto de Gestión de la Zona Costera (CZMAI).

Cuando todo esté dicho y hecho, si el proceso funciona como debería, el P.M. John Briceño y su Gabinete aún tendrán que hacer la llamada final luego de revisar las recomendaciones de los “expertos”. También podrán guiarse por las palabras del Ministro de la Economía Azul, el Honorable André Pérez, quien señaló que “pueden surgir desafíos, conflictos y controversias, pero el MSP será visto como un documento guía para proteger al país y permitirá a todos los actores apegarse al principio de desarrollo sostenible de la nación”. ¡Levántense, beliceños!

Chinese Communist Party re-elects Xi Jinping



Xi Jinping, re-elected President of China

BELIJING, CHINA, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

A seven-member group representing the highest levels of Chinese political power was unveiled yesterday. The new Politburo Standing Committee will be led by President and Secretary General Xi Jinping and six other men known to be his close allies, for the next 5 years as the highest decision-making body in that country. Chinese political analysts have opined that the confirmation of the new Politburo is an indication that Xi has consolidated power to an extent not seen since the era of Mao.

This is the third term for which the 69-year-old has been elected to serve as the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, following the abolishment of the presidential two-term

limit in 2018. Critics say this may lead to tyrannical rule, allowing him to govern indefinitely in China, with some even calling this move the return to the one-man rule in China.

During the declaration of the new standing committee, former president of China, Hu Jintao, 79, was forcibly removed from the ceremony of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party. He was seated next to President Xi Jinping and escorted by two stewards. Initial reports claim that he was feeling unwell, and left the session for health reasons.

The move is being seen as choreographed, since the former president was removed shortly after journalists were allowed inside Beijing's Great Hall of People.

Man charged with manslaughter for killing his brother



Edward Cabanas, charged with manslaughter



Brandon Cabanas, deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

After spending almost a decade on remand at the Belize Central Prison, Sandhill resident, Edward Cabanas, 29, appeared last week in the Supreme Court in Belize City, where the charge of murder that he was previously facing for the death of his brother Brandon Cabanas, 23, was reduced to manslaughter.

On December 2012, the two brothers had been drinking at their mother's residence at Mile 19 ¾ on the Philip Goldson Highway in Sandhill Village,

when an argument flared up between the siblings. Reports at the time indicated that Edward called for his brother, Brandon, to come out of the house, and when he did so, Edward pulled out a knife and stabbed his brother in the leg—causing wounds that proved to be fatal. Brandon bled to death before he could be transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital.

On Wednesday, October 19, Edward Cabanas appeared before Justice Suzan Lamb and entered a guilty plea, after which his previous murder charge was downgraded to manslaughter. Before

Waterloo submits responses to DOE questions

Continued from Page 1

of a cruise terminal and tourism village, as well as expansion of the cargo capacity at the Port of Belize compound in Belize City have submitted a supplementary report to the Department of the Environment, responding to two questions posed to them following a September 1 public consultation and NEAC.

The public has raised concerns over the dumping of millions of cubic meters of dredged material that will result from the project, and its potential impact on the country's marine ecosystem and the Belize Barrier Reef System.

In its 33-page response to the DOE letter requesting additional information, the developer remarks, "We appreciate the DOE, NEAC's and public concern with the BBRRS and how our proposed aquatic and confined placement (close to the coast, or "nearshore") may have a potential environmental impact. However, it is critical to reiterate how these dredged materials placed are very similar or identical to the natural sediments encountered and every possible measure will be taken to mitigate any potential environmental risk in its entirety."

In a letter dated September 5 addressed to Jelle Prins of Piedroba Consulting Group, Anthony Mai, Chief Environmental Officer, asked them, in reference to the proposed use of geotextiles for the containment of dredge soils, to provide specifications from the manufacturers of the material, and to provide three examples of usage with proper reference. The DOE also asked the developers to describe in a presentation the possible direct or indirect impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Belize Barrier Reef under its World Heritage Site designation.

During the September public consultation, the company failed to properly reply to a question from Rodrigo Ferreira Modernel, the regional manager of Boskalis, who asked for examples of the successful use of geotextiles at the level proposed in this project. He noted that the high risks of structural failure common in geotextile usage were not addressed in the ESIA submitted by the company and that a proper risk assessment was lacking. In a purported response to the question, one company consultant, Kris Baert, who joined via Zoom, explained that the approach being taken in the project is a new one, but failed to give any direct examples of successful usage of geotextiles in a context similar to what is being

proposed in the Waterloo ESIA.

The company intends to dispose of the material over 1200 acres along the coast near the development site, which will be designated as a nearshore placement area. In a response to the DOE's letter, the Waterloo developers make reference to the variety of uses of geotextiles and various fields of applications in which "Jan De Nul has extensive experience"—none entirely reflective of the way in which geotextiles would be used at the Port of Belize. Nonetheless, in the company's response it makes a general reference to the fact that "the technology has been in use for over 70 years in marine engineering" and gives examples of geotextile systems and applications in other projects.

The DOE also asked the developer about the possible impact of the project on the status of the Belize Barrier Reef as an Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. The developers noted that the project site is 15 kilometers from the BBRRS and that, "Closer to the coastline, the predominant flow of water circulation is relatively slow and flows from north to south." What the company appears to be claiming, therefore, without a guarantee, is that the material would not flow that far out to sea.

They again made reference to their proposed containment of the dredged material with silt screen curtains and geotextiles of the dredge material and suggested, again without a guarantee, that the dredge material might return to its compacted states within months of completion. They then tried to assert that, in their opinion, based on their study of the regional water circular, dispersion, and natural suspended soil concentration in the area (which is considered by some environmentalists as incomplete), the project will not harm the reef.

"Therefore, neither the OUV nor the BBRRS's World Heritage status will be impacted negatively by our development, and the BBRRS is not at risk of returning to the List of World Heritage in Danger," the company claimed. They even suggested that it will increase the "integrity of the BBRRS property by realizing substantial environmental improvements."

The full supplementary information can be found on the Department of the Environment website, and a public comment period has been opened. On November 4, the next public consultation concerning this project will be held at the Biltmore Plaza in Belize City.

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

entering a guilty plea, Justice Lamb told Cabanas' attorney, Norman Rodriguez, last month, that the starting point for the calculation of the sentence for Cabanas' guilty plea would be twelve years but that the final sentence will be based on the

facts of the case, and the fact that Cabanas had been on remand in prison for almost a decade.

The case was adjourned until Friday, November 11, when Cabanas will be sentenced for manslaughter.

Citizens awakening from "propaganda-induced coma"



by Clinton Canul Luna

Multipolar order and Unilateral order. What is the difference? Multipolar order is the distribution of power between two or more states having almost the same amount of military, cultural, financial and economic influence. Unilateral order, on the other hand, is when a decision is made which affects an individual, organization, or nation involved, without the consent of others. In other words, Unilateral order is under the command of one single nation and Multipolar order isn't; they have equal rights. In my personal opinion, the Multipolar order is one which is best for the entire world. We need to change the Unilateral order which the Western world has put into play for a globalized world, under the authority of the United States

and its allies. Nonetheless, permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the below analysis which I find to be of utmost interest. The following, entitled "Citizens Awakening from 'Propaganda-Induced Coma'", was posted by The LaRouche Organization on their YouTube page on October 18, 2022. It is as follows:

Good morning. I'm Harley Schlanger from the LaRouche organization with your daily video update for October 18, 2022. We've reached a point at which there is no option but to undergo profound change. The question is, will it be for the better or for the worse? The Western establishment is clearly losing its grip, and it's not going to submit, it's not going to give in, it's going to continue

with its utopian schemes to bring the rest of the world under its control, but what's required now is what the journalist Caitlin Johnstone described as "breaking out of the propaganda-induced coma" which most of the western world still is lingering within. A coma which is enforced by the censorship regime, the lying, the fake media and so on, and what she says is that it's important for everyone who knows better to speak the truth, because every voice chips away at this controlled narrative.

Now, look at the recent efforts at censorship. We can start with the Committee to Combat Disinformation and Myrotvoret. The NATO operations run through Ukraine to produce a kill list to silence people who present an alternative. It's not a coincidence that on the initial list of slightly more than 70 names, it included 30 who spoke at Schiller Institute conferences, including, the Schiller Institute founder and chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche. Now, you also have the absurd attempt by PayPal to take money from people's accounts if PayPal determines they're spreading disinformation. Twenty-five hundred dollars a shot. They're forced to reverse this by saying that it wasn't really fully planned out, but it shows you how far they're willing to go to suppress the truth, and now we have something from the German government which should know better in covering up the Nord Stream pipeline sabotage. A question was asked by Sarah Wagon connected from the links partied to the government: will they produce what they know about who's behind this; and the government said they're going to refuse to answer questions about what they know for reasons of, quote, "State well-being" unquote, including refusing to answer parliamentary inquiry. So, the censorship regime is taking on a life of its own.

Now, the suppression of free speech is occurring at a moment which is extremely dangerous. There are two nuclear war exercises underway right now. One called 'steadfast noon,' which is NATO which is going on in Europe with planes capable of carrying nuclear weapons crisscrossing the space of the European countries, and there's a similar exercise underway in Russia. Now, while these are occurring, parallel nuclear exercises, we have the latest evidence of a blatant commitment to a global dictatorship coming from spokesman for the European Union. One from Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, who's shown herself to be just a mouthpiece for the city of London and Wall Street. What she said is that China and Russia threaten Western hegemony, that is, the Unipolar order, the idea that one economic model is all that's allowed for any country in the world. She said, "Russia and China's influence must be curbed in the global South", that is, that they're using their influence to direct opposition to this global model and she said that what must be done is an agreement to cut off access

to raw materials to Russia and China, in particular, to stop China's Belt and Road Initiative. The Belt and Road is part of a policy of the Chinese government which lifted 800 million people out of poverty. So, her intent is to prevent that model from being applied in Africa and Asia, where there are still hundreds of millions of people who live in poverty. That's what is known as imperialism.

Now, she said that she wants to work with Biden to hold the leaders' summit on global oil investment, obviously, a reaction to the recent OPEC Plus Agreement but also a reaction to the alignment that's occurring in the global South to make sure there's adequate energy in opposition to the Malthusian Green New Deal that von der Leyen is a spokesman for. And as part of her plan, she wants to enlarge the European Union, so you'd have Global NATO, Global EU and this essentially merges them as the pathetic Liz Truss said to the United Nations "we need an economic NATO". Now then, you have the modern-day Colonel Blimp, the spokesman for blatant racist imperialism, Joseph Burrell, who's the European Union's foreign minister. He made the statement that Europe is a garden, the rest of the world is a jungle and people in the jungle wish to invade the garden. Now, while this was denounced by many, many people, it wasn't denounced by people in the European Union, in the government, the control, the Brussels bureaucrats, because that's their vision. Now, this isn't fooling anyone in the global South, it's not leading to nations jumping onto the sinking ship of the European Union, in NATO. One former leading Indian diplomat, MK Bhadrakumar, wrote a very interesting article where he identified this attempt to establish a Unipolar order. He said, the attacks on Russian infrastructure, the Nord Stream pipelines and the Crimea Bridge have made a step further toward control of world economy, but he said it's dominated by U.S Big Oil. Now, what he really should have said is the U.S and British corporate cartels, but he said this is making Europe captive to these American interests, they're being played by Americans. But he said this isn't going to save the Unipolar world, because there's unstoppable momentum toward a new multilateral system, but he writes, quote, "...Americans are cocooned in a surreal world by their self-serving narrative that Russia lost the war..." unquote, and he describes this as a dangerous self-delusion.

Well, that in fact isn't reality, it is a self-delusion. This was emphasized by Xi Jinping in his address to the Chinese Communist party where he said we're seeing fundamental shifts in world policy, complete changes, major shifts that cannot be stopped. Well, maybe to von



AMANDALA is now ONLINE!

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

Steps to access E-paper

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

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

All Power to the People!

Tel: 501-280-4703 OR
202-4477
Fax: +501-222-4702

Emails:
amandalapress@yahoo.com OR
amandalapress@gmail.com

More thoughts on those questions

by Colin Hyde

I haven't yet had the opportunity to look at ALL those invasive questions our MOE put to our students, the most concerning of which probed their young minds about gender issues and the extent of their sex obsession. A couple of the questions that were put out there also looked at dark issues. Remember we had an occult group that was targeting our young people some time back.

Some "adages" are half-truths, and some are the purest pearls. If you have time to waste (I know you don't) you can think up all the not fully baked stuff you've heard over the years, but here it's all about, ehm bizniz, so, we're going with a stitch in time saves nine, and an ounce of prevention betta than a whole pound of cure. One stitch in time would have been to block that US presidential hopeful who retired to sell Viagra. Maybe, maybe it isn't a bad thing, restoring vitality to old men, to save them from the scorn of veteran women who are out for revenge, but whatever virtue there was made ugly by advertisers who hawked their pill from morning till night on American television.

Decades ago PM Said told us about the dangers of television, and now there's an even badder influence on the block: the handheld electronic device and the one that is placed on the lap.

Daily our youth are being bombarded with sex, gender issues, and violence on the television and via the Google engine on their electronic devices.

I'm not sure of the age group that participated in the survey, if they were children (5-12) or youth (13-18), and I'm not sure it's a bad idea to find out what's going on inside their minds. Hmm, even an ostrich with its head in the sand knows that the innocence of our young ones has been punctured, and the only question is quantity, how deeply they are immersed in the bedroom and closet activities. Ah, the power of sex, it does, yes, draw human beings like moths to a flame. My, if our most sober people, our pastors, don't stand a chance, how can the young energetic ones resist?

I told my dad, a voracious reader in his day, that he wouldn't have consumed half the books he had if television was around when he was young. Eureka, I just learned something. Have you ever wondered at the simplnis coming out of American media and many of their modern artists? It's television! Those people don't read nearly enough.

But let's not be distracted from this sex lure. Can you imagine how many children would be having children in this world with televisions and laptops if there were no readily available contraceptives? Prior to the army of 10,000, adults encouraged full

engagement in sports, pushed a heavy dose of chores, and applied strict supervision over all activities where boys met girls, to keep young people in check.

What was God thinking when He doled out so many hormones? On first take, it looks like the only thing on His mind was procreation, the continuation of His prized species. I said, first take.

Ah, you remember those school days when teacher did random testing and you, who didn't do your home study as usual, made yourself as small as you could and prayed she didn't use you for her sample? Well, ehm, I would have passed on this bit coming up, if it wasn't such a good reminder of the powerful forces our young ones are up against.

Mark Denison, in *CovenantEyes*, at the website covenanteyes.com, could be a fibber, but he said, in the story "Pastors and Porn: Why We Struggle and the Help We Need", that as a senior pastor he struggled for 31 years with porn and sex addiction. Denison cited a 2016 Barna report, *The Porn Phenomenon*, which "found that 57% of pastors and 64% of youth pastors admit they have struggled with porn, either currently or in the past... [and that] around 21% of youth pastors and 5% of pastors claim they are currently addicted to porn - they're living in constant fear of discovery."

One of the things parents have to be extremely concerned about is old predators who are posing as youth on social media to get in on the lives of their young daughters, and gay predators who are scouting young males to find those who might be having some confusion. I said I haven't looked at all the questions yet, only a few, and that I definitely wasn't for the identification. That's because we absolutely don't want old predators and old gay predators in on the thoughts of our young people.

Jamaica taking the lead, again

Euronews said Jamaica's broadcasting regulator had "banned music and TV broadcasts deemed to glorify or promote criminal activity, violence, drug use, scamming and weapons", and the Jamaican government explained that the move is to curtail music that "could give the wrong impression that criminality is an accepted feature of Jamaican culture and society." I like the Jamaican government.

Some Jamaican artists are critical, at odds with their government for moving to stomp down violent lyrics. They say the move "cuts populations affected by heightened gun violence out of the

conversation... will do little to stop crime", that "art imitates life" and their art is about "what is happening in Jamaica for real."

I absolutely don't buy art "imitating life" as a defense. From the website, uh.edu, I like Plato in the *Republic* who says, about art imitating life, that some "poets and other artists represent the gods in inappropriate ways" and that "art"... "can undermine the stability of even the best humans by making us feel sad, depressed, and sorrowful about life itself."

The progressive human being imitates things that are good, and stomps down things that are bad. Glorifying violence, which is what we do in these songs the Jamaican government has targeted, is not neutral. Once upon a time cigarette makers put a lot of swag behind smoking, and it became the thing for all of us. If your report on violence glorifies it, which is what many of these songs do, you are adding fuel to the problem.

The television people bring the same argument of these songsters. We are only showing reality, they say. So, is everything that is real, good to show? Is it art to show someone picking their nose or making wind at the dinner table? Is it art to leave the bathroom door open when the girl isn't going to use the shower? Is it art to sing lyrics that cheapen women or glorify violence?

Congrats to Jamaica for taking the lead. Many of these artists have wholesome songs. They should confine themselves to that. There are some lessons we need to heed, and one is, if you don't have something good to say, and you need to say it, go and speak to the wind.

When you wear a mask it is for your sister and brother

I've got a special mask, one that works to protect both me and my neighbor, and I wear that whenever I enter very crowded areas or a business place that is air conditioned. It's a gift, and I'm grateful for it. Bully, I don't enter very exposed areas often.

All the warnings out there are that Covid-19 isn't through with us, and that we'll be hit with some nasty flu viruses soon. I hate a sticky nose and an eechi throat. No, we can't have forgotten already what it was like when cases of Covid-19 were increasing daily, and the terrible impact it had on our economy. It makes sense that we keep our nose and mouth covered when we are out in public. When you wear a mask it is not for you, it's for your sister and brother. If you love people, wear a mask when among them. Please, keep your germs to yourself.

**J
A
N
U
S**

A Collection of
Ideas and Opinions
2007-2012

by C B Hyde

Available at: #3304 Amandala Drive (formerly Partridge Street), Belize City, Belize
Phone: 202-4477

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

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Rishi Sunak wins race to become the UK's new prime minister

The former chancellor wins Conservative Party leadership contest days after the dramatic resignation of Liz Truss as prime minister.

Rishi Sunak will become the United Kingdom's new prime minister after winning the ruling Conservative Party's leadership contest, which was triggered by the resignation of Liz Truss last week.

Sunak's win on Monday came days after Truss's resignation after her disastrous tax cuts plans and policy U-turns plunged the markets into chaos. The unprecedented economic crisis drew a rare intervention from the Bank of England.

Britain faces serious economic challenges and needs stability and unity, Sunak said on Monday in his first public speech since winning the contest.

"There is no doubt we face a profound economic challenge," Sunak said. "We now need stability and unity, and I will make it my utmost priority to bring our party and our country together."

Sunak, a former finance minister, has been left with the task of steering a deeply divided country through an economic downturn set to make millions of people poorer.

Al Jazeera's Andrew Simmons, reporting from London, said Sunak is "pretty well placed" despite the challenges ahead.

"In some ways, ... some of his work has already been done in terms of putting out the fires that Liz Truss created because it did cause a storm in the markets," Simmons said.

"The whole list of tax cuts and ideas that frankly, according to Sunak and others, belongs to Disneyland because none of it was going to be really possible without crashing the economy more," he said.

Sunak's only challenger, Penny Mordaunt, leader of the House of Commons and former defence minister, was reportedly backed by 30 MPs compared with nearly 150 supporting Sunak.

"This decision is an historic one and shows, once again, the diversity and talent of our party," Mordaunt said in a statement as she withdrew from the race just minutes before the winner was due to be announced. "Rishi has my full support."

Sunak and Mordaunt had lost to Truss last month in the race to appoint a successor to then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson. He was forced to announce his resignation in July after a wave of scandals linked to parties held during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Sunak will be the UK's first leader of colour and the first Hindu to take



Former British Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak leaves his home in London [Andy Rain/EPA-EFE]

the top job. At 42, he will also be the youngest prime minister in more than 200 years.

The multimillionaire former hedge fund boss will be expected to impose deep spending cuts to try to rebuild the UK's fiscal reputation, just as the country slides into a recession, dragged down by the surging costs of energy and food.

He will also inherit a political party that has fractured along ideological lines, a challenge that damaged the fortunes of several former Conservative leaders.

While there were rumours about a Johnson comeback over the weekend, he pulled out of the contest on Sunday.

He had said that he had secured the backing of 102 legislators and could have been "back in Downing Street" but he had failed to persuade either Sunak or Mordaunt to come together and back him "in the national interest".

"I believe I have much to offer, but I am afraid that this is simply not the right time," Johnson said.

The Tories retain a majority in parliament, meaning that as their leader, Sunak will be named prime minister by King Charles III.

Economists have questioned whether Sunak can tackle the country's finances while holding the party's multiple warring factions together.

Finance minister Jeremy Hunt – the fourth person in that role in four months – is due to present a budget on October 31 to plug a black hole in the public finances, which is expected to have ballooned to up to 40 billion pounds (\$45.2bn).

Conservative political commentator Alex Deane noted that the last three Conservative prime ministers have been brought down by members of their own party.

"So it's very nice to hear people say good things about our new leader," Deane told Al Jazeera.

"[Sunak] didn't have a direct electoral mandate," Deane said. "...

Hurricane Roslyn: At least three dead on Mexico's coast



People clearing mud from the street

MEXICO, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

Three people are reported dead after Hurricane Roslyn, a strong category 3 storm, made landfall on Mexico's Pacific Coast.

Tecuala, Nayarit state, was ravaged by the storm, and an elderly man died when a roof beam fell on him. Two other women were killed by a collapsing building.

Puerto Vallarta was hit by flash floods, but these caused only minor damages, the state's governor said. The

storm has since downgraded to a tropical storm and is making its way across Mexico at about 22 miles per hour.

The area where the hurricane made landfall, around the fishing village of Santa Cruz, is not heavily populated. The resort town of Puerto Vallarta was spared from a direct hit.

The storm will continue to weaken as it makes its way inland. Projections are that its eye will deteriorate before it reaches Texas.

Paraguay rebel leader Villalba killed in clash with army

by Vanessa Buschschlüter
BBC News

The leader of a small but violent left-wing rebel group which has been terrorising rural communities in Paraguay has been killed in a clash with soldiers, officials say.

Osvaldo Villalba was the leader of the Paraguayan People's Army (EPP), which has carried out a string of killings and kidnappings in Paraguay.

Among those being held by the EPP is the country's former Vice-President, Óscar Denis.

He was kidnapped in September 2020.

Army officials told reporters that soldiers had come across the rebels on Sunday after they heard gunshots while on patrol in Amambay province.

When they arrived at the scene of the shooting they found two indigenous people had been killed and a third injured by the rebels.

An army spokesman said it was not



Osvaldo Villalba, deceased

clear why the rebels had attacked the indigenous men but the two groups have in the past clashed over the recruitment of indigenous children by the EPP.

In the shoot-out between the army and the EPP which followed three rebels were killed. Only two of them have so far been identified.

Fingerprints taken from one of the bodies matched those held in police records for 39-year-old Osvaldo Villalba.

Osvaldo is the younger brother of Carmen Villalba - one of the founders of the EPP who is serving a lengthy jail sentence for the attempted murder of three police officers during a foiled jailbreak in 2004.

The other body was identified as that of Luciano "Luchi" Argüello, an EPP member whose two brothers Jonny and Benicio - also members of the guerrilla group - were found shot dead two years ago.

Paraguay's President Mario Abdo on Sunday called on EPP members to hand

One of the things he is going to have to do ... is preside over a period of relative calm, reassuring the markets and not doing anything too bold or too rapid."

"One of the things he is likely to do is to keep Jeremy Hunt as chancellor," he added. "He really reassured the markets when he arrived. What he can't do is to compel Tory MPs to demonstrate loyalty to him."



Playoffs tip off this coming weekend in SSBA Tournament

by Mark O'Brien - SSBA President

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

The San Ignacio & Santa Elena Basketball Association (SSBA) hosted 7 games over the weekend at the Resilience Center at Victor Galvez Stadium in San Ignacio Town. Below are the scores from the games played this past weekend.

Friday, October 21

(Under 10 – Coed) Eskimo Ice, 8-4, over CK Restaurant. Eskimo Ice – Joe Luis Pech 6 pts; Liam Dacac 2 pts. CK Restaurant – Alcee Westby 2 pts; Trevor Lennan and Amiel Segura 1 pt each.

(Under 10 – Coed) Habet Service Station, 14-5, over Codd’s Drug Store. Habet Service Station – Amid Juan 7 pts; Stephan Perriot 4 pts; Arden Boiton 2 pts; Lucila Acosta 1 pt. Codd’s Drug Store – Ethan Cesena 5 pts.

(Under 12 – Male) Q&M Construction, 13-10, over KG Equine & OYE FM. Q&M Construction – Xzavien Pascual 6 pts; Hebron Martinez 5 pts; Devan Allison 2 pts. KG Equine & OYE FM – Xzavien Pascual and Levi Flowers 3 pts each; Aaron Rivera and Maverick Requena 2 pts each.

(Under 18 – Male) Atlantic Bank, 38-37, over Recino’s Imports. Atlantic Bank – Roy Valentine 9 pts; Maleek Zetina 7 pts; Christian Baeza 5 pts. Recino’s Imports – Tayshawn Haylock 13 pts; John Aranda 7 pts; Mynor Lizarraga 6 pts.

Saturday, October 22

(Under 10 – Coed) Eskimo Ice, 6-5, over Caracara. Eskimo Ice – Jaelon Juarez 4 pts; Connor Smith 2 pts. Caracara – Davion Rudon and Isaac Ayuso 2 pts each; Jose Tuyud 1 pt.

(Seniors – Male) Vegan Roots Brotherhood, 64-54, over Alphas. Vegan Roots

Brotherhood – Imanta Kwatamani 20 pts; Devon Defour 13 pts; Tas-I-Manra Kwatamani and Shelton Defour, Jr. 10 pts each. Alphas – Marcus Lewis and Mohammed Garcia 14 pts each; Kenrick Valentine 10 pts.

(Seniors – Male) Assassins, 74-61, over West Side. Assassins – Kyron Molina 17 pts; Aaron Allison 10 pts; Shemar White 9 pts. West Side – Kevon Laurie 20 pts; Jahiem Ciego 19 pts; Ryan Duran 12 pts.

All teams have advanced to the playoffs, where the U7, U10, U12, U15 and U18 divisions will use the one-and-out format, with the winners advancing to the finals. In the Senior Male and Female divisions, teams will play a best-of-three series. The only match-up that will be a one game knockout is the #3 vs #4 seeds in Group 1 of the Senior Male division. Below are the standings at the end of the regular season.

UNDER 7 - FEMALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Shabla Events	4	2	2	6	1
Obs OJ	4	2	2	6	2
UNDER 7 - MALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Joseph Freights/RGM Trading	3	2	2	6	1
Mambas	3	2	2	6	2
UNDER 10 - COED	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Habet Service Station	4	4	0	8	1
Codd's Drug Store	4	2	2	6	2
Caracara Reserve	4	2	2	6	3
Eskimo Ice	4	2	2	6	4
CK Restaurant	4	0	4	4	5
UNDER 12 - MALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Q & M Construction	3	3	1	7	1
KG Equine Supplies & Oye FM	3	1	3	5	2
UNDER 15 - FEMALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Royal International	3	3	0	6	1
San Ignacio Hotel	3	0	3	3	2
UNDER 15 - MALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Yute Expeditions	4	3	1	7	1
Tyre Center	4	2	2	6	2
Tolacca Restaurant	4	1	3	5	3
UNDER 18 - MALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Joehann Construction	5	4	1	9	1
Atlantic Bank	5	3	2	8	2
JDB	5	2	3	7	3
Recino's Imports	5	1	4	6	4
SENIORS - FEMALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Ixchel	4	3	1	7	1
Western Queens	3	1	2	4	2
Vegan Roots Sisterhood	3	1	2	4	3
SENIORS - MALE [Group 1]	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Assassins	4	4	0	8	1
West Side	4	2	2	6	2
Vegan Roots Brotherhood	4	2	2	6	3
Alphas	4	0	4	4	4
SENIORS - MALE [Group 2]	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Venom	4	3	1	7	1
Nextgen Ballers	4	2	2	6	2
NBB Pay Elites	4	1	3	4	3

PLB scramble; 3 teams in race for last playoff spot

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 24, 2022

Premier League football is back with full intensity in the Jewel, and the final week of regular season in the 2022-2023 Opening Season sees one playoff spot still open. Four Week 14 games along with two back matches remain to complete regular season. Three teams have already secured a playoff berth – Altitude FC, Verdes FC, and San Pedro Pirates FC. (See standings below.)

With only one game now left on their fixture, Police/Benque United FC may have drawn themselves out of contention with their 0-0 draw in a back match last week Wednesday with Progresso FC, and then they also drew 0-0 this past Saturday night with San Pedro Pirates FC. Progresso FC, who have also been on a drawing spree (They also drew 0-0 yesterday with Altitude FC.) now have 17 points, and that only puts them out of reach of Benque, who at 13 points with one game left, cannot catch Progresso. So, Benque is out of contention for the fourth playoff spot. But Port Layola (with 13 pts and 2 games remaining) and Wagiya (with 14 pts and 2 games in hand) are both still within striking distance of Progresso.

In a Week 11 back match played last Wednesday night, October 19, at the Marshalleck Stadium, home team Police/Benque United FC played to a 0-0 draw with Progresso FC from Orange Walk.

Two other scheduled mid-week back matches (Altitude vs San Pedro Pirates on Wednesday, and Wagiya vs Port Layola on Thursday of last week) were not played and will be re-scheduled.

All 4 scheduled Week 13 games were played this past weekend, one on Saturday night, and three on Sunday afternoon.

On Saturday night at the Marshalleck Stadium, Police/Benque United FC played to a 0-0 draw with playoff bound San Pedro Pirates FC. Their second draw in four days effectively puts Benque out of playoff contention.

On Sunday afternoon, Progresso FC failed to secure their grip on the fourth playoff spot when they also drew again, this time a 0-0 affair against league leading Altitude FC, a commendable effort, but they are thus still to clinch a playoff berth.

Meanwhile, second place Verdes FC hosted Wagiya FC at the FFB Stadium, and it was Verdes with the 2-0 win, thus maintaining their second place position in the standings. Trimayne “Peppa” Harris (19’) put Verdes ahead early, and Luis Ibarra (90+2’) added another in injury time.

And here at the MCC Grounds in Belize City, Port Layola FC gave city fans their best performance of the season, racking up a 5-nil victory over last place Bandits SC, and keeping alive their hopes for a possible chance at the fourth playoff spot. Port Layola got a goal apiece from Shawn Young (12’), Orlando Velasquez (22’), Jarret

Below is the upcoming playoffs schedule for this weekend:

Friday, October 28

6:30 p.m. - (Under 10 - Coed) Codd’s Drug Store (#2) vs CK Restaurant (#5)

7:00 p.m. - (Under 10 - Coed) Caracara (#3) vs Eskimo Ice (#4)

7:30 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Vegan Roots Brotherhood (#3) vs Alphas (#4)

8:00 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Nexgen (#2) vs NBB Pay Elites (#3)

Saturday, October 29

6:30 p.m. - (Open - Females) Western Queens (#2) vs Vegan Roots (#3)

7:00 p.m. - (Under 18 - Male) Joehann Construction (#1) vs Recino’s Imports (#4)

8:00 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Nexgen (#2) vs NBB Pay Elites (#3)

9:00 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) West Side (#2) vs Winner from Alphas/Roots

Rugby in Belize

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Oct. 20, 2022

In an interview with *Amandala* earlier this week, the president of Rugby Belize, Tony Gillings, said that all he wants is support from the government to convert space at the Marion Jones Stadium into a multipurpose area for the four rugby teams that have been formed in Belize since 2016 to carry out their training.

“I know what I want from the government. I want support. We have a Marion Jones Stadium which has taken them 17 years to build, and it’s still not finished. In the middle of the track, there is an empty space with the size of a soccer field, and I’m really pushing to have that converted into a multipurpose sports surface so we can play rugby and football. . . . So that’s what I’m asking for, and three years ago I proposed that idea to the then Sports Council, and I got nothing. No response and not even an acknowledgment. Now with a new



Belize rugby team goes to Guatemala

government, and a new sports minister who seems to be more interested in and encouraging sports, I’m pushing for that again, because otherwise, that’s a wasted facility,” said Gillings.

In an interview with KREM News this week, Minister of Sports, Hon. Rodwell

Ferguson, said that it is likely that a rugby pitch will indeed be built in the stadium, and he highlighted his goal to bring other sports into the country.

While the rugby team may not have a pitch on which to practice as yet, they have nonetheless been able to form

included fitness and communication,” Nicolle said.

Notably, the four rugby teams in the country were formed in Hopkins, Belmopan, Orange Walk, and Belize City, and a team is currently being formed in San Pedro.

Belize’s first Rugby National Team. Recently, the team traveled to a 7-game mini-tournament in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Although they won only one game, Director of Rugby Belize, Daniel Nicolle said it was the first tournament in over 12 months

“I’m very proud of the boys. It’s the first tournament that they played in over 12 months, and so we train once a week as a national team. It showed in the first game. We weren’t gelling as a team, and in rugby, you need all individuals to be together as a team, but they won the last game, and we won confidently. They gelled together as a team, the communication increased, and there was a bit of work that we need to do which

PLB scramble; 3 teams in race for last playoff spot

Continued from Page 13 Davis (42’), Jerome “Jarro” James (70’) and Ryan Simpson (74’).

Premier League of Belize 2022-2023 Opening Season								
Standings at Week 13, Sunday, October 23, 2022								
TEAMS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Altitude FC	12	8	2	2	19	9	10	26
Verdes FC	13	6	6	1	20	9	11	24
San Pedro Pirates FC	12	6	4	2	18	10	8	22
Progreso FC	13	4	5	4	10	10	0	17
Wagiya SC	12	4	2	6	14	18	-4	14
Port Layola FC	12	4	1	7	15	18	-3	13
Benque Viejo FC	13	3	4	6	11	16	-5	13
Bandits SC	13	2	2	9	11	28	-17	8
(2 back matches remain to be played.)								

The two back matches remaining are (Week 9) Altitude FC vs San Pedro Pirates FC, and (Week 11) Wagiya SC vs Port Layola FC.

San Pedro and Altitude have already made the playoffs so their back match is not a big deal, but Wagiya vs Port Layola is another matter. Both these teams have a chance, each with 2 games to play, to catch Progreso FC, whose last game is at home against the tough San Pedro Pirates. Wagiya and Port Layola will tangle in their back match on Wednesday of this week. Port Layola must win to keep playoff hopes alive, but then they would still have a tall order against league leading Altitude. Altitude has only lost two games so far in regular season, a 1-0 loss to Verdes, and a 3-2 setback at the MCC against a lucky Port Layola squad who were clearly outplayed in that game. Altitude will be looking to avenge that loss at home in Independence on Sunday, but this Port Layola is not the same team they faced last time. The city boys are reportedly working out hard and thinking seriously about post season action, but so is Wagiya FC who are standing in their way.

Back matches schedule:

Wednesday, October 26

4:00 p.m. – (Wk 11) Wagiya SC vs Port Layola FC – Carl Ramos Stadium

7:30 p.m. – (Wk 9) Altitude FC vs San Pedro Pirates FC – M.A. Stadium in Independence

Upcoming Week 14 schedule to end regular season:

Saturday, October 29

7:30 p.m. – Bandits SC vs Verdes FC – Isidoro Beaton Stadium

7:30 p.m. – Altitude FC vs Port Layola FC – M.A. Stadium in Independence

Sunday, October 30

3:30 p.m. – Progreso FC vs San Pedro Pirates FC – People’s Stadium

4:00 p.m. – Wagiya SC vs Police/Benque United FC - Carl Ramos Stadium

Citizens awakening from “propaganda-induced coma”

Continued from Page 10

der Leyen and Burrell, they could be stopped by nuclear war, but that’s what has to be stopped is the lunatics who are opposing this shift toward a new strategic and financial architecture. The world is shifting toward what Xi Jinping called win-win policy—a cooperation for mutual development. Now, look at the contrast, look at whether the West is heading by taking a look at the insanity going on in the United Kingdom. Liz Truss has now been forced to knuckle under to the more traditional city of London establishment, but her policy wasn’t a break with the city of London; it was just a more extreme version of the free-market policy that’s dictated by the global financial cartels. The United Kingdom’s been reduced to a clown show: you had Boris Johnson who was sent as an envoy to tell Zelensky, no agreement, no negotiation with Putin. Now, you have Liz Truss who is moving toward a more extreme version of Thatcherism, of a totally deregulated world economy under the control of a global Central Bankers dictatorship, supposedly in the name of free market and democracy. The shift between quantitative easing and quantitative tightening, raising interest rates, lowering interest rates, flooding

markets with liquidity, then withdrawing the liquidity, all of this is a monetarist policy to protect a giant Ponzi scheme which is blowing up in their face. Now, it’s time to break with this kind of monetary policy and go to physical economy, which was the area of expertise developed by Lyndon LaRouche over five decades. The Schiller Institute has established itself as a global leader in the discussion process of moving the world from this dangerous set of delusions, that somehow you can sustain the control of a small handful of corporate cartels into the idea of win-win cooperation for the development of the sovereign nations in cooperation. So, decisions are being made now to create that new financial and strategic architecture. In the West, it’s time to break out of that coma and the best way to do it is to sign up for the Schiller Institute, join our site, become part of our organization and help us take more people out of this propaganda-induced coma. Thank you for joining me today. Don’t forget to sign up, and I’ll see you tomorrow.

fincasolan@gmail.com

October 19, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town

CREOLE PROVERB:

TIME LANGA DAN ROPE

Meaning: Things will change no matter how long the process takes.

Health & NUTRITION

Sober October: What a month of No Drinking can do for your health



- This month some people will abstain from alcohol for all 31 days in honor of Sober October
- The term started in the UK as a way to benefit a cancer center.
- Experts say taking a break from alcohol, even temporarily, can help your overall health.

This month some people around the globe will be giving up alcohol in honor of Sober October.

The idea of Sober October actually started in the United Kingdom as a way to raise money for people with cancer.

Some people also experience cardiovascular improvement and weight loss.

“In general, after four weeks, an improved immune system and memory, mood changes, weight loss, clearer skin, a lack of impulsivity and behavioral changes are some of the advantages of eliminating alcohol for a short period of time,” said Dr. Lawrence Weinstein, Chief Medical Officer for American Addiction Centers. “There are also neurological benefits of abstaining from alcohol. Some can be seen within a week of alcohol cessation, but are much more noticeable after a month’s time.”

Changing the relationship with substances

Sober October presents a unique opportunity to assess our relationships with whatever substances we gravitate toward. Giving up alcohol or marijuana for 30 days can have a dramatic effect on our day-to-day lives.

Staying sober for a month can break an addictive cycle and can also force us to sit with whatever emotions come up in the process, rather than masking them with substances.

“Many people decide that abstinence is working for them and want to continue on and see what other benefits might come as a result of their experiment,” said Loeb Blassingame. “This leads some people to full-on sobriety and others to longer periods of sober exploration.”

The important part, she notes, is that there has to be a long enough break in the cycle for the brain to create new

neural pathways.

“The value is in breaking the cycle and creating an extended experience of abstinence that demonstrates to the brain that the idea is viable. Additionally, it gives people enough time to reexamine their relationship with alcohol and attempt to have better boundaries around it when they choose to return,” she said. “What we do know is that people who are unable to commit and sustain a period of 30 days abstinence are likely working on a more significant problem with substance use.”

“In terms of alcohol, it’s important for individuals to honestly assess the role that alcohol consumption plays in their lives. Remain aware of when alcohol is consumed and why. Is a drink needed after work, or does consumption increase over the weekend? Being mindful of these things can help identify a pattern in behavior that can shed light on a potentially problematic relationship that may require treatment,” said Weinstein.

Why are younger generations less likely to drink?

Even outside of October, young people appear to be drinking less. The new generation of college-age Americans is opting out of beer pong and opting in to abstinence from alcohol.

“Younger generations have not bought into the idea that they must consume alcohol in order to be seen as cool,” said Loeb Blassingame. “The willingness to conform to the millennial drinking culture has shifted and abstaining from alcohol is more and more normal.”

According to research published in JAMA Pediatrics Trusted Source, between 2002 and 2018, the number of adults aged 18 to 22 in the U.S. who do not consume alcohol increased to 28 percent, up from 20 percent. The percentage was up 30 percent from 24 percent for those who are not in college.

While the study did not explore the reasons why young Americans are decreasing their alcohol intake, experts have a few theories. The authors of this

Letters to the editor

Teacher offers suggestions to help struggling students

Editor
Amandala Newspaper
3304 Partridge Street
Belize City

October 24, 2022

Dear Editor,

I am convinced that our students have been affected by Covid-19. This has created a crisis which demands urgent attention. I encourage the schools to make a concerted effort to work with students at their level. This may require the use of varied teaching strategies to meet students’ learning needs. An example of such strategy is teaching a concept in multiple ways. This may help to reach out to the whole class.

It is also imperative, especially at the time, that teachers use the differentiated instruction in teaching. This is an approach that helps the teacher plan with the individual learning needs in mind.

I believe that this is the time when

teachers are required to teach students rather than the curriculum. I am not saying that you should ignore the curriculum. The curriculum should be an integral part of the learning process. However, the curriculum should only be used as a guide to teaching and learning. The focus should be on the students’ needs.

Finally, there’s the need to implement some form of intervention to target students’ academic need as well as to help struggling students. However, for this undertaking to be successful, it must be done as a school effort. The staff skills and interest would be used in their areas of strength to help overcome difficulties in students’ learning.

I hope that the suggestions will help in the teaching and learning experiences in our schools as teachers strive to bring their students to the level they ought to be.

A retired teacher

Paraguay rebel leader Villalba killed in clash with army

Continued from Page 12

themselves in.

“This is not a happy night for anyone,” he said. “This is not the way to fight for your ideals. As commander-in-chief, I make a call for peace.”

The killing of Osvaldo Villalba is a heavy blow to the EPP, which has been operating in a cattle-rich region of Paraguay.

The group finances itself through

kidnappings and extortion as it claims to be fighting the oligarchy.

As well as former Vice-President Denis, the group is also holding Félix Urbeita, a rancher it kidnapped in 2016, and Edelio Morínigo, a police officer it seized eight years ago.

Last month, police dug up land in Concepción province after receiving a tip-off that Edelio Morínigo had been killed and buried there. But the search revealed nothing.

study, for example, suggest that these changes could be associated with the increase in the number of people in that age group who still live at home.

“I also believe that younger generations are more isolated and inundated by content from the internet that is interwoven into the fabric of their lives,” said Loeb Blassingame. “As a result, I think that younger people are more comfortable smoking or ingesting cannabis alone, increasing its popularity.”

“Some Gen Z consumer insights have found that many in that generation are concerned with the way alcohol impacts their mood, level of alertness and even their social media image,” said Weinstein. “Drinking to this group is more about socializing whereas millennials tend to drink alcohol in order to relax. There has also been some research that indicates that Gen Z is a bit more health-conscious.”

The research also found that though young Americans are decreasing the amount they drink, there has been a rise in the co-use of alcohol and marijuana. Marijuana use increased from 27 percent to 31 percent among college students between 2002 and 2018, and 26 to 30 percent for those not in college.

The study did not show that the use

of marijuana was necessarily problematic, but experts believe that using marijuana is not necessarily “better” than drinking. Marijuana use disorder is four to seven times more likely to develop in individuals who begin using the drug before age 18.

“The narrative that cannabis is relatively harmless is one that persists from when THC potency was around 2 percent in the 70s and 80s,” said Loeb Blassingame. “Between 1995 and 2015, there was a 212 percent increase in THC content in marijuana.”

First published by <https://www.healthline.com/>

ADVERTISE WITH US



AMANDALA
Belize's leading newspaper!

Call: 202-4477



Available at:

BELIZE CITY

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

LADYVILLE

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

ORANGE WALK

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

COROZAL

- * Aguilar Car Care Products, # 60 4th Avenue, Corozal Town
- * Xiomara Alcalá c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies, #99 - 5th Avenue, Corozal Town

BELMOPAN

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

CAYO

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

BENQUE

- * Eduard Cambranes
- * People's Store

STANN CREEK

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

PLACENCIA

- * Placencia Office Supplies

INDEPENDENCE

- * G N J Mart

PUNTA GORDA

- * King's Texaco
- * NJV Pharmacy

SAN PEDRO

- * Rocks Shopping Center

Amandala business and editorial office: #3304 Amandala Drive (formerly Partridge Street), Belize City, Belize
 Central America is published twice weekly. Tuesday issue can be access online: <https://amandala.com.bz/news/>
 and join our membership portal, and the Friday issue is printed by the Amandala Press.
 Telephones: 501-280-4703/202-4477. Our email address for business and advertisement are
amandalapress@gmail.com and amandalapress@yahoo.com
 For news, letters and articles: editor_amandala@yahoo.com