

# Triple murder in Sandhill

**Police believe the calculated attack may have been drug-related**

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022  
 Three male residents of Sandhill Village were murdered last Thursday sometime after 10:00 p.m. Police believe the execution-style hit may have been drug-related, and that the two young victims may have been casualties of a dispute in which they had not been involved. Emerson Garcia, 43, is the oldest victim and had lived in the elevated yellow wooden house where the attack took place. According to police, marijuana sales used to take place at the home. Jaheem Davis, a 20-



(l-r) Emerson Garcia, Charleston Jenkins and Jareem Davis, deceased

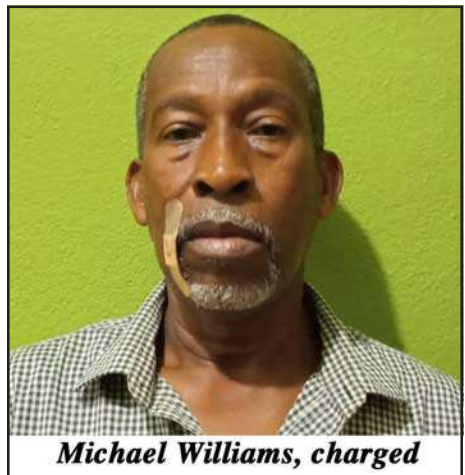
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## Michael Williams charged with three counts of attempted murder

**Mother and two children stabbed during domestic dispute in Esperanza**

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022  
 A mother and her two children were stabbed on Saturday following a domestic dispute in the Cayo District. Forty-six-year-old Santa Elena/San



Michael Williams, charged

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## Historic COP 27 agreement will see developing nations compensated for climate damages

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

The 27th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27) concluded on Sunday with countries agreeing to create a "Loss and Damage" fund for



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley

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## San Pedro business owner killed during robbery

**Elvis Raul Polanco, 43, was the owner of Jade Bar on Ambergris Caye. One of the alleged robbers, a police constable currently on interdiction for a domestic incident, worked as a security guard for Polanco.**

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022  
 A 32-year-old police corporal who is on interdiction and a 25-year-old ex-



Elvis Raul Polanco, deceased

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# 79th Garifuna Settlement Day celebrations held

by Charles Gladden

DANGRIGA, Stann Creek District, Fri. Nov. 18, 2022

Belizeans from all over the country and the diaspora traveled down south to Dangriga to celebrate Garifuna Settlement Day on Saturday, November 19.

The theme for this year's celebration was "Bun, Amürü Nu Hagabüríbeí Garinagu, Awanserameme Wamá Lau", which translates to "I for you, You for Me is the Garifuna Way; Let us Continue to Move Forward."

Cultural activities that were part of the celebrations started earlier in the month; however, the main event began early on Saturday morning with the re-enactment of the arrival of the largest group of Garinagu people to Belize's shores, followed by a Garifuna Mass and the official ceremonies at Alejo Beni Park in Dangriga.

During the official ceremonies, the Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, delivered the keynote address. During his address, PM Briceño emphasized the need to preserve the Garifuna culture.



(Hon.) Dr. Louis Zabaneh, area representative of Dangriga

"Every year since 1977, we celebrate Garifuna Settlement Day across Belize as one people. As diverse as our Belizean culture is, what unites us is that we are each a part of the sum total of a whole nation, one Belize... We must preserve this culture! Garifuna parents, you must ensure that our Garifuna children speak the language, hear the stories, as I have said before. To our Garifuna mothers, sing to your babies in Garifuna so that from early they can hear the Garifuna words and be uplifted by the very sound of that colorful language. Teach your children Garifuna history, because Garifuna history is



Photos BTB

Belizean history," he said.

"As we have heard today, the Garinagu set a great example for all of us on the importance of being steadfast and enduring sacrifices to attain their important goal of remaining free and building a new future. Sustainable human development is about ensuring a cohesive society, a vibrant and equitable

economy, a just and accountable institution, and a healthy environment, so we must work together to achieve this sustainable human development and be true to this year's theme," said Dangriga area representative and Minister of State for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology, (Hon.) Dr. Louis Zabaneh.

## Historic COP 27 agreement will see developing nations compensated for climate damages

*While the conclusion of the UN climate change summit saw a historic agreement made on climate financing for developing nations, COP 27 failed to deliver on commitments to curb the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions.*

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developing nations hit by climate disasters. The two-week conference was set to end on Friday, but clashes during negotiations led the final session of the summit to stretch well into the wee hours of Sunday.

Activists and climate justice groups have been lobbying for a fund to compensate for the impacts of climate change experienced by vulnerable nations, mostly in the Global South, for more than three decades now, and Sunday's agreement has been hailed as a historic win by experts. It will see wealthy industrialized nations—nations that have been the greatest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and the warming of the planet—providing compensation to those countries that are set to suffer, and in some cases are already suffering, from extreme changes in weather.

Last year, at COP26 in Glasgow, both the US and the European Union (EU) blocked the proposal to create the loss and damage fund, opting instead for further discussion. On Sunday, as the agreement was made to establish the fund, the head of the EU executive, Ursula von der Leyen, referred to it as a "small step towards climate justice" and added that countries will also need to do much more for the planet in the face of global warming.

"We have treated some of the symptoms but not cured the patient from its fever," she said.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley was once again hailed as one of the standout voices



Pakistan's Minister of Climate Change, Sherry Rehman

at the climate change conference. For the past two weeks, she has acted especially as a prominent voice for the Global South. Earlier in the month, her scathing criticism of wealthy nations that have continued to fail developing countries was heard around the world.

"We were the ones whose blood, sweat, and tears financed the Industrial Revolution... Are we now to face double jeopardy by having to pay the cost as a result of those greenhouse gases from the Industrial Revolution? That is fundamentally unfair," she had said.

Another representative from the Caribbean, Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, who is also the chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that after the pain of tireless negotiations comes some progress.

"We have literally exhausted all of our efforts here at COP27 to bring home the climate action commitments our vulnerable people desperately need. Our

## Michael Williams charged with three counts of attempted murder

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Ignacio Town Council worker, Angelita Requeña, and her common-law husband, Michael Williams, Sr., got into an argument while at their home in Esperanza village at some time early Saturday morning. During that argument, Williams grabbed a knife and stabbed Requeña multiple times in the chest and body. He then attacked his sixteen-year-old son and fourteen-year-old daughter, stabbing both in the head, chest, and body.

One of the children was reportedly able to escape and reach a neighbor, who then called the police. Williams fled the scene, leading police to launch a manhunt, and was eventually found and detained in Belize City.

Senior Superintendent Hilberto Romero, Officer Commanding the Eastern Division, spoke about the incident during Monday's police press briefing. He said that all three stabbing victims were taken to the Western Regional Hospital. One victim, Requeña's 14-year-old daughter, later had to be taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where she is listed in critical condition.

Romero said that Williams has since been charged with three counts of attempted murder when he briefed the media today about the stabbing. He said that he, like many other Belizeans, had been awaiting the Yurumein, which signals the beginning of the Garifuna Settlement Day celebrations, when Requeña's supervisor approached him and informed him about the incident.

The San Ignacio/Santa Elena mayor, Earl Trapp, said that he has spoken to Requeña over the phone since the

ministers and negotiators have endured sleepless nights and endless days in an intense series of negotiations, determined to secure the establishment of a loss and damage response fund, keep 1.5C alive,



Angelita Requeña – stabbing victim

stabbing. She told him that her son has already been discharged from the hospital and is doing okay. Requeña, however, is still recovering, having suffered a punctured lung.

"She is saying that it's looking good, and I hope that [her lung] does heal, because normally when you get a lung puncture, if you don't get it correct at the first procedure, there's less chance for the lung to come back on its own," he said.

Requeña also told him that her daughter is still in the ICU in Belize City and is in a coma.

According to Mayor Trapp, the council will be doing whatever it can to assist Requeña and her children, including providing them counseling when they are out of the hospital. He said that until now, she had never indicated that she was being subjected to any kind of domestic violence.

and advance ambition on critical mitigation and adaptation plans," he said.

"When we came here, there was a

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# Belize to sell 5.6 million tons of carbon credits



**Hon. Orlando Habet (left), Belize's Minister of Sustainable Development—taken during COP27 (Photo by Ken Silverstein)**

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

Belize is set to sell up to \$100 million dollars

worth of carbon credits, about 5.6 million tons in total – this is according to a *Forbes* article published last week. Approximately 60% of the country is covered by tropical forests, and this has attracted the attention of governments and corporations which are unable to meet their emission reduction targets, and which have opted instead to buy credits that serve as carbon offsets from rainforest nations like Belize.

Rainforests are considered carbon sinks, ecosystems that trap and store carbon emissions. With the insistent reliance on fossil fuels by large countries and corporations and the failure to roll out any widespread renewable source of energy, managing and preserving carbon sinks such as healthy forests and oceans has become more important than ever.

Limiting timbering and monocultural farming in forest areas comes at an economic cost to small nations like Belize, a cost that parties to the UNFCCC believe requires compensation by those industrialized countries that have caused significant damage to the ecosystems in their own territory. According to Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Hon. Orlando Habet, the proceeds from the sale of 5.6 million tons of carbon credits will go back into conservation, restoration, and climate adaptation that are necessary in response to global warming.

“We will sell our credits based on quality and credibility. We have rich

**“We have dutifully managed our conservation and have earned the right to sell carbon credits. It’s time we monetize that,” Minister Orlando Habet said during an interview with a *Forbes* writer.**

tropical rainforests, which supply water and feed hundreds of species of birds, plants, and jaguars,” Habet said during his

interview with *Forbes*'s Ken Silverstein.

As Habet pointed out, our rainforests are a special asset, and since the country has spent years dutifully protecting the resources, he said, “It’s time we monetize that.”

The sales will be carried out under the REDD+ framework, a guide that governs the enhancement of forest carbon stock activities in developing countries, among other sustainable management best practices for forest preservation.

Carbon emissions have increased from 36 million tons yearly to yearly levels equivalent to 10 billion dollars in 1960. Reducing this rate of emission is key to slowing the climate crisis and potentially extreme weather events that will be brought on by the rapidly changing climate.

At this time, increases in global temperatures are said to have reached close to 1.2 degrees Celsius – with the goal of the Paris Agreement being to keep global temperature hikes below 1.5 degrees by mid-century, but this could be surpassed within 10 years if world emissions remain at the current levels, according to the article.

The sale of carbon credits in Belize will signal yet another move by the country concentrated on securing financing based on the conservation efforts that have been ongoing for years. The world’s eyes will be locked on Belize to ensure that proceeds from the sales improve the nation and support adaption and mitigation in the face of the climate crisis.

# Man charged with PC Arzu's murder

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

A resident of Gales Point Manatee has been charged with the murder of police corporal Lorry Arzu. The 28-year-old, identified as Raheem O’Neal Vernon, was formally arrested and charged by police sometime this morning and is awaiting arraignment, when it is expected that he will be remanded for the indictable offense.

The 27-year-old police officer was shot fatally in the head in the New Site area of Dangriga on Wednesday, October 12, following an argument between Vernon and a man with whom Arzu had been sitting in a parked vehicle, Leonel Rowland. After the shooting, Arzu had to undergo brain surgery and was on life support, but succumbed days later on a Sunday morning.

Rowland, 44, survived the attack. He is said to have been involved in an argument with the alleged gunman prior



**Raheem O’Neal Vernon**

to the attack, and he received three gunshot wounds. Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams at the time stated that Rowland may have been the direct target.

# Asian businessman charged for assault

**Chinese businessman, Yu Huan Yang, 33, of Vernon Street, Belize City, was remanded to the Belize Central Prison after he allegedly attacked an employee of Nando’s Wholesale Warehouse with a metal pipe and opened fire at him.**

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

Yu Huan Yang, 33, a Chinese businessman who resides on Vernon Street in Belize City, has been accused of injuring Marlon Gutierrez, an employee of Nando’s Wholesale Warehouse, with a metal pipe and repeatedly firing shots at him, last Wednesday, November 16.

According to reports, Gutierrez, a warehouse assistant, was at his place of employment at Mile 1 ½ on the George Price Highway when Yang approached him with a metal pipe and allegedly attacked him for no reason.

Yang attempted to strike Gutierrez over the head with the metal pipe, but Gutierrez reportedly blocked the hit with his hands. However, Yang continued his assault. Gutierrez then hurried away from the scene into the warehouse, and at that point Yang allegedly fired a single shot in his direction. According to Gutierrez, when he turned around he allegedly saw Yang armed with a firearm, and Yang fired another shot at him, which missed. He then got into a taxi and filed a report at the police station.



**Yu Huan Yang, charged with aggravated assault and wounding**

When police officers got to the scene, they found an expended 9-millimeter shell and the pipe that Yang allegedly used to attack Gutierrez. They also obtained security camera footage from the warehouse.

Yang was later arrested and charged with aggravated assault and wounding, and was arraigned that same day.

He was denied bail due to the nature of the offense and was remanded to the Belize Central Prison until December 20, when he must appear in court again.

# Two dead in separate RTA's

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

Two men lost their lives over the weekend in separate road traffic accidents – one in Santa Cruz in the Stann Creek District, and the other in the vicinity of the San Estevan roundabout in the Orange Walk District.

When police officers arrived near the San Estevan roundabout at about 5:51 am on Saturday, November 19, they saw Paul Vasquez, 23, lying on

the ground with severe body injuries. Vasquez was taken to the Northern Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Hilberto Romero, explained to local reporters that Vasquez was riding on his motorcycle, which was found at the scene, when he lost control of the motorbike and fell onto the road, which caused his fatal injuries.

The second accident occurred in Santa Cruz, also on November 19, when Gideon Shim, 26, who was

sitting in the pan of a pickup truck, lost his balance and fell onto the road. He was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

A NIP (Notice of Intended Prosecution) has been served on the driver of the pickup truck, and an investigation continues.

Romero told local reporters that it is illegal for pickup owners to carry passengers in the cargo bed of trucks, and they are liable for the passengers at the back.



**Hilberto Romero, Senior Superintendent of Police**



# Cabinet approves FOB repairs

**Specialized engineer to give a complete estimate of costs, says CEO Dario Tapia**

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

The Ministry of Defence and Border Security is to engage with specialized engineers in order to determine how the Forward Operating Base (FOB) at the mouth of the Sarstoon River will be repaired. The structure is becoming partially submerged in the sea due to rapid erosion taking place on the coast where it is located. Last week Cabinet issued approval for the commencement of the repair works, and the ministry is now in the process of seeking bids for the contract.

“The initial assessments made by engineers is that the building, we can prop it up and then make the other adjustments that require coastal engineering,” CEO of the Ministry of Defence, Dario Tapia said during an



**Sarstoon FOB at time of its opening vs Current condition**

interview this morning.

Some months ago, the BDF made the decision to tactically withdraw from the base in light of the deteriorating conditions and to avoid injury to soldiers that would be caused if the FOB structure collapses into the sea. Those soldiers are now based in Barranco and only stand guard on the island from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CEO Tapia said that the department made the right decision, despite comments made by an engineer who

visited the base with BTV leader Wil Maheia and claimed that it was in fact in livable conditions.

The CEO disagrees, saying that even he felt unsafe during the visit to the building to conduct the assessment.

“They might have their opinion. We went; the ministry went on the ground; the Minister went as well. I was afraid that I was going to collapse with the building, me there. I will tell you that it’s bad,” CEO Tapia said. He added, “I myself felt it unsafe, and I think the priority

here was not about the building. It was about the lives of the soldiers that’s out there.” CEO Tapia went on to comment that the ministry would have been held responsible for any loss of life that could have occurred if they had left the soldiers in the unsafe building and something unfortunate happened.

Many in the public, however, are clamoring for the resumption of a 24-hour military presence on Sarstoon Island, since it is said to serve as a major deterrent to illegal fishing and incursions.



**Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Home Affairs**

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

Last week, the Belize Police Department received yet another donation of 100 body cameras, this time courtesy of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU). Following the ceremony, Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Kareem Musa spoke with the media about the recent strides that the Police Department, together with the LIU, has been making toward reducing crime in the Belize District.

While a recent triple homicide in Sandhill has left some members of the public in fear of an uptick in violent crime as the holiday season fast approaches, Minister Musa says that homicides for 2022 are down when compared to other years.

## Minister Kareem Musa: LIU making strides in lowering crime

To compound this, data from the Belize Crime Observatory reveals that while Belize saw a total of 100 murders countrywide between January and October 2021, there have only been 93 murders so far for that same period in 2022. And while some may feel it is a marginal difference, when it comes to the Belize District, where gang warfare has frequently been a problem, the statistics are even more telling.

“Looking at the statistics... when you compare to 2018, we had for the year 2018 some 98 murders in the Belize District alone. But when you look at 2022, this year, prior to these three murders, it was 47, so that will take it up to 50. That is a 50% reduction,” said Minister Musa.

Hon. Musa admitted that there is still a full month and ten days left in 2022, but he noted that the impact of the work by the Leadership Intervention Unit, especially on young black men living in the Southside of Belize City, has been visible. According to Hon. Musa, the shift in crime statistics, at least for the Belize District, is also due in no small part to a shift in the way that crime is being dealt with.

“Solving crime, yes, is a policing matter, but the fight against crime is

everybody’s concern—is everybody’s matter—and so this multi-sectoral approach that we’ve been taking over the course of the last year, while it has yielded dividends, we have a lot of work to do in the months and years ahead. Because it took us 40 years to get to this point, and I’m hoping it will not take us another 40 to turn it around,” he said.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dr. Richard Rosado, told the media that the Police Department and the LIU have been making an effort to focus more on Tier One of the department’s three-tier approach to tackling crime—that is, acknowledging and addressing the situational and social factors that influence criminal behavior. He explained that Tier Two is focusing on conflict mediation and Tier Three is police enforcement and crime prevention.

As previously mentioned, when compared to previous months, the Belize District has been experiencing a brief period of peace with a momentary decline in gang-related crime. When asked by one reporter how long he expects the peace to last, LIU Chairman William Dawson had the following to say:

“We cannot ever guarantee peace right around the clock. We’re dealing with human beings, and human beings have

tendencies that you cannot control. But we believe that if we keep the momentum going, we continue to instill the good morals and values, create opportunities, and have young persons engage in different types of skills, that they can see alternatives—positive alternatives.”

And while some parts of the city have calmed down in terms of gang-related violence, other areas, like Antelope Street Extension, remain a problem.

“Certain areas are more difficult in terms of settling disputes and conflict resolution. I know that Mr. Dawson and his team are relentless in their efforts, and I can tell you firsthand from firsthand knowledge that they have quelled so many disputes between warring factions, even in that Lake Independence area between PIV and BLC,” Hon. Musa said.

“One misstep can totally turn things around. And it takes a lot of daily intervention ... minute by minute intervention on behalf of the LIU to keep that peace. But indeed the Antelope Street Extension is one [area] that is proving a little difficult. But like I said, their team continues on the ground on a daily basis to meet with these individuals and to see how it is that we can broker that peace and maintain that peace,” he added.

## Triple murder in Sandhill

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year-old who recently moved into the village, according to his father, was also shot dead during the attack, and a 19-year-old, Charleston Jenkins, was the third victim of the fatal shooting.

The shots which were fired inside the Mile 19 residence of Garcia were heard by residents across the village. The first person who came across the bodies of the men shortly after the incident was Jennifer Augustine, the grandmother of one of the deceased, Charleston Jenkins. She recounted that she went for some cigarettes at the Garcia

residence, but all her calls went unanswered.

When she finally decided to go into the house, she saw the three men on the ground, and initially thought they were sleeping, but when she took a closer look at the three bodies, she found that they were covered in blood, and after seeing her grandson, she realized that something terrible had happened and called for the neighbors.

Police arrived on the scene around 10:35 p.m., and according to a report from the Police Department, the officers found the three men motionless with apparent gunshot wounds to the body.

The victims, all residents of Sandhill Village, were identified by family members and transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH), where they were pronounced dead.

While police have not determined the motive for the shooting, they are considering the possibility that it was a drug-related incident, due to reports that marijuana was sold at the home. Police also believe that two of the victims, Davis and Jenkins, who had been hanging out at Garcia’s home when the assailants arrived and carried out their deadly attack, were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Jenkins’ brother said that he learned of his brother’s death the next morning, and that their grandmother was the person who found the dead men. He said that his brother was a kind and jovial person, whose social interaction was mostly limited to social media, and that Davis, who was one of his closest friends, was one of the few persons he socialized with.

“Just shocking, man, cause my lee bredda nuh mess with nobody. My lee bredda da wa outgoing person, always di smile, always willing fi help,” he said.

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# Waves of sadness; but love will see us through

Sunday, November 20, 2022

When will the madness and the heartbreaks end? Each time there seems to be a lull in the reported cases of violent deaths and reckless tragedies leading to loss of life, here comes another wave of bad news, heartbreaks, and mourning for lost loved ones. There is so much news of violent deaths that our citizens who die of natural causes are sometimes overlooked, especially during the period of Covid-19 restrictions, except by very close family members and friends. The past couple weeks have been especially overflowing with tragic news of lives lost violently, but the reported deaths on the same day last week by natural causes of two sporting legends have seen fans on social media from across the Jewel and the diaspora sharing the grief, as their lives were intimately connected through sports to the excitement and joys they once experienced through the on-field performances and personal character of 1970s softball Golden Girl, Patricia "Pat" Bennett and 1980s football "Masterblaster", Arthur "Goatman" Leslie. In times of such great heartbreak and sorrow, our religious folks seek guidance and strength from their faith in the Almighty, but perhaps it is the love we share in these troubling times, often through the vehicle of religion or spirituality, that helps us to bear the pain and burden of loss and slowly rebuild our emotional strength and zest for living.

Sometimes we can feel overwhelmed, and must try to suppress our feelings in order to cope with the avalanche of sadness that would engulf us. The Krem Radio newscasts over the past ten days have been especially tragic and depressing. According to a postmortem exam, a 35-year-old Belmopan waitress, reported missing on October 31, "was strangled to death;" a 23-year old male inmate at the Central Prison reportedly took his own life in his cell on November 10; early on November 14, a Toledo woman discovered the dead body of a 26-year-old man "partially inside her kitchen;" a 34-year-old male police corporal at a "scene of crime" investigation in Blackman Eddy was knocked down and killed by a vehicle driven at "high speed;" a 30-year-old man in Crooked Tree was lured out of his house at 9:00 p.m. by stones thrown, only to be shot and killed; a "triple murder in Sandhill" during rain on Thursday night, November 17, which claimed males of 43 years, 20 years and 19 years, "is believed to be a drug-related incident;" and just last night, a businessman on his way home in a golf cart was reportedly robbed and shot dead in San Pedro.

While this has been the norm for decades now, there are still moments when we realize that we may have been getting numb to the reports, until it hits closer to home. And the community pain and grief is no less when someone of outstanding social impact and achievement, be it in the arts or sports or community activism, has passed. "Natural causes" may be seen as a blessing to today's youth, but life is full of surprises, and when a star, a legend of sports, is snatched away suddenly, it rocks our heart and soul, and leaves many of us with a heavy heart for days. Indeed, just over the past couple years of Covid-19 and its aftermath (Covid is still around, so don't drop your guard too low.), it is quite

striking, the number of top athletes from the 70's and 80's who have passed from natural causes, many of them even under sixty years old. The list is long, but noteworthy is the lack of any smear of violent crime among the athletic stars, whose commitment to discipline, hard work, fair play and dedication to their craft must have impacted their whole outlook on life, and restrained them from taking the smooth and easy but dangerous path on the road of crime. Some notables from the football world alone that recently left us include the great Gilroy "Coro" Usher, Larry "Charro" Bennett, Kent "Gigante" Skeete, Juvencio "Bud" August, Wayne "Bom" Jones, Eian "Coco" Henry, and Rudolph "Peru" Olivera. And there are surely others; but whatever their individual faults, all these stars of the game were good, law-abiding citizens, who were never known to be involved in any kind of violence or criminal enterprise.

The triple-homicide reported in Sandhill this week was a real jolt. When does it end? So many families grieving! What's up with our youths? Isn't anybody afraid of going to prison anymore? Is that what it is, where these murders are concerned?

Certainly, most vehicle drivers, people who don't consider themselves outside the law, are terribly afraid of going to prison. But drunk drivers who cause death by their reckless behavior usually end up paying a fine. And apparently it is not enough of a deterrent. Commissioner Williams is adamant that jail time would give drunk drivers something to think about before getting behind the wheel. We're losing too many precious lives unnecessarily due to carelessness or violent behavior.

In all this climate of grief and pain, it was a savage blow indeed, when we got the news of the sudden passing of legendary striker Arthur "Goatman" Leslie; and moments later we were hit with news of the passing of another legend, softball star and "Golden Girl" from Belize's 1974 epic Gold Medal winners at the Central American & Caribbean Games, Patricia "Pat" Bennett. Both legends had been ailing for some time. Turo had received open heart surgery in the U.S. early in 2020, just before Covid-19 landed in Belize; and Pat had been battling cancer for a few years. These were two giants in their respective sports. Turo was one of the premier strikers in Belize throughout the 1980s. Pat was a longstanding member of the Belize National Softball Team in the 1970s and later had a distinguished career as an educator and unionist. A lot has already been written, and surely a lot more will be written about these two outstanding Belizean athletes, one female and one male, who during their sporting years exemplified the best in Belizean sports and are worthy examples for young athletes to try and emulate.

As Belizeans mourn our lost loved ones and come to grips with the loss of stellar examples of good, productive and law-abiding citizens, it is perhaps worthwhile to emphasize the importance of establishing an organized structure for recognizing and promoting the personalities of our most outstanding athletes, so that their good examples of citizenship and sporting achievement might impact and inspire the many youths coming up, many of whom would otherwise not even know that such persons even existed. Stories are meant to entertain and also to teach lessons and values, and to inspire. And a Hall of Fame is an officially sanctioned resource for documenting and enshrining for posterity the achievements of the best from among us. We didn't "wait till di man dead" to tell either Goatman or Pat that they were "good". We've said it to them many times, and in many ways. But a Hall of Fame is the result of a well-researched consensus, a repository that can be easily accessed by students and teachers alike, especially when it is placed on the internet. We've waited too long.

Some Belizean softballers, Pat included, have been recognized in an international Softball Hall of Fame; but we need our own Belize National Softball Hall of Fame. And it is high time that some of the FIFA money be dedicated to finally establishing the official Belize National Football Hall of Fame. Turo knew he would be in there; we often told him so. But the pain of his loss will be soothed a little bit for his immediate relatives with that knowledge, as with other departed stars, as well as those still with us, who are undoubtedly destined to be enshrined along with Turo whenever that Belize National Football Hall of Fame is established.

Our sincere condolences, strength and love to all the family members and friends of our brothers and sisters who have recently gone before us to the bosom of The Almighty. Rest in peace, all! Love will see us through.



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# Police get 100 more body cams

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Fri. Nov. 18, 2022

On Friday, November 18, the Belize Police Department was gifted an additional 100 body cameras by the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU).

A few weeks ago, there were 250 of such cameras being used by the department. Earlier in the month, however, the department received 100 body cameras from the Belize Tourism Board and 50 from the Embassy of Taiwan, and following the donation on Friday by the LIU, the department now has a total of 450 body cameras.

“The benefit of the body cameras are huge. We believe that it will help us improve our system of accountability and the utilization alone will tell the public, you know what, we are serious as a department about transparency [and] we are serious about accountability, so I applaud the effort of the LIU and their stakeholders in donating the body cameras,” said Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dr. Richard Rosado, at the handing-over ceremony on Friday in Belmopan.

“This is all geared towards outfitting our specialized units—the MIT, the GI3, and the SPU, which comprise of approximately two hundred officers. These are the officers who go out on raids. These are the officers who engage most with members of the public, and so we must equip them with body cams, not for their safety, but as Mr. Dawson mentioned, for us to get a full picture, full accountability of [every] scenario when members of the department engage with members of the public,” said Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa, who was also in attendance at the ceremony.



**Dr. Richard Rosado, Deputy Commissioner of Police**

At the ceremony, the leader of the LIU, William Dawson, told local reporters that these body cameras will assist in restoring the confidence of victims of police brutality in police officers.

“We also have to educate our people on how it is that they approach the police officers. Police officers are human beings as well, and so, a lot of these young men and women are already suffering from many types of trauma. The minute that they see police, they already feel offended by just the uniform. So, we have seen great strides by the Police Department and officers on the ground to try to have a different approach. We want to make sure that there is fair play, that the playing field is leveled, that if there is a complaint that it is justifiable evidence that can be reviewed, that we do not just take one person’s account of what has transpired and so, these body cams I believe will assist us greatly in that regard,” said Dawson.

Dr. Rosado noted that footage from the body cams will be reviewed and used in police training sessions.

# Letters to the editor

## Robert Hagedorn responds to “Jimmy Carter on homosexuality”

*“It’s artificial, a man-made thing that began in the Garden of Eden when two parties decided to cover up, because they were better than the other animals. Yap, sexual behavior, it is at the core of civilization. In the civilized world, the highest sexual behavior is a committed man and woman who’re about perpetuating mankind.”*

commandment — to “be fruitful and multiply [in the Garden],” when they became one flesh incorrectly (Genesis 2:24), by eating from the wrong tree in the Garden’s center (Genesis 2:9). So Adam and Eve did exactly the same thing Adam and Steve could/would do in the Garden of Eden if Steve were there instead of Eve.

Editor:  
They disobeyed the Genesis 1:28 commandment — the first

Robert Hagedorn  
1337 Shattuck Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94709  
USA

## US attorney asks GoB to reject Turneffe Flats development

Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister  
Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism  
Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Environment  
CEO Kenrick Williams, CEO of the Ministry of Environment  
Anthony Mai — Chief Environmental Officer, Department of Environment

fortunate enough to visit Belize and fish the Turneffe flats. They are an irreplaceable treasure. Like all who come to Belize for this fishing, I contributed substantially to the economy and employment. It is not in the interest of Belize to destroy a section of the flats only so that one developer can prosper. People travel from all over the world for this priceless resource. Please do not approve the proposed development.

Sirs:  
I respectfully write to strongly oppose the above proposed development which would entail the construction of buildings ‘over-the-water’ directly on Big Flat. I’ve been

Thank you for considering my comments.

Robert B. Anderson | Attorney at Law

## IDB elects 7th president

*Israeli-born Brazilian national, Ilan Goldfajn was elected to serve as president of the IDB for a five-year term*

WASHINGTON, D.C., Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

The Board of Governors of the International Development Bank (IDB) elected a new president yesterday during a Special Meeting. Ilan Goldfajn, an Israeli-born Brazilian national, received the majority of votes from the governors appointed by each member country and is designated to serve as the seventh president of the IDB.

Goldfajn was nominated by Brazil and is to take office on December 19, 2022. He is the former president of the Central Bank of Brazil and former Director of the IMF Western Hemisphere Department. Management and administration of the Bank, which works with Latin America and the Caribbean, will fall



**Ilan Goldfajn, president-designate, IDB**

on Goldfajn for his tenure. He will also hold chairmanship on various boards within the bank. To his credit, he was awarded “Central Banker of the Year” by *The Banker* magazine in 2017 and “Best Central Banker” by *Global Finance* in 2018.

## Belize to receive specialized aircraft from the US

*Ministry of Defence CEO, Dario Tapia mentioned that the aircraft will be able to send live aerial feeds from its cockpit to the Price Barracks Airwing*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

Improvements to the BDF Airwing will soon begin, starting with a donation of a brand new specialized Cessna aircraft courtesy of the United States, according to the CEO of the Ministry of Defence, Dario Tapia. Cabinet has approved the procurement of aviation fuel in order for pilots to carry out necessary training on the aircraft, and also the purchase of insurance for three aircraft belonging to the BDF: the two already at the airwing, and the new one that is to be donated by the US. BDF pilots and engineers will be undergoing training in the usage of the new specialized aircraft, which is said to have ISR or intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capability.

“This acquisition of this new aircraft from the US, it will not only be like a transport plane; this will be a specialized plane,” Tapia said. “It will be able to fly at night and give us a picture of what is occurring on the ground at night.”

The acquisition of this type of plane is expected to aid in the fight against



**Dario Tapia – CEO of Ministry of Defence**

narco-trafficking in Belize, and by extension the region, but operating the aircraft will no doubt be very costly, with a fuel budget of around \$400,000 being set just for two months of training.

“I think I mentioned that it was almost \$400,000 that Cabinet approved for the acquisition of the fuel to train these pilots. I think the training will be like two months’ training or something like that, so they will be flying practically every

day to get used to the aircraft,” CEO Tapia explained.

He said that the ISR technology will give Belize’s security forces an added edge.

“Say, for example, we get reports that an illegal aircraft is coming and will land possibly somewhere in the country. We can launch that aircraft, and that

aircraft will be able to give us live information as to what is occurring in the general area that the aircraft is likely to land,” Tapia said. The pilots who are to be trained will also be schooled in operating the ISR technology. They are to begin training sometime before the end of this month and through December.



# BPO job da noh regular job

by Colin Hyde

I think the moment you sign up to work for a BPO you should be told, if you don't know already, that you aren't working for Americans on holiday, you are working for Americans at work. Effectively, the BPO workplace is on half Belizean soil, half American soil. We have laws, good laws to protect workers, and más que todo workers must get the best protection possible; however, we must keep in mind that BPO job da noh typical Belizean job.

We all heard the talk when Hurricane Lisa was approaching, that a BPO had called on call center agents to report to work as normal, because "there are no government mandates at this time to close business."

Of course, hurricanes are no play story. If you're not prepared, you will get lik. Hmm, where Belize City is concerned, Lisa looked very much like it would pass over like wahn *lee breeze*. If she hadn't drifted north, the morning after it hit, many in Belize City would have been asking what all that fuss was about. And businesses that closed early would have been expressing regret about what they could have made. Don't say it's only money. Try living in a city and see how you can procure food without it. It's no lie when they say, *city without pity*.

The *Amandala* reported the PM saying he wasn't too happy about some

businesses pressuring their workers to report; NEMO Coordinator Shelton Defour saying that "the law stipulates employers must release their employees to go and seek safety—go and look after their family and get out of harm's way"; and attorney OJ Elrington saying, our labor laws need "serious review", that *under Belize's current laws, employers are not required to give employees time off during times of natural disasters, but they also cannot force employees to show up for work if they feel it puts their safety in peril.*

Very sensibly, yes, yes, we take this story back to 2016, and if my recollection is right, Minister Godwin was the one at the helm, the one responsible for BPOs when our labor laws/norms ran a little contrary to the expectations of BPO owners/managers. The *Amandala* reported a social media complaint by a Ready Call employee, about a memo from the company which said: "Effective January 1st, 2017 you will be held accountable to report to work on Public and Bank Holidays, if you are scheduled to work. Ready Call Center has an obligation to deliver to the client without exception, even on holidays."

There's more. The *Amandala* said the memo said: "The success of this call center lies in ensuring that you are fully aware of the desired results and of what is expected. Our main objective is to ensure that you are present for

work every day for all days scheduled." And the memo warned employees: "Failure to adhere to your schedule may result in your dismissal."

The *Amandala* said Ms. Aida Reyes at the Labor Department said the employees at the BPO didn't have to sign on the dotted line, but if they have a prior agreement, employees can work on holidays.

The Labor Department's intervention didn't soothe the employees who weren't happy with the situation. The *Amandala* said there was "growing despair" in the ranks of employees. One of them told *Amandala*: "The worst part of it is that they are forcing you to work on holidays once scheduled, no matter if you live in the city, on a highway, or in a remote village where buses do not run. On those days, they state they will send a bus for you, even if you live in Cayo or Orange Walk, so you have no excuse to not attend work on a holiday." The said employee expressed concern about the payments they would receive for work on holidays, because that wasn't specified in the memo, and that the employees felt defenseless because they didn't have a union.

I've heard talk about unionizing BPOs. I can be corrected; I am always ready to learn, always ready to improve my truth, but where I'm at right now, I don't understand any of that kind of talk. Of course, I understand the workers' feelings. But I think there are some things we have to understand about this work. Whoa there, BPO da American job!

If consolation is good, BPO workers who think they have it tough might feel better to learn that they are not alone. People in agriculture know the feeling. During the planting and harvesting cycles, there's no such thing as a day off for workers on a farm that produces 3 and 4 month crops. When fish di bite or lobster di run, fishaman noh noa dat da Sunday! If you need your Sunday

off, you need to try and get a job in the public service, but not as police or nurse. Of course, workers need special remuneration for work on special days. Of course, the BPO has to sit down with the authorities when they are drawing up their contracts. Employees, your job is to read the terms before you sign on.

It goes even more so for the police

Yaa, I stand with issuing red cards to footballers who aren't humble before referees, and I said it didn't matter what a player thinks about the quality of job the man in the middle is doing. If Belize had sufficient sports programs led by competent persons who emphasize discipline, we would have a far better country.

I'm big with respecting referees, and I'm also big with a "corrective" for those of us who feel like we and the police da one. It's about the uniform. If you KNOW that a police officer is the most corrupt person on the planet, a chaansi, good-for-nothing bully boy, you still have to respect that uniform.

Long years ago, one of my relatives called a police officer a "bloody ass". And he went to court and won. I don't know the full details of this story. I don't know if the officer embarrassed him in front of his girl. Hmm, I don't believe the magistrate for that case was Mr. Balderamos. I think Bala would have told him, *yu know yu daam right, that policeman is a jackass, or did a jackass thing, but you need to learn how to speak to a man in our uniform. Now choose: fine or confine?*

I like the police of the old days. One of my uncles pointed a rifle at a man who was a nuisance to our yard; the man fell on his knees before him and begged for mercy; and the police fell on my uncle, took away his rifle, and carted him off to Queen Street, where

Please turn to Page 15



## VACANCY

### Member, Caribbean Community Administrative Tribunal

The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission invites applications from suitably qualified applicants for the position of Member, Caribbean Community Administrative Tribunal. The members of the Tribunal must:

- have held, hold or be qualified to hold high judicial office in a CARICOM State; or
- be jurisconsults of recognized competence with experience as such for a period of not less than ten years; or
- be jurisconsults of recognized competence with particular experience in the field of labour relations for a period of not less than ten years.

Guidelines for the position and application forms are available on the Caribbean Court of Justice's website at <https://ccj.org/rjlsc-recruitment-update-2-2/>

Applications should be emailed to [recruitment@rjlsc.org](mailto:recruitment@rjlsc.org) no later than **Friday 9th December, 2022 by 4:00 p.m. Atlantic Standard Time.**



## SUMMARY CONTRACT NOTICE

**Contract Title: Supply and Delivery of Servers and Network Switches and Other Computer Related Equipment for the CARICOM Secretariat Guyana and Barbados Offices**

**Contract reference no.: CCS/KOR/2022/11/001-DC**

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat intends to award a supply contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Servers and Network Switches and Other Computer Related Equipment for the CARICOM Secretariat Guyana and Barbados Offices.** The contract will be implemented at the CARICOM Secretariat (Guyana) Office with financial assistance from **The Government of South Korea.** The contract notice and Tender Dossier can be found at <https://caricom.org/procurement-notice/>

The Deadline for submission of requests to participate is **6 January 2023.**



## Olas de tristeza; pero el amor nos ayudará

Domingo, 20 de noviembre de 2022

¿Cuándo terminarán la locura y los desamores? Cada vez que parece haber una pausa en los casos informados de muertes violentas y tragedias imprudentes que conducen a la pérdida de vidas, llega otra ola de malas noticias, angustias y luto por los seres queridos perdidos. Hay tantas noticias de muertes violentas que nuestros ciudadanos que mueren por causas naturales a veces son pasados por alto, especialmente durante el período de restricciones de Covid-19, excepto por familiares y amigos muy cercanos. Las últimas dos semanas han estado especialmente repletas de noticias trágicas de vidas perdidas violentamente, pero las muertes reportadas el mismo día la semana pasada por causas naturales de dos leyendas deportivas han visto a los fanáticos en las redes sociales de toda la Joya y la diáspora compartir el dolor, ya que sus vidas estaban íntimamente conectadas a través de los deportes con la emoción y las alegrías que una vez experimentaron a través de las actuaciones en el campo y el carácter personal de la Chica Dorada del softbol de los 70, Patricia "Pat" Bennett y el "Masterblaster" del fútbol de los 80, Arthur "Goatman" Leslie. En tiempos de tanta angustia y dolor, nuestra gente religiosa busca guía y fortaleza en su fe en el Todopoderoso, pero tal vez sea el amor que compartimos en estos tiempos difíciles, a menudo a través del vehículo de la religión o la espiritualidad, lo que nos ayuda a soportar el dolor y la carga de la pérdida y a reconstruir lentamente nuestra fuerza emocional y entusiasmo por vivir.

A veces podemos sentirnos abrumados y debemos tratar de reprimir nuestros sentimientos para hacer frente a la avalancha de tristeza que nos engulliría. Los noticieros de Radio Krem durante los últimos diez días han sido especialmente trágicos y deprimentes. Según un examen post-mortem, una mesera de Belmopán de 35 años, reportada como desaparecida el 31 de octubre, "fue estrangulada hasta la muerte"; un recluso de 23 años de edad en la Prisión Central supuestamente se quitó la vida en su celda el 10 de noviembre; la madrugada del 14 de noviembre, una mujer de Toledo descubrió el cadáver de un hombre de 26 años "parcialmente dentro de su cocina"; un cabo de policía de 34 años de edad en una investigación de "escena del crimen" en Blackman Eddy fue fatalmente atropellado por un vehículo conducido a "alta velocidad"; un hombre de 30 años en Crooked Tree fue engañado a salir de su casa a las 9:00 p.m. por piedras arrojadas, solo para ser asesinado a tiros; un "triple asesinato en Sandhill" durante la lluvia la noche del jueves 17 de noviembre, que cobró la vida de hombres de 43 años, 20 años y 19 años, "se cree que es un incidente relacionado con las drogas"; y justo anoche, un hombre de negocios en su camino a casa en un carro de golf fue asaltado y muerto a tiros en San Pedro.

Si bien esto ha sido la norma durante décadas, todavía hay momentos en los que nos damos cuenta de que es posible que nos hayamos vuelto insensibles a los informes, hasta que llega más cerca de casa. Y el dolor y la aflicción de la comunidad no es menor cuando fallece alguien de destacado impacto social y logros, ya sea en las artes, los deportes o el activismo comunitario. Las "causas naturales" pueden verse como una bendición para la juventud de hoy, pero la vida está llena de sorpresas, y cuando una estrella, una leyenda del deporte, es arrebatada repentinamente, nos sacude el corazón y el alma, y nos deja a muchos de nosotros con un corazón pesado por días. De hecho, solo en los últimos dos años de Covid-19 y sus secuelas (Covid todavía existe, así que no bajen la guardia demasiado), es bastante sorprendente, la cantidad de atletas de alto nivel de los años 70 y 80 que han fallecido por causas naturales, muchos de ellos incluso menores de sesenta años. La lista es larga, pero cabe destacar la falta de cualquier mancha de crimen violento entre las estrellas atléticas, cuyo compromiso con la disciplina, el trabajo duro, el juego limpio y la dedicación a su oficio debe haber impactado toda su perspectiva de la vida y les impidió tomar el camino suave y fácil pero peligroso en el camino del crimen. Algunos notables del mundo del fútbol que nos dejaron recientemente incluyen al gran Gilroy "Coro" Usher, Larry "Charro" Bennett, Kent "Gigante" Skeete, Juvencio "Bud" August, Wayne "Bom" Jones, Eian "Coco" Henry y Rudolph "Perú" Olivera. Y seguramente hay otros; pero independientemente de sus fallas individuales, todas estas estrellas del juego eran buenos ciudadanos respetuosos de la ley, de

quienes nunca se supo que estuvieran involucrados en ningún tipo de violencia o empresa criminal.

El triple homicidio reportado en Sandhill esta semana fue una verdadera sacudida. ¿Cuándo termina? ¡Tantas familias en duelo! ¿Qué pasa con nuestros jóvenes? ¿Ya nadie tiene miedo de ir a la cárcel? ¿Es eso lo que es, en lo que se refiere a estos asesinatos?

Ciertamente, la mayoría de los conductores de vehículos, personas que no se consideran al margen de la ley, tienen un miedo terrible a ir a la cárcel. Pero los conductores ebrios que causan la muerte por su comportamiento imprudente suelen terminar pagando una multa. Y aparentemente no es suficiente disuasión. El comisionado Williams insiste en que el tiempo en la cárcel les daría a los conductores ebrios algo en lo que pensar antes de ponerse al volante. Estamos perdiendo demasiadas vidas preciosas innecesariamente debido al descuido o al comportamiento violento.

En todo este clima de pena y dolor, fue un duro golpe cuando recibimos la noticia del repentino fallecimiento del legendario delantero Arthur "Goatman" Leslie; y momentos después recibimos la noticia del fallecimiento de otra leyenda, estrella del softbol y "Chica Dorada" de las épicas ganadoras de la Medalla de Oro de Belize en 1974 en los Juegos Centroamericanos y del Caribe, Patricia "Pat" Bennett. Ambas leyendas habían estado enfermas durante algún tiempo. Turo había sido operado a corazón abierto en los EE. UU. a principios de 2020, justo antes de que el covid-19 aterrizara en Belize; y Pat había estado luchando contra el cáncer durante algunos años. Estos fueron dos gigantes en sus respectivos deportes. Turo fue uno de los principales delanteros de Belize durante la década de 1980. Pat fue miembro durante mucho tiempo del Equipo Nacional de Softbol de Belize en la década de 1970 y luego tuvo una carrera distinguida como educadora y sindicalista. Ya se ha escrito mucho, y seguramente se escribirá mucho más sobre estos dos destacados atletas beliceños, uno femenino y otro masculino, quienes durante sus años deportivos ejemplificaron lo mejor de los deportes beliceños y son ejemplos dignos de emular para los jóvenes atletas.

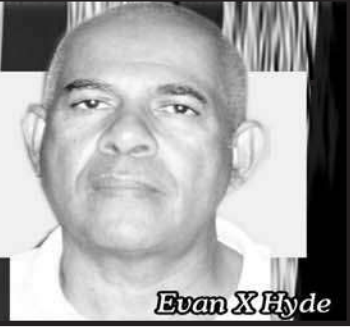
Mientras los beliceños lloran a nuestros seres queridos perdidos y enfrentan la pérdida de ejemplos estelares de ciudadanos buenos, productivos y respetuosos de la ley, tal vez valga la pena enfatizar la importancia de establecer una estructura organizada para reconocer y promover las personalidades de nuestros más destacados atletas, para que sus buenos ejemplos de ciudadanía y logros deportivos puedan impactar e inspirar a los muchos jóvenes que están surgiendo, muchos de los cuales de otro modo ni siquiera sabrían que tales personas existieron. Las historias están destinadas a entretener y también a enseñar lecciones y valores, e inspirar. Y un Salón de la Fama es un recurso sancionado oficialmente para documentar y consagrar para la posteridad los logros de los mejores entre nosotros. No "esperamos hasta que el hombre muera" para decirle a Goatman o Pat que eran "buenos". Se lo hemos dicho muchas veces y de muchas maneras. Pero un Salón de la Fama es el resultado de un consenso bien investigado, un depósito al que pueden acceder fácilmente estudiantes y profesores por igual, especialmente cuando se sube en Internet. Hemos esperado demasiado.

Algunos softbolistas de Belize, incluida Pat, han sido reconocidos en un Salón de la Fama del Softbol internacional; pero necesitamos nuestro propio Salón Nacional de la Fama del Softbol de Belize. Y ya es hora de que parte del dinero de la FIFA se dedique a establecer finalmente el Salón de la Fama del Fútbol Nacional de Belize. Turo sabía que estaría allí; a menudo se lo decíamos. Pero el dolor de su pérdida se aliviará un poco para sus familiares inmediatos con ese conocimiento, al igual que para otras estrellas fallecidas, así como para aquellos que aún están con nosotros, quienes sin duda están destinados a ser consagrados junto con Turo cada cuando sea que el Salón Nacional de Fútbol de Belize de la Fama sea establecido.

Nuestro más sentido pésame, fuerza y amor a todos los familiares y amigos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas que recientemente nos han precedido al seno del Todopoderoso. ¡Descansen en paz, todos! El amor nos ayudará.



# From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

We older Belizean sporting fans are mourning heavily because two of our very, very greatest -- Pat Bennett (softball) and Arthur "Goatman" Leslie (football) passed within a day of each other just before the Garifuna holiday.

These two were special in the extreme, because Pat was the finest (and educated) lady you can imagine, while Goatman was a total gentleman. I never heard him curse or display any ungentlemanly behavior.

My column today is not about the aforementioned losses, however, but about a headline story I wrote 35 years ago, entitled "... and Rhaburn ruled the city." Dr. Lord Gerald is finally receiving some of the official accolades he richly deserves. We have been calling for such accolades for decades in this newspaper.

I've heard Dr. Lord refer to this story more than once over the years, and my sense is that he enjoyed said story. All these 35 years, I've saved a copy of the original newspaper in which the story was published. The newsprint has turned brown it is so old. As soon as I link the Lord, I will make a gift to him of this original.

For the rest of you, I will reproduce the story as it was written in 1987. I will not include a two-paragraph editorial I wrote at the end of the story. This was 1987, and the mighty PUP had lost power for the first time just three years before, general elections were due in 1989, and the politics was warm in Belize. Here goes:

## ... and Rhaburn ruled the city

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Sept. 11 (1987)

The music confrontation many had hoped for did not materialize yesterday morning in the city. Sounds Incorporated, the punta rock exponents, remained in their native Dangriga, and Lord Rhaburn and his new song, "Puntarama", ruled the city parade from Memorial Park to Yarborough Green.

Calypso Rose jammed with The New Messengers, but their challenge was turned back by the Lord, and he defended the crown he has held from time immemorial. So The New Messengers, who are considered to have gained an edge over Rhaburn in the discos and public places, yielded to him in the streets.

Investigation this morning indicates that music may now be politics. The manager of the Sounds Incorporated, Mike Zabaneh, is a member of the PUP executive in Dangriga. The committee in charge of St. George's Caye Day celebrations in Dangriga, had contracted with Sounds Incorporated, the hottest band in the land, to play for their parade at 9:30 yesterday morning.

Sounds Incorporated showed up three hours late, when the parade was almost over, then turned around and went to play by



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Sounds Incorporated showed up three hours late, when the parade was almost over, then turned around and went to play by Zabaneh's Riverside disco.

Mike Zabaneh is brother to John Zabaneh, who was kidnapped by American drug enforcement agents while on a business trip to Guatemala in 1985. The UDP government did nothing to help him, or to complain, so you can hardly expect Mike Zabaneh to be in love with the UDP.

In any case, PUP Chairman Said Musa in a telephone interview this morning confirmed that Sounds Incorporated will be the feature attraction at the party's Independence Day celebrations in the PUP yard on Queen Street.



Government did not give the PUP permission to block off the street, but the chances are with Sounds Incorporated going off, there will be an overflow crowd on Queen Street September 21.

In the St. George's Caye Day parade yesterday morning in the city, the PUP was officially represented by Mr. Winston Smiling of the September Celebrations Committee, and this is probably a first.

The parade itself was not as big as it has been in the past, when many Belizeans marched as an expression of defiance and

in crusade against excesses of the previous government.

Although all the major UDP city leaders were participants, it was clear that they had not organized divisional representations, so the parade was more free form than a show of strength.

There was a higher percentage of participation from Belizean Americans than ever before, and a large turnout of young people.

## Apartheid products in Belize

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Sept. 11

South African products are still being sold in Belize. The firm of James Brodie & Co. is selling fishing lures "made in the Republic of South Africa".

The lures were previously withdrawn for sale following a local newspaper report three weeks ago. One of our reporters made a check on Wednesday at both Hofius and Brodies and found that Brodies has started selling the lures again.

The Manager of Brodies, when contacted by a reporter, explained that the lures would be withdrawn if Government were to make such a request and also refund the Customs duties collected.

NOTE: Our editorial board thought the Prime Minister's address at Memorial Park yesterday morning, on the 189th anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye, was an excellently drafted speech, and worthy of commendation.

We look forward to the Independence Day speeches, both by government and the opposition, for more of the same serious attention to the sounds of unity.

We should also point out that our source for the story on the Dangriga march re Sounds Incorporated is an official of the ruling party, and it is to be presumed that the band will have its own explanation of what happened.

The Manager of Hofius, however, said his company has no intention of putting the lures back on sale and considered it "disgusting" that South African products had mysteriously turned up for sale in Belize, when a fishing supplies store in Florida included them in a shipment.

This is the second known instance of South African products penetrating Belize.

Earlier this year SHAKA ZULU, a television series made in South Africa, was shown on a local television station.

Belize supports both United Nations and Commonwealth (Please turn to page 12)

## L.A. Belizean businessmen visit



(Left to right) Claud Nelson, Eric Palacio, and Roland Yorke. See story on page 3.

Zabaneh's Riverside disco.

Mike Zabaneh is brother to John Zabaneh, who was kidnapped by American drug enforcement agents while on a business trip to Guatemala in 1985. The UDP government did nothing to help him, or to complain, so you can hardly expect Mike Zabaneh to be in love with the UDP.

In any case, PUP Chairman Said Musa in a telephone interview this morning confirmed that Sounds Incorporated will be the feature attraction at the party's Independence

Day celebrations in the PUP yard on Queen Street.

Government did not give the PUP permission to block off the street, but the chances are, with Sounds Incorporated going off, there will be an overflow crowd on Queen Street September 21.

In the St. George's Caye Day parade yesterday morning in the city, the PUP was officially represented by Mr. Winston Smiling of the September Celebrations Committee, and this is probably a first.

The parade itself was not as big as it has been in the past, when many Belizeans marched as an expression of defiance and in crusade against excesses of the previous government.

Although all the major UDP city leaders were participants, it was clear that they had not organized divisional representations, so the parade was more free form than a show of strength.

There was a higher percentage of participation from Belizean Americans than ever before, and a large turnout of young people.



# Long live the Revolution



by Clinton Canul Luna

No state should interfere in the financial affairs of the neoliberal corporations; in this case, as Belize has already taken that route for its development, it is thought and can be heard in the speeches and press conferences given by the ministers, that Belize will be a country where its main revenue will come from tourism, its main path for the development of this country will be tourism. The other industries will be second or third hand, and will no longer be as important. That makes me think or believe that relying exclusively on tourism for the development of this country is for the good of the corporations, not the people. As for the other services such as education, good health for the

inhabitants or the people, that will not matter much. The neoliberal capitalist philosophy is completely different from socialist neoliberalism. Well, it may be that that term does not yet exist, but I am referring to a neoliberalism that focuses on or advocates the social issues, the state, not the other way around, not the state serving the corporations.

However, I repeat again, we have in hand the case of the workers of the Port of Belize, and for me, it is a hopeless case; for me, it is a fight against the wind, which cannot be won. In a few weeks or months, we will be able to confirm the outcome of the situation the cañeros from the north are going through, which cannot be solved by the

government. The cañeros from the north have not realized the power they have. And I am going to repeat in my own words what Mexico had told the United States a few years ago. Precisely, the current president, AMLO, as we affectionately know him, had said about an issue they had with the United States and the Cubans. There are 4 million Cubans in the United States, and there are 40 million Mexicans in the United States. There is a big difference between 4 million voters and 40 million, and I say to the cañeros from the north, that there are much more voters that can change a government or permit them to stay. The company does not have the votes; the company has a few

cents that they invested, and they say they are investing a lot of money. The cañeros from the north have been giving their blood and sweat for many years, and we can speak since 1847 when the first arrivals of the Caste War had brought along with them the sugar cane seed to plant. We can confirm it through history. Today, we can say that the cañeros should be owners of the northern sugar industry, not foreigners.

But since the government or governments, the PUDP, the system of this country, has decided that the corporations are the ones in charge, so let the corporations vote for them when voting day arrives. Cañero sisters and brothers, united you have the power to vote 'OUT' a government or let it stay. If that government doesn't serve your interests, which are that of the country and its people, vote them 'OUT'. If the government cannot solve the problem, vote them 'OUT'. The other one is useless too, but elect them and then vote them 'OUT' so that they understand that the people are in charge. If they cannot understand it the good way, then let them understand it the bad way, but in a peaceful manner, without violence, simply with the pen on the day at the polls to vote for a government, not a political party, who has the will and the desire to serve the people of this nation. You have the power. How many votes are there in the north? Let's start counting. All the families of the cañeros, and all of us who support the cañeros, how many votes we have. We can change the history of this place. It's in our hands. Sisters, brothers, from the north, Maya, yes, we are Maya descendants, we can change the history and destiny of this place. Long live the revolution! And long live our General Marcos Canul!

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)

November 20, 2022

Finca Solana

Corozal Town



Available at:

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- \* Puma, 2 Miles Philip Goldson Hwy.
- \* Shell Service Station, C.A. Boulevard
- \* Community Drug Store
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- \* 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
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## ORANGE WALK

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- \* People's Store

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- \* Rocks Shopping Center

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# SPORTS, SIN AND SUBVERSION



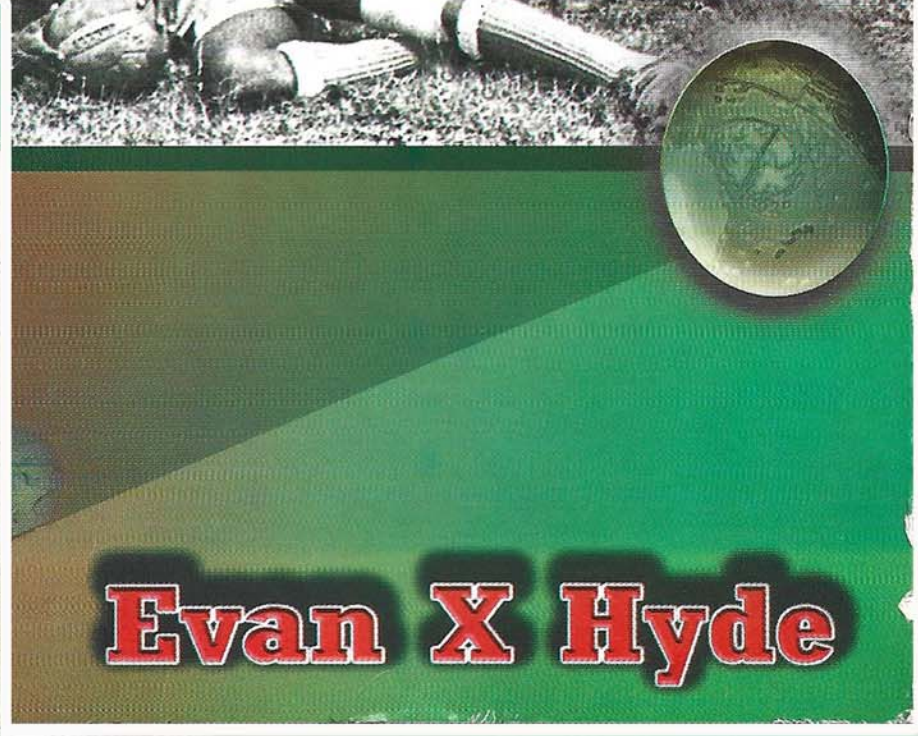
Ludwig Lightburn after he defeated New Orleans' Ralph Dupas, the no. 2 lightweight contender in the world, at New York City's Madison Square Garden in 1955. This was Lightburn's first nationally televised fight in the U.S. It was also seen in Mexico and Canada, and broadcast worldwide on shortwave radio. (The ring announcer is Johnny Addie.)

**Evan X Hyde**

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## FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Los fanáticos deportivos beliceños mayores estamos de luto porque dos de nuestros mejores, Pat Bennett (sóftbol) y Arthur "Goatman" Leslie (fútbol) fallecieron con un día de diferencia justo antes del feriado garífuna.

Estos dos eran extremadamente especiales, porque Pat era la dama más fina (y educada) que pueden imaginar, mientras que Goatman era un completo caballero. Nunca lo escuché maldecir o mostrar un comportamiento poco caballeroso.

Sin embargo, mi columna de hoy no trata sobre las pérdidas antes mencionadas, sino sobre un titular que escribí hace 35 años, titulado "...y Rhaburn gobernó la ciudad". El Dr. Lord Gerald finalmente está recibiendo algunos de los elogios oficiales que tanto se merece. Hemos estado pidiendo tales elogios durante décadas en este periódico.

He escuchado al Dr. Lord referirse a esta historia más de una vez a lo largo de los años, y tengo la sensación de que disfrutó de dicha historia. Todos estos 35 años, he guardado una copia del periódico original en el que se publicó la historia. El papel de periódico se ha vuelto café porque es tan viejo. Tan pronto como me ponga en contacto con el Lord, le haré un regalo de este original.

Para el resto de ustedes, reproduciré la historia tal como fue escrita en 1987. No incluiré un editorial de dos párrafos que escribí al final de la historia. Esto fue en 1987, y el poderoso PUP había perdido el poder por primera vez solo tres años antes, las elecciones generales estaban previstas para 1989 y la política era cálida en Belize. Aquí va:

... y Rhaburn gobernó la ciudad

CIUDAD DE BELIZE, vie. 11 de septiembre (1987)

El enfrentamiento musical que muchos esperaban no se concretó ayer por la mañana en la ciudad. Sounds Incorporated, los exponentes del punta rock, permanecieron en su Dangriga natal, y Lord Rhaburn y su nueva canción, "Puntarama", gobernaron el desfile de la ciudad desde el Parque Memorial hasta el prado comunal Yarborough.

Calypso Rose cantó con The New Messengers, pero el Lord rechazó su desafío y defendió la corona que ha tenido desde tiempos inmemoriales. Así que The New Messengers, quienes se considera

que le habían ganado ventaja a Rhaburn en las discotecas y lugares públicos, le cedieron en las calles.

La investigación de esta mañana indica que la música ahora pueda que sea política. El gerente de Sounds Incorporated, Mike Zabaneh, es miembro del ejecutivo PUP en Dangriga. El comité a cargo de las celebraciones del Día de Cayo San Jorge en Dangriga, había contratado a Sounds Incorporated, la banda más popular del país, para tocar en su desfile a las 9:30 de la mañana de ayer.

Sounds Incorporated apareció tres horas tarde, cuando el desfile casi había terminado, luego se dio la vuelta y se fue a tocar a la discoteca Riverside de Zabaneh.

Mike Zabaneh es hermano de John Zabaneh, quien fue secuestrado por agentes antidrogas estadounidenses durante un viaje de negocios a Guatemala en 1985. El gobierno UDP no hizo nada para ayudarlo o para quejarse, por lo que no se puede esperar que Mike Zabaneh esté enamorado con el UDP.

En cualquier caso, el presidente del PUP, Said Musa, confirmó en una entrevista telefónica esta mañana que Sounds Incorporated será la atracción principal en las celebraciones del Día de la Independencia del Partido en el recinto del PUP en la Calle Queen.

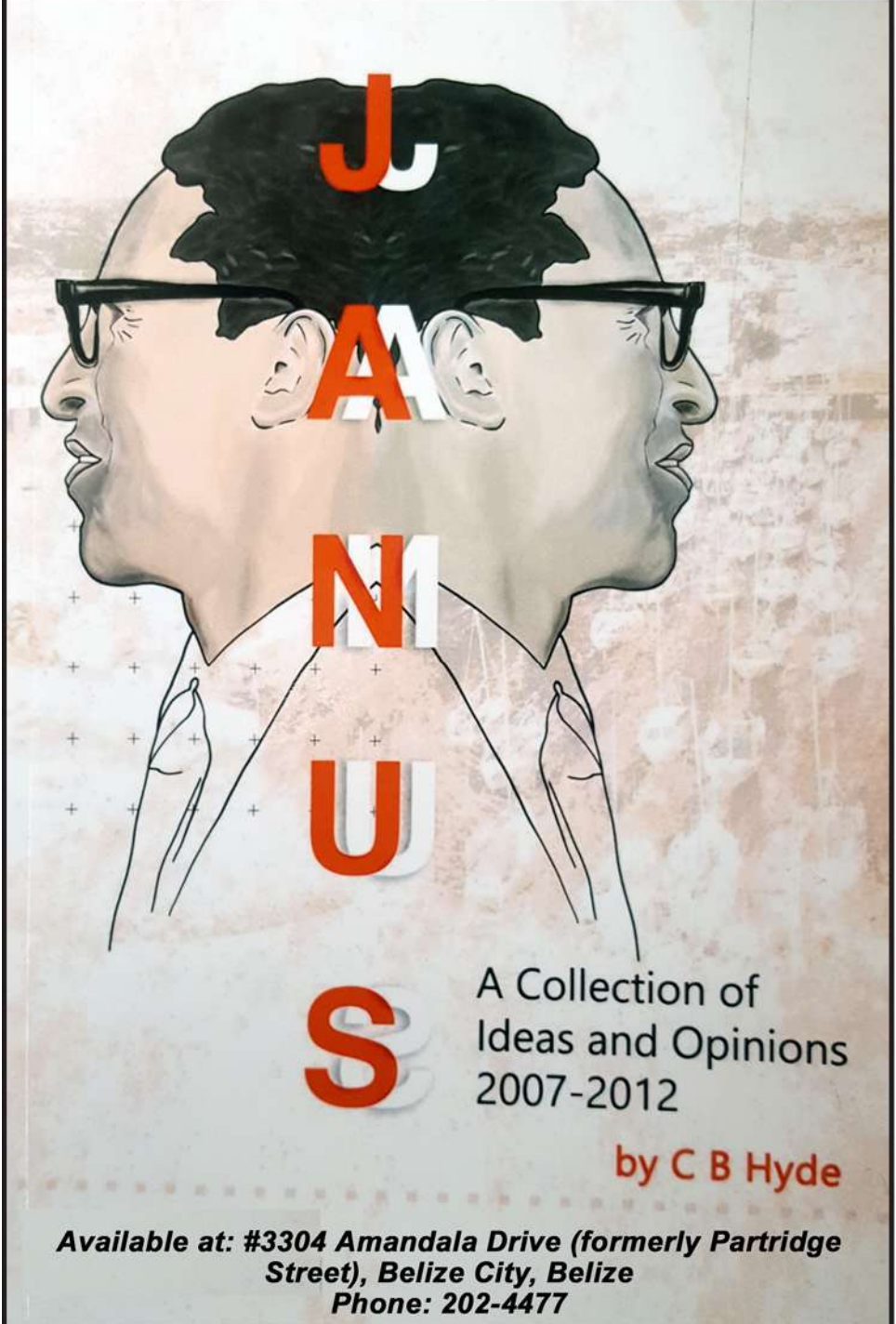
El gobierno no le dio permiso al PUP para bloquear la calle, pero lo más probable es que, con Sounds Incorporated retumbando, habrá una multitud desbordante en la Calle Queen el 21 de septiembre.

En el desfile del Día de Cayo San Jorge ayer por la mañana en la Ciudad, el PUP estuvo representado oficialmente por el Sr. Winston Smiling del Comité de Celebraciones de Septiembre, y es probable que sea la primera vez que sucediera eso.

El desfile en sí no fue tan grande como lo ha sido en el pasado, cuando muchos beliceños marcharon como una expresión de desafío y en una cruzada contra los excesos del gobierno anterior.


Aunque todos los principales líderes UDP de la ciudad participaron, estaba claro que no habían organizado representaciones divisionales, por lo que el desfile fue más un estilo libre que una demostración de fuerza.

Hubo un mayor porcentaje de participación de los beliceños estadounidenses que nunca antes, y una gran participación de jóvenes.



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## Which country has won the most World Cups?

*Sanjesh Singh*

NBC Sports, Sun. Nov. 20, 2022

One of the most prestigious trophies in all of sports will be up for grabs in Qatar this year.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup is on the horizon and soon, 32 teams from around the globe will be competing for the chance to lift the infamous trophy in December.

Let's comb through the tournament's history to see which nations have won the most World Cups:

### Who has won the most World Cups?

Brazil is the nation that has won the most World Cups with five, though two European countries are hoping to tie the record this year.

Here's a breakdown of the 21 World Cup winners dating back to 1930:

Brazil - 5 (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002)

Germany - 4 (1954, 1974, 1990, 2014)

Italy - 4 (1934, 1938, 1982, 2006)

Argentina - 2 (1978, 1986)

France - 2 (1998, 2018)

Uruguay - 2 (1930, 1950)

Spain - 1 (2010)

England - 1 (1966)

### Has any nation won back-to-back World Cups?

Italy (1934, 1938) and Brazil (1958, 1962) are the only two nations to win back-to-back titles in World Cup history. Italy beat Czechoslovakia 2-1 in 1934 and Hungary 4-2 in 1938 while Brazil defeated Sweden 5-2 in 1958 and Czechoslovakia 3-1 in 1962.

### Which teams made the World Cup Final but didn't win?

Five countries have reached a World Cup Final but are still waiting to hoist the trophy.

Here's a breakdown of every runner-up in the final, including nations that have won:

Germany - 4 (1966, 1982, 1986, 2002)

Netherlands - 3 (1974, 1978, 2010)

## Ixchel and Assassins are Champions in SSBA Tournament

*by Mark O'Brien, SSBA President*

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Mon. Nov. 21, 2022

The San Ignacio & Santa Elena Basketball Association (SSBA) wrapped up its season with 6 games over the weekend at the Resilience Centre at Victor Galvez Stadium in San Ignacio Town.

On Sunday, all Under 7, Under 10, Under 12, Under 15 and Under 18 players received an individual trophy.

The SSBA would like to thank all the parents, players, coaches, table officials, referees, media houses and fans who were part of this year's tournament. Below are the winning teams in each division.

Division	Category	Champions	Sub-Champions	Third Place
Under 7	Female	Shabla Events	OB OJs	---
Under 7	Male	Mambas	Joseph Freight/RGM Trading	---
Under 10	Coed	Habet Service Station	Codd's Drug Store	---
Under 12	Male	Q & M Construction	KG Equine Supplies/Oye FM	---
Under 15	Female	Royal International	San Ignacio Hotel	---
Under 15	Male	Tyre Center	Yute Expeditions	Tolacca
Under 18	Male	JDB	Recino's Imports	---
Open	Female	Ixchel	Belize Vegan Roots Sisterhood	Western Queens
Seniors	Male	Assassins	West Side	Venom

The female champs walked away with a team trophy and \$500 cash, while the male champs won a team trophy and \$1,200 cash, the sub-champs got \$800 and the third place team got \$300.

Below are the scores for the past weekend. For the Senior Male division, NBB Pay Elite was a no-show for the third place game, and West Side was a no-show for the finals.

### Thursday, November 17

GAME 1 – Shabla Events are the U7 female champions. (Under 7 – Female) Shabla Events, 12-10, over OB's OJ. Shabla Events – Kenya Gillett 8 pts; Jazirah Sabido 4 pts. OB's OJ – Raelynn Guerra and Alysse Kameka 4 pts each; Khloe Ara 2 pts.

GAME 2 – Mambas are the U7 male champions. (Under 7 – Male) Mambas, 11-3, over Joseph Freight/RGM Trading. Mambas – Zane Laurence 8 pts; Nadir Hernandez 2 pts; Isaac Jeffrey 1 pt. Joseph Freight/RGM Trading – Trevor Lennen 3 pts.

GAME 3 – JDB are the U18 male champions. (Under 18 – Male) JDB, 50-41, over Recino's Imports. JDB – Israel August 15 pts; Kishawn Usher 11 pts; Jaheem Arnold 9 pts. Recino's Imports – Tayshawn Haylock – 11 pts; Ian Rodriguez 10 pts; John Aranda 7 pts.

GAME 4 – West Side advanced to the finals. (Seniors – Male) West Side, 68-55, over Venoms. West Side – Kevon Laurie 22 pts; Raheem Thurton 13 pts; Jahiem Ciego and Ryan Duran 11 pts each. Venoms – Elvis Usher 17 pts; Elvert Arriola 9 pts; Frank Fuller 8 pts.

### Sunday, November 20

GAME 1 – Ixchel leads the best-of-three series, 1-0. (Seniors – Female) Ixchel, 37-30, over Vegan Roots. Ixchel – Dania Calderon 12 pts; Elizabeth Panjoj 10 pts; Mabel Rodriguez and Jesika Prom 4 pts each. Vegan Roots – Kwatamani Kwasheita 11 pts; Jane Martinez 7 pts; Kwatamini Isisita Isudta 6 pts.

GAME 2 – Ixchel are the female champions. (Seniors – Female) Ixchel, 44-28, over Vegan Roots. Ixchel – Dania Calderon 20 pts; Mabel Rodriguez and Claudia Bolanos 6 pts each. Vegan Roots – Kwatamani Kwasheita 10 pts; Jane Martinez and Kwatamini Isisita Isudta 9 pts each.

Argentina - 3 (1930, 1990, 2014)

Brazil - 2 (1950, 1998)

Italy - 2 (1970, 1994)

Czechoslovakia - 2 (1934, 1962)

Hungary - 2 (1938, 1954)

Sweden - 1 (1958)

Croatia - 1 (2018)

In 1993, Czechoslovakia split and became two teams - Czech Republic

and Slovakia.

### Which confederation has won the most World Cups?

With six confederations in FIFA, only two have seen their representative countries win the World Cup: UEFA (Europe) and CONMEBOL (South America). CONCACAF (North America/Caribbean), CAF (Africa),

AFC (Asia) and OFC (Oceania) have not had a country reach the final.

Here's the breakdown between UEFA and CONMEBOL in the World Cup Final:

UEFA - 28 appearances, 12 wins, 16 runner-ups

CONMEBOL - 14 appearances, 9 wins, 5 runner-ups

## A war has raged in Great Lakes region for decades and we can no longer ignore

In early November, foreign ministers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Christophe Lutundula Apala Pen'Apala, and Rwanda, Vicent Biruta met in Luanda, Angola, to find a political solution to a conflict that has been ongoing in eastern DRC for decades.

The foreign ministers agreed that the "peace roadmap" agreed to in a July meeting had to be implemented. Angola's President João Lourenço shuttled between Rwanda's President Paul Kagame and the DRC's

President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi in his role as the African Union's "mediator in the crisis" between Rwanda and the DRC.

Meanwhile, the M23 rebels — backed by Rwanda — have expanded their attacks in the DRC. In retaliation, the DRC expelled Rwandan ambassador Vincent Karega. The M23, with the assistance of Rwanda troops, captured Kiwanja and Rutshuru, two towns in the DRC's North Kivu province. Rwanda argues that it was the DRC that violated agreements leading to the fighters being reinstated.

In August, a leaked report from the United Nations showed that Rwanda had backed the M23. It was difficult for Rwanda to deny the details in the report, particularly after United States ambassador Robert Wood, the alternate representative for special political affairs, told the United Nations Security Council that his government calls "on state actors to stop their support for these groups, including the Rwandan Defence Forces' assistance to M23."

The M23 is a recent entrant into the wars in the DRC's eastern provinces,

which have been ongoing since the early 1990s. A UN report from August 2010 details several hundred violent incidents that took place in the DRC between March 1993 and June 2003, with "deaths of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people". One estimate, based on studies conducted in 2000 and 2004, suggests that more than three million people have died in the conflict since 1998.

In June, the DRC allowed the East African Community to send troops into



# Health Orgs Welcome COP27 Loss and Damage Finance But Slam Fossil Fuel Stasis

*Sharm El-Sheikh, 09:30 EET, 20 November 2022:*— As the COP27 Climate Summit ground to a close today in Egypt, health professionals and NGOs welcomed the decision to establish a Loss and Damage fund, but slammed the stalled progress on fossil fuel phase-out.

“COP27’s agreement to establish a Loss and Damage fund is a major win for addressing health and other impacts in countries most impacted by climate change - and for global solidarity”, said Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the [Global Climate and Health Alliance](#), which brings together over 130 health organizations from around the world to tackle climate change and to protect and promote public health. “This important and historic step is long overdue, and vitally important to address the real and human impacts of climate change on people who have contributed least to its making.”

“However, despite support from over 80 countries, governments’ collective failure to deliver a clear commitment to phase out all fossil fuels puts us on course to go beyond the already dangerous 1.5 Celsius global temperature rise, and locks in further increase in Loss and Damage due to climate impacts on people’s health and livelihoods”, she added. “Limiting warming to 1.5C, essential to avert catastrophic health impacts, requires phasing out all fossil fuels; and only full fossil fuel phase-out will deliver the maximum health benefits from clean air and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.”

“While details remain to be worked out on the Loss and Damage fund, this COP27’s agreement puts us, for the first

time, on a real path to delivering relief to countries bearing the brunt of the climate crisis”, said Jess Beagley, Policy Lead at the Global Climate and Health Alliance. “Additional bright spots are extension of the [Koronivia Joint Work On Agriculture](#) and for inclusion not only of nutrition, but the scope to go beyond adaptation to wider climate action; and the acknowledgement of the right to a healthy environment [1].

“Where governments failed is on mitigation. Without a clear commitment to phase out all fossil fuels—not just ‘unabated coal’—the world will remain on a course for further warming, growth in climate impacts, and increased health consequences for the people everywhere. The imperative to peak emissions by 2025 is entirely absent from COP27’s final text”, said Beagley.

“Bringing an end to the fossil fuel era as fast as humanly possible is the world’s most important public health imperative. Rapidly transitioning to a 100% clean energy economy is the best path forward to ensure the health, safety and prosperity of our children and grandchildren”, said Ed Maibach, Board of Advisors Liaison, Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health.

“The agreement on a Loss and Damage fund is a landmark indication that the health impacts and harm to the most impacted countries has finally been recognised. Unfortunately, even though COP 27 was extended to try to reach agreement, the failure to commit to phasing out of all fossil fuels (not just coal) means more people will die and suffer due to air pollution and other impacts of fossil fuels, and the 1.5°C Paris agreement target will not be met”, said Dr. Sue Atkinson, Faculty of Public

Health, UK.

“The COP27 decision will only protect the health of people and planet if implemented at scale and fast,” said Alison Doig, Director of the Health and Climate Network, “We need wealthy countries to take the lead to mobilise Loss and Damage finance for the most vulnerable people, and to shift to a world free of the harmful emissions from fossil fuel. We need to move from climate talks to climate action.”

“If we are going to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis we need a just, healthy and rapid transition away from our civilizational addiction to fossil fuels. Governments must overcome the stranglehold the fossil fuel industry has on our politics and forge agreements that put healthy people on a healthy planet at the center”, said Josh Karliner—Director of Global Partnerships, Health Care Without Harm.

“All countries must immediately commit to phasing out of coal, oil and gas as the most important action for the preservation of life on this remarkable, but now threatened planet, Earth. The failure to commit to this collectively at COP27 threatens us all. The poorest and most vulnerable are hit worst and first by the ravages of climate change and biodiversity collapse; the recognition of Loss and Damage at this COP is a step towards restitution”, said Fiona Armstrong, Founder and Executive Director, Climate and Health Alliance (Australia).

“It’s Code RED for our future generations and the signals are loud and clear at COP27 and beyond. Switching on climate action and ensuring climate finance at speed and scale alone can move the most vulnerable away from a

harmful trajectory of Loss and Damage to one where they survive and thrive”, said Dr. Poornima Prabhakaran, Director, Centre for Environmental Health at Public Health Foundation of India.

“COP27’s resolution on accelerated financial support for developing countries, in particular sub-Saharan Africa, is a significant milestone to climate justice. However, no amount of pay will take away the net damage caused by burning of fossil fuels on climate change”, said Martin Muchangi, Director – Climate Change, WASH, & NTDs at Amref Health Africa.

“Despite increased restrictions for the participation of civil society, the health and climate justice community came together to push for a healthier future for all. Through extensive combined efforts, Loss and Damage has been agreed upon during COP27 — this is a necessary foundation for the delivery of equitable reparations as well as for the financing of a rapid just green transition towards renewable energy,” said Amit Singh, Founding Committee Member, Youth Climate and Health Network, convened by the Global Climate and Health Alliance.

“However, to mitigate the disastrous impacts of climate change on our individual and collective health, fossil fuels must be phased out. With the International Energy Agency stating that no more new fossil fuel projects can be developed if we are to remain on a healthy track, the lack of agreement between world leaders on this brings great worry for the health of our patients worldwide”, concluded Singh.

*Global Climate and Health Alliance*

## Statement by the Secretary-General at the conclusion of COP27 Sharm el-Sheikh

20 November 2022

I thank our hosts – the Egyptian government and COP27 President Sameh Shoukry – for their hospitality.

I also want to recognize Simon Stiell and the United Nations Climate Change team for all their efforts.

And I pay tribute to the delegates and members of civil society who came to Sharm el-Sheikh to push leaders for real climate action.

That is what we need.

COP27 took place not far from Mount Sinai, a site that is central to many faiths and to the story of Moses, or Musa.

It’s fitting. Climate chaos is a crisis of Biblical proportions.

The signs are everywhere. Instead of a burning bush, we face a burning planet.

From the beginning, this conference has been driven by two overriding themes: justice and ambition.

Justice for those on the frontlines who did so little to cause the crisis – including the victims of the recent floods in Pakistan that inundated one-third of the country.

Ambition to keep the 1.5 degree limit alive and pull humanity back from the climate cliff.

This COP has taken an important step towards justice.

I welcome the decision to establish a loss and damage fund and to operationalize it in the coming period.

Clearly this will not be enough, but it is a much-needed political signal to rebuild broken trust.

The voices of those on the frontlines of the climate crisis must be heard.

The UN system will support this effort every step of the way.

Justice should also mean several other things:

Finally making good on the long-delayed promise of \$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries;

Clarity and a credible roadmap to double adaptation finance;

Changing the business models of multilateral development banks and international financial institutions.

They must accept more risk and systematically leverage private finance for developing countries at reasonable costs.

But let’s be clear.

Our planet is still in the emergency room.

We need to drastically reduce emissions now – and this is an issue this COP did not address.

A fund for loss and damage is essential – but it’s not an answer if the climate crisis washes a small island state off the map – or turns an entire African country to

desert.

The world still needs a giant leap on climate ambition.

The red line we must not cross is the line that takes our planet over the 1.5-degree temperature limit.

To have any hope of keeping to 1.5, we need to massively invest in renewables and end our addiction to fossil fuels.

We must avoid an energy scramble in which developing countries finish last – as they did in the race for COVID-19 vaccines.

Doubling down on fossil fuels is double trouble.

The Just Energy Transition Partnerships are important pathways to accelerate the phasing out of coal and scaling up renewables.

But we need much more. That’s why I am pushing so hard for a Climate Solidarity Pact.

A Pact in which all countries make an extra effort to reduce emissions this decade in line with the 1.5-degree goal.

And a Pact to mobilize – together with International Financial Institutions and the private sector - financial and technical support for large emerging economies to accelerate their renewable energy transition.

This is essential to keep the 1.5 degree limit within reach – and for everyone to

play their part.

COP27 concludes with much homework and little time.

We are already halfway between the Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 deadline.

We need all hands on deck to drive justice and ambition.

This also includes ambition to end the suicidal war on nature that is fueling the climate crisis, driving species to extinction and destroying ecosystems.

Next month’s UN Biodiversity Conference is the moment to adopt an ambitious global biodiversity framework for the next decade, drawing from the power of nature-based solutions and the critical role of indigenous communities.

Finally, justice and ambition require the essential voice of civil society.

The most vital energy source in the world is people power.

That is why it is so important to understand the human rights dimension of climate action.

Climate advocates – led by the moral voice of young people - have kept the agenda moving through the darkest of days.

They must be protected.

To all of them, I say we share your



# Historic COP 27 agreement will see developing nations...

**Continued from** ▶ Page 2

great philosophical chasm on how we'd approach these issues, particularly on loss and damage. Thanks to the countries who took the leap, it's a significant move forward," said Prime Minister Mottley after the agreement was made.

According to reports by *The Guardian*, Pakistan's climate minister,

Sherry Rehman, along with her team of negotiators, also played a crucial role in securing the Loss and Damage agreement. Pakistan was one of many countries hit by extreme climate disasters this year, having faced massive and deadly flooding this past summer.

Despite the monumental victory, many officials, including the head of the EU executive, have pointed out that, unfortunately, COP27 did not deliver on a commitment by the world's major fossil fuel users to lower their emissions.

"The real failure at Sharm el-Sheikh was that no significant progress has been made in commitments on fossil fuels, which is unsurprising given the hundreds of fossil fuel lobbyists who were active inside the

negotiation. In terms of the commitment to eliminating fossil fuels from the global economy, COP27 represents a backward step," said Adrian Ramsay, the co-leader of the UK's Green Party.

The failure to phase out fossil fuels will, inevitably, lead to increases in losses and damages in the vulnerable Global South. And as such, many have seen the ending of this year's climate change conference as a bittersweet one.

In his closing remarks, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres said that while a fund for loss and damage is essential, "it's not an answer if the climate crisis washes a small island state off the map – or turns an entire African country to desert. The world still needs a giant leap on climate ambition."

"The red line we must not cross is the line that takes our planet over the 1.5 degree temperature limit. To have any hope of keeping to 1.5, we need to massively invest in renewables and end our addiction to fossil fuels," he added.

This year's conference also featured a greater inclusion of young people and youth activists, with the first-ever pavilion for children and youth, as well as the first-ever youth-led Climate Forum. United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell, made a promise to urge governments to incorporate solutions proposed by young people into policy decisions.

The Loss and Damage fund is expected to take at least one year to be fully mandated. During that time, a committee

of representatives from 24 countries will work on a proposal detailing the specifics of the fund, including what countries should contribute and who will benefit from it. It remains to be seen though, whether wealthy nations will actually deliver on their commitment. The *New York Times* notes that ten years ago, the United States, the EU, and other nations from the Global North pledged to deliver \$100 billion yearly to help vulnerable nations in their climate change mitigation initiatives. They fall short, however, by tens of billions of dollars every year.

The agreement to establish the Loss and Damage fund is included in the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, a ten-page document highlighting the decisions and commitments made during the climate change conference. That plan also notes that investments of at least US \$4 trillion will be required for a global transition to a low-carbon economy.

The final agreement in the Implementation Plan recommits to the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius more than pre-industrial levels but it does not include any new targets for greenhouse gas emissions. It calls only for a reduction in the use of coal rather than all fossil fuels, which includes oil and gas.

Next year's conference, COP28, is set to take place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE, a nation whose economy is heavily dependent on the extraction and export of oil, has already begun to promote its role as the future host of the UN conference.

## San Pedro business owner killed...

**Continued from** ▶ Page 1

following the early morning robbery that left business owner Elvis Raul Polanco dead.

At some time around 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 19, Polanco and his common-law wife, 25-year-old Thomasa Evelia Velasco Garcia, were driving home in their golf cart when a man with a red shirt over his face emerged from the bushes near the entrance to the Escalante Subdivision area and fired shots at the couple. Both Polanco and Garcia quickly exited the vehicle. The gunman then ran over to the golf cart and took Garcia's purse, which contained \$12,000 in cash. He then ran after Polanco and fired at least one more shot before escaping.

Garcia, who had been shot in the hand, found Polanco lying on the ground with four gunshot wounds. She rushed him to the nearby San Pedro Polyclinic, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Upon arriving at the scene of the shooting, police officers found Garcia's purse along with some cash still inside.

One of the men who have since been detained in connection with the incident is Paul Mortis, 32. So far, he has been charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition after police discovered an unlicensed 9 mm pistol in his home. Mortis, who is from the San Mateo area in San Pedro, was hired by Polanco to work as a security guard full-time after being placed on interdiction for a domestic incident just a few months ago. He also reportedly owns a licensed 9 mm pistol which police have been unable to locate.

Commissioner of Police Chester Williams spoke about the robbery-turned-homicide during Monday's police press briefing. He noted that the other suspect, a 25-year-old ex-police officer from the DFC area, had been dismissed from the force months ago. He also added that Mortis, as Polanco's employee, was likely to have been aware of Polanco's movements.

"From what we are gathering at this time, they may have left the establishment just after closing. Knowing the route that the proprietor takes and where he lives, they went and awaited him. All indications are showing that while the interdicted police was working, the one who had been dismissed was there with him, and they were together. And so they may have left together to await the proprietor when he got home," Williams said.

Both men are in police custody pending charges. An investigation is ongoing.

## BPO job da noh regular job

**Continued from** ▶ Page 7

they scolded the daylights out of him. Yap, I like the police of the old days. I believe in that whip Tablada and Cassasola carried. Of course, I wouldn't have liked the idea of my relative getting a caning. But a single hard cut to the buttocks for his cheek would have been good for both him and our country.

Belize's leadership is weak. How come so many clips are about with people talking disrespectfully to the police? That's because our leadership is soft pops. Our leadership reminds me of teachers who want to be "loved". The last thing on a teacher's mind should be about being loved. If your students love you AFTER you have made them learn their lessons, AFTER you have ensured complete discipline in your class, well then bully, it's nice to be loved. Desperation to be "liked" is weak.

I saw the clip with the lieutenant. You know there are many Belizeans who belong in the movies. I am sure Ms. Kim Vasquez can use that guy in one of her plays. I will say in one area I believe the brother showed a lot of restraint. It's rare that a police officer can whip a BDF, so kudos to our BDF brother for leaving it to talk. But I don't buy his tirade. I want him to go to court, plead guilty, and pay his fine. And the next time he has a run-in with the police, I want him to tell them, unu bohgaz, if da neva fu unu unifaam...

## Statement by the Secretary-General...

**Continued from** ▶ Page 14

frustration. But we need you now more than ever.

Unlike the stories from the Sinai peninsula, we cannot wait for a miracle from a mountaintop.

It will take each and every one of us fighting in the trenches each and every day.

Together, let's not relent in the fight for climate justice and climate ambition.

We can and must win this battle for our lives.

## Triple murder in Sandhill

**Continued from** ▶ Page 4

He also said that his brother had just gotten a job and was supposed to start working.

"He like social media and thing. In nuh really deh out deh di hang out with nobody or nothing like that. The only person weh ih heng out with da Jareem Davis, and that da ih close friend."

Davis recently moved into the Sandhill area, according to his father, who said that his son grew up in a

church-going family, and as far he knows, he was not involved in any illegal or gang activity. He had been scheduled to go to work at the fire station that night but never made it to his post.

Garcia is remembered as a loving and kind person. He leaves behind two children.

Police are looking for suspects from within Sandhill Village, but have so far not reported any arrests in connection with the incident.

## A war has raged in Great Lakes region for decades...

**Continued from** ▶ Page 13

its eastern regions, as long as the Rwandan military was not involved in the intervention. Through this agreement, troops from Burundi and Kenya arrived in eastern Congo. This has caused alarm.

Carina Tertsakian of the Burundi Human Rights Initiative told the Associated Press, "It is no surprise that Burundi is the first country to offer troops. Burundi is a direct party to the conflict, so cannot be viewed as a neutral actor. It, therefore, seems unlikely that their deployment will end the insecurity in the area."

Former DRC presidential candidate

Martin Fayulu told Deutsche Welle recently that he is distressed by the lack of international attention to this conflict. "Ukraine is having a problem," he said, and the widespread media coverage has brought the world's attention to that.

"[W]e are having a problem in Congo, but nobody is condemning Rwanda. Why?"

Perhaps, it has to do with the cobalt, copper, lithium, and the trees of the rainforest, precious resources that continue to be exploited by the rest of the world despite the carnage that has afflicted Africa's Great Lakes for the past 30 years.

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# From the border... to the Boulevard;



# From the Hondo... to Mahogany!

## Sugar and Cream

Corozal Town - Orange Walk Town - Belize City

New Year's Day

2023



## Who will win?

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual kren FM

## CYCLING CLASSIC

## New Year's Day 2023!!



1991	Michael Lewis (first) Ernest Meighan (second)	(Ladies)	Lori Harkey (first)
1992	Francisco Flores (first) Fitzgerald Joseph (second)		Shalini Zabaneh (second) Carlos Hernandez (first)
1993	Derrick Mahler (first) Orlando Chavarria (second)	(Ladies)	Carlos Manuel Hernandez (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
1994	Douglas Lamb (first) Ronald Sutherland (second)		Anthea Sutherland (second) Marco Salas (first)
1995	Robert Mariano (first) Gustavo Carillo (second)	(Ladies)	Juan Rojas (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
1996	Nigel Matus (first) Ian Smith (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second) Geovanni Choto (first)
1997	Fred Usher (first) Michael Lewis (second)	(Ladies)	Byron Pope (second) Kaya Cattouse (first)
1998	Francisco Flores (first) James Frampton (second)		Shalini Zabaneh (second) David Henderson (first)
1999	Ernest Meighan (first) Skip Spangenburg (second)	(Ladies)	Gregory Lovell (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
2000	Ariel Rosado (first) Quinton Hamilton (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second) Byron Pope (first)
2001	Miguel Perez (first) Shane Vasquez (second)	(Ladies)	Carlos Lopez (second) Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	(Ladies) Karen Rosito (First)		Gabrielle Lovell (second)
2002	Amlita Knowles (second) Barney Brown (first)	2015	Hector Rangel (first) David Santos (second)
	Hugo Rostrain Monterosa (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Ann Marie Bennett (first)	2016	Joel Adan Borland (first) Gregory Lovell (second)
2003	Douglas Lamb (first) Frank Cannon (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes Gonzalez (First)	2017	Ron Vasquez (first) Brandon Cattouse (second)
2004	Marlon Castillo (first) Mateo Cruz (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes-Gonzalez (first) Claudett Maheia (second)	2018	Giovanni Lovell (first) John DeLong (second)
2005	Michael Lewis (first) Shane Vasquez (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Marinette Flowers (first)	2019	John DeLong (First) Clayton Travis (Second)
2006	Scottie Weiss (first) Marlon Castillo (second)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (First) Nicole Gallego (Second)
(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first) Marinette Flowers (second)	2020	Oscar Quiroz, Jr. (First) Joslyn Chavarria, Jr. (Second)
2007	Shane Vasquez (first) Marlon Castillo (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (First) Nicole Gallego (Second)
(Ladies)	Gina Lovell (first) Shalini Zabaneh (second)	2021	<b>NO RACE (DUE TO COVID)</b>
2008	Neo German Camacho Villegas (first) Edward Reyes (second)	2022	Brandon Cattouse (first) Derrick Chavarria (second)
(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first) Alicia Thompson (second)	(Ladies)	Gabrielle Gabourel (first) Kaya Cattouse (second)
2009	Marlon Castillo (first) Gregory Lovell (second)		