

Historic Easter! Garland and Gold

Belizean Demetrie Meyers wins two gold medals at CARIFTA Games

by Charles Gladden

NASSAU, Bahamas, Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

A 14-year-old boy has cemented his name in the history books of Belize's sports after winning two gold medals in the U-17 Track and Field event over the weekend at the 50th CARIFTA Games held in Nassau, Bahamas, April 8 to April 10.

Demetrie Meyers, a 14-year-old Belizean and a freshman at Haverford High School in Haverford, Pennsylvania, participated in the CARIFTA Games in the Bahamas and won a gold medal in the 1500-meter competition on Saturday, and then another in the 3000-meter competition the following day.

Meyers dominated the competition, as he ran away from his competitors in both events. On Saturday in the 1500m, he finished with a time of 4:11.19 ahead of Guyana's Javon Roberts, who



Demetrie Meyers

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Belizean Oscar Quiroz wins 2023 Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

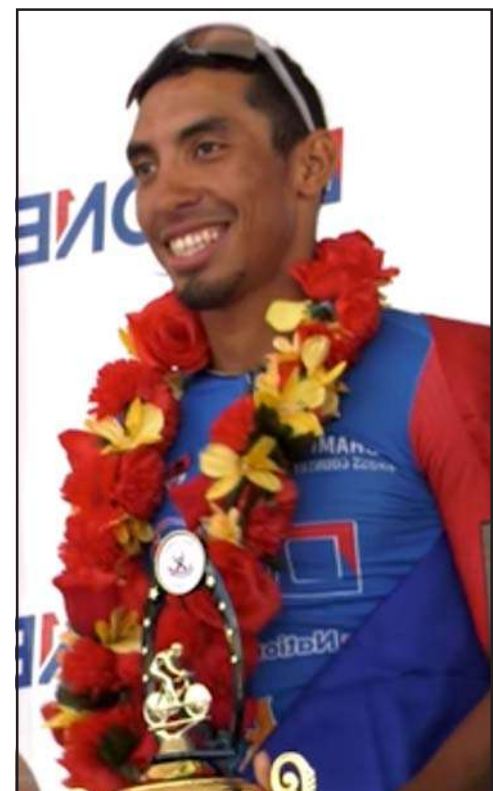
Belizean Oscar Quiroz (Team 501 Valvoline) was the first rider across the finish line and won the 93rd running of the annual Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic on Saturday, April 8, in a time of 5 hours, 43 minutes and 19 seconds.

He out-distanced his nearest competitors Cory Williams 2nd (Team L39ION — 5:44:41), a Belizean American; and Johnathan Brown, 3rd (Team Miami Blazers — 5:44:42), an American.

Quiroz won \$11,000, 5 trophies, a cup, a championship jersey, \$1,100 as the first Belizean across the finish line, and the traditional garland for his winning ride, but was also instantaneously lauded throughout the Belizean nation as "The King of the Country" as Belizean hearts swelled with pride.

111 cyclists registered and lined up

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Oscar Quiroz

ASP Fitzroy Yearwood passes at 47

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

Communications Director for the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, who is arguably one of the most popular police officers in the department and has been seen regularly at the beginning of the week on the TV screens of many households throughout the country as he updated the media and the public of police investigations into various crimes at

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ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, deceased

Lev Dermen gets 40 years in US tax fraud case

Dermen tax fraud sentencing in U.S. raises questions on Saldivar campaign financing, assets in Belize

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

Belizeans first heard of Lev Dermen in 2020 when damning text messages presented in a Utah Court named John

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Lev Dermen

BNTU elects new president

See story on page 29

Opposition; GoB violating CARICOM treaty; Minister says they are uninformed



PM John Briceño



Shyne Barrow, Opposition Leader

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023
The Opposition United Democratic Party (UDP) today formally denounced, in a release, the Briceño Administration's decision announced in a March 30, 2023 Cabinet release that

"... Belize will invoke Article 226 (a) of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, which will allow for the Minister of Immigration to immediately impose a

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Ashcroft doubles down: UK BIT arbitration initiated for Waterloo project



Michael Ashcroft is brandishing his British nationality and the UK-BIT Treaty in what appears to be an attempt to force Belize's government to approve his Waterloo project, or to place a punitive burden on the country and its economy if it does not.

by Marco Lopez

BELMOPAN, Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño has been served with a Notice of Arbitration under the rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law 2021. Two companies owned by Lord Michael Ashcroft—the British Caribbean Bank and Prize Holdings International Limited—are taking the Government of Belize before the

Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague seeking 5 areas of relief. A letter which was sent to the Prime Minister to signal notice of the dispute, indicated that the government has three months to reach an "amicable settlement" on the matter of the environmental clearance of the Port of Belize Cruise and Cargo Terminal Project after a second denial by the Department of the Environment (DOE) following a recommendation that was issued by a 16-member National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC).

That local body has outlined significant shortfalls and major unaddressed risks that it observed in the developer's methodology which was outlined in the second iteration of the Waterloo EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment). The principals of The Port of Belize Ltd., all of who fall under the umbrella of the multi-tentacled Waterloo Investment Holdings Limited, have now doubled down. This is the second legal proceeding launched by the attorneys of the Waterloo chairman, Lord Michael Ashcroft, in response to the recent rejection of his proposed cruise port development.

This claim is being brought under Article 8 of the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Belize for the Promotion and Protection of Investments – referred to as the UK Bit

Treaty 1982. The purpose of this instrument, which was signed into law less than a year after Belize's independence, was to protect the investment of UK nationals. The two companies, BCB and Prize Holdings, both located in the British Overseas Territory of Turks and Caicos, fall within the scope of this protection. A previous letter that had been sent by Ashcroft to the Prime Minister on January 19 of last

year, had first suggested an impending Notice of Dispute under the UK Bit Treaty. The most recent letter which notifies the GoB of the initiation of such arbitration proceedings was sent despite GoB's confirmation to Waterloo that the process of setting up a statutory appeals tribunal to review the denial of approval for the Waterloo project was ongoing.

In a letter responding to the Ashcroft correspondence, the PM remarked that the threat of arbitration at the time was "premature." The notice on April 3 states that this response has only "compounded and exacerbated the dispute." Since the requested "amicable settlement" was not reached, a team of UK lawyers have been retained by Ashcroft to argue his case against Belize in front of a three-person arbitration body in the Hague.

They claim that the approximately US\$300 million investment was actively encouraged, and that after the first rejection of Waterloo's proposal on December 15, 2021, representations were made to them by the Department of the Environment (DOE) that, "if a developer applied for environmental approval for a project by submitting an Environmental Impact Assessment (the "EIA") that met the applicable Terms of Reference, then the developer would be duly granted environmental clearance for the project."

This first appeal never took place. Representatives from Waterloo and the

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Veggie vendor killed in Gungulung

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023

In the late hours of Wednesday, April 12, a vegetable vendor from the Valley of Peace community, Cayo District, identified as Jose Antonio Lopez, 35, was fatally wounded on Barbara Harris Street in the Gungulung area of Belize City.

Initial police reports indicate that at around 11:00 p.m. that Wednesday, Lopez was socializing on the street when three unknown individuals approached him, and a struggle ensued between the men. During the altercation, one of the men fired gunshots and fatally injured Lopez.

The three men then fled down Barbara



Jose Antonio Lopez, deceased

Harris Street, after stealing Lopez's wallet which contained cash and his licensed firearm that he kept on his person. Lopez was transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at around 1:07 a.m.

Lopez sold vegetables in Belize City and Belmopan but resided in the Valley of Peace area.

According to the family of Lopez, he wasn't affiliated with any gangs, and worked hard to provide for his children. They also vowed to get justice for their loved one and are hoping the footage of the cameras in the area will lead to the identification of the men responsible for his death.

He leaves behind 4 children – the youngest a year old.

Two men and minors arraigned for burglary of home in Los Lagos



Kirk Dougal



Lyndon Chun

by Charles Gladden and Roy Davis (freelance reporter)

BELIZE CITY, Belize District. Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023

Four males, including two minors,

have been arraigned today, Thursday, April 13, for burglarizing the home of Corine Teichrob, 45, in the Los Lagos area during the Easter weekend and

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Two men charged for fatal home invasion out west

by *Kristen Ku*

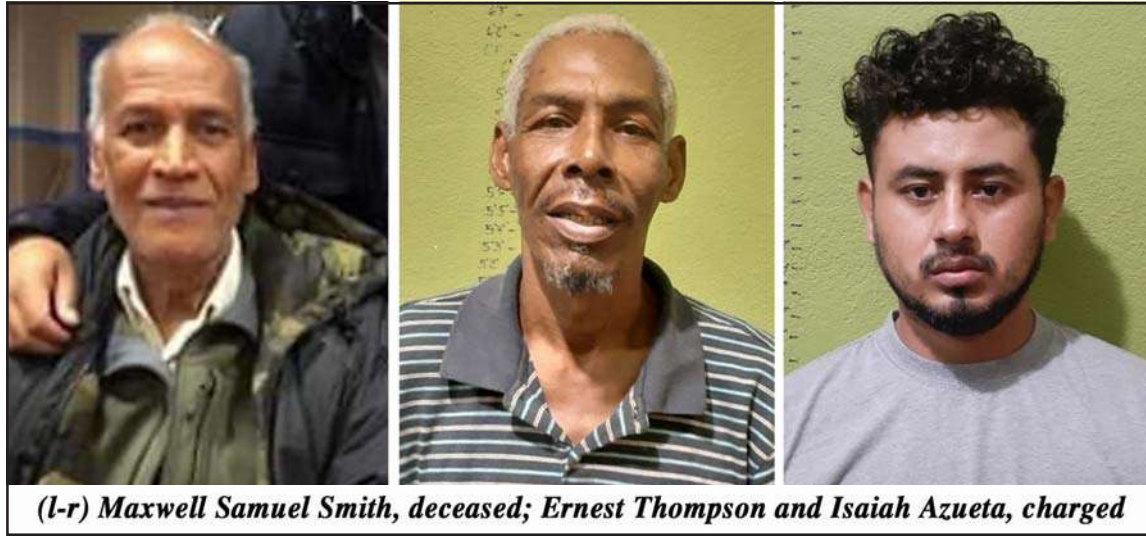
BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

Two men are facing an extensive list of charges this week after a fatal home invasion on Easter Sunday in Tres Puntas Area, San Ignacio.

Twenty-six-year old Isaiah Azueta of Kontiki Extension, San Ignacio; and fifty-nine-year old Ernest Thompson of Santa Cruz Area, Santa Elena; have been arrested by San Ignacio police after they invaded the home of Maxwell Samuel Smith, 72, in the Tres Puntas Area, and left him dead and two others injured.

According to reports, Smith, a retired Belizean-American, was at home on Sunday morning along with his sister, Dorothy Lois August, when two men broke into his home and held them at gunpoint. A neighbor and friend of Smith, who became aware of what was happening, called the police, who went to the area and immediately surrounded the two-story home, and called out the burglars who were inside.

Police would go on to hear two gunshots inside the home before Azueta stepped outside with his face covered with a T-shirt, and threw his weapon on the veranda before surrendering. He also indicated that he had been shot in the leg. While the police were distracted by Azueta his accomplice attempted to escape through the back door, and this led to a shootout between the thief and the police.



(l-r) Maxwell Samuel Smith, deceased; Ernest Thompson and Isaiah Azueta, charged

While some police officers held Azueta on the ground, others chased his accomplice, Thompson, who escaped the home fully armed.

In the shootout with the officers Thompson wounded P.C. Ronaldo Oh to his head, stomach, and left hand, before making his escape.

On entering the home police discovered the lifeless and bloody body of Smith, who was lying on his back with a gunshot wound in his armpit area. His sister, August, also suffered injuries in the hold up, one of them a facial wound around her right eye.

A manhunt for Thompson was immediately initiated by police, who have since detained him.

It is alleged that Azueta was shot by Smith, while Thompson was shot by police during the shootout.

Reports are that the thieves attempted to rob Smith of his two firearms. Police recovered both of Smith's weapons,

and they also recovered the weapon the two men used to carry out the crime. Police say the investigations are ongoing, and at this time the motive for the attack is still unclear.

Azueta was hospitalized under police supervision while receiving treatment, prior to him and his accomplice being arrested for their crimes.

Reports reveal that both burglars, Azueta from Kontiki Extension, San Ignacio, and Thompson from Santa Cruz Area, Santa Elena, are jointly arrested for one count of murder, one count of aggravated burglary, and one count of dangerous harm. They are each also facing one count of robbery, one count of kept firearm without a gun license, and one count of kept ammunition without a gun license.

Thompson was separately charged with one count of attempted murder and one count of handling stolen goods.

Police say they suspect that there was

a third person involved, a person who they believe is the mastermind of the home invasion, and they are carrying out an investigation with the aim of arresting that third individual.

Smith's oldest son, Elridge McDougal, said that he was alerted by neighbors about the shooting before visiting the police station, where he received the tragic news of his father's death.

"From talking to the police, it seems as if though there were some guys that went up there to orchestrate some kind of robbery, and that's the home invasion that we all heard of what had happened, you know. So, that's what the police told me, that two guys were in the house and they had held my dad and my aunt and other persons, they had held them hostage," said McDougal.

Smith lived in Belize for many years and was a well-known and respected "icon" of his community, according to McDougal.

"He held a high position at the United Nations, working for Belize for many years, and he is a retired person from the UN. He used to live in New York, you know, and now he decided that he wanted to come back to Belize to build a resort and, you know, to come and retire here in Belize," said McDougal.

Local authorities and friends of Smith have expressed shock on learning of his passing, and his family has been receiving many messages of condolence.

BCC hosts Holy Week Revival Concert featuring Sinach

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 6, 2023

New initiatives organized by Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council revitalized this year's Holy Week in Belize City. In addition to the first Hot Cross Bun Fest held in the Memorial Park on Palm Sunday, the council hosted a two-day Holy Week Revival Concert on April 4 and 5, 2023 which drew large crowds of Belize City residents and excursions coming from different parts of the country. Belize City welcomed excursions coming from Belmopan, San Ignacio, Punta Gorda and Dangriga, to name a few.

Hosted on stage by pastor and media personality Louis Wade, Jr., the two-day event featured a diverse and multi-lingual lineup of local and international gospel groups that filled this event with

the spirit. Local praise teams included King's Park Church of the Nazarene, Dunamis Ministries, Heavenly Orchestra, Centro Vision Misionero, Gospel Collective Band, Wabagari Dance Group, Reformation Team Belize and Mervin Budram Music and Ministry.

On the international front, the Belize City Council secured Sinach, a multi-award-winning international gospel vocalist, songwriter and senior worship minister, to headline the event with a live band. Sinach sang gospel hits such as "I Know Who I Am," "Way Maker," and "Great You Are Lord" during a performance lasting over an hour. With over 30 years of experience, it is no surprise that the two-day event ending with her ministry seemed to leave a



Mayor Bernard Wagner and Sinach



significant impact on those Belizeans who attended the event physically and virtually. Attendees took to social media to express gratitude for this first-time Holy Week Revival initiative and to describe the experience of praising the higher power while being surrounded by thousands of other Belizeans.

According to Mayor Bernard Wagner, he has had this initiative in mind for quite some time. After the devastation caused by Covid-19 and Hurricane Lisa, he was determined to give something back to Belize City, something that would inspire hope. In choosing Sinach, Mayor Wagner explained that he wanted to engage an artist and worship leader whom

Belizeans would connect with. "I honestly believe our Holy Week activities achieved its objectives of recognizing the importance of ensuring we play a role in changing societal behaviors. Our children and youths are yearning for activities that are wholesome and that promote families, community inclusiveness and togetherness. We were able to give back an Easter gift to all the residents of the country," said Mayor Wagner.

In respect to the cost of the two-day event, Mayor Bernard Wagner said, "The positive returns that the city and country on a whole have received

NATS Farmer of the Year winners 2023

by *Kristen Ku*

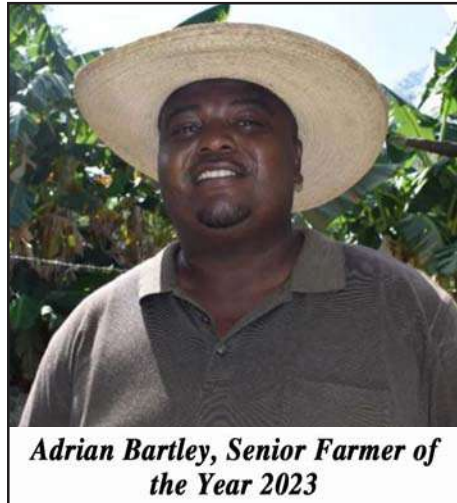
BELMOPAN, Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

The annual Belizean National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS) is back in full swing and quickly approaching, under the theme, “Innovations in Technology: Driving a Climate Resilient and Competitive Agriculture and Food Sector.”

As is done every year, top farmers countrywide are once again being recognized as part of the annual Farmer of the Year Competition, during which three judges visited the different farms throughout the country and decided on the top three winners.

And on Tuesday of this week, the NATS committee, along with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise, announced via a press release the winners for the Farmer of the Year 2023.

The winner of the Senior Farmer of the Year award was Adrian Bartley, 38, of the Belize District. Bartley’s farm, known as “Kingdom Orchard” and located in Rockstone Pond, was established during the pandemic when he was encouraged to plant to be able to provide for a feeding program in Belize City. His 14 acres are covered with land bear cabbages, sweet peppers, tomatoes, habaneros, and a ton of chickens. Bartley has faced



Adrian Bartley, Senior Farmer of the Year 2023

numerous challenges in the cultivation of his farm, including constructing a well after a long drought; nevertheless, he said that he has been able to overcome each through prayer and dedication.

The Female Farmer of the Year award was given to Esmeralda Stanley, 48, of the Toledo District. Stanley’s farm, located in Trio Village and bearing the name “Emmanuel Farm”, was started from scratch by her and her two daughters on land that was initially a savannah. Her goal was originally to grow and sell soursop at a lower price than was on the market, but she fell in love with agriculture as a whole, which led her to plant plantain, tomatoes, habanero, cilantro, pakchoi,



Esmeralda Stanley, Female Farmer of the Year 2023

okras, bananas, and coconuts to sell. Stanley’s creativity in formulating her own organic pesticide demonstrates how dedicated she is to optimizing conditions on her 6-acre farm.

With a farm located in Cristo Rey village, Corozal District, this year’s Junior Farmer of the Year winner, Axel Perez, has worked tirelessly with a dream to complete his education. His farm has been a tool to not only support himself, but a way to learn to manage a business. On his 12 acres, he has planted carrots, cabbages, sweet peppers, tomatoes, and onions, sold to customers from the comfort of his home. He has even innovatively built a drip irrigation system powered by butane gas to sustain his produce.



Axel Perez, Junior Farmer of the Year 2023

Perez hopes through his efforts, to one day major in agronomy or in business management.

The press release closed by stating the committee’s recognition of each farmer for their contribution to Belize’s economy.

“The committee congratulates all winners for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the sector remains vibrant and valuable to Belize’s resilience to climate change and economic shocks,” said the release.

The National Agriculture and Trade Show is scheduled to take place from April 28th to April 30th, 2023, in Belmopan, at the National Agriculture and Trade Show Grounds.

ADO and FDN back in Belize

by *Kristen Ku*

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Apr. 11, 2023

On Thursday of last week, the Minister of Transport, Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, announced that two Central American bus lines — Fuente del Norte (FDN) from Guatemala, and Autobuses de Oriente (ADO) from Mexico — will be allowed to enter Belize to transport tourists both into the country and across the border.

Ferguson told reporters that discussions with these bus lines have been taking place since last August when they approached Ferguson with the request to resume their runs within our borders; however, Minister Ferguson said that his requirement has



Fuente del Norte (FDN) and Autobuses de Oriente (ADO)

always been that Belize operators have similar access to runs within the borders of the countries in which those bus lines are based: Mexico and Guatemala.

Ferguson reportedly made numerous trips to Guatemala and Mexico to attend meetings and engage in discussions about how this agreement could work amongst the three parties.

And finally, 8 months later, and with the approval of the Cabinet, FDN and ADO are set to once again carry out certain runs within the country and to transport tourists from within Belize — with Fuente del Norte carrying out one run per day, while ADO’s schedule in Belize, according to Ferguson, “eventually will be three runs per day from Mexico side.”

Ferguson told local reporters that in no way are these new runs a threat to our local bus operators, as those buses will cater specifically to those who want to travel out of the country.

“They will stop at specific locations but not to pick up any Belizeans; unless you are a Belizean and you want to go to Merida, you can catch a bus from a particular location to go across Corozal, not to stop in Corozal, so it will not affect our local operators,” he said.

Belizean operators will also be allowed to transport passengers into Guatemala and Mexico. However,



Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Transport

when they enter Guatemala they can only travel up to Flores, Peten; while in Mexico, they can only travel a maximum distance of 20 kilometers into the country.

“That’s what the Mexican government said. We can’t go beyond 20 kilometers. They have a big economy; we are a very small economy. They dictate the pace; they’re a very big economy; we are trying to figure out how we can increase our tourism numbers in this country,” explained Ferguson.

The official announcement was made on Wednesday, April 12, via a press

release from the Department of Transport which informed the public that, “ADO will be providing services from Belize City to Merida and Cancun starting on the proposed date of May 1st, 2023. Fuente Del Norte will be providing services from Belize City to Flores and Guatemala City starting on the proposed date of April 21st, 2023.”

And, as part of the effort to fulfill the government’s promise to safeguard the business of local operators, Minister Ferguson has put in place strict regulations for both foreign companies.

Firstly, they must obtain a road service permit which will be issued for every run per day. The fee for these permits must be paid in full before operations begin; failure to do so would result in immediate cancellation of the permit, or failure to present the permit at a checkpoint would result in operators being fined \$500.

Secondly, these bus lines must have a manifest of only ticketed passengers before crossing the border; no pickups of local commuters are allowed.

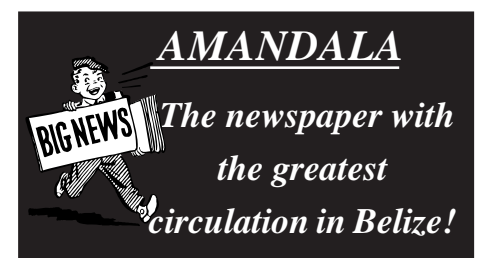
Both lines will commence their journey from the Belize City terminal; however, FDN will be granted additional designated stops in Belize City, as well as in San Ignacio, apart from the terminal spaces.

BCC Hosts Holy Week Revival Concert ...

Continued from **Page 3**

following the revival concert far outweighs the cost of the concert. The returns are priceless in my view. As I said prior to the revival, we can never put a price tag on giving back to God. He paid the ultimate price on the cross for all of us over 2000 years ago. We can never repay Him.”

And while some residents are still reminiscing about the first two-day Holy Week Revival Concert, others are discussing which gospel groups and artists should participate in Belize City’s second annual revival concert in 2024.





DPM Hyde: Every child should play sports

Belize is thrilled about the performances of our athletes over the Easter weekend, particularly cyclist Oscar Quiroz, who won the Holy Saturday Cross Country Race, and 14-year-old Demetrie Meyers, who won two gold medals at the 50th CARIFTA games in the under-17 category. The week before was pretty bad, our national football team losing twice during the period, but it is a young team we put out there to defend our honor, and the fact is that it has been some time since our footballers have had success regionally.

The Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), Hon. Cordel Hyde, wasn't looking at performance excellence during the recent debate on the budget; he was thinking about the fabric of our nation when he noted that the 2023/24 budget for sports is \$2 million more than what the last UDP government budgeted, but said that is not nearly enough for youth and sports. The DPM said every child should play sports—whether they are good at it or not. He said the benefits from playing sports are incalculable, that sports teach discipline, build character, teach our children how to resolve conflicts and to be magnanimous in victory and humble in defeat, teach our children and youth teamwork and to work really hard to achieve success. He said the benefits from playing sports cannot be duplicated.

No country can afford to squander the opportunity to train its children and youth during their school years. We need to become a lot more serious about sports. All our children and youth must participate in athletic activities. At the child/youth-level athletics—football, softball, basketball, cricket, and volleyball programs—aren't costly to run. For some sports only a ball is needed, and a goal/basket/net.

The right supervision is critical. A ready resource for the country is the ranks of public officers, and retirees. Public officers who display the right character should be given time off, to train, and then they should be assigned to work with the children and youth.

With proper organization, and with a little investment in facilities, funds can be generated to cover the cost of advanced programs. Venues would have to be improved, with fences, bleachers, and bathroom facilities. Transportation issues can be easily addressed. Old buses can be refurbished, "governored" to not exceed 45 mph, and they can be used to transport students and teachers/coaches to the various tournaments.

We want our children and youth to win all the games and races when we lock horns with our neighbors, but far more important for our children and youth is the development of their character. As the DPM said, every child should play, even if they aren't good at it. The lessons they learn, and the health benefits too, will serve them well throughout their lifetimes. And the ultimate glory will be for Belize.

US "anti-communist hysteria" destroyed modern Haiti

Our Foreign Minister, Hon. Eamon Courtenay, says the Immigration Department suspects that many Haitian citizens are using Belize to get into the USA, hence the recent decision that Haitians will have to get a visitors' visa to enter our country. Our island neighbor, Haiti, has been the poorest country in our region for decades, and presently it is in turmoil. Belizeans who questioned the veracity of reports that chunks of the country had fallen under the control of gangs got a front-row lesson when our national football team, in Haiti for a World Cup qualifier in March 2021, was held up by an armed gang.

Haiti's story is similar to many in our region that have tried to follow a true nationalist path. The US shockingly and sadly saw "communists" during the first Jean-Bertrand Aristide government in Haiti (1991), and "allowed" the power-crazed elite from the Duvalier days to oust him. Francois Duvalier, aka Papa Doc, seized power in Haiti in 1957, and his regime served the rabid anti-communists in our region well. When he died, in 1971, his son, Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, took over

the reins of Haiti and remained in power until 1986, when he was forced into exile. During the Duvalier regimes the Haitian elite participated in the plunder of the island, while the masses suffered.

In the article "Criticism of Aristide is Misplaced", SocialistWorker.org says Aristide (who was president of Haiti in 1991, 1994 to 1996, and 2001 to 2004) built more schools than all other governments combined, created Haiti's first ministry of women's affairs, doubled the minimum wage, reformed agriculture, resisted pressure "to privatize the state telephone, electricity companies and the Port-au-Prince docks", and went to the World Court "in 2003 to recover the \$21 billion (current dollars) in funds that were extorted from Haiti by France from 1825 to 1947."

The Irish Times said that during the 1991 Aristide government, the president met with the Fidel Castro government and discussed "the feasibility of adopting Cuba's successful literacy campaign", and that during that period hope was so high in the country that "the exodus of Haitian boat people to Miami, Florida, dropped to zero..."

But the first Aristide government (1991) was too "friendly" with Cuba, and forces outside of Haiti helped take his government down. Aristide fled to Venezuela, and then went into exile in the US, and while there he was made to "get the sense." *The Irish Times* said he was ushered back into power in 1994 by 20,000 US marines. The *Times* said "the reformed statesman agreed to implement IMF-inspired economic reforms, including a privatization package and cutbacks in social spending."

Haiti would return to a full free-enterprise path thereafter. Unequal wealth distribution, the horrific drugs trade, and a series of natural disasters have kept the country unstable and deprived. The assassination of Haitian president, *Jovenel Moïse*, in 2021, exacerbated a very bad situation.

Foreigners have contributed massively to the deprivation and instability in Haiti, and some nationalists are calling for them to stay out, to leave the country to resolve its issues without their "help." Unfortunately, civil wars in countries like ours seldom deliver the cures the masses need. The fact is that the greedy class will get foreign support, and foreign powers are just too powerful, as Aristide found out, so maybe the best that can be hoped for is peace coupled with the resolve for justice. The present problem in Haiti has implications for the region. Foreign powers have their agenda. Belize and the rest of the Caribbean must insist on having a say in any foreign peace force.

Our region needs the US to accept some responsibility for the chaos in Haiti. The US has its interests, and it does keep things relatively stable in our part of the world. The masses in countries south of the Rio Grande are starving to death, but a form of democracy reigns in most of our countries, and in that there is hope that things could become better.

Our region needs the US to ease up on its disastrous "anti-communist" hysteria. Embracing Cuban literacy programs, maintaining control of key public assets, and making hospital care affordable for all, don't make anyone in our region Russian or Chinese satellites.



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Letters to the editor

Retired public officers say: Dissolve the Trust and give us our money!!

The Association of Beneficiaries
Of Retired Public Officers
The (ABRPO)

vs.

The Public Service Workers Trust
The (PSWT)

In 1995 the economy of the country was not doing well. The then government took a decision to freeze the increments of civil servants for 2 years. Ironically, whenever the country is in trouble economically, the burden of the problem is placed on the shoulders of the Public Service. There is not an extra 3% tax on the business or private community to share the burden; it is always the civil servants, i.e. government office workers, teachers, nurses, doctors, police, BDF, Coast Guard, etc., all the people who run the country, who bear the burden of the entire state. Thus the increment freeze in 1995 to 1997. However, the government had provided shares in the profitable BTL company to compensate them; and, after some 28 years, the shares have yielded some 9 million dollars. But this was placed in a trust for them to manage the funds for the benefit of the workers affected. This trust has been spending the monies on their idea of projects, and the real beneficiaries have not received anything for 27 years. Hence, they formed the ABRPO, which is now advocating for the trust to be disbanded and for the beneficiaries to receive what is rightfully theirs.

The ABPRO is adamant in its drive to have the PSWT dissolved, and rightly so, because the money gained from the shares belongs to those who had been forced to make the sacrifice of having their increments frozen for the 2 years between 1995 and 1997. The PSWT was supposed to have been managing the money for the benefit of the beneficiaries who after 27 years have received nothing. Instead, and in the meanwhile, the PSWT has been spending the money the way they please, touting that the money is solely for projects to benefit the beneficiaries. These projects are solely

THEIR idea, without consulting anyone, and solely THEIR decision. They have even expressed that when a beneficiary passes on, that individual's share is dead along with him/her. Completely ludicrous! For example, some nine teachers from the former Belize Technical College have passed, and "nada" for their next of kin. Of late, they offered to give \$150.00 to beneficiaries for groceries to be purchased at Publics Supermarket and \$200.00 for medical expenses.

The thing is, many of the authentic beneficiaries are not even on the list to even get those little benefits. Their solution is that such people should seek to get their name on the list. What ridiculously gross inefficiency. BEFORE any such handout, the PSWT, who has been paying themselves, should first have the list of everyone. So, what is it they have been doing over the years, when all they had to do was obtain the government staff list from the Establishment Department through the Public Service Commission, who employ public officers; and if anyone is still missing, then since government is divided into ministries, check with the appropriate ministry to get the names? How can retired individuals be getting their pension and Social Security pension and not be on the list? Instead, the PSWT has been paying themselves some \$240,000.00 annually in salaries etc. to manage the monies they have been borrowing, and lending out hundreds of thousands of dollars as they see fit. When a court case is brought against them, they pay their attorney from the funds, pay themselves to travel around, and pay themselves stipends, even though they are employed elsewhere.

Take the situation of teachers from the past Belize Technical College (BTC); they along with other departments such as the Fisheries Department are not on the list. Over the life of BTC, being the first and only science and engineering institution when they started in 1952, the British principal instituted the first night-class programme to accommodate other high schools and the public that wanted a science training background to pursue careers in medicine, agriculture,

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY

VACANCY: Employment opportunity within the agricultural sector - General Farm Employee. Interested candidates must possess a current Police Record and be Social Security registered. Email horselife.belize@gmail.com.

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NOTICE

NOTICE: Name of Vessel: Top Banana. Owner: William J. Poston. Description: 38' Fiberglass. Skiff Color: Yellow and White. Hull Registration No.: SC-0230. Sea-Worthiness NO.: BPA-B02310

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Edvin Ines Cristales** is applying for a Shop Liquor License to be operated at P&C Grocery Shop, 767 Harmonyville, Mile 40 George Price Highway, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

engineering etc. So, from that time the teachers were the same ones who, after teaching in the day 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., went on to teach 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Therefore, these teachers have been working from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. or 12 hours a day throughout their careers. This is in addition to marking scripts and preparing lessons and labs at night. And now, these hardworking teachers, THEY are not on the list of beneficiaries. Absolutely preposterous!!!

It is heartwarming to know that the Prime Minister himself has publicly



Mrs. Andrea Corsine Gabriel nee Zuniga, J.P. former Deputy Mayor, Punta Gorda, who departed this life

Eleven (11) sad years ago.

Sunrise: 4th February, 1928

Sunset: 6th April, 2012



If heaven had a window and God granted us a view, of all the beauty it beholds, we'd only look for you.

We love you and we miss you more than words can say, and what we wouldn't give just to talk to you today.

We hope that you can hear us and listen to our thoughts, and wherever this life takes us you will always be a part.

That once upon a time we were blessed and loved, it's true, and if heaven had a window we'd only look for you.

Sadly missed by; Sons: Greg, Adam, Philip, James Jr., Johnny, and Anthony (Hama) Gabriel. Daughters: Matilda Butler, Jean Castillo, Lysbia Phillips, and Elena Gabriel. Grand Children, Nephews, Nieces, Relatives, Friends, and the community of Peini PG.

declared that he is in agreement with the ABPRO and supports them. The odd thing is that despite all this, the PSWT is fighting "tooth and nail" to hold on to (one must guess) their "cash cow". They are the ones who have been and are benefiting from the funds and refuse to let go. What is so essential and so vital in this issue that they are holding on to so tightly "for dear life," refusing to accept reality?

Now, the new proposed project by the

Please turn to **Page 23**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Embassy Belmopan is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the following position:

Position Name: Criminal Fraud Investigator
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2023-07-R
Extended closing date: April 23, 2023

Interested applicants must submit their application via the Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) system, a web-based system. To view and apply for this vacancy, visit the ERA site at: <https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/blz/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.hms>

Please visit the Embassy's website for instructions on how to apply via the ERA system: <https://bz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

Note 1: This position is being re-advertised with a new closing date.

Note 2: Resumes **will not** be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

Note 3: Candidates **must** submit applicable required documentation by the closing date of this announcement. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in an ineligible application.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Embassy Belmopan is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the following position:

Position Name: Electro-Mechanical Technician
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-06-R
Extended closing date: April 23, 2023

Interested applicants must submit their application via the Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) system, a web-based system. To view and apply for this vacancy, visit the ERA site at: <https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/blz/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.hms>

Please visit the Embassy's website for instructions on how to apply via the ERA system: <https://bz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

Note 1: This position is being re-advertised with a new closing date.

Note 2: Resumes **will not** be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

Note 3: Candidates **must** submit applicable required documentation by the closing date of this announcement. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in an ineligible application.

Sanctuary Bay point man charged with embezzlement

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

Exactly one week ago, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) charged Andris Pukke with wire fraud and embezzlement in connection with what has been dubbed the largest land scam uncovered by the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to date. The Sanctuary Bay scheme is said to have banked US\$124 million through its marketing of housing in a luxury retirement community on a 14,000-acre tract of land in southern Belize. The package being marketed to retirees overseas turned out to be a phantasm, created by Pukke and his colleagues, including an offshore bank in Belize, and a local businessman who engaged in aggressive marketing tactics to fill the scammers' coffers.

Pukke was booked last week for wire fraud and unlawful monetary transactions for the embezzlement of US\$13 million through the Sanctuary Bay development scam. The charges brought against Pukke after the unsealing of the indictment in Manhattan Federal Court could result in a total prison sentence of up to 30 years for Pukke if he is convicted.

According to the US Department of Justice, "Pukke used the embezzled funds for his personal benefit, including the renovation of his home in Newport Beach, California; investments in various entities unrelated to Sanctuary

Belize; investments in unrelated real estate developments; repayment of personal debt; and payments to PUKKE's family members."

Meanwhile, the road, utilities, deep water marina, canals, hospital with American staff, golf course, and local airport that were touted as some of the amenities in Sanctuary Bay were never constructed. Over 1,000 persons who bought properties from the scammers reportedly lost sizable amounts of money. By 2018 the FTC obtained a Federal Court Order to halt the real estate scam after more than US\$100 million was already siphoned, mostly from American buyers. Atlantic International Bank Limited was accused of illegally assisting and facilitating the Sanctuary Bay Belize scam.

According to FTC documents, "AIBL representatives visited SBE's California offices and coached SBE's telemarketers about the services the bank could provide U.S. consumers interested in Sanctuary Belize lots, including lower interest rates and relaxed underwriting for buyers wishing to finance Sanctuary Belize home construction. AIBL urged the telemarketers to sell its banking services to American consumers as part of the



Andris Pukke, Sanctuary Bay mastermind

Sanctuary Belize sales pitch."

AIBL in September 2019 settled with the FTC for US\$23 million dollars under a consent order in connection with charges that it assisted the Sanctuary Bay promoters and various related entities in deceiving US consumers as a part of the real estate scheme.

FTC noted in their release, "Notably, AIBL filed multiple unsuccessful motions to dismiss the FTC's case based on alleged lack of personal jurisdiction because, like many offshore

Andris Pukke was arrested by the FBI last Wednesday morning in Los Angeles and charged with wire fraud and unlawful monetary transfer of US\$13 million from the bogus Sanctuary Belize development.

banks that assist and facilitate domestic deceptive practices, AIBL had no offices, employees, or operations within the United States."

One Belizean businessman, John Usher, who was the principal of the Sanctuary Bay development locally, was found liable by the US Courts for his involvement in the scam and was ordered to pay US\$120,200,000 – representing the amount of money lost through the Sanctuary Belize real estate development scheme. This is according to most recent court records signed in 2021, since previous court documents state that he was ordered to pay US\$138,700,000. Usher's assets and bank accounts were frozen shortly after.

In these filings, Andris Pukke; his partner, Peter Baker; and Luke Chadwick were similarly ordered to pay US\$120.2 million to the FTC. The court's final order against the men,

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"Tour-isms"

Stay Calm & Adventure On

Belize's tourism product is an adventure's paradise. We are a low-impact, high-quality destination with notable eco-friendly and sustainable development ethos. But what does that mean? Where are the adventures and what are the adventures? The adventures are everywhere, and they are for everyone. There are adventures on land and sea, reef and rainforest, lagoons and rivers, beaches and bays, above the forest canopy or below in a cave, on a narrow sidewalk or on a thin nature trail, in villages and in towns, coffee shops or cacao farms, at a rustic or luxury resort, at an archeological site or just a sight to be seen- the list can go on. Additionally, kids, pre-teens, young adults, retirees, singles or couples, honeymooners, families, wellness travellers, celebrities, backpackers, and high-level adventure seekers can all find adventure here. Importantly, Belizeans can also explore Belize and they have been. The *Belizean Traveller Campaign*, initiated by the Belize Tourism Board (BTB), encourages travel at home and the opportunity for Belizeans to tap into their adventurous side. Many Belizeans, like so many of the foreigners who come here, are diving, snorkeling, swimming, paddling, sailing, cruising, zip-lining, hiking, climbing, driving, walking, sitting, kayaking, and even, rappelling into new exploits. In Belize, the only thing an adventure really requires is movement. There is something to explore no matter where you are in the country. Adventurers always keep it moving and so must adventure promoters. Belize is an adventurer's paradise and the BTB's B.O.O.M. Forum is where industry stakeholders from across the country will congregate to discuss the plans moving forward.



Adventure tours and packages in Belize are as varied as our landscape. There are tours and expeditions from top to bottom and side to side- from where the mountains meet the forest, the forest joins the savannah, the savannah connects to a beach, from where that beach leads to the sea, the sea stretches to coral cays, and from the coral cays that drift into the barrier reef. Hoteliers and tour operators come from different vantage points in the country, but they are all selling the same product. The Belize tourism product affords business owners and investors an abundance of possibilities to create new adventure offerings. The question is how do we continue to draw appeal to the entire country and "out adventure" our competitors? The BTB has invited industry stakeholders to its **Building on our Momentum (B.O.O.M.) Forum** being held on the 21st of April at the Best Western Plus Belize Biltmore Plaza. At this year's Forum, there will be presentations on topics such as sustainability, ecotourism, and marketing strategies. Representatives from BTB's partner agencies, The Zimmerman Agency, Development Counselors International, and Finn Partners, will explore these areas with participants under the theme, "A Dip into the Future". Tour businesses, hotels, resorts, restaurants, bars, spas, giftshops etc. combine to offer visitors adventures in paradise.

As Paulo Coelho once put it "if you think adventure is dangerous, try routine. It is lethal." That is unless the routine is about discussing adventure. BTB's B.O.O.M. Forum will focus on how we continue to promote Belize strategically, sustainably, and creatively. The "-ism" this week is **eco-activism** because having an outdoor adventure can be one way to aid the environment. Outdoor activities build awareness and appreciation for nature. Belize is an adventure's paradise because we promote "adventuring" responsibly and sustainably.

See you next week.

The Belize Tourism Board



VPM Hyde: Todos los niños deberían practicar deportes

Belize está emocionado por las actuaciones de nuestros atletas durante el fin de semana de Pascua, en particular el ciclista Oscar Quiroz, quien ganó la carrera a campo traviesa del Sábado Santo, y Demetrie Meyers, de 14 años, quien ganó dos medallas de oro en los 50 juegos de CARIFTA en la categoría sub-17. La semana anterior fue bastante mala, nuestra selección de fútbol perdió dos veces en el período, pero es un equipo joven que sacamos para defender nuestro honor, y el hecho es que hace tiempo que nuestros futbolistas no tienen éxito a nivel regional.

El Viceprimer Ministro (VPM), Honorable Cordel Hyde, no buscaba la excelencia en el desempeño durante el reciente debate sobre el presupuesto; estaba pensando en el tejido de nuestra nación cuando señaló que el presupuesto para deportes 2023/24 es \$2 millones más de lo que presupuestó el último gobierno UDP, pero dijo que eso no es suficiente para la juventud y los deportes. El VPM dijo que todos los niños deberían practicar deportes, ya sea que sean buenos en ello o no. Dijo que los beneficios de practicar deportes son incalculables, que los deportes enseñan disciplina, construyen el carácter, enseñan a nuestros hijos a resolver conflictos y a ser magnánimos en la victoria y humildes en la derrota, enseñan a nuestros niños y jóvenes a trabajar en equipo y a trabajar muy duro para lograr el éxito. Dijo que los beneficios de practicar deportes no se pueden duplicar.

Ningún país puede darse el lujo de desperdiciar la oportunidad de capacitar a sus niños y jóvenes durante sus años escolares. Tenemos que volvernos mucho más serios acerca de los deportes. Todos nuestros niños y jóvenes deben participar en actividades deportivas. A nivel de niños/jóvenes, los programas de atletismo (fútbol americano, sóftbol, baloncesto, cricket y voleibol) no son costosos de practicar. Para algunos deportes, solo se necesita una pelota y una portería/canasta/red.

La supervisión adecuada es fundamental. Un recurso disponible para el país son las filas de funcionarios públicos y jubilados. A los funcionarios públicos que muestren el carácter correcto se les debe dar tiempo libre para capacitarse y luego se les debe asignar a trabajar con los niños y jóvenes.

Con organización adecuada y con una pequeña inversión en instalaciones, se pueden generar fondos para cubrir el costo de los programas avanzados. Habría que mejorar las sedes, con vallas, gradas y baños. Los problemas de transporte se pueden abordar fácilmente. Los autobuses viejos se pueden restaurar, regular para que no excedan las 45 mph, y se pueden usar para transportar estudiantes y maestros/entrenadores a los diversos torneos.

Queremos que nuestros niños y jóvenes ganen todos los juegos y carreras cuando enfrentamos a nuestros vecinos, pero mucho más importante para nuestros niños y jóvenes es el desarrollo de su carácter. Como dijo el VPM, todos los niños deberían jugar, incluso si no son buenos en eso. Las lecciones que aprendan, y también los beneficios para la salud, les servirán durante toda su vida. Y la gloria final será para Belize.

La "histeria anticomunista" de Estados Unidos destruyó el Haití moderno

Nuestro Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, el Honorable Eamon Courtenay, dice que el Departamento de Inmigración sospecha que muchos ciudadanos haitianos están usando a Belize para ingresar a los EE. UU., de ahí la reciente decisión de que los haitianos deberán obtener una visa de visitante para ingresar a nuestro país. Nuestro vecino insular, Haití, ha sido el país más pobre de nuestra región durante décadas y actualmente está en crisis. Los beliceños que cuestionaron la veracidad de los informes de que partes del país habían caído bajo el control de pandillas recibieron una lección de primera fila cuando nuestro equipo nacional de fútbol, en Haití para un partido de clasificación para la Copa Mundial en marzo de 2021, fue asaltado por una pandilla armada.

La historia de Haití es similar a muchas en nuestra región que han tratado de seguir un verdadero camino nacionalista. Impactante y tristemente, EE. UU. vio a los "comunistas" durante el primer gobierno de Jean-Bertrand Aristide en Haití (1991), y "permitió" que la élite enloquecida por el poder de los días de Duvalier lo derrocará. Francois Duvalier, también conocido como Papa Doc, tomó el poder en Haití en 1957, y su régimen sirvió bien a los rabiosos anticomunistas de nuestra región. Cuando murió, en 1971, su hijo, Jean Claude

"Baby Doc" Duvalier, tomó las riendas de Haití y permaneció en el poder hasta 1986, cuando se vio obligado a exiliarse. Durante los regímenes de Duvalier, la élite haitiana participó en el saqueo de la isla, mientras las masas sufrían.

En el artículo "Criticism of Aristide is Misplaced" ["La crítica a Aristide está fuera de lugar"], SocialistWorker.org dice que Aristide (quien fue presidente de Haití en 1991, 1994 a 1996 y 2001 a 2004) construyó más escuelas que todos los demás gobiernos combinados, creó el primer ministerio de asuntos de la mujer de Haití, duplicó el salario mínimo, reformó la agricultura, resistió la presión "para privatizar las empresas estatales de telefonía, electricidad y los muelles de Port-au-Prince", y acudió a la Corte Mundial "en 2003 para recuperar los \$21 mil millones (dólares corrientes) en fondos que fueron extorsionados de Haití por Francia desde 1825 hasta 1947".

The Irish Times dijo que durante el gobierno de Aristide de 1991, el presidente se reunió con el gobierno de Fidel Castro y discutieron "la factibilidad de adoptar la exitosa campaña de alfabetización de Cuba", y que durante ese período había tanta esperanza en el país que "el éxodo de personas haitianas en barcos a Miami, Florida, se redujo a cero..."

Pero el primer gobierno de Aristide (1991) fue demasiado "amigable" con Cuba, y fuerzas fuera de Haití ayudaron a derribar su gobierno. Aristide huyó a Venezuela, y luego se exilió en los EE. UU., y mientras estuvo allí se le hizo "entrar en razón". El Irish Times dijo que fue devuelto al poder en 1994 por 20.000 infantes de marina estadounidenses. El Times dijo que "el estadista reformado acordó implementar reformas económicas inspiradas en el FMI, incluido un paquete de privatización y recortes en el gasto social".

Haití volvería a un camino de libre empresa total a partir de entonces. La distribución desigual de la riqueza, el horrendo tráfico de drogas y una serie de desastres naturales han mantenido al país inestable y privado. El asesinato del presidente haitiano, Jovenel Moïse, en 2021, exacerbó una situación muy mala.

Los extranjeros han contribuido enormemente a las privaciones y la inestabilidad en Haití, y algunos nacionalistas les piden que se mantengan al margen, que dejen que el país resuelva sus problemas sin su "ayuda". Desafortunadamente, las guerras civiles en países como el nuestro rara vez brindan las curas que necesitan las masas. El hecho es que la clase codiciosa obtendrá apoyo extranjero, y las potencias extranjeras son demasiado poderosas, como descubrió Aristide, por lo que tal vez lo mejor que se puede esperar es la paz junto con la determinación de conseguir justicia. El problema actual en Haití tiene implicaciones para la región. Las potencias extranjeras tienen su agenda. Belize y el resto del Caribe deben insistir en tener voz en cualquier fuerza de paz extranjera.

Nuestra región necesita que EE.UU. acepte alguna responsabilidad por el caos en Haití. Estados Unidos tiene sus intereses y mantiene las cosas relativamente estables en nuestra parte del mundo. Las masas en los países al sur del Río Bravo se están muriendo de hambre, pero en la mayoría de nuestros países reina una forma de democracia, y en eso hay esperanza de que las cosas puedan mejorar.

Nuestra región necesita que EE.UU. le baje a su desastrosa histeria "anticomunista". Adoptar programas cubanos de alfabetización, mantener el control de los activos públicos clave y hacer que la atención hospitalaria sea asequible para todos, no convierte a nadie en nuestra región en satélites rusos o chinos.

13th edition

Sunday Review News Review Talk Show

On Krem TV & Krem Radio

Live-streaming on Krem Television Face Book Page

Host: YaYa Marin Coleman

Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023

Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon

Guest: Fisher Dale Fairweather and Belize Federation of Fishers Director: Nigel Martinez



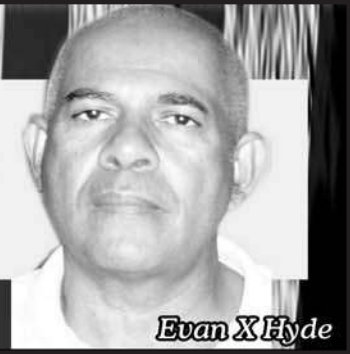
Dale Fairweather



Nigel Martinez

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 16, 2023

From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

I think the photograph you see inside this column is one of the greatest photographs ever taken by a Belizean. It was published in 1975 on page 57 of FEELINGS, which was my last serious attempt at creative writing.

The photo was taken by the one Philip Lewis, who used to work at the Lands and Surveys Department and was a member of my uncle's cycling team in the middle/late 1960s. Philip may have finished as high as fourth in a Cross Country.

Sometime in the 1970s Philip organized and led a serious, quality creative group known as SOUL TO ART. Philip also wrote an outstanding poem, which I believe was entitled: "I see a new Belize." But, I would say his greatest talent lay in photography. By the way, we used cameras in those days, not telephones.

There were several Philip Lewis photos which were included in FEELINGS. I feel ashamed to say that I can't find where he was named



The photo by Philip Lewis which appears on page 57 of FEELINGS, published in 1975.

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Creo que la fotografía que ven dentro de esta columna es una de las mejores fotografías jamás tomadas por un beliceño. Fue publicada en 1975 en la página 57 de FEELINGS [SENTIMIENTOS], que fue mi último intento serio de escritura creativa.

La foto fue tomada por Philip Lewis, quien solía trabajar en el Departamento de Tierras y Agrimensura y era miembro del equipo de ciclismo de mi tío a mediados o fines de la década de 1960. Philip pudo haber terminado hasta el cuarto lugar en una carrera de campo a través.

En algún momento de la década de 1970, Philip organizó y dirigió un serio grupo creativo y de calidad conocido como SOUL TO ART. Philip también escribió un poema sobresaliente, que creo que se tituló: "Veo un nuevo Belize". Pero diría que su mayor talento estaba en la fotografía. Por cierto, en esos días usábamos cámaras, no teléfonos.

Hubo varias fotos de Philip Lewis que se incluyeron en FEELINGS. Me avergüenza decir que no puedo encontrar dónde lo nombraron fotógrafo y le dieron el crédito adecuado. Por cierto, en el momento en que se publicó el folleto, Sandra Coye y yo estábamos en buenos términos, y ella escribió el prefacio de FEELINGS. Respeto.

La foto es de un anciano, de unos setenta, tal vez incluso ochenta, y está en la popa de su bote, con la cabeza hacia abajo, cavando profundamente en el río con su remo y obviamente concentrado en llevar la carga del bote a su destino. En la parte delantera del bote hay un niño que presumiría que es el nieto del anciano, cuyo parecido con mi difunto y amado primo hermano, Mark Hyde, siempre me pareció asombroso, y el niño tiene su

remo levantado en acción, pero está claro que está totalmente distraído por algo: un pájaro, un pez, un mono, ¿quizás incluso un caimán? La foto, sin palabras, cuenta la historia de diferentes generaciones, en el mismo barco.

En ese momento, esta foto me inspiró a escribir un poema para acompañarla, pero no estoy seguro de que el poema esté en la categoría de calidad de la foto, así que no lo reproduciré aquí.

He perdido el contacto con Philip durante décadas. Lo último que supe fue que estaba en Ginebra, Suiza, y es posible que nos hayamos enviado un par de correos electrónicos, pero no estoy seguro. Sé que él no ha respondido a los mensajes enviados a esa dirección de correo durante muchos años, y todo lo que sé es que alguien dijo que podría estar en Trinidad.

Cuando pienso en la partida/exilio de Philip de Belize, pienso en la lamentable partida/exilio de Belize del finado y gran Bob Reneau, quien todavía estaba en su mejor momento creativo cuando voló a Chicago y nunca regresó a casa. Respeto a su hijo, Norman, quien se mantuvo firme con UBAD a principios de la década de 1970 antes de irse a la Ciudad de los Ángeles.

La foto de Philip Lewis tocó una fibra sensible en mí, porque mi abuelo materno, Wilfred "Papa Bill" Belisle, y yo habíamos estado muy unidos hasta que mis padres se mudaron de la Calle Church a la Calle West Canal en 1954. Cuando yo era niño mi abuelo me llevó en al menos tres viajes de pesca, solo él y yo, tal como este viejo y el niño de la foto, y recuerdo lo especial que me hacía

as the photographer and given his proper credit. Incidentally, at the time the booklet was published, Sandra Coye and I were on good terms, and she wrote the Preface to FEELINGS. Respect.

The photo is of an old man, in his seventies, maybe even his eighties, and he is in the stern of his dory, head down, digging deep in the river with his paddle and obviously focused on taking the dory's cargo to its destination. In the front part of the dory is a child who I would presume is the old man's grandson, whose resemblance to my late and beloved first cousin, Mark Hyde, always struck me as uncanny, and the child has his paddle raised in action, but it is clear that he is totally distracted by something — a bird, a fish, a monkey, perhaps even an alligator? The photo, without words, tells the story of different generations — in the same boat.

At the time, this photo inspired me to write a poem to accompany it, but I'm not sure the poem is in the quality category of the photo, so I won't reproduce it here.

I've lost contact with Philip for decades. The last I heard he was in Geneva, Switzerland, and we may have e-mailed a couple times, but I'm not sure. I know that he has not been responding to messages sent to that mail address for many years, and all I know is someone said he may be in Trinidad.

When I think of Philip's departure/exile from Belize, I am minded of the lamentable departure/exile from Belize of the late, great Bob Reneau, who was still in his creative prime when he flew to Chicago and never returned home. Respect to his son, Norman, who stood strong with UBAD in the early 1970s before he went to the City of Angels.

Philip Lewis' photo struck a personal chord with me, because my maternal grandfather, Wilfred "Papa Bill" Belisle, and I had been very close until my parents moved from Church Street to West Canal Street in 1954. My grandfather took me as a child on at least three fishing trips, just he and I, just like this old man and the boy in the photo, and I remember how special my grandfather made me feel.

In the 1950s, the weather patterns in Belize were such that if the wind blew from the land in the night and early morning, from the west, then it would fall totally calm between maybe 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 in the afternoon. After that, the southeaster would come in fresh and strong, and the fish would be hungry and looking to feed. On one such afternoon, my grandfather took me trolling, and the catch was stunning. I would have been maybe 6 or 7.

In October of 1957, when I was 10, my grandfather borrowed my father's sailboat, CHRISTINE, and went to Spanish Caye, nine miles south of Belize City, to spend time on his lonesome. Belize was a very safe place in those colonial days, and nobody in the family worried about his personal excursion. Relatives fishing in the area saw CHRISTINE half sunk in front of the caye, and realized something must be very wrong. My grandfather had been dead for days, and his body was badly decomposed. He was only 62.

This is one of the reasons Philip Lewis' photo does things to me. The old man in his photo is my grandfather, and the child is me. If this column serves to assist in any way to link me with Philip, it will have done its job. I understand how native Belizeans can give up on Belize. I've felt that way myself many times. Many times.



U.S. Embassy Belmopan, Belize
Office of Public Affairs

Press Release

Central America Regional Security Initiative Economic Support Fund (CARSIEF) 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The U.S. Embassy in Belmopan, Belize announces a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for projects addressing strengthening government through civil society engagement. For more information and eligibility requirements, please visit www.grants.gov and search for "Belmopan." All grant proposals **MUST** be submitted on the grants.gov website. **Closing date for proposal submission: May 11th, 2023.**

Contingent upon the availability of funds and quality of proposals, U.S. Embassy Belmopan intends to issue four to six awards in an amount not to exceed \$1 million USD in total funding. Each award will be for an amount between \$150,000 and \$250,000. Projects should not exceed two years and the anticipated start date for successful proposals is September 29th, 2023.

This funding will support U.S. Government objectives under the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSIEF) to support democracy and good governance efforts in Belize and is part of the Economic Support Funds (ESF) grants program. Project proposals should address **one or more** of the following project objectives:

- 1) Strengthen civil society organizations and support collaboration to improve government transparency by developing policies or procedures that reduce corruption and impunity and increase citizen participation in anti-corruption efforts. Proposals may encourage citizens and civil servants to participate in anti-corruption advocacy initiatives, support corruption-exposing investigative journalism, increase youth engagement in civic action, expand corruption reporting mechanisms, or seek to improve legislation or policies that promote transparency and accountability at all levels of government.
- 2) Support civil society working in collaboration with the government to improve accountability and delivery of services at all levels. Proposals may focus on activities by civil society organizations leveraging government, private, and civil society resources and networks to collectively improve, expand, or supplement government service delivery particularly to vulnerable and/or marginalized populations, particularly outside of the Belize City district.
- 3) Support and enhance mechanisms among key stakeholders to leverage services to curb human trafficking and gender-based violence. Proposals may involve supporting early detection and institutional support systems for victims and survivors of human trafficking and gender-based violence, strengthening polices and protocols, and ensuring adequate and efficient delivery of justice and access to government services.

View the full 2023 CARSIEF NOFO under the "Related Documents" tab at www.grants.gov or send us an email.

The U.S. Embassy in Belmopan will host a CARSIEF Grants Question & Answer Session on Facebook Live **Friday, April 14th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** Interested applicants are also encouraged to send any related questions or queries to BelmopanCARSIEF@state.gov.

NOTICE OF VACANCY: Customer service officer

We are a large transportation company looking for a customer service officer to join our administration team. This role would be suitable for a young and energetic customer service officer.

As the customer service officer, you will:

- Meet and greet customers
- Respond to internal and external enquiries via email, phone and face-to-face
- Manage customer order entries
- Manage and update customer information
- Provide customers with quotes and product knowledge
- Update client databases
- Perform general administration tasks
- Support other departments

We are looking for someone who is friendly, hardworking and thrives in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate will also have:

- Excellent communication skills (being bi-lingual is a plus)
- A warm, approachable manner
- At least two years experience in a customer service position
- Extensive experience using MS office software
- Experience using database management systems

Immediate employment available!!!!

Interested persons can forward resumes to employmentopportunitiesbze@gmail.com



LADYVILLE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL VACANCIES



Ladyville Technical High School invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the following post:

- **English A & B Teacher (Full time)**
- **Social Studies/Belizean Studies Teacher (Temporary)**

Teachers' Qualifications:

- Bachelor/ Associates Degree in the specified subject area
- Applicants must have a valid Teacher's license
- Experience in teaching at the CXC level would be an asset

Other Professional Requirements

- Good interpersonal and communication skills with students and colleagues
- Commitment to education
- Self-motivated
- Possesses sound ethical principles and values
- Willingness to participate in extra-curricular activities

Salary

Salary according to Government pay scale

Deadline for application is April 21, 2023

Teachers' position: Letter of application with curriculum vitae, two letters of recommendation, a certified copy of Teacher's License, Social Security Card, Birth Paper, Qualifications, Official Transcript, Police Record and Ministry of Education Medical Certificate.

Chair
Ladyville Technical High School
9 ¾ Miles Philip Goldson Highway
Ladyville, Belize District
Belize, C.A.

NOTICE OF VACANCY: Accounts Clerk

We are a large transportation company looking for an accounts clerk to join our administration team. This role would be suitable for a young and energetic accounts clerk.

As the accounts clerk, you will:

- Prepare invoices
- Maintain accounting database; update documents and records
- File documents; make paper and electronic copies
- Prepare reports as necessary
- Follow standards, procedures, and applicable laws

We are looking for someone who is friendly, hardworking and thrives in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate will also have:

- High school degree; associate's degree or relevant certification is a plus
- Proven accounting experience, preferably as an accounts receivable clerk or accounts payable clerk
- Familiarity with bookkeeping and basic accounting procedures
- Competency in MS Office, databases and accounting software
- Hands-on experience with spreadsheets and financial reports
- Accuracy and attention to detail and an aptitude for numbers
- Well organized, with the ability to perform filing and record-keeping tasks

Immediate employment available!!!!

Interested persons can forward resumes to employmentopportunitiesbze@gmail.com

Whew, I thought Taiwan president had, ehm, interfered in Belize's political affairs

by Colin Hyde

Hmm, it isn't proper protocol to intrude, interfere in the political affairs of a foreign country, especially one that is a friend, and this corner's ears were up when he heard that Dr. Tsai, on her recent visit here as a most welcomed guest to beloved Belize, used the occasion to, ahem, declare for a woman prime minister in our future. I thought of telling her: "Miss, it is the right of the Belizean people to choose who they want in the saddle. Your words could have put a dent in the schemes of 50% of Belize's population."

I've looked at the transcripts and found no such official declaration. So, if she did say so, it might have been an aside, just girl talk. There was a giant woman's powwow, a women's only convention hosted by the powerful Amalia and the embraced, rejected, and embraced again Dolores. They might have had champagne, or sipped from the stock of one of our popular wine makers. And one thing

led to another, and people forgot that the microphones were on.

But no need to worry if such a hope was indeed expressed. The reason I said "could have" is because we guys in Belize know the time. Hooray for Taiwan if they want to see a woman lead here. But we don't want a woman at the head, and we know why. It's because Lord Laro taught us in song all that their side is about. Ha, we have this thing sealed tight, and I'm surprised no one informed you about it, Madam President, that women in Belize, the ones we allow to win seats, don't have their eyes on that PM job.

You met Ms. Dolores, Madam President; well, we can start with her aunty, Miss Jane. Miss Jane's brother, the famous George Price, asked her to run in Pickstock. She did, and won. Then her brother, after getting dusted off in 1984, asked her to give him the seat in 1989, and she did. This brings us to Sista B, whom you "should have" met at the House. Her brother, Dean Barrow, asked her to run in

Queen's Square, and she did, and won. I am certain your ambassador here has the full, disappointing details about all that followed that victory. Dear Dr. Tsai, "winnable" women in Belize only want to serve their brothers, or their man.

Now, pointing the finger at "unwinnable" women, two of whom flanked you when you were in the House. I'm talking about Speaker Valerie and President Caroline. I wonder what all that pair told you. I'm sure while they had your ear they prompted you to plug for them, and I bet if you said what they said you said, those two think it a coup. Humph, your ambassador should have apprised you that they are two rejected politicians, so they might be harboring bitterness.

Oh, oh, we've rejected many women at the polls; the list is long - Audrey, Nefretery, Lisa, Wendy - and Ma'am, we'll certainly have no problem rejecting more. What, did I hear someone say Audrey and Wendy haven't run in any election? I bet that's because they know what will happen to them! Hmm, maybe at times we've been too narrow in our objections. Ah, Dolores Balderamos Garcia, she won in Port Loyola, and then she lost when the people found out that she was scornful, didn't like shaking hands. Please, how were we to know there was virtue there, and when we found out, when we got the lessons of Covid-19, we gave her another division, Belize Rural Central.

Whew, it's good that it all ends well. Madam President, if you did speak so, I bet you did so innocently. My, from your powerful space such words could cause an upheaval in a country. But not in little Belize! Miss, a snow ball will roll through hell without melting a drop before such a wish becomes a reality.

Bad UDP. Good UDP?

The UDP mouths at *Wave* television have criticized the starter homes, viciously. They should be ashamed about all they've said about the size of the houses. Criticizing the starter houses was bad, terrible.

Congratulations to the UDP for dropping that nonsense. Now, the UDP is saying that some people who got homes, some of them are renting. There is no law against renting your home. People build homes with all the plans to live there happily ever after, and then a turn comes, and it could be many things, and the dream house is up for rent. But great need of a shelter is the stated criteria for people who get starter homes. It isn't expected that they'd be renting, not so soon.

If there is truth in this UDP charge, they are doing their job, they are on the ball, and the GOB has to up their game. If top PUP leadership is honest, they know they have a hefty share of kleptomaniacs. From the inception there was talk that a few people were scamming the program.

But will they lash the boy minor

So, our Police Commissioner excuses a girl who fabricated a story that an officer slapped her. Fair enough, it's our culture to give the fair gender a pass. You didn't know that? A Wikipedia story said that "in June 2017, the total [prison] population was 1,297, including pre-trial detainees (30.1%)." The story goes on to say that our "incarceration rate is relatively high at 356/100,000" and that "the incarceration rate for females has risen from 8.4 (per 100,000 of national population) in 2000 to 12.6 in 2017." If you look at the 2017 numbers, that puts us around 30 to 1, male to female. Really, women are such saints? I thought they were human beings, just like us. What's that you said—they only cause man to get into trouble?

Okay, this is about the boy, her brother, who told the same wicked lie. Oh no, no, no, nothing against the fellow, nothing at all, but it will crumble an entire culture, a good one at that, if a message isn't sent from his buttocks to his head, that you can't get away with lies. If, for fear of the Europeans you don't want to pull out the tambran whip or sash kaad, then make him do a thousand pushups. Even better, send him to clean up plastic bags in the streets for a week.

NOTICE

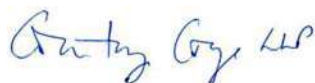
BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

Estate of PATRICIA ALAMILLA MORITZ, Deceased
STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of PATRICIA ALAMILLA MORITZ, late of 5868 Macarthur Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana 70131, U.S.A are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to TODD R. HYMEL, the Administrator of the said estate, c/o Courtenay Coye LLP, Attorneys-at-Law of 15 A Street, Belize City, Belize, and to send such particulars no later than the 17th day of June 2023.

NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that, at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Patricia Alamilla Moritz, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered, and the Administrator will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands it shall not then have had notice.

DATED the 17th day of March, 2023



COURTENAY COYE LLP
Attorneys-at-Law



SADIE VERNON TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)

Cor. Morning Glory St. & Amandala Drive

P.O. Box 2044

Belize City, Belize

Phone: 222-5683

Email: sadietech@yahoo.com

Vacancy for the following Posts of:

Math/Spanish Teacher (Permanent)

Qualification: Applicants must possess a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics Education and certification in teaching Spanish and a valid Teaching License.

Expressive Arts Teacher (Permanent)

Qualification: Applicants must possess a degree or certification in education with coursework in art or art education and a valid Special License.

Applicants must submit a cover letter; a resumé, copies of degrees, certificates and transcripts, a Police Record, a copy of valid teaching license, 2 reference letters, a copy of a valid Social Security Card and a medical certificate.

Salary will commensurate according to Government's Pay Scale.

Application along with relevant documents must be addressed to: Secretary, Board of Management, Sadie Vernon Technical High School, Cor. Morning Glory & Partridge Streets, Belize City no later than Friday, April 28, 2023.



Check advertisements in

AMANDALA
Belize's leading newspaper!

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

BOLEDO

“Press” Predictions 47-33-21

Boledo stats thru 14th to 21st April 2023

In Boledo news, 29 finally played “wappy” after almost 1 year, alongside 10. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 47-33-21-50-99-71. These are my lucky Jackpot numbers: 6825-9152-7680. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 271-985-060-734-616. Get ready, Belize! Some dinero will be coming our way this week. 10 and 29 finally play after almost completing 1 year. Keep your eyes open for some doubles this week like 33-44-88 and 99. Those are the only doubles that left to play for the year. 46 different numbers left to play for the year. 54 numbers played already. Last year 07 and 52 alongside 68 and 74 played some 7

times each. Then there were 6 numbers that played 6 times each in: 25-70-77-66-42 and 23. Keep your eyes also open for 68 and 86; there were five 6 balls that came out. Good luck to all buyers, and remember to read your Psalms: 91-92 & 63. Next week, more stats.

CYCLING

Belizean Oscar Quiroz finally won the 2023 Cross Country

The 93rd Cross Country Classic results

In cycling action, the 93rd running of the Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic results. Team BTB Valvoline 501 top cyclist, Oscar Quiroz has now won all of the entire top classics. He joins only 2 other cyclists in Ernest “Jawmaine” Meighan and the legendary Michael Lewis who still has

the best Belizean time ever at 5:43:08 secs to American Ryan Barmon’s record of 5:40 28 seconds set in 2008. Cory Williams was second. His teammate Jonathan Brown was third. A foreigner was fourth. Then American John Delong was fifth, Giovanni Lovell was sixth. There are some nice young cyclists like Jiven Gonzales, Joshua Fuller, Allen Tzib, Eric Trapp Heusner and Daniel Robinson. They all will be a force in the other 3 Cross Countries. There were over \$30,000 in prizes. First place receives a “wapping” \$15,000. Big-up Minister Anthony Mahler and the Tourism Board! Enuff respect to President Miss Alicia Thompson and her federation members! Next Cross Country will be bigger.



Oscar Quiroz



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

also has 5 goals. They also have the best defense in senior player Ian Gaynair, Byron Usher and Floyd Jones alongside Jarrett Davis, one of my favorite players. They will have a playoff spot. The Progresso FC crushed Wagiya FC 8



Gilroy “Bredda” Thurton

nil. They already have a playoff spot again with the magic number of points with 23. The Police Benque United FC edged the Belmopan FC, newly named as International FC, 2 goals to 1 - but in injury time. The game ended with some controversy because of the amount of time that was given by the referee. This weekend’s games prediction: Verdes FC and Progress FC will be the game of the week. They are the leaders. Next week, more stats.



Job Vacancy: Agri Business Department Manager

Our company is a rapidly growing agri-business. We are seeking a highly skilled and experienced Agri Business Department Manager to lead and manage our agri-business operations.

Responsibilities:

- Oversee and manage the performance of an agri-business department and retail outlets.
- Approve landed cost of inventory.
- Set pricing of inventory based on market conditions and competition
- Coordinate logistics for imported products.
- Develop and implement strategies for the agri-business department in line with the overall business objectives.
- Lead, manage and motivate a team of full-time and part-time employees across the various areas of the department including office, warehouse, and retail outlets to achieve departmental goals and objectives.
- Oversee the procurement, warehousing and distribution of agri-business products in a continuously changing market environment.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant internal & external regulations, standards, and policies.
- Manage budgets, where applicable, and financial performance of the agri-business department.
- Develop and maintain relationships with key stakeholders including suppliers, customers, and regulatory bodies.
- Continuously evaluate and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the agri-business operations.
- Ensure the implementation and maintenance of programs and procedures.
- Approve employees’ payroll, employee vacation, time-off’s etc.
- Conduct employee evaluations.
- Organize, and execute events.
- Generate monthly sales and performance reports.

Requirements:

- Master’s degree in business management/admin or related field or bachelor’s degree in agriculture, agribusiness, or related field.
- Minimum of 5 years’ experience in a senior management role in agri-business or a minimum of 10 years’ experience in a managerial role.
- Strong knowledge of agri-business operations, including procurement and distribution.
- Demonstrated experience in developing and implementing strategies for agri-business operations.
- Excellent leadership and management skills with the ability to motivate and develop a team.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to develop and maintain relationships with stakeholders.
- Ability to work under pressure and manage multiple priorities effectively.
- Understanding of sustainable agriculture practices and environmental responsibility.
- Outstanding analytical, problem solving and communication skills.
- Good understanding of the principles of costing.
- Knowledge of the agri-business in Belize and global trends.
- Ability to speak English & Spanish fluently.

If you meet the above requirements and are passionate about agri-business, we would love to hear from you. Please submit your CV, cover letter and supporting documents along with contact details of two non-related references by email to vacancy@bigcreekgroup.com no later than April 30th, 2023.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

The Benny’s Belize Hurricanes are the new leaders of the BEBL 6-2

Local basketball update

In local basketball action, the San Pedro Tiger Sharks beat the Belmopan Red Taigaz Saturday on the island by some 10 points and more. Kyle Steward had 25 points and 12 rebounds with 3 steals. Ashton Edwards is getting his act together.

He is one of Belize’s best three-point shooters ever; he won the first NEBL finals MVP for the San Pedro Tiger Sharks.



Ashton Edwards

These are the standings at the moment. The Benny’s Belize City Hurricanes are on top of the league at 6-2. The Orange Walk Running Rebels had a rough start at 0-3, but coach Troy Gabb, Jr.’s (who will be coach of the year) team is on a 6-game winning streak right now. Brian “Besso” White is the best power forward in Belize right now. They already have a playoff spot in my stats. Then the Griga Dream Ballers and their sensational top point guard in Edgar Mitchell are also in the playoffs. The Belize City Defenders and The San Pedro Tiger Sharks alongside the Western Ballaz are all battling for the last playoff spot. Next week, more stats.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

There are 3 teams that already have a playoffs spot

Local football results and predictions

In local football action, in Week-12 results, the Port Layola FC beat Altitude FC, the defending champ, 2-nil in Mango Creek. Gilroy “Bredda” Thurton scored both goals; he now has 5 goals. Michael Palacio, his teammate, leads the league with 8 goals. Their other teammate, Sean Young,

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

There will be some early first round upsets in this year’s playoffs

NBA playoffs predictions and update

In NBA action, the play-in will get started this Tuesday with the number 7 seed the Los Angeles Lakers who will beat the Minnesota Timberwolves by some 12 points. Then in the other play-in, the New Orleans Pelicans will edge the OKC Thunder by some 5 points. Then the Minnesota Timberwolves will edge out the NO Pelicans very closely for the 8th spot. Then in the East, the Miami Heat will beat the Atlanta Hawks by some 8 points; they will then stay at the number 7 seed. Then the Toronto Raptors will face off against Demar Derozan’s



Devin Booker

Chicago Bulls; that series will go all the way. Then the New York Knicks will edge the Cleveland Cavaliers in 5 games. The Phoenix Suns will beat the LA Clippers and Kawhi Leonard; Devin Booker will have a very big series. Chris Paul and Kevin Durant will also contribute. The Denver Nuggets will advance. The Golden State Warriors will beat the Sacramento Kings very easily. In the East, the 3 top seeds will advance very easily in Milwaukee, the Celtics and the 76ers. Next week, some results.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY
San Ignacio, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Sagcor Life Inc., Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running until 30th June 2023. Public Auction Sale will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until the property is sold.

Parcel No. 519 Cahal Pech Street, San Ignacio, Cayo District:




REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Ignacio	23	519

(Being a 2-storied concrete structure [1,0757 sq. ft.] containing 4 Bedrooms + 2 Bathrooms + Living/Dining/Kitchen + 2 Porch: an APARTMENT [675 sq. ft.] 1 Bedroom + 1 Bathroom + Kitchenette TOGETHER with lot [60 ft. X 90ft.] situate on Cahal Pech Street, San Ignacio, Cayo District, the freehold property of Ms. Maria Juan.)

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”
TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auctions



Career Opportunity

General Helper Belize

Weighing of finish product at intervals to ensure compliance with the quality plan of packaged finished product while, adhering and complying with the requirements of health, environment, quality and others in the organization, and assist in any activity related to the plant operations.

Qualification and Experience:

- 2 Years of High School
- One-year experience as general helper in the construction or industrial areas
- Proven exemplary job records
- Belizean residency required
- Must Live between the vicinity of Belmopan to La Democracia

Duties and Responsibilities

- Weigh and record the exact weight of the packed cement at intervals and inform the packaging operator of any anomalies in the weights to ensure compliance with the quality plan of packaged product and current regulations for the process.
- Daily perform inspection of the date coder and inform packaging operator when not working properly to ensure the best performance in the packaging and palletizing process.
- Daily cleaning activities in the finished product warehouse and other areas to keep area in a clean and organize manner.
- Daily recover and repackage the torn packed cement to minimize wastage and ensure a clean warehouse.
- Support the packaging operator with similar activities that maybe required to ensure smooth daily work performance within finished goods warehouse.
- Comply with the guidelines of the health, environment, quality and other systems established by the organization in their daily activities to be in compliance with the organization’s standards process, procedures and policies.
- Support or assist in any other activity that the plant requires to keep the operations going.

Compensation
 Compensation will be offered based on qualification and experience.

Address: Mile 34 George Price Highway Cayo District, Belize

To apply send your resume showing your education and experience to hrprogresobz@cempro.com, as the email subject, place the name of the position you are applying to, before **April 28th, 2023.**

Hopkins man stabbed to death on Holy Thursday

by Charles Gladden

HOPKINS, Stann Creek District, Tues. Apr. 11, 2023

A 38-year-old Hopkins resident, Francis Augustine, also known as “Chingu,” was brutally attacked in the early hours of Holy Thursday in his bedroom by an assailant who was likely accompanied by another person and who allegedly inflicted numerous wounds on him with a knife-like weapon.

Police learned, after conducting an initial investigation, that at about 3:45 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, Augustine was in his bedroom inside his elevated wooden home when his attackers, who either entered his bedroom or had been socializing with him inside that room, began to stab him multiple times in his neck and chest area.

Augustine jumped out of his bedroom window, situated on the top floor of his residence, and reportedly began desperately knocking at the door of his cousin’s house, but she later told reporters that she was terrified, and feared for the safety of her family, so she did not open the door.

Augustine thus died outside her home.

There are reports that shortly before Augustine’s death, he was involved in an argument with one of his assailants, with whom he had a disagreement over



Francis Augustine, deceased

a pair of torn sneakers that was sold to him for a hundred dollars.

Police have discovered the murder weapon, which was located inside Augustine’s bedroom.

On Tuesday, April 11, Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams provided an update to local reporters on what information the police have so far gathered about Augustine’s murder. ComPol Williams noted that the police have apprehended two suspects in connection with the murder and believe one of them is responsible for the crime.

“We have collected a number of evidential materials that we will be [sending] for DNA testing. We’re almost sure that one of the two suspects we had detained is responsible for that particular murder, but we’ll have to await the results of the DNA testing that we’re going to send,” he said.

Tyrone Young charged for Gracie Rock murder

by Kristen Ku

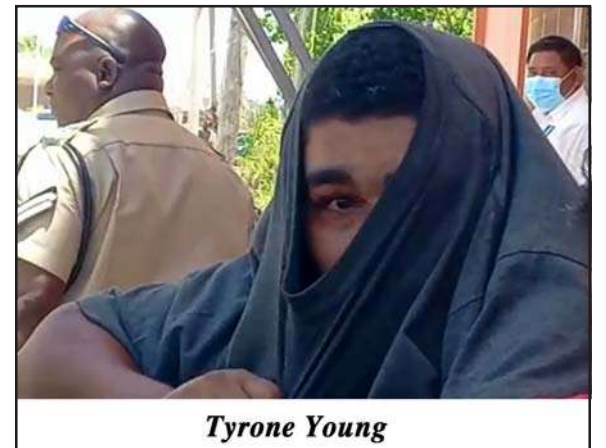
BELIZE CITY, Tues. Apr. 11, 2023

Tyrone Young, 35, a taxi driver, has been detained and charged with the crime of murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Denver Montero, 26, who was among a group of persons who were targeted by a group of robbers last Sunday evening, April 2, while they were swimming in the river in Gracie Rock Village.

According to reports, Montero, along with a number of other persons, including a man named Ryan Kerr, had been swimming in the water near the hammock bridge in the village when 12 individuals, including 5 minors, arrived in a van and proceeded to assault some of the individuals in the water and rob them of their belongings.

During the robbery, Montero was shot and chopped, and Kerr was also injured. Kerr later received medical attention and survived the attack, but Montero succumbed to his injuries.

Shortly after the incident, police intercepted the van in which Young and the 11 other persons in his group were traveling between Miles 14 and 15 in Hattieville. The stolen items were



Tyrone Young

recovered and they were all detained.

Police say they found a number of expended shells at the scene of the robbery and recovered a 9-millimeter pistol that is believed to be the weapon that was used during the incident.

Young appeared in court on April 5, to face the charge of murder, as well as one count of attempted murder, and one count of deadly means of harm.

Police are also expecting to make two more arrests — of Young’s son as well as Aaron Smith, for the robbery and murder at Gracie Rock.

It has been reported, however, that the victims of the robbery and attack are not willing to cooperate with police, which has hindered the Police Department’s efforts to formally charge those two men.

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

The power of resistance!

Thurs. Apr. 6, 2023

As we observed on Thursday, April 6, the day before Good Friday and the observance of Holy Week, the racism that was once the fuel for the Democratic Party up until the late '60s, is now the domain of the Republicans, and unapologetically so! I watched with disgust the way they have tried to silence two young, black legislators in Nashville, Tennessee, while young people, mostly white, were protesting the Republican legislature's ambivalence towards any effort to stop the murder of young children, innocent people, with weapons of war! With Soviet-style tactics they decided to expel these two black men while letting the white female representative keep her office! Blatant racism in its highest form. Everything changes, while everything remains the same! They did all this in front of the whole world watching, who were probably

wondering what these mostly white middle-aged men were thinking. All this because they were protesting the inaction of the legislature after 6 people, including 3 nine-year-olds, were gunned down with AR15 rifles, weapons of war, weapons of death!

The Republican Party is slowly withering on the vine of irrelevancy, slowly and surely! From Florida to Texas to Tennessee, throughout the South and even some parts of the Midwest, they're doing their darnedest to stop that change which will overwhelm them like a truck running over roadkill, much sooner, rather than later, than they suspect! They are going for short-term victories, in their twisted minds, against the inevitable forces of nature, the young and the progressives, Democrats and Republicans, who demand change, not cosmetic change, but the real and lasting kind! They are trying to cling to an idea whose time

has long passed. They know that they're losing control and will grasp at anything that they think will slow down the progress that is hurtling across the vista, to borrow a phrase from Raymond Barrow.

When I migrated to America some forty-something years ago, I felt that promise, that implied assurance that life would be better for me, for my budding family, even though it was a time of uncertainty, of upheaval! And for a time, through Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama, I was positive that everything would be alright. There were times when the country strayed but quickly corrected itself, and that optimism prevailed. In the last 7 years we have seen the disintegration of our society. We have seen the rise of political violence, of fascism and authoritarianism, and now the resurgence of unapologetic racism! In their last desperate grasp to hold

onto power, they are shedding their skins and showing us the kind of vermin they really are.

While I have lost faith in politicians, I will never lose faith in the people, the voters who can make this insanity stop. I am very hard on the younger generation for their selfishness, but they, along with the women of this country, will save us from this scourge of ignorance and stupidity and antediluvian ideals of middle-aged white men who think that they are still in charge of our bodies, our minds, of our fates. They are not, and in the next few years they will have to accept the rude awakening that they can no longer dictate, but accept the changes that are unstoppable not only in America, but worldwide. Changes, hopefully for the better.

The only reason Republicans have the dwindling power they wield is because of gerrymandering, stifling and obstructing people's ability to vote, and having a Supreme Court that caters to most of their whims and caprices. The people are watching, in horror, at the boldness with which they ignore their wishes, whether it's gun control, or abortion, or voting rights or civil rights. The will of the people is being ignored for their personal, and absolutely Neanderthal beliefs! Power to the people!

Glen

Sanctuary Bay point man charged with embezzlement

Continued from **Page 7**


including Usher, also imposes bans that prohibit them from engaging in activities pertaining to marketing and telemarketing sales, and selling or assisting others in selling most real estate, as well as from any involvement with Sanctuary Belize.

In addition to this, all the assets of Sanctuary Bay were turned over to a receiver, Robb and Evans & Associates LLC. They were ordered to take control of the receivership assets — all the unsold land and areas of development that do not belong to specific persons. A letter from the Government of Belize to the FTC penned by Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño in December 2020 signals support for a Joint Redress Plan proposed by the FTC and court receiver to adopt.

Sanctuary Bay has been rebranded "New Sanctuary," according to the Joint Plan designed by FTC and the Receiver and seeks to "stabilize the development, restore confidence, and help ensure infrastructure is complete," according to the PM's letter.

AMANDALA

Telephones:
501-280-4703/
202-4472



TENDER NOTICE

Primary Healthcare Services

The Social Security Board invites Health Care Providers to submit expression of interest to participate in the tender process for the provision of National Health Insurance (NHI) Primary Care Services for Zone 2 within the Northern area of Orange Walk Town.


The forms for the expression of interest can be downloaded from NHI's facebook page (www.facebook.com/NHIBelize) or picked up at the SSB office in Orange Walk Town.

The forms must be submitted in a sealed envelope labelled "INTEREST FOR TENDER OF NHI PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES" and **Company Name**. Envelopes are to be received by the SSB Office in Orange Walk Town no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on **April 18th, 2023**.

Kindly address the envelope to:

**General Manager, National Health Insurance
Social Security Board, Bliss Parade
P.O. Box 18, Belmopan, Belize C.A.**

Social Security Board: Safeguarding YOU, your FAMILY, your FUTURE!



TENDER NOTICE

Ophthalmology Services

The Social Security Board invites Ophthalmologists to submit expression of interest to participate in the tender process for the provision of Eye glasses for school aged children, Diabetic eye examinations, cataract surgeries and laser surgery for Diabetic Retinopathy for the National Health Insurance (NHI) Rollout in the **Orange Walk District**.

The forms for the expression of interest can be downloaded from the NHI's Belize Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NHIBelize) or picked up at the SSB office in Orange Walk Town.

The forms must be submitted in a sealed envelope labelled "INTEREST FOR TENDER OF NHI OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICES" and **Company Name**. Envelopes are to be received by the SSB Office in Orange Walk Town no later than **4:00 p.m. local time on April 18th, 2023**.

Kindly address the envelope to:

**General Manager, National Health Insurance
Social Security Board, Bliss Parade
P.O. Box 18, Belmopan, Belize C.A.**

Social Security Board: Safeguarding YOU, your FAMILY, your FUTURE!



Vacancies at Julian Cho Technical High School



Julian Cho Technical High School invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the following posts:

1 Spanish Teacher – Permanent

Qualification for Teacher:

- Bachelor's Degree or Higher in the subject area with pedagogical training preferred, however an Associate Degree in the subject area may be considered.
- Teaching experience at the secondary level would be an asset.
- Good communication skills and a willingness to uphold the mission of Julian Cho Technical High School.

Application package must include:

- A letter of application and resume
- Certified copies of diplomas and certificate/s
- Sealed transcript from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Birth certificate or Passport
- Certified copy of Social Security Card
- Recent Medical Certificate
- Recent Police Record
- Valid Teacher's License (Secondary level)
- Two recent letters of recommendation

***ALL COPIED DOCUMENTS MUST BE CERTIFIED BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.**

Salary:

Salary will be in accordance with the government pay scale based on qualification.

Application packages must be addressed to:

Secretary
Board of Governors
Julian Cho Technical High School
P.O Box 171
Toledo District
Belize, Central America

ELECTRONIC PACKAGES CAN ALSO BE EMAILED TO: principaljctech@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE THAT A HARD COPY OF APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST BE PRESENTED ON DAY OF INTERVIEW IF SHORTLISTED.

Deadline for applications is Wednesday, May 3, 2023.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING SERVICES

Institution:	Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country:	Belize
Project:	Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program (CVRP)
Sector:	Infrastructure, Environment and Natural Disasters
Abstract:	Individual Consulting Services–Final Evaluation for the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program
Loan/Credit/Grant No.:	4426/OC-BL
Deadline:	April 26, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), towards the cost of the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program (CVRP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the contracting of an Individual Consultant for a duration of eight (8) consecutive weeks or forty (40) consultancy days over a three (3) month period who will be responsible for conducting the Final Evaluation of the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program. The overall objective of the consultancy is to determine the Program’s impact and will assess the following a.) Degree of attainment of targets as set out in the results matrix and reasons for any variances. b.) Effectiveness of the execution unit (s) and arrangements established for program execution, including the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system. c.) Sustainability of the activities funded under the program and d.) Confirmation if the Social and Environmental Safeguard Plans were implemented and e.) Lessons learned that could be applied for future projects.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank](#) (GN-2350-15, January 2020) – Section V, 5.2 Selection of Individual Consultants based on Comparison of Qualifications of National Individual Consultants. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

Program Management Unit
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tel: 501-822-0100/1942
Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com, cvrp.4426.4@gmail.com or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) on April 21, 2023.**

Attn: Mr. Rolando Chan
Program Coordinator
Program Management Unit
#1 Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, Belize
Tel: 501-822-0100/1942
E-mail: pmupcmow@gmail.com, cvrp.4426.4@gmail.com or procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com



Canaan S.D.A High School
P.O. Box 1690
1508 Coney Dr, Belize City
Belize C.A.
Phone#: 223-2297



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The board of Management of Canaan SDA High School invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the following teaching positions:

- 1 Full-time Bible Teacher Effective Immediately
- 1 Full-time English Teacher Effective August 2023
- 1 Full-time Business Teacher Effective August 2023
- 1 Part-time Science Teacher Effective August 2023
- 1 Part-time Mathematics Teacher (April-June, 2023) Walk-in interviews
- 1 Part-time Physics Teacher Effective (September -November) 2023

Qualifications:

- An Associate Degree in the subject area but a Bachelor's degree in education in the relevant field would be preferred.
- All applicants must have knowledge of the CXC syllabus in the subject area, have excellent Christian values and work ethics, and have a good command of the English language.
- Ability to work and communicate effectively with students, staff, and Administration.
- High motivation, enthusiasm, and commitment to teaching.

SALARY:

Based on qualification and in accordance with the government pay scale.

APPLICATION PACKAGE:

Certified copies of qualifications and transcripts, a valid teaching license in the Secondary level, current curriculum vitae, two letters of recommendation, valid police record, and copy of valid Social Security card.

Address Application to:

Board Secretary/ Principal
Canaan S.D.A High School Board
P.O. Box 1690
Belize City, Belize

The deadline for submission of the complete application package is no later than midday on Friday, April 28th 2023.

BY ORDER OF MORTGAGEE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL

ASCENDANCY BELIZE LTD., a company existing pursuant to the Belize Companies Act 2022 with registered office situate at Cor. Landivar & 4th Streets Kings Park, Belize City hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as Mortgagee under and by virtue of Deeds of Mortgage between those hereinafter named and the said Ascendancy Belize Ltd. which said Deeds of Mortgage are registered at the Land Titles Unit in Belmopan City. ASCENDANCY will at the expiration of **two months** from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

All offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to **CAVE LOCHAN WATSON LLP**, Cor. Landivar & 4th Streets, Kings Park, Belize City, Belize District, Belize, Attorneys-at-law for Ascendancy Belize Ltd., from whom full particulars and conditions of the sale (and for public auction) may be obtained.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

1. **ALL that** piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 31 comprising 464.576 S.M. situate West of Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District together with all building and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **Cupertina Pulcheria Teul**.
2. **ALL that** piece or parcel of land being Lot 153 comprising 423.779 S.M (Plan No. 2005) situate in Hopeville Village, Toledo District together with all building and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **Laverne Lovanna Williams**.
3. **ALL that** piece or parcel of land being Lot 125 comprising 555.6 S.Y. situate in Independence Village, Stann Creek District together with all building and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **Michael Hobbs**.
4. **ALL that** piece or parcel of land comprising 0.98 acres (Plan No. 73 of 1983) situate in Jacintoville, Toledo District together with all building and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **Gerald Williams**.
5. **ALL that** piece or parcel of land being Lot 5 comprising 771.893 S.M situate South of Stann Creek Valley Road, Hoffman Estate, near Mile 11, Stann Creek District together with all building and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **Santiago Acosta**.
6. **ALL that** piece or parcel of land comprising 16466.20 S.Y. (Plan No. 167 of 1978) situate in the town of Independence, Stann Creek District together with all building and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **Denzel Garbutt/Sharole Saldivar**.

DATED this 11th day of April 2023.

CAVE LOCHAN WATSON LLP
COR. LANDIVAR & 4TH STREETS
KNGS PARK
BELIZE CITY
BELIZE



Invitation for Bids

**Belize Water Services Limited
Belize
GRT/CF-19538-BL & GRT/MA-19539-BL**

**Advancing Water Disinfection in Urban & Rural Areas
International Competitive Bidding (ICB)
BWSL/BIF-27-2205**



1. The **Government of Belize** has received financing from the **Inter-American Development Bank** toward the cost of the project "**Advancing Water Disinfection in Urban & Rural Areas GRT/CF-19538-BL and GRT/MA-19539-BL**", and intends to apply the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the "**supply, installation and commissioning of OSG Disinfection Equipment**".
2. **Belize Water Services Limited** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the:
 - a) **Supply, install & commission of OSG Disinfection Equipment for Caye Caulker Village- Lot A**
 - b) **Supply, install & commission of OSG Disinfection Equipment for San Marcos Village- Lot B**
 - c) **Supply, install & commission of OSG Disinfection Equipment & Filtration System for Crooked Tree Village - Lot C.**
3. Bidding will be conducted through the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's **Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank**, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain an e-copy of bidding document by making a request to the below:

Ervin Flores, Resident Consultant Engineer
Belize Water Services Ltd.
7 Central American Blvd.
Belize City, Belize.
Email: rce@bwsl.com.bz
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 pm, 18th May 2023**. Electronic bidding **shall not** be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at **2:15 pm on 18th May 2023**.
6. All bids to be accompanied by a **Bid Security**, as specified in the bidding document and must be delivered to the address below by **2:00 pm local time on 18th May 2023**.
7. The address referred to above is:

Attention: Ervin Flores, Resident Consultant Engineer
Belize Water Services Limited
7 Central American Blvd.
Belize City
Belize

A Story of Miguel's Life (Part 16)



by Clinton Canul Luna

Approximately 2 years after Miguel had the position of general cashier, an opportunity presented itself to him. The company needed an auditor, so the position was offered to him, which he gladly accepted. Little by little he was climbing from position to position. Now, let us rewind to when Miguel was about 15 years old when he had met Erika. With the passing of time, while he was working at the Azteca Textile Factory, he had helped her in getting a job at the same company where he had been working as an auditor. She had tried to seduce him, tried to make him fall in love, but it all ended with her getting married to someone else. On the other hand, Miguel had gotten another job at another city with a position as an operations manager. That is where he

met Shakira, who would later on become his wife.

So, let's look into how Shakira came to have the position as sales manager. It so happened that Shakira attended a government school where she acquired her high school diploma, and since her family was poor, they couldn't afford to give her a higher education. So, Shakira went to work in a beauty parlor, where she started off as a janitor. Little by little, she learned how to do a pedicure, how to do a manicure, how to apply acrylic, how to do a facial massage, how to apply make-up, how to do hairstyles, etc. etc. She learnt to provide most of the services available at the salon, so when there was a full house and staff was low, she would step in and help.

With that money that she earned, she continued studying. It took a while, of course, but she received her degree in marketing. That was how she was able to acquire a job as a sales manager in the same city where Miguel worked. At first, when she met him, she thought it would be easy to seduce him, since she was a very beautiful, breathtaking woman. However, she didn't know that he was stern, he was sharp, he didn't pay attention to her. Nevertheless, she had the character of a person, not of possessiveness, but when she wanted something, she was determined to get it, she fought for it. So, she would approach him and exchange some words, she would invite him for lunch, or for a drink, which he

refused all the time, until finally one day, he decided to go out with her. She had realized by then that when a guy like him accepted an offer, it meant that that dinner would end in a passionate relationship. She had realized that he was not the kind of man to be patient, or to go out on dates, or become friends and get to know each other. No. He was the kind of man that met a woman and went to bed with her the same day/

Please turn to **Page 20**



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future

Position Title: Communications Officer ("CO")

Background:

Established in March 2022, Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future ("BFSF"), is a Belizean, not-for-profit entity, established to undertake charitable and scientific activities that provide funding and other forms of support for conservation and climate change adaptation activities in Belize. These activities are identified and prioritized by relevant stakeholders including the government of Belize and includes other activities that may align with the achievement of the conservation commitments of Belize arising from or related to transactions associated with the formation of the BFSF, to help the people of Belize steward a sustainable future for the country of Belize. Its mission is: To create a transparent and inclusive financing mechanism that is successfully mobilizing investments for the conservation and responsible development of Belize's marine and coastal resources.

BFSF is now operationalizing the fund to support Belize's national marine and coastal conservation priorities, including establishing policies and procedures for the Fund's operations, the development of a Strategic Plan to guide the focus of its programs and investments, and implementation of its Grants Program. The BFSF seeks a Communications Officer who is motivated, well-organised, and creative to promote the work of the Fund, and build relationships and networks with stakeholders, the public and donors to support the effective implementation of the BFSF's mission and communicate our impact.

Key Responsibilities of the role:

Working under the direction of the Executive Director, the Communications Officer will be responsible to implement communications and public relations strategies that increase the public's awareness of the BFSF, its activities and initiatives; enhance its image among key stakeholders; and maximize media opportunities. This Officer will be responsible for developing and implementing strategic communications targeted to our key audiences with an aim to:

- Raise awareness of the BFSF as a fund dedicated to the conservation and responsible development of coastal and marine resources in Belize.
- Promote the positive impact of projects funded by the BFSF.
- Help support the promotion of all activities/events and the recognition of funders/fundraisers.
- Support BFSF's transparency and accountability practices to help build its credibility.

Responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to, the following tasks and activities:

1. Prepare a BFSF Communications and Marketing Strategy to guide all communications and marketing activities of the Fund, in alignment with the Fund's strategic plan.
2. Develop and deliver communications campaigns and products across Public Relations (PR), outreach, direct marketing, digital and social media.
3. Develop and manage content across all institutional communication channels, including digital and social media platforms (including website, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc).
4. Develop materials to enhance donor communications including publications, audio/visual materials, fact sheet, case studies and fundraising packages.
5. Write press releases, organize press calls, respond to media enquiries and to any inquiries received through institutional communication channels.
6. Consult with program team to integrate and reflect project activities in communication channels.
7. Maintain a BFSF partner mailing list and database, with contacts of all partner organizations (including grantees, donors, partners and media).
8. Develop and periodically update BFSF branding guidelines and support grantees in the correct use of BFSF logo.
9. Prepare the content and oversee the design, production and copywriting of all printed material, including the BFSF Annual Reports.
10. Maintain a database of photos, videos, case studies and research/evidence to promote the BFSF's work.

11. Support a range of BFSF events – whether national and international events with different purposes, including fundraising, information sharing and knowledge exchange.
12. Respond to general enquiries via post, email, website and social media and acknowledge one-off donations.
13. Represent the BFSF at national and international meetings, forums, briefings, interviews, and public presentations, as appropriate.
14. Prepare high-quality written materials for Board review.
15. Oversee the design and production of any BFSF promotional materials, including stationary and merchandise (such as institutional gifts, uniforms, etc).
16. Develop and maintain updated institutional templates for documents (Word) and presentations (Power Point), so that all staff use materials with the correct BFSF's visual identity.
17. Support the launch of Calls for Proposals, connecting to communication vehicles of different regions and helping BFSF to achieve the targeted audiences.
18. Support all communication actions related to the results of Call for Proposals, including reviewing standard messages to applicants to ensure relationship building with selected and non-selected institutions.
19. Any other responsibilities/functions deemed necessary by the Executive Director to meet the objectives of BFSF.

Minimum qualifications:

All candidates for this position must provide evidence of the following skills and abilities:

- A Bachelors' degree in communications or marketing or a related field with at least 3 years' work experience in a communications environment.
- At least 3 years' experience in communications, marketing, fundraising, and institutional networking for donors.
- Excellent written skills with the ability to produce concise and creative content.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and engaging presentation skills.
- Familiarity (or the ability to quickly achieve familiarity) with biodiversity conservation issues.
- Service-orientated, courteous, personable, and able to engage effectively and sensitively with all levels of staff and external stakeholders.
- Excellent computer skills, including working knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite, photo editing and website development software, such as Lightroom and Word Press.
- Self-motivated and resourceful, with the ability to work effectively under pressure, on multiple tasks, including being comfortable with, and flexible to, changing situations and priorities.
- Strong strategic and analytical skills and creative problem-solving ability.
- Excellent organizational skills and judgment; ability to prioritize work, manage time and multiple priorities, and meet deadlines; attention to detail and accuracy; the ability to set realistic goals and objectives.
- Demonstrated ability to handle sensitive information effectively and confidentially.
- Ability and willingness to travel for work or work occasional weekends as required.

Desired Qualifications:

- Multi-lingual and multi-cultural or cross-cultural experience appreciated.
- Some data analysis experience in the context of digital media and using digital channels to generate support.

Remuneration:

Commensurate with the selected candidate's experience and suitability for the role.

To submit your application electronically:

Please provide a cover letter (of no more than two pages in length) addressed to the Executive Director – BFSF and a copy of your CV along with two references to jobs@bfsf.bz by the application deadline.

Application deadline:

April 21st at 5:00 pm.



**MINISTRY
OF
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND
HOUSING**



INVITATION TO CONSULTING FIRMS TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Operation Data

Country: BELIZE
 Operation: Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway
 Operation No: Loan Agreement No. 2295

Consulting Data

Name of the Consultancy: Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of the Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway
 Selection Method: Quality and Cost Based Selection
 Reference number: PGHUP-CAB-002

The Government of Belize – Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing has received financing from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration for the Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway, and it is intended to use a portion of the funds for consulting services contracts.

The Consulting services (“the services”) include: A two phased assignment. Phase #1, is to assist the GOBZ in reviewing the existing (November 2017) detailed design and make adjustments to its content and cost estimates reflecting conditions that have changed since its completion and current cost escalations due to various national and international factors. Phase #2, of this consultancy is to assist the GOBZ in providing project management of those road works, including contractor supervision and contract administration throughout the project implementation process, inclusive of the defects liability period.

The Government of Belize – Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing invites eligible consulting firms to express their interest in providing the requested services. Interested consultants shall provide information indicating that they are qualified to provide the services and may partner with other firms in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or subconsultants to improve their qualifications. The criteria for shortlist selection are found within the respective Terms of Reference.

Interested Consulting Firms can obtain the Terms of Reference at no cost by requesting them by email: peu@midh.gov.bz

Consultants will be selected using the method of Quality Cost-Based Selection described in the Regulations for the Application of the Procurement Policy available in www.bcie.org.

Interested consultants can obtain more information at the address indicated at the end of this invitation, during business hours.

One electronic copy of the Expression (s) of interest together with the information indicated in the Terms of Reference must be submitted to the address below. The file(s) containing each submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked “**Expression of Interest - Consultancy Services for Contract Supervision of the Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway**” and shall be received by no later than **10:00 a.m. local time on Friday 21 April 2023.**

The burden of proving receipt of the e-mail will be on the applicant and will not be met solely by a read receipt or sent items report generated by the applicant’s computer. Confirmation of receipt can be requested at the address listed below.

Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing - Project Execution Unit

Mr. Evondale Moody

Engineering Coordinator

Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing

Power Lane, Belmopan, BELIZE Tel: +501-828-5220

Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

Kamala in Zambia

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Apr. 11, 2023

As closely as our Belize government and people are allied, being in the backyard of America and with a sizable percentage of our diaspora population residing in different cities of the USA, it comes as strange to most of us with some African ancestry to hear our kinfolds from the African continent expressing anything but good vibes and warm cordiality towards a visiting U.S. government official, the U.S. Vice President at that. But it was eye opening to hear what one high ranking African government official, the Zambian Opposition Leader had to say on the visit of American Vice President, Kamala Harris. Check out the report below from a non-US controlled international media source:

Zambian Opposition Leader: US 'Killed Our Leaders,' Now They're 'Coming to Teach Us About Democracy'



U.S. Vice President, Kamala Harris © AP Photo / Misper Apawu

Wyatt Reed
sputnikglobe.com, April 1, 2023

As many Zambians react with indifference to Kamala Harris' trip to Africa, one of the country's leaders had a scathing rebuke of American politicians' enduring colonial attitudes toward the continent – which has since gone viral on social media.

An African politician's fierce condemnation of the American government "killers" who ordered many of the continent's governments overthrown and their leaders killed has gone viral as US Vice President Kamala visits the region in an effort to reign in African nations who've chartered an independent foreign policy path and declined to join Western economic sanctions on Russia.

"The killers of Patrice Lumumba, those who toppled Kwame Nkrumah, those who killed Nasser, those who killed Muammar Gaddafi, today are coming to teach us about democracy," explained Fred M'membe, president of the Socialist Party of Zambia, in a speech given March 23 at the International Forum on Democracy in Beijing.

America has no moral authority when it comes to lecturing Africa about democracy. That's the stinging assessment of Zambia's opposition leader, Fred M'membe. He delivered it during the visit of US Vice President Kamala Harris. And pointed to her country's ruthless pursuit of coups and enslavement in the past.

On Friday, videos showing excerpts of the speech were posted on US social media, where they quickly racked up hundreds of thousands of views.

Zambian opposition leader slams Kamala Harris visit:

"A country that has killed so many of our leaders in Africa... the killers of Patrice Lumumba, those who toppled Kwame Nkrumah, those who killed Nasser, those who killed Gaddafi... today are coming to teach us about democracy."

"A country that has toppled so many governments in Africa, that has led so many coups in Africa and other parts of the world, a country that has killed so many of our leaders in Africa and other parts of the world," M'membe continued, in a blistering critique of US double standards.

As the Zambian politician pointed out with incredulity, "a country that has been built on brutal force, on enslavement of other human beings, on the humiliation of Africans, the exploitation of Africans, the plunder of Africa, today is coming to teach us about democracy."

"If you have no respect for the dignity of others, if you have no respect for the sovereignty of other countries, you cannot claim to be a champion of democracy," he explained.

Last week, M'membe also condemned the US government's ongoing "anti-China crusade" in comments given to American state-affiliated media.

"It's not democracy and human rights they are pursuing in Africa. They are pursuing their geopolitical interests. They are pursuing their own economic interests. It is not for us—it is for them."



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

BELIZE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (BSIF)

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards implementing the Belize Social Investment Fund Loan III and the Basic Needs Trust Fund Tenth Programme and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOB shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) the Executing Agency, now wishes to procure consultancy services for **Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist**. The objective of the consultancy is to provide Monitoring and Evaluation Services to BSIF. The Consultant will be responsible for the development (including collection of baseline data), management, and implementation of a quality M&E system for the Programmes, Projects and the sub-projects that are implemented by BSIF. The duration of the assignment is expected to be a period of two (2) years, extendable by mutual agreement in accordance with prevailing Belize legislation as well as results of his/her performance appraisal.

Further details can be found in the Terms of Reference, which can be obtained from Address 1 below.

BSIF now invites interested eligible individual consultants to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualifications and experience required to provide these consultancy services.

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- the persons are citizens or *bona fide* residents of an eligible country; and
- in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or *bona fide* resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Consultants are advised to review the detailed eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to qualifications, experience on similar assignments and interview questions.

All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the first address below between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Belize Time) hours Monday to Friday.

The Expressions of Interest must be received electronically at the first address (BSIF) and second (CDB) below no later than **Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 10:00 a.m. (Belize Time)**. The subject line of the email containing each submission shall be clearly marked **"Expression of Interest – Consultancy Services for Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist for BSIF"**.

Following the assessment of submissions, the most technically capable and appropriately experienced applicant will be invited to negotiate a contract to provide the consultancy services. *GOBZ* reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not engaging the services of any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

Addresses:

1. Senior Procurement Officer
Belize Social Investment Fund
3rd Floor
#1902 Constitution Drive
Belmopan
BELIZE
Tel. (501) 822-0239;
Fax. (501) 822-0279
Email: submissions@sifbelize.org
cc: angeles.itzab@sifbelize.org

2. Procurement Officer
Caribbean Development Bank
P.O. Box 408
Wilkey
St. Michael
BARBADOS, W.I.
Tel. (246) 539-1600
Email: procurement@caribank.org
cc: omar.bispat@caribank.org

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

OW man killed in Holy Thursday RTA

by Charles Gladden

MILE 28, Belize District, Tues. Apr. 11, 2023

A road traffic accident that occurred in the afternoon on Holy Thursday, April 6, in the vicinity of Mile 28 on the George Price Highway claimed the life of a sales consultant of Orange Walk Town, 39-year-old Roel Edel Moguel.

An initial police report on the incident states that around 1:04 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 32-year-old Ronald Hiron, a Belizean truck driver of Belmopan, was driving a white Freightliner tractor truck on the highway toward Belmopan when, near Mile 28, Hiron reportedly saw a Ford Ranger pickup truck, driven at the time by Moguel, coming in the opposite



Roel Edel Moguel, deceased

direction. According to Hiron, who was accompanied by his co-worker Emir Moreno, 27, Moguel's pickup truck swerved suddenly into the lane of Hiron, thus causing him to swerve to the extreme right to avoid a head-on collision.

However, the impact of the encounter on the left front side of Hiron's truck caused him to lose control of the truck, which ran off the highway.

When police arrived at the scene, they found Moguel seated motionless inside the vehicle behind the steering wheel, and he was pronounced dead at the scene by medical personnel.

A Notice of Intended Prosecution was served to Hiron, pending a police investigation.

FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Continúa de página 9

sentir mi abuelo.

En la década de 1950, los patrones climáticos en Belize eran tales que si el viento soplaban desde tierra en la noche y temprano en la mañana, desde el oeste, entonces se calmaba por completo entre las 10:30 am y la 1:30 de la tarde. Después de eso, el viento sureste vendría fresco y fuerte, y los peces estarían hambrientos y buscando alimento. En una de esas tardes, mi abuelo me llevó a pescar al curricán y la captura fue impresionante. Tendría unos 6 o 7 años yo.

En octubre de 1957, cuando yo tenía 10 años, mi abuelo tomó prestado el velero de mi padre, CHRISTINE, y se fue a

Cayo Español, nueve millas al sur de la Ciudad de Belize, para pasar un tiempo solo. Belize era un lugar muy seguro en

esos días coloniales, y nadie en la familia se preocupaba por su excursión personal. Los familiares que pescaban en la zona vieron a CHRISTINE medio hundida frente al cayo y se dieron cuenta de que algo debía andar muy mal. Mi abuelo llevaba días muerto y su cuerpo estaba muy descompuesto. Solo tenía 62 años.

Esta es una de las razones por las que la foto de Philip Lewis me hace cosas. El anciano de su foto es mi abuelo, y el niño soy yo. Si esta columna sirve para ayudar de alguna manera a vincularme con Philip, habrá hecho su trabajo. Entiendo cómo los beliceños nativos pueden renunciar a Belize. Yo mismo me he sentido así muchas veces. Muchas veces.

A Story of Miguel's Life

Continued from Page 17

night. Shakira realized that. So, they went out, she humored him, and yes, they went to bed. Well, as expected, their little encounters went on for a while. In the meantime, she was orchestrating a way to make him fall in love with her, for she had realized that his attitude towards her was cold, he didn't love her, but she was determined to find a way. It turns out that one day, he told her,

"Hey, why don't you come and live at my house? Let's make a deal. We live together for about two years, and if we can get along, if we can have a home, then let us proceed. That way we don't have to be separated. I am alone. I would like to have a home, but I need to know you, and you need to know me too. So, I propose that we live together for two years. If in those two years our characters get along well, that we can understand each other well, then we can get married."

"Okay, that sounds good to me," she said.

And that is how she went to live with Miguel in his apartment. Another of the things about Miguel that resulted from the life he had lived, is that he didn't care about knowing a woman's past, and that's why he hadn't asked Shakira anything. He didn't know that she was a divorced woman. Nevertheless, even if he had known, he would not care, because what mattered to him was the present and the future, not the past, since he also had a very ugly past, a very long tale, so he did not care to know people's past. It was going to take Shakira time. Even so, she was going to use something she had learnt while working at the beauty salon. That is how she was going to win Miguel's heart. It is said that a man's heart can be won through his stomach, well, it isn't always the case. There are other ways too. It all depends on the man or the life he had lived, a life Shakira was not aware of.

(To Be Continued)

fincasolan@gmail.com

April 9, 2023

Finca Solana
Corozal Town

VACANCY



NOTICE

Accountant

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the Accounts Department. In the Port's continued effort to promote diversity both males/females, able/ differently abled are encouraged to apply for the available post.

Reports to: Chief Accountant

Summary of Responsibilities: The Accountant assist and support the Chief Accountant in carrying out the overall financial function for the Port. Applies principles of accounting to analyze financial information and prepare financial reports. Provide accurate quantitative information and assist with the supervision of accounting staff in the absence of Chief Accountant. Ensure the accurate, consistent and timely input of data into the accounting system.

Job Responsibilities:

- Overall Supervisor of the Accounts Department
- Prepare bank reconciliations for all accounts.
- Prepare management payroll.
- Prepare weekly cash flows – Review A/R
- Supervise – Cashier and Storekeeper
- Prepare monthly accruals (follow journal guide)
- Prepare monthly for PBL and BPOL GST and Business Tax return.
- Prepare managers monthly department expenses.
- Distribute end of month reports to managers
- Assist Chief Accountant: Analysis of Revenue, budget preparation.
- Manage Accounting Department in the absence of Chief Accountant
- Supervise preparation and loading of PAYE and Social Security to portal.
- Reconcile intercompany accounts BPL, BPOL, BLTL
- Prepare and reconcile loan accounts.
- Supervise preparation of staff payroll
- Prepare and reconcile monthly reports – suspense Acts, prepayments accounts etc.
- Prepare and update monthly depreciation schedule.
- Supervise: Petty cash reconciliation
 - Stevedore Floats account
 - Assist in checking out of cashier.
- Any other duties of a related nature as per departmental needs

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting
- 5+ years' experience
- Strong interpersonal and supervisory skills
- Strong verbal and written communication
- Report writing
- Ability to multi task

Skills/Competencies:

- Strong command of accounting principles as per
- Problem solving skills
- Able to work under pressure
- Confidential
- Trustworthy

Compensation Package: Will be commensurate (in accordance with the Company's Salary Structure).

To apply: Provide updated resume, cover letter (addressed to Human Resource Manager), copy of valid social security card, valid police report, name and phone number of two(2) previous employers.

Email to:

jobapplications@portofbelize.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, April 28, 2023.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; Belize District; Little Belize Settlement, Corozal Town, Corozal District; August Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk Town; Hattievillage, Potts Creek/Salt Creek, Belize District; Georgeville Village, Cayo District; Dangriga, Stann Creek District; Bella Vista Village, Toledo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running until 31st May 2023. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

A: San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:

1. Laguna De San Pedro Zone, San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
San Pedro	7	4093, 4094, 4095, 4872, 4873, 4874
Freehold properties of Messrs. Casa Katerina Limited.		

2. Parcel No. 6824 Colonia Diego, San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	6824
Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa.		

3. Parcel No. 2601 San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	2601
Freehold property of Mr. Pablo Sosa		

B: COROZAL DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 799 Waree Bight Area, near Little Belize, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Waree Bight/Freshwater Creek	3	799
Freehold property of Mr. David Neufeld of Little Belize Corn Mill.		

2. Parcel No. 929 8th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal Central	1	929
Freehold property of Mr. Abraham Nicholson.		

C: ORANGE WALK DISTRICT:

1. Parcel No. 1124 August Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
August Pine Ridge	9	1124
Freehold property of Mr. Jacob Freisen.		

D. BELIZE DISTRICT:

1. 995 Acres situate at Intersection Potts Creek Road & Western Boundary of Salt Creek Work, Belize District:



ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land containing 995 acres situated on the intersection of Potts Creek Road and the western boundary of Salt Creek Work TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Messrs. Smuggler's Run Holdings Limited)

2. 5 Acres situate at Junction Potts Creek Road & north bank Potts Creek, Belize District:



ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land containing 5 acres situate at the junction Potts Creek Road and the north bank of Potts Creek TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Messrs. Smuggler's Run Holdings Limited)

3. Lots Nos. 43 & 44 Fred Hunter's Subdivision, Mile 13 Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize District:



ALL THOSE pieces or parcels of land being Lots Nos. 43 and 44 situate Southwest of the Phillip Goldson Highway at Mile 13, Belize District, Belize being a portion of land comprised in Minister's Fiat Grant No. 15 of 1989 date 23rd February 1989 TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Being 2 vacant lots situate in the Fred Hunter Subdivision near Mile 13 on the Northern Highway, South of Los Largos in the Belize District, the freehold properties of Mr. Gildardo Cardona and Mrs. Rocio Aguilar Cardona)

4. Lot No. 307 Hattievillage, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 307 situated at Belizean American Site near Mile 17 1/2 South of George Price Highway, Hattievillage, Belize District comprising 613.44 square meters TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Sean Delroy Nicholas)

E: CAYO DISTRICT:

1. Lot No. 193 Georgeville Village, Cayo District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of vacant land being Lot No. 193 Minister's Fiat 606 of 2013 of Georgeville Village, Cayo District, comprising of 1026.481 Square Meters, TOGETHER with all buildings and erection standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Ms. Tanesha Salazar)

F: STANN CREEK DISTRICT

1. Parcel Nos. 440 Dangriga, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Dangriga South	31	44
Freehold property of Messrs. Dangriga Cable Vision.		

2. Parcel Nos. 618 Dangriga, Stann Creek District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Dangriga South	31	61
Freehold property of Messrs. Dangriga Cable Vision.		

G: TOLEDO DISTRICT:

1. Lot No. 2 Bella Vista Village, Toledo District:



All That piece or parcel of land known as Lot #2 located in Bella Vista Village, Stann Creek District comprising 445.892 square meters Together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Freehold property of Mr. Robert Andrew August and Ms. Roselia E. Lizama)

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488
 Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
 E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
 Facebook: [Belize Auction](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuction)

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 5/2023

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$64,391,800.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 25 April 2023 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 25 July 2023.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 21 April 2023.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be open from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday, 25 April 2023.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GL1CORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

NOTICE TO RENOVATE DRAIN SYSTEM

Sheep and Goat Project, Central Farm, Cayo

The Sheep and Goat Project is seeking to renovate a drain system for the sheep barn at the National Sheep and Goat Breeding Center in Central Farm.

Companies are invited to submit their price quotation which includes all fees for all materials and labor cost.

A tendering letter by interested parties including a quotation in Belize Dollars is to be emailed to h.y.huang@icdf.org.tw before 4:00 p.m. Thursday April 20th, 2023. Late bids will not be accepted. The bidder whose offer has been determined to be the lowest evaluated quotation and is qualified to satisfy the contract shall be awarded the purchase order. For further details on the tendering process and design of drain system please contact the Sheep & Goat Project via telephone number 832-8187 or email at h.y.huang@icdf.org.tw.

The Forgotten Story of the Tragedy of the "E.M.L."

by Donia Scott

Preface

In the dead of night exactly one hundred years ago, in April 1923, a mailboat named the *E.M.L.* sank off the coast of Sarteneja, British Honduras, taking with it the lives of 18 people. It is a story that has been lost to the passage of time. One might be tempted to think that it was not a noteworthy event. That would be wrong.

A few years ago, during a break while writing a scientific paper for a conference on Natural Language Processing (a field in Artificial Intelligence now making headlines about ChatGPT), I conducted a Google search of my much-loved maternal grandmother, Alice Marchand.

Born in British Honduras in 1888, she was a key figure in our Jamaican household. Like many middle-class women of her generation, her role was primarily that of housewife and mother. She was not associated with any of the public deeds or misdeeds that would normally warrant an internet presence. I had no expectation of finding anything.

Searches using several permutations of her name received no hits until I entered in the words "Mrs Lucio Marchand" – remembering that letters sent to her when I was a child were always addressed in this way. Success! Up popped the link to an article from the archives of a Jamaican newspaper, *The Gleaner*, dated the 25th of April 1923, apparently a reprint of a recent article from a British Honduran newspaper, *The Clarion*. This article reported a shipwreck that had occurred on the 10th of April in British Honduras. Yipes!



THE GLEANER, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1923.

LOST OFF HONDURAS COAST.

Vessel with 71 Passengers Sinks and 51 of the Number Are Saved.

BISHOP IS A VICTIM.

Head of Roman Catholic Church in British Honduras Drowned.

Belize, British Honduras, April 14.—The *Clarion* in its issue to-day publishes the following—
Early on Tuesday morning last, telegraphic report sent by the Dis-

trict criminal law be put into motion and those responsible be put on trial for the unjustifiable endangering and taking of human life.

We charge the Government of the Colony as the chief culprit in this cruel tragedy with callous indifference to the safety of the lives of those compelled to travel along our coasts. The Government were aware of the danger long ago and made a half-hearted attempt to guard against such a calamity. Why was this attempt carried to completion? Look at Ordinance No. 14 of 1921 and its amending Ordinance No. 21 of 1922, and the Regulations made thereunder by the Harbour Board on the 19th June, 1922.

What a mockery! The very words seem to cry out "SHAME!" Here was adequate machinery to guard against overloading and the

Reverend Frederick C. Hopkins, S.J., D.D., Bishop of Athribis and Vice Apostolic of British Honduras, whom we all know and love so well.

"When the news of the terrible disaster became generally known in Belize on Tuesday morning, anxious enquiries were made on all sides as to the safety of His Lordship. Name after name came through by telephone from Corozal of those saved, but no information could be obtained of the Bishop. No one could say what had happened to him. Hope was held out until Wednesday morning when it became evident that sadly we must remember him among those whose lives were snatched away without any warning. Not that His Lordship required any warning, what man in this whole colony was more prepared for death?"
"As a mark of respect and esteem

Granny would occasionally mention in passing, usually along with a story of Charles Lindbergh having landed his seaplane in front of her house, that she had been on a ship that sank off the Yucatan a long time ago, that one of her five children had drowned and that she had saved someone else's little girl. But little otherwise. This article announced that very shipwreck. Not only was Granny mentioned by name, but she was referred to in glowing terms, recalling her bravery, especially compared to the male passengers and crew. It was also reported that a well-known Catholic bishop had drowned when the *E.M.L.* sank.

With more time on my hands during the COVID lockdown, I would occasionally run a Google search on the *E.M.L.*, hoping that someone, somewhere would have uploaded some material on the event. I found a lot online about the Bishop, the Reverend Frederick Hopkins, S.J., on various sites belonging to the Catholic Church.

Then up popped my second big discovery, this time on the official Facebook site of the Belize Archives and Records Service. It was a detailed first-person testimony of the sinking of the ship, in the form of an extract from a Coroner's Inquest into the event. The person providing the testimony was none other than Granny herself! Her story was heartbreaking. I emailed copies to several members of my family, with the subject title "Granny was a hero!"

A distant cousin in Belize, Florencia Castillo, whom I had met briefly a few years earlier when my sisters and I took our mother to Belize as a birthday treat, very kindly directed me to a newly-formed Facebook group named "Belize National Historic Society". Through this group, I learned a lot about the history and traditions of the country and members would answer my no-doubt naïve occasional questions ("What is a kraal?", "A patakee?"). I soon realised that even amongst those with a deep interest in the history of that country, very little is known today about the shipwreck of the *E.M.L.* other than that it led to the drowning of a famous Bishop and three nuns. But among the many photographs of riverboats that were published on the site, were two of the *E.M.L.* Remarkably, I was also able to track down a daughter of the seven-year-old girl that Granny had saved, to whom she referred in her testimony as "a Sabido girl". Eliza Jefferson and I had an emotional conversation over Facebook Messenger. Her mother, she said, was Sybil Sabido, and she was one of the survivors of the *E.M.L.*

I corresponded with Mary Alpuche, Archive Officer of the Belize Archives and Records Service, who generously devoted some of her time to finding copies of the weekly newspaper,

Retired public officers say...

Continued from Page 6

PSWT is for retired people in their old age to be getting up early in the morning to dig and plant vegetables, to water them and bend their backs to weed them out and spray insects, spiders and other pests, and drive away birds and iguanas from their crops; then working in the sun to reap and sell products. So, now they must work for their increments lost. One would have thought that these old people were retired and would have their lost increments restored to them, rather than to have them doing hard labour.

The ABRPO's message is a simple one: Dissolve the PSWT and give these retired workers the money they worked for now. People should encourage the government to give the retirees what they are entitled to.

April 11, 2023

Submitted by: A Group of Disgruntled Beneficiaries

Signed: Vernon Card

The Forgotten Story of...

Continued from Page 22

The Clarion, for the period following the tragedy. She unearthed about 10 articles about the disaster. One contained extracts of a few other first-person testimonials given at the Coroner's Inquest that followed.

Later, I was able to put many pieces of the puzzle together through visits to the National Archives at Kew in London, which houses in their staggeringly large collection of Colonial Records an almost complete set of the original correspondence and dispatches between the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Devonshire, and the Governor of British Honduras, Sir Eyre Hutson. It contained about 50 reports on the sinking of the *E.M.L.* and included the official report from the Coroner's Inquest held in Corozal a few days after the sinking. Among the 27 depositions at the Inquest, there were 14 from surviving passengers and crew on board, each recounting their experience of the pandemonium that ensued during the 10 to 15 minutes that the ship went down. It was heart-racing stuff.

Armed with all this information, and supplemented with many forays with Google, I have been able to collect an almost complete account of the events surrounding the shipwreck, and of the lives of those who drowned. Missing, regrettably, is any verifiable information surrounding the two drowned children of Edwin Llewellyn Fuller of Orange Walk – Gladys (aged 10) and her unnamed sibling – other than that Gladys's body was later identified by a relative on board, Henry Gustavus Longworth, but the body of her sibling was never recovered.

This account is dedicated to those whose lives were tragically cut short off the coast near Sarteneja on the 10th of April 1923.

Lest we forget!

Donia Scott
8th April 2023.



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Mike Hernandez Jr. Sr. J.P.
Media & Communications Officer
PHONE: 501-227-2420 **FAX:** 501-227-2423 **TOLL FREE:** 1-800-624-0686
WEBSITE: travelbelize.org; email: pr@belizetourismboard.org
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 325, #64 Regent Street, Belize City, Belize.

BTB RECOGNIZES TWO OUTSTANDING BELIZEANS

Belize City, Belize, April 12, 2023: The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) recently recognized Derick Hendy and Vianny Godoy, two outstanding Belizeans, for their dedication, hardwork and excellent service to Belize, as part of its Frontline Hero Award program. Both persons received their awards last week from the Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism & Diaspora Relations.

Meet Frontline Hero - Derick Hendy

Derick Hendy is a park ranger with the Belize Audubon Society and is stationed at the Crooked Tree Village Wildlife Sanctuary. At the Sanctuary, he is involved in Community and Education Outreach programs, research, bird monitoring, water level recording, water bird survey, maintenance of the protected area, water and land patrols, and meeting and greeting local and foreign visitors. Derick is also the founder of the first Junior Bird Club in Crooked Tree Village and surrounding areas, which aims to educate the youth on the importance of birds to our environment.

Derick has been working in conservation, sustainable development and tourism for almost three decades. Ambitious, enthusiastic, self-motivated, reliable, responsible, honest, hard working, and always willing to go the extra mile, are some of his personal traits.

"The BTB Frontline Hero Award makes me feel surprised and good at the same time. It is motivation and a boost of confidence for me to do even greater things in the future," Derick shared.

Meet Frontline Hero – Vianny Godoy

At the tender age of 30 years, Vianny Godoy is already a consummate professional and a stellar employee at the Institute of Archaeology. She currently works as a Ticket Clerk at the Xunantunich Archaeological Reserve near her native village of San Jose Succotz in the Cayo District.

"Ms. Godoy is a very reliable and friendly frontline personnel at Xunantunich. She has consistently demonstrated dependability, professionalism, and politeness with assisting visitors and in working with her colleagues at the site. She is very humble and is always smiling and willing to go the extra mile in accomplishing her assigned tasks," said Dr. Melissa M. Badillo, Director of the Institute of Archaeology.

In her role, Vianny documents and monitors visitor arrivals, assists with queries, and provides the best customer service to visitors, ensuring they always have a positive experience upon arrival at Xunantunich.

"I am honoured to be recognized as one of BTB's Frontline Heroes and grateful for the recognition of my dedication to my work. I take pride in the work I do. I aim to do my work to the best of my ability; to give our tourists the best service and to be a positive inspiration to all the women, whom I impact on a daily basis," Vianny shared.

The BTB congratulates both Derick and Vianny for their outstanding contribution to Belize. As their award, both received a \$1,500 cash donation courtesy of the BTB and a two-night stay package at [Falling Leaves Lodge](#) and [El Ben Cabañas](#), respectively. We also take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to both properties for graciously sponsoring their hotel stays.

About the Award

The BTB's Frontline Hero Award program was established in 2021 to recognize outstanding Belizeans who have served Belize beyond their call of duty. This program is operated in collaboration with tourism stakeholders who have been generous in contributing packages to the honorees. Stakeholders wishing to contribute a package towards the Frontline Hero Award Program can contact BTB's Public Relations Unit via email at pr@belizetourismboard.org or Tel: 227-2420.



Derick Hendy (left) and Vianny Godoy (right) receiving their Frontline Hero award from Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism & Diaspora Relations.

Ashcroft doubles down: UK BIT arbitration...

Continued from Page 2

DOE agreed that a new EIA would be submitted and processed on an expedited basis. This was done, and by August 2022 that new Waterloo EIA was received by the DOE. After two rounds of consultation and a request for additional information from the developers, the NEAC ultimately decided that this development—which would involve the dredging and dumping of millions of cubic meters of material near Belize’s marine areas—would pose too great a risk to the environment, including the country’s barrier reef, and handed down its decision to not grant environmental clearance to the DOE. The DOE accepted this recommendation and informed Waterloo of the second rejection of their proposal on December 5.

In the notice, the Ashcroft companies claimed that the DOE, which had released an extensive explanation of the specific risks posed by the project and the unanswered questions surrounding its proposed containment methods, was biased in its decision-making. They claimed

that the DOE, “Applied different and more stringent standards to the applications made by PBL than those which had been applied to other, comparable, applications for environmental approval, including especially the applications made by two greenfield developments: Port of Magical Belize and Stake Bank.”

And they insisted that they engaged in a, “lengthier and more onerous process for considering the applications made by PBL than those which were applied to other, comparable applications for environmental approval.” They then suggested that this gave “rise to the inference that the DOE was acting for ulterior or corrupt purposes in granting environmental approval to projects proposed by PBL’s competitors.”

In regard to the ongoing Waterloo Appeal Tribunal—on which Paul Hunt, Sr., was appointed to serve as private sector representative after Lucy Fleming chose not to take the position—the companies say the government, “wrongfully interfered with the constitution of the Environment Tribunal as an independent and impartial

arbitrator of the appeal.” (They did not indicate whether they would have expressed the same level of concern about impartiality if Kevin Herrera, the business senator who would have otherwise sat on the tribunal, and whose brother is a consultant for the Waterloo project, had retained his tribunal seat.)

In the notice, Lucy Fleming, who had been proposed as a possible tribunal member, and Professor Terrence Hughes, who sits on the tribunal as one of its three members, are referred to as individuals with “recorded and evidenced bias.”

“The Claimants reserve their right to bring additional claims of violation of the BIT in respect of the Respondent’s continued failure to address the appeal,” the notice further states.

We note that a proceeding in the domestic High Court was initiated by local Ashcroft lawyers in an attempt to have the court strike down SI 23 of 2023 which legislated the recomposition of the appeals tribunal. They claimed that the tribunal which was selected following this amendment, which included Fleming, was

“tainted with bias and will likely breach the claimant’s rights.”

BCB and Prize have retained attorneys from Essex Court Chambers and Clifford Chance LLP in the UK to seek five areas of relief: a declaration that Belize has violated the UK BIT Treaty, a monetary award to compensate for the harm caused by the aforesaid breaches, to be quantified in subsequent pleadings; an award of costs in the arbitration, an award of interest on the monetary compensation (including awarded costs) up to the date of payment; and such other relief as the Tribunal determines is appropriate.

This Notice of Arbitration was served on PM Briceño 10 days ago on April 3. Paul Hunt, Sr. was appointed to the Tribunal on April 5. As mentioned, the government of Belize must now signal whether or not it consents to having the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague serve as the arbitral body for this case. Three arbitrators will sit to hear this latest proceeding initiated by Lord Michael Ashcroft against the Government of Belize.



*Changing Communities,
Impacting Lives,
Embracing Success!
DFC at 60!*

AUDIT SENIOR

THE JOB

The Audit Senior performs audits of the Corporation in compliance with applicable standards guidelines and sufficiency of internal controls. He/she assists the Manager, Internal Audit in ensuring that proper audit systems, policies, procedures and internal controls are established and effectively applied to support the safety and integrity of the Corporation’s assets. The Audit Senior performs auditor-in-charge duties on engagements and completes higher-risk audit testing.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

1. A Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting, Finance or related field
2. At least five years of related Internal Audit experience (preferably at a financial institution)
3. At least three years of experience in a supervisory role
4. Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation preferred, or ability to obtain certification within one year of employment

REQUIRED SKILLS & ABILITIES

- Knowledge of internal auditing best practices
- Strong leadership and people management skills
- Superior communication skills- written, verbal, and inter-personal
- High attention to detail, accuracy and deadlines
- Sound decision making, ability to take feedback, and a professional attitude that puts the best interest of the Corporation and stakeholders first
- Ability to work with little or no supervision on audit assignments, determining when to act independently and when to escalate situations
- High ethical standards and uncompromising sense of integrity
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite or related software
- Ability to travel as needed (Quarterly for Branch Audits)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

1. Carryout the execution of audits as outlined in the Corporation’s yearly audit plan.
2. Perform audit fieldwork for areas assessed as higher-risk.
3. Perform preliminary Engagement Risk Assessment for Audits.
4. Perform first review of engagement Work papers as assigned.
5. Supervise work carried out by the audit staff during fieldwork, providing feedback, guidance and coaching thereby assuring the quality of work provided.
6. Contribute to the Human Resources Management Function of the Corporation by always leading by example and fostering a high-performance company culture that emphasizes customer focus, quality, continuous improvement and learning.
7. Provide direction to employees by communicating job expectations, appraising job results, determining training needs, coaching, counseling, disciplining and recognizing employees; and enforcing policies, procedures, and productivity standards.
8. Train new employees as the need arises.
9. Assist the Manager with performing the Corporation’s annual Risk Assessment and the development of the Risk Based Annual Audit Plan.
10. Assist the Manager with the preparation of the Department’s Operating Expense, Training and Capital budgets and monitor performance on a monthly basis.

STATION

Headquarters Office, City of Belmopan

ACT NOW

1. Letter of Application
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Copy of most recent qualification
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (*no older than six months*) – two must be professional references of which one must be from a previous employer.
5. Copy of Social Security Card
6. Police record (*no older than six months*)

SUBMISSION

Submit application with reference Application for Vacancy:

AUDIT SENIOR

to:

Manager

Human Resources and Administration

Development Finance Corporation

P. O. Box 40 | Belmopan | Belize, C.A.

Applications may be submitted electronically by email to:

careers@dfcbelize.org

DEADLINE:

APRIL 23, 2023

SHARING

A Digital Copy of this Career Notice can be downloaded from DFC’s website at:

www.dfcbelize.org

or also accessed from DFC’s Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/DFCBelize

Belize participates in Latin American Anti-Inflation Summit

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023

Economies in the Latin American region are under a lot of pressure, with the never-ending increase in prices and shortages of basic food and necessities. In Belize, our economy has suffered drastically, and has not fully recovered to what it was pre-Covid. Presidents of neighboring countries in Latin America and South America have met with the hopes of mitigating inflation the best way they can, through trade.

On Wednesday, April 5, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador called a meeting via Zoom with key leaders from the region, including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Venezuela, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Belize. The aim was to discuss a plan for economic cooperation through the importation and exportation of food and other goods.

Leaders highlighted what started the inflation in each country and what should be traded. It was proposed that



to discuss trade ... a big part of that discussion has to deal with, 'okay, what can countries provide to the region that you are already producing at a reasonable cost' ... It's an opportunity again for Belize to form trading partners with countries that we may have limited or no trading with at this point in time."

Arnold said that although Belize is small it is well respected regionally for how we have exited the pandemic with almost half of our debts reduced, and over the last year having a 12%-14% growth of our economy. Belize is able to bring different elements to the

table, including cattle, soybeans, other types of beans, sugar, and other agricultural products.

Another discussion was the partnership with Venezuela to restart the Petro-Caribe project, which would greatly aid Belize and other countries at the Summit in coping with the rising fuel prices.

Following this virtual meeting, a face-to-face meeting is scheduled to take place on May 6-7 in Cancun, Mexico, which will cover inflation as well as other issues.



Oscar Arnold, Belize's Ambassador to Mexico

taxes and tariffs be reduced throughout, if not removed in order to lower the high prices of food items.

Belizean Ambassador to Mexico, Oscar Arnold described it as an honor and privilege to be invited to this anti-inflation summit, explaining to a local media house what it means for Belize.

"For us, it was a privilege and an honor because now Belize sits at the table with these other countries, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, a couple of the other big countries in South America, and a few in Central America

Trio charged for Sirenian Bay home invasion

by Charles Gladden

STANN CREEK DISTRICT, Tues. Apr. 11, 2023

After carrying out an extensive investigation into a terrifying invasion of a Sirenian Bay Resort and Villas beach house in which some American tourists from Arizona had been staying, police have arrested three men.

It was reported last month that a group of 4 men arrived at the resort –

two armed with firearms and the others with sharp weapons – at approximately 12:50 a.m. on Thursday, March 9. The group then entered the beach house where the tourists were staying and began interrogating them about the owners of the establishment and the whereabouts of money while they held them hostage.

Among the tourist group was an 18-year-old who was tied up.

But during the course of the home

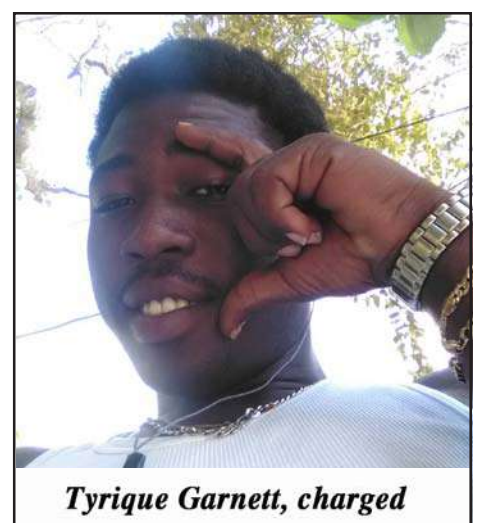
invasion, police arrived on the scene and began approaching the resort, where they encountered two of the four robbers guarding the entrance. The men proceeded to fire shots in the officers' direction, resulting in a shootout between both groups.

The four men managed to escape on a skiff, only taking a cell phone.

On Friday, April 7, police arrested and jointly charged three men from the Belize District in connection with the



Jermaine "Horse" Garnett, charged



Tyrique Garnett, charged

incident: Jermaine Bernardez, 23, a fisherman; Jermaine 'Horse' Garnett, 41, a laborer of Belize City; and Tyrique Garnett, 23, a laborer of Ladyville.

They were jointly charged with aggravated burglary and two counts of aggravated assault.

In the weekly press briefing on Tuesday, Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams remarked, "Good

SR. TRADE LICENSE INSPECTOR CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Reports: Valuation Manager

The Belize City Council is seeking applicants to fill the post of **Sr. Trade License Inspector**. All interested persons must submit their application packages in a sealed envelope, addressed to the **Human Resources Manager**, no later than **Monday, April 24, 2023**.

Application packages should include the following:

1. Completed Belize City Council Application Form
2. Cover Letter
3. Resume
4. Copy of the applicant's Social Security Card
5. A current police record
6. A passport sized photo
7. Two (2) letters of reference

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Ensure that all operational establishments obtain a license
2. Inspect all new and existing establishments on a daily basis
3. Maintain a current trade license record on all establishments
4. Responsible to update and supervise the Trade License Roll
5. Knowledge of relevant legislation in relations to the Trade License Act is required
6. Render assistance and expertise with the building of Case Files for trade license matters lodged before the Courts
7. Assist and offer guidance to the public with Trade License concerns and matter of interest
8. Ensure that professionalism is displayed at all times when carryout duties
9. Required to attend Court hearings and testify at the Court on trade license matters lodged before the Courts.

10. Plan and coordinate all filed inspections for special assignments and exercises on behalf of the department with the Trade License Officer. Providing support with all implementation to meet project goals and special assignments by using efficient and effective field inspections in line with the departmental strategy.
11. Conduct stakeholder or key expert interviews as part of the field inspection process in the gathering of information that will be resourceful to facilitate decision making by management in Court Matters, Trade Licensing Board Meetings and improvement to the Trade Licensing Roll.
12. Assist with the planning and offer expertise support to management whenever there are public forums, workshops and special training in relations to Trade License.
13. Prepare weekly reports and a monthly report which is due on the 5th of each month, all reports must be submitted to the Field Supervisor in accordance with set schedules.
14. The Trade License Inspector must preserve an attitude of complete impartiality in all contact with members of the public, their appointed agents and billing assistance and all inspections made must be completed free from interest or prejudice.
15. Carryout any other duties assigned from time to time
16. Ensure that all protocols, procedures and guidelines are used at all times in carrying out assigned duties
17. Report to work immediately in the event of a disaster, thereat and after the City has suffered a disaster
18. Reports to the Valuation Field Supervisor and accountable to the Valuation Manager

Skills/Competences:

- ◆ Must be able to write sound reports
- ◆ Must be able to manage multiple projects and multi-task
- ◆ Must be a team player and have good oral and written communications skills

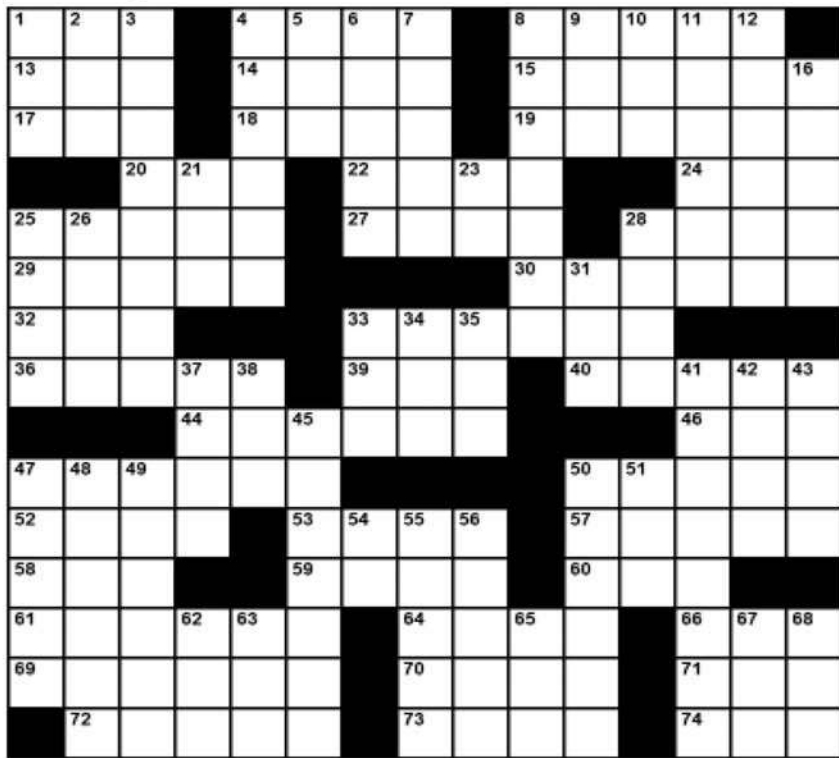
Qualifications:

⇒ A minimum of an Associate's Degree



NEW PUZZLE

Daily Printable Puzzle - 04-13-2023



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Across

- 1. Circle, in a way
- 4. Closed
- 8. Breakneck
- 13. Also
- 14. Be defeated
- 15. Brought into balance
- 17. A pair
- 18. Accessible
- 19. Copes
- 20. Beer barrel
- 22. Artist Bonheur
- 24. A play on words
- 25. Capital of Ghana
- 27. Arrogant people
- 28. Actress Wyman
- 29. Early physician
- 30. Expresses gratitude
- 32. Cassowary kin
- 33. Hardly intrepid
- 36. Troubleshoot
- 39. Black-eyed item
- 40. South African Grassland
- 44. Alleviation
- 46. Grandson, perhaps
- 47. Hawk
- 50. Hardly popular
- 52. Bible twin
- 53. Poetic pronoun
- 57. Choice group
- 58. Be a stage star
- 59. Red pigment
- 60. Ankle site
- 61. Ankle high laced boot
- 64. Get ready for an exam
- 66. Boring tool
- 69. In this place
- 70. Become exhausted
- 71. Canine category
- 72. Hollywood's Duke
- 73. 2001, e.g.
- 74. Barely manage

Down

- 1. Baseball great Mel
- 2. Big argument
- 3. Type of reading society
- 4. Catchword
- 5. Bunny leap
- 6. Cable subscribers
- 7. Dovetail wedge
- 8. Marina event
- 9. 5th or Park
- 10. Animal friend
- 11. Attach a harness to
- 12. Show to be false
- 16. Physics units
- 21. Antecedent
- 23. As a result
- 25. Added years
- 26. Arrived
- 28. Figurine stone
- 31. Virus that causes AIDS
- 33. Be unoriginal
- 34. Catered a banquet
- 35. Bit of light
- 37. Pakistani tongue
- 38. Colloid
- 41. Sue
- 42. Count calories
- 43. Ebb is one
- 45. Hydrocarbon derivative
- 47. Cobbler fruit
- 48. Abstain from
- 49. Thorn apples
- 50. Assistant
- 51. A Canadian export
- 54. That man
- 55. Devoid of content
- 56. Ala King
- 62. C major or F minor
- 63. Aunts, e.g.
- 65. Historic time
- 67. Cooking pan
- 68. Cleansing agent

Crossword answers for last edition

The answers below are for the puzzle appearing in last Friday's edition of the Amandala. The answers for the above puzzle will appear in next week's Friday issue of this newspaper.



Daily Printable Crossword Puzzle - 04-04-2023 - Answers



KREM Television Program Guide

Shoa Wiself, Si Wiself, Bee Wiself!!!

Questions or comments may be forwarded via email to

Phone: 202-5848

kremtelevision@yahoo.com

Friday, April 14 to Thursday, April 20, 2023

FRIDAY

- 6:30 a.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Stew (LIVE)
- 12:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: South American Ramadan in tropical Guyana - Al Jazeera World
- 3:30 p.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)
- 6:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)
- 7:00 p.m. Documentary: 60 Minutes Belize (1988)
- 7:30 p.m. Navel String Connection (repeat)
- 9:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)

SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Movie: Queen Of Katwe
- 11:04 a.m. Documentary: Pele — Birth Of A Legend
- 12:51 p.m. Movie: The Banker
- 2:51 p.m. Documentary: Deserts to Grasslands
- 3:42 p.m. Movie: Jumping The Broom
- 5:30 p.m. Documentary: Ancient Mysteries — The Search For Three Legendary Cities - Lost Worlds Timeline
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Review (LIVE)
- 12:00 p.m. Holy Day of Atonement
- 2:32 p.m. Movie: Avatar - The Way Of Water
- 5:30 p.m. Sunday Review (repeat)
- 7:00 p.m. Sunday Jazz
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

MONDAY

- 6:30 a.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Stew (LIVE)
- 12:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Race
- 3:30 p.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)
- 6:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: South American Ramadan in tropical Guyana - Al Jazeera World
- 9:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)

TUESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Stew (LIVE)
- 12:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Documentary: This World: Child Slavery
- 3:30 p.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)
- 6:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. & Robert De Niro, Press Conference
- 9:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Stew (LIVE)
- 12:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: The Shawshank Redemption
- 3:30 p.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)
- 6:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)
- 7:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 8:00 p.m. Documentary: South American Ramadan in tropical Guyana - Al Jazeera World
- 9:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)

THURSDAY

- 6:30 a.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (LIVE)
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Stew (LIVE)
- 12:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)
- 1:00 p.m. News Broadcast: Democracy Now
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: Winnie Mandela
- 3:30 p.m. Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)
- 6:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)
- 7:00 p.m. Ted Talks: Choosing a path of service
- 7:30 p.m. Navel String Connection (LIVE)
- 9:00 p.m. Krem TV Evening News (repeat)

Belizean Oscar Quiroz wins 2023 Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic



Top 3 finishers: 1st Oscar Quiroz, 2nd Cory Williams and 3rd Johnathan Brown

Continued from **Page 1**

for the start of the hemisphere's longest, oldest one-day race, but none were Guatemalans, only one was Mexican, and eleven were Americans. Last year's winner, Hasani Hennis from Anguilla, who currently rides for the Miami Blazers, also failed to register and defend his championship.

It has been 10 years since a resident Belizean cyclist won the Ride for the Roses—Darnell Barrow winning in 2013—and a parade of Guatemalans (3), Belizean Americans (2), a Mexican (1) and an Anguillan (1) have since claimed the coveted prize. (The race was postponed for 2 years during the Covid-19 pandemic).

Quiroz broke away from the leading trio 4 miles outside of Belize City and at no point after that did he lose the leading position. Jonathan Brown, Oscar Quiroz, Corey Williams, and his brother two-time champion Justin Williams along with Ian Macdonald had seized the lead just after Mile 39 on the way to San Ignacio. A few miles later, Justin for still unexplained reasons pulled up, while Macdonald began experiencing mechanical problems shortly after the men were returning from San Ignacio.

This year's race may have been the most lucrative in its long history, with over \$15,000 cash divided among the first 20 finishers and as much as \$20,000 in cash and other prizes from almost 100 station prizes along the 142.5 miles route.

The top three finishers in the U23, Masters 35+, Masters 4/5, Elite Category 3, and 18-year-olds also divided up \$3,000 in cash prizes.

Quiroz told his now expanded fan base in a Facebook post: "Emotions drew from my eyes and words will never explain what I am feeling. It is quite an

unreal experience when your dreams become the reality you seek. This passion will never die and as I embrace this HUGE win I'll continue to remain humble and most important continue to work hard. Not for ONLY me but for my family, my country and all the youths that I give hope to. Some day you can be better than me and do as much as I did but one thing to remember is to work hard and never give up!"

Quiroz, 28, has been one of Belize's best and most successful cyclists over the last decade or so, having won the National Junior Road Championship of Belize twice, the Belmopan Classic (Junior) twice, the Krem New Year's Day Classic (Junior), and the 2012 Belize Junior Cross Country, and he was also a silver medallist at the Junior Caribbean Road Championship ITT.

He has also won the 2017 Belmopan Classic and the 2018 Digicel Belize General Classic, and placed 41st at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

He repeated as the Digicel Tour of Belize General Classification winner in 2019 and won the 2019 National ITT Champion of Belize before winning a silver medal at the 2019 Caribbean Elite Road Championships Road Race.

He became the only cyclist to win the Krem New Year's Day Cycling Classic as a Junior and as a Senior when he won in 2020, and was also the National ITT Champion of Belize in 2021.

He competed in the 2021 Chicago Intelligencia Cup, finishing 9th in the first stage and 2nd in the Omnium, before placing third and winning a bronze medal in the 2021 Caribbean Elite Road Championship ITT & Road Race.

Oscar Quiroz left Belize on Tuesday for California, where he is competing in the Redlands Tour, a multistage race.



BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY INVITATION TO TENDER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EXTERNAL AUDITING SERVICES

The Belize Port Authority (BPA), a Statutory Entity incorporated by CAP 233 of the Laws of Belize, is hereby seeking **TENDERS** from suitably qualified auditing firms to submit proposals to perform annual external auditing services.

1. Scope of Auditing Services

To conduct an audit of the financial statements of the Authority in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) which requires compliance with ethical requirements, professional judgements, and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

The auditing firm will be required to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The auditing firm will identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to any risk identified and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for an opinion.

The auditing firm will provide a written report upon completion addressed to the BPA's Board of Directors with expressed opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented, in all material respects, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

2. Terms and General Conditions of Engagement

The BPA intends to enter into an agreement with the successful firm to provide external auditing services for a minimum of three (3) financial years with an option for renewal at the end of said agreement.

3. Acceptance of Proposal

The BPA hereby reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason. The lowest of any proposal may not necessarily be accepted. BPA will not be liable for any costs incurred by any auditing firm in submission of their proposal.

4. Experience, Qualifications & Requirements

The auditing firm must meet the following minimum requirements to be considered for acceptance to this request for proposal:

- Must be a current member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize and qualified to practice in Belize.
- Must provide a brief history of the firm indicating the scope of its practice, range of activities performed, contact person, contact number and email address.
- Must provide CVs and copies of certificates of key personnel that will be involved in the audit process.
- Must provide a list of at least ten (10) companies audited in the last four (4) years and proof of same with their contacts
- Must include a proposal on how fees charged will be calculated, with indication of involvement/time allocated in providing the said services (work plan/timeline).

5. Audit Schedule

The auditing firm will work along with BPA's accountant and provide a schedule of activities which shall lead to the completion of the annual audit by October 31 of each year.

6. Deadline

Sealed Proposals should be addressed to the Chairman of the BPA's Board of Directors and submitted to BPA's office at Mile 4, George Price Highway, Belize City, Belize.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 28, 2023 AT NOON



BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District; Hattievillage, Belize District; Belmopan; Duck Run, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running until 30th June 2023. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

1. BEACHFRONT center of Hopkins Village where the main Hopkins Road meets the sea, Stann Creek District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 116 comprising 800 square yards of land situate in Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District, bounded and described as shown by Plan Dated August 6th, 2013, attached to Minister's Fiat Grant No. 465 of 2013 together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Being 3 wooden structures; Building A – elevated timber structure; Building B – elevated timber and plywood structure; Building C – timber with thatched roof structure with wooden rails TOGETHER with lot [7,200 Sq. Ft] situate at the SEAFRONT center of Hopkins Village where the main Hopkins Road meets the sea, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Ms. Virginia Casimiro.)

2. Lot No. 19 Hattievillage Village, Belize District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land situated in Hattievillage Village Belize District and numbered Lot No. 19 containing 880.309 Square Meters bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 351 attached to Minister's Fiat Grant No. 351/16 together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Being a lot [9,475 sq. ft.] situate in Hattievillage Village Belize District, the freehold property of Mr. Roberto Chavarria Jr.)

3. Parcel No. 5276 Starkey Hill Street, Belmopan, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belmopan	20	5276

(Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [1,540 sq. ft.], containing 3 Bedrooms + 2 Bathrooms + Living/Dining/Kitchen + Laundry/Storeroom TOGETHER with lot [501. 722 S.M.] situate on Starkey Hill Street, Belmopan, Cayo District, the freehold property of Ms. Dawn Leslie.)

4. Lot No. 74 (386.146 ACRES) Duck Run Area, Cayo District:



All that lot piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 74 from a sub-division containing 386. 146 acres done by Licensed Surveyor C.W. Arnold dated 10th December 2007 situate in Duck Run Area, Cayo District and show as Entry No. 11129 Reg. No. 25 TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. (Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [961 sq. ft.], containing 3 Bedrooms + 1 Bathroom + Living/Dining/Kitchen + Laundry/Storeroom TOGETHER with lot situate in Duck Run Area, Cayo District, the freehold property of Mr. Milton Humes.)

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auctions



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) invites applicants for the functions of National Consultant to support the Communications and Visibility for the MHPSS for victims of Road Crashes Project

Duty station: Belize City

Qualifications: *Essential:* A bachelor's degree in communication

Experience: *Essential:* At least three years of relevant experience in communications and promotion

Skills:

- Experience in developing and implementing communications plans.
- Experience in writing scripts, storyboards, video production, design, and layout of documents, print materials, web content and developing other communication material,
- Familiarity with taking and/or editing digital photographs or videos,
- Knowledge of using social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.
- Experience in the field of mental health and psychosocial support.
- Strong public health and strategic thinking background showing resourcefulness, initiative, leadership qualities and skills to deal with difficult situations and sensitive areas.
- Ability to work collaboratively (in person or virtually) with other team members.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and sensitivity to political and cultural issues
- Ability to meet deadlines.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively use a computer and utilize software programs such as Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and Outlook.
- Familiarity with editing tools (Adobe photoshop, Adobe Premier Pro, other graphic design programs or video editing tools)

Languages: Very good knowledge of English and working knowledge of Spanish

Deadline: Letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, and two current letters of recommendation should be sent to blzmail@paho.org or to P.O. Box 1834, Belize City no later than **April 21, 2023**

For further details visit our website <https://www.paho.org/en/vacancies> An interview will be held for this position and only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

PAHO/WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or users of any form of tobacco.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Data Gathering and Evaluation Matrix Proposal for BEL's Corporate Website

BEL invites tenders for **Request for Proposal (RFP) for Data Gathering and Evaluation Matrix Proposal for BEL's Corporate Website.**

The bidding document, which outlines all the duties and responsibilities of the contract, are available on BEL's website at www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx

Bidders will be required to fill and submit the Schedule A – RFP Form as a fixed price quotation to perform the services in response to the tender document.

Submit bid via email to bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023.**

The email containing the submission should be clearly labelled **“BID 2023-1902 Data Gathering and Evaluation Matrix”**.

For more information or queries, send email to bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz

Cost incurred for preparation of the tender document is the sole responsibility of the bidder. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

BNTU elects new president

Senator Elena Smith will hand over the presidency of the BNTU in June of this year.



Ruth Shoman, president elect

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023

The 53rd Annual Belize National Teachers Union (BNTU) Convention continues today, after a full day of activity at the Muffles College Auditorium in Orange Walk yesterday. A new BNTU president will be chosen over these two days. Three candidates are vying for the position of leader of what has become one of the most formidable unions in Belize under the leadership of Senator Elena Smith. Smith will now be transitioning to other roles and activities after 27 years of unionism, and will hand over leadership to either Ifasina Efunyemi, Ruth Shoman, or Ray Martinez – the three BNTU presidential candidates.

Under the theme, “One Union, One

Trio charged for Sirenian Bay home invasion

Continued from ▶ Page 25

work on the part of the police in conducting that investigation. We know it was not an easy one, as the incident occurred during the dark of night and police were not able to identify the suspects. But again, through good police investigation, we’re able to identify who the suspects are and gathered the evidence needed to have been able to arrest those persons.”

In our *Amandala* archives, we found Garnett’s name mentioned numerous times throughout the years where he was recognized as a reputable gang figure.

In late 2012, he was charged for the murder of Excelsior High School 4th form student, Raheem Requena, 19, but was never convicted, being acquitted of the crime in 2018. However, he served time behind bars for other crimes – 6 months for possession of controlled drugs and 1 year for wounding.

Lately, he was employed as a member of the LIU (Leadership Intervention Unit), but according to Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Home Affairs, Garnett will be removed from the program due to his recent involvement with the crime.

Mission, One Voice,” the Annual BNTU Convention runs from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for two days, and has included the presentation of the union’s Annual Report, sports competitions, the BNTU election, a mini-expo, food stalls and even a social night at Hi5 club in Orange Walk. The event is akin to a retreat for the teachers – notwithstanding the serious work of presentation of the Annual Report, and the union elections which will also take place during this time.

The first day featured speakers from the union ranks, and a presentation from the outgoing national president, Senator Elena Smith. Her intention to retire from the union’s presidency was signaled late last year when she indicated she had come to the “end of that journey.”

“It has been a challenge, but I think when you have a passion for what you do and you have supportive family members, it helps. Even at times when they don’t support you, when they say enough is enough. My family has said to me, ‘you’ve been in it for twenty-seven years; it is time for you to leave that and attend to your family.’ But it’s something that I love – just as much as I love my teaching, I love my union work. And so, the balance has been difficult at times, but thank God I have managed to overcome that, and I am now at the end of that journey. So, I think I’ve done well,” Smith commented in a November 2022 interview.

She did express at the time that her work in unionism was not over, and this new era simply involves stepping away from the union leadership. This makes way for a leadership role for one of the three candidates, all of whom are career teachers and unionists.

Ifasina Efunyemi told local media that what she brings to the table is a “formidable force.”

She said that she brings a wealth of negotiation experience, gaining practice at the international level with the United Nations. She emphasizes the importance of maintaining a balance in the social contract between the government and the people. She is a member of the BNTU Stann Creek Branch.

Ruth Shoman is well-known for her work on the ground with the union. She currently sits as the representative for the BNTU on the People’s Constitutional Commission. She has held various ranks within the leadership of the BNTU and sister organizations like the NTUCB as well. She has worked in concert with Senator Smith as BNTU National Secretary to spearhead some major demonstrations countrywide over recent years. Her advocacy for teachers has included unrelenting calls for fair wages and proper equipment inside the classroom. In her leadership positions, she took serious jabs at past governments, calling for greater protection of children and education reform at the 50th Annual BNTU Convention held in 2020.

“We need to ensure that our children are in school. Where are our truancy officers? We need to ensure that age-appropriate sex education classes are incorporated as well as conflict resolution in all our schools. We need to ensure that

ASP Fitzroy Yearwood passes at 47

Continued from ▶ Page 1

the weekly police press briefing, has passed away after suffering a massive stroke during the Easter holidays.

ASP Yearwood began his career as a law enforcement officer in mid-1996, and worked his way up the ranks to his final position as the Police Department’s Communications Director. He served during the tenure of former Commissioner of Police (ComPol), Allen Whyllie, as well as under the headship of the current Police Commissioner, Chester Williams.

On the morning of Easter Sunday, information spread like wildfire on social media that ASP Yearwood had been admitted into the Intensive Care Unit at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital after suffering a stroke, which caused severe damage to his brain. After being admitted, reports suggested that he was unresponsive to treatment and remained in that state until he passed away on Tuesday, April 11, at around 3:00 p.m.

A few hours before Yearwood’s death, ComPol Williams met with members of the national media to give an update on ASP Yearwood’s condition.

“Mr. Yearwood has been the face of the Police Department for the past three years, interacting with the media and doing the weekly press briefs, as well as doing other public relations matters as may be directed by myself or OCED for him to do... I know that he loves what he does as a press officer. He normally does it with a high degree of pride and passion, and so for him to be out at this time, saddens us and we just want to hope for the best going forward,” said ComPol Williams.

laws are amended; we currently have laws that prohibit proper and efficient collection of data in rape cases, which result in the lack of prosecution of these perpetrators. We need to create a system that will ensure that there is equity in the BOOST and Food Pantry program. We have seen where sometimes gang leaders are giving out vouchers to people who they select,” Shoman said.

The final candidate is from the Toledo District, where he serves as the president of the Toledo Rural Branch of the BNTU. Ray Anthony Martinez has said that a vote for him is a vote for the teachers. He said that his work will focus on voicing the concerns of the teachers – many of whom are one salary away from poverty where he serves, in the rural communities. He noted that his morning starts at 4:30 a.m. – like many other teachers in that district, and that the hardships faced by rural teachers result in an unequal playing field – despite rural teachers being held to the same standard of performance. His presidency will include advocacy for those teachers facing such hardships.

Along with the three presidential candidates, Jorge Mejia is vying to be elected First Vice President; Edison Ogaldez is also vying for the position. Armin Cardenas and Bay Rivas are in the race for the post of National Secretary.

The Annual BNTU Convention ends today – and the result of these elections are expected to be released shortly after. Senator Elena Smith will not officially hand over the post until June this year when the work of the union will be taken up by a new executive.

After hearing the news of his passing, Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kareem Musa shared his sentiments on social media.

“You were a valiant, charismatic, and humble officer who always managed to bring a smile to your colleagues’ faces. From north to south, you will be forever missed,” he said.

The following day, ComPol Williams met with the national media once more and spoke regarding the passing of his dear friend and colleague.

“When I became the Commissioner of Police, I saw the need to have someone who can be a good intermediary between the police and the media, and I could not have thought of anyone better than Fitzroy. He had that charisma and that touch that the media loved about him... He truly took his job as the PR officer seriously, he did it with a passion,” ComPol Williams said.

And filling the void that ASP Yearwood left may be an almost impossible task, as ComPol Williams told the media. He said, however, that ACP Hilberto Romero will be serving as an interim public relations officer for the department until the vacant position is filled.

Before suffering from the stroke, ASP Yearwood was seen with his family at the end of the Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycle Classic and was reported to be in a jovial spirit.

He suffered from chronic diseases, including diabetes and hypertension, which had caused him to be on the brink of death over a decade ago.

ASP Fitzroy Yearwood served over 25 years in the Belize Police Department.

He was 47.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceno in an interview today said that they have always viewed the BNTU as a partner, and maintained that even in difficult times the parties have not lost respect for each other.

“We went through a difficult period when we were trying to see how we can cut salaries, and they argued strongly against it and even demonstrated in some instances, but despite all of that we never lose respect for one another,” PM Briceno said.

He commended Senator Smith for her lifelong commitment to the cause of the union.

“Today, they are going to elect a new president, so I wanted to take the opportunity to thank Elena for the outstanding work that she did. She is a firebrand. But when we meet person to person, she is calm and determined and has her position, but we work together, and that is why I have great respect and admiration for her to be able to do that,” Briceno commented.

He wished the BNTU well on the election of their new president, and reiterated his government’s support to work with the union as partners.

Late this evening we received word that Ruth Shoman was successful in her bid for National President of the BNTU. Candidate Efunyemi managed to garner 226 votes, while Martinez received a total of 76 votes. President-elect Shoman finished the day with 356 votes. For the positions of First Vice President and National Secretary, Jorge Mejia and Bay Rivas, respectively, secured those posts.



2 weeks left in reg. season race to Top-4 PLB playoffs



Gilroy "Bredda" Thurton

league in scoring despite having a spectacular goal against Verdes struck off the record because of a protested game), it was Port Layola's senior striker Gilroy "Bredda" Thurton who found his groove after lackluster performances at home, and served the Mango Creek fans a goal in each half, to lead visiting Port

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

The competition is fierce going down the stretch in these last two weeks of regular season, as 6 teams are still in the race for a spot in the Top-4 playoffs of the Premier League of Belize (PLB) 2022-2023 Closing Season. (See the standings below.)

Defending champs Altitude FC are struggling to make the playoffs; but they are still in the Concacaf berth discussion by virtue of their Opening Season championship. The cumulative regular season points of the champions from both the Opening and Closing seasons will be compared, and the one with the most points gets the berth in Concacaf play. Verdes FC has represented the Jewel in the past three years, and they have a back-match game in hand besides currently leading the standings, so their playoff berth is almost certain. But they must win the championship if they want a return trip to Concacaf. Altitude is almost guaranteed a win in their next outing against the hapless Bandits/International (which would keep them in the mathematical race), but the same cannot be said for any other team in contention for a playoff spot. Neither Bandits/International nor Wagiya SC are in the race, as they finish the season against each other for the cellar dweller distinction. (There is yet no relegation program in place for the PLB.)

For a recent two-game stretch, it seemed like the party was over for Belize City fans, as playoff hopeful Port Layola FC went 180 minutes without scoring a goal, and lost back to back matches in front of their home fans at the Marion Jones Sports Complex, a 1-0 loss to Police/Benque United FC on Sunday, April 2, and a 2-0 loss to Verdes FC in a Week #10 back match on Wednesday night, April 5.

But Week #12 this past weekend brought a change of fortune for the city boys who travelled to Mango Creek, Independence, and came away with a surprising 2-0 win. With all opposing defenses targeting rookie sensation Michael Palacio (who still leads the

Layola to the 2-nil victory over Altitude FC.

That was on Holy Saturday night, April 8, and in another Holy Saturday encounter, it was a late injury-time goal that gave home standing Police/Benque United a 2-1 win over Bandits/International who had taken a first half 1-nil lead and were looking for their first victory of the tournament. Jalen Myers (34') put Bandits/Int'l ahead, but the veteran Danny Jimenez (68') equalized in second half for Police/Benque, and their captain Anderson Cordova (90+5') got the late game winner from a scramble in front of goal after a corner.

Some confusion with referees for the other Holy Saturday night match at Ambergris Stadium resulted in the San Pedro Pirates FC vs Verdes FC match being called off when the Verdes team was already on the island and fans anticipating some exciting action. No decision on the match has been announced yet, as the PLB and FFB, as well as the Pirates management all sent out press releases apologizing to fans for the disappointment.

In the only Sunday game, Wagiya SC apparently collapsed in front of their home fans at the Carl Ramos Stadium, where the young Progresso FC squad from Orange Walk, featuring a couple former Dangriga players, unleashed an 8-0 beating on the once formidable Wagiya. Leading Progresso in the scoring was 'Griga native and former PLB Best Young Player, Jonard Castillo with 4 goals (27', 48', 64' & 87'). Other Progresso goals were by Marlon Gutierrez (2'), Kyle Budna (45' & 70') and Abner Howard 75').

The numbers game is really tight in this race to the Top-4 playoffs, and it may come down to goal difference.

Upcoming Week 13 schedule:

Saturday, April 15

7:30 p.m. – Police/Benque United vs Wagiya SC – Marshalleck Stadium

7:30 p.m. – Bandits/International vs

BAA National Championships this weekend at Marion Jones Sports Complex

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023

This weekend, April 15-16, the Belize Athletics Association (BAA) will be hosting our Annual National Championship at the Marion Jones Sports complex. We at the BAA would like all to come out and support our rising stars.

In attendance will be Demetrie Meyers, Double Gold Carifta Medalist, and Olympians Brandon Jones and Coach Andre Cason whose career achievements are as follows: 2x World Champion; 1x World Championships Silver medalist; 1x World Indoor champion; 1x World (Continental) Cup winner; 2 x World U20 champion; 1 x NCAA Indoor champion; 4 x World Records in career.

Coach Cason will be here to assist in scouting for our Junior and Senior teams, also to identify possible talent to be considered for scholarships.

Below please find a schedule of events and meet instructions. We will start on time!!!! We ask that all registration be submitted on Friday, April 14 by 10:00 p.m.

For the first time in Belize, this National Championship will feature a Professional Fully Automatic Timer. All official results will be posted online for the world to see! We will have music and entertainment.

Additionally, schools only will be invoiced for their participation; all others must Pay at time of registration.

Seeding will take place at the Clerk of Course in tent.

First Call will happen at 8:30 a.m., and the First Gun will be at 9:00 a.m. sharp. Any changes or scratches must be made no later than 1 hour before the Event Call Time.

Event 1st Call will be at the finish line.

DAY 1

#	1 ST CALL	EVENT TIME	EVENT	CATEGORY	
1	8:30	9:00	3000m	Female	Final
2	8:30	9:15	5000m	Male	Final
3	8:00	9:00	High Jump	Female	Final
4	8:00	9:00	Shot-put	Male	Final
5	9:05	9:35	100m	Female	Prelim
6	9:20	9:50	100m	Male	Prelim
7	9:00	10:00	Shot-put	Female	Final
8	9:20	10:20	High Jump	Male	Final
9	9:45	10:15	400m	Female	Semi-final
10	9:45	10:30	400m	Male	Semi-final
11	10:20	10:50	100m Hurdles	Female	Final
12	10:20	11:00	110m Hurdles	Male	Final
13	10:00	11:00	Triple Jump	Female	Final
14	10:00	11:00	Discus	Male	Final
15	11:30	12:30	100m	Female	Final
16	12:15	12:45	100m	Male	Final
17	12:15	1:00	Triple Jump	Male	Final
18	12:00	1:00	Discus	Female	Final
19	12:45	1:15	400m	Female	Final
20	12:45	1:30	400m	Male	Final
21	2:00	3:00	4x100m Relay	Female	Final
22	2:00	3:15	4x100m Relay	Male	Final

DAY 2

#	1 ST CAL:	EVENT TIME	EVENT	CATEGORY	
23	7:00	8:00	1500m	Female	Final
24	7:00	8:20	1500m	Male	Final
25	8:00	8:45	200m	Female	Semi-final
26	8:30	9:15	200m	Male	Semi-final
27	8:30	9:30	Javelin	Female	Final
28	9:15	9:45	800m	Female	Final
29	9:15	10:00	800m	Male	Final
30	9:15	10:15	Long Jump	Female	Final
31	9:30	10:30	Javelin	Male	Final
32	10:15	11:15	Long Jump	Male	Final
33	10:30	11:00	200m	Female	Final
34	10:35	11:15	200m	Male	Final
35	11:30	11:45	4x400m Relay	Female	Final
36	11:30	11:50	4x400m Relay	Male	Final



Chess Grandmaster, Nigel Short, visits Belize

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023

57-year-old Chess Grandmaster and former World Championship Finalist, Nigel Short of England, visited Belize and hosted 20 of the top chess players in the country in a simultaneous match at the home of the British High Commissioner on Wednesday, April 12, and won all of the matches.

Short earned the title of Chess Grandmaster at the tender age of 19 and was ranked third in the world by FIDE (International Chess Federation). Before earning the title of Grandmaster, Short was seen as a child chess prodigy and garnered media attention when he defeated Viktor Korchnoi, then ranked second best in the world, in a simultaneous exhibition in London over 31 boards at only 10 years old.

In 1977, three days before his 12th

birthday, he participated in the British Chess Championship, being the youngest in the tournament, and defeated ten-time British champion Jonathan Penrose.

Later that year, he earned the title of Master, then two years later he earned his first International Master and was the youngest (at the time) to earn the title in chess history. In 1984, at age 19, he was awarded the title of Grandmaster, also becoming the youngest, at the time, in the world to hold the title.

Short spoke to the local media and expressed that Belize has the potential in expanding the sport, however the structure of the federation is lacking.

"I think if they manage to get



organized, there is great hope for chess in this country ... Belize was one of the very few countries that did not go to the Chess Olympiad in Chennai last year. You had 185 countries going there, and Belize didn't send a team, and that just means there's poor organization; so I think there is recognition amongst the

people here that they just need to be a little more disciplined," he said.

Short also added, "These people, and there are some good players here, will not improve if they're playing in a small pond. They have to play regionally where the stands are higher and where they meet players with different styles, and they have to get accustomed to that."

President of the Belize Chess Federation, Steve Flores told national reporters about his experience playing the game with a Grandmaster.

"For me, it's not that foreign. We've had before in Belize ... Grandmaster Maurice Ashley came to the George Price Center in 2013 ... On my game, I could attest that he just squeezed my throat for the entire game, but it was nice," he said.



by Peter Young

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023

Hello, my beautiful cricket family! Under the auspices of the Belize National Cricket Association, the Barry Bowen/Harrison Parks Cricket Competition 2023 continues. Hope you all had a wonderful Easter! Following are matches played just before the Easter Break. So, let's get into the games.

Starting with Surprise against Western Eagles in Lemonal. Surprise went in to bat first, and boy, did the batsmen have a glorious day. As much as Marquis McNab performed well in taking 5 of Surprise stumps, at the fall of the last wicket, the team scored a whopping 310 runs. That's a lot of runs. Of that amount, Leeron Muslar scored 108.

Well, after a short lunch break, the Eagles took to bat. With the pressure off Kenroy Reynolds and 13-year-old Pharon Muslar bowling, who took 5 and 4 wickets each, respectively, Western Eagles could only score 89. At this time, Western Eagles is yet to win a game. However, the team is made up of many youths. But, apart from losing, the team is demonstrating very excellent sportsmanship.

Let it be known that the beautiful village of Lemonal continues to produce excellent cricketers. 13-year-old Pharon played his very first game, and bowled so well by taking 3 wickets in his first over, and another in the next over. Well

13-year-old Pharon Muslar of Surprise, surprised Western Eagles

done, young cricketer!

In other matches, Wicked Eleven took care of Brilliant quite easily. Brilliant took to bat first and scored 129, with Jermaine Smith scoring 40. Tayshaun Moses took 4 of Brilliant wickets. Wicked Eleven went to bat, and at the fall of 6 wickets the score was beaten. Travis Robinson scored 37.

Golden Eagles put a big one over Rising Star, 236 to 54. For Rising Star, Kenton Vacaro scored 19, and Andy Dominguez took 3 wickets. For the Golden boys, Jermaine Pook took 6 wickets and also scored 46 runs. Good showing so far, Golden boys!

Brave Union lost to Big Bad Tropical Disturbance, 65 to 61 with 6 spare wickets. For Brave Union, Conway Jones scored 43, and Tyrel Young took 3 wickets. For Tropical Disturbance, Herbert Banner scored 17 and took 7 wickets also.

BDF wasn't too kind on Sunrise when they defeated Sunrise 207 to 93. For BDF, Clinton Stephenson scored 43, white Jervis Wade took 6 wickets. For Sunrise, Cornel Brown scored 29, and Sunil Wadhvani took 4 wickets.

St. Paul's Strikers, the king of Zone Two so far, defeated Progressive, 260 to 154. For the Strikers, Francis Stevens scored 87, and Lloyd Cassasola took 3 wickets. For Progressive, Raheem Garbutt took 3 wickets. Brave 11 Reloaded continues to spark flame along with Dirk Sutherland at the HELM, as they devoured Long Journey, 142 to 141 with 4 spare wickets. For Brave 11, Sherman McCulloch and Dirk Sutherland scored 53 and 32, respectively, and Jerome Pook took 3 wickets. Dirk Sutherland was named Man of that Match.

It was brought to my knowledge that the match between Excellence and Summa Feva did not play, but Feva was awarded the game.

If all goes as planned for this weekend, the following games are on schedule for this weekend:

On Saturday - Wicked Eleven vs Summa Feva at Landing; Excellence vs Brilliant at Crooked Tree; Surprise vs BDF at BDF; Brave Union Boys vs Rising Star at Sandhill; Progressive vs Brave 11 Reloaded at Willows.

On Sunday - Tropical Disturbance vs Golden Eagles at Rancho; and St.

Paul's Strikers vs Weekend Warriors at Flowers Bank.

Show respect even to people who don't deserve it; not a reflection of their character, but a reflection of yours.



Boys to Men - (l to r) Surprise teammates, 12-year-old Mykelt Anthony, Jr. (with cap) and 13-year-old Pharon Muslar, Jr. who took 4 wickets in 1.3 overs in his first time on the cricket field.

Cabinet Brief

Belmopan, 13th April 2023

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, met on 11th April 2023.

• Cabinet discussions centred on the effects of global inflation on the cost of living in Belize. Following a meeting with the Chinese retail community, Cabinet has issued instructions for meetings with major importers and wholesalers with a view to eliminating gouging or bloating at every level of the supply chain. While inflation is a global pandemic, Cabinet realizes that

it must do everything in its power to mitigate the impact on our people.

• Following two weeks of intervention with the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association and Belize Sugar Industries, Hon. Kareem Musa, Cabinet subcommittee chair, tasked with charting a path forward for the sugar industry, briefed Cabinet. Minister Musa reported that both sides have expressed the determination to reach a fair and transparent resolution to the impasse for the good of the industry and that serious



BEBL Week 10 preview

2023 Tournament Standings

Position	TEAM	GP	W	L	Pts	Str
1	Orange Walk Running Rebels	9	6	3	15	+6
2	Griga Dream Ballers	9	6	3	15	-1
3	Benny's Belize Hurricanes	8	6	2	14	+2
4	Belize City Defenders	9	5	4	14	+1
5	Western Ballaz	9	4	5	13	+1
6	Belmopan Red Taigaz	8	3	5	11	-2
7	San Pedro Tiger Sharks	7	3	4	10	+2
8	Punta Gorda Panthers	9	1	8	9	-6

(Cancelled and possibly postponed): Fri. Jan 27, 2023: San Pedro Tiger Sharks vs Belmopan Red Taigaz; Sat. Mar 25: San Pedro Tiger Sharks vs Benny's Hurricanes (San Pedro High School)

Results and Schedule

Week 10: Fri. Apr. 14: Belize Hurricanes vs Orange Walk Running Rebels (Belize City Civic Centre); Western Ballaz vs Belize City Defenders (SHC Auditorium).
Sat. Apr. 15: Griga Dream Ballers vs

Belmopan Red Taigaz (Russell Chiste Garcia Auditorium); San Pedro Tiger Sharks vs Punta Gorda Panthers (San Pedro High School).

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 13, 2023

The 2023 Belize Elite Basketball League (BEBL) Tournament resumes this weekend with 2 of the co-leaders clashing at the Belize Civic Centre on Friday night, and the 2 cellar dwellers, the San Pedro Tiger Sharks hosting the Punta Gorda Panthers at the San Pedro High School auditorium on

Saturday.

The Tiger Sharks won their first encounter 98-77 and know that they need a win and to keep winning to keep their opportunity of making the tournament's 4-team playoffs alive.

They have 7 games remaining, 6 of which would be home games because 2 of their home games were cancelled and possibly postponed due to the non-availability of the auditorium, and they had swapped with the Orange Walk Running Rebels.

The Panthers are all but mathematically eliminated as they are now the victims of a 6-game losing streak, and would have to improbably win all their remaining 5 games and also see the 3 teams above them in the standings somehow lose all 5 or more of theirs.

The Orange Walk Running Rebels are currently the owners of a remarkable 6-game winning streak after losing their first 3 games. The Benny's Belize Hurricanes were and remain the pre-season favourite though they have stumbled against Griga and their Belize City rivals the Defenders. They also have a cancelled game to play against San Pedro, but reports are that they are at full strength and finally have a complete and healthy roster available.

Although the teams are tied in the win column and the 'Canes have a game to play, under the BEBL's point system (2 for a win, 1 for a loss), the Rebels are the tournament's leader. Both teams are very aware that the result of their head-to-head matchup is the first tiebreaker and that the 'Canes won the first encounter 85-77 on the Rebels' home court.

The Griga Dream Ballers will have more than revenge on their minds when they host the Belmopan Red Taigaz Saturday night at the friendly confines of the Russell Chiste Garcia Auditorium. While their 91-79 loss to the young Belmopan team in Belmopan still stings, the fact is that their remaining schedule dictates that 3 of their remaining 5 games will be on the road where they have only won once.

The young Taigaz are perhaps the "smartest" team in the league with a high percentage of college graduates, but they have been inconsistently consistent, dropping one then winning one before losing another, then winning 2 before losing 2. They know the only formula for success is winning.

Friday night the Western Ballaz will host the Belize City Defenders on their home court at the Sacred Heart Auditorium in San Ignacio, and it may be the most important game of the weekend schedule. A home team victory would leave both teams tied with 5-5 records. The Defenders have yet to win away from the Civic Centre, losing to the BEBL's cellar dwellers and Griga and are trying to continue recovering from a 3-game losing streak. They beat the Western Ballaz 84-69 in the fourth game of the tournament.

These two teams have been most affected by serious injury to two of their star players. If the Ballaz are going to make a stretch run it must start with this game, because a loss and a 4-6 record is a deeper hole to climb out than may be at first surmised because the Taigaz and Tiger Sharks are hot on their heels in the fight for the last playoff spot.

Cabinet Brief

Continued from Page 31

discussions between parties are ongoing based on good faith, and not tension.

- Cabinet was advised that the process to resume the payment of performance-based increments to public officers, effective 1st April 2023, has commenced. There was unanimous agreement that moving forward, increments must be based on actual performance, and every discussion with the Joint Unions must include the implementation of a comprehensive and objective appraisal system.

- Cabinet gave its support for the adaptation of the recommendations by the Ministry of Tourism & Diaspora Relations, in conjunction with the Belize Tourism Board, to amend the agreement between Government and Belize Island Holdings Limited, in relation to the Harvest Caye Cruise Port in Southern Belize, to improve and define future growth and development of the Harvest Caye Port.

- Cabinet gave its recommendation for amendments to the Law Revision Act to better reflect the current state of law with respect to Money Laundering and the Terrorism Prevention Act. These amendments will be

introduced at the next sitting of the House of Representatives.

- Cabinet gave its approval for the ratification of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which will establish new global rules for eliminating harmful subsidies and protecting global fish stocks.

- Cabinet endorsed the updated National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan, the Low Emission Development Strategy, and the National Climate Finance Strategy as national documents. Additionally, Cabinet gave its approval to provide support for the coordination, mainstreaming, and implementation of appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures to pursue low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways.

- Cabinet requested that a subcommittee comprising Sustainable Development, Energy, Natural Resources, Rural Development and Agriculture meet to follow up on the strategies for water resources management, including aquifers (ground) and surface water.

- Finally, Cabinet reminds all motorists to drive safely, and with care and attention.

- press release -

2 weeks left in reg. season race to Top-4 PLB playoffs

Continued from

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Altitude FC – Isidoro Beaton Stadium

Sunday, April 16

4:00 p.m. – Port Layola FC vs San Pedro Pirates FC – Marion Jones Sports Complex

4:00 p.m. – Verdes FC vs Progresso FC

On Saturday, Police/Benque are expected to prevail over Wagiya, and Altitude is favored to get the victory over Bandits/International.

Sunday will feature the real fireworks. Port Layola vs San Pedro Pirates is a monster match-up at the Marion Jones; and Verdes vs Progresso is another colossal clash at the Norman Broaster.

Looking ahead to Week 14 to end

regular season:

Saturday, April 22

7:30 p.m. – Police/Benque United vs San Pedro Pirates FC – Marshalleck Stadium

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

Sunday, April 23

3:30 p.m. – Progresso FC vs Port Layola FC – People's Stadium

4:00 p.m. – Wagiya SC vs Bandits/International - Carl Ramos Stadium

Premier League of Belize 2022-2023 Closing Season Standings at Week 12, Sunday, April 9, 2023								
TEAMS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Verdes FC	11	7	3	1	25	7	18	24
Progresso FC	12	6	5	1	21	5	16	23
San Pedro Pirates FC	11	6	4	1	28	10	18	22
Port Layola FC	12	6	3	3	21	11	10	21
Police/Benque United FC	12	5	3	4	12	14	-2	18
Altitude FC	12	4	4	4	19	15	4	16
Wagiya SC	12	1	0	11	9	47	-38	3
International FC	12	0	2	10	5	31	-26	2

(Week #12 back match pending: PIR vs VER on ? date)

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

The British and Belize governments continue to violate the Garifuna people's human/land rights in Belize



Commerce Bight Pier in Dangriga Town, built in 1908

Tues. Apr. 11, 2023

In 2002, the PUP Prime Minister of Belize, Said Musa, and his administration gave the Commerce Bight Port to a friend of his, Luke Espot, without consulting and getting the approval of the Garifuna citizens of Dangriga, free of cost. After he took possession of the port, he constructed a fence and a gate, employed a watchman, and deprived the Garifuna citizens of entry into and use of the facility. Since then, the Garifuna people are still being prohibited from using the port or any area in the vicinity.

This is a picture of the fence and gate that were erected by Luke Espot and his company, Belize Ports Limited, in 2002.



The UDP came to power in 2008 and promised the Garifuna citizens of Dangriga that they would take back the port from Luke Espot and hand it over to the people of Dangriga. In 2013, the UDP government took Luke Espot to court to repossess the port. Luke Espot and his company had taken out a loan from Belize Bank and defaulted on his payments.

Michael Ashcroft, who owns Belize Bank, took Luke Espot to court and won his case. He asked the Belize government for all the ports under Luke Espot's control to be granted to him; but the Barrow administration worked out an agreement with him, whereby all the ports except Commerce Bight Port were to be contracted to him. All this time, the Commerce Bight Port remained dormant.

The PUP won the General Elections in 2020, and a company by the name of Recological Services Limited (RSL) presented a contract to them that was signed by the UDP government with a twenty-five (25)-year lease. This is without consulting the Garifuna people and their organizations, who own this indigenous land located

in the Garifuna Reserve-2 in Dangriga Town where the Commerce Bight Port is located.

The PUP decided not to honor the contract because they said it was not legitimate. The company threatened to sue the PUP administration. The PUP government responded by bringing the issue to the National Assembly to have the contract voided. They were acting as if the land and the port belong to them.

To the Garifuna Nation's and their citizens' surprise, about two weeks ago the PUP Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, announced that his government is planning to reopen the Commerce Bight Port.

He continued by saying that he has assembled a group of his Ministers to work on a plan. The elected area representative of Dangriga, Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh, the representative for Stann Creek West, Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, and no Garifuna individual or organizations were contacted or included as a part of this planning team.

THIS IS THE PICTURE OF A SHIP DOCKING AT COMMERCE BIGHT PORT.

Again, the Garifuna Nation and their citizens in Dangriga and Stann Creek District were never consulted by the Prime Minister and his government to seek our Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as is required under international Law, to use our indigenous lands. This is a repeat of what the PUP Prime Minister, Said Musa, did in 2002 when he granted our port to Luke Espot, and the UDP Prime Minister, Dean Barrow did when he granted a contract to RSL in 2018. It is clear that these two political parties have no regard for indigenous peoples' land and human rights as is listed below in the UNDRIP document.



The collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources are firmly embedded in the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Articles 3 and 26)** as well as in the International Labour Organization's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 and its predecessor Convention No. 107.

Balliceaux, an island off the coast of St. Vincent, where many Garifuna people were unlawfully imprisoned, tortured, killed and



buried. In 1796, after the British captured our nation, they imprisoned about 5,000 of our people: men, women and children, on the desolate island of Balliceaux off the coast of the St. Vincent mainland. On that island they continued their torturing and killing of our people, which resulted in about half of the total amount dying and being buried on the island where their remains are left up to this day. It is said that only about 2,500 of our people survived that genocidal act.

The British king at the time, George III (1760-1801), then gave orders for our people who survived to be removed from Balliceaux to their distant colonized Bay Island, Roatan, Honduras, on eleven ships. Upon our people's arrival on the island, their names were changed from their original names to Spanish names to conceal their identities and also to make it difficult for us to reconnect with our families in our motherland, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Our ancestors did not like the living conditions on the island of Roatan in Honduras, and appealed to the British to allow them to leave to a better place.

The British granted their request and allowed about 165 of them to sail to British Honduras, now known as Belize,

Mexican national found dead in Free Zone

by Charles Gladden

COROZAL, Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

Police are investigating the death of a Hispanic Mexican national who was found dead with head injuries on the bank of a shallow lagoon inside the Corozal Free Zone in the Corozal District late Tuesday evening, April 4. The deceased Mexican was identified as Carlos Alberto Yepes Rosas, 33, of Santa Elena, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Preliminary information from the police has indicated that on Saturday, April 1, Rosas and a friend, whom he was assisting, left his home on a motorcycle to purchase several items from the Corozal Free Zone after midday. However, Rosas never made it back to his home, which resulted in his family being concerned and contacting authorities at the Free Zone to search for their loved one.

Rosas' body, which was discovered after 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, in an advanced state of decomposition, was found lying in a facedown position, partially submerged in muddy water with three pallets on top of him, and visible injuries on the center of his forehead and the back of his head. His attire was described to be a black polo shirt, a white tee shirt, red fabric short pants,



Carlos Alberto Yepes Rosas, deceased

and black socks.

Julian Brown, Public Relations officer for the Corozal Free Zone, confirmed with the local media via Zoom that Rosas would frequently travel to the Free Zone area to purchase goods and resell them in Mexico. Brown also told reporters that Rosas' body was found in the 'cargo area', which is a far distance away from the commercial area of the Free Zone and is described as a savannah area with no surveillance cameras in sight.

No information has been released on how Rosas' body was dumped in that area.

"What our investigation is showing so far is that he may have been killed over on the Mexican side and thrown into the river and the body [floated] over to the Belize side of the river," said Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams to the national media on April 5.

Williams also declared that an investigation will be done with Mexican authorities as he believes the incident occurred on the Mexican side of the Free Zone and that the culprit is from there.

Rosas' body was identified by his mother and transported to the National Forensic Science Services in Ladyville Village, Belize District where it awaits a post-mortem examination.

In an interview with Oscar Arnold, Belizean Ambassador to Mexico on Wednesday, April 12, he did not disclose any additional information as a police investigation is still being conducted.

"The details are still coming out of what may have transpired there, and I believe it would be better served if we wait for the official report from the investigating officers, said Arnold.

The motorcycle which Rosas was traveling on has yet to be discovered.

Police are seeking one person in connection with Rosas's death—Mexican national, Jose Julio Martinez.

Opposition; GoB violating CARICOM treaty; Minister says they are uninformed



Continued from ▶ Page 2

visa requirement for Haitians wishing to visit Belize and to require Jamaican nationals to provide evidence of fully paid non-refundable hotel reservations prior to boarding flights to Belize.”

The cited section of the treaty speaks to general exceptions and states “1. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as preventing the adoption or enforcement by any Member State of measures: (a) to protect public morals or to maintain public order and safety.” The Opposition, however, describes the added stipulations as a violation of the free movement rights of Jamaicans and Haitians. The UDP further affirms that imposing a visa requirement for Haitians is “discriminatory and violates their right to hassle-free movement ...” which should be enjoyed by all CARICOM nationals in the region.

The Opposition implores the Briceño Administration not to “... lead Belize down a path of whimsical decision making that will undermine the institution of CARICOM, the objective of regional integration and our ultimate aspirations for a single market economy.” It calls on the administration to collectively find solutions with other CARICOM Heads of State on the matter.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño responded to the UDP release by, in usual fashion, throwing barbs at the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow. Briceño in an interview today casually stated that Barrow is “suffering from Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD) that just wants attention because he knows what is happening.” Briceño affirmed it was Barrow’s father, former Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, who first instituted a visa requirement for Haitians. Indeed, we have come across news articles of Haitians being taken to court due to having fake visas or going through the process of getting visas to come to Belize. The Briceño administration subsequently lifted the visa requirement in July 2021 via S.I. 81 of 2021.

PM Briceño today explained that the trend they have been observing of late is that Haitians are being smuggled to Belize on their way to the U.S. He added, “the United States government has already been looking at us and calling our attention and saying, ‘listen, we are seeing now evidence of human trafficking through your country. So

what is it that you are going to do?’ So it is damned if you do, damned if you don’t. We had no other option but to implement a visa requirement for Haitians.” We confirmed with the Minister of Immigration, Senator Eamon Courtenay today that the visa requirement for Haitians is already in effect but the hotel reservation policy for Jamaicans has not yet been implemented. Courtenay says they are consulting with Belize’s Minister of Tourism and also with the Jamaican government on that issue.

As to the Opposition likening the new policies to the restrictions that were challenged in the landmark CCJ case of Shanique Myrie, a Jamaican who was body-searched and ridiculed about her nationality while trying to enter Barbados in 2011, Courtenay responded, “It is clear that the Opposition has not read the Myrie case, or if they have read it they do not understand it. Myrie confirms that Belize is entitled to adopt the measure we have already taken, so does the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.”

On another immigration matter, the UDP has said the Briceño Administration is out of touch with the financial reality of the average Belizean citizen regarding the new passport fees. In the case of a regular passport for adults, the cost has gone from \$50 to \$200 – an increase of 400%. The UDP states in a release, “After butchering the rollout of the new passport system and causing months-long delay for appointments and document processing, they have now disenfranchised poor Belizeans by pricing the processing fees for passports beyond their reach.”

The Opposition then takes aim at the comparison made by Immigration CEO, Dr. Gilroy Middleton, who said that the passport cost in Belize is still less than in other Caribbean countries and Mexico. The UDP’s release declares, “None of the mentioned countries have ever quadrupled the cost of passport processing overnight, especially not in the most difficult financial times since the Great Depression. Furthermore, the mentioned countries have income per capita 50 percent, 67 percent, 125 percent, 175 percent and 525 percent higher than Belize, respectively.” The Opposition concludes by demanding that the prices for passports be reverted to the previous figures.

In his interview today, the Prime Minister shared that the passport is now

The British and Belize governments continue to violate the Garifuna people’s human/land rights in Belize

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where they landed on November the 19th 1802. They landed on the south side of Belize City, in an area now known as ‘Yabra’. The British at the time had some people from the continent of Africa as slaves, known today as ‘Creoles’. The British did not want the Garifuna people to intermingle

with the Creoles, for fear that they were going to encourage them to revolt against the British for their freedom. Also, the British knew that the Garifuna people had a history of taking away slaves from the European slave masters to make them free people.

This was what the British experienced when they had controlled their nation, St. Vincent, and they (the British) did not want them (the Garifuna people) to do the same thing in Belize. The Spanish in Honduras also began to allow more of our Garifuna people to move to the mainland along the coast because they wanted us to fight with them against the British for disputed

territories. Later on, the Nationalistas, who were demanding their independence from Spain, forged an alliance with the Garifuna people.

Roatan, Honduras, part of the Bay Islands where the Garifuna people



were dumped by the British on April 12, 1797.

British and Spanish rivalry over the Americas was constant, and they were both competing to control the entire region. When the British and the Spanish granted us permission to stay in the areas where we lived, there were some restrictions not to move away from the south of Belize, but to stay confined in that region. They did not want the Creole people, who they had as slaves, to know that there were free black people living in Belize. It seems as if the Creoles found out afterwards, and questioned them about our free status.

To be continued

Two men and minors arraigned for burglary of home in Los Lagos

Continued from ▶ Page 2

stealing a large amount of money along with jewelry and firearms.

The incident occurred sometime between the morning of Holy Saturday and the night of Easter Sunday, when robbers entered Teichrob’s home by cutting the wires of the chain-link fence and prying open the burglar bars and wooden doors. They then proceeded to steal a safe which contained an assortment of electronic devices, jewelry and liquor, as well as firearms – a semi-automatic rifle, a pump action shotgun and live rounds.

Along with the initial items stolen from the safe, they also stole the DVR which contained footage captured by surveillance cameras. The estimated value of the items is \$38,000.

The culprits were identified as 20-year-old Lyndon Chun and 46-year-old Kirk Dougal, and the two minors are aged 16 and 12 years.

When police arrived at the scene, they saw Chun and two minor boys running away from the scene and discovered a knapsack inside a plastic drum on the verandah. Inside the bag, the officers discovered 532 grams of cannabis.

valid for 10 years instead of 5 and therefore is equivalent to a cost of \$20 per year. Additionally, according to the PM, the new passport is now accepted worldwide. He noted that the European Union will review Belize’s passport system upgrade and consider visa waivers for Belizeans.

Dougal was charged with burglary, meanwhile Chun and the two minors were given the initial charge along with possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply.

When they appeared in the Magistrate Court in Belize City, they all pleaded not guilty and were given bail – the men in the sum of \$5,000 each plus two sureties of \$2,500, and the minors were handed over to the care of their mothers with a bail of \$2,000 each with the condition that they must live with their parents, mandatorily report to the Community Rehabilitation Department, and not associate with any gang affiliates, as well as comply with a curfew of 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Chun and Dougal, in addition to being prohibited from going within a hundred yards of any of the prosecution’s witnesses, must report to the police station every Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and they should not associate themselves with any criminals or known gang members.

They are to return to court on June 15.

Another home burglary also occurred during the Easter weekend, this one in the Belizean American site of Hattievillage Village. Reports suggest that the incident occurred sometime around 2:40 a.m. on Easter Sunday, and that a safe as well as \$30,000 worth of gold and diamond jewelry were stolen.

A reward of 2,000 Belize dollars is being offered for information leading to the recovery of jewelry and conviction of the culprits.

Call 622-7191 for any information towards recovering the items.

Lev Dermen gets 40 years in US tax fraud case

The US Department of Justice announced the sentencing of Lev Dermen and his four other co-conspirators in what is being called “one of the longest-ever” tax fraud schemes in the US. The U.S. Attorney’s Office Tax Division will now seek forfeiture of assets connected to the fraud scheme to recoup losses it caused to the US. In Belize, those fraudulent proceeds were used to pay former UDP Minister of National Security, John Saldivar tranches of funds for political purposes, and \$700,000 to purchase land for the construction of a casino.



Lev Dermen, Jacob Kingston, seen with John Saldivar and former Mayor Khalil Belise

Continued from Page 1



(l-r) Jacob Kingston and Isaiah Kingston

\$511 million to the IRS. Rachel Kingston, 67, their mother, was the “special project manager” and was involved with the backdating and creating of fake invoices; she was sentenced to seven years in prison. Sally Kingston, Jacob’s legal wife, was sentenced to six years earlier last

week.

The US \$1 billion bio-fuel tax scheme was an operation aimed at illegally profiting from a program that was meant to provide incentives to companies in an effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The company, Washakie Renewable Energy, promoted itself as an enterprise which converted used cooking fuel, cornstalks, and other biological materials into biofuel at its plant. Evidence shows that very little fuel was actually made by the company. From 2010 to 2018 that company was involved in multiple fraudulent schemes, creating false paperwork to claim it created biofuel from feedstock, when in fact that biofuel was produced by others who had already claimed fuel tax credit from the US government. They claimed IRS biofuel tax exemptions using the forged documents.

They frequently obtained US\$65 million in EPA renewable IDs, purchased millions of gallons of fuel, and created the impression that the fuel was being produced and sold by Washakie. They applied for and were paid over \$300 million for claims in 2013 and \$164 million in 2014. The fraud proceeds were laundered through more than \$3 billion in transactions across multiple bank accounts.

“Money from the fraudulent claims were distributed to Dermen and the Kingstons and used to make lavish purchases in the United States,

Saldivar as the Belizean Cabinet minister who received cash payments of US\$25,000 routinely from Dermen and his associate Jacob Kingston. Saldivar’s fall from grace—just three days after assuming the role of leader of the United Democratic Party in February 2020—occurred after the release of those messages and reopened the conversation of campaign finance reform in Belize. Last Friday, the 56-year-old Dermen was convicted of fraud and money laundering at the close of the seven-week trial in a Salt Lake City courthouse and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Additionally, Dermen was ordered to pay \$442,615,520 in restitution to the IRS, in addition to a monetary judgment of more than \$181 million. Jacob Kingston, the CEO and co-owner of the company, Washakie Renewable Energy, which was the vehicle through which the fraud was carried out, was sentenced to 18 years and ordered to pay \$511 million in restitution to the IRS likewise. He pled guilty to the charges related to the scheme in 2019 and testified against Dermen.

Kingston’s entire family are members of a polygamous sect from Utah. He was born and raised within the Davis County Cooperative Society. His entire family was involved in the business affairs of Washakie. Isaiah Kingston, 42, was sentenced to 12 years in prison and ordered to pay

Belizean Demetrie Meyers wins two gold medals at CARIFTA Games

Continued from Page 1

finished with a time of 4:13.63. Capturing the bronze was Jamaica’s Joel Morgan.

Then he clocked 9:08.56 on Sunday in the 3000m, ahead of silver medal winner Ejay George of Grenada who finished with a time of 9:36.82, and the bronze medal winner Love Joseph of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“Coming into the race, I thought that I was going to be chased a little bit more. I didn’t expect to be able to go and nobody [tried] and follow, but I just kept going at the pace I needed to go, and I was really surprised and honored to win two gold medals,” Meyers said.

In an interview with Meyers’ father/coach, Greg Meyers, he told *Amandala* about the emotions he felt in reaction to his son’s performance.

“To be honest with you, with Demetrie running, nothing surprises me. I was slightly concerned at the beginning because the pace he chose was extremely aggressive. It wasn’t out of his range to do, and as he was running, it became more and more evident that he was well in control. Inside I had cold seed. My eyes were swelling up. But externally, I was very subtle. I threw my hands in the air as he crossed the finish line,” Greg Meyers said.

He also spoke to us about being a

dad-coach to his son:

“That is one of the most difficult things to do, is to be coach and dad, because when he’s not in school, he’s with me, and I’m pushing him hard, and he’s with me when doing his homework. So that balance is incredibly difficult,” he said.

“... I have several assistant coaches, and we all manage different sections of it, so while I am his coach and make all the workouts, I have other assistant coaches that help so that it’s not always dad yelling at him or dad always giving him instructions, so we balance it out that way,” he added.

Demetrie told us that his short-term goal is to do the best he can in his last year of the U17 category and then transition to the U20 for the CARIFTA games. Then, in the long term, he aims to try to represent Belize at the Olympic level and secure the Jewel’s first Olympic Gold medal.

Also in the CARIFTA Games, Mallory Meyers, sister of Demetrie, finished 6th in the 1500 metres girls U17 competition. Andre Armstrong of Belize City finished 14th, 9th, and 12th in the U20 800m, 1500m, and 5000m, respectively. Joas Mejia of Punta Gorda finished 5th in the triple jump and 9th in the long jump. Daniel Meyers, brother of Demetrie, did not finish his race due to injuries.

Turkey, and **Belize**,” a release from the US Department of Justice notes.

According to the release, “Dermen also caused Jacob Kingston to send more than \$700,000 on behalf of Dermen to purchase land in Belize for a planned casino.”

It goes on to state that the US government is “seeking forfeiture” of those illegally attained proceeds.

This brings into question the proceeds received by Saldivar as alleged campaign financing. While there is no indication of exactly how many “tranches” were paid to Saldivar, we can confirm that payment started as early as June 2014 – six years before the scandal actually broke.

Since then, a chain of events – including a US State Department declaration of Saldivar as a corrupted politician, the removal and subsequent reinstatement of Saldivar from the UDP, and Saldivar’s unwelcome win in the UDP Belmopan consistency – has battered a far from battle-weary Saldivar. For his dealings with Dermen, the alleged Armenian mafia boss, Saldivar was removed from the Ministry of National Security and the Dean Barrow-led Cabinet, and stripped of the position as leader of the UDP.

In November 2022, the US Department of State designated the former minister as having “Involvement in Significant Corruption,” claiming that Saldivar, “accepted bribes for the improper acquisition of Belizean immigration documents and interfered in the public processes for his personal benefit during his tenure as a government official.”

At one point, Lev Dermen submitted an application to the government of Belize to be named as the country’s honorary consul to Las Vegas, Nevada. The application was

vetted by the Special Branch and no infractions against Dermen were found; but when the Ministry asked the US if there were any objections to the appointment of Dermen as Honorary Consul, the reply was a firm rejection of such an appointment. Reports are that Dermen, prior to this conviction, had bested the US government in fraud and assault cases before.

Saldivar, in a press conference following the designation, doubled down on his position of innocence on the matter and challenged the US to provide the evidence to buttress their claims against him. No such evidence has been provided.

“Let me state, therefore, for the record, as I have stated many times before: I am innocent of any allegation that has been made against me. At no time have I participated in any corruption at the Immigration Department while I was the minister, even before or after, and there can never be any proof brought out against me in that respect,” Saldivar affirmed. He went on to challenge the US:

“I challenge the United States government to provide that proof. I have no difficulty in facing a trial (whether) here in Belize or abroad in the US,” Saldivar said.

“However, the work, in this case, is not over. Going forward, our office and the Tax Division will continue to work together to seek forfeiture of assets connected to this massive fraud scheme to recoup the losses it caused to the United States,” the release from the US Department of Justice states.

With the Department of Justice now focused on recovering the funds siphoned from the US taxpayers’ pockets, Saldivar and any other persons in Belize involved in money dealings with Dermen may very well have their day in court.



INVITATION TO BID (AMENDMENT)

SEVENTH POWER PROJECT

CAYE CAULKER INTERCONNECTION

Coastal Land Development of North Caye Caulker Substation Site and San Pedro Switching Station Site for the Caye Caulker Interconnection to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; under the Seventh Power Project

The Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of the Seventh Power Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of BEL and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any services or works, if such payment, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than BEL shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

BEL now invites electronic bids from eligible bidders for Coastal Land Development for San Pedro Switching Station and North Caye Caulker Substation for the Caye Caulker interconnection to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; under the Seventh Power Project. The works include, but are not limited to the following:

San Pedro Switching Station (Parcel ID: 7-42-116)

- Applying and obtaining use of the reserve, and permits for dock and seawall;
- Barge transportation of materials and equipment;
- Clearing of native vegetation;
- Backfilling of the property and the reserve with imported fill material to 3' above mean sea level;
- Construction of 60' of vinyl seawall; and
- Construction of a 260' long x 8' wide boat timber dock.

North Caye Caulker Substation (Parcel ID: 12-11-1203)

- Applying and obtaining permit for clearing of mangroves and other native vegetation;
- Applying and obtaining dredging permit;
- Applying and obtaining use of the reserve, and permits for dock and seawall;
- Barge transportation of materials and equipment;
- Clearing of mangroves and other native vegetation;
- Dredging earthworks for a barge/boat access channel of dimensions 60' wide x 500' long x 5' below existing seabed to yield sand to complete the filling of the property and the reserve to 3' above mean sea level;
- Backfilling of the property and the reserve with dredge material to 3' above mean sea level;
- Construction of 240' of vinyl seawall;
- Construction of 60' reinforced concrete barge landing; and
- Construction of a 260' long x 8' wide boat timber dock.

Consideration will be limited to firms or joint ventures of firms which are legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an eligible country and are either:

- (a) more than 50% beneficially-owned by citizen or citizens and/or bona fide resident or residents of an eligible country or by a body corporate or bodies corporate meeting these requirements; or
- (b) owned or controlled by the government of an eligible country provided that it is legally and financially autonomous and operated under the commercial law of an eligible country and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the CDB Guidelines for Procurement (2006).

Eligible countries are Member Countries of CDB.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted. Tender and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required, or do not demonstrate the prospective contractor's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

- (a) an average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last three years of at least seven hundred and fifty thousand Belize dollars (BZD \$750,000.00);
- (b) a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of one hundred thousand Belize dollars (BZD \$100,000.00); and
- (c) experience as prime contractor, management contractor or sub-contractor in the construction of at least two (2) assignments of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last three (3) years (to comply with this requirement, the works quoted should have been successfully completed).

Bidding Documents may be obtained by eligible bidders from the first address below for a non-refundable fee of one hundred Belize Dollars. Requests must be made by written application including email. Written applications must be clearly marked: "**Coastal Land Development for San Pedro Switching Station and North Caye Caulker Substation for Seventh Power Project**", along with the name, address and contact information of the bidder for which Bidding Documents are being requested. Payment should be by wire transfer or bank draft made payable to: **Belize Electricity Limited**. Information to pay by wire transfer can be obtained from the first address below. Proof of payment is required before bidding documents are issued.

Documents will be promptly dispatched via registered email, but under no circumstance will BEL or their authorised agents be held responsible for late delivery or any other issue related to the issuance of the documents.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 20, 2023 (Amendment)** from **9:00 a.m.** Belize time at the second address below and will be followed by a joint site visit conducted by BEL on **Thursday, April 20, 2023 (Amendment)** from **1:30 p.m.** Belize time at the fourth address below. Interested bidders should attend. All costs associated with a bidder's attendance will be at the bidder's own expense.

Electronic submissions via registered email with subject title "**Bid for Coastal Land Development for San Pedro Switching Station and North Caye Caulker Substation for Seventh Power Project**" must be received at the third address below no later than **10:00 a.m. Belize time on Friday, May 5, 2023 (Amendment)**. A virtual bid opening will take place at **11:00 a.m. Belize time on Friday, May 5, 2023 (Amendment)**, from a meeting link sent from the third address below in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend virtually.

BEL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for BEL's action. BEL will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

1. Address for Correspondence

Email: bidcorrespondence@bel.com.bz

2. Address for Pre-Bid Meeting (Amendment)

BEL Ladyville Stores
11 Miles, Philip Goldson Highway (In front of Philip Goldson International Airport)
Ladyville Village
Belize District, Belize C. A.
Phone Number: +501.630.1175

3. Address for Bid Submission and Bid Opening

Email: bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz

4. Addresses for Site Visits

- Site Visit 1 – Proposed North Caye Caulker Substation site
- Site Visit 2 – Proposed San Pedro, Ambergris Caye Switching Station site