

# Did love triangle turn double murder?

**It appears that Miguel Encalada, 39, took a selfie that went viral showing the dead bodies of his common-law wife and his brother behind him.**

by Charles Gladden

carried out by a popular barber who killed his common-law-wife and brother as a result of what some are saying was

LADYVILLE, Belize District. Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

A midday double murder — allegedly

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Desiree Gonzalez, deceased Miguel Encalada, detained and George Rochester, deceased

## Incoming BNTU president under internal fire

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

Less than a week after being elected president of the Belize National Teachers' Union (BNTU) on April 13, Ruth Shoman has been forced to publicly address an incident that occurred in 1998 when she says she was 19. This week, some union members began circulating on Facebook a civil suit judgment from February 2000 regarding theft from Island Marketers Ltd. and Belize Yacht Club Ltd., of which one Ruth Guerra (purportedly a young Ruth Shoman)



Ruth Shoman

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## 7 to compete in 9th annual Miss Afrikan Queen



by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

This week, seven women will be fully embracing the meaning of the saying, "Black is beautiful" as they compete in

the ninth annual Miss Afrikan Queen 2023 pageant scheduled for Saturday night, April 22, at The Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts, in Belize City.

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## Mexican First Lady visits Belize

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Apr. 18, 2023

Motorists who were on any of the main roads in Belize City on Tuesday morning between the rush hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. found themselves stuck in a two-hour-long road blockage as police blocked certain roads in preparation for the arrival of the Mexican First Lady, Dra. Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller,



(l-r) Hon. John Briceno, Prime Minister of Belize and Mexican First Lady, Dra. Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller

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## BDF bans soldiers from Eruptions...

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

It has been reported that the Belize Defence Force (BDF) is now prohibiting its soldiers from entering the premises of the Eruption Nightclub, which is situated at Mile 11 ½ on the Philip Goldson Highway in Ladyville, Belize District.

An order issued on Tuesday of this week stated, "Force members are



Lieutenant Colonel Jermaine Burns

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# Former police constables sentenced to 8 years and 11 months for manslaughter

by Roy Davis (freelance reporter)

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 19, 2023

Three former police constables who were convicted of manslaughter last October, were sentenced to prison when they appeared today before Justice Ricardo Sandcroft. They are Romelio Logan, 28; Jahsimir Cob, 27; and Reydel Teck, 27.

The three had been charged for the beating of Edwin Ixtapac, 29, which occurred on March 7, 2016, in San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, and which caused injuries to Ixtapac that led to his death 3 days later. They were originally charged with murder, but the charge was downgraded to manslaughter.



(l-r) Romelio Logan, Jahsimir Cob and Reydel Teck

Attorney Oscar Selgado, who represented the three former cops, delivered a plea for mitigation in which he asked that his clients be given a non-custodial sentence and be allowed to pay a fine. He said that they were rookie police officers who didn't have any

experience in their line of work.

Each of the three was given an opportunity to speak from the dock on his behalf. They all expressed their remorse for causing the death of Ixtapac.

Crown Counsel Robert Lord, who

represented the Crown, said that the offence for which the men were convicted carries a sentence of imprisonment for life, and that Ixtapac was the sole breadwinner for his wife and young child.

Before he passed sentence, Justice Sandcroft said that he would not sentence them to life imprisonment, but he could not give them a non-custodial sentence and a fine. He said he would use 15 years as a starting point and would subtract 5 years from it. He also said that he would subtract the 13 months that they spent on remand from the resulting 10 years, which would leave a prison term of 8 years and 11 months.

Selgado has indicated that he will serve the court with a notice of appeal.

## Bar Association questions "practical need" for NPO Bill

*"It is unclear what NPOs in Belize have done to deserve such consideration and treatment. This flies in the face of the risk-based approach supposedly being promoted by the Bill," the Bar Association of Belize's April 2023 paper on the since-passed Non-Profit Organization Bill states.*

### NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS BILL, 2023

Published by the Bar Association of Belize  
April 2023



Front page

The proposed definition of a NPO might be amended to read as follows to help to address these concerns:

"a company or body of persons, whether incorporated or unincorporated, or a trust or other legal arrangement established or which identifies itself as established primarily for the promotion of charitable, philanthropic, religious, cultural, educational, social or fraternal purposes, or other activities or programs for the benefit of the public or a section of the public within Belize or elsewhere, and which raises or disburses funds within Belize or elsewhere, for that purpose or object over and above its administrative expenses of a total value exceeding BZ\$500,000.00 per annum."

Bar Association opinion paper on the NPO Bill

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

An opinion paper published by the Bar Association this week on the recently passed Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Bill is being viewed as belated. Yesterday, the bill was passed with amendments in the Senate, just as the released document from the Bar began circulating. The Bar's examination of the now-passed legislation refers only to the previous iteration of the bill, which underwent amendments to several key

sections. The paper looks keenly at the new offices of the NPO Registrar and Deputy Registrar, and sheds some light on some of the issues which arise from the power vested in those offices by virtue of the new legislation.

In short, the Bar Association makes clear that in their opinion, the bill seeks to "create another bureaucracy" and simply causes more difficulty for a charitable organization to operate in Belize.

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## Reef Resilience Strategy launched in Belize



Kalene Eck, Chief Resilience Officer at the Coastal Zone Management Authority



Kennedy Carillo, CEO in the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

It's been two years since the launch of the Reef Resilience Initiative back in 2021, and on Thursday morning, the Reef Resilience Strategy, which was spearheaded by the Coastal Zone Management Authority, was presented at the Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City.

According to Kalene Eck, the Chief Resilience Officer at the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, the strategy is the first of its kind in Belize and features three flagship actions.

"It seeks to complement existing efforts for many other national initiatives, plans, programs that are ongoing. So, outputs from each of these will assist in advancing overall national interest in conservation management," she explained.

The recognition Belize has received for efforts in ocean conservation speaks to how essential such strategies are, but Eck explained that much effort has been required to coordinate such an initiative.

"We conducted extensive engagement sessions. We've done community engagement sessions alongside all coastal communities or all

major coastal communities. We conducted target interviews with NGOs that are working on the ground. We also collaborated very heavily with ongoing initiatives and projects so that we don't experience that type of stakeholder fatigue," explained Eck.

Specifically there was collaboration among the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute; the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute; the Fisheries Department; and the Turneffe Atoll Association.

Kennedy Carillo, CEO in of the Ministry of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation, commented on the critical nature of the effort to preserve the reef and the country's marine spaces:

"...More and more we recognize that there are threats such as the threat of climate change. We see a lot of coral disease and so forth and we need to prepare, we need to have a plan ... from the perspective of the Blue Economy, we recognize that if we are really going to be able to take advantage of our Blue resources and our Barrier Reef to move our economy, obviously we also have to take very good care of it," she said.

The implementation of this strategy is expected to take place from 2023 to the end of 2024.

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# Senate passes three new bills

**Two pieces of legislation to create a new Legal Aid Scheme were rubber-stamped by the Senate, and the controversial Non-Profit Organization Bill was passed with amendments.**



April 19, 2023, Sitting of the Senate

by Marco Lopez

BELMOPAN. Wed. Apr. 19, 2023

Senators returned to the upper house of Parliament yesterday for a special sitting, during which three new pieces of legislation were signed into law. One of these, the Senior Court Amendment Bill, removes provisions related to the assignment of attorneys by the courts to pro-bono cases. This was read in concert with the Legal Aid Bill, the legislation which sets in place a framework for an independent Legal Aid Commission to oversee the creation of the new legal aid scheme countrywide. Along with these, the Non-Profit Organization Amendment Bill – which was the subject of most of the day's debate – was also passed in the Senate, with amendments.

At the last sitting of the Senate, the second reading of the Senior Courts and Legal Aid Bill was deferred to allow for both pieces of legislation to be read together. The laws are aimed at formally setting up a legal aid scheme in Belize, to replace the informal and unlegislated legal aid structures which have been used in the country for years.

The Legal Aid Clinic was first opened in 2002 to provide representation to citizens of limited financial means who would otherwise have to go unrepresented in court. Senator for Government Business, Eamon Courtenay commented that these changes are long overdue, in reference to the removal of the power of the court to assign attorneys to legal aid cases.

Courtenay said that, in a committee session, they put forward an amendment to section 6 of the bill, to remove ministerial discretionary powers from over the commission, which is empowered to administer a comprehensive legal aid scheme that focuses on providing the neediest citizens with legal aid when necessary. The amendment states that the commission is now subject to “the control and position of no person or authority.”

The director and staff of the legal aid scheme are to be appointed by the commission, and attorneys have the opportunity to place their names voluntarily on the list of available attorneys to hear legal aid cases. Senator Michael Peyrefitte agrees with the concept of the bill and lamented the practice of attorneys turning down cases

assigned to them by the court by citing lack of experience in criminal matters – leaving those cases to be assigned to practicing criminal law lawyers.

The purpose of the law is to remedy that issue, and also widen the scope of representation available to the public. As mentioned, traditionally a judge would use a court-assigned attorney for accused persons who not have the means to pay for legal representation in indictable matters, primarily murder. With this limited scope of legal aid representation available, acute access-to-justice shortfalls have been recorded in Belize's legal system by various international bodies. This new law will allow representation for matters including any capital offense, indictable offenses, rape, marital rape, and any indictable matter at the discretion of the judge. For all indictable matters involving minors, a legal representative will be provided under this scheme. On the civil side, areas of family law, civil matters involving minors, writs of habeas corpus, estate matters, and matters related to land have also been added to those cases for which legal aid coverage is to be provided.

Senator Elena Smith, in her remarks during the Senate session, pointed out that, while a reporting mechanism is in place to require the new Legal Aid Commission to provide reports, no penalty has been designated for instances in which no such report is provided.

In response, Senator Eamon Courtenay explained, “Senator Elena Smith is reminding me of her question about the reporting, which is traditional for all of these statutory bodies. Madam President, I share her concern, (but) I would be reluctant for us to amend the bill for us to provide for some sanction for a director or a commission that does not report. If we do that, we have to do that for all the statutory bodies across the country, and I think we should only do that after some serious and mature consideration.”

The Senior Court Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed without amendment, while the Legal Aid Bill was passed with amendments.

### Extradition Bill deferred

The second reading of the Extradition Amendment Bill was deferred to a subsequent sitting of the Senate. This bill is one on the list of legislations that needed to be amended within the short term to satisfy the recommendations of



## Labour Day NOTICE

**Our advertisers, sellers and readers are advised that there will be no online Tuesday issue of the newspaper for May 2.**

**The Friday issue will hit the streets on Friday morning, May 5, 2023**

HAPPY

## Labour Day

**From the management and staff of Kremandala**



the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (FATA). Under the Mutual Evaluation Process, a review of Belize's technical compliance and effectiveness will be conducted by the FATA later this year, and there are significant implications if the country fails the assessment, as was the case for the country in 2013. It could mean impacts on corresponding banking relationships that will trickle down as economic hardship for the individual Belizean.

Senator Chris Coye asserted that the Non-Profit Organization (Amendment) Bill, which puts in place regulations for non-profit groups, purportedly to protect those organizations from terrorist financing abuse, is also being enacted to satisfy a recommendation of the Finance Action Task Force. This is with respect to the law combating terrorist financing. Coye stated that the government has about a month to pass all of the necessary legislation to ensure compliance with the FATA's recommendation.

### NPO Bill passed with amendments

The NPO bill has not been without criticism from those organizations, and following the amendment, the Bar Association issued a public opinion questioning the practical need for the amendment. They shared that the power which will be vested in the NPO Registrar is already vested in the Financial Intelligence Unit under the Money Laundering and Terrorism Prevention Act. Like the many NPO organizations which have already decried this bill, the Bar concluded that the legislation will create even more bureaucracy for NPOs to contend with.

Coye noted that there had been consultation with the social partners' advisory committee and this resulted in a number of amendments to the NPO draft bill.

The Senator for the Churches, Senator Alvin Benguche, referred to the bill as a “creator forging to the church.” He remarked that while they are prepared to support what is presented in the bill, it needs to go further.

“We were given the assurance, as a church body, that the undertaking will be there to be able to form some other legislations concerning the church and I want to say that publicly. I say that publicly because I have also been given permission, Madam President, by the union to remind the government that they have given undertakings in the past, and there are still some of those undertakings to be realized,” Senator Benguche said.

He said that as far as the church is concerned, they want to join the government in ensuring that they are compliant, but expressed some lingering reservations about the approach towards the church.

“When we look at a bill of this nature we have to ask ourselves, how does the church fit into a bill of this nature, where now we are asked to be listed under NPOs, and that which will bring us under certain restriction,” Benguche said.

Newly sworn-in NGO senator, Dr. Elma Kay, said at the onset that the way that the bill was initially handled cannot set precedent for bills when citing the importance of consultation and public participation in the NGO sector. She said that a lack of monitoring and enforcement from the regulators is the

# Store robbers caught out west

by Charles Gladden

SAN IGNACIO, Cayo District, Tues. Apr. 18, 2023

A band of thieves were quickly apprehended by police after a brazen daylight robbery at the New PK Store situated on the George Price Highway in San Ignacio Town, Cayo District on Monday, April 17.

The entire incident was recorded on surveillance footage, in which two dark-complexioned men can be seen entering the frame of the camera through an alleyway located between the targeted Chinese business establishment and another building.

The footage shows the two men entering the store – one wearing a neck



(l-r) Luis Castellanos, Gilbert Pandey, Tishane Theus, and Deon Gongora, charged with multiple offenses

gaiter and the other without a mask but carrying a firearm in a pouch across his chest. Then seconds later, another male person—fully covered with a black hoodie and mask—entered the frame and dashed into the store, while the individual equipped with the firearm served as a lookout, but he walked directly into two delivery men.

Meanwhile, inside the establishment,

the two robbers ransacked the area behind the store’s counter searching for valuables, then they fled the scene.

However, the robbers were intercepted by police officers who quickly arrested the men, after which they searched a home on Venus Street in the Hillview area of Santa Elena Town and discovered a loaded 9-millimeter pistol, a pink and blue bag that contained

coins in different denominations (which are presumably the proceeds of the robbery) and a black bulletproof vest.

At the time of the search, four males from the Cayo District were present, and were thus charged for a range of offenses. Arrested were: 45-year-old Luis Castellanos, 30-year-old

Deon Gongora, and 26-year-old Gilbert Pandey, all unemployed residents of Santa Elena Town; and 28-year-old Tishane Theus, a hospital attendant of Belmopan. They were charged with keeping a firearm without a gun license, and (2) counts of keeping ammunition without a gun license, and were also jointly charged with (1) count of unauthorized possession of a bullet proof vest.

# Amputee gets suspended sentence for stabbing

by Roy Davis (freelance reporter)

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 19, 2023

John Brackett, 54, a former construction worker who was charged with attempted murder but

had pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of use of deadly means of harm, was given a suspended sentence of 3 years when he appeared yesterday before Justice Ricardo Sandcroft. He was also ordered to pay \$6,000 in

compensation to the victim, Kenrick Valencio, 39, by April 18, 2024.

What the suspended sentence means is that Brackett, if he runs afoul of the law anytime during the next three years, would have to serve a three-year prison term.

Before he decided on the sentence, Justice Sandcroft said he took into consideration the mitigating factors and the aggravating factors.

The incident for which Brackett was charged occurred on February 2, 2018 in front of Novelo’s Bus Terminal on West Collet Canal Street. Valencio, who was working as a security guard at the time, told police that he was approached by Brackett, who stabbed him in his abdomen. Valencio was rushed to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in a critical condition. According to a report, Brackett stabbed Valencio because Valencio had refused him entry to the Princess Hotel and Casino.

Brackett’s left leg was amputated at the knee about 2 years later due to diabetes.

Brackett was represented during



John Brackett

the trial and the sentencing by attorney Oscar Selgado.

Crown Counsel Robert Lord represented the Crown.

# Mexican First Lady visits Belize



Diplomats holding signed letter of intent

Continued from Page 1

who was escorted through the city from the Philip Goldson International Airport (PGIA).

Dra. Müller, the spouse of the President of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, visited Belize on Tuesday, April 18, for a special ceremony for the handing-over of equipment and books for Belize from Mexico at the Belize City

House of Culture. These pieces of equipment, which also included a Bookeye 5v5 overhead book scanner, were donated to the country as part of an effort to assist in the preservation of the historical archives in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Upon landing, Dra. Müller briefly met with the Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, in the VIP room of the PGIA, before being escorted along with her delegation to the House of Culture on Tuesday morning.

There she was met by Belize’s First Lady and Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children, H.E. Mrs. Rossana Briceño; the CEO of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, Mrs. Dian Maheia; and Dr. Louis Zabaneh,

Minister of State in Education, Science, and Technology.

This was her second visit to Belize, following her first trip in May 2022, when she accompanied her husband as part of a five-day tour of Latin America, and during which he signed numerous agreements with Belize, particularly on agricultural development, trade, and tourism. The trip also served to strengthen the strong ties between both countries.

Dra. Müller similarly expressed her wish to strengthen ties between Belize and Mexico.

“We belong to a community that has similar histories. Historical events are very important in our sharing of history. The native ones and those who came to America to conquest, to live and even to spoil. So, the heritage we have in this continent is very, very long,” Müller remarked in her speech, adding “history is not only a social discipline; history is a teacher.”

At the ceremony, the equipment was presented, and a letter of intent was signed between both countries.

“Historic preservation is a deep and meaningful conversation about our past which in turn influences key aspects of our future. It is an opportunity for future generations to understand and appreciate the significant events, people, and stories that shape Belize’s history,” stated Special Envoy Briceño upon the handing over of the equipment.

The ceremony culminated with a performance by a traditional Mariachi band from Mexico who appeared to surprise the attendees and celebrate the achievement at the end.

Maheia, who made reference to “the exclamation point to why we have to recognize history, why we have to preserve history, why we have to document history,” also noted what this



Gifted Overhead Book Scanner

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## Ashcroft Alliance goes international with favoritism charge

The Ashcroft Alliance is taking us to court, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, over the Department of the Environment's (DOE) decision to reject its proposal for a cruise tourism terminal at the Port of Belize Limited (PBL). The *Amandala* says the Alliance claims that the DOE had "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 [PMB] and Stake Bank [SB]."

The charge is favoritism. The principal of the group, Lord Ashcroft, should know what that is. To list just a few of his coups, a government, PUP, changed the law so that he could get ownership of our then sole telecommunications company, BTL; he was allowed to expand his control of our private banking system beyond 50%; and he was given an ambassadorship to the United Nations.

But he has not been appreciative of the largesse. He has been pit-bull vicious with those who don't bow to his wishes. He embarrassed the government that facilitated his purchase of BTL, and he took us to the cleaners when, because of his group's intransigence and greed, we were forced to take the company back. His persecution of the country is not limited to BTL.

Despite GoB setting up a 3-member Tribunal, as per the law, to address Waterloo's appeal of the DOE's decision which was made on the advice of the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC), the Alliance has gone to international court to scandalize the country and air out its grief. In the you-have-to-read-it-yourself-to-believe-it category, our government reportedly has 3 months to arrive at an "amicable settlement" with the group.

So many assets which the GoB "facilitated" into the hands of Mr. Luke Espot, one of them PBL, ended up in the control of the Alliance. Espot has said a government (PUP) reneged on assurances it gave him about the port. One of those assurances was that the port in Big Creek would be limited exclusively to bananas. Another was that he would be supported in the development of a cruise terminal at PBL.

His claims against the GoB aside, if Espot is a victim, the vicious weapon that did him in is the same one that has separated many in Belize from their homes and their businesses: the stratospheric cost of money. Companies owned or nominally under Espot's control borrowed from the Belize Bank (or affiliates). In 2013 the court ruled that Espot had to pay the Belize Bank \$29 million, for loans he had guaranteed for Indeco Enterprises Ltd., at 17% interest rate; Belize Crocodile and Reptile Breeders, 12%; and Belize Ready Mix Concrete, 17%. Luke Espot lost other prime properties to the bankers.

Espot was "facilitated" with ownership of PBL in 2002, and in 2012, after a number of his companies failed, the port fell into receivership. In September 2019 it became public that the Alliance affiliate, Waterloo, had interest in a mega project for PBL that included a cruise facility that could accommodate the world's largest cruise ships. As mentioned, Waterloo has not received approval for this project. Meanwhile, two other cruise port projects have received the go ahead.

It is important to understand that everyone, including Waterloo and its principal, knows that three large cruise ports just can't work in Belize City. And Waterloo seems to be the "Johnny-come-lately" on the block. When *Caribbean Maritime Magazine*, the official journal of the Caribbean Shipping Association, discussed cruise ports proposals in Belize City in January 2018, in an article titled "A question of space", mention was made of only two, and PBL wasn't one of them. Waterloo does claim to have done some research on a cruise terminal prior to that discussion. But any such exploration had to end there, because PBL was in receivership.

The Stake Bank project shouldn't have been called out by Waterloo because it is water under the bridge, the project having broken ground and commenced construction back in 2019. The first phase of that project

was scheduled to have been completed last year, but wasn't, probably because of the Covid-19 pandemic. There are some parts of that project that are yet to be completed, and these could be revisited if interested groups have deep enough concern, but essentially that ship has sailed, and no amount of crying "foul" can bring it back to the dock.

In respect to the proposed Port Magical Belize cruise port, which reportedly got clearance from the DOE, indeed the EIA comes up short in a few areas. Looking at the marine side of the project, "forensic skills" are needed to find out the length and width of the channel to be dredged, and exactly how many million cubic meters of material will be removed from the seabed. It seems that all the dredged material will be placed onshore, much of it to be used for the construction of an artificial peninsula 0.4-miles wide and 0.9-miles long. If the filling for the peninsula is 2 meters deep, that alone will take 2 million cubic meters of material. Some NGOs have questioned DOE approval of PMB.

PMB has a number of natural advantages over PBL. On the coast, about 10 miles south of Belize City, it is out of "harm's" way. The quantity of dredging needed is probably less than half of what is necessary at PBL to attain the same objective. PMB is in a less environmentally sensitive area than PBL, and it wouldn't expose Belize City to increased damage from hurricanes.

The NEAC has advised that the dredging proposed by PBL carries too much risk for our environment. And historically silting is a problem between the mouths of the Sibun River and Haulover Creek/Belize River, where the port is located. While Waterloo's experts claim their research showed minimal siltation at the port since 2001, the *Guardian* (BZ), which was the government's newspaper between 2008 and 2020, said in an article in 2011 that the berthing area at the port, which, at a cost of around \$40 million, had been dredged to a depth of 28 feet just before the port was sold to Luke Espot in 2002, had "silted up and most ships with drafts of over 18 feet find it very difficult to dock at the pier."

PMB is a threat to PBL if it is realized, not only for its cruise potential. Down the road it could also get into the cargo business. The hurdles for PBL are many. The port is "maxed" for the size ships it can accommodate, but to hear the Ashcroft Alliance, favoritism is the shoal in its path. So used to getting preferential treatment, the Alliance sees injustice where there is a level playing field.

The Alliance's complaints aren't finding many sympathetic ears in Belize, and that's for all the disrespect and bad things it has done to our country. The fact, for anyone who would just open their eyes and read the unbiased environmental report, is that proceeding with this Waterloo project as envisaged invites an environmental disaster and disgrace for Belize.



(estb. 1969)

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# House of Shotokan students top divisions in Texas karate tournament

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 19, 2023

Students of the House of Shotokan in Belize City participated in the Wu Shu Kung Fu Martial Arts Championship held in El Paso, Texas, on Saturday, April 15, and three students of the karate club earned top spots in their respective categories.

The students who participated in the tournament were 11-year-old Gordon Feinstein, 9-year-old Emily Feinstein, and 7-year-old Ampree Swasey.

Gordon placed first in all three categories in which he participated: The Child Intermediate Form Division, Children Intermediate Fighting Division, and Martial Arts Weapons Division; while his sister Emily placed third in the Children Girls Fighting Division and fourth in the Children Girls Form Division, and Ampree placed first in the Fight & Martial Arts Form and second in the Children Intermediate Form division.

“[They] are the up-and-coming athletes of Belize and that is one of my goals,” said Shihan Ray Kelly, master instructor at the House of Shotokan.

“... Their self-esteem is through the roof. Their parents who were there with them — smiles from ear to ear. This is what they’re experiencing, and there’s more to come,” Kelly

added.

Shihan Ray Kelly holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Martial Art Science and has been operating the House of Shotokan since 2010. His students at the school



Ampree Swasey



(l-r) Gordon Feinstein, Shihan Ray Kelly, master instructor at the House of Shotokan and Emily Feinstein

range from the tender age of 3 years old to 70 years old.

Kelly told *Amandala*, “Students have

evolved from the karate studio to become engineers, have gone outside to the United States [or] study in Taiwan. Presently, there’s a student that’s studying to become a doctor. There are many students who have come through House of Shotokan within its tenure and have gone on to become successful in their lives. I’m even receiving students who have their own children to come back and train in this studio.”

Kelly said that there will be two other tournaments in Mexico and the United States in the upcoming months. He also mentioned that a local tournament will be held this year and an international tournament sometime next year.

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF BELIZE A.D 2023

CLAIM NO. 48 OF 2023

ASCENDANCY BELIZE LTD.

CLAIMANT

AND

ROLAND TUN

DEFENDANT

TO: ROLAND TUN of Cattle Landing Village, Toledo District, Belize/Go Deh Strong Area, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize

TAKE NOTICE that Claim No. 48 of 2023 has been commenced against you in the High Court of Belize, by ASCENDANCY BELIZE LTD. a company duly incorporated under the Laws of Belize with registered office situate at Cor. Landivar & 4th Streets, Kings Park, Belize City, Belize in which the CLAIMANT’S claim is for monies owing by the Defendant to the Claimant, on account of a loan advanced to the Defendant under and by virtue of a Charge and Memorandum Accompanying Charge executed by the Defendant inclusive of legal fees:

AND it has been ordered that service of the Fixed Date Claim Form with Affidavit in Support of 23rd January, 2023 on you be effected by this advertisement.

AND you are required to enter an appearance within fourteen (14) days of the second publication of this Notice of the Fixed Date Claim Form by causing an Acknowledgement of Service to be filed for you at the Office of the Registrar of the High Court of Belize.

AND you are required to attend court on May 8th, 2023 at 10:45 a.m. before the Honorable Madam Justice Martha Alexander at the High Court of Belize to defend the said Claim.

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the said Claimant may proceed therein, and Judgment may be given in your absence.

You may appear to the said Claim by filing an Acknowledgement of Service in person or by your attorney at the Office of the Registrar of the High Court of Belize.

DATED the 19th day of April, 2023.

CAVELOCHANWATSONLLP  
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant  
Cor. Landivar & 4th Streets, Kings Park  
Belize City, Belize

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### NOTICE

**NOTICE:** We, GLV Investments LTD, state that we have our lost original Vessel Registration Certificate. Vessel Name: BIG SIPPER. Registration Number: SC-1251

### LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

**LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Ian Reid** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Belmopan Beach Adventure Park, More Tomorrow Village, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

**LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Gregory Ovado** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at O’s Enterprise, 118 St. Vincent Street, Dangriga, Stann Creek District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

**LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Dean Fuller** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at Kiki Witz Ltd., Mile 46 George Price Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

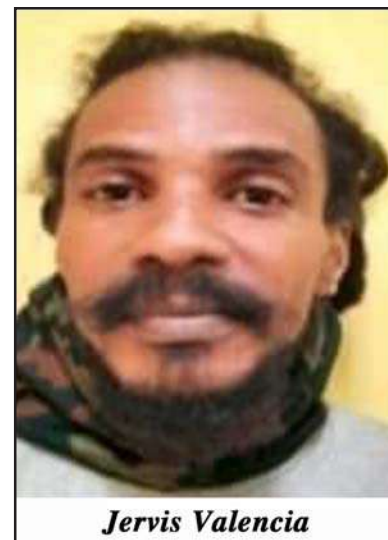
**LIQUOR LICENCE NOTICE:** Notice is hereby given that **Wendy Aracely Herrera** is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at La Rumba Almendares Restaurant & Bar, St. Margaret Village, Cayo District, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 2000.

## Jervis Valencia shot again

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

Yet another attempt has been made by gunmen to take the life of infamous gang figure, 41-year-old Jervis ‘Diamond’ Valencia, who was shot on Wednesday, April 19, in front of La Popular Bakery on Logwood Street in Belize City after he and others had attended an



Jervis Valencia

agriculture training session conducted by the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU).

According to reports, at around 11:40 a.m. on Wednesday multiple gunshots were fired in that area, and when police patrolling on foot arrived from Ebony Street at the scene they found an injured Valencia with a gunshot wound in his leg.

He was taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition.

Two persons—a 49-year-old man and a 16-year-old male—have been detained for the shooting of Valencia. Notably, this is the fifth time in 8 years that an attempt has been made to end his life.

Valencia has been accused of a range of past criminal acts. Over the years, he has been charged several times with attempted murder, murder, and use of deadly means of harm, and has himself been a gunshot victim on a number of occasions.

He has also been acquitted of several murder charges, notably, for the murder of Moses Gonguez in 2015.

# Mexican First Lady visits Belize

Continued from Page 4

meant to the House [of Culture].

“A visit like this serves to reinforce, to cement actually, the over 40 years of really excellent relationship between Belize and Mexico. We’re grateful for this gift. We’re grateful for the fact that it recognizes the importance of protecting, preserving our history, our culture, our historical bibliography,” said Maheia.

In regard to the usefulness of the scanner, Maheia emphasized, “The Archives has so many documents,

documents from the 1800s that need to be scanned and properly preserved. A donation like this is well over \$30,000 for the machine itself; to have the training, the technical capacity building that goes along with it is really important. Just now, our Museum of Belize has five projects that they can think about that they need a scanner for right off the bat.”

The Mexican First Lady as part of her Caribbean tour will also be visiting Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Dominican Republic.

## VACANCY

### • Office Assistant:

#### WORKING HOURS

Monday- Friday 8:00am-5:00pm  
Saturday 8:00am-12:00 noon

#### APPLICANT MUST HAVE:

- 18YRS AND OLDER
- Minimum High School Diploma
- Bi-Lingual (is an asset)
- 2- Letter of Recommendation
- Valid Social Security Card

APPLY @: VIKING GROUP  
#892 4 1/2 Mls. Philip Goldson Hwy  
Belize City, Belize  
OFFICE HOURS: 8am-5pm  
Email: royalmotorbelize@yahoo.com.tw

**PLEASE Bring:** Original Social Security and a Passport size photo.

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given under Section 4(1) of the Standards (Preparation and Declaration) Regulations, 1997 that the Belize Bureau of Standards proposes to recommend to the Standards Advisory Council that the following draft standard be declared a compulsory Belize Standard:

### 1. the Belize Draft Specification for Nitrogen

This standard specifies minimum requirements for gaseous and liquid nitrogen obtained by the air liquefaction process, commonly used in medical and industrial applications. This standard also provides requirements regarding nitrogen properties and safe handling practices.

Any comments on the draft standard should reach the **Director, Belize Bureau of Standards** at the below-mentioned address no later than **June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023** or at [bbs@btl.net](mailto:bbs@btl.net). Copies or details of this standard are available from the office of the Belize Bureau of Standards located at Power Lane, P.O. Box 430, City of Belmopan or on the website at [www.bbs.gov.bz](http://www.bbs.gov.bz).



## “Tour-isms”

### An Ancient Investment

We climb their temples, stroll their palaces, and speculate at their ball courts, but how much do we really know about the ancient Maya who lived in Belize? What happened to the ancient cities that surround us? Not all of our Maya archeological sites have been excavated or entirely studied. We know the names of the major sites and their English translations. The funny ones like “Place of Ticks” and “Big Hat” normally stand out. We know that these sites were once a part of a thriving civilization and that the ancient Maya accomplished incredible things during their Pre-Classic and Classic Periods. They built temples taller than the highest modern building we have in Belize right now, they made significant advancements in mathematics and astronomy, they were master agriculturalists, and they recorded their history in their architecture and art. Their civilization started to decline around the 9<sup>th</sup> century when city after city was abandoned for unknown reasons. Some believe that they exhausted their natural environment so much so that large populations could no longer be sustained. Others argue that catastrophic natural occurrences, like extreme drought, was perhaps what drove them to abandon their metropolises. The facts are not certain but, could one lesson from these ancient people be tied to our current conservation and sustainable development focus?

These archeological sites are a part of Belize’s cultural heritage and tourism product. The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) along with the Belize Institute of Archeology (NICH) work in tandem to ensure that these sites are protected and sustainably used. However, the sites are not the only places that are protected. Our sustainable development ethos extends across our complex ecosystems. We also protect national parks, natural monuments, nature reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, forest reserves, marine reserves, spawning aggregation sites, bird sanctuaries, private reserves,

and a list of unofficial private reserves. This may seem like a lot but with major industries like Tourism, Agriculture, Utilities, and Services so reliant on our natural environment, it may hardly be enough. We are not the only ones. The world seems to be making a resounding effort to promote more environmental protection. The theme for Earth Day 2023 is “**Invest in our Planet**”. The BTB has partnered with the Belize Audubon Society on their Greening Across Belize initiative. This initiative will provide an additional 300 shade trees to Audubon’s inventory to persons across the country. A collaborative effort will likewise be made to provide two community schools, buffering the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary Reserve, with educational material about caring for the environment. Managing our natural resources wisely is our cultural and tourism mandate.

The mysterious decline of the ancient Maya civilization may have one core lesson for us. The sustainable use of our natural resources is tied to the collective success in our tourism and in perpetuity. Was the misuse of natural resources the cause that befell the ancient Maya cities? We may never find out. We do know however that global issues surrounding food security, clean water, clean air, and extreme weather make the theories about the ancient Maya a little more real. For those reasons, the “-ism” this week is *historicism*. This -ism is for the historical character of the ancient Maya and all the amazing ways in which they expressed themselves in their architecture and agriculture. This -ism is also for the character of the modern Belizean who perhaps can appreciate these ancient sites, but who is not intent on repeating an ancient lesson. Let us all continue to be diligent stewards of all of our national heritage and natural wonders as we “Invest in our Planet”.

See you next week.

**The Belize Tourism Board**



## Alianza Ashcroft internacionaliza acusación de favoritismo

La Alianza Ashcroft nos está llevando a los tribunales, la Corte Permanente de Arbitraje de La Haya, por la decisión del Departamento de Medio Ambiente (DOE por sus siglas en inglés) de rechazar su propuesta para una terminal de turismo de cruceros en Port of Belize Limited (PBL). Amandala dice que la Alianza afirma que el DOE había “aplicado estándares diferentes y más estrictos a las solicitudes hechas por PBL que los que se habían aplicado a otras solicitudes comparables para aprobación ambiental, incluidas especialmente las solicitudes hechas por dos desarrollos de nueva construcción: Port of Magical Belize [PMB] y Stake Bank [SB]”.

El cargo es favoritismo. El mandante del grupo, Lord Ashcroft, debería saber qué es eso. Para enumerar solo algunos de sus golpes, un gobierno, PUP, cambió la ley para que él pudiera obtener la propiedad de nuestra entonces única empresa de telecomunicaciones, BTL; se le permitió expandir su control de nuestro sistema bancario privado más allá del 50%; y se le otorgó un cargo de embajador ante las Naciones Unidas.

Pero él no ha apreciado la generosidad. Ha sido vicioso como pitbull con aquellos que no se inclinan ante sus deseos. Avergonzó al gobierno que facilitó su compra de BTL y nos llevó a la tintorería cuando, debido a la intransigencia y la codicia de su grupo, nos vimos obligados a recuperar la empresa. Su persecución del país no se limita a BTL.

A pesar de que el Gobierno de Belize estableció un Tribunal de 3 miembros, según la ley, para abordar la apelación de Waterloo a la decisión del DOE que se tomó con el asesoramiento del Comité Nacional de Evaluación Ambiental (NEAC por sus siglas en inglés), la Alianza acudió a la corte internacional para escandalizar al país y airear su pena. En la categoría de “tienes que leerlo tú mismo para creerlo”, nuestro gobierno supuestamente tiene 3 meses para llegar a un “arreglo amistoso” con el grupo.

Tantos activos que el Gobierno de Belize “facilitó” para que terminaran en manos del Sr. Luke Espot, uno de ellos PBL, terminaron en poder de la Alianza. Espot ha dicho que un gobierno (PUP) incumplió las garantías que le dio sobre el puerto. Una de esas garantías fue que el puerto de Big Creek se limitaría exclusivamente a los bananos. Otro fue que sería apoyado en el desarrollo de una terminal de cruceros en PBL.

Sus reclamos contra el Gobierno de Belize aparte, si Espot es una víctima, el arma viciosa que lo terminó es la misma que ha separado a muchos en Belize de sus hogares y sus negocios: el costo estratosférico del dinero. Las empresas de propiedad o nominalmente bajo el control de Espot tomaron prestado del Banco Belize (o afiliados). En 2013, el tribunal dictaminó que Espot tenía que pagar al Banco Belize \$ 29 millones, por préstamos que había garantizado para Indeco Enterprises Ltd., a una tasa de interés del 17%; Belize Crocodile and Reptile Breeders, 12%; y Belize Ready Mix Concrete, 17%. Luke Espot perdió otras propiedades principales ante los banqueros.

A Espot se le “facilitó” la propiedad de PBL en 2002, y en 2012, después de que varias de sus empresas quebraron, el puerto cayó en suspensión de pagos. En septiembre de 2019 se hizo público que el afiliado de la Alianza, Waterloo, tenía interés en un megaproyecto para PBL que incluía una instalación de cruceros que podría acomodar a los cruceros más grandes del mundo. Como se mencionó, Waterloo no ha recibido aprobación para este proyecto. Mientras tanto, otros dos proyectos de puertos de cruceros han recibido el visto bueno.

Es importante comprender que todos, incluidos Waterloo y su director, saben que tres grandes puertos de cruceros simplemente no pueden funcionar en la Ciudad de Belize. Y Waterloo parece ser el recién llegado en el bloque. Cuando Caribbean Maritime Magazine, el diario oficial de Caribbean Shipping Association, discutió las propuestas de puertos de cruceros en la Ciudad de Belize en enero de 2018, en un artículo titulado “Una cuestión de espacio”, se mencionaron solo dos, y PBL no fue uno de ellos. Waterloo afirma haber realizado algunas investigaciones sobre una terminal de cruceros antes de esa discusión. Pero cualquier exploración de este tipo tenía que terminar ahí, porque PBL estaba en suspensión de pagos.

Waterloo no debería haber mencionado el proyecto Stake Bank porque es agua pasada, ya que el proyecto se inició y comenzó a construirse en

2019. La primera fase de ese proyecto estaba programada para completarse el año pasado, pero no lo fue, probablemente debido a la pandemia de Covid-19. Hay algunas partes de ese proyecto que aún no se han completado, y éstas podrían revisarse si los grupos interesados ??tienen una preocupación lo suficientemente profunda, pero esencialmente ese barco ha zarpado, y ninguna cantidad de gritos de “falta” puede traerlo de vuelta al muelle.

Con respecto al propuesto puerto de cruceros Port Magical Belize, que supuestamente obtuvo la autorización del DOE, de hecho, la EIA se queda corta en algunas áreas. Mirando el lado marino del proyecto, se necesitan “habilidades forenses” para averiguar la longitud y el ancho del canal que se dragará, y exactamente cuántos millones de metros cúbicos de material se eliminarán del lecho marino. Parece que todo el material dragado se colocará en tierra, gran parte de ello se utilizará para la construcción de una península artificial de 0,4 millas de ancho y 0,9 millas de largo. Si el relleno de la península tiene 2 metros de profundidad, solo eso requerirá 2 millones de metros cúbicos de material. Algunas ONG han cuestionado la aprobación del PMB por parte del DOE.

PMB tiene una serie de ventajas naturales sobre PBL. En la costa, a unas 10 millas al sur de la Ciudad de Belize, está fuera de peligro. La cantidad de dragado necesaria es probablemente menos de la mitad de lo que se necesita en PBL para lograr el mismo objetivo. PMB se encuentra en un área ambientalmente menos sensible que PBL, y no expondría a la Ciudad de Belize a mayores daños por huracanes.

El NEAC ha advertido que el dragado propuesto por PBL conlleva demasiado riesgo para nuestro medio ambiente. E históricamente, la sedimentación es un problema entre las desembocaduras del río Sibún y el Arroyo Haulover/Río Belize, donde se encuentra el puerto. Si bien los expertos de Waterloo afirman que su investigación mostró una sedimentación mínima en el puerto desde 2001, el Guardian (BZ), que fue el periódico del gobierno entre 2008 y 2020, dijo en un artículo en 2011 que el área de atraque en el puerto, que, a un costo de alrededor de \$ 40 millones, se había dragado a una profundidad de 28 pies justo antes de que el puerto fuera vendido a Luke Espot en 2002, se había “llenado de sedimentos y a la mayoría de los barcos con calados de más de 18 pies les resulta muy difícil atracar en el muelle”.

PMB es una amenaza para PBL si se realiza, no solo por su potencial de cruceros. Más adelante también podría entrar en el negocio de la carga. Los obstáculos para PBL son muchos. El puerto está al máximo para el tamaño de los barcos que puede acomodar, pero para escuchar a la Alianza Ashcroft, el favoritismo es el banco en su camino. Tan acostumbrada a recibir un trato preferencial, la Alianza ve injusticia donde hay igualdad de condiciones.

Las quejas de la Alianza no están encontrando muchos oídos comprensivos en Belize, y eso es por todas las faltas de respeto y las cosas malas que le ha hecho a nuestro país. El hecho, para cualquiera que simplemente abra los ojos y lea el imparcial informe ambiental, es que proceder con este proyecto de Waterloo como se prevé invita a un desastre ambiental y una desgracia para Belize.

14<sup>th</sup> 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 23, 2023

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to noon

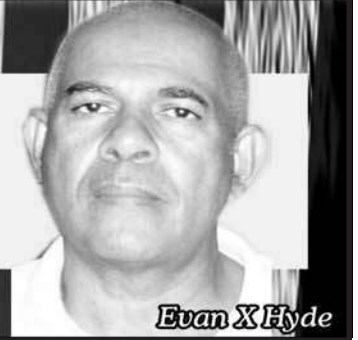
**Guest:** Stevedore Marlon Middleton



Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, 2023



# From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

**(Publisher's NOTE:** In my Tuesday column, I featured an excerpt from an article entitled "Elemental Need," by Elizabeth Kolbert, which appears in THE NEW YORKER issue of March 6, 2023. I want to use today's column to continue that Elizabeth Kolbert article, because I consider the material therein to be very, very important for us Belizeans to absorb and analyze.)

On September 1, 2018, a young man named Abraham Duarte was pulled over for speeding in the city of Cape Coral, in southwest Florida. He jumped out of his car and took off. Before him stood some apartment buildings that faced a canal. Duarte ran around the buildings and threw himself into the water. When the police caught up with him, he was having trouble swimming. 'I need help!' he cried. 'I'm going to die!'

One of the cops sounded sympathetic. "You need to get out of that stuff," he advised. "Seriously, man, that is going to kill you." Duarte struggled to make his way back to shore, through a bank of green slime

so thick that it made the water look solid. He started to retch. The cops fished him out and cuffed him.

Among his many ill-considered moves, Duarte had flung himself into a toxic algae bloom. The body-cam footage of the incident, released by the Cape Coral Police Department, went viral. Newscasters chuckled over the crime-fighting slime. But the story, which Dan Egan relates in detail in "The Devil's Element," is he argues, "more than a meme. It's an omen."

On a farm, crop yields increase when phosphorus is applied. Phosphorus that makes its way into lakes, streams, and canals also promotes plant growth. Unfortunately, the aquatic organisms that tend to do best are the kind that no one wants to see around. And so there are two sides to the phosphorus problem — one shortage, the other excess.

In a toxic algae bloom, tiny photosynthetic organisms reproduce explosively, then throw off chemicals that, in addition to nausea, can cause brain and liver damage. And, when the algae die en masse, a fresh hell

ensues. Their decomposition sucks oxygen out of the water, creating aquatic dead zones where almost nothing can survive.

At the bright-green center of Florida's excess-phosphorus problem lies Lake Okeechobee. The lake receives as much as two million pounds of phosphorus a year — about ten times what biologists think it can safely take in — much of it from agricultural runoff. In the summer of 2018, around the time that Duarte took his dive, ninety percent of Okeechobee's surface was covered in toxic slime. Water released from the lake, via the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers, made so many people sick that Florida's governor, Rick Scott, declared a state of emergency. Egan visited that summer, hoping to take a boat trip down the Caloosahatchee, but his chosen guide, an ecologist named John Cassani, refused to take him, on the ground that it was too dangerous.

"Things are thoroughly screwed up," Cassani told him. "Thoroughly."

Harmful algal blooms, or HARs, also plague Lake Erie. Mostly, the blooms interfere with fishing and tourism — dense, stinking slime is a turnoff to visitors — but in 2014 some of the toxins got sucked into Toledo's public water supply. The city was forced to issue a do-not-drink order to four hundred thousand residents in the area, and Ohio's governor, John Kasich, activated the National Guard.

Lake Erie's troubles can be traced to concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, that dot the Maumee River watershed, in northwestern Ohio. Millions of cows and pigs in these CAFOs spend their days converting phosphorus-fertilized soy and corn into phosphorus-laden manure, much of which washes out of

the operations and into the water. In Egan's words, the Maumee now functions "like a syringe" that pumps thousands of tons of phosphorus a year into Lake Erie's westernmost reaches.

Other lakes that have recently experienced HABs include Lake Superior, Lake Champlain, Lake Tahoe, Lake Winnebago, and Seneca Lake. Indeed, Egan writes, "a map of US lakes and rivers suffering from blue-green algae outbreaks today, looks like, well, a map of the United States." And the situation isn't much better outside the U.S. A few years ago, researchers at Stanford and NASA analyzed three decades' worth of satellite images to assess the conditions of some seventy large lakes around the globe, including Lake Baikal, Lake Nicaragua, and Lake Victoria. They found that "peak summertime bloom intensity" had increased in two-thirds of them.

Meanwhile, dead zones in the oceans, too, are expanding. These zones — a large one forms every summer in the Gulf of Mexico — are also produced by fugitive nutrients. Scientists warn that, as nutrient loads continue to grow and the oceans heat up, the problem will only get worse. (Warm water holds less oxygen than cold.) A trio of British researchers have speculated that, "if our descendants are heedless," human beings might produce "large-scale and long-lasting global anoxia" — which is to say, a planet-wide marine dead zone. In the judgment of Stephen Porder, a professor of ecology at Brown and the author of "Elemental: How Five Elements Changed Earth's Past and Will Shape Our Future" (forthcoming from Princeton), the consequences of this would be so catastrophic as to be unimaginable.

## VACANCY POSITION: Head Distiller

A vacancy exists for the position of **Head Distiller** at a reputable distillery in Belize.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running and managing of a premier, fully certified organic distillery, producing artisanship spirits and maintaining the distillery as a best in class operation.

### Summary of Responsibilities:

- Oversee all operations of the distillery including efficient and consistent cane processing, fermentation, distillation, power and steam generation, bottling, barreling, packaging, shipping, utilities, and waste management.
- Ensure continued adherence and attainment of certifications, including annual Organic Certifications
- Oversee a team of 30 employees, setting schedules, setting goals, mentoring, developing, evaluating, counseling, hiring, and discipline. Ensure accountability to goals are being met consistently and maintaining a positive work culture and work environment.
- Coordinate with HQ to develop, publish, manage, and execute an annual production and supply plan to meet short- and long-term sales goals.
- Coordinate with HQ to develop 5 years strategic, capacity, execution, and CapEx plans to meet future growth.
- Develop and manage an annual budget with monthly reporting and identification of areas for improvement. Ensure escalation of issues that require intervention or help.
- Manage the inbound logistics and ordering of key materials and inputs in coordination with director of Supply Chain.
- Manage storage and accurate inventory of all key materials including development and execution of long-term storage plans including space, tanks, and barrels. Source appropriate raw inputs such as sugar cane, bagasse, nutrients, inputs, and other necessary items for high caliber production. Manage raw materials inputs sourcing timing, volumes, and storage.
- Manage the outbound shipment of all orders on time and in accurate quantities. Manage all compliance of import/export in coordination with Director of Supply Chain.
- Ensure effective management of barrel aging program.
- Manage all recipes/formulas and lead development of product innovations.
- Develop documentation and procedures to manage compliance with governmental, environmental, organic, eco-cert, plant safety, and other training/administrative procedures for Belize, US, EU, and other jurisdictions.

### Qualifications, Skills, Experience:

- Substantial years of experience in distilling spirits. Experience with cane-based rums preferred.
- Experience in alcoholic beverage compliance. Experience in organic and eco-cert preferred.
- Experience in new product development and recipe generation and management.
- Experience in managing and developing a highly motivated and efficient team of employees.
- Experience in scheduling and planning weekly, monthly and annually as per distillery requirements.
- Experience in managing equipment and facilities, with the ability to forecast and plan for future capacity expansion.
- An inspirational leader who can get the most out of their teams.

**Remuneration:** Negotiable

Interested applicants should submit their application package, inclusive of a letter of application, resume and two references to: [jobs@bissystemsbelize.com](mailto:jobs@bissystemsbelize.com) by Monday, May 8, 2023.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

(NOTA del editor responsable: En mi columna del martes, presenté un extracto de un artículo titulado "Elemental Need" ["Necesidad elemental"], de Elizabeth Kolbert, que aparece en la edición de THE NEW YORKER del 6 de marzo de 2023. Quiero usar la columna de hoy para continuar ese artículo de Elizabeth Kolbert, porque considero que el material que contiene es muy, muy importante para que nosotros, los beliceños, lo absorbamos y lo analicemos).

El 1 de septiembre de 2018, un joven llamado Abraham Duarte fue

detenido por exceso de velocidad en la ciudad de Cape Coral, en el suroeste de Florida. Saltó de su auto y huyó. Ante él había algunos edificios de apartamentos que daban a un canal. Duarte corrió alrededor de los edificios y se tiró al agua. Cuando la policía lo alcanzó, estaba teniendo problemas para nadar. '¡Necesito ayuda!' gritó. '¡Voy a morir!'

Uno de los policías parecía comprensivo. "Tienes que salir de eso", aconsejó. "En serio, hombre, eso te va a matar". Duarte luchó por regresar a la orilla, a través de un

# By Grace

by Nuri Muhammad




Wed. Apr. 12, 2023

Those who know me know that I am very serious about my exercise regimen of running/walking, three or four times a week. I have been following this routine for the last thirty-five years, from the time the now Marion Jones Sports Complex was called, "racetrack". My exercise routine has become so much a part of my DNA that I don't quite remember my original motivation. I know I came from a family where being physically fit and disciplined was a major part of my rites of passage, but I am not sure that my incentive for regular exercise started there.

Perhaps it was the information that I got very early in life that man was originally a nomadic creature that was constantly on the move, in contrast to modern man who has become sedentary and fat; as a result, modern man is filled with physical ailments (diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol) that would normally be eliminated if he was physically mobile and therefore burning off all the garbage that he ingested into his system. This early orientation caused me to change my consumption pattern and increase my mobility to burn off the toxins that came through the unhealthy consumption patterns of modern society.

I also recognized early that as Belizeans, we were changing our consumption patterns and adopting a new American lifestyle that was making us fatter and sicker. As far back as colonial times our eating pattern was: light breakfast, called "tea"; a heavy lunch, called "dinner"; and a light evening meal, called "tea". This pattern made sense, since the heavy meal got time to be burned off when we were most active at work or some physical activity. Another example of the change was our mode of transportation; forty years ago, most of us were walking or riding a bicycle. The bike was not considered the "poor man's car" back then, since it was the major mode of transportation for most of us. Imagine how many calories we were burning, naturally, by walking or riding. But today that pattern has changed. We are less physically mobile, depending more on vehicles, buses or taxis to move us around; and when it comes to food, we have our heaviest meal in the evening, followed by hours of sitting, immobile, in front of a T V. So, I saw that the cultural changes in Belize were working against natural exercise and good health, and that I had to set up my own regimen.

But even as I adopted this exercise regimen, it was never with the thought that it would somehow prolong my life, because I also became aware very early in life that the decision for the end of my life was in the Hands of Allah. I knew that exercise was for quality of life and not to prolong life, which was predetermined by Allah. I realized a long time ago that despite medical advances, that we have no real power over



## BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY

### WATER TAXI NOTICE

**Water Taxi Operation: NEW APPLICATION TO BECOME A REGISTERED AND LICENSED WATER TAXI OPERATOR: Marine Logistics Limited (MLL).**

**Marine Logistics Limited** of Charter House, Suite 6; 3.5 Miles Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize City is seeking approval from the Belize Port Authority to become a registered and licensed Water Taxi provider with services to the following locations:

Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun

Schedule of departure and return:

| Runs | Departs Belize City MLL Terminal | Arrives in Caye Caulker | Departs Caye Caulker | Arrives San Pedro Saca Chispas Terminal |
|------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1    | 8:00 AM                          | 9:00 AM                 | 9:15 AM              | 9:45 AM                                 |
| 2    | 9:00 AM                          | 10:00 AM                | 10:15 AM             | 11:45 AM                                |
| 3    | 10:30 AM                         | 11:30 AM                | 11:45 AM             | 12:15 PM                                |
| 4    | 12:00 Noon                       | 1:00 PM                 | 1:15 PM              | 1:45 PM                                 |
| 5    | 1:30 PM                          | 2:30 PM                 | 2:45 PM              | 3:15 PM                                 |
| 6    | 3:00 PM                          | 4:00 PM                 | 4:15 PM              | 4:45 PM                                 |
| 7    | 4:30 PM                          | 5:30 PM                 | 5:45 PM              | 6:15 PM                                 |
| 8    | 5:30 PM                          | 6:30 PM                 | 6:45 PM              | 7:15 PM                                 |

| Runs | Departs Caye Caulker | Arrives in Belize City MLL Terminal | Runs | Departs San Pedro Saca Chispas Terminal | Arrives in Belize City MLL Terminal |
|------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1    | 6:30 AM              | 7:30 AM                             | 1    | 6:00 AM                                 | 7:15 AM                             |
| 2    | 7:30 AM              | 8:30 AM                             | 2    | 6:00 AM                                 | 8:15 AM                             |
| 3    | 9:00 AM              | 10:00 AM                            | 3    | 8:30 AM                                 | 9:45 AM                             |
| 4    | 10:30 AM             | 11:30 AM                            | 4    | 10:00 AM                                | 11:15 AM                            |
| 5    | 12:00 Noon           | 1:00 PM                             | 5    | 11:30 AM                                | 12:45 PM                            |
| 6    | 1:30 PM              | 2:30 PM                             | 6    | 1:00 PM                                 | 2:15 PM                             |
| 7    | 3:30 PM              | 4:30 PM                             | 7    | 3:00 PM                                 | 4:15 PM                             |
| 8    | 5:00 PM              | 6:00 PM                             | 8    | 4:30 PM                                 | 5:45 PM                             |

Interested parties are invited to submit any representation or objection to this permit to the Ports Commissioner at mile 4½ George Price Highway or to [bzportauth@btl.net](mailto:bzportauth@btl.net), by 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The Ports Commissioner shall consider any representation or objection made to an application.

**Belize Port Authority**  
Tel: (501)-222-5665/5666 or  
Email: [bzportauth@btl.net](mailto:bzportauth@btl.net) Website: [www.portauthority.bz](http://www.portauthority.bz)  
"Maritime Service, Security, & Efficiency"

determining our death.

That message was brought home in a most profound way in the death of Dr. Neil Garbutt. Not only was Dr. Garbutt one of the pre-eminent urologists in the Caribbean region, but he was also a brilliant intellectual, and one who put his belief in the cultural retrieval of the Creole into practice by establishing a monument in honor of that history, in the village of Flowers Bank. Anyone who knew Dr. Garbutt knew that he was one of the most physically fit specimens. I used to meet him at the Marion Jones Sports Complex and observed his meticulous routine of exercising every muscle in the body, through stretches and calisthenics, before taking a long-distance run of two or three miles on the Princess Margret Drive. When I heard that he had been diagnosed with an ailment, along with a prognosis that he had only months to live, I was again struck with a reinforcement of that earlier lesson of life, that by the grace of Allah, we walk the earth.

Dr. Garbutt was a specimen of good health and a worthy contributor to the

development of Belize, but what was written for him came to pass, and his death defied all rational explanations.

Again, the sudden death of Sir Barry Bowen was another lesson in the power of consequence beyond our human control. Sir Barry was one of Belize's richest, if not the richest born-Belizean; he had the wherewithal to afford world class medical service from the best medical institutions in the world; in contrast to Mr. Cruz, and so many others, desperately in need of public assistance to afford medical care. Sir Barry was an experienced pilot, flying a plane he had flown hundreds of times, landing on a strip he used daily; yet, in the flash of a second, he was no more.

Can we escape death, the inevitable? Do we think we can do it by diet or exercise or eliminating bad habits like smoking, drinking or consumption of unhealthy foods, and through these life changes we can really prolong our life in the end? I'm reminded of the story of the Indian doctor, a recent migrant to the US, who told his colleagues back home in India of the strange behavior he observed in his American patients.

"They exercise daily, eat only the right foods, take all the right supplements, get plenty of rest and get regular checkups; obviously, they want to die healthy".

Anyone who drives the roads of Belize realizes that the chance of death is a blink away with so many unregulated vehicles, inexperienced drivers and bad road conditions we have to encounter everyday. Road traffic accidents remain a major cause of death in Belize.

Death is the unavoidable that is written in a Book beyond our comprehension. We can be the most healthy-looking specimen, young, talented, with the brightest future in front of us, and become victim of a freak accident that squashes out that life, leaving behind only those to mourn the loss of a great "possibility". Maybe this is why we use the term, "they died before their time"; but in reality, it was their time.

So, I won't stop my exercise regimen; after 35 years I would become dysfunctional if I ever eliminated that

# You put all the blame on the magistrates, Brother Uk Espat

by Colin Hyde

The other morning Brother Jose Luis Uk Espat got on his platform on social media and rained hell on the justice system for applying the fly brush to a man who he felt deserved real stern punishment. Mr. Uk Espat said the man had invaded his shop twice, and the third time he did he chased him down and put a thorough beating on him. The sense I got was that the invader was a not so sane homeless person, and Mr. Uk Espat felt forced to rough him up because he believed the man presented a serious threat to his wife and family, particularly when he was away.

Now, Brother Uk Espat is a medical professional, and a very brave man, and a very talented man, and a very educated man, and a very selfless man. The fact is that he is a national treasure, particularly for the tireless, expert work he has done to help families find missing loved ones, or locate the remains of loved ones who have fallen victim to this sick violence that has overwhelmed our country. I have heard Wave throw mud at him, I think with the aim to justify their not giving him a job in the medical field during their 13-year regime. The story I got from them was that the medical board wasn't fully satisfied with his academic qualifications. I don't know where the

brother did his medical training, but I know that some elites from here have sneezed at certain degrees from Cuba, that, of course, before dehn geh di sense.

Mr. Uk Espat said a senior magistrate did not deliver justice. I think he said the man was allowed to walk. It's possible the magistrate thought the beating by Mr. Uk Espat was sufficient punishment. It's possible the magistrate looked at the coin from the other side and thought that the man who got whipped could have brought a charge against his accuser. Me noh know.

Mr. Uk Espat said the handling of the incident opened his eyes to why our justice system is a disaster, and that his verdict is the problem is with the magistrates in the court. Before getting into my "quarrel" with him, I must tell you that one of my nieces is a senior magistrate. I have not tried to find out which magistrate in particular Mr. Espat was railing about. And from me to you, it doesn't matter. I don't sweat that kind of fever for the educated elite/well-off members of my family. I love them and pray for their good health and general happiness and that they continue doing well financially, but I am quite dispassionate, even ruthless when judging their professional performances/decisions.

Dr. Gayle and his team, in the book

*Like Bush Fire*, hinted at corruption among magistrates and lawyers as one of the causes of our system's failure. On page 102 the book says: "Breach of regulation among magistrates is not uncommon. As learnt, it was much worse in the past. 'This group is much better, but they are not blameless.' Some lawyers are retained at one special court and this means that the criminal and the lawyer can work together to reduce the effect of the court. The case becomes predictable. Why should the same lawyer and judge be working together all the time for prolonged periods — this lends itself to corruption."

I say, looking at the not so long gone past, it's not impossible that because our lawyers were more book-learned in the law than our magistrates were, that magistrates leaned on them, at times, and felt beholden to them, at times, and thus the lawyers gained a free run over our system. Expanding on the lawyer/magistrate relationship in not so old times, really, the magistrates can't be blamed. The lawyers can talk, all of them, and they can write, all of them, and the court is the world of *hablar*. Ah, if the lawyer is your friend, there is less likelihood of them embarrassing you in court the way they papisho witnesses who aren't so lettered. Yes, magistrates would have

wanted to cultivate the friendship of lawyers.

I think I can give you a deeper insight into this association. I write a column for the *Amandala*. My grammar is pretty darn good, but I'm not purist perfect. Much of my prose is English-Kriol, and that's safe territory. When I write "English" the purists could get me for things like my "who and whom" and a few other technicalities if the newspaper's copy editor doesn't put me through the fine-toothed comb. Magistrates have to be very wary of purists when they write reports. Yap, and there the lawyers could offer friendship, and we know what that beautiful relationship can lead to. Oh, oh, we have our own guilt before palabras. See how electorates across the globe fall for pretty talk by politicians? Never mind they lead us into painful poverty and deadly bondage.

I could have missed something, but I didn't hear Mr. Uk Espat blame the lawyers, not once, for our system's terrible failure. I wonder if that has anything to do with his association with Ms. Audrey's 100-member activist group, MAT (Moving Ahead Together). I believe I saw his pic in the crowd that posed for the cameras. He might not have wanted to offend the lady. Ms.

Please turn to  Page 20

## ATLANTIC INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of Custodian.

**BASIC FUNCTION:** KEEP ASSIGNED AREAS CLEAN AND ORDERLY.

**Education/Experience:** High School Diploma with three years' experience in a similar position.

**Working Conditions:** Work indoors.

**Equipment:** Cleaning equipment and supplies.

**Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies:**

- ◆ Ability to establish and maintain effective public and working relationships.
- ◆ Ability to understand and effectively carry out instructions.
- ◆ Ability to contribute positively to team building.
- ◆ Ability to maintain professional appearance and conduct.
- ◆ Ability to promote a sanitary work environment.
- ◆ Ability to work well with little supervision.

**DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- ◆ Clean glass partitions throughout assigned floor.
- ◆ Twice daily polish the entrance door glass of each assigned floor.
- ◆ Clean assigned floor space including offices, meeting room, lobby, entrance way, kitchen, and bathrooms (sweep, mop, polish, sanitize and organize).
- ◆ Clean high touch objects/surfaces (doorknobs, light switch, etc.)
- ◆ Wash and sanitize kitchen and bathroom trash cans.
- ◆ Clean low dust areas (chair and table legs, sides of desks, cabinets).
- ◆ Remove trash from the assigned floor at the close of business.
- ◆ Keep proper care of all cleaning tools and supplies.

**WEEKLY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- ◆ Clean refrigerator and dispose of left over drinks and food.
- ◆ Clean and polish microwave oven and water cooler dispensers.
- ◆ Wash and sanitize office trash cans.
- ◆ Weekly clean high dust areas (blinds and items on walls).
- ◆ **From time to time, holdover for other custodians and perform other related duties as assigned.**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY, 5 MAY 2023**

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:  
TWO RECENT LETTERS OF REFERENCE ONE FROM PAST EMPLOYER AND  
A VALID POLICE RECORD AND PASSPORT SIZE PICTURE  
SEND APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

our website at: <https://aibelize.com/employment-application>

**Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for interviews.**  
**We thank you for your application.**

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023



COURTENAY COYE LLP  
Attorneys-at-Law



# Atlantic Bank

## Holiday Opening Hours

The public is advised that all Atlantic Bank Branches and Drive Thrus will be closed for business on Saturday, April 29, 2023 in celebration of Labour Day.

All branches and drive thrus will reopen on  
Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

# PRESS PREDICTIONS

## The sports psychic speaks

### BOLEDO

**“Press” Predictions: 04-60-03**  
**Boledo stats thru 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

In boledo news, the 9-ball has revolved 6 straight weeks on a Sunday: 92-97-69-39-96 & 95, that occurred because the nineties series was out on a Sunday for 1 year and 2 weeks exact, anyway. These are my lucky numbers for this week: 04-60-03-47-14 and 26. These are my lucky jackpot numbers: 5625-7209-9365. These are my lucky PICK-3 numbers: 914-635-728-030-464. Get ready Belize, some dinero will be coming our way. Keep your eyes open for 46 and 03, those 2 numbers are around the curve, 47 is still out for 2 years now this Saturday. 47 has not played since the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2021. The “Press” officer age - Fitzroy Yearwood. The public needs 47 very badly. There are only 44 numbers left and 44 is in the crowd. Some doubles are long overdue; 33-44-88 will be out very soon. There are 7 numbers left that start with zero: 01-03-04-06-07-08 and 09. Remember to read your Psalms: 72-63-91-92. Good luck to all buyers, next week more lucky numbers.

### LOCAL BASKETBALL

**The Benny’s Belize Hurricanes are the new leaders 7-2**

**Local basketball results and predictions**

In the BEBL games over the weekend, the Benny’s Belize Hurricanes crushed the Belikin Orange Walk Running Rebels 109 to 80. Glency Lopez their star point guard had 17 points with 10 assists. Jamaal Harris and Alex Carcamo had some spectacular dunks. Kirk “Shabba” Smith, Jr. has a very smooth game. The Hurricanes are

the deepest team right now, they are the leaders at 7-2. The Griga Dream Ballers are 7-3 at the second spot. They crushed the Belmopan Red Tigaz by some 15 points in Dangriga Saturday night. Edgar Mitchell and Dominic Woodson were both outstanding. Then the Belize City Defenders beat the Western Ballaz by some 12 points, Nigel Jones was the high man with 25 points and 12 rebounds. He will be in the running for the MVP Award. Then on the island, the San Pedro Tiger Sharks crushed the Punta Gorda Panthers by some 22 points, they are now 5-4. The Defenders are 6-4. Next week more stats.



Glency Lopez



Horace Avila

Verdes FC will edge Altitude FC 3 goals to 2 in Mango Creek, then Port Layola FC and Progresso FC will draw 1 goal apiece. Then San Pedro Pirates and the Police Benque United FC game will be a nail-biter, no predictions on that game. Next week the playoff matchups.

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**The Tampa Bay Rays won their first 13 straight games**  
**Baseball Results, Updates and Predictions**

In baseball action, the new season got started some 3 weeks ago, the Tampa Bay Rays



Franchy Cordero

won their first 13 games before they fell to the Boston Red Sox 5 to 2. The New York Yankees have a new star in Franchy Cordero, he had 11 RBI's in this first 7 games of the season. He passed Robin Ventura, Nick Swisher and the great Hall of Famer Roger Maris - they all had 10 RBI's in the first 7 games



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

of a new season. The Houston Astros and the Cleveland Commanders team will be there again. They have not won since 1948 as the Cleveland Indians. The Oakland Athletics and the Chicago White Sox will both be some of the top teams down the stretch. In the National League, the Milwaukee Brewers lead the Central Division. The St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs are playing very well. The Atlanta Braves will always be a force to be reckoned with. They have some very good pitchers. The Los Angeles Dodgers will be the team to beat in the National League. They also have a very strong pitching staff plus top hitters like Mookie Betts and Cody Bellinger. Next week more stats.

### NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**The LA Lakers will shock the world**  
**NBA Play offs Results and Predictions.**

In the NBA Playoffs, there are a lot of first-game upsets already. The Los Angeles Lakers at seed 7 beat the Memphis Grizzlies 128 to 112, by some 16 points. Hachimura, the Japanese, top scored with 29 points, LeBron James and Anthony Davis both had 21 points each. LeBron had 11 rebounds. Austin Reaves had



Rui Hachimura

23 points, D’Angelo Russell had 19 points. The Lakers had 4 players with 20 points and more. They have the best playoff efficiency rating in the NBA at the defensive end. Their supporting cast is very deep right now. The Milwaukee Bucks lost to the Miami Heat in Milwaukee. The New York Knicks clipped the Cleveland cavaliers by some very big 18 points, double-digits. Bronson had an outstanding game for the Knicks after being traded from Dallas. The Philadelphia 76ers beat the Brooklyn Nets. Their MVP player who leads the league in scoring at 325 points a night, Joel Embiid, will help them to advance.

## 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

## AMANDALA

Telephones:  
**501-280-4703/  
 202-4472**

# Evan X Hyde!

Reproduced from page 4 of the Tuesday, April 18, 2023, #3640 issue of *Amandala*

Sat. Apr. 15, 2023

I write a column for this newspaper, I use my first name only, for the anonymity, because I don't think I'm that good! I also believe that if you put words on paper, they have to be subjects that you believe every single word of, or your readers will lose interest. No propagandizing, just your truths. I'm almost positive that the Publisher will be embarrassed by what I have to say, but I believe you should let people know, when they have left their footprints on the soul of a nation, know how much they have influenced others, while they're still alive, not after they are no longer with us.

The first time I was aware of Evan X Hyde was when Ralph Feinstein and I were invited to his coming home party from university at his uncle, Jim Hyde's house. I think that it was Jim's wife, Geri

Reid, later Michael Peyrefitte's mother, who invited us. This was in 1968, I believe. Was a great party, lots of beautiful people and great food. Evan was very quiet, and my first impression of him was that he was arrogant, a loner, and highly intelligent. Looking at him then, I would never have imagined that he would become the agitator he blossomed into; after all, he was one of the elites. I don't think we spoke to each other, but it didn't take long before I started to hear his name, about his politics, his romantic liaisons, his politics, the company he kept, his politics!

It wasn't long after this that UBAD was formed, and *Amandala* started to compete with the *Reporter*, *The Beacon* and the *Belize Times*! This was a period when time was almost at a standstill, and yet, that band of ragamuffins quickly became the talk of the town, to the surprise and alarm of the powers that were, and a pleasant and much needed shot in the arm to the roots generation.

Black pride and aspirations were at the forefront of their messaging, and the upheave began! My attentions was centered elsewhere, chasing women, growing up, and trying to move on up. The cast of characters in the movement couldn't have been better scripted for a movie! Justice, Galento, Richardson, Shabbazz, Fairweather, Rufus, and many others who were voiceless before, and who matured into being the conscience of the unwashed masses!

I'm not going into the history of UBAD, I'm not qualified to do so, but many of us, some surprising names, dug their message! But the sacrifice would've been too great. So we sided with the establishment that called them communists, Black Panthers, revolutionaries, and those were the nice names. Why join a movement that was going nowhere and lose out on a great future? So the hell with them, from my point of view!

They made a difference, and *Amandala* quickly became the leading

paper in the colony, because they spoke truth to power! They opened our eyes, took off the blindfolds, from our jaded, myopic minds! Their roots culture changed fashion, the way youths dressed, huge Afros and dashikis, and natural hair for women. Such a transformation in the Jewel.

I give the X man full credit for changing the landscape of a bland society into one filled with colors and anger and revolt and change, mostly change for the better. We learned more about our history from him than all the years we spent in primary and secondary school! Creole, Mayan and Garifuna history weren't a part of the curriculum, at least not in depth. British and European history was what was mostly taught.

I left Belize in the early 70s, amid all the sturm and drang, so I missed out on some of the most interesting and exciting periods of this transition. But reading this man's editorials and publisher columns

Please turn to **Page 14**



*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](mailto: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](http://www.dfcbelize.org)

or also accessed from DFC's Facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/DFCBelize](http://www.facebook.com/DFCBelize)

**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](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the following property. Sale currently running until 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)**  
**E-mail: [kevinacas@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacas@yahoo.com)**  
**Facebook: Belize Auctions**

# Happy Slaves

(by unknown writer)

(AMANDALA Ed. Note: A friend from 'foreign' came across this article and sent it to us, with the observation that "these comments (by an unknown writer) bear repeating wherever Black people live.")

It is difficult to control a crowd of slaves on a slave plantation, but the slave master knows what to do. He targets a few slaves and makes them happy; at least, relatively happier than their counterparts. Make a few slaves happy, and they will be loyal to you. They will be happy to defend you with their lives. They will go any length to do so.

Yes! They will defend you at the expense of their own people. They will forget that they are slaves too. They will fail to see that they are also getting the short end of the stick. They will bring you tales about other slaves. They will snitch on them. They are your loyal foot

soldiers, and they will help you foil any attempt by other slaves to be free.

Friends, if you are conversant with aspects of the defunct trans-Atlantic and trans-Saharan slave trade of yore, you will recall there were such nomenclatures as the "house negro" and the "field negro". The house negro lived in the house, the same house with the master; perhaps in the attic or the basement. Unlike the field negro, he did not work on the plantation. Neither was he exposed to the full extent of the harshest realities of slavery.

The house negro ate the leftover food from his master's table. While his counterpart in the field walked barefooted, the house negro wore his master's used and abandoned clothes and shoes. He became completely assimilated into his master's way of life. He saw himself as an extension of his master. However, this was only in his head. He was still a slave and had no real path to freedom, or an inheritance in the house of his master. His master knew this, but the house negro didn't know it.

Whenever the master bought a horse, the house negro would say "we have a horse". If the master was sick, he'd say "we are sick". Whenever the master said "it is my turn", the house negro would say "it is our turn". Hence, he totally forgot his own reality.

He worked at cross-purposes with other slaves who were yearning for freedom. He foiled their attempts to be free. Essentially, the house negro forgot he was still a slave, simply because of the relative comfort and privileges that could easily be taken away from him.

Friends, from the foregoing, my message ought to be clear. Happy slaves are the greatest enemies of true freedom. They labour to maintain the status quo. As long as they are able to "eat" from it, no matter how bad a system is, they are satisfied with it. But there is nothing as heavenly as having a good system. A bad system beats good people. It makes everyone a victim in the long run. Interestingly, the happy slaves among us are few, but they are sufficiently animated or motivated by the crumbs that fall on their laps from their master's table.

Please don't allow any happy slave to gaslight or silence you. Keep making your demands known, until we have a better society that works for all and not for a few leaders who have gone rogue!!!


## Evan X Hyde!

**Continued from**  **Page 13**

changed my perspective on what he had been trying to accomplish. His love of country is undeniable. He struggled and clawed his way up to reach the pinnacle of journalism, in all its forms. Teaching and preaching and agitating!


Most of all, and what has impressed me most, are his writings, his truths, his elegy to the past, and a Belize that is no more! For this, and for his recent friendship, I'm eternally grateful! And yes, I still believe he's a loner; no matter how many might be around him, he always seems lost in his thoughts. Keep on preaching, and leave that light on, on Spanish Caye, on fishing, sailing, on sports, on history, on life! Respect and Peace.

Glen.



### The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize

INCORPORATED 1984



Register NOW!

## AUDIT & ACCOUNTING SEMINAR 2023

The 2-day CPD seminar aims to provide key in international Accounting Standard (IASs), overview in International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and continued in depth coverage of international Standards on Auditing (ISAs).

Venue: **Belize Biltmore Plaza**  
 Time: **8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.**

**Who should attend?**


Internal and External Auditors, financial statement analysts, controllers, chief accountant, CEO's CFO's, Regulators, and audit clients.

Day 1

- IFRS 17 Insurance contracts
- IFRS 9 Financial Instruments
- IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures

Day 2

- ISA 220 Quality control from and audit engagements
- ISA 315 Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements through understanding the entity and its environment (revised)
- ISA 540 Auditing of accounting estimates



Presenter:  
**NAGIN LAD** BA MSc MAAT FCCA

Nagin Lad is a qualified Chartered Certified Accountant and Registered auditor. He has a BA (hons) degree in Accounting from the University of Kent and an MSc in accounting and Finance from De Monfort University. Mr. Nagin is also a member of the Association of Accounting Technicians (MAAT), a fellow of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE).

Call **223-2455** or email: [secretariat@icab.bz](mailto:secretariat@icab.bz) for Registration form

*Limited Space*

# Belize Robotics Team to compete in the *First* Global Competition in Texas

by *Kristen Ku*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 19, 2023

Seven students of Belize High School (BHS) are set to participate in the *First* Global Robotics Competition that is scheduled to take place this year in Houston, Texas.

After winning gold in last year's *First* Global Competition in Geneva, Switzerland, the BHS Robotics Team is once again participating in the competition after qualifying and winning an "All-Star Rookie Award" in the Green Country Regionals in Tulsa, Oklahoma earlier this month.



**BHS robotics team in Texas attending First Global Competition**



**Belize's robot in First Robotics Competition**

The *First* Robotics Competition, often referred to as "the ultimate sport for the mind," challenges high school students to: raise funds, design a team brand, refine their teamwork skills, and work to construct and program an industrial-sized robot to participate in a tedious game against other competing robots.

And as intense as it sounds, Jamie Usher, principal of Belize High School, says that their focus as they prepare for this competition is simple: to compete.

"I think it's important that we say that, no matter if it's a Belize presentation or if it's an international competition, we always go with the same mindset that Belize is competitive and our robot has an equal chance to

perform just as any other team here [Houston]. So, our mindset is never that we are going to win, but our mindset is definitely not simply at the level of participating. We are here to be competitive," expressed Usher.

The Robotics program at BHS has come a long way, commencing in the year 2015 as an extracurricular activity. It wasn't until 2018 that teams began participating in foreign competitions such as at the *First* Global Competition, as well as in the *First* Lego Competition in 2019, and now at the *First* Robotics Competition in 2023.

"The fact that you will always have challenges in your life means that these kids will be learning how to adapt, how to be flexible, how to pivot, and we can't name all the challenges; we'll just

say that we have met everyone, and the fact that we are here today means that these kids have learned what it takes to succeed," shared Usher.

Notably, the team has also had a strong support system of friends, family, and school sponsors who have constantly supported them, even helping in financing the team's participation at the championships.

Godfrey Sosa, the IT Director at BHS, commented, "Being here is such a great opportunity for our country, being able to represent at such a humongous event of this nature. My dreams and hope for the future is that we continue pushing robotics and putting as much out there in the world

**Please turn to** **Page 26**



## 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:

- (a) Bachelor's Degree or Higher in the subject area with pedagogical training preferred, however an Associate Degree in the subject area may be considered.
- (b) Teaching experience at the secondary level would be an asset.
- (c) 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](mailto: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.**

## 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.



## **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](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com), [cvrp.4426.4@gmail.com](mailto:cvrp.4426.4@gmail.com) or [procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pmupcmow@gmail.com), [cvrp.4426.4@gmail.com](mailto:cvrp.4426.4@gmail.com) or [procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com)

## **Notice**

“In the High Court of Justice Business and Property Courts in Leeds, Property, Trusts and Probate List (ChD)

Case number. PT-2022-LDS-000092

In the matter of an application for a declaration of the presumed death of Mr Ian Jackson.

A claim has been issued in the High Court of Justice of England and Wales, for a declaration that Mr Ian Jackson whose last known address was 25 Ramon Community, Ladyville, Belize is presumed to be dead. Any person having an interest may apply to the court to intervene in the matter.

If you wish to apply to the court, you should do so at Leeds Combined Court Centre, The Courthouse, 1 Oxford Row, Leeds, England, LS1 3BG as soon as possible, and if possible, within 21 days of the date of this notice. Delay may harm your prospects of being able to intervene.

Best Solicitors  
 Broughton House  
 48 West Street  
 Sheffield  
 South Yorkshire  
 England  
 S1 4EX”

## **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](mailto: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](http://www.centralbank.org.bz))**



## A Story of Miguel's Life (Part 17)



by Clinton Canul Luna

When they were living together, at times, Miguel would arrive early home. On other occasions, Shakira would reach early. When she did so, she would always approach Miguel and give a warm embrace and a kiss and would inquire about his day. All he would answer would be a sharp, "fine". Miguel loved listening to soft and romantic music, so every day when he arrived from work he would listen to music. So, he never paid attention to when Shakira would arrive. On the other hand, when she would reach home before Miguel, she would always receive him with an affectionate hug and kiss, and a, "How was your day?" to which he would reply with his usual sharp one-word answer, "Fine."

He had nothing to say. She tried to start up a conversation with him about work, or about his day's activities, but he never answered. Instead, she would tell him about her day as if he had asked her about it. Shakira realized his cold behavior towards her, but she tried not to let it under her skin. Although at first, it hurt like hell. Nevertheless, she began to think of a way that she could make him change. Miguel had a habit of having his first beer at 10:00 p.m. accompanied by his soft, romantic music. He drank a few beers, and a few glasses of whiskey. After that, he would

take a bath and go to bed. What Shakira did was sit across from him, watching him, analyzing, trying to understand what was going through his mind, in what world he was, what he was thinking.

He was in another pensive world; to her it seemed as if something was worrying him, but no. Simply, due to the life he had and the loneliness he had lived, he found himself in a deep daydream, thinking his own things, talking to himself, answering himself too, but it was all mental. His mind appeared to be miles away, but his body was there. So, he didn't pay much attention to her. Another thing he had was that when she was affectionate with him, he thought that what she wanted was to have sex, since, for him, sex was love. Therefore, he expressed his love in that manner, not knowing that this was not what she wanted. All she wanted was a little attention, a little affection, some communication. Nevertheless, that was not his world; he did not know how to give her what she needed, what she wanted. Besides, he had no clue what she truly desired.

She burst her brain figuring a way to finally get his attention. So, one day, on both of their days off, on a Sunday, she took a basin of water, gathered cream, soap, and other equipment she

had and gave him a pedicure.

He was perplexed. All Miguel did was observe her intently while she worked her magic.

After she gave him a pedicure, she took one of his feet and applied cream, gently rubbing. She put his foot on her cheek, caressing it as if it were a baby, kissing his feet, while he watched. He thought to himself, "Nobody has ever done this to me. This woman must truly love me." However, he didn't express any reaction to her. She continued that treatment. Eventually, she cut his hair, shaved him, gave him manicures and every time she gave him a pedicure, she kissed his feet. With that gesture she was trying to show him her affection, her love. But he only observed.

Little by little, he internally convinced himself that this woman truly loved him. Another thing he had was that he didn't believe in love, he didn't know how to express love, he didn't know what it was. For him, love was sex, and that was how he showed her his love. Anyhow, as I have mentioned before, every night, at 10:00, Miguel would start with his first beer, the last at 2:00 in the morning. During that entire time, his soon-to-be wife would keep him company, observing him in order to understand him, but she would never

comprehend, for he thought of things only he understood. As she continued this tactic of proving her love, showing her affection, little by little, he began to gain confidence in her. Of course, he didn't mention it to her; he kept it to himself, for he did not know how to show her that he was falling in love with her, that he trusted her, and she never knew that he was head over heels in love with her.

Shakira would wake up early in the mornings to prepare breakfast before they went to work. Sometimes, Miguel would sit and enjoy her food, without showing appreciation or saying a simple "thank you", or "my love, breakfast was wonderful. I am going to work, see you when I get back later today". No. He would simply get up, take a shower, get dressed and out through the door without a farewell or a kiss. His coldness hurt Shakira to the core, especially when breakfast wasn't to Miguel's liking; he would get up, leave

Please turn to **Page 22**

### **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 & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

CAVE LOCHAN WATSON LLP  
COR. LANDIVAR & 4<sup>TH</sup> STREETS  
KNGS PARK  
BELIZE CITY  
BELIZE

## ATLANTIC INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of Parking Lot Attendant.

**BASIC FUNCTION:** KEEP PARKING AREAS SAFE, CLEAN AND ORDERLY.

**Education/Experience:** High School Diploma, training in safety and security, and two years of related experience.

**Working Conditions:** Work indoors and outdoors.

**Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies:**

- ◆ Ability to establish and maintain effective public and working relationships.
- ◆ Ability to understand and effectively carry out instructions.
- ◆ Ability to exercise mature judgment in effectively controlling unruly behavior.
- ◆ Ability to perform necessary written and record keeping activities.
- ◆ Ability to communicate effectively with community law enforcement officers.
- ◆ Ability to work shifts that include before and after normal working hours.
- ◆ Ability to contribute positively to team building.
- ◆ Ability to maintain professional appearance and conduct.

**DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- ◆ Monitor parking lots to maintain order and security.
- ◆ Monitor and confronts unauthorized persons on parking lots.
- ◆ Keep parking areas free of litter and debris.
- ◆ **Perform other functions in safety, security, and order.**

**FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY 5 MAY 2023**

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

TWO RECENT LETTERS OF REFERENCE ONE FROM PAST EMPLOYER  
AND A VALID POLICE RECORD AND PASSPORT SIZE PICTURE  
SEND APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

our website at: <https://aicbelize.com/employment-application>

**Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for interviews.**

[We thank you for your application.](#)

## 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](mailto:h.y.huang@icdf.org.tw) before 4:00 p.m. Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:h.y.huang@icdf.org.tw).



## 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 Ports Commissioner, BPA's office at Mile 4, George Price Highway, Belize City, Belize or submitted by email to [bzportauth@bt.net](mailto:bzportauth@bt.net).

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 28, 2023 AT NOON**

# From The Publisher

Reproduced from page 7 of the Tuesday, April 18, 2023, #3640 issue of *Amandala*

(NOTE: The following is an excerpt from an important article by Elizabeth Kolbert in the March 6, 2023 issue of THE NEW YORKER, pg. 25.)

“The longest conveyor belt on earth begins in the town of Bou Craa and runs for sixty miles across Western Sahara to the port city of El Marsa. The region is so flat and so desolate that the conveyor stands out, even from space. According to NASA, the belt ‘has often attracted astronaut attention in this otherwise almost featureless landscape.’

“The conveyor carries phosphorus-rich rock, which is mined in Bou Craa and then shipped from the coast to places like India and New Zealand to be processed into fertilizer. The mine, and indeed the vast majority of the rest of Western Sahara, is controlled — illegally, by most accounts — by Morocco, which possesses something like seventy percent of the planet’s known phosphorus reserves.

“The status of Western Sahara is one of the worries that Dan Egan takes on in his worrying new book, *The Devil’s Element: Phosphorus and a World Out of Balance* (Norton). Egan is a journalist who for many years reported on the Great Lakes, for the Milwaukee JOURNAL SENTINEL; it is the

condition of Lake Erie that, in a roundabout, everything-in-the-modern-world-way, seems to have led him to learn about Bou Craa. Egan quotes Jeremy Grantham, the British investor, who has said that Morocco’s hold over the planet’s phosphorus ‘makes OPEC and Saudi Arabia look like absolute pikers.’ He also quotes Isaac Asimov, who once wrote, ‘Life can multiply until all the phosphorus is gone and then there is an inexorable halt which nothing can prevent.’

“As Egan notes, phosphorus is critical not just to crop yields but also to basic biology. DNA is held together by what’s often called a ‘phosphate backbone’; without this backbone, the double helix would be a hash. The compound ATP provides cells with energy for everything from ion transport to protein synthesis; the ‘P’ in the abbreviation stands for ‘phosphate.’ In vertebrates, bones are mostly made up of calcium phosphate, as is tooth enamel.

“What distinguishes phosphorus from other elements that are essential to life — carbon, say, or nitrogen — is its relative scarcity. (Asimov described phosphorus as ‘life’s bottleneck.’) The atmosphere contains almost no phosphorus. Phosphate-rich rocks, meanwhile, exist only in limited

quantities, in certain geological formations. China holds the world’s second-largest reserves — these are less than one-tenth the size of Morocco’s — and Algeria the third-largest.

“Since the early nineteen-sixties and the start of the Green Revolution, global consumption of phosphorus fertilizers has more than quadrupled. How long the world’s reserves will last, given this trend, is a matter of debate. As the planet’s population continues to climb — it recently reached eight billion and is expected to hit nine billion in fifteen years — more and more people will need to be fed. At the same time, as the best-grade ores get mined out, more and more rock will presumably have to be processed just to hold fertilizer production steady. Some researchers say that ‘peak phosphorus,’ the point at which the amount of phosphorus being pulled from the ground starts to decline, could be reached within the next decade. Others maintain that the time frame is more like centuries.

“Egan doesn’t think that the world will run out of phosphorus anytime soon, but he does argue that the U.S. is ‘particularly vulnerable.’ America is rapidly churning through its domestic reserves, which aren’t all that large to begin with. (Much of the country’s

phosphorus is found in central Florida, a region where mining has to compete with condo development.) When these reserves are gone, potentially within the next thirty years, the U.S. will become dependent on other countries — notably, Morocco — to feed itself.

“This, it seems, would suit Morocco just fine. The country seized large swaths of Western Sahara in 1975, after Spain, which had ruled the region for almost a century, relinquished control. The invasion, Egan writes, was primarily ‘a business move.’ Morocco has its own huge phosphorus operations, and it didn’t want the Bou Craa mine competing with them. Tens of thousands of the territory’s residents fled; most of them settled in Algeria, where their children and their children’s children still live in refugee camps. In November, 2020, the Polisario Front, a group fighting for independence for Western Sahara, declared that it was ending a ceasefire that had been brokered by the United Nations. A month later, Donald Trump, in one of his last acts as President, announced that the U.S. would recognize Morocco’s sovereignty over the region. The decision was criticized as a violation of international law, and many U.S. officials urged Joe Biden to reverse it. So far, though, he hasn’t.”

## TENDER



### Construction of Ferro-concrete Indoor Switchgear Building

BEL invites tenders for the **Construction of Ferro-concrete Indoor Switchgear Building** at the following location:

**BEL Magazine Road Compound, Belize City**

The bidding documents, which outline all the duties and responsibilities of the contract, are available on BEL’s website at [www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx](http://www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx)

Bidders are invited to a Pre-bid site visit at **9:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday, May 3, 2023**, at the BEL Magazine Road Compound. Bidders will be required to submit a fixed price quotation to perform the services and provide all materials and services as outlined in the tender document.

Proposals will be accepted by email only and should include the subject found in the respective bid form.

Submit bids via email to [bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz](mailto:bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz) no later than **3:00 p.m. local time on Friday, May 12, 2023**.

**For more information or queries, send email to [bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz](mailto: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.

## ATLANTIC INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of Handyman.

**BASIC FUNCTION: MAINTAIN CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE LANDSCAPING IN AND AROUND THE BUILDING.**

**Education/Experience:** High School Diploma, two years’ experience in a similar position and knowledge of plant health and care.

**Working Conditions:** work indoors and outdoors.

**Equipment:** Gardening tools and supplies, and cleaning equipment and supplies.

**Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies:**

- ◆ Ability to establish and maintain effective public and working relationships.
- ◆ Ability to understand and effectively carry out instructions.
- ◆ Ability to contribute positively to team building.
- ◆ Ability to maintain professional appearance and conduct.
- ◆ Good vision and manual dexterity to operate gardening and cleaning tools and supplies.

**GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- ◆ General care of plants in and around the building.
  - a) Water, trim, care, and clean plants.
  - b) Take plants outside and bring inside when necessary.
- ◆ Work closely with the landscaping contractor in all matters of plant health and landscaping.
- ◆ Clean general spaces to maintain attractive landscaping.
- ◆ Twice daily polish the main entrance door glass.
- ◆ Clean and wash main entrance stairway.
- ◆ Clean and wash building stairways.
- ◆ Clean and wash all parking areas.
- ◆ Clean and wash drive-thru area.
- ◆ Wash garbage chute.
- ◆ Replenish the water coolers when needed.
- ◆ Replenish kitchen supplies with coffee, creamer, sugar.
- ◆ Replenish bathrooms with toilet paper, paper towel and hand soap.
- ◆ Wash Company vehicles once a week.
- ◆ Clean and polish elevator inside and out twice a week.
- ◆ Ensure flags are raised and lowered daily as per schedule, and properly folded.
- ◆ **Perform other related duties as assigned.**

**FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY 5 MAY 2023**

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

TWO RECENT LETTERS OF REFERENCE ONE FROM PAST EMPLOYER AND A VALID POLICE RECORD AND PASSPORT SIZE PICTURE

SEND APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

our website at: <https://aicbelize.com/employment-application>

**Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for interviews.**

[We thank you for your application.](#)

# We're No. 1

Mon. Apr. 17, 2023

I was watching the RBC Heritage golf tournament on Sunday. There was a sudden-death playoff at the end because there was a tie between Jordan Spieth, the American, and Matt Fitzpatrick from Ireland. I'm not really a golf enthusiast, except when Tiger Woods is in the hunt; but I saw that at the end these two golfers were competing for the championship, so I had to watch! Now golf has this atmosphere of reverence, a gentleman's game, quiet and reserved for the most part. In the middle of this sudden-death playoff the crowd started chanting USA, USA, USA! I was both surprised and disgusted by this total lack of sportsmanship by the spectators, even though it was in South Carolina, and it was golf, not the Olympics! It was so unprofessional; and although I was rooting for Spieth, I was glad the Irishman won, just to spite those yahoos.

I thought about that outburst and it suddenly occurred to me that America has a serious inferiority complex! The greatest country in the world, except for the Jewel, Belize, for those of you who don't know what the Jewel is! I say this without reservation. They have the greatest military might, it is the richest country in the world, financially, technologically, and especially geographically. Most of the greatest inventions were born in America, with the help of imported minds, but nevertheless are American, beginning with airplanes to the bomb to the internet to computers to Hollywood to sports! Some will disagree, but it is the greatest military in the world; look at Israel, Ukraine, it's American military weapons and intelligence that keep them from losing their identities, period!

And yet, in spite of all that power and influence, or maybe because of it, they are always hiding under the banner of victimhood! The anthem "We are no. 1" is a kind of self-affirmation in the face of its doubts in itself. The same with the USA chant, even in a sport as mundane as golf. If you are confident in your status as the world power, you shouldn't have to turn it into a mantra; you should leave that to the Chinese, who aspire to that power, which they will probably achieve in the next 50 years!

Instead of being comfortable with this incredible power, they look for perceived enemies, brown people trying to migrate into America, books that they consider harmful; they try to suppress free elections, marginalize women and all those people whose definitions take up half of the alphabet! They're mad at the world for no other reason than, just because!

It hasn't been always that way; she used to be welcoming and magnanimous in her charity, her kindness, in her humanity. But the times they are a changing, and the insecurities grow, more obvious and louder every day! Most Americans have never left their country, they haven't seen the rest of the world. Maybe that's the reason why they repeat those mantras at every occasion: We're No. 1, USA, USA, USA!

There's one reason I know for sure why America is the greatest country in the world. It can never be invaded;



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The US Government-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has selected Belize as one of only two countries in the world for a five-year government to government grant to fund a program aimed at reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth.

The Government of Belize (GOB) through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment, have contracted a team of individual consultants to form a Compact Development Team in Belize that will work together with a U.S.-based MCC Team to conduct a diagnosis of the constraints to economic growth, prepare concept notes, develop project proposals, and plan for project implementation.

The Belize Compact Development Team will be led by a National Coordinator who will manage the team, engage key stakeholders across all sectors, and bear responsibility for the overall performance and work quality of the team. The Finance and Administration Director will be a member of BCDT and will work closely with the Program Coordinator and other members of the BCDT as well as the MCC team to lead the finance, informational technology, security and administrative unit and is responsible for the strategic and day-to-day management of the BCDT budget and ensuring the BCDT's fiduciary integrity and financial health are based on the MCC's Financial Guidelines.

### Vacant Post

#### 1. Financial Director

**Remuneration:** Competitive salary and benefits are offered, commensurate with academic level, work experience and other relevant strengths of the winning candidate.

Kindly follow the below link for further details.

<https://med.gov.bz/>

Interested candidates are requested to submit ONE PDF File that shall include: **a)** Letter of Interest indicating the post being applied for; **b)** the curriculum vitae, **c)** copies of university degrees, and **d)** the names of 3 references.

Subsequently the top 3 applicants for the post will be interviewed.

Deadline for application is **12<sup>th</sup> May at 4:00 pm**. Application can be sent via email to: [econdev@med.gov.bz](mailto:econdev@med.gov.bz) or hand delivered to the address indicated below:

Chief Executive Officer  
Ministry of Economic Development  
Sir Edney Cain Building  
Ground Floor, Right Wing  
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Any request for clarification should be sent via email no later than 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Responses will be

## You put all the blame on the magistrates, Brother Uk Espat

Continued from **Page 11**

Audrey has disappointed me for never pointing the finger at criminal lawyers for their part in the absolute disaster of less than 5% solving of murders in our country.

Brother Uk Espat probably didn't want to mash dehn kaan. But this murder epidemic calls for a full frontal, no pussyfooting. This is a serious and terrible story playing out here. See civilized Belize, a country with all these

everybody is armed and not afraid to use those guns! We're killing our own without reservation; imagine what would happen to the invaders, unless they're aliens from another planet. Bacteria would kill them. USA, USA, USA!

Glen

rights. But when it comes to the world's absolutely most terrible crime, if you're looking for justice in Belize, agh, the only place you'll find that is in the streets.

I have heard a barge load of bad stories about these lawyers, from colonial to modern. I think much of the blame is on big school. They are products of indoctrination. If a man gives his mind to another, which is what these young Belizeans do when they go to big school, the one they give their mind to can make them do anything.

See Muhammad Ali. He said he wasn't going to any war to fight any Viet Cong because he didn't have any problem with them. He had not given over his mind to the power structure. What makes a soldier get involved in an unjust war and go and shoot down his brother? Old men at the top cleverly convince them. Really only a few can spit out bad lessons. In the US there is a

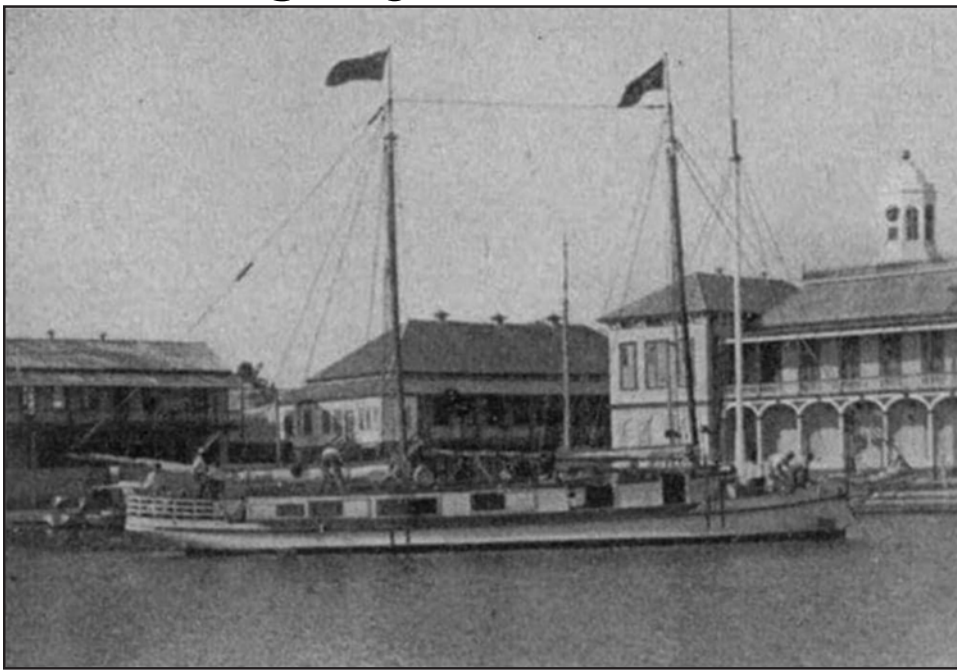
Muhammad Ali. In Belize there is a Caroline Trench-Sandiford.

Those little bohgas we send away to study, they don't meet Mahatma Ghandi at school. They aren't taught about truth. They are taught how to get their clients off the hook. That's why the Mahatma condemned much of the lot.

Ouch, they really feel they are smarter than everyone else. But maybe that is natural. An individual who can out talk everyone else would get heady. They don't hear the rest of us or feel our pain. Guess who's in their ear all the time? Their clients! They form bonds, personal relationships. And we know the things people do for their friends. Of course, avarice for material goods is in play too, for why dehn du us wrong.

Whoa there, you lost me when you didn't call out the lawyers, Brother Uk Espat. You put all the blame on magistrates!

# The Forgotten Story of the Tragedy of the *E.M.L.*



by *Donia Scott*

## Part 2 — A Perfect Storm

In the mid-afternoon of Monday, the 9th of April 1923, the mailboat *E.M.L.* set sail from the harbour of Belize, the capital of the British colony in Central America, then known as British Honduras, bound for the northern towns and postal stations. Grossly overloaded with both passengers and cargo, and leaking dangerously, the *E.M.L.* never reached her destination.

Steaming north towards Mexico, with virgin swampland to portside and the world's second-largest barrier reef to starboard, the *E.M.L.* should have reached the Rocky Point lighthouse in about ten hours and arrive in Corozal an hour later. There it would unload some of its mail, cargo and passengers before heading south to enter the New River, stopping at the townships of Progresso and San Estevan before reaching its final destination of Orange Walk, the colony's second-largest town.

This was, at the time, the only feasible mode of transport from Belize to the northern townships. There were no roads, and an overland route would have involved a slow and arduous horseback journey through many miles of mangrove swamps, bush, and long waits to be ferried across rivers.

That the overnight trip on the *E.M.L.* was the better choice of travel was little cause for comfort for its passengers. It was hardly a closely guarded secret throughout the colony that the ship was shockingly unfit to carry passengers. For several years the authorities of the northern townships had warned the government of the colony that:

*She is neither fit nor safe for the carriage of passengers, no one from here who can help it, ever travels on her. Many a time the local Customs Officer has had occasion to go down to the wharf to prevent the overloading of this vessel.*

Only two months earlier, Maximilian Smith (the Colonial Secretary) and Gerald Smith (Colonial Postmaster), known colloquially as "the Two Smiths", had submitted a damning report to the Governor on the suitability of the *E.M.L.* for passenger travel.

*On the upper deck are five berths with two beds each and two extra beds in the Saloon. The cabins are very*

*cramped, allowing little room for a stout person to move without going sideways. Space for luggage is so limited that a trunk or even a portmanteau cannot be opened except when placed on the bunks. The beds are of board with mattresses of palmetto leaves or coarse straw. On the first deck forward, the accommodation for ladies comprises eight beds in a common apartment with beds no more comfortable than upstairs.*

*Accommodation for deck passengers is very limited or poor.*

*The closet arrangements are forbidding and little short of shocking; one being situated forward of and adjoining the kitchen.*

*We unhesitatingly express the opinion that there is the minimum of comfort and the maximum of dirt.*

A "Coastal and River Trade Passenger Vessels Ordinance" had been scheduled to come into operation on the 1st of January of that year, requiring all vessels to be certified by the Harbour Board as to the maximum number of passengers, the minimum number of crew, deck lines, lifebelts and lifeboats according to tonnage. Power of inspection of the vessels would be delegated to members of the Harbour Board, justices of the peace, customs officers and members of the police force, and substantial penalties were prescribed for breaches. But no proclamation had been issued to bring the law into force, because of an oversight on the part of the Governor before going on extended leave. In his absence, the Harbour Master was instructed not to enforce the part of the regulations affecting the safety of passengers, as there were concerns that the new terms would delay the movement of labourers and hinder trade. The Regulations were eventually adopted on April 9th, but the *E.M.L.* had already cleared the mouth of the Belize Harbour on its northern journey.

Most, if not all, passengers would have no doubt known that for the past several weeks, the vessel had been in dry-dock undergoing repairs and thus was not available for passenger travel to the northern towns. Meanwhile, the route was being plied by the owner's smaller boat, the *M.C.*, which could only transport mail and a small amount of cargo.

Please turn to **Page 23**

## 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](http://belizepropertyauctions.com) the following properties. Sales currently running until 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://belizepropertyauctions.com)  
E-mail: [kevinacas@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinacas@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: [Belize Auctions](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuctions)

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



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

Continued from page 34 of the Friday, April 14, 2023, issue #3639 of the Amandala.



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.

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.

They then started to tell them that we, the Garifuna people, were cannibals and that we ate people, and all other sorts of lies to justify their actions against both of us. The southern part of Belize was not for Britain, so they did not have the right to grant us permission to stay there. In the Treaty of Paris signed with Spain in

1763, the British were granted permission only to cut logwood and mahogany up to the Sibun River on Spain's territory. Spain acquired this territory when they signed the Treaty of Tordesillas with Portugal in 1494. Britain and Guatemala signed the 1859 Treaty, which gave Britain the rights to the land from the Sibun River to the Sarstoon and to the west, known as Cayo District today.

If there was a war between the British and the Spanish over that region at the time, we, the Garifuna people, were going to suffer the consequences of the war. We were left by the British to find ways and means to survive on our own without any assistance from them. In the southern part of Belize we found the ways and means to survive as villages on our own by engaging in farming to plant our food items, and by fishing and hunting for our meat.

Between 1802 and 1837, the villages of Stann Creek, Hopkins, Punta Gorda, Seine Bight and Barranco were all experiencing growth in their populations and were self-sustaining communities. When slavery was abolished in Belize in 1833, the Creoles became free people but had to go through the Emancipation era to get educated and learn trades to be able to take care of themselves. We began to intermingle among ourselves but, because of the brainwashing that the British did to some of our fellow Creole brothers and sisters, the relationship was strained, and is still difficult to heal up to this day.

The Garifuna and the Creole people must come together as people of African descent to survive in Belize. They are now a minority group in the country of Belize, due to a continued Mestizo migration from the neighboring countries.

Before Belize became a Crown colony in 1862, the British sent an Evaluator from the British Commonwealth Office to tour the entire country of Belize and to provide them with an economic, social, cultural and political report. His findings revealed that the Garifuna people were the only people in Belize that were self-sufficient.

From 1832 until 1954, when our country received Adult Suffrage, we were taking care of our villages and ourselves without much assistance from the British or Spanish Crowns in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Belize. We also communicated back and forth with all of our relatives in these countries.

When the People's United Party (PUP) became the first political party to form a

local Legislative Assembly in 1954, like most other Belizean people, we joined their party. This was with the hope that they would assist us socially, economically and politically. Most of the families I knew that were related to me growing up in Dangriga were PUPs.

This is while all of the members of our families went to their farms, worked in Pomona, Alta Vista, Middlesex, Cave Branch, Commerce Bight Pier, and did other types of work to support their families and themselves. Some Garifuna people even left the country to Honduras, Panama and the United States to seek employment. The PUP had little impact on improving the social, economic and political life of our Garinagu people in the south.

If they wanted to help the Garifuna people, they could have given us the opportunity to become huge farm owners for the citrus, banana, cassava and other crops that we grew, because all Garifuna families in the south owned farms and homes for their families.

The part in red on this map is where the Garifuna people were restricted to, by the British, when they came to Belize in 1802. Guatemala is now claiming this same area of land from Belize.



The farmers in the north were, and are still the wealthiest farmers in the country of Belize for a long period of time. When the banana industry was reintroduced in the south in the 1960's, we were still planting banana, plantain, cassava and many other food crops for decades. Yet, we were never given the opportunity to become huge farmers. The PUP had another opportunity to give our Garifuna people the option again, but refused to do it. Our people kept remaining in their party with false promises, hopes and dreams. The PUP governed Belize from 1954 up until 1984 with little significant improvements in the lives of our Garifuna people.

To be continued

## A Story of Miguel's Life (Part 17)

Continued from Page 17

the plate filled with food and go to work, without uttering a single word. Absolutely nothing. He was always the one who left first to work, since Shakira would stay to finish up a couple things before she left. What she was doing was showing her love in her breakfasts,

but Miguel never realized how much he hurt her by refusing her meals. All she ever wanted was to show him that she was willing to take care of him, to show him affection, love, but he did not understand. His world was different.

Eventually, Shakira got used to his

Please turn to Page 24

# TENDER

## Training and Development Strategy

**BEL invites tenders for Consultancy to Develop a Five-Year Training and Development Strategy.**

The Consultant will be required to conduct a study and provide an assessment of the Company's current Training and Development approach and learning gaps for each job function and for the Company as a whole. Recommend a five-year training and development strategy that will align learning and development with the Company's Mission and strategic objectives. Identify what KPIs and tools should be utilized to measure the performance of the Training and Development Strategy.

The bid document, which outlines all the duties and responsibilities of the contract, and dates are available on BEL's website at [www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx](http://www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx)

Bids will be accepted by email only and the email subject must include the bid number located on the respective bid form.


Subject: **BID #2023-1909 Training and Development Strategy**

Submit bids via email to [bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz](mailto:bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz) no later than **3:00 p.m. local time on Friday, May 19, 2023.**

**For more information or queries, send email to [bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz](mailto: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.

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

Continued from  Page 21

But very few, if any, of them would have been aware that in the hours leading up to their departure, the vessel had been leaking and that efforts to locate the leak and pump the boat completely dry had been unsuccessful.

Some may have noticed that of the two lifeboats customarily attached to the E.M.L., only the 4-man craft was in place; it was later learned from the owner that the larger lifeboat capable of holding 14 people had been left behind for repairs.

They certainly wouldn't have known there were not nearly enough lifebelts on board. The steward, whose duty was to check on the lifebelts, was drunk and had, at the very last moment, been replaced by a new steward, unaware that most of the lifebelts had been loaned to the M.C. and not returned.

Nor would they have known that the captain was also new. This was his first trip in charge of the E.M.L., and neither he nor the engineer was licensed.

But it would have been patently evident to all on board that the vessel was dangerously overloaded.

There is disagreement on the number of people that could be comfortably and safely carried on the vessel. According to the owner, she was capable of carrying 40 passengers. This is at odds with the "Two Smiths" report that the E.M.L. could barely carry 20 passengers and nine crew and this with shocking disregard for comfort and safety.

But on that April afternoon, there were 60 passengers and ten crew on board. Fourteen women and children, along with their luggage and trunks, were assigned to the 8-person ladies' cabin, where the purser had also stashed all the mailbags under the bunks, along with several cartons of onions. Occupying the small galley kitchen was a family of 14: three sisters and their 11 children aged between 6 months and ten years old. The remaining 32 passengers were crowded in the corridors, the saloon, and on deck.

The "Two Smiths" report states that the vessel's owner claimed she had 20 to 25 tons of cargo space. There is no disclosure of how much cargo was on board that afternoon, but on the evidence of those who saw her before she left, she was loaded beyond the limit of safety. A stevedore who testified at the later Inquest reported:

*There were more passengers on board than I have ever seen on any trip. The only walking room was between the pilot room and the end of the cabins and a small space leading to the kitchen. All the other space was taken up with cargo.*

At this point, the reader will no doubt be wondering what would possibly lead adult passengers to set off willingly on this vessel!

Presumably, many of the passengers would have been waiting for the E.M.L. to resume passenger traffic after several weeks in dry-dock.

Curiously, the husbands of two of the 'society' women on board, Manuela Carbajal and Alice Marchand, were presumably aware of the risks involved. Mr. Manuel Carbajal was, in fact, the ship's owner and had for the previous two days been giving instructions to the crew to pump out the water that was entering the hold. Mr. Lucio Marchand was a government customs official stationed at the Belize harbour and should have known the vessel was unsafe.

The Carbajals owned not only the E.M.L. and the M.C. but one of the town's largest grocery stores, located on the corner of West Canal Street and Water Lane. The city of Belize sits below sea level, surrounded by sea on one side and swamps on the other three, and so not conducive to the growing of fruits or vegetables. Each week, Mrs. Carbajal would make the voyage up north on the E.M.L. to San Estevan to purchase a full stock of fresh provisions for their store. Since that would not have been possible in the weeks while the vessel was being repaired, the couple no doubt would have been anxious to

replenish their store. They would also be keen to make up for the loss of income from passengers. "Ker-ching, ker-ching", as the expression goes.

The Marchands were a prominent Orange Walk family known for their devotion to Catholicism. The patriarch, Joe Marchand (Alice's father-in-law) had many years before emigrated to the colony from Jamaica with the Jesuits to establish one of the first Catholic schools in the southern district of El Cayo. The disproportionately large marble memorial cross in front of the Inmaculada Catholic Church in Orange Walk commemorates his role in the colony's Catholic community. That the much-revered Catholic Bishop, the Right Reverend Frederick Hopkins, and three of his missionary nuns were aboard the E.M.L. that afternoon perhaps quieted any fears Alice and her husband might have entertained about the trip.

Other passengers might also have been reassured by the fact that the owner's wife was on board, along with three nuns and a revered bishop himself. None of them could have known that

the E.M.L. was doomed. Twelve hours into the journey, she capsized off Sarteneja in the Bay of Corozal within the space of about 10 minutes, taking with her 18 souls.

Except for the Bishop, all those who drowned that night were women and children. Thirteen children. Of the children, the youngest were Alice Marchand's 9-month-old daughter, Alva, and a pair of 6-month-old twin boys, Roy and Llewelyn, from the Wood family of fourteen that had been forced to crowd into the tiny galley kitchen next to the stench of the water closet.

The body of baby Alva was never recovered, and all but two members of the Wood family group were lost at sea that night.

*Part 3 next week.*

## 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](mailto:jobapplications@portofbelize.com)

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

*Our email address for business and advertising is [amandalapress@yahoo.com](mailto:amandalapress@yahoo.com)*



## 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](mailto:kremtelevision@yahoo.com)

**Friday, April 21 to Thursday, April 27, 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: Hidden History of Malcolm X
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. Belizean Legends: Rodwell "Raddy" Leslie
- 7:30 p.m. **Navel String Connection (repeat)**
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

### SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Movie: Transformers: Age of Extinction
- 11:45 a.m. Belizean Legends: Bella Carib
- 1:34 p.m. Movie: One Night In Miami
- 3:30 p.m. Documentary: Ancient Mysteries - The Search For Three Legendary Cities - Lost Worlds Timeline
- 6:00 p.m. Movie: The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind
- 8:00 p.m. Music Videos

### SUNDAY

- 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Review (LIVE)**
- 12:00 p.m. Hon. Minister Louis Farrakhan Swan Song Speech 2022
- 3:58 p.m. Movie: The Rosa Parks Story
- 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: Queen of Katwe
- 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: Our Planet: From Deserts to Grassland
- 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. Movie: The Great Debaters
- 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: JFK— The Final Hours
- 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 Banker
- 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: Fighting For Life
- 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: Sister Act
- 3:30 p.m. **Wake Up Belize Morning Vibes (repeat)**
- 6:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (LIVE)**
- 7:00 p.m. Belizean Legends: Russell Hulse
- 7:30 p.m. **Navel String Connection (LIVE)**
- 9:00 p.m. **Krem TV Evening News (repeat)**

## FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Continúa de página 9

banco de limo verde tan espeso que hacía que el agua pareciera sólida. Empezó a vomitar. Los policías lo sacaron y lo esposaron.

Entre sus muchos movimientos imprudentes, Duarte se había arrojado a una floración de algas tóxicas. Las imágenes de la cámara corporal del incidente, publicadas por el Departamento de Policía de Cape Coral, se volvieron virales. Los presentadores de noticias se rieron del limo de la de lucha contra el crimen. Pero la historia, que Dan Egan relata en detalle en "El elemento del diablo", argumenta, es "más que un meme. Es un presagio."

En una finca, los rendimientos de los cultivos aumentan cuando se aplica fósforo. El fósforo que llega a los lagos, arroyos y canales también promueve el crecimiento de las plantas. Desafortunadamente, los organismos acuáticos que tienden a hacer mejor son los que nadie quiere ver alrededor. Y por lo tanto, hay dos lados del problema del fósforo: una la escasez, el otro el exceso.

En una floración de algas tóxicas, diminutos organismos fotosintéticos se reproducen de forma explosiva y luego arrojan sustancias químicas que, además de las náuseas, pueden causar daño cerebral y hepático. Y, cuando las algas mueren en masa, se produce un nuevo infierno. Su descomposición absorbe el oxígeno del agua, creando zonas muertas acuáticas donde casi nada puede sobrevivir.

En el centro verde brillante del problema del exceso de fósforo en Florida se encuentra el lago Okeechobee. El lago recibe hasta dos millones de libras de fósforo al año, unas diez veces más de lo que los biólogos creen que puede absorber con seguridad, mucho de ello de la escorrentía agrícola. En el verano de 2018, cuando Duarte se zambulló, el noventa por ciento de la superficie de Okeechobee estaba cubierta de lima tóxica. El agua liberada del lago, a través de los ríos Caloosahatchee y St. Lucie, enfermó a tantas personas que el gobernador de Florida, Rick Scott, declaró estado de emergencia. Egan visitó ese verano, con la esperanza de hacer un viaje en bote por el Caloosahatchee, pero su guía elegido, un ecologista llamado John Cassani, se negó a llevarlo porque era demasiado peligroso.

"Las cosas están completamente jodidas", le dijo Cassani. "Completamente."

Las floraciones de algas nocivas, o HAR en inglés, también plagan el lago Erie. En su mayoría, las floraciones interfieren con la pesca y el turismo (el limo denso y apesoso es un desencanto

para los visitantes), pero en 2014 algunas de las toxinas fueron absorbidas por el suministro público de agua de Toledo. La ciudad se vio obligada a emitir un orden de "no beber" a cuatrocientos mil residentes de la zona, y el gobernador de Ohio, John Kasich, activó la Guardia Nacional.

Los problemas del lago Erie se pueden atribuir a las operaciones concentradas de alimentación de animales, o CAFO en inglés, que salpican la cuenca del río Maumee, en el noroeste de Ohio. Millones de vacas y cerdos en estas CAFOs pasan sus días convirtiendo soja y maíz fertilizados con fósforo en estiércol cargado de fósforo, mucho del cual se va deslizando fuera de las operaciones y va al agua. En palabras de Egan, el Maumee ahora funciona "como una jeringa" que bombea miles de toneladas de fósforo al año en los tramos más occidentales del lago Erie.

Otros lagos que recientemente han experimentado HAB incluyen el lago Superior, el lago Champlain, el lago Tahoe, el lago Winnebago y el lago Seneca. De hecho, escribe Egan, "un mapa de los lagos y ríos de EE. UU. que sufren brotes de algas verdeazuladas hoy parece, bueno, a un mapa de los Estados Unidos". Y la situación no es mucho mejor fuera de los EE. UU. Hace unos años, los investigadores de Stanford y la NASA analizaron imágenes satelitales de tres décadas para evaluar las condiciones de unos setenta lagos grandes en todo el mundo, incluidos el lago Baikal, el lago Nicaragua y Lago Victoria. Descubrieron que la "intensidad máxima de floración en verano" había aumentado en dos tercios de ellos.

Mientras tanto, las zonas muertas en los océanos también se están expandiendo. Estas zonas, una grande que se forma cada verano en el Golfo de México, también son producidas por nutrientes fugitivos. Los científicos advierten que, a medida que las cargas de nutrientes continúan creciendo y los océanos se calientan, el problema solo empeorará. (El agua caliente contiene menos oxígeno que la fría). Un trío de investigadores británicos ha especulado que, "si nuestros descendientes son negligentes", los seres humanos podrían producir "anoxia global a gran escala y de larga duración", es decir, una amplia zona marina muerta a lo largo del planeta. A juicio de Stephen Porder, profesor de ecología en Brown y autor de "Elemental: How Five Elements Changed Earth's Past and Will Shape Our Future" (de próxima publicación en Princeton), las consecuencias de esto serían tan catastróficas que serían inimaginables.

## A Story of Miguel's Life (Part 17)

Continued from Page 22

way of being and accepted him as he was. While, on the other hand, he continued into his own world, already in love with her, but of course without confessing his feelings to her. Two years passed, and according to him, they understood each other very well. Time passed in that manner. In the meantime, they remained together, eventually got married and, for him, it was a perfect

marriage; for him they understood each other, and even though she loved him dearly, there was something missing, there was an emptiness that needed to be filled. For this, he was going to see a very drastic change in their lives.

(To Be Continued)

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

April 16, 2023

Finca Solana  
Corozal Town



# MADISON'S

AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP



BY ORDER of the Mortgagee, Messrs. Ascendancy Belize Limited, Licensed Auctioneer, Sylvano Guerrero, is selling by way of ONLINE AUCTION via www.madisons.bz the following properties with reserved prices. The online public auctions will expire bi-weekly on May 3, 2023, May 17, 2023 and May 31, 2023 until a sale is determined within this period.

**TERMS: 10% DEPOSIT. BALANCE IN 14 DAYS**

**Lot 63, Pomona Village  
Stann Creek**



All that piece or parcel of land being Parcel #63 Pomona Village, Stann Creek District; comprising of a total area 461.849 square meters together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete building approximately 20 feet by 40 feet and elevated 11 feet above the ground with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen, dining and living room, a front porch approximately 5 feet by 10 feet and a side porch approximately 7 feet by 15 feet.

The property is held as a Minister's Fiat Grant No. 178 of 2006 in the name of Roy Sylvester Tillett.

**Block 1, Parcel 134,  
San Pablo/San Jose, Orange Walk**



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #134 San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section, San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District; comprising of a total area of 4,195.7 square meters together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete bungalow residence with 2 bedrooms, a small living room area and a kitchen with dimensions of 18 ft by 24 ft and a front porch of 5 ft by 24 ft.

The property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Alfredo Samuel Cabrera and Josue Cabrera.

**Block 3, Parcel 604,  
Sarteneja Village, Corozal**



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #3, Parcel 604, Sarteneja Village, Corozal District, Belize; comprising of 1,519.8 sq.m. together with a concrete bungalow having 2 bedrooms, 1 shared bathroom, living, kitchen, and dining rooms, and a large front porch. The building has an area of 1,475 sq. ft., porch of 5 ft by 25 ft and a back section with dimensions of 12 ft by 22 ft.

The subject property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Carol Cobb.

**Block 1, Parcel 224 San Pablo/  
San Jose, Orange Walk**



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #224, San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section, Orange Walk District; comprising a total area of 1635.8 sq.m. together with all buildings and erections thereon being a concrete bungalow with 4 bedrooms, a shared bathroom, kitchen, dining room, and living room with external dimensions of approximately 22 ft by 47 ft inclusive of an enclosed front porch of 9 ft by 10 ft and a back verandah of 7 ft by 12 ft.

The property is held as a Land Certificate Interest in the name of Alfredo Samuel Cabrera and Josue Cabrera.

**Lot 184 Hummingbird  
Community, Stann Creek**



All that piece or parcel of land being Lot #184, Hummingbird Community, Stann Creek District; together with all erections thereon. On the property is a bungalow with two bedrooms, one bathroom, a living room, a dining room, and a kitchen. The property is in fair condition and measures 1,092 square feet.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Pedro Guerra.

**Block 4 Parcel 2990,  
Orange Walk Town**



All that pieces or parcels of land being Parcel #2990, Block #4, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District comprising of a total area of 555.56 sq. Yds; together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon. The property consists of a single-story structure with two bedrooms, one bathroom, living, dining, and kitchen.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Gabriel Pate.

**Block 1, Parcel 57/1,  
Buena Vista Village**



All that piece or parcel of land being Block #1, Parcel #57/1, Buena Vista Village, Corozal; comprising of a total area of 1280.44 sq. yds together with all buildings and erections thereon being a two-story building having a large open area, a bedroom, and a storeroom on the lower level, with an area of 1882 sq. ft.

The subject property is held as a Leasehold Certificate interest in the name of Florencia Pott.

**Block 42, Parcel 100,  
Hopeville, Punta Gorda**



All that piece or parcel of land being Parcel #100, Block #42, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District, Belize comprising of a bungalow residence with four bedrooms, one bathroom, living, dining, kitchen, and utility, with a large porch in front. The house has an area of 850 sq. ft. The porch is 224 sq. ft. This land has a total area of 657.25 sq.yds.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Maria Roches.

**Block 7 Parcel 9171 San Pedro Registration Section**



All that piece or parcel of land comprising 445.685 square metres being Block 7 Parcel 9171 San Pedro Registration Section situate in San Pedro Town, Belize District Belize, as shown and described on the Registry Index Map at the Office of the Registrar of Lands, Belmopan together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Chehade Gharzeddine.

**Lot 246 Silk Grass Village Ext, Stann Creek**



All that piece or parcel of land being Lot #246, Silk Grass Village, Stann Creek District, Belize; together with all erections thereon. The property is 833.33 square yards in total, with all structures being an elevated residence with two bedrooms, one bathroom, living, dining, and kitchen. It is in fair condition and measures 624 square feet.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Felix Galeana.

**Lot 143 Maya Mopan Village, Stann Creek**



All that piece or parcel of land, Lot #143, Maya Mopan Village, Stann Creek District, Belize; together with all erections thereon, totaling 825.22 sq. yds. The structure is a single-story structure with two bedrooms, a living room, and a dining room.

The property is held in the Freehold Interest in the name of Narciso Tush.

AUCTIONEER: SYLVANO GUERRERO  
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**MADISON'S**  
AUCTIONS AND APPRAISALS LLP

## (Reproduced excerpt from *Amandala* Editorial for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, titled "A people's pain")

...What France has done to Haiti, a British "investor" has been doing to our little Belize. Yes, he has won just about every case he has brought against our Government, sometimes with the collusion and connivance of some of our own leaders, but more often with the "fire power" of his top international lawyers. While our national fervor has driven us to condemn his manipulation of the capitalist system always to his advantage, nevertheless, the one Lord Michael Ashcroft has always "played by the rules," the rules being the court of law, where his deep pockets either allow him to outwit local opponents or simply wear out his adversaries with repeated litigation. His legal victories, and there have been quite a few over the years, beginning with his takeover of BTL in the 1990s, have had little moral worth in the eyes of the Belizean people, whose taxes end up carrying the burden for every case lost to Ashcroft by our Belize government.

When government lacks the resources to provide healthcare for its poor people, the slide into desperation and destitution can be quick and painful. Whenever Ashcroft wins millions on the front end from our government, individual citizens feel the pain on the back end; and it is becoming more and more real in these inflationary times.

A middle-aged woman and her retired husband can be happy and relaxed today, and in a couple months' time, her world is upside down. He gets sick, some five hundred dollars from their savings for a CAT scan. Boom! It's prostate cancer; advanced. The medical bills pile up fast. And in a few months, he's gone. She draws the last of their savings to deal with

the funeral. A loan of a couple thousand dollars was also necessary, because they have not made the necessary contributions to qualify for any assistance from "Social." Jewelry, whatever she had, has already been sold or pawned. A proud, God-fearing Belize woman is now looking at desperation; a hundred-dollar loan payment is due. She is broke, and hungry, and things are falling apart. Tears quickly flow.

As a people, we have to find ways to come together to "help our falling brothers/sisters." As the economic situation gets worse, more and more individuals could fall into the pit of desperation and crisis. We must at least be able to provide food to sustain us through the tough times.

In these hard times, it is not nice when we hear that Ashcroft is suing our government, again. The millions he extracts from government, is money that could help feed and provide healthcare for our struggling masses.

If there is any hope for little Belize, it is in our old time saying, that "every fat fowl got i Sunday." Let's pray that for once this cruel corporate creature has bitten a poisoned berry in daring to challenge the whole global environmental movement because our government listened to the expert advice of our National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) and decided that his Waterloo cruise tourism project involved too much risk for a World Heritage Site, our precious Belize Barrier Reef.

For once, let's hope that Aschroft loses this time. The road is already rough ahead, and our people shouldn't be forced to endure any unnecessary pain because of one man's greed and ego.

## By Grace

Continued from Page 10

from my weekly routine. But I have long ago realized that my exercise is about quality of whatever time I am permitted to live in this life, and not some guarantee that I can influence that reality of my ultimate end.

I was not trying to be overly religious or philosophical in this essay, but to share my own reflections about the awesome spectacle of death that is ever present and worthy of us taking notice of. We often get so caught up in the rush of the survival of what is today's Belize, that we often don't give thought to death, the ever present reality. But there is a balanced way to approach this ever present reality.

The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, has said, "Live every day of your life as if it is one day in a thousand

more days to come; but at the same, live your life as if today is your last day, and you must give account to God for your actions at the end of it." If this is one in many days to come, then we must be quantitative in our use of today; everything we do, (including our consumption patterns), are connected to the consequences of tomorrow. What we do, or fail to do today, will affect us tomorrow. But this prescription also says we must be qualitative in our use of today, and live it with the urgency that comes from knowing that time is limited and whatever we do will be scrutinized at the end of the day and that we will be responsible to give account. A better formula for quality control you couldn't ask for.

(Comments are welcomed at [nuribze@gmail.com](mailto:nuribze@gmail.com))

## Belize Robotics Team to compete in the *First* Global Competition...

Continued from Page 15

so that people can see what we have in Belize."

As successful as this program has turned out to be, BHS is hoping to expand by the end of the year and to have students as young as 4 years old participating in this special program.

For now, however, the existing team aims to demonstrate to Belize that they have the talent, ingenuity, and innovation to

perform at a high level at this competition. Usher expressed the wish that other Belizean schools will be able to participate alongside BHS at such competitions. "... This isn't about one robot one year; this has to be about more robots every year," remarked Usher.

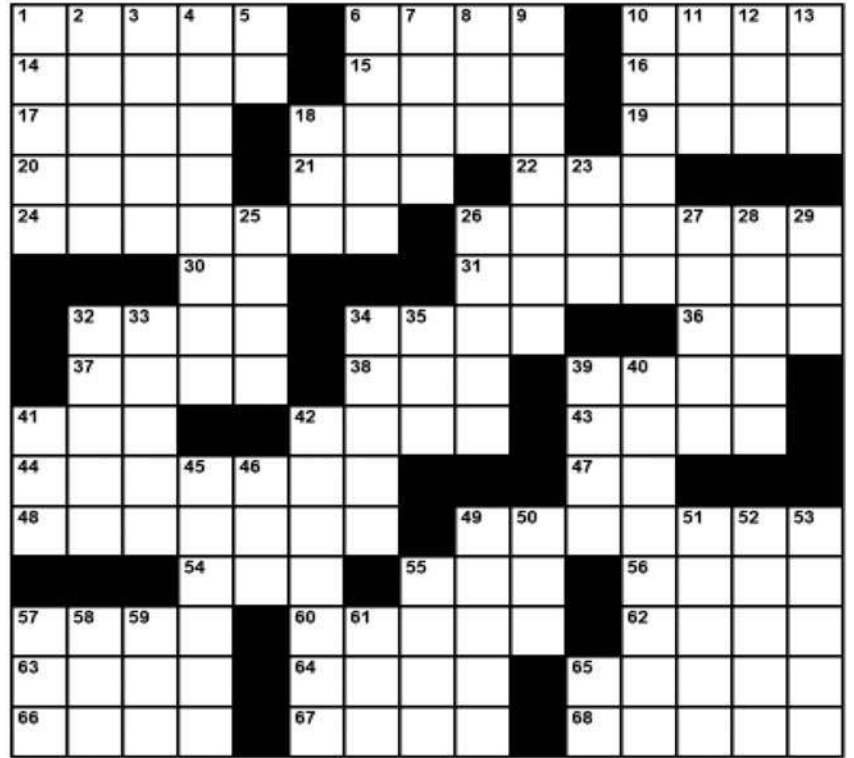
The *First* Robotics Competition is scheduled to take place from April 19 to April 22 and can be viewed through their live stream at <https://m.twitch.tv/firstinspires/videos>.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



NEW PUZZLE

## Daily Printable Puzzle - 04-20-2023



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### Across

- 1. Bunk
- 6. Ain't got
- 10. Architect's design
- 14. Organic compound
- 15. Computer pix
- 16. Add liquor
- 17. Agalite
- 18. AOL rival
- 19. Centerward
- 20. Certain organic compound
- 21. Common verb
- 22. Certain cyst
- 24. Wins over
- 26. Scrapper
- 30. As a result
- 31. Medieval pseudo-science
- 32. Arctic native
- 34. Flower box locale
- 36. Denial in Glasgow
- 37. Alleviate
- 38. Ballet step
- 39. Abominable snowman
- 41. Asphalt
- 42. Arm bone
- 43. Baal or Mammon
- 44. Kabul resident
- 47. Letter before rho
- 48. Learning method
- 49. Have no effect
- 54. Caught ya!
- 55. Assoc.
- 56. Brain wave
- 57. Almost proximate
- 60. Heart part
- 62. Beds
- 63. Brat
- 64. Alternative to a saber
- 65. Calumniate
- 66. Act the judge
- 67. In a vulgar way
- 68. Double curves

### Down

- 1. Hardly popular
- 2. Man from Muscat
- 3. Metric pounds
- 4. Lets go of
- 5. Yours truly
- 6. Dissemblers
- 7. Analgesia target
- 8. Act dovish
- 9. Someone who has all the information
- 10. Pedestal base
- 11. Computer network, abbr.
- 12. Be a stage star
- 13. Art movement prefix
- 18. Candied item
- 23. Catchall abbr.
- 25. Cowboy's line
- 26. Fir resin
- 27. Slow musically
- 28. Electronic letters
- 29. Part of a reuben
- 32. Like salad greens
- 33. Guttural scream
- 34. Bowling problem
- 35. Actor McKellen
- 39. Little yelps
- 40. Buildings
- 41. Bar bill
- 42. Come undone
- 45. Listener
- 46. Dismissing comment
- 49. Budget
- 50. Arctic surface
- 51. Craven images
- 52. Fix a knot
- 53. Abates
- 55. A large quantity
- 57. Last degree
- 58. Appreciation for beauty
- 59. Alias acronym
- 61. Be unoriginal
- 65. Exist

## 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 - 04-13-2023 - Answers



## 7 to compete in 9th annual Miss Afrikan Queen

Continued from Page 1

This year's pageant will serve as a relaunch following a 3-year hiatus during the Covid-19 pandemic, and Chinyeré Wade, Miss Afrikan Queen 2019, will be finally crowning her successor, this year's winner.

Among the contestants are Kyra Young, who will be representing South Africa; Vanessa Williams, representing Kenya; Jasmin Roches, representing Uganda; Judia Young representing Nigeria; Crysel Gabourel, representing Ethiopia; Shernell Spence, representing Zimbabwe; and Lechille Dixon, who will be representing Ghana.

Each woman selected an African country of her choice. After research and preparation, each will be showcasing her talent, poise, and a statement on why she is a proud Belizean woman of African descent.

The Miss Afrikan Queen pageant serves as a medium to fundraise for Concerned Belizean Women (CBW), a non-profit organization that advocates for women, children, and families who experience domestic and sexual abuse, as well as exploitation. With the funds collected, donations, scholarships, and financial aid will be provided to such persons.

However, according to Maryam Abdul-Qawiyy, the public relations officer of CBW and the Miss Afrikan Queen competition, this pageant was created to focus on black beauty and acceptance of oneself, "after seeing the need in the community to come back to self, being a person of African descent, to not fall victim to unhealthy or Eurocentric beauty standards that they need to look a certain way in order to feel confident, have self-esteem, feel beautiful about yourself." "You need

to accept yourself as you are. We wanted to highlight that within the black community because they saw a problem with young girls wanting to look another way instead of accepting their own inner beauty and outer blackness," shared Qawiyy.

Crysel Gabourel, Miss Ethiopia, who was on Krem's *Wake Up Belize* morning show on Thursday morning along with three other contestants, further explained, "Too often we find that our society looks down on us just because of the color of our skin, and this Miss Afrikan Queen pageant is something that goes towards fundraising for other people that have been unfortunate when it comes to hurricanes, and to help them with other situations like helping their children through school. It's a great fundraising event, while uplifting our colonial country, and what better way to do that than to show and teach them that there is another outlet. There is a way to promote our blackness; there is a way to promote our culture, our heritage."

And although an interview is required for the selection of each contestant, this community-based pageant is open to the participation of all women of African descent.

"Some of the women in the pageant are mothers, they are teachers. At some pageants you can't be a mother, you can't be married, but we embrace all women for who they are completely," said Qawiyy.

The Miss Afrikan Queen 2023 pageant commences at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday night when tickets will be on sale at the door. Tickets for the downstairs/ lower tier will cost \$25 for adults and \$10 for children, while the upstairs/top tier is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

## Incoming BNTU president under internal fire

Continued from Page 1

was an employee. The judgment states that based on an audit, the loss to the companies totalled \$71,028.00. While Guerra was in police custody, a representative of the companies had her sign an agreement that she would pay back \$110,000. As per the judgment, after considering all the evidence, including that Guerra never denied taking the money, the Judge ordered that she pay \$81,028, which included \$10,000 in legal fees. Guerra was therefore not processed in court for a criminal charge.

Some union members are now questioning Shoman's membership based on the section of the Union's constitution which outlines reasons for "Forfeiture of Membership" under "by-laws and regulations." The specific section cited is 4 (b) (ii) which states "After due process, the Union by decision of Council may cancel the membership of persons who ... are convicted of criminal offence or grave professional misconduct." The outgoing president of the BNTU, Elena Smith, on Wednesday, April 19, was asked about the allegation that Shoman wants that particular clause removed as

part of the ongoing revision of the Union's constitution. The question was framed in the context of the court judgment from 23 years ago. Smith told the press, "I am not privy to what you are saying in terms of striking out any clause, because no one person can make a change to the constitution. You can recommend an amendment, but that recommendation has to be approved by the membership ... We have a committee that was looking at the suggested amendments." She explained that the suggested amendments will now be sent to the membership for their input, so nothing is yet finalized. Another recommended amendment that is being frowned upon is the need for a president's fund. In that regard, Smith said they must look at how the union is growing and changing, and determine the purpose for such a fund. However, she said the ultimate decision rests with the membership.

Appearing today on the *LOVE FM Morning Show* with her daughter by her side, Shoman said that the BNTU is seen as one of the catalysts for change, and the more it becomes involved in how we are governed, the more the leadership position comes into the spotlight. Referring to the incident

## Bar Association questions "practical need" ...

Continued from Page 2

The bill, according to Senator Chris Coye, is part of a "suite" of legislation that needs to be enacted in order for the country to comply with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

This is for the purpose of addressing "a perceived risk of terrorism financing in Belize via NPOs by empowering the NPO Registrar to create and implement a risk-based approach to profile, investigate and forfeit assets of NPOs in Belize," the Bar's opinion paper states.

The NPO Registrar and the Deputy are empowered to register NPOs and regulate their activity through this new legislation. They will have to leave to conduct onsite visits, inquiries, and investigations and apply to the Court for the appointment of a receiver to take over and manage the activities of NPOs that are found to be non-compliant. They may also apply to the court to forfeit the property of a non-compliant NPO.

But the Bar also sought to provide clarity on what types of groups and organizations could be classified as an NPO, and it found that the broad definition encompasses all churches and community organizations in Belize.

Some of these include "The Belize Red Cross, the Scout Association of Belize, the Girl Guides Association of Belize, the Lion's Club, the Rotary Club, Help Age Belize, Hand in Hand Ministries Belize, Lifeline Foundation Belize and the Kolbe Foundation."

They also found that it also includes private groups of persons raising funds from the public to assist members of the community to meet nutritional needs or cover medical or educational expenses.

"...the Days of Healing, soup kitchen, and weekend charitable barbecue activities of private persons come to mind," the paper states.

It adds that the definition might also extend to encompass the political parties and their community committees raising money from the public.

The bill empowers the NPO Registrar to effect registrations and to prohibit those who do not register from soliciting funds. Not all NPOs are obliged to register, however.

"An NPO which engages in a trade to finance its charitable objects, for instance, is arguably not caught by the registration requirement because it does not solicit funds from the public nor seek to raise funds from the public, but instead earns the monies it requires for its charitable activities," the Bar's paper states.

The paper stated that it is unclear why this indirect approach to encourage registration by NPO's is being preferred over a direct mandatory requirement.

The bill also imposes financial reporting and auditing requirements, a requirement the Bar says is not new for Non-Profits that are also registered as NGOs, which are required to regularly disclose and verify financial records.

The Bar makes clear that the power vested in the NPO Registrar was already conferred to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) under the Money Laundering and

Terrorist Prevention Act.

"The Bill seeks largely to layer these powers and create another bureaucracy managing their exercise – one devoted exclusively to NPOs," the Bar's paper states. They surmised that the bill will "undoubtedly increase the labor and administrative costs" of both the government and charitable organizations, and questioned the practical need for the bill.

"...there has not in the history of Belize ever been an allegation made against any NPO of the complicity in any money laundering or terrorist financing nor has there been any financial failure of NPOs giving rise to any need for the State to manage charitable activities," they outlined, adding that there is no empirical evidence that there has been any risk of the type that the bill seeks to remedy in Belize, "much less to the degree required to justify legislative action abrogating the constitutional rights of charitable organizations in Belize."

They reminded the public in the paper that the abrogation of fundamental constitutional rights must be proportionate with the threat sought to be addressed by the abrogation for it to be regarded as reasonable.

"It is hard to see, for instance, why the NPO Registrar would ever need to appoint a receiver to manage the business of a church in Belize, or ever need to make an application to forfeit church property in Belize?" the paper states.

They suggest a redefinition of NPOs may be of value, and recommended that the definition include a threshold requirement regarding the total value of funds raised from, or disbursed to the public.

They made the point that no Basel agreements for objective standards exist for NPOs, so the tasks of objectively measuring their performance would be impractical, since no performance standards exist.

"It is therefore completely unknown what performance standards are to be maintained by NPOs before intervention by the Registrar to take over and manage the business of NPOs. The need for such supervision and powers appears fundamentally misconceived and may very well inevitably result in the violation of any of a number of fundamentally guaranteed constitutional rights of NPOs subjected to any exercise of those powers," the Bar opines.

The fundamental difficulty in determining the overreaching objective of the bill is noted by the Bar, since, while the Bill is said to be for the purpose of prevention of terrorist financing, "extensive powers" are conferred on the DPO Registrar "to delve into the management of the activities of NPOs without identifying any reason or objective for doing so."

They state, "This may lead to the arbitrary or subjective exercise of supervisory powers in relation to NPOs."

They concluded that the supervision appears largely unnecessary and serves no purpose other than to "subject these charitable bodies to vagaries of state action."

herself, she said she never spoke about it before, but that on Wednesday night after the story aired on the evening news, her daughter told her it was time

to tell her story. Shoman proceeded to explain that "what is out there are partial

Please turn to Page 31



by Peter Young



BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

Hello out there to all my cricket enthusiasts! Hope you all enjoyed last weekend of cricket. This weekend will be even better, I promise. Under the auspices of the Belize National Cricket Association (BNCA), the Barry Bowen/Harrison Parks Cricket Competition 2023 continues this weekend.

The results of last weekend's matches are as follows, giving you as best as I can.

Let's look at the match between Summa Feva and Wicked 11. This game was one of the best played so far. These two teams played their hearts out to defeat the other, but in the end it ended up in a tied score - Draw. Wicked 11 took to bat first, and after fighting hard to put up a big score, at the end of the last wicket that fell due to Andrew Banner who took 3 wickets, the team batted 114. Travis Robinson scored 20 of that. Not a bad score, but knowing the Feva boys, one can't trust them because they are known to put up an excellent battle at times.

## Progressive tells Brave 11 Reloaded, "Stop it, boys! You're moving too fast!"

Today was no exception, when Tayshaun Moses and Brandon Lewis, two exceptional bowlers of Wicked 11, started to put pressure on the batsmen. When the last man went in to bat, all the Feva needed were three runs to win. Oh, what a day! All that happened was the last bat fell and the Feva just managed to tie the score, 114 to 114. Glenford Banner scored 24. That ended a well matched and well-played game. My hats off to both teams!

Another closely played match was St. Paul's Strikers vs. Weekend Warriors. Weekend Warriors went to bat, and at the fall of the last wicket a score of 110 was recorded. St. Paul's Strikers went in to try and cover the score losing the least wickets as possible; but that did not happen, as it took 9 batsmen to beat the Warriors score at 111. For the Strikers, Francis Stevens and Brian Cassasola scored 25 each, and Lloyd Cassasola and Jerry Cassasola took 4 and 3 wickets each, respectively. For the Warriors, Derrick Hendy scored 10, and Edison Robinson took 4 wickets.

BDF took care of Surprise, 180 to 181 with 4 spare wickets. For Surprise, Aaron Muslar scored 101, and Chris Banner took 2 wickets. For BDF, Bernan Stephenson



Progressive 13-year-olds, (l to r) Edward Bull and Adeel Nicholas

scored 64, while Travis Stephenson took 3 wickets.

Tropical Disturbance walked over Golden Eagles with a score of 143 to 183. For the Golden boys, Gareth Joseph, Sr. scored 36, while Jermaine Pook took 4 wickets. For Tropical Disturbance, Howell Gillett scored 31 and

took 4 wickets. Herbert Banner also took 4 wickets.

Brave Union Boys took care of Rising Star very easily, 97 to 152. For Brave Union, Andrew Kerr scored 36, and Gilbert Segura took 6 wickets. For Rising Star, Andy Dominquez scored 32, and M. Rhaburn took 4 wickets.

Progressive, under the leadership of Sean Nicholas, surprised Brave 11 Reloaded by stopping them in their tracks. Telling them, "SLOW DOWN, BOYS! YOU ARE MOVING TOO FAST! Progressive went to bat first, and at the fall of the last wicket they had a score of 160. Not a bad score, but against a power house like The Reloaded, the score might just be too small. Well, the Reloaded boys went in to bat, and with the so-strong and precise bowling from the hands of Charles Stamp, who took 5 wickets, Brave11 Reloaded could only reach 144. Of that, Allan Stephenson scored 24. Dirk

Sutherland took 4 of the winners' wickets.

If all goes as planned, the following matches are scheduled for the weekend.

On Saturday 22nd - Long Journey vs Progressive at Gardenia; Rising Star vs St. Paul's Strikers at St. Paul's Bank; Brave Union Boys vs Golden Eagles at Rancho; Summa Feva vs Brilliant at Crooked Tree; Western Eagles vs Excellence at Double Head; and BDF vs Wicked 11 at Flowers Bank.

On Sunday 23rd - Brave 11 Reloaded vs Weekend Warriors at Flowers Bank; and Sunrise vs Surprise at Lords Bank.

That's it for this weekend of cricket, folks!

### BNCA announcement

The Belize National Cricket Association is pleased to inform you that Belize is hosting the English Central American Championship tournament, April 27th to the 30th. Belize is fielding two teams. Participating are: Belize, Panama, Mexico, Costa Rica and MCC (Melbourne Cricket Club). The Association is also pleased to announce that the MCC team will be arriving in the country earlier to do some training with umpires and coaching. One of the instructors writes cricket laws. So, get ready to watch international cricket in Belize! Venues are Landing and Lords Bank.

That's all for now, folks. MUCH LOVE AND RESPECT TO ALL! SHARE THE SAME. BYE BYE!

## BEBL Week 11 preview

### Belize Elite Basketball League 2023 Tournament Standings

| Position | TEAM                       | GP | W | L | Pts | Str |
|----------|----------------------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|
| 1        | Griga Dream Ballers        | 10 | 7 | 3 | 17  | +1  |
| 2        | Benny's Belize Hurricanes  | 09 | 7 | 2 | 16  | +3  |
| 3        | Orange Walk Running Rebels | 10 | 6 | 4 | 16  | -1  |
| 4        | Belize City Defenders      | 10 | 6 | 4 | 16  | +2  |
| 5        | Western Ballaz             | 10 | 4 | 6 | 14  | -1  |
| 6        | San Pedro Tiger Sharks     | 08 | 4 | 4 | 12  | +3  |
| 7        | Belmopan Red Taigaz        | 09 | 3 | 6 | 12  | -3  |
| 8        | Punta Gorda Panthers       | 10 | 1 | 9 | 10  | -7  |

**(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 109, Orange Walk Running Rebels 80 (Belize City Civic Center); Western Ballaz 77, Belize City Defenders 81 (SHC Auditorium).

Sat. Apr 15: San Pedro Tiger Sharks 83, Punta Gorda Panthers 51 (Angel Nunez Stadium); Griga Dream Ballers 92, Belmopan Red Tigaz 49 (Russell Chiste Garcia Auditorium).

**Week 11:** Fri. Apr 21: San Pedro Tiger Sharks vs Griga Dream Ballers (Angel

Nunez Stadium); Belmopan Red Taigaz vs Orange Walk Running Rebels (UB Gym).

Sat. Apr 22: Western Ballaz vs Belize Hurricanes (SHC Auditorium); Belize City Defenders vs Punta Gorda Panthers (Belize City Civic Center).

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

In a quirky coincidence this weekend's upcoming slate of games will feature the current top 4 teams playing the bottom 4 teams, three of whom are fighting desperately to get into the playoffs as the regular season winds down.

The Punta Gorda Panthers have all but been eliminated from playoff contention because, even if they won all

of their remaining 4 games, and five of the teams ahead of them lost all of theirs, mathematically they would still not have enough points to surpass three of those teams. They travel to Belize City for a rare Saturday night game against the Belize City Defenders, who are hoping they can give their fans a show, but would not want to be caught looking past this game to the super showdown with their city rival, the Hurricanes, on April 28th.

The other three bottom tier teams all need to win and continue to win, and any loss severely damages their chances of making the playoffs; and in the case of the Belmopan Red Taigaz, puts them on the brink of elimination. They are scheduled to host the Orange Walk Rebels Friday night at the UB Gymnasium, and our unofficial reports are that Benjamin Page, their leading scorer will be playing, having practised with the squad this week. He was AWOL for their last game which they lost badly.

The Rebels are one of the teams the Taigaz could hypothetically catch if they were to win all 5 of their remaining games and the Orange Walk squad lost all of theirs.

The San Pedro Tiger Sharks host the tournament leaders the Griga Dream Ballers at the Angel Nunez Stadium, and

it is only one of 5 home games left on their schedule. They do not travel again until Friday, May 12th, when they play the Defenders in Belize City. They also have 2 home back matches that have yet to be re-scheduled, but any 2 losses could make those irrelevant except for



# A lot to be decided in PLB Week 14 this weekend

Top-4 playoff teams and Golden Boot to be decided in final week of PLB Closing regular season



Michael Palacio Jonard Castillo Andres Orozco



Gilroy Thurton Daniel Jimenez Horace Avila

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 19, 2023  
 Week 14 games this weekend will complete the Premier League of Belize (PLB) 2022-2023 Closing regular Season, and a lot will be decided according to the results of those games. With 3 points for a win, and 1 for a draw, the numbers will be tallied when the dust has settled, and the 4 teams with the most points get to move on to the Top-4 home-and-away knockout playoffs, beginning next weekend. If there is a tie

in points, the nod goes to the team with the bigger number in the Goal Difference column. (See standings below.)

Also to be decided this weekend will be the winner of this season's Golden Boot for the player who scored the most goals in the regular season. For the past few weeks it has seemed a foregone conclusion, as young Michael Palacio had a comfortable lead in a competition where goals have been scarce. But the past two weeks have

seen an explosion of goal scoring activity, including 3 braces (2 goals each from Kyle Budna, Gilroy Thurton, and Facundo Garnier), a hat trick (3 goals) by Andres Orozco, and a whopping 4-goal performance by Jonard Castillo; and suddenly there are a whole bunch of players threatening to overtake Palacio who has been absent from the scoring column over the past four games. (See the Top Scorers table below.)

| Premier League of Belize 2022-2023 Closing Season Standings at Week 13, Sunday, April 16, 2023 |    |   |   |    |    |    |      |     |
|--|----|---|---|----|----|----|------|-----|
| TEAMS  | GP | W | D | L  | GF | GA | Diff | Pts |
| Verdes FC  | 13 | 9 | 3 | 1  | 30 | 7  | 23   | 30  |
| San Pedro Pirates FC   | 13 | 6 | 5 | 2  | 30 | 15 | 15   | 23  |
| Progreso FC  | 13 | 6 | 5 | 2  | 21 | 7  | 14   | 23  |
| Port Layola FC   | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3  | 23 | 13 | 10   | 22  |
| Police/Benque United FC  | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4  | 17 | 15 | 2    | 21  |
| Altitude FC  | 13 | 5 | 4 | 4  | 25 | 15 | 10   | 19  |
| Wagiya SC  | 13 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 10 | 52 | -42  | 3   |
| International FC   | 13 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 5  | 37 | -32  | 2   |

(Week #12 back match awarded to VERDES (3-0))

| PLB 2022-2023 Closing Season Top Scorers at Week 13, Sun. Apr. 16, 2023 |                         |       |    |
|---|-------------------------|-------|----|
| PLAYER  | CLUB                    | Goals |    |
| Michael Palacio   | Port Layola FC          | 8     | 9* |
| Jonard Castillo   | Progreso FC             | 7     |    |
| Andres Orozco   | Altitude FC             | 7     |    |
| Gilroy Thurton  | Port Layola FC          | 6     | 7* |
| Daniel Jimenez  | Police/Benque United FC | 6     |    |
| Horace Avila  | San Pedro Pirates FC    | 6     |    |
| Shawn Young   | Port Layola FC          | 5     |    |
| Facundo Garnier   | San Pedro Pirates FC    | 5     |    |
| Leston Garcia   | Wagiya SC               | 4     |    |
| Mario Chimal  | San Pedro Pirates FC    | 4     |    |
| Louis Valdez  | San Pedro Pirates FC    | 4     |    |
| Andir Chi   | San Pedro Pirates FC    | 4     |    |
| Leocadio Briceno  | Progreso FC             | 4     |    |
| Aidan Nunez   | Wagiya SC               | 4     |    |
| Nicolas Gomez   | Verdes FC               | 4     |    |

(\*Including the goals from P. Layola 2-1 Verdes game.)

# Weekend Warriors Cross Country 2023 winners



Photo Credit: William Ysaguirre

Class "A" podium, (l to r) 10th Vallan Symns, 8th Kent "Bob" Gabourel, 6th Dylan Levy, 4th Atlee Lozano, 2nd Kenroy "Smokes" Gladden, 1st Roque Matus, 3rd Henry "Henno" Moreira, 5th Gabriel Cardozo, 7th Barney Brown and 9th Kayden Pinelo

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

A week following the revered Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic on April 8, veteran riders across the spectrum, Classes "A", "B" and "C", hit the pavement in the 12th annual Weekend Warriors Cross Country on Sunday, April 16.

According to reporter William Ysaguirre who has covered many Weekend Warrior races, the minimum age for Weekend Warriors is 35 years, but categories are generally determined based on "experience and fitness to ride". As he explained, "Santino used to be in B category, but he fell to C after he fell off a horse and needed surgery for broken clavicle, etc. This was his first race since surgery." Respect, the Chief!

Cycle track sprinting star of the late 1970s, Carl Arnold, who was visiting from L.A., also took the ride in C class and came in with the lead bunch, but had to pull back to avoid a spill during the turn at the NAPA roundabout.

Category "A" and "B" riders started at Spanish Lookout cutoff on the George Price Highway and headed east to the Fabers Road roundabout, where they turned left into Chetumal Boulevard and then right at the junction with the Philip Goldson Highway, then east to the NAPA roundabout, turning back west towards the finish line in front of M&M Engineering, a distance of some 59 miles.

The "C" riders took off from the Puma Garbutt's Gas Station in Roaring Creek and headed east on a similar path towards the finish in front of M&M, for a total of 50 miles.

The Weekend Warriors ride for fun, for health, for the camaraderie, but inevitably when guys find themselves together on the road, it soon becomes competition, fierce riding competition, where the old veterans also test themselves against each other in their



Photo Credit: William Ysaguirre

Class "B" podium, (l to r) 6th Charles Garay, 4th Mark Tasher, 2nd Ryan Willoughby, 1st Fred Usher, Sr., 3rd Alberto Acosta, 5th Kenneth Butler and 7th Roydell Reneau



Photo Credit: William Ysaguirre

Class "C" podium, (l to r) 6th Sheldon Arnold, 4th Manuel Esquiliano, 2nd Santino "Chief" Castillo, 1st Eric Chee, 3rd Roger Bryant, 5th Gordon Tillett and 7th Carl Arnold

age categories, and sometimes challenge the younger ones too.

Below are the top finishers (podium) in each category (courtesy of William Ysaguirre.)

Category "A": 1st Place – Roque Matus (M&M Engineering, 2:47:44); 2nd Kenroy "Smokes" Gladden (Team SPD); 3rd Henry "Henno" Moreira (Team 501 Valvoline); 4th Atlee Lozano (Rolling Shattaz/BZ Boyz); 5th Gabriel Cardozo (Team Santino's); 6th Dylan Levy (Furnished Apartments Ltd.); 7th Barney Brown (Team DigiCell); 8th Kent "Bob" Gabourel (Team SPD); 9th Kayden Pinelo (Team CANO); and 10th Vallan Symns (Team SPD).

Category "B": 1st Place – Fred Usher, Sr. (Unattached); 2nd Ryan Willoughby (M&M Engineering); 3rd Alberto Acosta (Los Lagos Ladyville Stingers); 4th Mark Tasher (Team K-Crew); 5th Kenneth Butler (Unattached); 6th Charles Garay (Team BFSC El Pescador); and 7th Roydell Reneau (Unattached).

Category "C": 1st Place - Eric Chee (Team Santino's); 2nd Santino "Chief" Castillo (Team Santino's); 3rd Roger Bryant (Team 501 Valvoline); 4th Manual Esquiliano (Truckers Posse); 5th Gordon Tillett (Team PMA); 6th Sheldon Arnold (Team Big Blade); and 7th Carl Arnold (Unattached).



# BAA National Track & Field Championships 2023 results

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 19, 2023

The Belize Athletics Association (BAA) held its National Track & Field Championships 2023 over the past weekend, Saturday and Sunday, April 15-16, at the Marion Jones Sports Complex track where athletes from across the country competed for top national honors in their respective events. The times for the track events were all electronically recorded, but due to some technical difficulties, no times were recorded for the 1500m, 3K or 5K races.

Incidentally, the 1500m Male event featured recent CARIFTA double gold medalist Demetrie Myers who again ran away from the competition, this time separating himself early from defending national champion, Albert Davis, who had defeated Daniel Meyers, Demetrie's older brother, in that event at last year's National's.

Also in that 2022 National's, Davis had stayed with Demetrie for the length of the 5K race, then used his finishing kick to beat Demetrie to the tape. This year, Daniel was not in attendance at the meet due to an injury, and Demetrie was taking no chances in avenging his and his brother's defeat. Unfortunately, though maintaining a blistering pace that may likely have been a Belize 1500m record, Demetrie's victory had no time recorded.

Below are the Finals results.

## DAY 1 – Saturday, April 15

**Women Triple Jump** – 1st Ashantie Carr (11.40m); 2nd Isis Casimiro (9.87m); 3rd Thayesse Alvarez (9.73m).

**Men Triple Jump** – 1st Brandon Jones (15.31m); 2nd Joas Mejia

(14.07m); 3rd Kirk Elrington (13.23m).

**Women 100 Meter Dash** – 1st Hilary Gladden (12.62); 2nd Kendall Morgan (13.08); 3rd Tridean Martinez (13.94).

**Men 100 Meter Dash** – 1st Brandon Jones (11.13); 2nd Mark Anderson (11.17); 3rd Joas Mejia (11.35).

**Women 400 Meter Dash** – 1st Ashantie Carr (1:03.36); 2nd Jada Logan (1:13.29); 3rd Cher Lin Gamboa (1:22:34).

**Men 400 Meter Dash** – 1st Gary Neal (53.05); 2nd Mario Vivas (53.10); 3rd Ronaldo Fullwood (53.11).

**Men High Jump** – 1st Kerwin Palacio (1.86m); 2nd Kevin Jones (1.75m); 3rd Andre Arnold (NH).

**Women Shot Put** – 1st Gloria Serano (10.08m); 2nd Kendall Morgan



(l-r) Trivean Martinez 3rd, Kendall Morgan 1st and Dahlee Tyrell 2nd in 200m sprint



(l to r) Mark Anderson 2nd, Brandon Jones 1st and Joas Mejia 3rd in 100m sprint



(l to r) Demetrie Meyers 1st and Albert Davis 2nd in 1500m



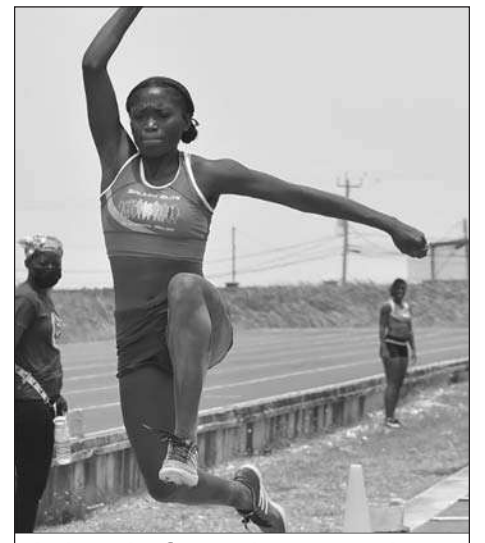
Byanka Castillo wins 1500m



Ashantie Carr 800m female champion



Mario Vivas 800m male champion



Ashantie Carr wins Long Jump & Triple Jump

(8.70m); 3rd Gina Tejada (7.99m).

**Men Shot Put** – 1st Juan Portillo (8.33m); 2nd Giovanni Baizar (7.57m); 3rd Christopher Broaster (7.39m).

## DAY 2 – Sunday, April 16

**Men 1500 Meters** – 1st Demetrie Meyers; 2nd Albert Davis; 3rd Christopher Broaster.

**Women 1500 Meters** – 1st Byanka Castillo. (Solo run)

**Women 200 Meter Dash** – 1st Kendall Morgan (27.24); 2nd Dahlee Tyrell (28.10); 3rd Tridean Martinez (28.76).

**Men 200 Meter Dash** – 1st Brandon Jones (21.81); 2nd Mark Anderson (22.35); 3rd Joas Mejia (22.70)

**Women Javelin Throw** – 1st Gloria Serano (26.65m); 2nd Kendall Morgan (25.97m); 3rd Thayesse Alvarez (12.34m).

**Women 800 Meter Dash** – 1st Ashantie Carr (2:39.62); 2nd Byanka Castillo (2:55.40); 3rd Jada Logan (3:31.41).

**Men 800 Meter Dash** – 1st Mario Vivas (2:05.20); 2nd Christopher Broaster (2:14.11); 3rd Devin Arzu (2:26.98).

**Women Long Jump** – 1st Ashantie Carr (5.13m); 2nd Thayesse Alvarez (4.53m); 3rd Jada Logan (4.52m).

**Men Javelin Throw** – 1st Martin Flowers (40.30m); 2nd Mario Vivas (33.75m); 3rd Christopher Broaster (26.91m).

**Men Long Jump** – 1st Joas Mejia (6.52m); 2nd Kirk Elrington (6.39m); 3rd Martin Flowers (5.94m).

## BEBL Week 11 preview

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possible seeding purposes.

The Tiger Sharks, though, have weathered the challenge of playing 6 of their first 8 games on the road, but have yet to lose at home. They will need to keep that unblemished home record if they are to make the playoffs.

The Hurricanes will be hosted by the Western Ballaz at their home court at the Sacred Heart auditorium, and it is not a game the home team can afford to lose. The last time these teams met at the Belize City Center the Ballaz, who claimed that they had been devastated by injuries, could only field 5 players, one of whom was so badly injured he could not run.

The game was called off after less than a quarter with the Canes leading 26-10. The break has been beneficial to the Ballaz who should be at full strength and must be looking forward to wiping away that debacle.



# Corozal man charged with murder granted \$50,000 bail

by Roy Davis (freelance reporter)

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023  
Gabriel Villafranco, 36, a resident of Corozal charged with the murder of Jerry Espot, 25, was offered a bail of \$50,000 today by Justice Ricardo Sandcroft who stipulated that he can meet bail with 1 to 4 sureties.

The bail was granted on the condition that Villafranco doesn't go back to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye; that he surrenders his passport and other travel documents to the court; that he reports to Corozal Police Station from Sunday to Sunday; that he participates in a curfew from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.; and that he does not make contact with anyone

involved with the case.

The incident occurred on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Cangrego Caye, located south of Ambergris Caye. Espot was shot and killed while he was fishing for conch. His body was found the following day with bullet wounds to his back. His brothers, Luis Enrique Santoya, 29, Ricardo Anthony Espot, 25, and Kirian Espot, 28, were also attacked by gunmen, but they managed to escape with minor injuries.

Villafranco was represented by Senior Counsel Simeon Sampson. Crown Counsel was Robert Lord.



Gabriel Villafranco

## Did love triangle turn double murder?

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a love triangle — has left the residents of the Vista del Mar area of Ladyville in shock and two families grieving. The accused murderer, Miguel Encalada, 39, apparently took the lives of his girlfriend of three years, Desiree Gonzalez, 50, and his brother, George Rochester, 25, inside his home.

According to initial reports, sometime after noon today, Encalada reportedly rode up on a bicycle to his home at the corner of Scissors Tail Street in Ladyville, where he and Gonzalez lived and where they also operated a restaurant and barber shop, and allegedly caught Gonzalez and Rochester together. He then reportedly entered the establishment and murdered both persons.

What he then proceeded to do is particularly macabre: it appears he then took a selfie while the two bodies lay on the bed behind him in Gonzalez's room. It was an image that went viral throughout social media, and, while no official police reports on the incident have yet been released, a number of persons are suggesting that the scene was staged — since Gonzalez was found nude while Rochester was semi-nude. It is thus believed that Rochester had been killed outside the establishment and then dragged inside.

While investigations into the incident are currently in the early stages, Senior Superintendent of Police, Reymundo Reyes, Deputy OC for the Eastern Division, told local reporters that both

deceased persons suffered what appeared to be head injuries, which may have led to their deaths. However, a post-mortem examination will be done to determine the actual cause of the two victims' deaths.

Reyes confirmed that Encalada was detained at the scene as a possible murder suspect.

While the families of the two victims are grieving, members of the community are puzzled about the circumstances which led to this tragedy, as Encalada and Gonzalez seemed happy during their time together.

Bernard Bennett, village chairman of Ladyville, spoke to reporters and compared this recent double-murder to the infamous triple murder of members of the Skeen family back in 2012.

"I still can't believe it up to now; I feel like I'm dreaming," he said. "All of us grew up together. We grew up going to primary school, and then to high school, and so it's unbelievable," he added.

While a motive for the double murder is yet to be established, Gonzalez's sister, Cindy Rowland, posted a social media comment in which she expressed her belief that her sister was murdered before dawn, and that Encalada retrieved Rochester from his home and then killed him outside the establishment. He then killed Gonzalez and positioned them together on her bed, thus creating the narrative of a love triangle.

Gonzalez leaves behind 6 children, while Rochester leaves behind a toddler.

## Former Police Constable offered \$30,000 Bail for gun and ammo offences

by Roy Davis (freelance reporter)

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Apr. 20, 2023

Dwayne Sutherland, 24, a construction worker of Ladyville, who was a constable, but was dismissed from the Police Force after he was remanded in prison on gun and ammunition charges, was offered a bail of \$30,000 today by Justice Ricardo Sandcroft.

Justice Sandcroft stipulated that Sutherland can meet bail if 6 people sign as sureties on his behalf.

The bail was granted on the condition that Sutherland report to Ladyville Police Station every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until the matter has concluded; that he surrender his passport and other travel document to the court; that a stop order be served on the office of the Immigration Department at every exit from Belize; that a curfew be implemented for him; and that he does not get charged with any other offence while on bail.

Sutherland was busted with a chrome color .38 revolver with one round of ammunition in its chamber that was in a blue school bag. The incident occurred about 12:30 p.m. on



Dwayne Sutherland, Jr.

Wednesday, April 5, near to Gwen's Restaurant on Coney Drive. The police reported that Sutherland was detained with the bag in his possession and when the bag was searched in his presence, it yielded the firearm and ammunition. When asked what he was doing with the revolver and live round of ammunition, Sutherland said that it was for his protection. He was unable to produce a license for the firearm, so he was charged with kept firearm and ammunition without a gun license.

Sutherland was represented in court by attorney Godwin Haylock.

## BDF bans soldiers from Eruptions...

Continued from Page 1

informed that with immediate effect Eruption Night Club is OUT OF BOUNDS to all ranks. Force Field and Force Orderly Officers are to conduct checks, especially on paydays. Anyone contravening this order will be dealt [with] accordingly. Offenders take note."

When *Amandala* reached out to Lieutenant Colonel Jermaine Burns, Acting Chief of Staff of the BDF, he said, "In the BDF, as in any other military across the region, the hemisphere, and the world for that matter, we are subjected to military law. This may not resonate well with civilians who do not understand the obligation to service, and following of orders, once a soldier commits to military service. An order was passed by the Commander Belize Defence Force, and by military law... we all must follow, and we support him fully as our Commander, especially

with this order!"

There are speculations that the prohibition was put into place in response to the recent death of Private Hector Cho, who was a victim of a hit and run last Thursday, April 13, between Miles 13 and 14 of on the same highway, and that he had been socializing at the club prior to the accident.

However, Lt. Col. Burns told *Amandala* that there had been discussions about the published order for some time and that the issuance of the order is not related to Private Cho's death.

"It had been long discussed/contemplated. Whether the death of Private Cho provoked it to be irrelevant. What is relevant is the safety and security of our human resources and by nature, the route to and from that establishment is dangerous in more ways than one, and so is the establishment," he declared.

## Senate passes three new bills

Continued from Page 3

primary reason for the issues, and pointed out that the FATA generally ranks NPOs as low risk.

"The trust is, that many within our (NGO) sector are in support of protecting Belize from those who would try to abuse our system... many of us have already committed to very strict regulations and personal liabilities under existing laws. So, let the record reflect clearly that the work of NGOs and

NPOs has been invaluable to Belize's sustainable development, and that our response to the new legislation is to make the new law as strong and as fair as it needs to (be to) safeguard those invaluable contributions. And if it is that the false premise that somehow the sector has been the one to land Belize in hot water, then Madam President, we will be the first to call for an inquiry into this matter," Senator Kay mentioned.

This law was read a third time and passed with amendments.



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