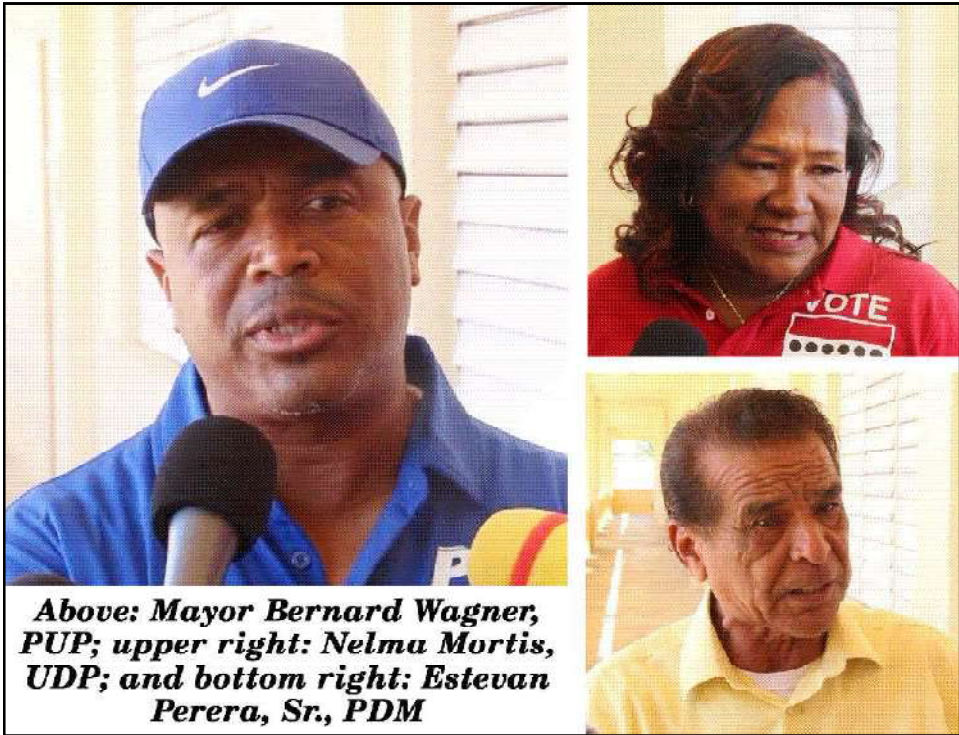


Nomination Day for March 6 Municipals



Above: Mayor Bernard Wagner, PUP; upper right: Nelma Mortis, UDP; and bottom right: Estevan Perera, Sr., PDM

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 21, 2024
Hundreds of Belizeans marched out today onto the streets of Belize City in support of their respective political party, as their municipal candidates were nominated.
The day began at 9:30 a.m., with the People's United Party's (PUP) parade,

comprised of both candidates and supporters, gathering in front of the PUP headquarters on Queen Street, before setting off to the nomination center — ITVET compound on Freetown Road.

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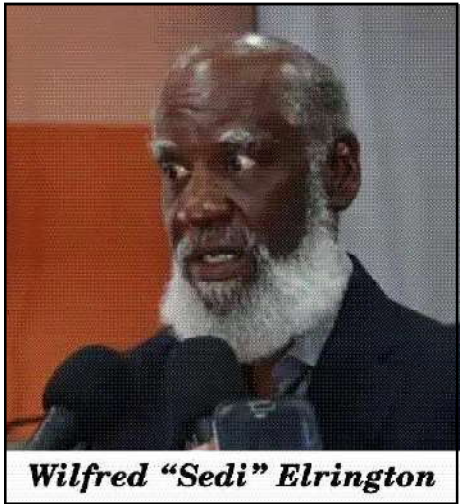
Woman charged in connection with Facebook scam

▶▶ See story on page 23



Ada Ethel Toro

Sedi loses Progresso Heights appeal at CCJ



Wilfred "Sedi" Eltrington

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 22, 202
The protracted legal battle between Senior Counsel Wilfred "Sedi" Eltrington

Please turn to ▶ Page 23

Double murder Cor. Curl Thompson and Mud Streets



Troy Hyde, deceased



Lamisha Moody, deceased

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024
A barrage of gunshots were fired in the Jane Usher area of Belize City on Wednesday night, February 21, and when the shooting ended one man was dead, and a minor girl, who was a bystander caught in the crossfire, was

gasping her last breaths
The victim's identities have been revealed to *Amandala* to be Troy Hyde, 36, and Lamisha Moody, 15, a student of Anglican Cathedral College, both residents of the area.
Initial reports indicate that at around

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FACB implements audit and moratorium



.223 caliber rifle

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024
The Firearms and Ammunition Control Board (FACB) has announced the initiation of an audit and the imposition of a moratorium on the processing of firearm licenses for .223

caliber rifles.
These measures are part of the newly appointed Board's ongoing efforts to uphold transparency, accountability, and public safety in the management of firearms and ammunition in Belize.

Please turn to ▶ Page 22

Jamie Usher and BHS lawyer-up!



Jamie Usher

by Charles Gladden

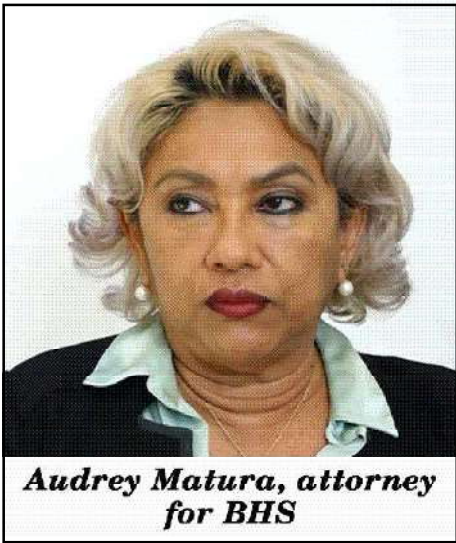
BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 21, 2024

It’s been a little over a week since the principal of Belize High School (BHS), Jamie Usher was terminated by the school board on Wednesday, February 14, after holding the position for 14 years.

Usher’s termination reportedly stems from an array of charges from staff members who had complained to the school board about her alleged abuse of authority and ill-treatment of them.

In the wake of Usher’s termination, she has received acclamations of sympathy and support from the United Women’s Group of the People’s United Party (PUP), of which her husband, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, is the current chairman and also a serving minister of government. A release from the UWG criticized BHS for the termination, which it described as a case of gender bias that sent “a chilling reminder of the challenges women face in leadership roles, especially within the educational sector.”

The most sensational aspect of the situation has turned out to be in the attorney that is now representing Jamie Usher in the case against her termination by BHS. Party colors have no bearing in this case, it appears, because Usher is being represented by former UDP leader/prime minister of Belize, attorney Dean Barrow, who has written to BHS stating that the termination is “in violation of the school’s grievance procedure and Usher’s natural justice rights.”



Audrey Matura, attorney for BHS

The case, with the gender bias issue being raised, is made more interesting because BHS is being represented by female attorney Audrey Matura, who reportedly has a child attending the school. Matura refutes both accusations against BHS.

Matura insists that, “It’s not a gender issue ... the school does not discriminate based on gender,” and she added that it is regrettable that that angle was taken “because the children are hearing that, and they know otherwise.”

During Usher’s tenure as principal, she was credited with leading BHS to success at multiple international robotics competitions, including the FIRST Global Challenge International Robotics Competition in Geneva, Switzerland in 2022.

While defending the position of BHS, attorney Matura acknowledged Usher’s achievements, saying that, “Whatever Miss Usher did as a leader, whatever passion she had, whatever work she did, that is the work she did. Nobody can take that away.”

Whatever the merits of the case, it would appear that the legal battle may be a mismatch between senior counsel Dean Barrow and the less experienced attorney Audrey Matura.

In a letter to BHS, Barrow asserted that Usher is entitled to a substantial damages award and is willing to go to court for it. He has given BHS seven days to submit a settlement proposal to avoid a lawsuit.

Boots, it’s not “oava”!

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 20, 2024

Just as things were looking bright for the former four-time Port Loyola Area Representative for the United Democratic Party (UDP), Anthony “Boots” Martinez, and his recall campaign against the People’s United Party’s (PUP) current Area Representative, Hon. Gilroy Usher, he is met with obstruction. He blames the Governor General for the delay.

As our *Amandala* readers can remember, back in July of last year, Martinez announced to the media, via a press conference, that over 900 constituents of the Port area had complained to him about the lack of work that Usher is doing, thus requesting his removal as Area Rep. In that initial press conference, Martinez lamented about the starter-homes project that the current administration is doing and used Usher’s own words against him: “‘At the rate of the delivery of house[s], he might only get two – majority two and a half.’ Well, it is 2 years 8 months now, you know, and ih only get one,” said Martinez.

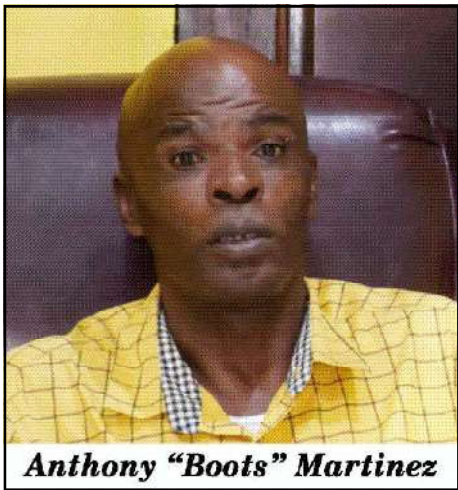
Additionally, he mentioned another example of Usher’s neglect, stating that a majority of constituents were deeply affected by Hurricane Lisa in 2022 and the people were unable to return to their homes due to the lack of assistance for repairs of roofs.

At that time, in July, Martinez held his head high, as he was confident that he would be able to gain the required signatures to trigger a recall, which would be 30% of the registered voters. In the case of Port Loyola, there are 4,629 registered voters, which would require an estimated 1,388 signatures.

Fast forward to January of this year; Martinez delivered on his promise and then some, reportedly getting over 1,700 of the voters’ signatures to the Governor General of Belize, Dame Froyla Tzalam in Belmopan.

Now, Martinez called for another meeting with the media, and he claims that there is stalling with the process coming from the Governor General’s end, and believes that the petitions were never delivered forthwith to the Chief Elections Officer. Martinez said that he called the Governor General’s office twice last week Friday, and there was no response concerning the petitions. On further enquiry, he did get a response from the Chief Elections Officer, who also referred the question to the GG.

“I don’t know why, what is causing the stalling. I don’t know if the Chief Elections Officer has gotten the petition. I don’t know what is the situation, but I know they give no answer, and at least you should get an answer from the head of the stream as the law allows for the time frame, so I don’t know. I don’t know where the bottleneck is, and it raises



Anthony “Boots” Martinez

concern, especially to the people of Port Loyola,” expressed Martinez. “As the law states, the Governor General received the petition and must forward the petition forthwith to the Chief Elections Officer; and the Chief Elections Officer [has] not more than a month to verify the signatures and get back a certificate to the Governor General [within] a month or so. So, the buck, in my view, stopped at the Governor General. The time [has] elapsed, in my view,” he continued.

Martinez further noted that 97% of the signatures obtained were witnessed by him, and said he wasn’t afraid, if needs be, to go to court, as the signatures are authentic.

“I was going from door-to-door, house-to-house, meeting people out at the market, going even to the villages as far as Esperanza for people who lived at Port Loyola and Cotton Tree, Teakettle and Camalote and Roaring Creek, 8 Miles and Hattieville, and La Democracia and Mahogany Heights. So, it was, the road was not hard,” he said.

“... I made sure that I never want [any] contamination of signatures. So, I never may leave form here, [and there]. That’s why I was looking forward to the “yea” or “nay” and the “nay” never bothered me because if there was a “nay” I am sure that we [would] challenge it in court, because I know 97 % of the signatures that was garnered, was garnered by myself. The people are willing to go to court, if so be it, to prove that it is their signatures, and I don’t have a difficulty,” Martinez continued.

Martinez announced to the media that his next move will be to take the matter to the courts, as he feels there has been a breach of constitutional authority.

“To me, there is a direct breach of constitutional authority both ways, whether with the Chief Elections Officer or the Governor General, because you talk about the livelihood of people. This is no laughing matter, and it’s no playing matter. This da serious business as mandated by law ... in my view, there’s a breach of the law, and we need answers to what happened. I don’t matter what day or what time the referendum will be held, because da “owt” he’s coming. So that doesn’t matter to me at all,” he said.

For the charge of cruelty to a child, which caused her death, they were both released on bails of \$10,000 each. Then in 2018, David was found dead in a room at Princess Hotel and Casino. His death was ruled a case of suicide; but before he died he had been given custody of Faye’s three siblings, all of them younger than her.

Anke is being represented by attorney Adolph Lucas, Sr.

The trial has been adjourned until Tuesday, February 27.

On trial for cruelty to a child, which caused her death

by Roy Davis (freelance writer)

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024

Anke Doehm, 53, an American national charged with cruelty to a child which led to the death of her adopted daughter, Faye Lin Cannon, 13, is on trial before Justice Derrick Sylvester. The case is being heard by a jury of 9.

So far, the Crown, represented by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Cheryl Lynn Vidal, has called several witnesses, among them police sergeant Allan Woods, the investigating officer; two crime scene technicians, Jiro Sosa and Jason Reneau; and Dr. Daniel Gonzalez,

who pronounced the child dead. The major evidence, however, came from Dr. Loyden Ken who performed the post mortem examination on the body of the child. Dr. Ken testified that he observed numerous injuries to the child’s body, and that there were signs of abuse; and the cause of death, in his opinion, was asphyxia.



Anke Doehm, charged

The incident occurred in July, 2017, at San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, where Doehm, her husband, David Doehm and the child resided. The police reported that they were called to the scene, and when they arrived they saw the child lying motionless on a bed, and there were bruises to her legs, the right side of

her head was swollen, and there was a cut wound to the right side of her head.

Anke allegedly told police that the child was mentally challenged and she would hit her head and body against the wall, and that she would stay in her room for days without eating anything. Both she and her husband told police that the child died from natural causes. But police arrested and charged them after a post mortem examination concluded that the child was abused and possibly beaten to death.

KREM Television to become X TV

by Katie Numi Usher

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024

KREM Television embarks on its 21st year with a total rebrand to honour its bak-a-di Zinc Fence, Kremandala roots. X TV, formerly known as KREM Television, will enter Belizean TV land on March 22, 2024.

This idea had been fermenting for some time. Mose Hyde, on his return in the latter part of 2023 to active involvement in the station’s operations, decided to go full steam ahead, not only renaming the station, but also planning to revamp the look of the station, studio and set, and adding new programming. These are some very exciting times, baka Zinc.

X speaks to many things: Evan X Hyde; the Roman numeral 10; excellence; and a nod to how our ancestors chose X to reject enslavers’ surnames, and to acknowledge their ancestors whom they were violently

ripped away from, and whose names were purposefully withheld.

Evan X Hyde, the man from whom so many Belizeans learned, and continue to know about our Blackness, our Indigenouness and Belizean history in general, reverberates throughout the station’s new name. X’s articles in the *Amandala*, most specifically the From The Publisher column, have single-handedly reversed much of the damage resulting from the erasure of Indigenous history in our schools. Whether that Indigeneity is from Africa, Asia, the Americas or beyond, chances are, you won’t learn about any of it within the Belizean school system.

The grassroots mindset is woven throughout all the media houses on the Kremandala compound: *Amandala*, Krem Radio and X TV - media houses, which, against all odds, have managed to stay true to this at a very high cost.

The name change was not only fitting, but inevitable: X TV

Cross Country season is near

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024

Cycling fans in the Jewel and the diaspora are catching fever as the highly anticipated Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic is closely approaching.

The race is a national tradition for many cycling and non-cycling fans throughout the country. Spectators line up alongside the George Price Highway, from Belize City to San Ignacio and cheer on their favorite riders on the journey of 140 miles from Belize City to San Ignacio Town and back.

Annually, over 100 cyclists from abroad and locally, the likes of Giovanni Lovell, Brandon Cattouse, Derrick Chavarria, and Bryon Pope, line up for the race. In an exclusive interview with *Amandala*, the reigning champion Oscar Quiroz, Jr. told us that he will be defending his title in this year’s race.

“Cross country never dies or never gets old, in my opinion ... once you believe in Cross Country, and once you live through this race, it never gets old. The want and the need to always win is there, and I feel this year ... as a part of my overall goals for this year ... I feel like this season for sure includes this particular race ... I think it’s a goal as long as I am competitively racing,” he said.

“... I feel like at this point, I’m very much in the position to bring the garland for a second time. I always believe that if you have the opportunity, and you’re in the right position, especially with the years I’m still in my prime, and I’m granted those years, I don’t see why I should not take advantage of the opportunity that I have at this time. Why not go for a second one? Why not go for a third one? The want is always there, [and] the passion is always there. I’ll always channel for this race, no matter what. For sure, a second one would be sweet, maybe not as sweet as the first one. But of course, it will be sweet to get a second one,” Quiroz added.

But before the highly anticipated Holy Saturday race which is set for



Oscar Quiroz, Jr.

March 30, there will be two other races leading up to the main event – the Junior Cross Country Race will be on March 17, and the Women’s Cross Country Race will be from San Ignacio to Belize City on March 24.

“All these races are built up to the annual Holy Saturday Cross Country, [and] of course we will have foreign riders in these. We had foreign riders express [interest]. What we do is review the names, and make sure that they are eligible to ride our event,” said Leticia Westby, General Secretary of the Belize Cycling Federation.

She further mentioned, “We are anticipating to have more international women in that competition [Women’s Cross Country]. As you know, Kaya is a pro-rider who rides on LA Sweat. She is sending around a flyer because her team is having a training camp here in Belize, and based on being here for that time, they asked to be riding. If you note, there wasn’t much competition for Kaya at that level, so we agreed with her that we would be inviting other women from the US and the surrounding areas.”

Westby said that as the date comes closer for the big race, riders will begin to submit their names to participate, she noted that for the Women’s event, teams from Mexico and the US are expected to participate.

The Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic was held for the first time in 1928, with Elston Kerr being the winner in that first year.



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Belize off the EU’s blacklist!

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 20, 2024

Today, the European Union (EU) has officially removed Belize from its list of “non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes,” also known as the EU Annex I list or the “blacklist.”

The news was met with praise and appreciation from Belizean government officials, including the Minister of State for Finance, Economic Development, and Investment, the Hon. Christopher Coye, who said, “I welcome the EU’s action today, as it not only demonstrates the EU’s recognition of Belize’s unshakeable commitment to the transparency of its tax and regulatory framework, as well as, in establishing an effective regime for the exchange of information on tax matters, but also corrects the false and unfair designation of Belize as a non-cooperative jurisdiction for tax purposes.”

Belize’s inclusion in the “blacklist” occurred on 17 October 2023 by the European Union’s Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN).

However, the EU provided an opportunity for Belize to remedy the situation, informing Belize that if the Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information (GF) received and approved a request from Belize to open a supplementary review of its compliance with the Exchange of Information on Request (EOIR) standard,



Belize would be removed from the Annex I list.

Following Belize’s request in December 2023 for a Supplementary Review based on substantial legislative amendments and administrative changes, on February 2, the GF approved the request.

The review is now set to commence in the first quarter of 2025.

Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño expressed his satisfaction with the outcome, attributing the success to the dedication and hard work of the Ministry of Finance and the Financial Services Commission.

“This is the culmination of the dedication and hard work of the team from the Ministry of Finance and the Financial Services Commission. My Government is proud of this tremendous achievement, and its reinforcement of the reputation of Belize as a place where firms and individuals of substance and good reputation can conduct and promote their business,” remarked Prime Minister Briceño, noting “Belize’s unwavering commitment to working with its global partners.”

Belize: “Israel should withdraw entirely from Palestinian Territory”

Nations from across the globe called for the end of the genocide against the Palestinian people; the US vetoed the UN Security Council resolution for an immediate ceasefire, AGAIN!

by Marco Lopez

BELMOPAN, Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024

Since Monday, nations from across the globe have jointly presented evidence about the legal consequences of Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territories to the International Court of Justice. The public hearing stems from a request from the United National General Assembly (UNGA) on December 30, 2023 – a majority of member states voted to seek the World Court’s advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the ongoing Israeli Occupation of Palestine.

The hearing will continue until next week Monday, by which time some 52 member states will have presented their evidence.

Belize’s submission

The delegation of Belize included H.E. Ambassador Assad Shoman, a roots Belizean of Palestinian descent; Professor Phillipa Webb; and Belize’s legal representative in our case against the Guatemalan claim also to be heard by the ICJ, Ben Juratowich. The submissions to the panel of judges were stirring, at times emotional, but precise.

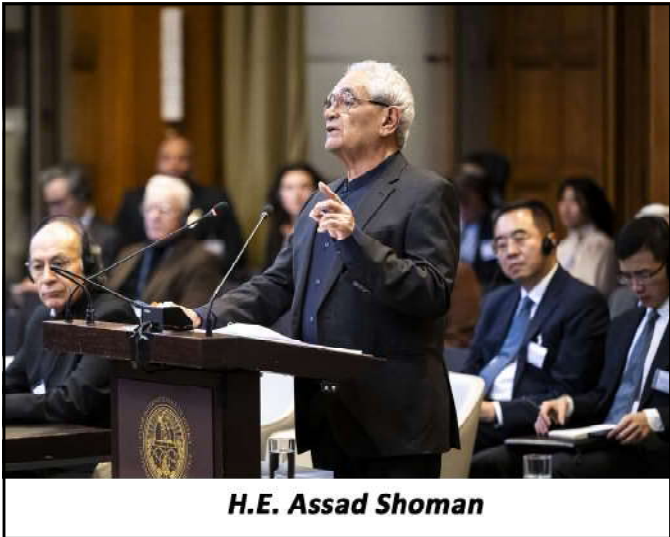
“The Palestinian people have an inalienable right to self-determination and complete independence, which has always been systematically denied to them,” Shoman said as he commenced his presentation.

His submission outlined that the occupation of Israel breaches the Palestinian people’s right to territorial integrity, denies their existence as a people, and systematically controls their freedom and independence.

“The consequence of this breach is that Israel must immediately, unconditionally, and totally, withdraw from all of the Palestinian territories,” Shoman said.

He suggested that Israel considers itself an exception.

“No state reserves to itself the right to systemically violate the rights of people to self-determination, except Israel. No state seeks to justify the indefinite occupation of another’s territory except Israel. No state commits annexation and Apartheid with impunity except Israel. But Israel must not be allowed such impunity; it must not be allowed to continue to inflict scars for generations to come on those who survive this holocaust. Israel must be made to behave like all civilized nations and stop violating international laws and UN resolutions. Respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Palestine must be free,” Shoman



said. Next to present on behalf of Belize was King’s College Professor, Phillipa Webb. She laid out clearly that the institutionalized racism against Palestinian people promulgated by Israeli laws and policies goes “hand in hand” with the practice of Apartheid.

Webb touched on the legal consequences resulting from the breach of the Prohibition of Apartheid resolution.

Apartheid is the strongest concentration of racist concepts put into action against a people – Webb argues that Israeli law not only creates privileges for those of Jewish identity, but equally implements discriminatory laws for Palestinians. The laws, facilitating the physical fragmentation of Palestinians as a group, largely benefit the Jewish settlers and relegate Palestinians to near unlivable conditions.

According to Webb, the Committee on the Elimination of

Was the accused Facebook scammer also a victim?

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024

A KREM News report this evening suggests there is more to the story titled, “Woman charged in connection with Facebook scam” appearing on page 1 of this issue of *Amandala*, than we have so far reported. “Progress brings problems,” and with the advancement in technology recently, criminally inventive minds are finding ingenious ways to trick the system. Investigations will hopefully get to the bottom of this affair and determine if, as the current accused woman is alleging, another person or persons may be the mastermind behind the scheme for which she is currently charged as the sole perpetrator.

Below is the text from the 5:15 p.m. report today on KREM News:

37-year-old Ada Ethel Toro has been in the news recently for allegedly being the person behind a fake Facebook profile purporting to be that

of Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Cordel Hyde. Toro is currently facing multiple charges of obtaining property by deception. However, she has since told 7News that she herself is a victim, and alleges that she was messaging that same fake account in order to get a piece of land as well as assistance in a program for single mothers. Toro claims that she was told to provide her banking information in order to receive financial assistance and was then asked, as a favor, to accept additional funds and to then transfer the money to students in the US.

She claims she provided the police with receipts of these transactions.

Today, Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams said that investigators would have enough reason to have charged Toro despite her claims of innocence. He also advised citizens to be wary of scams online.

US vetoes UN Security Council Resolution for the third time

On Tuesday, 13 members of the UN Security Council voted in favor of the Arab countries-led resolution tabled by Algeria demanding the immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, but it was vetoed by the United States of America. This is the third time that the US has voted against putting an end to the carnage which has claimed nearly 30,000 Palestinian lives according to official sources.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US Ambassador to the UN, delivered the “no” vote which saddened the world. She said her country was vetoing the resolution over concerns it would jeopardize talks between the US, Egypt, Israel, and Qatar currently ongoing to broker a release of hostages held by Hamas.

Claims that the veto was a US effort to cover for an imminent Israeli ground invasion into the City of Rafah were rejected by Greenfield.

Approximately 1.4 million displaced people are sheltering in that city.

Reports are that the US proposed a rival draft resolution calling for a temporary ceasefire and opposing the looming ground invasion of Rafah.

The Algerian-drafted resolution, which was vetoed by the US, meanwhile, called for an “immediate” humanitarian ceasefire. In January, the International Court of Justice delivered an interim order which obliges Israel to take measures to prevent acts of genocide in the territory. It also demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

ICJ public hearing continues.

The public hearing will continue until February 26, 2024, with a number of countries scheduled to make submissions with the ICJ. The panel of 15 judges will have six months to hand down their non-binding advisory opinion – which also asks them to consider the legal status of the occupation and its consequences.

Racial Discrimination (CERN) has expressed concern at the increasing hate speech in school curriculums and textbooks used in Israel.

“The committee on the rights of the child has pointed to the extensive militarization of the educational system, which is entrenched during compulsory military service,” Webb stated.

Webb, on behalf of Belize, submitted, “In light of the violations of self-determination and the prohibition of Apartheid, Belize requests the court to fulminate precisely what Israel and third states must do. Specific consequences facilitate accountability.”

She added, “Israel must dismantle the physical, legal, and policy regime of discrimination and oppression. Including freeing political prisoners, evacuation of Israeli settlers from Palestinian territories, permitting Palestinians to return to their country and property, and lift the siege and blockade on Gaza. These consequences, taken collectively, mean that Israel must immediately, unconditionally, and totally withdraw from the entire Palestinian territory... Israel must also make full reparations for the damage suffered as a result of its violations.”

King’s Counsel, Ben Juratowich continued the submission of Belize. As mentioned, Juratowich is also the attorney representing the country in the case against Guatemala at the ICJ. He outlined in his presentation that Guatemala, a known ally of Israel, has sided with that country. In his presentation, he touched on the issue of the Israeli occupation of Palestine territory.

This is of importance for the Belizean population, given the claim that hangs over the nation’s head from its Latin American neighbor.

He outlined that the heart of the question that needed to be addressed by the court was whether or not Israel should remain within Palestinian territory. He shared that efforts to initiate additional negotiations are being interpreted by Israel as leave to remain inside the occupied territory until this conflict is resolved.



For the DOE, guiding national development is not an easy task

Based on size, the development project at Angelfish Caye is insignificant, small compared to projects like the rejected Waterloo Cruise Terminal at Port of Belize Ltd., the still on the table cruise port project of Portico Enterprises Ltd. (Port of Magical Belize), and Port Coral at Stake Bank. The dredging at Angelfish Caye, in an area called Will Bauer Flats, originally called for the dredging of 44,000 cubic yards from the seabed, 4% of the 1.1 million cubic meters of material that Harvest Cay extracted, and less than 1.5% of the 2.9 million cubic meters that will be dredged from the seabed if Port Coral gets the go-ahead to create an access channel to link

Stake Bank with Grennels Channel, the principal artery into mainland Belize.

The primary concern with the proposed Angelfish Caye dredging is not the quantity of the material that will be extracted from the seabed, it's the location, a prime fishing area named after Will Bauer, an American, who came to Belize in 1982 and became one of the pioneers of our fly fishing industry.

The decisions of the Department of the Environment (DOE), which are guided by the recommendations of the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC), are influenced by the policies of the government of the day. This is no different from what exists all over the world. In the US, people who vote for the Republican Party know that if that party controls government, environmental restrictions on coal mining and petroleum extraction will be relaxed; and those who vote for the Democratic Party expect tougher environmental regulations and more investments in green energy.

The present government, following the blueprint in its 2020-2025 Manifesto, declared from Day One of its existence that it is "open for business." But, especially when it comes to our marine space, it's of little import what the vision of the party in power is; they will encounter strong

headwinds from the environmentalists. Belizeans are pro-environment. The UDP pushed for oil exploration in the sea, and was stopped stone cold. It didn't matter for the massive Waterloo cruise port proposal that the present government is "open for business" and the moving force behind it controlled 50% of commercial banking in the country; it got turned down.

The Angelfish Caye project, which is about ten and a half miles SE of Hopkins, got the go-ahead from the DOE, but the Ministry of Natural Resources, responding to a pushback from environmentalists/fishers, put it on pause.

In December 2022, Marco Lopez, in the *Amandala*, said NEAC "highlighted numerous issues with the overall quality and information gaps of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) report" submitted by Angelfish Caye, and the DOE then informed the developers that they would have to "improve and resubmit its EIA." In September 2023, Lopez said Lisa Carne, the Executive Director of Fragments of Hope (FoH), had written to the CEO of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Dr. Kenrick Williams, calling "for the rejection of the Angelfish Caye LLC development EIA."

Angelfish Caye, in its Environmental Impact Assessment report, says, "The existing coral systems are highly impacted from various forms of coral bleaching, and the coral formations are not located in the area of impact." But Ms. Carne, a marine biologist, stated that the area "has been a coral reef monitoring site used by FoH since 2017", that Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease which has plagued other areas of the Barrier Reef had not been detected in the area, that some endangered coral species and many others "still strive in the location where the eco-resort construction is being proposed."

Ms. Kristen Ku, in the *Amandala*, said Eworth Garbutt, a representative for Belize Flat Fishery Association, told reporters from Kremandala that the project wasn't just a threat to fly fishers. Garbutt said the project was endangering "a top-notch nursery [with] queen conch all over there, all different kinds of crustaceans." Wil Maheia, the leader of the Belize Territorial Volunteers, a heroic group that has maintained our presence in the Sarstoon in the face of belligerent Guatemalan soldiers who are guided by leadership that dishonor the 1859 treaty between our countries, told reporters that "fishing alone brings in over a hundred million dollars into this Belizean economy on an annual basis." Maheia, an environmentalist, said the people should be consulted before projects like these get the go-ahead.

But the people were invited to voice their support for, or concerns about the project; it's just that few turned up. Krem News said that Chief Environmental Officer, Anthony Mai said "there was poor turnout at the three consultations held." In Lopez's story in September last year, he said "the EIA annexes cite only 25 stakeholders as being consulted."

Despite the low turnout at the consultations, the project was scaled down. According to Krem News, Mai said that they ended up with "a reduced version of what was proposed precisely because of the sensitivity of the area." Ms. Ku reported that the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) granted "dredging of about 15,000 cubic yards of material to fill some of the low-lying areas", which amounts to a scaling down of the project by almost two-thirds.

Despite the scaling down of the project, there is still considerable resistance. Hon. Julius Espat, after personnel at his ministry had assessed the infrastructure that the previous government was handing over, noted that many were in a state of disrepair. Neglect of public infrastructure is standard with all our governments. We cut corners, and pay down the road. We also consistently fail in the monitoring of projects that have received environmental clearance from the DOE.

An alarm from concerned citizens awakened the Mining Unit in the Ministry of Natural Resources. In Ms. Ku's report, she said the Inspector of Mines, Michelle Alvarez said the notice for the commencement of dredging was too short to allow staff of the Fisheries Department and the Mining Department to mobilize and get on site. When they arrived on site at Angelfish Caye, the project was found to be in breach of two conditions of the ECP.

Assessing development projects is no easy task for the NEAC. In its deliberations, the NEAC looks at all aspects of a project - its environmental, sociological, and economic impacts. When reviewing EIAs, they depend on people who are impacted by the projects to turn up and make their concerns/support known, and to provide historical information.

You can't increase food production without clearing away some of the forest. But a project like this one isn't about increasing fish stock; in fact, it will have a negative impact on our fishery. The developers would argue that the project's negative impact will be minute. In his December 2022 report, Lopez said the developers, responding to questions about the project's impact on the integrity of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, said its size would be reduced by 0.0008%.

It's a tough job for the DOE. When first envisaged, the developers of the Angelfish Caye project said that it would create 6 permanent jobs, and "indirectly, numerous jobs will be created from the participation of the service sector, professional services, retail sector, etc." It's a small project, and the authorities did find that, if it was done right, it wouldn't be unduly harmful. From the *Amandala's* vantage point, it isn't a given that the project would have gotten the go-ahead if it had been thoroughly aired out during the consultations. It might still be viable if its main operations are confined to the mainland.



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Hart Tillet
20/02/2024

Highways and byways!

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

My 2 favorite roadways in Belize are the Northern Highway, it will always be the Northern Highway to me, and the Hummingbird Highway. One is totally flat, while the other has this undulating consistency; but to me, both have this beauty, and give me this very comforting feeling of pride in the naturalness of our Jewel, of how nature has given us so much to appreciate and love and treasure, and to be very protective of!


When I'm on the Northern Highway, especially early in the morning, or at dusk, I have never not fallen in love over and over with the scenery. Once I get past Ladyville, I start noticing and admiring the houses and farms all the way to Orange Walk Town. There are some beautiful properties all along the way, some simple, some expensive, and some in the middle. The one thing they all have in common, apart from their beauty, is how well kept they are. The gardens, the trees, all the foliage that surround them are perfect. And that smell of Mother Earth, the fruit trees, the woodsmoke, blend together perfectly to give one a sense of peace and harmony, in spite of the dogs barking at you as you slow down to take it all in.

The Hummingbird is less populated, but holds its own against any highway, anywhere. There's a sense of excitement and adventure as you drive through those hills and take in all that green and fertility of those hills and valleys and streams and farms that inhabit this otherworldly trail. It always makes me feel like I'm going into undiscovered territory, this mysterious highway that when I was younger, I was deathly afraid of, not being used to hills and mountains.

I was 17 years old the first time I really began to appreciate the beauty and the fullness of the Hummingbird. I was teaching in Silk Grass Village and was hitching a ride to the city when George Price and his driver Jimmy Loco (never knew his last name) picked me up. The Premier at the time, Mr. Price, was espousing the beauty of the highway; he pointed out landmarks, and even stopped to drink water from a hillside spring. I almost became a PUP after that trip, almost! What was dark and dangerous and forbidden to me became this beautiful garden with a blue hole and magic and wonder.

I've always wondered who lived in those houses on both those highways. If they had nice furniture and all the comforts a home requires. I would wonder what the people in those houses did for a living, and where were the schools and churches and theatres and parties. I don't wonder about those things anymore. I just know that they are lucky to live the way they choose, far from the maddening crowd, in peace and solitude, hopefully. As a person most comfortable with city living, it took me a long time to understand that way of life. Now, I envy it, and those lucky people that wake up to the sounds of nature.

Belize is such a beautiful country, a wonderful place to live, and yet we leave. I suppose it takes leaving to fully appreciate the beauty left behind, not only the physical beauty of the country,

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**FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE**

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) 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 the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.

SCHEDULE

Parcel No. 4349, Block No. 24, Society Hall Registration Section containing 39.426 Acres held under a Land Certificate No. LRS- 201708037 being the freehold interest of CHARLES USHER.

Parcel No. 690, Block No. 20, Mount Pleasant Registration Section containing 25 Acres held under a Land Certificate No. LRS- 201512386 being the freehold interest of BREANDON CLARENCE RAYMOND.

Parcel No. 9706, Block No. 20, Belmopan Registration Section containing 551.782 Square Meter (s) held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of JENNA KARINA M. BAIDE, ROBERTO ALVARO BAUTISTA & REGINA MARY BAIDE SURETY FOR JENNA KARINA M. BAIDE & ROBERTO ALVARO BAUTISTA.

DATED THIS 21ST DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024



Para el Departamento de Ambiente orientar el desarrollo nacional no es tarea fácil

Según el tamaño, el proyecto de desarrollo en Angelfish Caye es insignificante, pequeño en comparación con proyectos como la rechazada Terminal de Cruceros Waterloo en el Port of Belize Ltd., el proyecto del puerto de cruceros aún sobre la mesa de Portico Enterprises Ltd. (Port of Magical Belize), y Port Coral en Stake Bank. El dragado en Angelfish Caye, en un área llamada Will Bauer Flats, requería originalmente dragar 44.000 yardas cúbicas del fondo marino, el 4% de los 1,1 millones de metros cúbicos de material que extrajo Harvest Cay, y menos del 1,5% de los 2,9 millones de metros cúbicos que se dragarán del fondo marino si Port Coral consigue el visto bueno para crear un canal de acceso que conecte Stake Bank con el canal Grennels, la arteria principal hacia el territorio continental de Belize.

La principal preocupación con el dragado propuesto en Angelfish Caye no es la cantidad de material que se extraerá del fondo marino, sino la ubicación, una zona de pesca privilegiada que lleva el nombre de Will Bauer, un estadounidense que llegó a Belize en 1982 y se convirtió en uno de los pioneros de nuestra industria de la pesca con mosca.

Las decisiones del Departamento de Medio Ambiente (DOE en inglés), que se guían por las recomendaciones del Comité Nacional de Evaluación Ambiental (NEAC en inglés), están influenciadas por las políticas del gobierno de turno. Esto no es diferente de lo que existe en todo el mundo. En Estados Unidos, la gente que vota por el Partido Republicano sabe que si ese partido controla el gobierno, se relajarán las restricciones ambientales a la minería del carbón y la extracción de petróleo; y quienes votan por el Partido Demócrata esperan regulaciones ambientales más estrictas y más inversiones en energía verde.

El gobierno actual, siguiendo el plan de su Manifiesto 2020-2025, declaró desde el primer día de su existencia que está “abierto para los negocios”. Pero, especialmente cuando se trata de nuestro espacio marino, poco importa cuál sea la visión del partido en el poder; Se encontrarán con fuertes vientos en contra por parte de los ambientalistas. Los beliceños están a favor del medio ambiente. El UDP presionó por la exploración petrolera en el mar, pero fue frenado en seco. No importó para la propuesta masiva del puerto de cruceros de Waterloo que el actual gobierno esté “abierto para los negocios” y que la fuerza impulsora detrás del proyecto controle el 50% de la banca comercial en el país; fue rechazado.

El proyecto Angelfish Caye, que está a unas diez millas y media al SE de Hopkins, obtuvo el visto bueno del DOE, pero el Ministerio de Recursos Naturales, en respuesta a la oposición de ambientalistas y pescadores, lo puso en pausa.

En diciembre de 2022, Marco López, en *Amandala*, dijo que NEAC “destacó numerosos problemas con la calidad general y las lagunas de información del informe EIA (Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental)” presentado por Angelfish Caye, y el DOE luego informó a los desarrolladores que habrían de “mejorar y volver a presentar su EIA”. En septiembre de 2023, López dijo que Lisa Carne, directora ejecutiva de Fragments of Hope (FoH), había escrito al director ejecutivo del Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Dr. Kenrick Williams, pidiendo “el rechazo de la EIA de Angelfish Caye LLC. ”

Angelfish Caye, en su informe de Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental, dice: "Los sistemas de coral existentes se ven muy afectados por diversas formas de blanqueamiento de corales, y las formaciones de coral no están ubicadas en el área de impacto". Pero la Sra. Carne, bióloga marina, afirmó que el área “ha sido un sitio de monitoreo de arrecifes de coral utilizado por FoH desde 2017”, que la enfermedad de pérdida de tejido del coral pedregoso que ha afectado a otras áreas de la Barrera de Coral no se había detectado en el área, que algunas especies de coral en peligro de extinción y muchas otras “aún luchan en el lugar donde se propone la construcción del eco-resort”.

La Srta. Kristen Ku, en *Amandala*, dijo que Eworth Garbutt, representante de la Asociación de Belize de Pesca en los Llanos, dijo a los periodistas de Kremandala que el proyecto no era sólo una amenaza para los pescadores con mosca. Garbutt dijo que el proyecto estaba poniendo en peligro “un vivero de primer nivel [con] caracoles reina por todas partes, todo tipo de crustáceos diferentes”. Wil Maheia, líder de los Voluntarios Territoriales de Belize, un grupo heroico que ha mantenido nuestra presencia en el Sarstún frente a los beligerantes soldados guatemaltecos guiados por un liderazgo que deshonra el tratado de 1859 entre nuestros países, dijo a los periodistas que “la pesca por sí sola trae más de cien millones de dólares

a esta economía de Belize anualmente”. Maheia, un ambientalista, dijo que se debe consultar a la gente antes de que proyectos como estos obtengan luz verde.

Pero se invitó a la gente a expresar su apoyo o sus preocupaciones sobre el proyecto; es sólo que pocos aparecieron. Noticias Krem dijo que el director medioambiental, Anthony Mai, dijo que "hubo poca participación en las tres consultas realizadas". En su artículo de septiembre del año pasado, López dijo que “los anexos de la EIA citan que sólo 25 partes interesadas fueron consultadas”.

A pesar de la baja participación en las consultas, el proyecto fue reducido. Según Noticias Krem, Mai dijo que terminaron con “una versión reducida de lo que se propuso precisamente debido a la sensibilidad del área”. La Srta. Ku informó que el Plan de Cumplimiento Ambiental (ECP en inglés) aprobó “el dragado de aproximadamente 15,000 yardas cúbicas de material para llenar algunas de las áreas bajas”, lo que equivale a una reducción del proyecto en casi dos tercios.

A pesar de la reducción del proyecto, todavía existe una resistencia considerable. El Honorable Julius Epat, después de que el personal de su ministerio evaluara las infraestructuras que el gobierno anterior estaba entregando, constató que muchas estaban en mal estado. El descuido de la infraestructura pública es común en todos nuestros gobiernos. Tomamos atajos y pagamos más adelante. También fallamos constantemente en el seguimiento de proyectos que han recibido autorización ambiental del DOE.

Una alarma de ciudadanos preocupados despertó a la Unidad Minera del Ministerio de Recursos Naturales. En el informe de la Srta. Ku, dijo que la Inspectora de Minas, Michelle Álvarez, dijo que el aviso para el inicio del dragado era demasiado breve para permitir que el personal del Departamento de Pesca y del Departamento de Minería se movilizara y llegara al lugar. Cuando llegaron al lugar en Angelfish Caye, se descubrió que el proyecto incumplía dos condiciones del ECP.

Evaluar proyectos de desarrollo no es una tarea fácil para el NEAC. En sus deliberaciones, el NEAC analiza todos los aspectos de un proyecto: sus impactos ambientales, sociológicos y económicos. Al revisar las EIA, dependen de que las personas afectadas por los proyectos se presenten y den a conocer sus inquietudes/apoyo, y que proporcionen información histórica.

No se puede aumentar la producción de alimentos sin talar parte del bosque. Pero un proyecto como éste no se trata de aumentar las poblaciones de peces; de hecho, tendrá un impacto negativo en nuestra pesquería. Los desarrolladores argumentarían que el impacto negativo del proyecto será mínimo. En su informe de diciembre de 2022, López dijo que los desarrolladores, respondiendo a preguntas sobre el impacto del proyecto en la integridad del Sistema de Reserva de la Barrera de Coral de Belize, dijeron que su tamaño se reduciría en un 0,0008%.

Es un trabajo difícil para el DOE. Cuando se concibió por primera vez, los desarrolladores del proyecto Angelfish Caye dijeron que crearía 6 puestos de trabajo permanentes, e "indirectamente, se crearán numerosos puestos de trabajo a partir de la participación del sector de servicios, servicios profesionales, sector minorista, etc." Es un proyecto pequeño y las autoridades indicaron que, si se hacía bien, no sería excesivamente dañino. Desde el punto de vista de *Amandala*, no es seguro que el proyecto hubiera obtenido el visto bueno si se hubiera ventilado exhaustivamente durante las consultas. Todavía podría ser viable si sus operaciones principales se limitan al continente.

8th edition 2024

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, February 25, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon

Guest: Sista Nicole-Rachelle Moore/Writer,
Educator, and the Curator of the Caribbean
Collection at the British Library

Sunday Review will be repeated at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 25, 2024



Airline routes are the lifeblood of commercial air travel. Air travel is the preferred mode of transportation for long distances so there is no surprise that it accounts for nearly 60% of international inbound tourism globally. People like to fly because it’s quick and convenient; however, traveling to a destination that may require multiple stops in order to get there, can be inconvenient and act as a deterrent for travellers. Nevertheless, existing airline routes create connectivity between cities, countries, and regions. Connectivity allows for more investment and economic possibilities. Tourism destinations are always looking to add new routes that facilitate seamless connections for travellers. Belize is an emerging tourism destination that has yet to be really plugged into the main vein of global air travel. In order to attract more flights, the Philip Goldson International Airport (PGIA) needs to be expanded. Over the next few years, the airport will undergo a \$250 million expansion and modernization project as a part of a larger plan to boost tourism. There are already ongoing efforts towards establishing a connection to Europe and according to the Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, Hon. Anthony Mahler, “The prospects are promising”. But, what would a European flight mean for Belize?

Belize is an eco-conscious, sustainability-driven, and high-adventure destination. Europe is leading in the eco-conscious travel trend. In 2022, over 80 percent of travellers expressed concern for the environment. This trend is driven by concerns and preferences for nature-based experiences. Eco-tourists want to explore without damaging the environment and they prefer more authentic interactions within tourism communities. The tenets of the eco-conscious travel trend align with the environmental preservation and sustainable development principles that are at the core of Belize’s tourism industry. These beliefs do not limit us to one type of traveller or one region. In many ways, it is our luxurious eco-conscious, high value-experience package that builds our exclusivity and appeal. Our sustainable tourism is also an element of luxury tourism. The luxury travel market has also evolved over the years. With their purchasing power, luxury travellers are not just looking for expensive accommodations, gourmet meals, and first-class services. These days “luxury” also includes adventure and extreme experiences that create exceptional memories. In 2023, the global luxury travel market was estimated at USD 1.37 trillion. Luxury is about sustainability and the new Four Seasons Resort & Residences in Caye Chapel will reflect that Belize’s tourism offering is both.

The Four Seasons Hotel and Resorts elevate luxury and attract travellers seeking premium experiences. The brand is associated with unparalleled luxury and soon Belize will have one of its own. The new Four Season Resort & Residences in Caye Chapel is set to open in 2025. The company designs its resorts to blend with the natural surroundings. Its Environmental Social, and Governance (ESG) program focuses on preserving the beauty in the places that it operates. This is an investment connection that will expand and build Belize’s high value eco-luxury appeal.

What would a European flight mean for Belize? It would mean being plugged into a new region with boundless potential for attracting new travellers to the Jewel. Europeans are not unfamiliar with luxury and they are leading in the eco-conscious travel trend. Belize is an eco-conscious destination moving towards providing more luxurious experiences for visitors. It seems we have a lot in common; therefore, a European flight would mean a flight in the right direction. Can anyone say “bon voyage”?

Chat again later.

Jasmine Anderson
For the Belize Tourism Board



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE R.C. HIGH SCHOOL
VACANCY

A vacancy exists at Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. High School, Belmopan, for the following post for the school year 2023-2024:

- Teacher of Building Construction & Technical Drawing (Temporary for approximately 2 years)

Teaching position may include extracurricular responsibilities (supervising athletic programs, moderating student houses and clubs, mass preparation, etc.)

QUALIFICATIONS

- First Degree in the relevant field(s) preferred
- Associate Degree may be considered
- Ability to work and communicate effectively with students, staff and administration
- Knowledge, competence and expertise in using technology in teaching
- High motivation and commitment to teaching
- Must be in possession of a **valid Teacher’s license**

SALARY

Based on qualifications and in accordance with the Government payscale

The deadline for submission of applications is February 26th 2024. Application letters along with a current curriculum vitae, valid teacher’s license, original transcript, certified copies of degrees, certified copy of social security card, marriage/divorce certificate, a medical report, Covid 19 vaccination card, letter of release and two recent letters of reference should be sent to:

Email: hrc@ologh.edu.bz
Principal
Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. High School
P.O. Box 479
CITY OF BELMOPAN



Teaching Vacancies
Edward P. Yorke High School

- 2 English A and English B Full-Time
- 1 English A and English B Temporary (3 Months)

Minimum Qualifications:

- ❖ Associate Degree with specialization in the subject areas to be taught or a Trained Teacher’s Diploma with G.C.E/CAPE or C.X.C. passes in the respective subjects.
- ❖ A First Degree and or experience in the teaching of the specified subject(s) will be an asset.
- ❖ Candidates must be familiar with the CSEC syllabus in the related subject areas.

Requirements:

- ❖ Associate/ Bachelor’s Diploma
- ❖ Valid Teacher’s License.
- ❖ Recent Police Record
- ❖ Transcripts
- ❖ Cover Letter
- ❖ Resume
- ❖ 2 Recommendations

PAYSCALE:

In accordance with the Government pay scale.
All documents must reach the Chairperson, Board of Management, Edward P. Yorke High School, and P.O. Box 471 Belize City, Belize no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday March 11, 2024.
Email: epyorke@yahoo.com or secretary@epy.edu.bz

Mainly because L. Ashcroft and Sen. Herrera’s brother wanted to embarrass NEAC

by Colin Hyde

One core story behind this Senate Inquiry into that “Definitive Agreement” that Erwin (former Minister of Economic Development) signed for Portico, is that the Waterloo proposal of the Ashcroft group got the thumbs down from NEAC, and the proposal for the rival Portico that Erwin signed, was recommended by NEAC. We know the Ashcroft group threw vile accusations at NEAC, and was on their way to The Hague with their beef. Another core story is that the brother of Senator Herrera was the lead environmentalist for the Ashcroft group, and he was smarting after the project was condemned because of a proposal to dump some millions of cubic meters of silt between English Cay and Turneffe. Herrera, the environmental engineer, might have been a hero if he lived in Australia.

The agreement that Erwin signed just before the 2020 general elections, the present government picked it up after NEAC thought it could pass. If NEAC erred, it was not on its assessment that on the matter of the environment Portico was a far better project than Waterloo.

The Erwin agreement - of questionable legality, generous in concessions with an unrealistic exclusive zone - was dusted off by parties in the present government and sent to Cabinet. Apparently, somebody/bodies in Cabinet didn’t like the smell and broke Cabinet confidentiality, or the Cabinet room is bugged, or somebody’s tongue got loose over drinks and divulged what was meant for Cabinet only, for on *Channel 7 News* in the evening the matter

became headline fodder.

Neither the UDP nor the PUP wanted this Senate Inquiry, the UDP because a number of its top people were involved in the making of a deal that some top leaders said they had not approved. The dissenting UDP said it hadn’t completed its due diligence on the project that Erwin agreed to. The PUP didn’t want any airing out of them discussing the agreement because it exposed an over eagerness on the part of some of its people, particularly the leader.


We know the UDP had difficulty boxing off Ashcroft and his wild ambition to berth the world’s most massive cruise ships at the Port of Belize. And we know that certain parties in the UDP facilitated the acquisition of properties by the rival Portico, or persons connected to Portico. The first part of this Senate Inquiry wanted to find out how Portico very quickly ended up with the land that it needed for the project, and how Portico got a minister to sign on just before the 2020 election.

I don’t know anyone who would say it was unfair to ask questions about those matters. It was proper, fundamental that people-who-received-pay-from-the-public-purse answered the simple questions that were put to them about the land transactions when they were before the Senate Inquiry last Tuesday. Incredibly, the two public servants chose to look unmanly before the Belizean people, or worse, like guys who had some terribly dishonest deeds to hide.

The mud from the Inquiry splattered far beyond the two men and the lawyer who advised them to answer nothing they weren’t compelled to. Governance in Belize took another massive hit. What can people who defend our democracy say now to counter people who cynically say that our political leaders and the public servants who serve them are corrupt, after these men brazenly went before the nation and essentially “testified” to the validity of these charges?

The request by the Senate Inquiry for the GoB to get “their” definitive agreement out of the shredder, and piece it back together, I don’t see the big deal with the refusal on grounds that Cabinet is confidential, because it is. The point by Senator Peyrefitte, that if he were boss he would make Cabinet business a public show, that’s the talk of a man who loves being seen. Mr. Peyrefitte lives to talk, and he thinks he can out-talk everybody, and he probably could. All that would happen if Cabinet meetings were public fare is that Cabinet members would do more lobbying outside of Cabinet meetings, and the

Please turn to ➡ Page 20



ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL COLLEGE

NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA

(Formerly St. Hilda’s College for Girls and St. Michael’s College for Boys)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the permanent position of **Principal**.

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Support the development of and promote a compelling vision and exercise effective leadership for the Anglican Cathedral College (ACC) through intentional efforts that:

- Provide educational leadership especially in the areas of pedagogy, curriculum and assessment to achieve continuous improvement in student performance.
- Guide the relationship between the school and parents specifically; between the school and the church-community; in the larger community in support of student development.
- Accept ultimate responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school.
- Engage in other duties as stipulated in Education Rules and in the “Handbook of Policies and Procedures for School Services.”
- Serve as the Secretary to the Board and support the communication between the Board and the Ministry.

Qualifications & Requirements:

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- A minimum of seven (7) years in school leadership at secondary level.
- Knowledge of education rules and processes.
- Demonstrate strong ethical and moral values with high levels of integrity and respect.
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Salary

Salary will be in accordance with Government pay scales for teachers.

Application Package:

Recommendations:

One from the Principal or Chairperson of the Managing Authority of the institution where the applicant was most recently or is currently employed.

One from another authority in the field of education familiar with the applicant’s service record.

In addition to the above stated recommendations, each application package must include:

- (a) a properly formatted letter of application;
- (b) Resume
- (c) Copies of all diplomas or certificates which must be certified by a notary public or J.P.
- (d) Sealed transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- (e) Valid Full teaching License (Secondary)

All applications should be submitted by 4:00pm on March 4, 2024 to:

The Principal
Anglican Cathedral College
71 Regent Street
Belize City, Belize

Please note that application by e-mail will **NOT** be accepted



SACRED HEART COLLEGE

P.O. BOX 163, SAN IGNACIO, CAYO, BELIZE. PHONE: (501) 824 -2102;
824 -2758; FAX: 824 - 3759

The following vacancy exist at **Sacred Heart College**

One Temporary English teacher effective immediately up to February 29th, 2024

One Temporary English teacher April 1st – June 30th, 2024 (Long leave replacement)

Applicants must have a B.Sc. in the teaching subject area with a Diploma in Education, or B.Ed. in the teaching subject area. Experience in these areas will be an asset.

Remuneration is commensurate with MOE approved salary scales.

Successful applicants should have a valid Teacher’s License.

Application packages should include the following: a signed letter of application, a copy of a university diploma showing the highest earned degree, official university transcript(s), two named referees, copy of social security card, and a recent police record.

Completed application packages can be dropped off at the College, emailed to president@shc.edu.bz. Or mail to:

Secretary
Board of Governors
P.O. Box 163
San Ignacio Town
Cayo District

Deadline for Application: February 28th, 2024



HELPING HANDS
PRESCHOOL
VACANCY

Helping Hands Preschool, Mahogany Heights, Belize District invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the following post:

- **Head Teacher (Full Time)**

Qualifications/Professional Requirements:

- Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education preferred or High School Diploma Or First-Class Teachers Certificate
- Proficiency in subject of child’s development and Early Childhood theories and Practices.
- Adequate knowledge on principles and policies of safety and suitable activities for Children
- Compassionate with ability to adapt to stressful conditions
- Good understanding of child’s emotions and needs of their parents

Salary

Salary is according to Government pay scale

Deadline for applications is March 1st, 2024

Application package must include all required documents:

- Letter of application with curriculum vitae
- Valid teacher’s license
- Original transcripts
- Certified copy of social security card/degrees
- Marriage or divorced certificate
- Medical report and Police Record

Email: gsg_nhs@yahoo.com

Contact 631-6724 for more information on drop off option.

SAN PEDRO HIGH SCHOOL



Vacancies exists at San Pedro High School for the following full-time posts:

- Physical Education
- Life Skills/Religious Studies

Applicants must have excellent communication, interpersonal skills and be willing to work with students. Prior teaching experience would be an asset.

Applications should be submitted along with a Curriculum Vitae, 2 Recommendations, Medical Certificate, Valid Police Record, Copies of Certificates/Diploma, Transcript, and Teacher’s License (must).

Salary will be in accordance with Government’s pay scale, which is based on qualifications.

Applications must be addressed to:

Principal
P.O. Box 23
San Pedro High School
San Pedro Town A.C.

Deadline for Applications: March 5, 2024

PRESS PREDICTIONS
The sports psychic speaks



“Press” Predictions 29-15 & 98

Boledo stats thru 23rd Feb. to 1st March, 2024

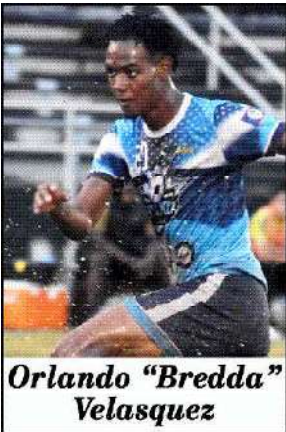
In Boledo news, there are only 16 numbers left to play since after 7 months and 3 days. They are 01-03-07-15-30-37-38-52-60-61-65-71-80-81-88 & 89. You all can form some beautiful Jackpot numbers. These are my lucky Boledo numbers for this week: 15-07-29-98-40 & 52. These are my lucky Pick-3 numbers: 734-521-962-830-131 & 929. These Pick-3 numbers are guaranteed big bucks. Get ready, Belize! A lot of mucho dinero will be coming our way. These are our lucky Jackpot numbers: 1788-5503-6876. Good luck to all buyers! Remember to read your Psalms: 72-63 & 92. Next week, more lucky numbers from “Press” Cadogan - the very best stats at all times!



Port Layola FC will be the team to beat in the playoffs, for sure

Local football results and predictions

In local football action, in PLB Week 6 games results, Altitude FC beat Police United in Benque, 2 goals to 1. Then Wagiya SC edged the Belmopan Bandits Sports, 3 goals to 2, in Dangriga. Veteran Harrison “Cafu” Roches got a hat trick (3 goals) for Wagiya. Verdes FC, still undefeated, crushed Progresso FC of Orange Walk, 4-1, in Cayo; but Brazilian Aloisio Teixeira’s 62nd minute goal ended their shutout streak. Woodrow West had 5 straight shutouts to start the new season, which is a record for the ages, says “Press” Cadogan. He is still the very best goalkeeper in the country after 19 years of experience since his debut in 2005 with New Site Erei. He won back-to-back at age 17. He has over a dozen championships by now for sure. He was the youngest Finals MVP ever in Belize. Anyway, Port Layola FC beat Benque United FC, 1-0. Orlando “Bredda” Velasquez scored a beautiful header in the 32nd minute of the game. Our defense played a very big game. Next week, more stats.



Orlando “Bredda” Velasquez



Belize City Defenders are the only team that can beat Belize Hurricanes

Local basketball results & predictions

In local BEBL results, the Benny’s Belize Hurricanes are the team to beat. They can go undefeated this season. They are (2-0) already, plus in a beautiful fashion. They are the most explosive team on the run, with some very exciting



by Gilroy “Press” Cadogan

dunks. They have some 6 American foreigners; 4 of them are Belizean Americans. Kirk “Shabba” Smith, Jr. and Nick Phillips alongside Jamell Harris, their point guard position is very solid. Glency “Coupe” Lopez, Victor Evans and Brandon Flowers are also in the lineup with Eyan Rene, who is AC Augustine’s son. The Hurricanes are very star-studded right now, under CEO Mr. Gilbert Gordon. They have the best fan base in all of basketball. The San Pedro Tiger Sharks blew out the Orange Walk Running Rebels by 14 points. Richard Laku was the main man with 18 points and 6 rebs. Next week, more stats.



Richard Laku

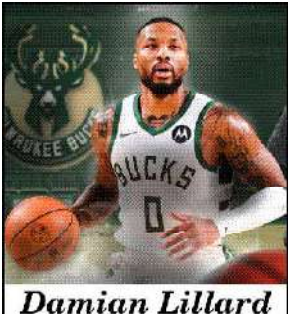


The LA Clippers will be the team to beat in the playoffs

NBA results & predictions & updates

The East All-Star Team won, 211 to 186. The East crushed the West. Damian Lillard was the MVP.

In NBA action, the Cleveland Cavaliers are rolling right now. They have won 15 of their last 18 games. Donovan Mitchell is their top player right now. The Boston Celtics still have the best record in the East at 44-13. The Philadelphia 76ers are struggling right now because Joel Embiid is hurt and will be out of the lineup until the playoffs. There are 2 surprise teams in the West - the OKC Thunder and the Minnesota Timberwolves; their Karl Anthony Towns is in the MVP talking. The Los Angeles Clippers have won 25 of their last 30 games since James Harden has the ball in his hands at the point guard position. They have the deepest bench because Russell Westbrook decided to come off the bench. Kawhi Leonard and Paul George want an NBA championship for Russell and Harden. Next week, more stats.



Damian Lillard

UNDP to aid poverty assessment and reduction efforts

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 20, 2024

Belize is stepping up its fight against poverty through a partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB), and the Ministry of Economic Development.

The collaboration aims to improve the country’s ability to assess and address poverty, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The agreement, signed on February 19, commits to the development and implementation of an annual Monetary Poverty Measure (MPM) and further enhancement of the national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) statistics program.

This support will enable Belize to better evaluate poverty and make informed policy decisions to combat it effectively.

Historically, Belize conducted poverty

censuses every ten years. However, under the current administration’s #PlanBelize Medium-Term Development Strategy 2022-2026, poverty reduction has become a top priority.

Conducting poverty assessments annually will, therefore, provide the necessary data to identify and address economic and health issues underlying high poverty rates.

“We want to know exactly where the population that is considered poor live, and where they are, and what is their deprivation. So, you see access to water, health, living conditions, unemployment, whatever it is, we want to know,” stated Dr. Osmond Martinez, CEO of the Ministry of Economic Development.

The partnership focuses on several key areas to achieve its objectives:

1. Participation in the SIB’s annual Data Users Forum to discuss data needs and challenges related to poverty measurement and analysis;

2. Capacity-building sessions among key ministries to effectively use data for policy development;

3. Developing an expanded income module for the SIB’s Labour

Force Survey (LFS) to enhance poverty measurement methodologies;

4. Producing a final report describing the design of the MPM and an in-depth analysis of the results obtained;

5. Analyzing the LFS and its contribution to measuring poverty.

The collaboration with UNDP adds Belize to the list of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean implementing a national MPI, allowing Belize to track poverty annually, providing a more comprehensive understanding of poverty beyond monetary terms.




“Through this cooperation, we try to advance the use of the multidimensional poverty index, which Belize is taking on board, to really look at the broader nature of assets and capacities that can be built to reduce the social vulnerability of the poorest of the poor across Belize,” shared Kishan Khoday, the UNDP Representative in Belize.

“We started late last year with the capacity building, with the support of the development and the expansion of our labor force survey questionnaire. We’re actually piloting that expanded questionnaire this week, so the support has already started,” added Diana Castillo Trejo, Director General of the Statistical Institute of Belize.

The funds allocated for this partnership totaled 130,000 Belize dollars, which is expected to yield positive results, contributing to Belize’s efforts to eradicate poverty by 2030.



(l-r) Dr. Osmond Martinez, CEO of the Ministry of Economic Development and Kishan Khoday, the UNDP Representative in Belize, signing agreement



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Administrative Assistant

Business Plan Expert

Project Officer

Project Coordinator

Institutional:

Country:

Project:

Sector:

Abstract:

Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment

Belize

Sustainable and Inclusive Belize Program (SAIB)

Agriculture and Tourism

The project’s implementation includes the procurement of several contracts that falls in the following categories: goods, consulting (individual & firms) and non-consulting services for environmentally sustainable and climate resilient farming systems, sustainable and inclusive agri-food markets and sustainable and inclusive tourism.

Loan No:

Process ID:

Deadline:

5583/OC-BL

BL-L1041-P00015

Friday March 8, 2024; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize (the “Borrower”) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) (the “Bank”) toward the cost of Sustainable and Inclusive Belize Program. The Central Executing Unit to the Ministry of Economic Development, an executing agency of the Borrower, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to perform the consulting services (hereinafter called “Services”): Consultancy Services for the Administrative Assistant, Business Plan Expert, Project Officer, Project Coordinator.

Objective and Scope of Services:

These officers will support the Belize Tourism Board in implementing the Sustainable and Inclusive Belize project by providing technical assistance and guidance on all matters related to tourism business plan development, ensuring a smooth and successful implementation of the project.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment now invites eligible 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.

1. An individual consultant will be selected under procedures, in accordance with the Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting Services financed by the IDB (GN-2350-15) which can be found at the following website: www.iadb.org/procurement.

2. Interested eligible consultants may obtain a complete set of documents and further information at the email address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

3. The application form (including copy of degree & reference letters) must be combined as One (1) PDF file and submitted by 10:00 am March 8, 2024, in electronic format to the email address given below.


Karon Hamilton

Procurement Specialist Assistant

Central Executing Unit

Tel: 501-822-4106

khamilton.ceu@med.gov.bz



AMANDALA

Belizean

to the bone

#3304 Amandala Drive

(formerly Partridge St.),

Phone: 501-280-4703

amandalapress@yahoo.com

URGENT NOTICE

The Department of Human Services is hereby asking for the following person to report to the nearest Humam Services Department or at 40 Regent Street Belize City

Josela Panting
Last Known Address Georgeville, Cayo

Francisco Morales
Last Known Address Georgeville, Cayo

Endi Perez
Last known address Santa Elena, Cayo

Jose Usher
Last known address San Pedro

Yolanda Brown
Last known address San Pedro

Mysti Smith
Last known address St. Martin’s Area, Belize City

Selene Depaz
Last known address Corozal District

Lloyd Brakeman
Last known address Belize District

Jamelia Arnold
Last known address Caye Caulker

Coral Lobos
Last known address San Pedro or Caye Caulker



VACANCY:JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the Operations Department. In the Port’s continued effort to promote diversity both males/females are encouraged to apply for the available post.

Temporary Operator (Towhead)

Reports to: Assistant Operations Supervisor

Summary of Responsibilities: The primary duties of the Operator (Towhead) are to safely operate and maneuver towhead truck and chassis around the container yard and pier, safely transporting containers (20’, 40’ 45’) and flat racks with out-of-gauge (OOG) cargo.

Job Responsibilities

He/she is responsible for to safely drive within the facility and abiding by PBL speed limits and safety measures put in place. In-house training will be provided.

- Check, fuel and service Towheads before commencement of vessel.
- Prompt reporting of all faults to the Operations Manager in order for him to put in a work order to the Mechanical Department for repairs.
- Daily equipment inspection per Checklist, servicing and all preventative maintenance of the equipment as assigned
- Maintain and update the Container Stacker Logbook with all required relevant information including engine hours/ mileage, repairs and maintenance.
- Position and fuel equipment (both stacker and towheads) at allocated time as coordinated with Technical Dept.
- Operate towheads to facilitate loading and unloading of container/ bulk vessels from Pierhead to yard and vice versa.
- Assist with stripping of containers at the warehouse as required
- Report all accidents and damage incidents immediately to the Operations Supervisor on Duty. Take pictures of the accident scene in order to assist with the investigation.
- Actively multi-skill in order to have ability to operate other PBL equipment including vehicles, towheads, forklifts and ultimately stackers.
- **Wear proper PPE at all times and report any safety non-compliance issues to the Operations Foreman.**
- At the end of operations ensure the towheads are parked in its designated area as assigned.
- Any other duties of a related nature assigned from time to time.

Job Qualifications/Requirements:

- High School Diploma
- Minimum five (5) years’ experience working as a heavy equipment Operator
- Experience operating container handling equipment such as forklift, container stackers and/or Crane Operator certification would be an asset
- A valid class E (All) driver’s license
- Age 25-40

Skills/Competencies:

- Able to work as a team
- Ethical
- Ability to work independently
- Able to work flexible hours
- Proactive in identifying operational improvements and addressing operational emergencies
- Computer literate

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, vaccination card, name and phone number of two (2) previous employers.

Applications should be emailed to: jobapplication@portofbelize.com
Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, March 1st, 2024

Vacancy

Vacancies exist at a reputable organization in Belize District for the following posts:

Mechanics

Construction Supervisor

Minimum Job Requirements:

- Degrees & certification in related field will be an asset
- Must have two (2) professional references
- Ability to work as a team-following instructions and directions of management
- 2 years or more working experience in specific field

Interested individuals can contact
Email: mariohaj1@yahoo.com
Cell: 610-2419

Fatal accident at Santander

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Feb. 20, 2024

A workplace accident that occurred in the fields of Santander Sugar Group has claimed the life of Anastacio Vasquez, 53, of Belmopan.

Initial reports indicate that Vasquez was with several coworkers at his place of employment replacing a tire on a steel cage which measured 14 feet by 14 feet, and when Vasquez had gone for a tool and walked beside the cage, it began to lean. Regrettably, Vasquez was unable to move out of the way in time, and the steel cage crushed him, killing him instantly in the process. He was transported to the Western Regional Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

“We’re all left in awe as to how could this could have happened?” said Beverly Burke, Public Relations Officer for Santander. “This is almost a routine thing with the harvest in full swing. There’re constant tire repairs and minor repairs



Anastacio Vasquez, deceased

out in the fields because it’s a 24/7 operation. Completely shocked and devastated is what we are faced with here at Santander, and it’s tough,” she said.

“... His son worked with us for [some] years. Two of his daughters worked with us. So, when I say that, the devastation of his passing is hard hit and deeply felt,” Burke added.

Burke mentioned that the company is pushing its safety measures while ensuring mechanical pieces of equipment are fully functioning, but echoed that it was a daily routine for the workers as tires don’t last long in the fields.

“One thing that we simply cannot prevent is tires going out on you. We’re in the fields, the roads are deteriorating in certain areas [and] it’s tough. I mean, the sporadic rains create some holes and some unevenness that goes along with it, (and) we tend to go through tires a lot, so creating an environment where you can quickly repair and carry on. That’s the system that they have here. So, I don’t feel that it had anything to do with malfunctioning of equipment or anything of that nature. They were changing a tire and, unfortunately, it

slipped off the jack,” she outlined.

Vasquez was described by Burke as a worker that the other employees look forward to working with, as he is one of the mature staff members and someone who is family-oriented. Burke added that Santander is assisting the surviving members of the Vasquez family to ease the burden on them.

Vasquez was employed with Santander for over eight years as a mechanic and a welder.

PRESS PREDICTIONS

The sports psychic speaks

Continued from Page 12

CYCLING



Team Valvoline 501 have a new cycling coach in “Palas” Joseph

The 95th Holy Saturday Cross Country updates

In cycling news, the 95th Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic is just some 28 days away. Team Valvoline 501 has a new coach in Mr. Fitzgerald “Palas” Joseph a.k.a. “The Black Rocket”. Oscar Quiroz is the defending champion on this team; but Derek Chavarria, Justin Williams – the 2-time champion, and his younger brother, Cory want to prove something this year; plus, they are bringing along an American foreigner. John Delong is the KREM 2-time champion; he is the only foreigner to have those stats right now. He wants a Cross Country win at age 44, plus he is bringing an American to help him. There will be at least 3 Guatemalans and 3 Mexicans; they can be very dangerous. This Cross Country will be very fast and furious, with Giovanni Lovell, Jyven Gonzales, Carlton “Bubblehead” Robinson alongside Eric Trapp Heusner and Henry Lee from Orange Walk - he was 6th last year. Next week, more stats and predications.



Derek Chavarria



Press Release
20th February, 2024

Digi Expands Coverage in Southern Region
with the Installation of New Mobile Sites

Digi, Our National Telecom, reaffirms its dedication to enhancing its mobile network infrastructure, thereby delivering improved connectivity and an enhanced user experience for its valued customers. Digi proudly announces the successful erection of two new mobile sites, located in Trio Village and Medina Bank Village in the Toledo District.

In response to the escalating demand for seamless connectivity and reliable network services, Digi acknowledges the primary importance of continual investment in its mobile network infrastructure. The deployment of these two strategically positioned mobile sites emphasizes the company's unwavering commitment to delivering superior service to its valued customers in the Southern region of Belize.

Trio Village and Medina Bank Village mobile sites are strategically chosen to optimize coverage and network performance in the area. The introduction of these new facilities will substantially boost network capacity, enabling Digi customers in the Southern part of the country to benefit from enhanced data speeds, improved call quality, and a more stable network connection.

As Digi remains steadfast in its pursuit of customer satisfaction and technological advancement, these new cell sites represent a significant step forward in fulfilling our promise of delivering unparalleled connectivity experiences to our customers across Belize.

#OurNationalTelecom #ConnectivityMatters



Read our advertisement in



#3304 AMANDALA Drive,
Belize City.
Telephones:501-280-4703

Visit us at 

www.amandala.com.bz

NOTICE

BELIZE CITY

Estate of ANTONIA ALAMILLA MUNOZ, 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 **ANTONIA ALAMILLA MUNOZ**, late of No. 1060 Peninsula Drive, Slidell, Louisiana, 70460, U.S.A are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administrator of the said estate, **TODD ROBERT HYMEL**, c/o Courtenay Coye LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, 15 A Street, Belize City, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 7th day of May 2024, AND 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 Antonia Alamilla Munoz, 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 7th day of February, 2024.

Courtenay Coye LLP

Attorneys-at-Law

NOTICE

BELIZE CITY

Estate of MARIE ALAMILLA ROSS, 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 **MARIE ALAMILLA ROSS**, late of No. 5875 Rhodes Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70131, U.S.A are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Administrator of the said estate, **GEORGE EDWARD ALAMILLA**, c/o Courtenay Coye LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, 15 A Street, Belize City, Belize, and to send such particulars not later than the 7th day of May 2024, AND 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 Marie Alamilla Ross, 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 7th day of February, 2024.

Courtenay Coye LLP

Attorneys-at-Law

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES

Pursuant to The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited Operations) Vesting Act, 2021 and The Belize Bank Limited Undertaking (Belize Bank Corporation Limited Operations) Vesting Act (Appointed Day) Order, 2021, **THE BELIZE BANK LIMITED**, a company duly formed and incorporated under the Laws of Belize with registered office situate at The Belize Bank Limited, Suite 201, Belize Bank Center, Coney Drive, Belize City Belize (the “Bank”) acquired the undertaking of Belize Bank Corporation Limited (formerly Scotiabank (Belize) Ltd.).

The Bank thus hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale under A Deed of Conveyance between Scotia Bank (Belize) of the one part and Nemesio Miguel Rivera (hereinafter called “the Mortgagor”) of the second part which was filed at the Land Titles Unit in Belmopan City in Deeds Book Volume 18 of 2008 at Folio 13-22. The Bank will at the expiration of two months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property of the Mortgagors described in the SCHEDULES hereto.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to the Bank or to the undersigned from either of whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE

REFERRED TO

All that piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 20 situated in Bullet Tree Falls, Cayo District containing 557.584 square meters as shown on survey entry 10386 registration No. 4 at the office of the commissioner of lands and survey. Together with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon.

Dated the 19th February, 2024


The Belize Bank Limited

Suite 201

Belize Bank Center

Coney Drive,

Belize City



SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN)

Country	Belize
Project Name	Belize Compact Development Program
Procurement Title	Grid Code Advisor for Grid Modernization Work
Procurement Ref. Number	CDT-BEL-24-4000-04
Type of Procurement (goods, works or services as applicable)	Consulting Services (Individual Consultants)
Employer	Compact Development Team - Belize
Publication Date	February 14, 2024
Submission Deadline	5.00 pm Belize Time (GMT-6) on March 5, 2024

1. The United States of America, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and the Government of Belize (The Government) or (GoB), have signed a Compact Development Funding (CDF) Agreement to help facilitate in the development and implementation of an MCC Compact with Belize (The Agreement) in the amount of US\$10 million (MCC Funding).

2. As a first step in the development of a compact with the Government of Belize, MCC conducted a constraints analysis in early 2022. Of the five identified constraints, the Government of Belize selected the low quality of education and the high cost of electricity constraints for further development. MCC and the Government of Belize’s Compact Development Team have conducted an analysis to explore the root causes of these constraints and are developing a Program to address these constraints. The Government, acting through the Compact Development Team (CDT) of the Ministry of Economic Development, is hereby issuing a Request for Proposals, following the General Procurement Notice published on May 1, 2023, in DgMarket and UNDB, among other sites.

3. Compact Development Team - Belize now invites Applications from eligible Individual Consultants to provide consulting services as Grid Code Advisor for Grid Modernization Work

4. More details on the qualifications required are provided in the Terms of Reference of the Request for Application (RFA).

5. Location: The assignment is expected to be conducted in Belize and at the Consultant’s own facilities, as necessary.

6. Anticipated Start Date: April 2024

7. Individual Consultants will be selected under the Individual Consultants Selection (ICS) method under the procedures set out in the MCC Program Procurement Guidelines which are provided on the MCC website (www.mcc.gov/ppg). The selection process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, before the contract award.

8. The Fees shall be competitive market rates as determined by a price reasonableness analysis.

9. Consultants interested in receiving the RFA can submit their details using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/cndxqLcPvY?origin=lprLink>. Please fill in the form to get access to the solicitation documents. If you have any questions, please contact Rusudan Gobejishvili at rusudan.gobejishvili@crownagents.co.uk with a copy to Artemio Osorio aosorio.BCDT@med.gov.bz until February 26, 2024.

10. The deadline for submission of Applications is 5.00 pm Belize Time (GMT-6), on March 5, 2024.

11. Contact Information:

Attn:	Rusudan Gobejishvili - Interim Procurement Agent
E-mail:	rusudan.gobejishvili@crownagents.co.uk with a copy to aosorio.BCDT@med.gov.bz



Request for Bids (RFB)
Belize

Solid Waste Management Project II, Loan
number 3684/OC-BL

Landfill Cell Expansion at Mile 24 Regional Sanitary
Landfill, RFB Number 02-2023/2024

1. This RFB follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in *Development Business*, Issue No. *IDB-1744 – 12/16*.
2. The Government of Belize has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of Solid Waste Management Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for Landfill Cell Expansion at Mile 24 Regional Sanitary Landfill.
3. The Government of Belize acting through the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Landfill Cell Expansion at the Mile 24 Regional Sanitary Landfill. The delivery/construction period is 10 months.
4. The RFB will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's *Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15 approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank on 2nd of July 2019 and effective 1st of January 2020*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, Mrs. Terese Arzu, Procurement Officer, email ArzuTL@gobmail.gov.bz
6. Qualifications requirements include average annual billing of construction work over the last 10 years as per requirement in the bidding document, experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least 4 works of a nature and complexity (2 for earth movement and 2 for lining) equivalent to the Works over the last 10 years. A margin of preference for national contractors/JVCAs shall not be applied.
7. A complete set of the bidding document in English language will be made available electronically to interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 am local time on **March 25, 2024**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at 10:15 am local time on **March 25, 2024**.
9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, as appropriate and if required of BZ\$ 100,000.00 or US\$ 50,000.00.
10. The address referred to above is:

Belize Solid Waste Management Authority
Attn: Mrs. Terese Arzu, Procurement Officer
3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
Tel: (501) 802 1527
PO Box 285
E-mail: ArzuTL@gobmail.gov.bz

Belize Diabetes Association

Corner Mahogany Street & Central American Blvd.
P.O. Box 2054
Belize City
Telephone: 203-3333/670-9239
e-mail: bdabelize@hotmail.com



PRESS RELEASE from the Belize Diabetes Association:



The Belize Diabetes Association is pleased to announce that Ms. Sharon Fraser, Legal Advisor of the Belize Diabetes Association (BDA), was elected as the Vice President of Strategic Governance at the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) on January 31st, 2024 at their General Assembly Session. Ms. Fraser's appointment is an accomplishment not only for Belize, but also for our region as Ms. Fraser joins other board members from around the world.

IDF has over 240 members in 160 countries and is organized into seven regional groups - Africa, Europe, Middle East and North Africa, North America and Caribbean, South and Central America, South-East Asia and the Western Pacific, which allow IDF Members within a geographical region to engage in collaborative action to improve the lives of people with diabetes.

IDF and BDA's shared goals are to prevent and improve diabetes outcomes and support people living with diabetes. IDF's member associations include people with diabetes or at risk, healthcare providers, educators, research institutions, and the wider community.

BDA was established in 1991 by a group of professionals, primarily doctors. Our main focus is to educate and advise persons living with diabetes in the proper management and control of their diabetes, to provide quality, updated, and relevant information on the diabetes to persons affected and afflicted with the condition, to advocate on behalf of persons living with diabetes with medical facilities and or the Government of Belize, and to provide diabetes supplies at an economical cost to persons living with diabetes. The Belize Diabetes Association wish Ms. Fraser success in her new appointment.

-End-

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flow
STD 4, 5 & 6 POETRY COMPETITION
for World Water Day 2024

Get a chance TO WIN
OVER \$8,000 IN CASH & PRIZES FOR YOU AND YOUR SCHOOL

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- Create an original POEM using the 2024 World Water Day Theme "Water for Peace"
- Make a video reciting your poem (no longer than 60 seconds)
- Include name, school and class in the video
- All languages accepted Please attach english translation
- Be CREATIVE

Submit Videos by March 15, 2024 to info@puc.bz

SCAN to find out more about "Water for Peace"

22 MARCH WORLD WATER DAY 2024 Water for Peace

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION BELIZE




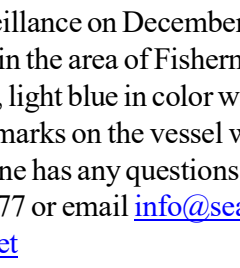
SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

National Office: Placencia Village, Stann Creek District, Belize, Central America
Phone: 501-523-3377, Fax 501-523-3395, www.seabelize.bz, info@seabelize.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

ABANDONED VESSEL

In conducting patrol and surveillance on December 28th, 2022, SEA's rangers encountered a vessel floating in the area of Fisherman Caye. The vessel is 27 feet long and 7 ½ feet in width, light blue in color with a canopy frame with no engine or seat. Identification marks on the vessel were 'Coral view' and registration #: RO - 1193. If anyone has any questions or has claim to ownership please contact SEA at 523-3377 or email info@seabze.org or the Belize Port Authority at bzportauth@btl.net

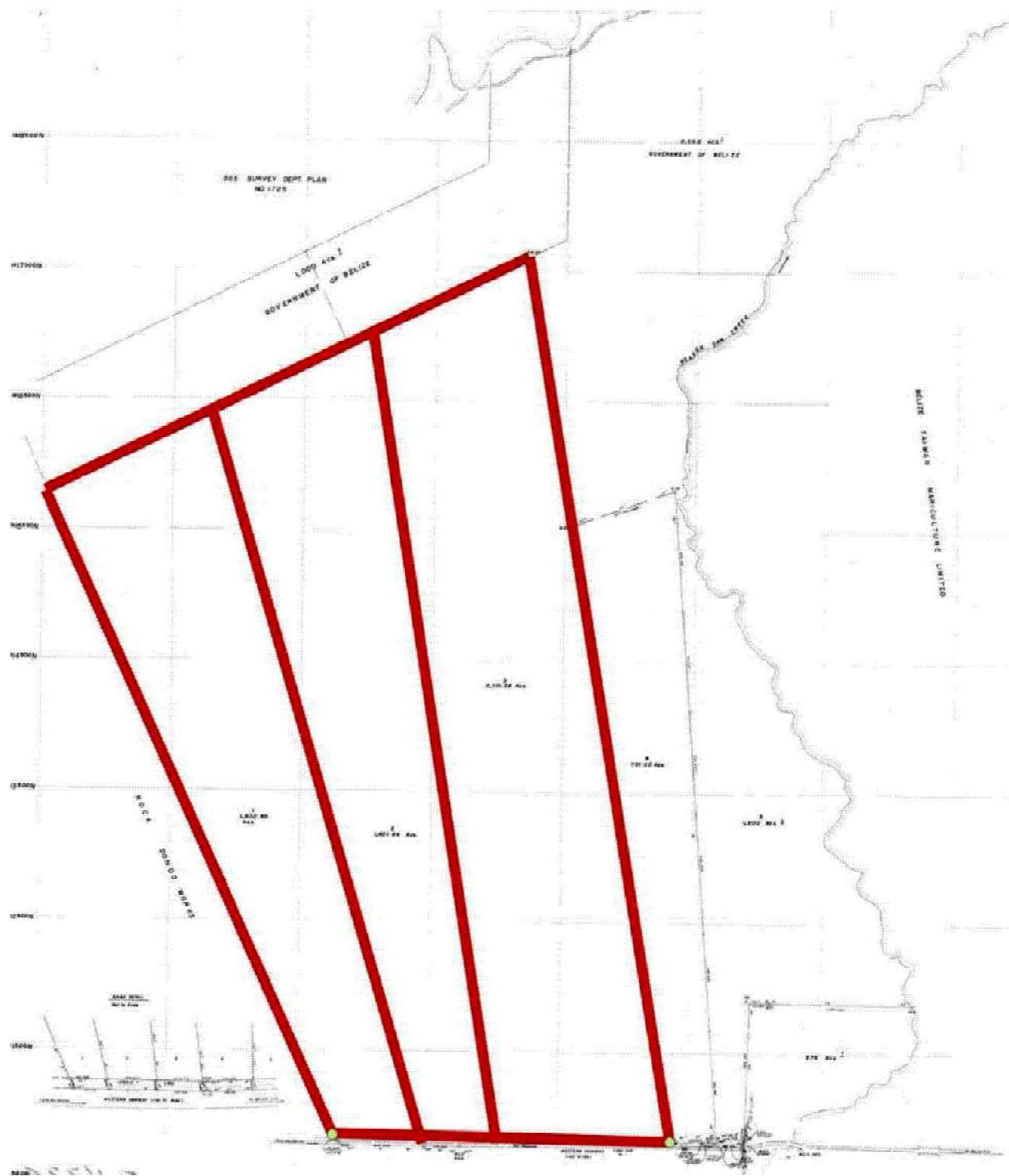




Belize Solid Waste Management Authority
Attn: Mrs. Therese Arzu, Procurement Officer
3013 Bougainvillea Street, Orchid Garden Area
City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.
Tel: (501) 802 1527
PO Box 285
E-mail: Procurement@solidwaste.gov.bz

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTIES
4,905 Acres of land, north side George Price Highway near Mile 41,
Cotton Tree Village, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. LAAD AMERICAS, N.V., Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties in ONE LOT. **Sale currently running until 31st May 2024. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly within this period on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.**



BLOCK NO. 1:
ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being BLOCK NO. 1 containing 1,402.80 acres of land situate along the north side of the George Price Highway, near Mile 41, Cotton Tree Village, Cayo District bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 506 of 2011 TOGETHER with all improvements thereon, the freehold property of Messrs. Belize Sustainable Agriculture Limited.

BLOCK NO. 2:
ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being BLOCK NO. 2 containing 1,401.64 acres of land situate along the north side of the George Price Highway, near Mile 41, Cotton Tree Village, Cayo District bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 507 of 2011 TOGETHER with all improvements thereon, the freehold property of Belize Sustainable Agriculture Limited.

BLOCK NO. 3:
ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being BLOCK NO. 3 containing 2,101.28 acres of land situate along the north side of the George Price Highway, near Mile 41, Cotton Tree Village, Cayo District bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 508 of 2011 TOGETHER with all improvements thereon, the freehold property of Messrs. Belize Sustainable Agriculture Limited.

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”
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KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
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Mainly because L. Ashcroft and Sen. Herrera's brother wanted to embarrass NEAC

Continued from Page 11

actual meetings would be more formal.

The interest in piecing back together a Cabinet paper doesn't amount to much more than an attempt to embarrass the PM. I have said that he very likely was eager to get Portico going after Waterloo hadn't gotten the green light. All things being possible under the sun, it's not impossible that he and some of his friends had some personal interest in the project. It's not impossible that he liked seeing Ashcroft squirm, because Ashcroft had gone on his television station and questioned his toughness as a leader. One senior lawyer reportedly thought the agreement wouldn't stand up in court if challenged, and one senior lawyer thought the case wasn't cut and dried. The substantial point is that the agreement, or scheme, didn't make it through Cabinet.

Maybe we deserve nothing from the Senate Inquiry, because it wasn't conceived for the best intentions. Waterloo fanned up a certain section of the media, for its end to get at NEAC. Another reason why we got a Senate Inquiry was because an environmental engineer in the employ of Waterloo needed to justify his bad decision. That environmental engineer has a brother in the senate, and that brother was forced to recuse himself from a tribunal to review NEAC's recommendation. That brother senator liked the idea of the Inquiry, Ms. Janelle is bait for anything involving the environment, and Senator Benguche and Senator Smith didn't see any harm in going along.

Again, Portico's environmental footprint is the lowest of the three

I have told you that I know this area well, well enough to tell you that I think if anybody knows it better than I do, they must be into nefarious things, because there is nothing there. Human beings don't live in swamps. There is one place in our sea space that is less exciting than this area. On the coastline west of Cay Caulker and San Pedro there's a mud flat that extends several miles. You won't find any fish or conch or lobster there. But

maybe the mud could be used to make ceramics.

Of the three large cruise proposals that were floating around these past two decades, hands down Portico is the least environmentally concerning. I've heard talk about how the project could affect the mouth of the Sibun a couple miles away, and beaches along the coast. There's just a smattering of beach spots along the coast in this area. The sand that comes down the Sibun River, when it is in flood, is deposited at the mouth of the river. The men who worked on Radio, United, Mermaid, and Sophia can tell you about that. The silt from the river is deposited on the seabed.

There's a legitimate concern that Portico's pier, man-made island would impede manatees on the route between Gales Point and Swallow Cay, north of Belize City. I have seen manatees some miles east of the Portico site. But I can't add anything else to that story.

The main proprietor of Stake Bank told Channel 7 that if Portico gets the go-ahead it would kill Stake Bank because there wouldn't be enough cruise tourists for both. I don't know enough about the cruise tourist throughput to comment on that.

Because we know about Gaza

A hardworking Israeli apologist has questioned our putting more interest in what Israel is doing to Gaza, than in other horrors around the globe, in Yemen, in parts of Africa, and Ukraine. The apologist said we give Egypt a pass for not accepting refugees from Gaza, when Poland and other neighbors of Ukraine take in their refugees.

One reason why we non-white peoples come out so strongly about what is going on in Palestine/Israel is because we know the story from the beginning, from when Abraham turned out Ishmael to this day. Absolutely no one has missed the story, because it is in the pages of the world's most famous book, the Bible. We have history to everything that's happening there. About the story there, almost all the nations of the world say this Israel is criminal.

Highways and byways!

Continued from Page 7

but also of the people who make Belize what it is, the Jewel that it is. We have to protect our homeland, stop giving it away plot by plot. We have to guard against those who would deny us our birthright, nosey neighbors that are envious of us - the Guats, in particular. They're not our enemies; they just want what's ours. I hope we all always remember how special we are, that the gods and slavery and conflict put us in this paradise, which we all must treasure and protect with everything in our power, in us! As my friend would say, blessings.

Glen



can be heard on the following frequencies:

96.5FM in Belize City, Punta Gorda Town, Santa Elena, Cayo and Carmelita Village

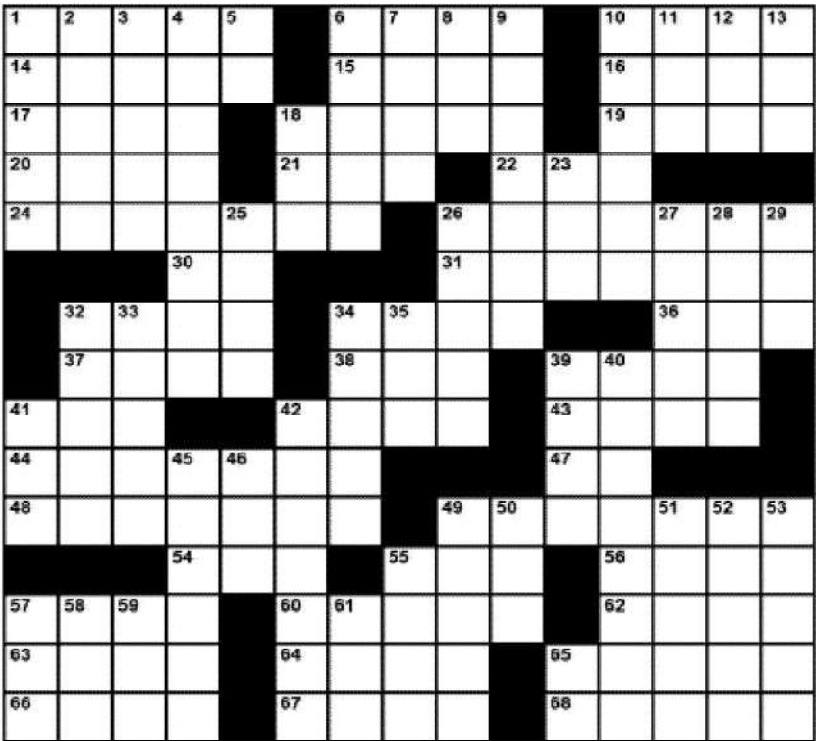
91.1FM in Ladyville and Independence

101.1FM in Dangriga Town, Camalote Village and Caye Caulker



NEW PUZZLE

Daily Printable Puzzle - 02-22-2024



Across

- South American machete
- Congressional caucus
- Cheese variety
- Alaskan language
- Casino city
- Manner
- Basted together
- Utter chaos
- Computer pix
- Not kosher
- Grandson, perhaps
- Beer barrel
- Like the U.S. flag
- Bump into first class
- Monopoly square
- Benin neighbor
- Massage target
- Cabinet div.
- Come down with
- A light amount
- Anteceding
- Discoloration
- Contain
- Unattractive person, slang
- Beanery sign
- Former Soviet republic
- Be
- Nottingham magistrate
- Point toward
- Suitable
- Ardent follower
- Classic Chevy model
- A dash of dash
- Kingly decree
- Fumble
- Loud noise
- Extend upward
- Asian palm
- Betoken
- Rectangular paving stone
- Banish blunders

Down

- Former lives
- Far from sleepy
- Less stale
- O.K. corral battle
- On the spot
- Interwove locks
- Ancestor of Christ
- John's Yoko
- Airplane part
- Defector
- AMA type
- Big flap
- Adult males
- Don't dawdle
- Batter ingredient
- Bard
- Let off the hook
- Private lingo
- Food regimens
- Absorb, as costs
- Overflowing
- Immobile class
- Coffee order
- Historic time
- Bird's bill
- Sorrower
- All of the guys
- Kitchen tool
- Carrot color
- Dog bite
- Musical direction
- Aardvark fodder
- Big vessel
- Boston and poison
- Box elder
- Boxing weapon
- Chicago lyricist
- Certain Asian
- Additionally
- Be left on base
- 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 - 02-15-2024 - Answers



Letters to the editor

Latinizing Belize

Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024

To: *Amandala*

Dear Editors,

It appears that the nationalization program for the registration of illegal immigrants fell short of expectation. Only around 15,000 persons took the opportunity to become citizens of Belize.

This result shows that it's much easier to migrate and live in this country illegally than to become registered within the government system. This should not be surprising, as most people, including businesses, prefer to live and survive under the radar within the parallel economy.

The concern for many about this immigration exercise, however, was about the Central American immigrants and refugees that were being targeted to be nationalized. Many thought that this was the government's subtle way of Latinizing the country, which had a predominately black population before the 1960's.

The demographic shifting of the population of Belize to a more Latin culture has been in effect for many decades. The ship has sailed, for those who believe that they could turn back the hands of time. The African descent population was never the favored group to inherit these former colonies.

The migration of Black people from Belize started from around early 1900's. The major surge of Belizeans moving north to the USA was after the 1961 hurricane. Back then, people took full advantage to move north, as the U.S. was considered greener pastures and a place of milk and honey. The alternative was to face the wrath of the devastation from the destruction caused by the category 5 hurricane Hattie. Since then, the number of people of color that live in the country fell drastically. This process continued unabated thereafter, as people were catching this epidemic called States fever.

Eventually, it was the people from the neighboring republics who filled the void of those Belizeans who decided to go and live in the U.S. These immigrants merge well with their Mestizo counterparts, and today have become the predominant culture in the country.

The plight of the Black population continues to be uncertain, and is spiraling backwards to our own detriment. After independence, when the reins of power were given to Belizeans, it was the Creole population that dominated and controlled the public service. Every decision made since then in the government corridors on behalf of the people of Belize is to the demise of the Black population of this nation. The Caribbean flavor of Belize is slowly fading.

Today, we could see where the halls of government are saturated with mostly Hispanic people. It is not hard to believe that this country is being Latinized if you look at our local media and government leaders and officials. However, we should also look at our recent past when the last administration was in power. It was mostly people of color who were at the helm for over a decade. Apparently, they were only about themselves. To improve the lives of those who have similar physical features was not even on their agenda.

It is an unfortunate situation, that the Black population of this nation has been reduced to what it is today. The only group of people in this very diverse cultural society that does not look out for themselves are those of African origin.

Belize will never return to the days when the Black population will be in the majority. Let's not be naïve. Hence, when the slogan came out (all a we wahn win), the people of color were never part of that equation. Just keeping it real.

Concerned citizen
J. Alvarez

Duo charged with attempted murder

by *Charles Gladden*

COROZAL, Wed. Feb. 21, 2024

Charges were brought against a pair of men from the Corozal District who are accused of attempting to take the life of Orlando Vasquez, 28, of the Joseito Layout area in Corozal Town, on January 20 of this year.

Reports at the time indicated that Vasquez was at his mother's home in the area at around 8:00 p.m. when he heard a whistling sound coming from outside, and when he went outside to

see who it was, he was met with gunshots, seemingly from a single person. Vasquez received injuries that were non-life threatening.


Police were looking for one suspect; however, they later apprehended two men whom they believe were involved in the shooting – Marlon Sanker, 19, and Eric Rancharan, 21 – both from Corozal Town.

They were each given a charge of attempted murder, and when they were taken to court, no plea was taken. Bail was denied and they were remanded to the Belize Central Prison.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY

GIS SPECIALIST

The Belize City Council is seeking applicants to fill the post of **GIS Specialist**.

All interested persons must submit their application packages in a sealed envelope addressed to the **Human Resources Manager** no later than **Friday, March 1, 2024**.

VISIT THE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT BOARD ON THE BELIZE CITY COUNCIL WEBSITE FOR FULL DESCRIPTION OF POSITION.

Nomination Day for March 6 Municipals

Continued from Page 1

Painting the streets with their blue and white shirts, flags, and banners, the crowd saw numerous Ministers among its numbers, including Hon. Francis Fonseca, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Hon. Kareem Musa, and Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Cordel Hyde.

The party’s slate of 11 nominees included: mayoral candidate - Bernard Wagner; returning party delegates - Allan Pollard, Edmund Kwan, Stephannie Hamilton, Kaya Cattouse, and Javier Castellanos; and new candidates to the slate - Eluide Miller, Evan Thompson, Malcolm Nunez, Dorian Usher, and Sherwin Garcia.

In an interview with reporters, Wagner, now aiming for his third term in office, shared how it felt to be in this position once more.

“I might never want to say that to ... you are overconfident. You always want to maintain humility throughout the whole process, and ensure that you do what you need to do as a team, as a party, as a machinery, and let the other chips fall in place,” he said.

Under his tenure, the council has experienced devastating flooding, hurricanes, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, he remains committed to continued development throughout the city, especially after receiving feedback during his campaign from different communities about drainage.

“I believe many of the councils in the past have never really looked at drainage. It’s not sexy, first of all; it’s not sexy. Cement streets and paved streets are sexy, but drainage is really not sexy ... so that will be a huge priority for us going into our next year, if we are successful,” he said

“This [is] the first big election since the general elections. We are, of course, looking at this as a litmus test, so to speak; but definitely, the energy is there across the country, and you can feel the victory in the air, the spirit, the vibes, the love, everything is there; and the people are saying they want the People’s United Party again,” expressed Hon. Kareem Musa.

Although the accurate number of the turnout is unknown, what we do know is that there were at least 100 representatives of each constituency throughout the city, or perhaps a bit more than that.

“I tried to bring out only a hundred people, but I had to bring out 150, and you had some others who would join late in the parade, so I think about close to 200 people came out,” explained Allan Pollard of the PUP’s Queen Square constituency.

The People’s Democratic Movement (PDM) was the next party scheduled at midday to be nominated. The third party showed up with just a handful of supporters, and they did not hold a parade before arriving at the ITVET.

Their slate is comprised of mayoral candidate - Estevan Perera, Sr., and 10 council candidates including Jeff Flowers, Itmar Mis, Jose Espat, Ashton Gordon, Philip Henry, Wayne Joseph, Mark Burgess, Francisco Rosalez, Mercella Meighan, and Russel August.

Their objective, which was announced last year through their manifesto, is to target the elderly and the poor, and really

just give Belizeans a change from the red and blue parties.

“A lot of sentiments from the Belize people are that they’re tired of the Red and Blue, and it’s time they leave,” said Perera.

Given the history of failed third-party attempts to win seats in Belize’s elections, Perera is confident of their win this time around.

“History proves that; the past proves that; but this is not the past, this is the present. I am running for mayoral candidate against Bernard Wagner and the young lady from the UDP, and I think I am a far better candidate than both of them; and I believe that the people of Belize will give me my just due,” he said.

Notably, independent candidate, Ernesto Torres, running consistently since 2003, was also nominated as a mayoral candidate.

Wrapping up at 2:00 p.m., the red machine of the United Democratic Party (UDP) left their headquarters off Youth for the Future Drive, where their supporters, municipal candidates, standard bearers, and UDP Ministers joined in on the march to nomination.

Their full slate consisted of mayoral candidate - Nelma Mortis; and council candidates: Angelie Perez, Jason Staine, Victor Miguel, Horace Alford, Leon Guild, Alisha Craig, Brian Audinett, Tyrone Louriano, Samson Jacobs, and Tattiyanna Young.

The majority of the party arrived on the back of two parade floats, and the candidates were backed by 3 of the 4 sitting UDP area representatives - Hon. Shyne Barrow, Hon. Tracy Panton, and Hon. Patrick Faber, who all accompanied their colleagues into the nomination room.

“It was electrifying; very elated to see our people out there in numbers, and this is indicative of what will happen on Election Day. It is crystal clear, all throughout the length and breadth of this country, that the Belizean people in each municipality are completely exhausted and tired of the suffering and punishment that has been afflicted and inflicted by the People’s United Party,” Barrow said when asked about their turnout, although it was significantly less than the PUP.

Come Election Day on March 6, he predicts that all nine municipalities throughout the country will vote in the UDP, given the disconnect between the PUP and the Belizean people that they have seen.

“The people feel like the People’s United Party has no love for them. The relationship is not there, and so that was one of their major complaints,” said mayoral candidate Mortis. “I am hoping to change that kind of politicking, in the sense that we’re supposed to move towards development. This is for all of us; this is for Belizeans.”

Nomination Day also rang true in the 7 towns throughout the country and the one other city, the capital, Belmopan.

In Belmopan, the PUP parade was led by first-time mayoral candidate Pablo Cawich, while the UDP was led by standard bearer and former area rep, John Saldivar.

In the twin towns of Santa Elena and San Ignacio, the PUP was led by first-time mayoral candidate Matthew Preston, while the UDP was led by incumbent mayor Earl Trapp, now on his third time running. The independent

Double murder Cor. Curl Thompson and Mud Streets

Continued from Page 1

8:30 p.m., Hyde and Moody were at a nearby convenience store situated at the corner of Curl Thompson and Mud Streets. While they were at the store, a vehicle coming from the other end of Curl Thompson Street headed directly toward them and stopped in front of the store, whereupon three gunmen exited the vehicle and fired shots in their direction.

Moody reportedly ran from the scene and collapsed in a nearby drain with a single gunshot that penetrated her chest. She would die moments later at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital after being transported there. Meanwhile, Hyde didn’t have a chance to escape the hail of bullets, and died instantly.

Lamisha’s grandmother, Sherand Sutherland told *Amandala* that Moody doesn’t normally go to that particular store, but she had gone there to purchase an item for herself as she was planning to go on a school trip today, Thursday. Sutherland mentioned that Moody would routinely visit her home every evening after school.

Sutherland said that one of her daughters called her a few minutes before the incident happened, and foreshadowed the exact details of Moody’s unfortunate demise.

“Di exact dream she tell me [she] get, da mi exactly weh happen. Di dream weh she get, like right afta she get da dream bout ih niece Lamisha, and get off di phone wid me, I hyaa dis heavy sound; but I seh gunshot nuh sound soh. So I continue to relax pahn my bed until I hyaa di hallaring out ya,” she emotionally said.

Commissioner of Police, Chester

Williams arrived in the neighborhood and discussed with the media the latest double homicide. He noted that the weapons used were three 9-millimeter pistols, and that police have impounded the vehicle used in this assault and detained the owner for questioning.

At this time, authorities don’t have a concrete motive. The ComPol explained that they are looking at two possible theories.

“We have two theories; one can be inter-gang rivalry, and one can be an external gang that came in to do the incident. So, we’re looking at both theories at this time,” he said.

ComPol Williams further mentioned, “... it’s disheartening to see both of them lose their lives. At the end of the day, every life is important, and as I’ve always said, no matter what we may think of anybody, they still do have people [who] love them and will be left to mourn and suffer if they were to pass; and the same can be said here.”

Both families are feeling the weight of their loved ones losing their lives in this fashion. In the case of Moody, her father had recently passed away due to natural causes. The Hyde family declined to be interviewed by the media, but we were told that in a similar fashion, Hyde’s younger brother, Justin Hyde was gunned down in 2017, also in the Jane Usher area.

In 2015, Troy Hyde was accused of murder and was granted bail three years later; eventually, the case was dismissed as a nolle pros. Despite Hyde’s past, the family expressed that he was making a positive impact on the community, and was planning to do an Easter event for the children.

Moody’s family said she had aspirations to become a lawyer.

FACB implements audit and moratorium

Continued from Page 1

In a motion passed by the Board, announced on February 22, it was decided that an audit would be conducted to examine past authority and procedures related to the processing of firearm licenses, reflecting the FACB’s commitment to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and effectiveness in its operations.

“The Board recognizes the importance of maintaining the highest

standards of accountability and integrity in its operations,” stated their press release. It added that they are fully “committed to implementing any necessary changes to enhance its effectiveness.”

In addition to the audit, the board has imposed a moratorium (a temporary suspension) on the processing of firearm licenses, specifically for .223 caliber rifles.

This decision, pending a review, aims

Please turn to Page 23

mayoral candidate is Rudy Waight.

Benque Viejo Town saw PUP incumbent mayor, Jorge Rosales running for his second term; and first-time running, Marco Tesucum, the mayoral candidate leading the UDP.

In Corozal, first-time mayoral candidate, Ricardo Acke led the UDP; incumbent mayor, Rigo Vellos led the PUP; while an independent candidate, Hernan Riveroll, was nominated as a third party candidate.

Orange Walk, the Prime Minister’s hometown, saw incumbent mayor, Ladrick “Mad Bull” Sheppard heading the PUP, while the UDP was headed by first-time mayoral candidate, legendary footballer, Enrique Carballo.

Incumbent mayor, Robert Mariano

represented the PUP down in Dangriga, while first-time mayoral candidate Alex Lucas represented the UDP.

In Punta Gorda, mayoral candidate Carlos Galvez represented the PUP, and Franklin Polonio represented the UDP. There were two independent mayoral candidates – Winston Chun and Orlando Muschamp. Leading the Belize Progressive Party was their mayoral candidate, Anita Nicholas.

San Pedro Town saw mayoral candidates, incumbent PUP mayor, Gualberto “Wally” Nuñez, and first-time mayoral candidate, Wilfredo Alamilla, Jr., leading the UDP.

In March 2021, the PUP won 65 council seats of the 67, and 8 of the 9 mayoral positions.

Sedi loses Progresso Heights appeal at CCJ

Continued from Page 1

and the father/son duo of Progresso Heights LTD (PHL) has come to an end. Belize’s final appellant court, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) handed down its judgment in the appeal lodged by Elrington, challenging the decisions of the Belize Court of Appeal and High Court. That appeal was dismissed by a panel of CCJ justices. Its written decision was released earlier this week.

This case surrounds a land dispute between the former UDP Cabinet minister, and the principals of Progresso Heights, Lawrance Schnider and Adam Schnider.

Elrington held 20% of the shares of the company, PHL. The other two directors retained the remaining 80%. However, Elrington reportedly had placed several caveats on the land owned by PHL, preventing the company from conducting any business related to the land.

The first claim brought by PHL was heard in the Belize Supreme Court. The trial judge at the time found that the caveats were unlawfully lodged by Elrington, and unlawfully accepted by the Registrar of Lands at the time.

The trial judge ordered that the caveats be removed, and no further holds on those lands be accepted by the Registrar of Lands without the permission of the court. Elrington lodged an appeal of this decision in the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal noted that only one ground of the appeal challenged the primary finding of the trial judge; the other ground concerned whether the proceedings were properly brought by PHL. The appeals court held at the time that Elrington did not raise in his pleading before the trial judge, the issues of the legitimacy of the proceedings commenced by PHL, therefore the court could not consider it. This appeal was dismissed as well.

An additional appeal was lodged at the court of last resort in our judicial system, the CCJ, with several grounds of appeal against the decision of the trial judge filed.

Elrington’s legal team sought to argue once more that the trial judge was wrong to find that the elder Schnider had “actual or ostensible” authority as director and agent of PHL to sell the lands in the possession of the company, or to testify on behalf of the company.

He argued that PHL was not properly a party to the proceedings.

On the date of the hearing, however, Elrington’s legal team applied to the court to amend his notice of appeal, changing the terms “trial judge” and “High Court” to “Court of Appeal.”

The lead judgment, written by Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee identified two issues. The first dealt with whether permission to amend Elrington’s notice of appeal should be granted. The CCJ did not allow this application, stating that waiting until the day of the hearing of the appeal to amend the notice of appeal was unacceptable and unfair to PHL ...

“particularly, in the absence of any convincing grounds or reason,” the judgment stated.

The CCJ underscored that late applications to amend the notice of appeal, or any other application particularly made on the day of the hearing, were to be seriously discouraged.

The second issue dealt with whether the Court of Appeal was correct to hold that Elrington could not succeed on his appeal due to his failure to plead that PHL had commenced the proceedings without the requisite authority.

The CCJ emphasized the importance and function of pleading is to give fair and proper notice to the opposing party.

The CCJ was of the view that there was no reason to interfere with the decision of the Court of Appeal. It added that Elrington never raised the issue in his defense at the High Court.

The concurring opinion by Justice Winston Anderson highlights that although the appeal was filed as of right, it could be struck out if it was an abuse of the process or if the issue pleaded was not properly before the court.

He shared that the abuse of process is a “very high bar” to meet and requires bad faith. He was not prepared to consider that the application had reached that bar.

Touching on the importance of pleadings, Justice Anderson found that the application to amend the pleading was not to remedy a simple clerical error, but went to the structure and substance of the case and had taken PHL by surprise.

He found that six of the nine issues on appeal to the CCJ could not be raised, as they had not been properly pleaded before the High Court. The simple solution, the judgment states, would have been for Elrington to have made an application to amend the pleading at the appropriate time before the trial judge.

At the time of the trial in the Supreme Court, he failed to do this; as such, this appeal was dead in the water from the outset.

Justice Anderson pointed out that there was no right of appeal against interlocutory decisions, even in civil cases. The remaining three grounds of appeal were in essence about certain interlocutory proceedings before the trial judge, for which leave had not been sought or granted.

“As such, the appeal to the CCJ was not properly before the court,” the written judgment stated.

The CCJ dismissed this appeal. The orders of the Court of Appeal were affirmed, and Elrington was directed to pay PHL’s cost of this appeal.

The case was heard at the CCJ by the president, Hon. Adrian Saunders, Justice Anderson, Justice Rajnauth-Lee, Justice Burgess, and Justice Jamadar.

Elrington represented himself, with the help of Paulette Elrington-Cyrille, and Ms. Prescilla Banner appeared for Progresso Heights Limited.

Woman charged in connection with Facebook scam

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Feb. 21, 2024

A woman accused of using Minister Cordel Hyde’s Facebook page has been charged criminally with two counts of obtaining property by deception from another woman whom she reportedly swindled out of \$500 in cash.

Accused of the offense is 37-year-old Ada Ethel Toro, a food vendor of Seaweed Street, San Pedro.

This morning, Toro was brought on the prison van to court, where she hid her face but said, “I am innocent”.

She later appeared unrepresented before a Senior Magistrate in Court #2, where she was read two counts of obtaining property by deception. Allegations are that on February 12 and February 13, 2024, by deception she obtained the sums of \$300 and \$200 cash from Natalie Gotoy, a Belizean unemployed of #8 Hibiscus Street, Belize City. Gotoy claimed that she paid into an account belonging to Ada Toro, 2 payments totaling \$500 for assistance in acquiring a booth on Mahogany Street to conduct business.

Gotoy said that after she got a response from the person pretending to be Minister Hyde to make the deposit, she found out that it was not the Minister, and so she reported the matter and requested court action.

In court at her arraignment, Toro pleaded not guilty to both charges. However, that’s when the sitting Senior Magistrate noticed who the virtual complainant (v/c) was, and realized that she was related to the v/c, and so she noted in court that she would not be sitting in on the case; she would just arraign Toro and have the matter be assigned to another court.

There was no objection to her being granted bail, and so the Senior Magistrate of Court #2 offered her bail in the sum of \$1,000 plus one surety of the same amount, which she met.

Toro’s next court date was set for April 22, and the magistrate reminded her that the matter will be transferred to another court, so that when she returns she will go before a different magistrate.

By 12:00 noon Toro had met bail, but she could not go free, as CIB personnel were right outside the court waiting for her. She was detained again and escorted back into custody at the Queen Street Police Station where further charges are expected to be levied against her, as more victims of her alleged scam have surfaced and have made reports against her.

According to the police report made by the first alleged victim, Natalie Gotoy, on February 14, 2024, Gotoy visited the Mahogany Police Station and made a report that at around 9:30 a.m., she went on a Facebook page in the name of Cordel Hyde, and also showing up was a picture of Minister Hyde, whereby she sent a message via Messenger requesting assistance in acquiring a booth on

Mahogany Street to conduct her business.

On Monday, February 12, 2024, Gotoy said she received a response from someone whom she believed was Hon. Minister Cordel Hyde. She was instructed to make a deposit of \$500 to an account #0211930142 at Atlantic Bank in the name Ada Ethel Toro, which she made in two separate deposits.

According to Gotoy, her first deposit was made on Monday, February 12, at 11:29:36 over the counter to account #0211930142 in the name of Ada Ethel Toro for the sum of \$300, and then her second payment of \$200 she made the following day, Tuesday, February 13, at 14:37:07 to the same account in the same name.

However, on Wednesday, February 14, Valentine’s Day, Gotoy said she discovered that the person she was chatting with and whom she had sent money to was not the Minister; and she visited the Mahogany Police Station and made an official report requesting court action.

That report led police to launch an investigation into the matter.

That investigation was headed by Sgt.#536, Joel Grinage, who recorded a statement from the Hon. Minister Cordel Hyde.

According to the police report, in his statement Min. Hyde made it clear that he gave no such authorization for any business to be conducted on his behalf, nor did Toro work for his Ministry.

Furthermore, according to the police report, Minister Hyde said that he never gave Toro permission to use his picture on any Facebook page.

During the police investigation, copies of bank receipts were obtained for the deposits that were made into Toro’s account, as well as copies of the receipt was obtained for the sum of \$300 which was withdrawn from the account by Toro on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

As a result of Sgt. Grinage’s investigation, a warrant for the arrest of Toro was issued, whereupon the police say that Toro handed in herself to police at the Racoon Street Police Station.

During the investigation, police say that when she was cautioned prior to being read her charges, that’s when Toro handed over copies of a receipt for the bank withdrawal from Atlantic Bank in the name of Ada Toro and the above-mentioned account # belonging to her.

Police say that Toro also handed over a money transfer for a Money Gram where she told them she had sent money overseas.

Police also say that after Toro was cautioned before being charged with the two offenses, that’s when she told an officer, “Please help me. I never know I would get in so much trouble.”

FACB implements audit and moratorium

Continued from Page 22

to ensure that the issuance of such licenses adheres to legal standards and prioritizes public safety.

“The processing of firearm licenses for .223 caliber rifles is a sensitive issue that requires careful consideration,”

emphasized the release.

Consequently, the moratorium is scheduled to last until the completion of the review and the implementation of any necessary changes to the licensing process.

Notably, the Board is composed of the CEO of Home Affairs, Sharole

Carr-Saldivar, Magistrate Mannon Dennison, and Senior Superintendent of Police, Clement Cacho.

Since being appointed back in early January, this will be their second notice to the public addressing the transparency of the gun licensing process.

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REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

A crowd defends Assange before the court deciding his future



Rally outside the High Court in London, U.K., Feb. 20, 2024. | Photo: X/ @JorgeGestoso

“If he is extradited, the chilling effect will be enormous,” RSF journalist Rebecca Vincent said.

www.telesurenglish.net, Feb. 20, 2024

On Tuesday, hundreds of people from different nationalities demanded the freedom of Julian Assange outside the doors of the High Court in London, where two judges must decide whether he can appeal his case in the United Kingdom or be extradited to the United States.

From early in the day, participants in the demonstration began to gather at the courthouse doors, where the first of the two scheduled hearings for the case began today.

“This trial is an attack on truth and the citizens’ right to know. Julian is a political prisoner, and his life is in danger,” Assange’s wife, Stella, said in a speech alongside Jeremy Corbyn, former leader of the British Labour Party.

Miguel Urban, a member of Anticapitalistas in the European Parliament, said that the atmosphere in the courtroom is “tense,” during a break taken by the MEP during the session.

“There can be no other outcome than the acquittal of Julian Assange because this will be the acquittal of freedom of information and the press,” he said.

“Reporters Without Borders is engaged because of Julian Assange’s contribution to journalism... he exposed war crimes and human rights violations...If he is extradited, the chilling effect will be enormous,” said journalist Rebecca Vincent.

Among the ‘Free Julian Assange’ posters stood out the Guy Fawkes masks and the orange color of the prisoner jumpsuits worn by some of the attendees.

“They are using Assange as an example to silence the press,” said Richard, a retired finance worker who attended the doors of the London court on Tuesday.

Assange has been in pretrial detention at the high-security Belmarsh prison in London since he was arrested at the request of the United States following his expulsion on April 11, 2019, from the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

The relevance of the trial, crucial in deciding whether Assange will be extradited to the United States, brought

people from various nationalities. For instance, Christiane Fantauzzo traveled from Marseille a day earlier to be present at the protest.

“It’s the last chance to free him and to ensure freedom of the press and democracy,” the French computer engineer said.

On Tuesday, Julian Assange began presenting his last legal recourse in the United Kingdom against his extradition to the U.S., where authorities want to prosecute him for espionage due to the revelations published in 2010 and 2011 through WikiLeaks, which exposed classified information revealing U.S. human rights violations in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If the court does not authorize him to appeal the extradition order issued on June 6, 2023, by Magistrate Jonathan Swift, the mechanism for Assange’s extradition to the U.S. would be activated, in which case his lawyers have already announced that they will request urgent precautionary measures from the European Court of Human Rights to prevent it.

US and its biased policies to blame for the Gaza War: Russia



Pro-Palestine demonstration in London, U.K., Feb. 21, 2024. | Photo: X/ @PSCupdates

Washington’s erratic policy has cost thousands of innocent lives, said Russian Ambassador Tarabrin.

www.telesurenglish.net, Feb. 21, 2024

On Wednesday, the International

US vetoes UNSC draft resolution demanding cease-fire in Gaza



United Nations Security Council meeting, New York, U.S., Feb. 20, 2024. | Photo: Xinhua

The United Nations Security Council must take action to push for a cease-fire, Chinese diplomat Zhang said.

www.telesurenglish.net, Wed. Feb. 21, 2024

On Tuesday, the United States vetoed a draft resolution of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that would have demanded an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza.

The draft resolution won 13 votes in favor among the 15 members of the Security Council. The United States voted against it. Britain abstained.

To be adopted, a UNSC draft resolution needs at least nine votes in favor and no veto from any of the council’s five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States.

The Algerian-drafted resolution would have demanded an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza and would have deplored all attacks against civilians.

The draft would have rejected forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population and would have demanded unhindered humanitarian access to Gaza. The draft also would have demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

Before the vote on the draft resolution, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations,

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said the Algerian draft would jeopardize ongoing efforts toward a hostage deal.

She said her delegation was working on a rival draft resolution that would call for a “temporary cease-fire” based on the formula that all hostages are released.

Russia’s permanent representative to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, said before the vote that Washington continues to give Israel “a license to kill.” He asked Security Council members “to counter the lawlessness of Washington.”

Speaking after the vote, Nebenzia said full responsibility for the consequences of Tuesday’s outcome falls on Washington, no matter how hard the United States tries to evade it by talking about its “important mediation efforts.”

In an explanation of vote after the voting, China’s permanent representative to the United Nations, Zhang Jun, expressed his country’s strong disappointment at and dissatisfaction with the outcome of the vote.

“The U.S. veto sent a wrong message, pushing the situation in Gaza into a more dangerous one,” he said, adding that the U.S. claim that the Algerian-drafted resolution would interfere in ongoing diplomatic efforts is totally untenable.

The Security Council must take action to push for a cease-fire, which is its legal responsibility. The U.S. veto cannot muffle the strong call for a cease-fire and an end to the war in Gaza. The Security Council cannot stop its work to uphold justice and fulfill its responsibilities just because of the veto, Zhang said.

French UN ambassador Nicholas de Riviere regretted that the draft resolution was not adopted given the disastrous situation on the ground.

“There is an extreme urgency to conclude, without further delay, an agreement on a cease-fire, which finally guarantees the protection of all civilians and the massive delivery of emergency aid. The human toll and humanitarian situation in Gaza are intolerable and Israeli operations must stop,” he said.

The Algerian text was the eighth Gaza-related draft resolution that the Security Council has voted on since Oct. 7, 2023. Only two draft resolutions have been adopted, neither of which calls for a cease-fire.

maintaining a “short-sighted and irresponsible” approach that has diluted political processes to resolve the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

“The current wave of violence is not



Derrick Chavarria wins Valentine's Cycling Tour 2024

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Feb. 22, 2024

With just over a month remaining before the Annual Holy Saturday Cross Country Classic, the cycling fever is rising in the Jewel, and fans are paying keen attention to the performance of their favorite cyclists in the major cycling events preceding the Big One.

One such event took place over the past weekend, the DigiWallet Valentine's Cycling Tour 2024 which saw riders competing over three days of the weekend, from Friday, February 16 to Sunday, February 18. At the end of the ride it was Derrick Chavarria of G-Flow who was crowned champion.

The Valentine's Cycling Tour is recognized as one of the biggest races that would happen annually next to the Krem New Year's Classic and the Holy Saturday Cross Country.

This year's Valentine Tour saw 94 cyclists participating in the three-day event which is sectioned off in three legs, with the winners determined by the overall aggregate of time for the three legs combined.

The first leg, the Prologue, began on Friday at 6:00 p.m. from the Digi Compound on Princess Margaret Drive in Belize City, then took a turn into A Street, then at Coney Drive Roundabout and returned to end at the starting point.

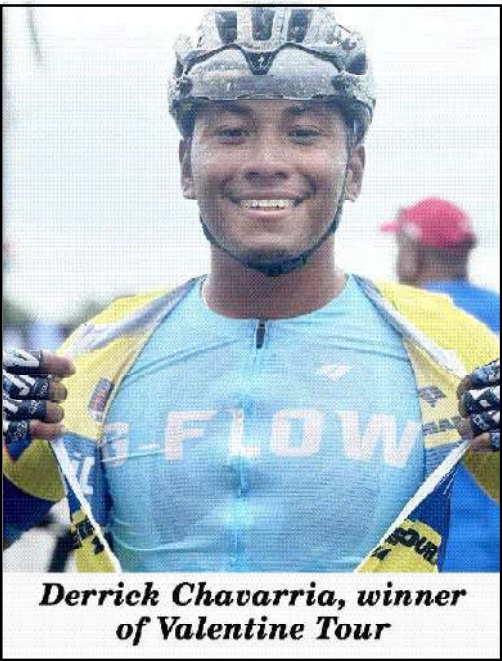
The second leg, Stage 2, the following day was a 73-mile road race from Belize City to Dangriga Town via the Coastal Highway for cyclists in the Elite, Masters, and U-23 categories; while it was 53 miles from Rockville to Dangriga via the Coastal Road for the male Juniors and Youth. The Women rode 44 miles from La Democracia to Dangriga through the same Coastal Road route.

The third and last leg, Stage 3, was a circuit race that closed off the event with all cyclists doing the rounds from La Loma Luz Boulevard in Santa Elena Town, Cayo District to Joseph Andrews Drive, turning at the Roundabout on George Price Highway, then back on Joseph Andrews Drive, onto La Loma Luz Boulevard, turning at the Santa Elena sign roundabout and concluding at the starting point on La Loma Luz Boulevard.

Below are the top Tour Final Time finishers, including Prologue (P), Stage 2 (S2), Stage 3 (S3) and Final Time (FT):

Winners in Elite/Masters/U23:

1st Place – Derrick Chavarria (G-Flow Cycling: P–0:03:57, S2–2:59:51, S3–2:16:02; FT–5:19:31); 2nd Place – Carlton Robinson (Alliance United: P–0:04:03; S2–2:59:51; S3–2:16:02; FT–5:19:40); 3rd Place – Byron Pope (Alliance United: P–0:04:03; S2–2:59:51; S3–2:16:02; FT–5:19:48); 4th Place – Oscar Quiroz (Valvoline



Derrick Chavarria, winner of Valentine Tour

Cycling: P–0:04:08; S2–2:59:51; S3–2:16:02; FT–5:19:52); 5th Place – Giovanni Lovell (Team Lovell: P–0:04:06; S2–2:59:51; S3–2:16:02; FT–5:19:52); 6th Place – Brandon Cattouse (Valvoline Cycling: P–0:04:11; S2–2:59:51; S3–2:16:02; FT–5:19:53); 7th Place – Jyven Gonzalez (G-Flow Cycling: P–0:04:04; S2–2:59:51; S3–2:16:02; FT–5:19:55); 8th Place – Renan Matus (M&M Engineering: P–0:04:03; S2–2:59:51; S3–2:16:02; FT–5:19:56); 9th Place – Fernando Rosado (Alliance United: P–0:04:18; S2–2:59:51; S3–2:16:02; FT–5:20:08); 10th Place – Kent Bob Gabourel (Kulture/SPD: P–0:04:16; S2–2:59:51; S3–2:16:12; FT–5:20:11).

Winners in Male Junior/Youth:

1st Place – Jaylen Briceno (G-Flow Cycling: P–0:04:15; S2–2:33:33; S3–4:01:23); 2nd Place – Benito Gutierrez (Valvoline Cycling: P–0:04:31; S2–2:32:34; S3–1:24:24; FT–4:01:25); 3rd Place – Malachi Myvett (Chavarria's Cycling: P–0:04:45; S2–2:32:34; S3–1:24:15; FT–4:01:34); 4th Place – Ashriel Belisle (Rolling Shattaz: P–0:04:50; S2–2:32:34; S3–1:24:15; FT–4:01:35); 5th Place – Devyn Major (G-Flow Cycling: P–0:04:23; S2–2:33:55; S3–1:24:16; FT–4:02:23); 6th Place – Richard Rosado (Rolling Shattaz: P–0:04:41; S2–2:33:27; S3–1:24:19; FT–4:02:24); 7th Place – Tyler Tejeda (Valvoline Cycling: P–0:04:22; S2–2:33:33; S3–1:25:28; FT–4:03:21); 8th Place – Jaheem Lewis (Valvoline Cycling: P–0:04:36; S2–2:33:33; S3–1:25:28; FT–4:03:32); 9th Place – Jashawn Aldana (Chavarria's Cycling: P–0:05:11; S2–2:33:33; S3–1:25:28; FT–4:04:12); 10th Place – Carmine Smith (Valvoline Cycling: P–0:04:50; S2–2:37:12; S3–1:25:29; FT–4:07:30).

Winners in Women/Youth:

1st Place – Arielle Gordon (Griga Cycling: P–0:05:47; S2–2:44:06; S3–1:04:26; FT–3:54:04); 2nd Place – Nathalie Lovell (Team Lovell: P–0:05:18; S2–2:44:13; S3–1:05:49; FT–3:55:10).

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BELIZE (DIVORCE) A.D. 2023

(DIVORCE)

ACTION NO. 362 OF 2023

(ROBERTO ALVARO BAUTISTA

PETITIONER

(

BETWEEN

(

AND

(

JENNA KARINA M. BAIDE

RESPONDENT

TO: JENNA KARINA M. BAIDE of Orchid Garden Street Apartments, Orchid Garden Street, Orchid Gardens, City of Belmopan, Cayo District.

TAKE NOTICE that an application for divorce and custody of the minor child ROBERTO ALVARO BAUTISTA JR. has been filed by ROBERTO ALVARO BAUTISTA SR.. You are required within 15 days of publication of this notice to enter a appearance either in person or by Attorney-at-law, at the Registry of the High Court should you think it fit to do so and thereafter to make answer to the charges in this Petition for Divorce AND THAT, in default of you doing so the Court will proceed to hear the said charges proved and pronounce judgement, your absence not responding.

The Petition for Divorce and Custody is filed and this notice to appear is issued THE OFFICE OF ARDELLE SABIDO, 7/9 Unity Boulevard, City of Belmopan, BELIZE, Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant, Roberto Bautista.

DATED this 30th day of January, 2024

THE LAW OFFICE OF ARDELLE SABIDO

Per: Ardelle L. Sabido

Attorney-at-Law, for the Petitioner

US and its biased policies to blame for the Gaza War: Russia

Continued from Page 24

an exception and was preceded by a persistent policy of the United States and its allies aimed at freezing the status quo, diluting political processes, and promoting unilateral vision,” Russian ambassador to The Hague Vladimir Tarabrin said.

“Washington’s erratic policy has predictably led to failure that has cost thousands of innocent lives,” he stressed, adding that the international community now faces the difficult task of creating conditions to break the current impasse and resume dialogue after the war.

Tarabrin recalled that the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict shows “what happens when the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council are ignored and influential global actors are unable or unwilling to help the parties find consensus solutions.”

“The security of both Israelis and Palestinians can only be ensured if the root cause of the current crisis is addressed. Outbursts of violence will inevitably occur until the Palestinian

people, who have suffered decades of injustice, exercise their right to establish an independent state,” he warned.

“The images from Gaza are terrifying as violence has reached an unprecedented and catastrophic scale,” the Russian ambassador said, adding that the October events cannot justify “the collective punishment” of over 2 million Gazans.

“We cannot accept the logic of those officials in Israel and some Western countries who try to justify indiscriminate violence against civilians by referring to Israel’s duty to protect its nationals. Violence only leads to more violence, hate only breeds more hate. This vicious cycle must be broken,” Tarabrin said.

The ICJ hearings are the consequence of a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022. Once they conclude, the Hague Court will issue a non-binding opinion.

(AMANDALA Ed. Note: The vote, not the voter. A vote for murder by a sanctimonious sympathizer is not preferable to a vote for peace by a so-called terrorist.)

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REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Major outlets call on the US to drop charges against Assange



Stella Morris (C) at a rally demanding the release of Julian Assange, 2022. | Photo: Twitter/ @B2O6N4

“Holding governments accountable is part of the core mission of a free press in a democracy,” the New York Times and European media said.

www.telesurenglish.net, Nov. 28, 2022
Through a joint letter published on Monday, The New York Times, The Guardian, Le Monde, Der Spiegel, and El Pais asked the United States to [drop] the Espionage Act charges against Julian Assange because it undermines press freedom.

Twelve years ago, those American and European media released excerpts of the revelations obtained in 250,000 documents, which were leaked to WikiLeaks by the then American soldier Chelsea Manning. Following that leak, Washington began proceedings to indict Assange under legislation designed to put World War I spies on trial.

“Publishing is not a crime,” said those outlets, emphasizing that Assange’s prosecution under the Espionage Act sets a dangerous precedent and undermines the U.S. First Amendment.

“Obtaining and disclosing sensitive information when necessary in the public interest is a core part of the daily work of journalists... If that work is criminalized, our public discourse and our democracies are made significantly weaker,” the letter stated.

Assange has been imprisoned in the Belmarsh prison in London since 2019, when he was arrested at the Ecuadorian embassy where he had been a refugee for seven years.

Former British Home Secretary Priti Patel approved his extradition to the United States in June, although Assange’s lawyers are appealing such a decision.

The British newspaper The Guardian recalled today that the administration of President Barack Obama (2009-2017) did not prosecute the WikiLeaks founder for the 2010 leaks because of the precedent that such action would set.

“Holding governments accountable is part of the core mission of a free press in a democracy,” the letter said.

(AMANDALA Ed. Note: The above article, though dated November 2022, is important background to the current situation with the Julian Assange case, which many might not be familiar with. Noteworthy is the fact that, as stated above, “the administration of President Barack Obama (2009-2017) did not prosecute the WikiLeaks founder for the 2010 leaks because of the precedent that such action would set.” The following is from Wikipedia: “**Julian Paul Assange** (/YĒsQDn/ Y-SAHNZH;^[3] né **Hawkins**; born 3 July 1971) is an Australian editor, publisher and activist who founded WikiLeaks in 2006. He came to wide international attention in 2010 when WikiLeaks published a series of leaks from US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning: footage of a US airstrike in Baghdad, US military logs from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, and US diplomatic cables. Assange has won multiple awards for publishing and journalism.)

Verdict on Assange appeal to be announced at later date



Julian Assange’s wife Stella outside the High Court, London, U.K, Feb. 21, 2024. | Photo: Xinhua

The Wikileaks founder has been held at London’s high-security Belmarsh Prison since 2019.

www.telesurenglish.net, Feb. 22, 2024
On Wednesday, the United Kingdom High Court concluded its two-day hearing on WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange’s appeal against his extradition to the United States on espionage charges, but the judges said they would give their decision at a later date.
Assange, 52, is wanted in the United States on allegations of disclosing national defense information following WikiLeaks’s publication of thousands of documents relating to the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, which included an Apache helicopter video footage documenting the U.S. military

gunning down Reuters journalists and children in Baghdad’s streets in 2007.
He has been held at southeast London’s high-security Belmarsh Prison since 2019. Lawyers for the United States said earlier that he would be allowed to transfer to Australia, his home country, to serve any prison sentence he may be given.
The UK approved his extradition to the United States in 2022 under then Home Secretary Priti Patel after a judge initially blocked it on Assange’s mental health concerns.
Assange was absent from the two-day proceedings due to illness as two judges at the UK High Court, namely Victoria Sharp and Justice Johnson, heard arguments from his legal team and lawyers representing the U.S. government.

Clair Dobbin, a lawyer for the United States, said during Wednesday’s hearing that the WikiLeaks founder “indiscriminately and knowingly published to the world the names of individuals who acted as sources of information to the U.S.” Assange’s lawyers referenced alleged U.S. plot to kidnap or kill the WikiLeaks founder reported in 2021.
If the two judges at the UK High Court rule in Assange’s favor, a full appeal hearing will be scheduled to consider his challenge and could lead to a new decision about his extradition.
If he loses the case, Assange could be extradited within weeks unless his legal

team can get an emergency injunction at the European Court of Human Rights in time.
Hundreds of supporters of Assange gathered outside the High Court on Wednesday despite rain, holding signs that read “Free Julian Assange” and chanting “No extradition!”
(AMANDALA Ed. Note: Jeremy Corbyn speaks to: @SkyNews outside court as Julian Assange hearing concludes. On Assange: “That’s what a journalists job is, to hold those in power, elected politicians and everyone else to account, we have got to protect journalists” #FreeAssange)

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MARCH 06, 2024
WEDNESDAY