

CitCo's electric buses pilot project begins July 19

One bus operator expressed concerns; Mayor Wagner says one year is strictly a data gathering phase



The first electric bus arrived in Belize in January this year

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 24, 2024

After several delays, the E-buses pilot project will get underway in Belize City on Friday, July 19, 2024. The fare for the two air-conditioned 9-meter buses will be \$3.00 (a dollar more than

that charged by current bus operators). They will operate from Monday to Sunday from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The buses will travel from in front of the

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One dead, one injured; one charged in Lake-I shooting



(l-r) Stanley Moore, deceased and Joshua Gillett, injured

(above) Marquis Conorque, charged; (left) The BMW car that Moore and Gillett were travelling in

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 24, 2024

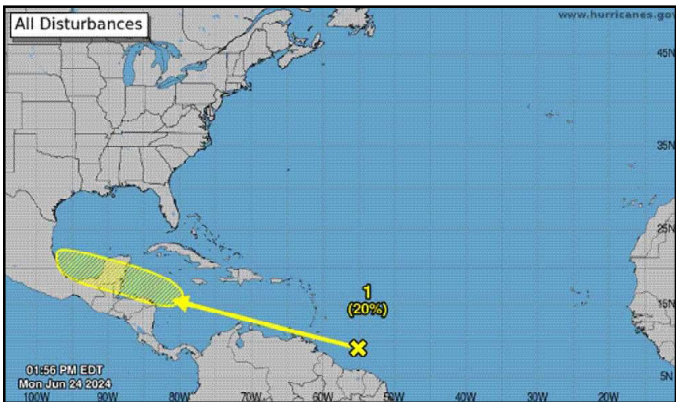
On Sunday, June 23, two men were shot in the Lake Independence area, one of them fatally. It is the third

shooting to occur in Lake Independence within a week.

The men were identified as Joshua Gillett, who is recovering, and Stanley

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Belize braces for more possible heavy rainfall



by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 24, 2024

The National Meteorological Service of Belize has issued an excessive rainfall watch for central and southern coastal areas, warning residents to prepare for heavy rains over the next 3-6 hours. The advisory notes the potential for the significant rainfall to lead to localized flooding,

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Public Service Award Ceremony 2024



Token of appreciation for officers

by Kristen Ku

SAN PEDRO TOWN, Ambergris Caye, Mon. June 24, 2024

As Public Service Week 2024 came to a close over

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Roaring Creek Police Station shot up



Roaring Creek Police Station

by Kristen Ku

ROARING CREEK, Cayo District, Mon. June 24, 2024

Police are actively searching for multiple suspects involved in the late-night shooting of the Roaring

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CitCo's electric buses pilot project begins July 19

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Battlefield Park, into Regent Street, then west across the foot of Swing Bridge and through to Water Lane and Bagdad Street, onto Mosul Street, down Vernon Street and into Youth for the Future Drive, onto Douglas Jones Street, then into Kelly Street toward Baymen Avenue, onto Princess Margaret Drive, into Coney Drive, and then down Buttonwood Bay Boulevard, reaching the Philip Goldson Highway and turning at the roundabout to head onto Chetumal Street. Once there, they will head back to downtown Belize City through Holy Emanuel Street, then La Croix Boulevard and onto Mahogany Street. They will then turn onto Central American Boulevard and continue to Cemetery Road, then Orange Street until they are back at Battlefield Park on Albert Street.

Ahead of the start of the project, today, one of the operators in the City, City Shuttle Ltd. (CSL) held a press conference expressing grave concern about the Electric Mobility Pilot Project. The project is funded by the European Union (EU) and is being implemented in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Philip Jones, who is named as the principal behind CSL, on March 7 this year wrote the UNDP's Belize resident representative, Kishan Khoday, declaring that the proposed route of the E-buses will "devour the lion-share of our daily revenues." He adds that the cherry-picking of the most lucrative routes will result in an immediate estimated revenue loss of 50%. Today at his press conference, Jones appeared with his attorney, Arthur Saldivar, but it



(l-r) Neil Hall, e-Transit Project Coordinator, BCC and Belize City Mayor, Bernard Wagner



(l-r) Attorney Arthur Saldivar and Philip Jones, City Shuttle Limited

was Saldivar alone who did a presentation and answered all of the media's questions. He affirmed that Belize City Mayor Bernard Wagner has proposed a Public Private Partnership (PPP) for the operation of the electric vehicles (EVs) which will be detrimental to the existing operators. Saldivar stated, "He is dictating to the private sector players that they are to give up 51% of

their holdings in their companies in order to participate."

According to Saldivar, there are between 18 to 25 families dependent on CSL who would be negatively impacted by this shift. Saldivar also claims that all they have had since the talk of E-buses emerged in 2022 have been presentations which exclude dialogue and negotiation. He noted that the only definitive detail that has been disclosed is the route for the E-buses. Otherwise, alleges CSL, there is not much

information being provided by the authorities about the proposal. In a follow-up e-mail to Khoday on March 26, 2024, Jones requested a closed technical meeting with UNDP, the Belize City Council and the Ministry of Transport, citing that it won't share proprietary data with competitors.

This afternoon, Mayor Wagner and Neil Hall, the Council's E-Transit Project Coordinator, commented on the concerns raised by CSL, which says it has been operating in the city for the last 35 years. Wagner affirmed that CSL is getting ahead of itself, as the pilot project, he says, will last one year, and is meant strictly as a data-gathering phase. When that is concluded, Wagner says they will know if scaling up a low carbon, e-mobility project is feasible. From that same data, says the Mayor, the investors/bus operators can go to financiers to fund the acquisition of more E-buses. The Mayor affirmed that inclusion has always been one of their main concerns, and "just last week I had a meeting with City Shuttle and the other counterparts." He asserted that CSL is engaging in untruths which is disturbing. He added that it is not their intention to drive anyone out of business, and for that reason, they are ensuring that they (the E-buses) are charging a higher bus fare "so as not to underprice them out of business." He also declared that they are giving people an option of cleaner service that will have Wi-Fi, wheelchair accessibility and a camera monitoring system for its 50 passengers.

Wagner clarified that during the one-year pilot project, the Council will run the buses itself and will therefore earn all the revenue. As to what happens thereafter, the Mayor commented, "I don't even know where they have

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"Mr. T" killed; one man charged



Dion Bowden, deceased

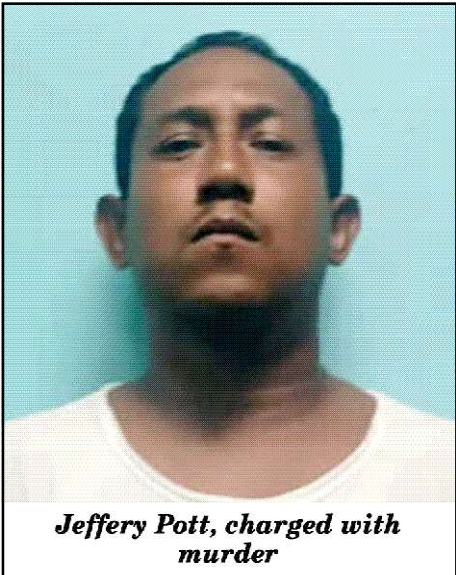
by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 24, 2024
One man has been charged with the murder of a 50-year-old Belize City man which took place in the early hours of Saturday morning, June 22.

The deceased has been identified as Dion Martin Bowden, who was known by many as "Mr. T".

It has been reported that Bowden was walking on Pitts Alley a little before 1:30 a.m. when he was reportedly shot multiple times by a male alleged to be 35-year-old Jeffery Pott. It is alleged that Pott emerged from the direction of New Road to fire at Bowden while he was walking with a group of his companions.

When police arrived at the scene, they found a motionless Bowden at the



Jeffery Pott, charged with murder

scene and he was taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he was officially declared dead by medical personnel.

According to ACP Hilberto Romero, Regional Commander of the Belize Police Department's Eastern Division, Pott has been charged with the crime of murder, after being identified in footage captured by a nearby security camera and by an eyewitness.

ACP Romero additionally mentioned that before the shooting, Bowden had gotten into an argument with another individual from the area, and Pott targeted Bowden as an act of retaliation.

Bowden's body will soon undergo a post-mortem examination.

He leaves behind two infant children.

Duo charged for robbery, and woman for unlicensed firearm

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 24, 2024
Two men have been charged for breaking into a store in Mahogany Heights, Belize District, along with a female of Seine Bight, Stann Creek District, who has been charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm and possession of unlicensed ammunition.

On Friday, June 21, around 2:00 p.m., police responded to information about a robbery taking place at a store in Mahogany Heights. The store owner told officers that she was at the store when three persons with firearms entered the establishment and stole an undisclosed amount of cash along with other items inside, then escaped.

Following an investigation, police arrested Jahstar Gonguez and Sean Crawford, both from Belize City, who were charged with robbery.

Police discovered Gonguez attempting to hide at his home located behind the village cemetery. While he was detained, officers searched the home and discovered a female identified as Shanda Gonzalez in the bathroom, along with a 9-millimeter pistol with an extended magazine with ammunition.

She was charged with possession of



Jahstar Gonguez, charged with robbery

an unlicensed firearm and possession of unlicensed ammunition.

Gonguez is a known figure to police, as he was charged with murder for allegedly killing Shawn Robert Palacio in 2021 but was set free due to a nolle prosequi.

BDF addresses concern over pay scale adjustments

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Fri. June 21, 2024

The Belize Defence Force (BDF) has officially issued a statement to clarify the concerns regarding a supposed reduction in the salaries of its soldiers, following the circulation of rumors across social media platforms that there had been a substantial salary cut for members of the force.

Those rumors were indicating that soldiers were facing pay cuts that varied based on their rank and years of service—with rumored cuts amounting to approximately \$10,000 annually (\$200 weekly) for those with 20 years of service.

Concerns were also raised regarding the extent to which this would affect the compensation for soldiers who have dedicated many years of service to Belize, particularly as some retirees continue to await final settlements.

The press release, dated June 21, outlined that the alleged “massive salary cut” was the result of an administrative error in 2019 by the Ministry of Finance. “In 2019, an error in the salary adjustment for enlisted soldiers occurred,” it stated.

However, according to the statement, no immediate salary reductions have been implemented. Instead, the BDF, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security and other governmental departments, has launched a country-wide education campaign to



Belize Defence Force soldiers

inform soldiers about an ongoing reassessment process.

The reassessment will be conducted by the Job Classification and Compensation Unit under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance. It aims to evaluate factors such as rank, years of service, and job specifications to ensure that the pay scales are both fair and accurate.

“No soldier’s salary will be adjusted until this exercise is completed. After the

review, all salaries will be placed on the new pay scale based on the revised findings,” assured Colonel Ricardo Leal, Chief of Staff at the BDF.

Additionally, the BDF is working on introducing a new set of allowances to enhance the overall compensation package for its soldiers. These are set to include Jungle and Maritime Allowance, Specialist Allowance, among others, which are intended to provide further financial support to the soldiers.

“We understand the importance of transparency and fairness in this matter, and we are committed to ensuring that all affected personnel are fully informed and supported in the best way possible throughout this process,” Colonel Leal added.

Amandala reached out to the Minister of National Defence and Border Security, Hon. Florencio Marin, Jr., for comment on the matter, but up to press time he had not responded.

UB has a new Brand Ambassador, Noelia Hernandez

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 24, 2024

Miss Noelia Hernandez, a former Miss World Belize, was recently named the University of Belize’s (UB) new Brand Ambassador.

The announcement, made by UB and The ILS Phoenix Foundation, was solidified with an official signing ceremony on Friday, June 21, at UB’s Belize City Faculty of Management and Social Sciences (FMSS) Campus.

“We were approached by the ILS Phoenix Group with the proposal ... [to] the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, and this is the program where the MBA comes under. He embraced it and said, let’s run with it. I am the leader that likes to think outside of the box and welcome new initiatives; I embraced it as well, and that is how it started,” UB’s president, Dr. Vincent Palacio, explained to local reporters following the signing.

As the new Brand Ambassador, Hernandez will have several important responsibilities. She will promote the university’s monthly programs and initiatives, and conduct workshops focusing on confidence-building and public speaking. These workshops are aimed at empowering students and enhancing their personal and



(l-r) Dr. Vincent Palacio, UB president, and Noelia Hernandez, UB brand ambassador

professional skills.

In recognition of her role and contributions, Hernandez will receive a scholarship valued at BZD 24,000 to pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at UB, starting in August 2024.

Hernandez told reporters, “I was extremely excited because I’ve always wanted to do my Master’s Degree in the first place; and then when the opportunity arose, I was like, ‘oh my gosh, I’m actually going to do it.’ Plus, being an ambassador is something exciting since I already have the background as well. Since Dr. Vincent already said, I come from UB, so I was ready for the challenge, and it is a challenge indeed, but I think I’m ready.”

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Coastal Plain Highway reopened after closed for a day due to flooding

by Kristen Ku

BELIZE CITY, Fri. June 21, 2024

The Ministry of Infrastructure, Development, and Housing (MIDH) has announced that the Coastal Highway is reopened for traffic after just less than a day of being inundated by flood water.

On Monday, June 17, Belizeans awoke to see videos and pictures circulating on social media of portions of the most recently built highway, the Coastal Plain Highway, that had been damaged due to the heavy Sunday rains.

These were the same rains that had caused flash floods in numerous parts of the country, especially in the Orange Walk District.

Pieces of broken pavement and exposed gravel were seen near Mile 17.5 in trails that extended 100 meters long. The MIDH attributed this damage to water spilling over from a culvert that had been blocked by logs from recent land clearing and debris left by forest fires upstream.

The \$78M investment and the years of construction that preceded the opening of the Highway, seemed to be no match for the June rains. Concerns have now arisen about how the highway



(Photo: Belize Live News)

Coastal Highway flooded area

will withstand any potential onslaught that could occur during the Atlantic Hurricane Season, over the course of which up to 25 named storms are expected to form.

Tropical Storm Alberto, the first named storm, though it did not directly hit Belize, on Thursday dumped high levels of rain—approximately 4 to 10 inches. And with continuous blockages due to logs in culverts and other areas along the Coastal Plain Highway, today portions of the highway were flooded.

Evondale Moody, MIDH’s chief engineer, defended the project’s planning, stating, “When we designed the Coastal Highway five years ago, we took into consideration all the climate resilient factors that we thought were

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Public Service Award Ceremony 2024



Public Officers honored at the Public Service Award Ceremony

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the weekend, the Ministry of Public

Service, Constitutional & Political Reform, and Religious Affairs held its Annual Public Service Award Ceremony

Foreigners caught illegally entering Belize

Belizean couple avoids jail time for helping foreign men to enter the country illegally.



by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Fri. June 21, 2024

By the time this article is published in Tuesday’s digital issue of *Amandala*, a group of four foreigners will have already been sent out of Belize, after pleading guilty to entering the country illegally when they appeared in the Belize Magistrate’s Court on Thursday, June 20.

The four illegal entrants have been identified as Emil Dasdamirov, Mistaftar Oglu, and Karman Amurili, all from Azerbaijan, and Gilson Fernandes, Jr., of Brazil.

The men pleaded guilty to the charge against them when they appeared in court. One of them mentioned that he entered the country through Honduras and thought that after crossing the river, they would meet at the Immigration Office, something they had done before.

The men were fined \$1,000 each, plus a \$5 cost of court fine, and they were ordered to pay their fines forthwith or they would spend six months in jail. The court also issued an expulsion order for them to be sent back to their native countries.

The men’s entry into Belize was

facilitated by two Belizeans, 28-year-old Jasmine Espat, a store manager and clerk at Naybaz Store in Belmopan, and her common-law husband, Samuel Peters, a traffic officer of Santa Elena, who were both arraigned and charged with facilitating the commission of a crime, to which they pleaded guilty.

It is alleged that on Wednesday, June 19, all four men entered Belize via the Mopan River in Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Cayo District. Reportedly, while Peters was driving a Chevrolet Malibu with Espat in the passenger seat, they were stopped at a checkpoint near the junction of the Philip Goldson Highway and the Burrell Boom Road, where they were found to have the group of four inside.

Espat said that their reason for providing that service was that they were experiencing financial difficulties and had a sick child and were offered \$500, which she accepted.

In light of their reasons for their actions, the court did not impose a prison sentence, but fined them \$1,000 each plus the cost of court. Espat was ordered to pay her fine immediately or face five months in prison, and Peters was given until July 31 to pay his.



(l-r) Minister of Public Service, Constitutional & Political Reform, and Religious Affairs, Hon. Henry Charles Usher; Public Officer, Esther Deville receiving award; and Governor General of Belize, Dame Froyla Tzalam

in lieu of Public Service Day, on June 23, in San Pedro Town.

A list of activities and events under the theme, “Belize Public Service: Honoring Our Everyday Heroes, Public Servants, and Empowering Communities, Enriching Lives,” were held during the week.

This year, the Ministry recognized a total of 1,530 public officers countrywide for their years of dedicated service from anywhere between 10 to 35 years. The ceremony, however, gathered 108 public officers who have given 25 years of service to the government and people of Belize.

“The image of a public officer is not simply a trademark, but is a deliberately crafted personality profile, perfected by the ethos of what is often a thankless job. The measurement of public service cannot be quantified, but many times it receives more criticism than acknowledgment. And this fails to support the public officer’s contribution to nation-building. So, on this Public Service Day, I am honored to stand here. I am honored to lead with other countries and other persons from around the world in saluting the women and men who have and continue to dedicate their lives to the highest possible calling - public service,” shared the Minister of Public Service, Constitutional & Political Reform, and Religious Affairs, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, in his address.

Among the invited guests was Dr. Vincent Palacio, the President of the University of Belize (UB), who attended the event both as the guest speaker and as a representative of the partnership between UB and the Ministry. This partnership focuses on an online platform

service designed to provide training for public officers.

“It is with great pleasure that we acknowledge and recognize the dedication, commitment and selflessness exhibited by our public officers, who day in and day out work tirelessly to ensure the well-being and progress of our communities. Public service is more than just a job, it is a calling. It demands a selfless commitment to the greater good, and the willingness to work tirelessly for the benefit of others,” Dr. Palacio expressed.

All 108 officers received awards as well as tokens distributed by Hon. Henry Charles Usher and the Governor General of Belize, Dame Froyla Tzalam. Dame Tzalam also toasted the contribution of the officers as well as their families who have been a part of their journeys.

“I ask you to raise your glass, to salute the public servants of Belize, and to the continued delivery of efficient and equal treatment to all without ill will or favor. On behalf of a grateful nation, I salute you,” she said.

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICE

NOTICE: I, Cornelius Henry, state that I have lost my original Vessel Registration Certificate. Name of Vessel: Polar Storm. Vessel Registration Number: SPR-0732.



Time and overtime

There is something sorely missing in our Belize society right now. The causes may be many, and we don't claim to have all the answers. But there is one thing we are confident of, and that is that sports has the potential of healing a lot of our troubled minds and souls, which must be a part of the reason for so much violence in our communities. But sports itself is in need of nurturing and healing in order for its great potential to be realized. And sports in Belize is in a bad state. Sure, there is a lot of lip support, and some token contributions, but if our society was real and genuine about the importance of sports, as a nation we would be putting our "money where our mouth is." Despite the recent efforts of the current Minister of Sports, the evidence is all around us, and "the buck stops" with our governments and their reluctance to change their attitude toward sports, and reflect that in their budgetary allocations so that sports in Belize can begin to reach its true potential as an inspiration and catalyst towards the health and happiness of our troubled people. This is a big topic, but we will try and confine ourselves right now to two aspects – how we treat our players, and how we treat our fans in Belize City, the population and commercial capital of the nation.

It used to be the norm, in decades past, for a sitting minister of government along with prominent business personalities to attend top-level football games on a Sunday afternoon at the MCC Grounds, and to view the matches from an elevated seat where the whole stadium could be viewed. This added a special dimension to the contests on the field, because the players knew that their performance and behavior on the field were being observed by representatives at the highest level of the nation. It brought a measure of dignity and importance to the event, and thus to those involved.

There was a two-storey structure, the Guinness Pavilion, which provided comfortable seating accommodations for dignitaries and guests to view the games. There was nearby a Brodies pavilion which also served as a special seating for guests and officials. And there were also three large wooden bleachers along the western sideline, so that in the afternoon, the sun was at the back of the fans. All these structures had zinc roofs to shield those seated under them from the sun and rain. And fans and prominent members of society felt safe and comfortable going to enjoy the games at the top level of football in Belize City. The MCC was considered the Mecca of football in Belize then, though by international standards it was way behind other countries in the region.

But instead of going forward, we have gone backward, way backward, as any ride along the Princess Margaret Drive today can show you. What sane nation that respects and appreciates its footballers would allow this situation to continue? But still, we often lament about the glory days of football in the

1970s, and the blame for everything today always seems to be on the players, that they don't take their game as seriously as players did back then. There may be a grain of truth there, but how about reflecting on the amount of love shown to our players – love as in investment in the facilities that provide the impetus for the game and the fans and the players to flourish? Since September 18, 1978, when Hurricane Greta destroyed the pavilions and western bleachers at the MCC, they have not been replaced. And the field, which was once treated with care and nurturing, has been abused on a number of occasions by other events, and left to deteriorate to an abominable level, so much so that a visiting Trinidad team refused to have their players exercise there in preparation for an international friendly in Belmopan. Is there a correlation between abused Belize City football, and the violence prevalent in Belize City streets?

The official disregard for the facilities which are for the comfort of fans, and the field which is the arena for players, has become taken for granted, as much as our great stars of the past are gone and forgotten so quickly.

The little artificial turf, Berger Field is great for the kids to train and play their little Mundialitos, but don't expect thousands of adult fans to cram the little space in the boiling sun on a mid-Saturday morning for fun and relaxation. Big-people fans come out in the evening cool – 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. —to watch their top-level players perform at the big stadium on a Sunday afternoon. But all we have are promises for the MCC.

It is said that a measure of a culture or civilization is seen in how they treat their old folks. And in the realm of sports in Belize, football in particular, it has been a sad case of neglect. How can youngsters coming up know about the legends of the past if we still cannot establish a Belize Football Hall of Fame?

In his book, *Janus*, C.B. Hyde explained briefly how in 1990 a government-appointed team of prominent elder sportsmen did the groundwork and prepared a list of 80 names of top athletes they selected from 8 major sports in Belize up to the year 1960. In a pioneering effort, they launched the first Belize National Sports Hall of Fame, with 10 names from each of the sporting disciplines chosen. A follow-up effort a few years later did not get ministerial support, and the 40 names reportedly chosen were never officially inducted.

Wellington Ramos and his Belize-American Football Hall of Fame committee have made a noble effort in recent years, but their selection might not receive approval across the spectrum in Belize because it is not validated by a nationally approved body.

There is an urgent need for the official body of each sport to embark on a similar effort, and here we, as we have done before, call on the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) to lead the effort in seeing to the establishment of the Belize National Football Hall of Fame; and it is important that this effort be a sustained program where annual or biennial selections are made to add new names to the list of Hall of Famers. It must be a living process that keeps younger fans informed as the years go by, so that elder Hall of Famers will no longer be strangers, as they now are, to young players and fans.

One of the key factors that keeps the engine of professional sports roaring in America, is the institution called the Hall of Fame, where the greatest stars of the game are put on a pedestal of appreciation for them to remain ambassadors of the sport during their retirement years, and the love and appreciation of fans during their playing careers carry on in life, as their names are forever etched in the annals of the sport. It becomes just another form of inspiration for active players to aspire to, and a continuing gesture of appreciation, a badge of honor they can proudly wear at every Hall of Fame ceremony and for the rest of their lives. Every major sport in the U.S. has its Hall of Fame. And its members' presence stands as a guiding light and inspiration overseeing and nurturing the development of the qualities and attributes that their outstanding careers have set as an example for the next generation of would-be stars to emulate.

Why not, Belize? What are we waiting for?



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Tiempo y horas extras

Hay algo que falta sumamente en nuestra sociedad de Belize en este momento. Las causas pueden ser muchas y no pretendemos tener todas las respuestas. Pero hay una cosa en la que confiamos, y es que los deportes tienen el potencial de curar muchas de nuestras mentes y almas atribuladas, lo que debe ser parte de la razón de tanta violencia en nuestras comunidades. Pero el deporte en sí necesita ser nutrido y sanado para que se pueda realizar su gran potencial. Y el deporte en Belize está en mal estado. Claro, hay mucho apoyo verbal y algunas contribuciones simbólicas, pero si nuestra sociedad fuera real y genuina acerca de la importancia de los deportes, como nación estaríamos poniendo nuestro “dinero donde está nuestra boca”. A pesar de los recientes esfuerzos del actual Ministro de Deportes, la evidencia está a nuestro alrededor, y “la responsabilidad recae” en nuestros gobiernos y su renuencia a cambiar su actitud hacia los deportes, y reflejar eso en sus asignaciones presupuestarias para que los deportes en Belize puedan comenzar a alcanzar su verdadero potencial como inspiración y catalizador hacia la salud y la felicidad de nuestra gente con problemas. Este es un gran tema, pero intentaremos limitarnos ahora a dos aspectos: cómo tratamos a nuestros jugadores y cómo tratamos a nuestros fanáticos en la Ciudad de Belize, la capital poblacional y comercial de la nación.

En décadas pasadas, solía ser la norma que un ministro de gobierno en funciones, junto con prominentes personalidades empresariales, asistiera a partidos de fútbol de alto nivel un domingo por la tarde en el Recinto MCC, y los viera desde un asiento elevado donde se podía ver todo el estadio. Esto añadía una dimensión especial a las competiciones en el campo, porque los jugadores sabían que su desempeño y comportamiento en el campo eran observados por representantes del más alto nivel de la nación. Aportaba cierta dignidad e importancia al evento y, por ende, a los involucrados.

Había una estructura de dos pisos, el Pabellón Guinness, que ofrecía cómodos asientos para que los dignatarios e invitados pudieran ver los juegos. Cerca había un pabellón Brodies que también servía como asiento especial para invitados y funcionarios. Y también había tres grandes gradas de madera a lo largo de la banda occidental, de modo que por la tarde el sol estaba detrás de los aficionados. Todas estas estructuras tenían techos de lámina para proteger del sol y la lluvia a quienes estaban sentados debajo de ellas. Y los fanáticos y miembros destacados de la sociedad se sentían seguros y cómodos al disfrutar de los juegos del más alto nivel del fútbol en la Ciudad de Belize. En aquel entonces, el MCC era considerado la Meca del fútbol en Belize, aunque según los estándares internacionales estaba muy por detrás de otros países de la región.

Pero en lugar de avanzar, hemos retrocedido, mucho hacia atrás, como cualquier paseo por el Paseo Princess Margaret hoy puede demostrar. ¿Qué nación en su sano juicio, que respeta y aprecia a sus futbolistas, permitiría que esta situación continúe? Pero aún así, a menudo nos lamentamos de los días de gloria del fútbol en la década de 1970, y la culpa de todo hoy siempre parece recaer en los jugadores, que no se toman su juego tan en serio como lo hacían los jugadores de entonces. Puede que haya una pizca de verdad ahí, pero ¿qué tal si reflexionamos sobre la cantidad de amor mostrado a nuestros jugadores, amor en la medida de la inversión en las instalaciones que brindan el impulso para que el juego, los fanáticos y los jugadores florezcan? Desde el 18 de septiembre de 1978, cuando el huracán Greta destruyó los pabellones y las gradas occidentales del MCC, no han sido reemplazados. Y el campo, que alguna vez fue tratado con cuidado y cariño, ha sido abusado en varias ocasiones por otros eventos, y se ha dejado deteriorar a un nivel abominable, hasta el punto de que un equipo visitante de Trinidad se negó a que sus jugadores ejercitaran allí en preparación para un amistoso internacional en Belmopan. ¿Existe una correlación entre los abusos en

el fútbol de la Ciudad de Belize y la violencia que prevalece en las calles de la Ciudad de Belize?

El desprecio oficial por las instalaciones destinadas a la comodidad de los aficionados y el campo, que es el estadio de los jugadores, se ha dado por sentado, igual como nuestras grandes estrellas del pasado se van y se olviden tan rápidamente.

El pequeño césped artificial, el campo Berger, es ideal para que los niños entrenen y jueguen sus pequeños Mundialitos, pero no esperen que miles de fanáticos adultos abarrotan el pequeño espacio bajo el sol hirviendo a mediados de la mañana del sábado para divertirse y relajarse. Los fanáticos grandes salen en lo fresco: 3:30 o 4:00 p.m. —para ver actuar a sus jugadores de primer nivel en el gran estadio un domingo por la tarde. Pero lo único que tenemos son promesas para el MCC.

Se dice que una medida de una cultura o civilización se ve en cómo tratan a sus ancianos. Y en el ámbito de los deportes en Belize, el fútbol en particular, ha sido un triste caso de abandono. ¿Cómo pueden los jóvenes creciendo conocer las leyendas del pasado si todavía no podemos establecer un Salón de la Fama del Fútbol en Belize?

En su libro, *Janus*, C.B. Hyde explicó brevemente cómo en 1990 un equipo designado del gobierno de destacados deportistas ancianos hizo el trabajo preliminar y preparó una lista de 80 nombres de atletas de primer nivel que seleccionaron de 8 deportes importantes en Belize hasta el año 1960. En un esfuerzo pionero, lanzaron el primer Salón de la Fama del Deporte Nacional de Belize, con 10 nombres de cada una de las disciplinas deportivas elegidas. Unos años más tarde, un esfuerzo de seguimiento no obtuvo apoyo ministerial y los 40 nombres supuestamente elegidos nunca fueron admitidos oficialmente.

Wellington Ramos y su comité Beliceño Estadounidense del Salón de la Fama del Fútbol han hecho un noble esfuerzo en los últimos años, pero su selección podría no recibir la aprobación general en Belize porque no está validada por un organismo aprobado a nivel nacional.

Existe una necesidad urgente de que el organismo oficial de cada deporte se embarque en un esfuerzo similar, y aquí nosotros, como lo hemos hecho antes, hacemos un llamado a la Federación de Fútbol de Belize (FFB) para que lidere el esfuerzo para lograr el establecimiento del Salón de la Fama del Fútbol Nacional de Belize; y es importante que este esfuerzo sea un programa sostenido donde se hagan selecciones anuales o bienales para agregar nuevos nombres a la lista de miembros del Salón de la Fama. Debe ser un proceso vivo que mantenga informados a los fanáticos más jóvenes a medida que pasan los años, para que los miembros mayores del Salón de la Fama ya no sean extraños, como lo son ahora, para los jugadores y fanáticos jóvenes.

Uno de los factores clave que mantiene rugiente el motor de los deportes profesionales en Estados Unidos es la institución llamada Salón de la Fama, donde las más grandes estrellas del juego son puestas en un pedestal en agradecimiento para que sigan siendo embajadores del deporte durante sus años de jubilación, y el amor y aprecio de los fanáticos durante sus carreras como jugadores continúan en la vida, ya que sus nombres quedan grabados para siempre en los anales del deporte. Se convierte en simplemente otra forma de inspiración a la que pueden aspirar los jugadores activos, y en un gesto continuo de agradecimiento, una insignia de honor que pueden usar con orgullo en cada ceremonia del Salón de la Fama y por el resto de sus vidas. Todos los deportes importantes en Estados Unidos tienen su Salón de la Fama. Y la presencia de sus miembros es una luz guía e inspiración que supervisa y fomenta el desarrollo de las cualidades y atributos que sus destacadas carreras han establecido como ejemplo a emular para la próxima generación de aspirantes a estrellas.

¿Por qué no, Belize? ¿Qué estamos esperando?



I ran into Deron Jones, one of the greatest football flank defenders I have ever seen, outside a hardware store in Ladyville on Saturday afternoon. (I believe Deron played on the great Juventus team which defeated Real Espana and Platence, two of Honduras’ most highly rated franchises, back in the middle 1990s.)

Deron said that he wasn’t seeing me

around, that he heard me once in a while, but never saw me.

Well, esteemed brother Deron, I became a great grandfather a few years ago. All my children are grown, the youngest being 42. Our newspaper, radio and television are basically run by one of my daughters and two of my sons. Our African and Indigenous Library, which houses the UBAD

Educational Foundation (UEF), is controlled by the indefatigable Ya Ya Marin Coleman, a virtual dictator.

I feel that I have lost most of my relevance to Belizeans, in the sense that Belize has changed drastically. Belize has become like the countries around us, in the sense that our social climate has become so very violent.

The world itself has become filled

with violence and threats of violence. This may not really be a new development. Remember, in the last century we had World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Iraq-Iran War, the American invasions of Grenada, Panama, Iraq, and so on. I didn’t even mention Rwanda, or Israel and Gaza.

In British Honduras/ Belize when I was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, it would seem to me that we were in a sheltered environment, socio-politically speaking. Today, if you walk the streets late at night, they will cut your throat or shoot you down, almost for fun.

In Belize when I was growing up, the violence was restricted to the boxing ring. If you killed anybody, they hanged you 21 days after court conviction.

And now, when my generation thought we owned a country, and we actually achieved political independence in 1981, our very sovereign existence is up in the air, because of this ICJ business. Deron, I don’t know where Belize is and I don’t know what to think.

I thought the Belizean diaspora summit in Los Angeles last week was monumental, but it is the people who were there who must go on to tell it like it is and prepare Belizeans for the crises ahead.

I thought Nuri Akbar’s presentation at the summit was glorious, and I thought Bilal Morris’ presentation was very strong. Bilal was stronger than I have ever heard him.

These two men were young proteges of the late Ismail Omar Shabazz, the founding secretary/treasurer of the United Black Association for Development (UBAD) in 1969. Ismail left UBAD to join Imam Nuri Muhammad in the Nation of Islam in late 1972, and then migrated to Los Angeles in the late 1970s or early 1980s. There, he renewed contact with the late Edgar X Richardson, an early UBAD officer before he left for L.A. in 1970. Nuri Akbar and Bilal Morris became their strongest disciples in the BREDAA organization. I would dare to say that these two young men loved Shabazz deeply.

I want to give maximum public respect to Ismail. He was the strength of UBAD, from day to day, until he left us in November of 1972. Within a few months after his departure, UBAD divided down the middle in early 1973, and was dissolved in November of 1974.

Brother Deron, Ismail has become an ancestor, and yours truly is an elder. I look to the younger generations for inspiration as we struggle to hold on to this nation that we thought we owned.

It was good to see you, Brother Deron. You are a man I hold in big respect.



Me encontré con Deron Jones, uno de los mejores defensores de flanco de fútbol que he visto en mi vida, afuera de una ferretería en Ladyville el sábado por la tarde. (Creo que Deron jugó en el gran equipo Juventus que derrotó a Real España y Platence, dos de las franquicias mejor valoradas de Honduras, a mediados de los años 1990.)

Deron dijo que no me veía tanto, que me escuchaba de vez en cuando, pero nunca me veía.

Bueno, estimado hermano Deron, me convertí en bisabuelo hace unos años. Todos mis hijos son mayores, el menor tiene 42 años. Nuestro periódico, radio y televisión son dirigidos básicamente por una de mis hijas y dos de mis hijos. Nuestra Biblioteca Africana e Indígena, que alberga la Fundación Educativa UBAD (UEF), está controlada por la infatigable YaYa Marin Coleman, una virtual dictadora.

Siento que he perdido la mayor parte de mi relevancia para los beliceños, en el sentido de que Belize ha cambiado drásticamente. Belize se ha vuelto como los países que nos rodean, en el sentido de que nuestro clima social se ha vuelto muy violento.

El mundo mismo se ha llenado de violencia y amenazas de violencia.

Puede que esto no sea realmente un acontecimiento nuevo. Recuerden, en el siglo pasado tuvimos la Primera Guerra Mundial, la Segunda Guerra Mundial, la Guerra de Corea, la Guerra de Vietnam, la Crisis de los Misiles Cubanos, la Guerra Irak-Irán, las invasión estadounidense de Granada, Panamá, Irak, etc. Ni siquiera mencioné a Ruanda, ni a Israel y Gaza.

En Honduras Británica y Belize, cuando yo era niño, en las décadas de 1950 y 1960, me parecía que estábamos en un ambiente protegido, sociopolíticamente hablando. Hoy en día, si uno camina por las calles a altas horas de la noche, le cortarán el cuello o le dispararán, casi por diversión.

En Honduras Británica y Belize, cuando yo era niño, en las décadas de 1950 y 1960, me parecía que estábamos en un ambiente protegido, sociopolíticamente hablando. Hoy en día, si uno camina por las calles a altas horas de la noche, le cortarán el cuello o le dispararán, casi por diversión.

En Belize, cuando yo era niño, la violencia se restringía al ring de boxeo. Si uno mataba a alguien, lo ahorcaban 21 días después de la condena judicial.

Y ahora, cuando mi generación pensaba que éramos dueños de un país,

y de hecho logramos la independencia política en 1981, nuestra propia existencia soberana está en el aire debido a este asunto de la CIJ. Deron, no sé dónde está Belize y no sé qué pensar.

Pensé que la cumbre de la diáspora beliceña celebrada en Los Ángeles la semana pasada fue monumental, pero son las personas que estuvieron allí las que deben contar las cosas tal como son y preparar a los beliceños para las crisis que se avecinan.

Pensé que la presentación de Nuri Akbar en la cumbre fue gloriosa y pensé que la presentación de Bilal Morris fue muy sólida. Bilal fue más fuerte de lo que jamás lo había escuchado.

Estos dos hombres eran jóvenes pupilos del fallecido Ismail Omar Shabazz, secretario y tesorero fundador de la Asociación Negra Unida para el Desarrollo (UBAD en inglés) en 1969. Ismail dejó a UBAD para unirse al Imam Nuri Muhammad en la Nación del Islam a finales de 1972, y luego Emigró a Los Ángeles a finales de los años 1970 o principios de los años 1980. Allí renovó contacto con el finado Edgar X Richardson, uno de los primeros funcionarios de UBAD antes de partir a Los Ángeles en 1970. Nuri Akbar y Bilal Morris se convirtieron en sus discípulos más firmes en la organización BREDAA (en inglés). Me atrevería a decir que estos dos jóvenes amaban profundamente a Shabazz.

Quiero darle el máximo respeto público a Ismail. Él fue la fuerza de UBAD, día a día, hasta que nos dejó en noviembre de 1972. Pocos meses después de su partida, UBAD se dividió por la mitad a principios de 1973 y se disolvió en noviembre de 1974.

Hermano Deron, Ismail se ha convertido en un antepasado, y este servidor es un anciano. Miro a las generaciones más jóvenes en busca de inspiración mientras luchamos por aferrarnos a esta nación que creíamos poseer.

Fue bueno verle, hermano Deron. Usted es un hombre al que le tengo un gran respeto.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Embassy is seeking an eligible and qualified applicant for the following position:

Position Name: Receiving & Supply Clerk
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2024-11
Closing date: July 7, 2024



To view this vacancy, please scan the QR code or visit the ERA site at <https://erajobs.state.gov/dos-era/blz/vacancysearch/searchVacancies.htm>



For instructions on how to apply via the ERA system, please scan the QR code or visit the U.S. Embassy’s website at: <https://bz.usembassy.gov/jobs/>

The U.S. Mission in Belmopan provides equal employment opportunity and fair and equitable treatment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Note 1: Resumes will not be considered. Candidates must note all work experience when completing the ERA application. Insufficient or incomplete information will result in an ineligible application.

Note 2: Candidates must submit applicable required documentation by the closing date of this announcement. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in an ineligible application.

Terms of Reference

Regional Container Transshipment Strategy

Accessing Peten, Guatemala and Quintana Roo, Mexico

Background

Belize is uniquely nestled on the Caribbean coast of Central America, boasting a stable democracy and an open, mixed economy. However, the size of its economy¹ has prevented it from achieving optimal economies of scale which (when coupled with its persistent trade imbalance) has led to maritime logistics costs that are above global and regional averages. The Belize Port Authority (BPA) is of the view that improved economies of scale could be achieved by exporting port services to the hinterlands of southern Mexico and eastern Guatemala.

Belize currently has two cargo ports: the Port of Big Creek and the Belize City Port. Whereas the Port of Big Creek is not currently engaged in the liner shipping market it does offer weekly connectivity to Europe through Maersk which make weekly calls to pick up bananas. This existing weekly service could be exploited to attract transshipment cargo from Guatemala.

The most pronounced development in the Belizean port landscape over the past year has been the acquisition of Belize's primary container port² by the Government of Belize. The Belize City Port currently has excess capacity and the Board of Directors of the Company has intentions to modernize the facility which would introduce additional capacity. It is hoped that a modernized Belize City Port would attract increased throughput which would help to ensure a return on investment.

Given the foregoing, it is in the interest of the Belizean people that the BPA explore the possibility of accessing neighbouring markets so that the intended modernization of the Port of Belize takes advantage of these opportunities and that the excess capacity at the Port of Big Creek is absorbed. To this end, the BPA is interested in engaging a consultancy firm to assist with the development of a national transshipment strategy to increase containerized cargo throughput at Belizean ports.

Scope of Works

The Consultant is expected to, without limitation, conduct the following:

1. Conduct an analysis of the current and prospective capacity of Belizean ports and their ability to facilitate containerized cargo flows to and from Mexico and Guatemala;
2. Conduct demand studies related to port services in the hinterlands of Peten, Guatemala and Quintana Roo, Mexico (the target markets), including the identification of potential customers;
3. Identify barriers to access related to the target markets and make recommendations on how to overcome them;
4. Identify incentives that could stimulate an uptake of Belizean port services in the target markets;
5. Identify current routes into the target markets as well as the related logistics cost of a landed TEU;
6. Identify strategic partnerships that could lead to increase throughput for Belizean ports through the provision of dedicated volumes;
7. Make recommendations on how to enter the transshipment market along with a realistic action plan.

¹ US\$2,621 in 2023

² The Belize City Port

³ The Port of Belize Ltd.

Deliverables

- D.1 Assessment of Belize's port capacity and main supply chains for containerized cargo, along with the applicable maritime logistics cost;
- D.2 Regional tariff study to determine the competitiveness of the current port tariffs and recommend appropriate price points for transshipment services;
- D.3 Demand studies for Quintana Roo, Mexico;
- D.4 Demand studies for Peten, Guatemala;
- D.5 Port transshipment action plan

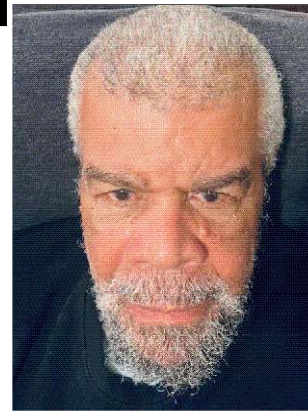
Timelines for Deliverables

To be agreed

Proposals

A combined technical and financial proposal is to be submitted only to the Chairman of the Belize Port Authority (chairman@portauthority.bz) no later than 28th June 2024. The heading in the email should be “Proposal: Port Transshipment Strategy”.

Disagreeable!



Saturday, June 22, 2024

It is the duty of a free press to be disagreeable, in my opinion. It is their duty to question everything, to hold governments, corporations, elected officials — no matter how minor their role, law enforcement, and even themselves, responsible for their actions! In a free society, as hopefully the one we live in is, we have the right to make sure that we are not being misled, lied to! That is the mission of the Fourth Estate, to keep politicians honest, or at least to notify the public when things go awry. I'm not talking about the garbage you ingest on TikTok or Facebook or X (formerly twitter) or Fox misinformation TV. Whenever I'm sent something, or told about some news that people get from any of those mediums, I immediately discard them. The Russians, the Chinese, and others are all working overtime to spread misinformation about everything! I'm just saying.

Whenever there's the slightest hint of a government trying to regulate or modulate press coverage of anything, and I mean anything, the press should be able to stand up and say no, no you can't, and no, you will not stifle us! If you can't handle criticism, honest criticism, then you are in the wrong profession. If press coverage embarrasses you, so be it. You have to be held accountable; after all, you are handling the purse strings, the health and economy and wellbeing of the nation.

It is the press that we the people

depend on, to let us know that you are serving our interests, and not abusing the trust we have placed in you.


One of the first signs that a country shows when they are going rogue, that democracy is becoming a question mark, is when governments start suppressing media coverage, start attacking media outlets, and when they start labeling factual reporting as fake news. We have examples of this over and over, including the Orange Orangutan, in America. Be an adult and man-up to your shortcomings, rather than whimper and complain about unfair treatment or coverage.

This is not about politics; all parties in power want continuous positive coverage, and are usually unreceptive to negative news, even when they themselves are the cause for that unpleasant news. But in a democracy you can fight against negative media coverage. You can defend yourself, fix the problem, and make sure that you don't stray from the agenda you promised, to get elected!

A free press means just that: free! If the press decides to slander or twist the news to suit their narrative, there are guidelines to protect the injured; by that I mean, the courts. But a vigilant and honest press is as necessary as anything else in a free and democratic society! Their job is not to coddle you, but to question your credibility, your opinions, your sometimes-questionable decisions. To hold you responsible for your actions, to the taxpayers, to the voters you represent! There are times when the media might get it wrong, but self-correct, or can be held liable.

You are elected to serve the people, not to be arbiters of what is acceptable in the news! You do your job; take the praises, or the heat, and do your job! In this day and age, we should all be grateful that we have legitimate news coverage in the Jewel. Let's keep it that way!

Belize braces for more possible heavy rainfall

Continued from  Page 1

particularly in low-lying areas.

Areas of particular concern include those along the Sibun River, as revealed by the National Hydrological Service. "Residents in this area are advised to exercise extreme caution as rivers, creeks and streams in this area are at flood stage," their report read.

In the broader region, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) is closely monitoring a tropical wave situated a few hundred miles east-southeast of the Windward Islands.

Although currently disorganized, the system is generating showers and thunderstorms. Environmental conditions

are anticipated to become more conducive for gradual development as the system, which could potentially impact Belize and neighboring regions, approaches the western Caribbean Sea later this week.

The NHC has currently assessed a near 0% chance of tropical cyclone formation within the next 48 hours. However, the probability of development increases to 20% over the next seven days. The system is projected to move westward, and its progress will be continuously monitored.

Residents of Belize, along with those in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, are urged to stay vigilant as preparation and awareness are key with the region getting nearer the peak of the hurricane season.

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Like leaving a child alone on a dark street at 2:00 a.m.

by Colin Hyde

In his piece last week, titled “No!”, Glen with one “n” said he had read somewhere “that a child with social media access is comparable to your child being downtown alone at 2:00 in the morning, susceptible to all the dangers that present themselves, especially predators and con artists, with no protection!”

It’s an incredible thing happening before our eyes. Some years ago, when the PUP da mi PUP, even movies for adults were censored. Now, lee children, nowhere near puberty, are seeing images and are hearing things that blow away their innocence. For various reasons there’s a daily hours-long gap where the little ones are being “supervised” by television and other electronic devices, a period when they are at the mercy of foreigners, many of them unwholesome.

We all come short of the Glory! Along the way individuals will stumble, and some of us will fall. But the collective must always stand tall.

I think poet Erwin Jones called the big tube, “tell-lie-vision”. Well, that tell-lie-vision has spawned a number of electronic babies that are just as layad. Collectively these gadgets have our children hooked morning, noon, and night. In the world outside they are passing

laws to restrict social media’s access to young people. Here we carry on in ignorance, with no restrictions, while foreigners without scruples trample on the innocence of the young ones.

My wager is that Bel Ams would have voted NO to the ICJ

We see the PUP government over there in the US, stepping up to make Bel Ams (Belizean Americans) feel they are more than welcome to come home. It’s a good thing to reach out to our brothers and sisters over there.

In the self-government days, the Bel Ams were more red territory. Some old stories are that in its heyday the PUP was tough on Belizeans who didn’t support the blue party, and people got discouraged and jumped ship and went to America. Matters about race usually come up in this discussion, but I won’t touch that in the few sentences I have here.

It was red territory out there. Just 20 or so years ago, the story is that Dean Barrow bested Richard Bradley at the polls with several plane loads of Bel Ams. Those two brothers are reportedly from the same street, and they both went abroad to study law and came back home with some slick defense tactics that made our justice system look like shish.

I’ll leave that for another time too.

In the race against Dean, Diki saw the value of sex, and he trotted out voluptuous girls, girls who got a kick out of titillating man of the male kind with gyrations and skimpy clothing. Some guys who were so old they could barely see, could only think about it, flocked to Bradley’s camp. Coming down the stretch, some smart money said Bradley was in; and then the planes started landing on the tarmac, one, then two, then so *thick and fast* additional staff had to be hired to process the home-comers, who were here just to vote red. I’ve told you the rest of that story. With the Bel Am vote behind him, Barrow ascended, eventually to the highest seat in the land; and a disappointed Bradley, who had already called home to his wife to go to market for the complement of ground food, well, there was no fish in his boil-up.

Bel Ams who remit funds do so for love or because they are obligated. Bel Ams who invest in Belize do so for love, because they want to help their country, or because we are a good place for business. Bel Ams contribute much to our economy, and some think Belize isn’t reciprocating. Bel Ams see Salvadorans and Americans living here, and voting for presidents in the land of their birth. There is a facility for Belizeans abroad who want to vote in our elections. If they

live here for 2 months prior to an election, they can vote. Bel Ams want that requirement brushed aside.

I checked out this very interesting story, “Expat Voting Rights: British Citizens Living Overseas Regain Right To Vote”, by Inez Cooper, the managing director & founder of *William Russell*, a company that provides international health, life and income protection insurance for British Expats.

Cooper said, “As of the 16th January 2024, British expats who have been living abroad for more than 15 years have **regained their right to vote in UK general elections.**” Cooper said, “this change to the law could allow roughly 3 million additional British expats to register to vote, according to government estimates ... if you haven’t lived in the UK for 15 years or longer, then you will need to apply to register in the local authority of the last address where you lived or were registered to vote ... in addition to voting in general elections, long-term expats will also be able to vote in some referenda, with rules varying for each vote.”

Some Bel Ams were particularly upset that they weren’t allowed to vote on the existential ICJ matter. Interestingly, this blocked participation in the ICJ referendum made Bel Ams

Please turn to **Page 10**



VACANT POSITION

The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC) invites applications for the following positions at the Caribbean Court of Justice:

- **Public Education and Communication Officer I (On Contract)**
- **Judicial Counsel (On Contract)**

Job Description and Application form are available on the website below:

<https://ccj.org/vacancies/ccj-vacancies/>

Applications may be completed online or delivered to:
Organizational Development/ Human Resources Advisor
Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission
#134 Henry Street, Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago, 101010

no later than **Friday 5th July 2024 by 4:00 p.m.** Atlantic Standard Time.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission:
Constituted under the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice



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Submit application to career.opportunity@bel.com.bz by Friday, July 5, 2024

The pressure of the human footprint continues in the Reserves of Western Belize

by Orlando Pulido

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Sat. June 22, 2024

The Versavel Lecture Series in Benque Viejo continued on Friday night, June 21, for a second time at the House of Culture in Benque. The main presenter was Rafael Manzanero, the Executive Director of Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD).

Manzanero shared that FCD continues to do work, along with the Forest Department, in the Vaca Forest Reserve (a buffer), the Baldy Beacon in Mountain Pine Ridge, and the Chiquibul National Park. The Chiquibul itself is over two hundred and sixty-nine thousand acres, and the Vaca is another thirty-four thousand acres.

"The major challenges that we face

is, of course, cattle ranching activity. We still have the problem of gold panning, illegal wildlife trade, and then, of course, we also have the agriculture production taking place along the border," said Manzanero.

Manzanero noted that cattle ranching along Belize's border is becoming dominant. A total of 920 hectares of active pastures are also known to be located in the Chiquibul.

Manzanero reported that these reserves are becoming "more accessible, so, in a way, visiting the area so that they can understand more about what is happening there."

Part of the strategy now is for FCD to develop partnerships with the Guatemalans, which they have been doing since 2008. (The Mopan River originates in Belize, passes through Guatemala, and



L-R: Dr. Anabel Ford from El Pilar, Cynthia Ellis Topsey from the Godsman Ellis Center, and Rafael Manzanero from FCD at the Benque House of Culture on Friday night



Rafael Manzanero in the company of Artists for Cultural and Historical Endeavors CACHE

returns and joins the Macal in Branch Mouth to form the Belize River.)

The areas managed by FCD are rich in biodiversity. Part of that biodiversity includes the scarlet macaw—300 of which remain in Belize. These rare birds normally travel to Red Bank to feed. But there has been some habitat destruction in Red Bank, admits Manzanero.

In the Chiquibul itself, there are caverns which "are still highly undiscovered", informed Manzanero. The last section of these

Chiquibul cave systems—the largest cave system in Central America—ends in Guatemala.

The recent fires have affected some of the reserves being managed by FCD. Manzanero said that "we still do not know how much was lost."

While the pressure of the human footprint in the reserves managed by FCD "is always there", acknowledged Manzanero, the good news is that FCD has developed partnerships with numerous national and international conservation-related entities.

For more information on FCD you can visit www.fcdbelize.org. FCD operates in the Chiquibul Forest (a tremendous freshwater catchment area), which forms part of the largest contiguous block of tropical forest north of the Amazon.

Like leaving a child alone on a dark street at 2:00 a.m.

My wager is that Bel Ams would have voted NO to the ICJ

Continued from Page 9

more fertile territory for the PUP, because it is the UDP that led the charge to keep them out of that vote. Wholesale, the UDP was for voting YES to the ICJ, which in my opinion was a necessary vote, because we had backed ourselves into a corner. The day Foreign Minister Elrington signed the *compromis*, we were committed to vote YES. The PUP had a little split over the ICJ, but don't forget, they were at the head table throughout. If you have doubts there, check the number of PUP ex-foreign ministers who were pro-ICJ. Note that Assad was into the ICJ hook, line and sinker.

I am not certain that former PM Said Musa was completely honest when he expressed surprise at the signing. If he wasn't, I would excuse him, because few men in the position he was in at that time would have been capable of complete honesty. Said had taken a battering, within and without his party. Briefly, he had fallen too in love with *laissez faire* and had made the terrible mistake of trusting that Lord Ashcroft really wanted to do right for Belize, his adopted country. And the UDP had taken him to court for diverting funds,

largesse from Venezuela and Taiwan. Said has his strong points. I'm just saying I'm not sure of his surprise over the *compromis*.

The PUP was split over the ICJ. But Belize was locked into a YES. We exist as an independent nation because of the United Nations, solely because of the United Nations. We are their baby. I don't know if only people who drink rum listen to Judy Boucher, but you can tip it off as gospel when she sang, *If I could turn back the time*. Maybe in another dimension we will back and forth, but noh ya.

I believe all Belizeans knew Sedi had tied us to a YES, an embarrassing thing, but with no real jeopardy from the Hondo to the Sarstoon, Benque Viejo to Halfmoon. I bet the friends of Belize, which includes our Caribbean family, must still not believe 45% of us said NO, emphatically! We do have a little stubbornness. It is why we exist as a country, and will continue to.

I said I believe Bel Ams would have voted NO. Belizeans in America, if you haven't noticed, they take on some of the "invincibility" of their new home. Putting up our country at the ICJ is preposterous in its conception. No one in the UDP had the clout to tell Bel Ams to vote yes to that.

It is likely most Belizeans wanted Bel Ams to vote in that referendum, felt they had the right to. Most of them aren't that in tune with Belize; they have their own world over there in their new home; but

Coastal Plain Highway reopened after closed...

Continued from Page 3

necessary for us to project on where the flood paths would occur and where the flooding will be intensified. However, climate change is real, and it changes every single day. In addition to that, we ended up raising the approach to the bridge, by two meters. If that road wasn't raised two meters, then the entire approach would have been impassable."

Despite these measures, portions of the highway were overwhelmed by the recent rains, prompting MIDH to issue warnings about impassability, particularly for smaller vehicles.

"The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing advises the general public that the Coastal Plains Highway is impassable for small vehicles as a result of heavy rainfall and associated

flooding over the past 24 hours," the Ministry's press release said.

It further detailed, "The Manatee Bridge, Corn House Creek Bridge approaches and two (2) of four (4) concrete floodways are under approximately 24 - 30" of water; however, water is receding quickly."

Following the clean-up operations and repair of critical areas along the affected highway by a maintenance team, almost six hours later the Coastal Plain Highway was reopened. "The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing advises the public that water has receded, and the Coastal Plains Highway is now open for access," the Ministry stated.

With the expectation of more rain in the coming weeks, the MIDH will continue to monitor the highway and is advising motorists to exercise caution while driving.

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

how could they, baan ya and hope to return ya, have been denied. Maybe 60 years after self-government, 2 decades into this century/millennium, and more than 3 UDP governments that didn't transform Belize into a land of milk and honey, Bel Ams aren't as red as they

had been before. But they were still there in numbers. It is some irony that Dean spurned this "diaspora" that helped him get over Diki, essentially vaulted him to the highest seat in the land. He had to. The UDP, which was in control of the ball, couldn't trust them.



BEBL finals tied, 1-1

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 24, 2024

The best-of-five series of the 2024 Belize Elite Basketball League (BEBL) finals between Belize Hurricanes and Belize City Defenders kicked off over the weekend at the Belize City Civic Center with Games 1 and 2 being played, which left the series tied at 1-1.

The finals kicked off on Friday, June 21, with the Hurricanes taking control of Game 1 and securing a 24-point victory. Throughout the first half, the game was quite close, with neither team being potentially victorious; however, the Hurricanes came out swinging in the second half, and the Defenders seemed not to be able to respond to the increased intensity of their opponent. The game ended, 87-63.

Amar Ross and Glency Lopez were the top scorers for the Hurricanes with 19 and 18 points, respectively. Daniel Estes led the Defenders with a double-double of 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Devin Daly had 11 points.

After the loss in Game 1, the Defenders bounced back in Game 2 on Sunday, June 23, and managed to tie the series at 1-1.

The Defenders started strong, holding the lead in the first quarter, but going into half-time the score was all tied up at 30. In the third quarter, either team could have taken control of it, as the lead swayed in both directions; but in the home stretch, the two-time MVP Nigel Jones sank two free throws for the Defenders to secure a 1-point victory,

62-61.

Jones led the way for the Defenders with 14 points and 8 rebounds, followed by Devin Daly with 13 pts and 7 rebs. For Hurricanes, Glency Lopez netted 13 points and 9 rebounds (fouling out).

Games 3 and 4 will be hosted by the Belize City Defenders, which will be held on Friday, June 28, and Sunday, June 30.

Game 5 (if necessary) will be played on July 5.



Yabra Summer Camp 2024



BELIZE CITY, Mon. June 24, 2024

Yabra Football Club coordinator Jerome “Peeloff” Maheia informed us over the weekend that the month long Yabra Summer Camp 2024 will be held

from July 1 – July 31 on weekdays from 9:00 in the morning until 12:00 noon. The camp, for boys and girls, is FREE of cost, and is for kids aged from 7 years to 16. Jerome can be contacted at 607-3030.

Future Football Club’s Summer Camp 2024

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. June 20, 2024

Coordinator Edon Rowley says the annual Future Football Summer Camp will be held this year from July 8 to July 19 at the MCC Grounds in Belize City.

The camp is for youths, male and female, ages 5 to 14 years, and is from 8:30 a.m. to 12-noon each day. At the end

of the camp, there will be awards for: Best Camper, Most Outstanding, and Most Disciplined for both male and female.

According to Rowley, the camp is FREE OF CHARGE!

Interested parents can contact Edon Rowley at 635-4484 for more information.

CitCo’s electric buses pilot project begins July 19

Continued from Page 2

reached with this 51% and this 49%. That is in the future. And probably in the future when we have already received all the financial models and the feasibility of whether this thing can work in Belize City, then you will reach a point when you say, ‘alright, these are the data collected. Private sector, do you want to take on this of expansion ... for scaling up? That is where we want to reach eventually. But that’s not where we are as of today.’ The Mayor insists that after the pilot project, they will sit with everyone and discuss the way forward. He says that his main concern, beyond 15 families, has to be for the 60,000 residents of the city to have a choice and an enhanced quality of life. He also highlighted that it is all part of the Government’s overall platform of lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Hall says he is hopeful that with the information gathered during the pilot

project, “we will be able to help them to uplift themselves. We are hoping that they will be able to become a part of the agenda to upgrade public transportation in Belize City. We are hoping that after this information is gathered and we share it with them and with every and anybody who is interested in it, that we will then be able to show that you can have a new, modern, clean, desirable bus service running commuters in the municipality of Belize City.”

On a side note, CSL presented a Gazette notice of a meeting set for February 14, 2024, for the Transport Board to consider a route in Neil Hall’s name. In communication with *Amandala* today, Peter Williams, the Deputy Chief Transport Officer classified that as an oversight, and clarified that the Road Service Permit was issued in the name of the Belize City Council. He added that the E-buses are the property of the Government of Belize.

UB has a new Brand Ambassador, Noelia Hernandez

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Hernandez’s role as Brand Ambassador will see her actively engaging with the university community and beyond. She will visit secondary schools to assist in recruitment efforts, by using her experience and charisma to encourage prospective students to consider UB. Additionally, she will be featured on promotional materials to inspire young people.

“Young people like to see other young people like themselves succeed. Here

we have a Miss World Belize telling us to come to UB or telling us that she’s a graduate from UB. She has a Bachelor’s degree from UB. So, particularly young students, young prospective students will see it as an opportunity, ‘I want to come to UB too.’ So, I think we should benefit at the enrollment because of her,” Palacio noted.

He explained that the partnership with the Miss World Belize organization does not end with Hernandez’s term. The initiative will continue with future titleholders.

Addressing Post Traumatic Slavery Syndrome, Imperialism, Colonialism and Neo-colonialism

Friday, June 21, 2024

As a LIVING MAN/WOMAN do you ever feel as if this isn't the life you are supposed to be living?

Do you feel stuck in a relationship, job, career or organization that refuses to be enlightened and does not serve you? It is our duty to do something about it.

Brothers and Sisters, many of us dream of a better Belize and a better world where love, truth, peace, Freedom and Justice is a way of life, but just can't see that, waiting for someone else to do it will not make it happen? Did you know that in Belize and around the world most nationalist political movements are birthed in the *ANTI-IMPERIAL/ COLONIAL STRUGGLE??*

Do you know what *POST TRAUMATIC SLAVERY SYNDROME, IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM and NEOCOLONIALISM IS* and how it relates to why we/you aren't where you know you are supposed to be?

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome is described by Joy DeGruy Leary in 2005. This theoretical work can be extended to be to those who experienced global slavery and the continued discrimination and oppression endured by Africans, their descendants and Indigenous populations in the Americas, the Caribbean, Canada, Europe, Australia, Africa and Asia. It creates intergenerational psychological trauma, leading to a psychological and behavioral syndrome common among present-day Africans, African descendants and Indigenous populations globally, manifesting disorganization and disunity, a lack of trust, identity, culture, history, self-esteem, persistent feelings of anger, and unexplained internalized feelings of racism and self-hate.

Imperialism is the International Political Economic expansion policy, practice, and or advocacy of extending power and dominion, especially by direct territorial acquisition or by gaining political and economic control of other territories and peoples.

Colonialism is the policy and/ or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.

Neocolonialism is the subtle propagation of socio-economic and political activity by former colonial rulers aimed at reinforcing capitalism, neo-liberal globalization, and cultural subjugation of their former colonies. Neocolonialism happens behind the scenes because it is an indirect form of control. It continues systems of exploitation through financial means. Neocolonialism is indirect control by a

foreign power influencing territories and people, usually through financial means and other perks, fancy cars, million-dollar homes, special education scholarships and political office in government etc: etc:

Marcus Garvey said, "God and Nature first made us what we are, and then out of our own created genius we make ourselves what we want to be."

Let us come together to share ideas and plan action to create wealth for Africans, African and Indigenous Descendant people in Belize and the world. In these conversations we seek to strengthen love and trust in our universality.

We recognize that imperialism and colonialism's agenda is not to eradicate poverty, but to maintain clean hands by maintaining neo-colonial agents to do its bidding. Neocolonialism and poverty is the greatest challenge that must be addressed for sustainable development to occur. During the decade of African Descendants, representatives of many countries and stakeholders and Grassroots organizations, acting in collaborative partnership, to lay the evidence on the destructive nature and damage done by Colonialism, Imperialism and its agents the *NEO-COLONIALIST IN OUR MIDST*, we the Africans, African Descendants and Indigenous populations in Belize and around the world must be resolved to free our Humanity from the tyranny of the *COLONIAL/IMPERIALIST POVERTY SYSTEM*. We must be determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift local and international economies to a more sustainable and resilient path. As we African and Indigenous Descendants embark on this collective effort, we pledge that no one will be left behind, as we engage in sustainable development on three fronts: economic, social and environmental.

If any of this resonates with you, do your own research; build your own or strengthen the organization you are in; or come and join the contemporary UNIA-ACL, as we strengthen our resolve to *RIGHTEOUSLY DO GARVEYISM AS WE EXPOSE THE DEVIL IN OUR MIDST!!!* One God One Aim One Destiny!!!

L. Emerson Guild
Marcus Garvey Disciple
One God One Aim One Destiny!!!

"It is by Marcus Garvey's words and deeds that we know and remember him; it is by our words and deeds Our children shall know who we are."

Alleged home intruder killed in San Pedro

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Fri. June 21, 2024

A home invader who was attempting to burglarize a home in San Pedro Town was killed by a resident of the home on Thursday, June 20, shortly before 10:00 p.m.

Official police reports indicate that around 9:45 p.m. on Thursday, 27-year-old Alexi Marcelo Chavarria, a manager of Secret Beach Cabanas, and his family were sleeping at the on-site residence when he heard a strange noise. When he went to further investigate, he took with him a licensed 9mm Springfield pistol and listened as someone attempted to open the main door; then he heard the kitchen window glass breaking soon afterward.

When Chavarria got to the kitchen area, he found the intruder, identified as 46-year-old Steven Francis Arceo, a vendor from the San Mateo area, making his way into the home. Chavarria warned Arceo to stop, but he allegedly made advances to enter the house. Thus, Chavarria reportedly fired six shots, which fatally wounded Arceo, who was left hanging halfway through the window.

When police arrived at the scene, six expended 9x19mm shell casings were



Steven Arceo, deceased

found. The firearm, along with a magazine containing eight live rounds, was retrieved and verified along with its license.

Arceo was a well-known figure on the island, as he was routinely seen selling coconuts, which he had been doing for the past decade. He was also known as "Coco Steven" to the locals.

Arceo's body was transported to the San Pedro Polyclinic, where he was pronounced dead. The body was then taken to the San Pedro Morgue, pending a post-mortem examination.

Police are investigating.

One dead, one injured; one charged in Lake-I shooting

Continued from Page 1

Moore, who succumbed to the gunshots. Both men are from the Conch Shell Bay area of Belize City.

According to reports, on Sunday, June 23, after 4:00 p.m., both men were in a BMW vehicle, with Gillett behind the wheel and Moore as his passenger, when they were ambushed at the junction of Mahogany and Santa Barbara Streets by a lone gunman.

An injured Gillett managed to rush to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital with a motionless Moore in the passenger seat beside him. They arrived with the vehicle's windshield covered with bullet holes, and Gillett was taken inside the hospital for treatment, where he is recovering.

Following the deadly shooting, Moore's mother posted on social media a premonition expressed by her son three days before his death, indicating that he had been constantly harassed by police officers and predicting his death.

When the media asked ACP Hilberto Romero, Regional Commander of the Belize Police Department's Eastern Division, whether officers were harassing Moore, causing him to fear for his life, he declined to comment, saying he did not possess knowledge of that.

ACP Romero stated that a person has been arrested, who they believe orchestrated the crime, and murder charges are to be brought against that individual. Meanwhile, another person is being sought by the department.

Police believe that the shooting is gang-related. "It has some gang element with this. There are several ongoing operations at this time to minimize the threats of retaliation," ACP Romero mentioned.

As mentioned above, this is the third shooting to occur in the Lake Independence area since Tuesday, June 18, when 20-year-old mechanic, Jahiem Fitzgibbon was killed on La Croix Boulevard while repairing a van with his father. Then on Thursday of that week, shots were fired at a female by two men on a motorcycle while she was inside a vehicle reportedly belonging to a high-profile street figure. The woman was unharmed.

Reports suggest that the string of shootings stemmed from a concert held in Belize City several weeks ago.

As of press time, multiple charges have reportedly been laid upon 24-year-old Marquis Conorque of Belize City; those charges are for: murder; attempted murder; use of deadly means of harm; and dangerous harm.

Roaring Creek Police Station shot up

Continued from Page 1

Creek Police Station in the Cayo District.

According to witnesses, several shots were heard around 12:30 a.m. in Roaring Creek Village. The police station was the target, and a man wearing a white hoodie was seen firing

the shots. The gunfire caused significant damage to the front of the cement building, leaving bullet holes and shattering a glass window.

"Investigation revealed that three officers were at the station at the time when they heard loud bangs and they took cover. Thereafter, when they came out, the suspect had already fled from

the area," Assistant Commissioner of Police, Hilberto Romero reported.

Fortunately, none of the officers were injured during the attack. The Scenes of Crime Unit was reportedly able to recover up to eighteen .40 caliber shell casings from the scene.

In response to the shooting, the police have deployed a special operations team to conduct thorough

investigations throughout Roaring Creek Village.

They are working diligently to identify the shooter and to understand the motive behind the attack, especially considering that three officers were present in the building at the time.

"We have not established a clear motive; the matter is under investigation," ACP Romero stated.



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