

GoB to release technical report on hospital land

BELIZE CITY, Sat. Sept. 28, 2024

The four Social Partners represented in the Senate have fired off two Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to government ministries as they insist on holding Government accountable on the purchase of the \$6.9 million private land for the new university hospital.

The two letters dated September 20 were sent to the Minister of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining, Hon. Cordel Hyde, and to the Minister



Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize

of Health and Wellness, Hon. Kevin Bernard. They were duly signed by National Trade Union Congress of Belize (NTUCB) Senator, Hon. Glenfield Dennison; NGO Senator, Hon. Janelle Chanona; Business Senator, Hon. Kevin Herrera; and Church Senator, Hon. Alvin Benguche.

From the Minister of Natural Resources, the Social Partners are asking for five (5) documents

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Suspected cocaine found in Minister Andre Perez's boat!

by Charles Gladden

SAN PEDRO, Ambergris Caye, Mon. Sept. 30, 2024

Blue Economy Minister and area representative of San Pedro Town, Hon. Andre Perez, who had been at the center of controversy after being accused of

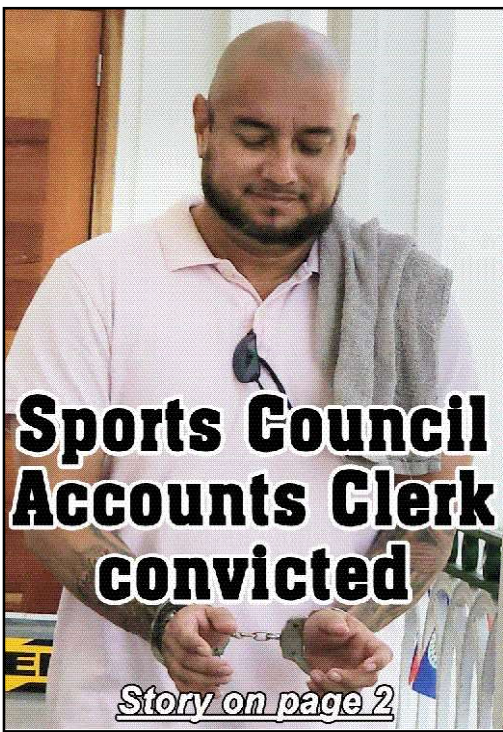
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Belize girls win Bronze at 1st AFECAVOL Central American U-17 volleyball championship



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Sports Council Accounts Clerk convicted



Story on page 2

Jealous officer assaults Jewel's Olympian



Shaun Gill, victim **Luwis Pascascio, charged**

by Charles Gladden

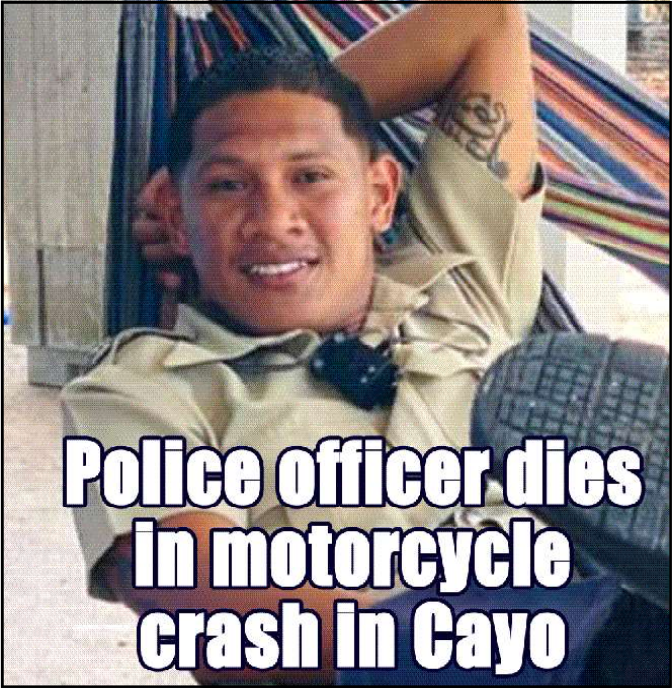
BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 30, 2024

Shaun Gill, 31, was Belize's only athlete representative at the 2024 Olympics, but he became a victim of police brutality when police constable Luwis Pascascio, 29, allegedly punched him and pistol-whipped him.

According to initial reports, on Thursday, September 26, around 10:30 p.m., Gill was in a vehicle with a female

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Police officer dies in motorcycle crash in Cayo



by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 30, 2024

The Belize Police Department is grieving the loss of 30-year-old Nikki Waight of Belmopan, a police officer who lost his life in a motorcycle crash last night, Sunday,

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Senator Erica Jang

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 30, 2024

Last week Senator Erica Jang joined parliamentarians and parliamentary staff throughout the Commonwealth at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Parliamentary Academy Residency Programme in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The programme was held for 7 days from September 22 – 28 and included ten interactive topics that were discussed throughout the session. Each day, participants engaged in ten

interactive sessions, guided by experienced mentors. They practiced legislating, scrutinizing, and advocating around a central issue daily, both in the parliamentary chamber and community settings.

Additionally, the participants had their skills tested among colleagues in various scenarios, including community

outreach, the parliamentary chamber, and committee rooms.

In the end, participants were able to gain skills and insight in these areas: Identifying characteristics of effective parliamentarians in the 21st century; In-depth analysis and understanding of the legislative process; Strengthened communications, presentation, and

influencing skills; Improving scrutiny and oversight capabilities; Enhanced engagement with external stakeholders for mutual benefit; and Increased capacity for analysis, planning, and evaluation of research.

Since its inception in 2021, the CPA Parliamentary Academy has welcomed participation from Belize's Parliament.



Sports Council Accounts Clerk convicted

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Sept. 27, 2024

Tonight, a former Senior Accounts Clerk for the National Sports Council, Ivan Ayuso is spending his first night on remand, pending sentencing for the offenses of theft and money laundering of over one million dollars from the Government of Belize.

Ayuso, who was out on bail of \$300,000.00 granted to him by the lower court back in 2021, is now awaiting sentencing from High Court Justice Nigel Pilgrim, who will be hearing mitigation pleas on his behalf from character witnesses.

Today's proceedings was about a plea agreement which Ayuso, who was represented by attorney Darrell Bradley, entered into with the Crown, which was represented by the DPP herself, Cheryl Lynn-Vidal.

The court, based on the guilty plea Ayuso agreed to with the DPP, is reportedly looking at a 5-year prison term for his saving the court time in a trial which could have lasted 2-weeks with over 39 witnesses called.

The plea bargain, even though entered by the Crown, was one that could have been rejected by the court; however, in the interest of justice, Justice Pilgrim having taken into consideration the serious nature of the offense and the time frame the incident occurred, accepted Ayuso's guilty plea.

The matter was deferred for sentencing set for October 19, 2024, when

Justice Pilgrim will hear from Ayuso's character witnesses before handing down an appropriate sentence.

Before he was re-read the indictment, it was made known to Ayuso that his sentence, which will be custodial, will not be above five years.

At 9:16 a.m., Ayuso was read the indictment for one count of theft and three counts of money laundering.

Count 1 for theft is that between August 20, 2013, and August 11, 2016, in Belize City he stole \$1,040,997.67 dollars from the Government of Belize.

Count 2, for money laundering \$23,364.36 between the period of September 3, 2013, and February 3, 2014, is for money he used knowing the sum to be the proceeds of a crime contrary to Section 3 (1) (c) of the Money Laundering & Terrorism (Prevention) Act Chapter 104 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, (Revised Edition), 2011 as amended by the Money Laundering & Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act #4 of 2013.

Count 3 is for money laundering the sum of \$894,416.56 between the period of February 9, 2014, and April 16, 2016.

And Count 4 for money laundering the sum of \$123,315.075 between the period of April 17, 2014, and August 11, 2016, for all of which he pleaded guilty.

The DPP submitted in her recommendation to the court that Ayuso, given the fact that he pleaded guilty, is

facing 5 years on each count, and that the sentences be ordered to run concurrently given that Ayuso agrees to the guilty plea to the four counts.

The DPP highlighted to the court the aggravating factors of the offense, of which she submitted that the money Ayuso stole was property of the National Sports Council for programs such as sports activity.

She asked that the court take into consideration the period when the offenses were committed, which was between August 15, 2013, and August 2016, a 3-year period, which suggests it was a premeditated act.

She also submitted that Ayuso at the time of the theft was a Senior Account Officer for the Government of Belize at the National Sports Council.

She conceded that, the fact that the case would have been heard before a jury and last two weeks if he had not pleaded guilty, is a mitigating factor.

There was no victim impact statement filed by the DPP.

Justice Pilgrim was of the view that the money stolen belonged to the people of the country, Belize, who in his view were deprived of the money which could have been used to fix roads, schools, etc. as it was money given to the National Sports Council for programs undertaken by the National Sports Council; and so, due to the serious nature of the offense, he wants to hear from Ayuso's character

witnesses.

In his virtual appearance today in the matter, attorney Darrell Bradley asked the court to take into consideration the following on behalf of his client: that Ayuso entered a guilty plea and saved the court time in a lengthy trial; he acknowledge responsibility for his action; he is apologetic, and he accepted guilt, and is very remorseful, and threw himself to the mercy of the court; that he is a family man; and that before these allegations, he had an immaculate record and was of a good character with no previous conviction for theft, and he was not known to the criminal justice system; that Ayuso has been out on bail and has not committed any other offenses whilst out on bail; hence why he asked the court to set a moderate sentence so it will not affect Ayuso's family ties.

Before the matter was adjourned, Ayuso's last words to the court were, "I am honestly, honestly apologetic for what I have done to the people of Belize and this country. I have learnt a lesson, and the dangerous [] I have done because of my recklessness; and so I ask the court for leniency, so I could be a better father to my children, and also be better to my fellow Belizeans. I have done wrong, and I apologize sincerely from my soul. Thank you."

Note: Ayuso prepared pay sheets which were for the deposit of salary payments in excess of what he was entitled to.

Police officer dies in motorcycle crash in Cayo

Continued from Page 1

September 29, while traveling between San Ignacio and Santa Elena Town.

According to reports, before 11:30 p.m. Waight was on his motorcycle on the low-lying bridge connecting the twin towns when his motorcycle reportedly

slipped off the edge of the wooden boards, causing him to lose control of the bike, which overturned on the bridge.

Coming from the opposite direction shortly afterwards on another motorcycle was 23-year-old Jessica Abigail Escobar, from Hillview Area, Santa Elena Town. She wasn't able to

stop in time, causing her to collide with Waight's motorcycle, which resulted in injuries to her left arm.

Escobar was taken to the San Ignacio Community Hospital for treatment of her injuries. Waight, however, died at the scene.

Before his untimely death, Waight

was heading to the San Ignacio Police Station to clock in for his shift.

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National heroes on Belize bills



by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 30, 2024

It has been confirmed that the faces of Belize’s national heroes, the Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price and Hon. Philip Goldson, will be printed on the country’s paper bills and are set to be released to the public in 2025.

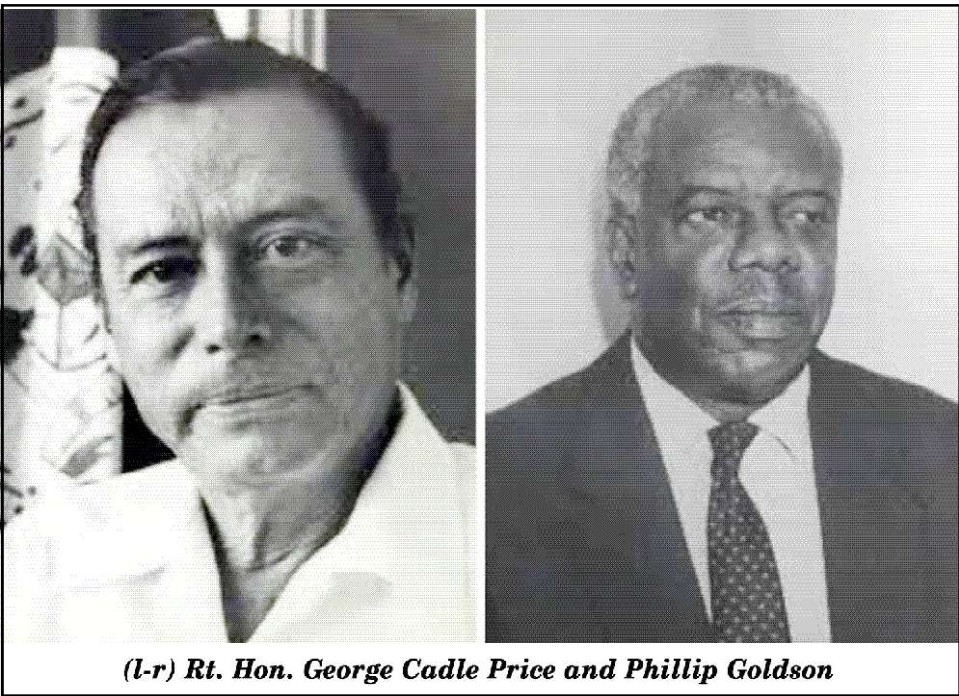
A press release distributed by the Central Bank of Belize echoed that the new bills will feature those national heroes, “This new family of notes will tell unique stories of our country’s rich heritage and will incorporate enhanced security features to combat counterfeiting.”

On a politically affiliated morning

show in July of last year, the first talks of implementing this change were made public when the question was raised in discussion as to whether Belize should print new bills with the face of King Charles, as Queen Elizabeth II had passed away several months earlier, or follow the trend of other countries by placing the faces of historical national figures on our money.

At the time when the idea was made public, the Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño confirmed the idea on the said talk show, highlighting that the bills would soon be printed.

PM Briceño told the media in September that Goldson and Price would be on the bills.

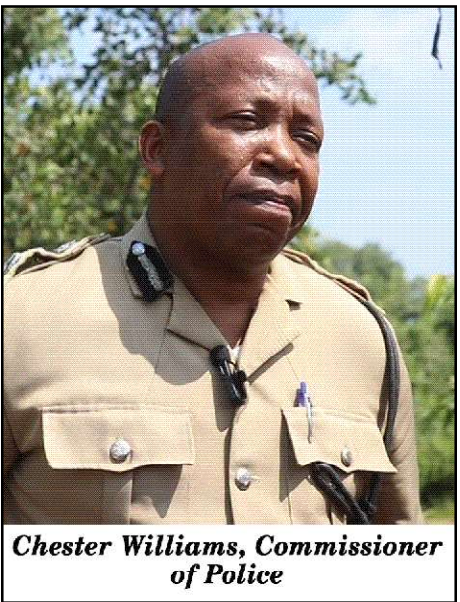


(l-r) Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price and Phillip Goldson

“We’re using the national heroes, both George Price and Philip Goldson. They are the ones that are going to be on the face. So, the new dollars will be introduced later this year or early next year,” he said.

The release from the Central Bank of Belize reassured that the change won’t affect the value or exchange rate of Belize dollars.

The last time the bills were altered was in 1983 when they featured an image of Queen Elizabeth the Second, and also bore images of Belize’s birds, animals, marine life, and historic buildings.



Chester Williams, Commissioner of Police

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 30, 2024

The Commissioner of Police, Chester

COMPOL lashes backs at defense attorneys

Williams, is facing scathing criticism from the Association of Defense Attorneys (ADA) due to several comments recently made by the ComPol to the media.

A press release issued by the ADA mentioned that several comments made by ComPol Williams were “unbecoming and disrespectful of the magistrate courts ... It is highly improper for the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of our country to cast aspersions on the competence and integrity of a sitting magistrate especially, because of personal interest in the outcome of a court case.”

Those statements by the ADA are a reference to comments made by the COMPOL in his reaction to the Chief Magistrate’s decision to fine Jaron Mckay instead of imprisoning him for

assaulting ComPol Williams during the Orange Walk Carnival. ComPol Williams contrasted that leniency with what he viewed as a severe penalty that was meted out to Inspector Christopher Martinez, who had assaulted a detainee inside a police cell. Martinez was given a five-month custodial sentence. (The maximum sentence for that latter offence, which was “wounding”, is 1 year, prompting some to also argue that five months in prison was a “slap on the wrist”.)

When ComPol Williams met with the media today, Monday, September 30, he stated that he is maintaining his position.

“We have a society where some people feel like they can do certain things; but when others do less than what they did, they want to make an issue.

That association, while I have the utmost respect for its members, their job is to defend those persons who fall within the domain of the police, who have committed a crime and, of course, they will do all they can to make sure that they defend their constituents,” he said.

“... As a Commissioner of Police, I have a responsibility, not just to myself, but to the country and the officers I lead; and I maintain my position that, in the same way we’re saying to police officers, don’t abuse the public, because if you do, you’re going to jail; in the same way, we must tell the public not to abuse the police, because if you do, you’re going to jail. We can’t have a society where people don’t respect the police. They don’t respect the courts,” ComPol Williams added.

International Day of Older Persons

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Sept. 30, 2024

Tomorrow, October 1, will be recognized globally as International Day of Older Persons, which is being observed this year under the theme, “Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide.”

The day was first recognized by the United Nations (UN) in 1990, and focuses on the opportunities and challenges of population aging in the 21st century while promoting the development of a society for all ages.

According to data provided by the UN, the number of older persons (those aged 65 years or older) tripled from around 260 million in 1980 to 761 million in 2021. It is projected that between 2021 and 2050, the older population will increase from less than 10% to around 17%.

In celebration of International Day of Older Persons, HelpAge Belize will conduct various activities in its 11

branches throughout the country, mentioned Evan Dakers, chairman of HelpAge Belize.

“Everybody is doing something to highlight what the elderly have been doing and, of course, to reflect on how we can improve their quality of life. So that’s for sure what HelpAge is all about, to improve the quality of life for all the people in Belize,” he said.

Today, HelpAge held a kickstarter event to launch the week’s activities in partnership with the Belize City Council.

“We have a lot of people out here today enjoying themselves, enjoying a meal prepared by the Council. Tomorrow they have a day of pampering; and as the week goes on they have trips



organized and various events,” said Kaya Cattouse, Councilor at the Belize City Council.

“... Statistics show that in the next couple of years our population will have more elderly people than younger folks; so we must take care of them at this stage so that our elderly at this stage, you know it becomes relevant down the road,” she added.

An estimated 800 elderly persons will participate in this week’s activities.

National and International Conference on Herbs held in Cayo

by Orlando Pulido

SANTA ELENA, Cayo District, Sat. Sept. 28, 2024

The Second International Conference on Traditional Medicine began on September 26 at the Drift Inn in Santa Elena, Cayo, and continued to the 27th. The theme selected for the two-day event was “Traditional Healers, Gatekeepers of the Scientific and Technical Knowledge through our National and Regional Networks”.

Dr. Perlita Aldana, president of the Belize Medical and Dental Association, gave the keynote address on Thursday. She noted that the two-day event will catalyze both traditional healers and medical practitioners to move forward “as a whole.”

Dr. Aldana told *Amandala*, “We all know that herbal medicine, well, everything originated from herbal medicine, even the pharmaceuticals are done from herbal medicine.”

The conference was a meeting place for traditional healers and formally trained doctors, who shared the same podium in Cayo as they discussed herbs and their many benefits.

“[herbs] will continue to be used. As a medical doctor, my best interest is that people learn how to use it adequately; because sometimes people don’t know that there are certain medicinal plants that can be used, but if you are a sufferer of another ailment, that you should be careful with it. So, I always advocate for the correct use of all these things, and supervised,” said Dr. Perlita Aldana.

Organizing a National and International Conference such as the 2nd International Conference on Traditional Medicine was no easy accomplishment. Rolando Cocom, Director of the Institute for Social and Cultural Research (ISCR) within the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH), said that his organization provided substantial technical assistance to get the conference underway.

“We are very pleased to see so many



Dr. Perlita Aldana, president of the Belize Medical and Dental Association at the Drift Inn in Santa Elena, Cayo



Rolando Cocom, Director of the Institute for Social and Cultural Research (ISCR) within the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH)

practitioners of traditional and complementary medicine present, as well as formally and trained doctors within the system to be able to have conversations about how traditional knowledge, skills, and heritage can be incorporated, possibly within the formal system with an end goal to improve the lives of more Belizeans,” said Cocom.

Cocom also said that cultural knowledge of herbs is continuously under threat. As a result, on the first day of the conference, traditional healer Reggie Middleton led a five-second pause in the audience to recognize those traditional healers who have gone before us.

One medical doctor who has incorporated herbal medicine into his practice in Corozal is Dr. Marc Nadreau. He gave the Vote of Thanks on Thursday.

Dr. Nadreau has stated that the ancient Mayans, Chinese, Africans, and Romans used traditional herbs in their practice.

“We have a trace of minerals in our bodies, and the food that we eat, the herb that we take has a trace. As we take the extract, the chemicals from the herbs ... we have to add all the minerals back into our body,” he said.

As the theme for this year’s conference implies, there is a scientific basis for the use and management of herbs. Professor Thippichetty Thiagarajan, along with Carlos Ruiz and Shanene Perez from the University of Belize, have written that the scientific community wants to validate the usage of herbs and their products with experimental evidence at various levels. It usually starts with bioassays by using model microbes that generally cause ailments in human beings.

At the University of Belize, undergraduate students carry out the Kirby-Bauer Disk Diffusion Susceptibility Test. The laboratory activity is carried out by extracting the active ingredients, using ethanol or methanol as solvents. The extracts were tested on *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, the two bacteria that are used as model microbes. The experiment tested the antibacterial effect of Rosemary, (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and the result showed a promising outcome. Both methanol and ethanol extracts of rosemary plants had the same effect or better than the commercial antibiotics such as Erythromycin used in the medical field.

Another study done by the UB students explored the antibacterial effect of certain native ferns. The results from the study revealed that both ethanol and methanol fern extracts showed inhibitory effects on both bacterial species used in the study. Notably, the methanol extract of *Adiantum* (maidenhair fern) proved to be the most effective, and exhibited a significant inhibitory effect against both *E. coli* and *S. aureus*, achieving approximately 70% of the efficacy of Erythromycin, a recognized broad-spectrum antibiotic.

The outcomes in the discussion of herbs in Belize thus far have had an international dimension. The Universidad Intercultural Maya de Quintana Roo, Mexico, hosted the first International Conference of Traditional Healers in 2023. It was an opportunity for medical doctors and traditional practitioners from Belize and Mexico to share their knowledge on herbs.

The United Nations Office of the High Commission for Human Rights, the ISCR, the Belize Medical and Dental Association, the Belize Tourism Board, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, and other partners supported Belize’s Second International Conference on Traditional Medicine.

Participants of the conference issued several resolutions on Friday. According to Lucia Regina Ellis, the lead organizer of the event, one of the resolutions is to encourage healers to stay connected with the knowledge and practices they inherited from their ancestors; the other is to attempt to reduce diabetes, obesity, and its myriad of complications. Another resolution of the grouping, reported Ellis, is to develop an inventory of healers in the nation so “that there can be a referral system.”

Next year, the forum on herbs moves to Poptum in Guatemala. Both meetings held thus far in Mexico and Belize will be remembered as having developed a camaraderie among medical doctors and traditional healers in the region.



Audience at the Drift Inn in Santa Elena, Cayo

Jealous officer assaults Jewel’s Olympian

Continued from Page 1

companion when a black Dodge Charger driven by Pascascio began tailing them. Gill was followed from Freetown Road to Cemetery Road, where the Dodge Charger overtook them and blocked their path near Rene’s Store on Orange Street.

Pascascio reportedly then exited his vehicle and walked towards Gill while holding a firearm. It is alleged that Gill remained seated in the driver’s seat of his car, and Pascascio opened his door, repeatedly punched Gill in the face, and

then struck him with the firearm, causing an injury to his left ear.

At that juncture, a police mobile approached, and the officers inside attempted to defuse the situation; however, despite their efforts, Pascascio refused to surrender his firearm, and Gill escaped to the Queen Street Police Station to make a report, but was sent instead to the King Street Police Station.

While Gill was waiting to make the report, Pascascio entered the station and allegedly threatened Gill that if he made the report, it would be the last report he would ever make.

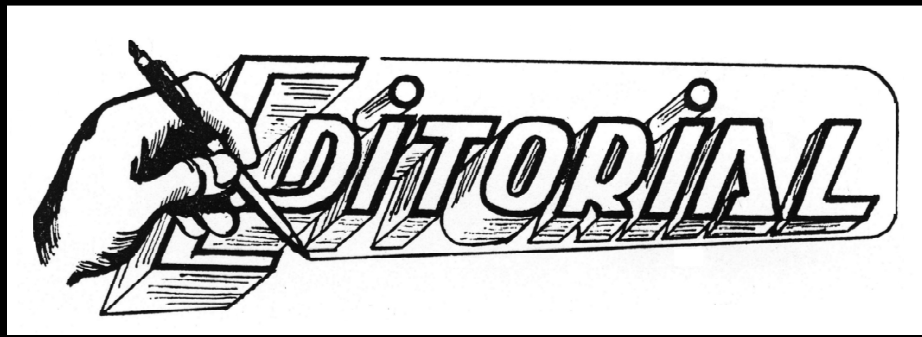
This is not the first time that a police officer has pistol-whipped a civilian. Several months ago, a similar incident occurred in San Pedro, where Sergeant Devon Makin – who is the godson of the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams – was caught on video pistol-whipping a civilian.

Local reporters highlighted both incidents to ComPol Williams when the media caught up with him today, September, 30.

“You can’t compare the issue with Makin and Pascascio; it’s like comparing oranges and apples. Sergeant Makin was

responding to a complaint from two minors who complained of being assaulted by a group of people. Pascascio’s incident, he was not working. He was responding to his feeling of jealousy. How could you compare the two? We have to be fair, and call things for what they are, and not try to twist what story for our aggrandizement. Doesn’t make sense; I say no more,” he said.

An investigation was done which led to Pascascio being charged with aggravated assault with a firearm and use of threatening words.



Message not delivered

Monday, September 30, 2024

Both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Belize got an opportunity over the past week to say a few words to the world at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, USA. And, while our esteemed statesmen used their best judgement and diplomatic experience to determine what best to say, and what not to tell the gathered nations about the Belize-Guatemala situation, with the ICJ case looming over our collective heads, it is felt by some citizens that both our leader representatives failed to say enough on our behalf.

Perhaps they felt it was not appropriate to sound any gripes, after the Guatemalan president had apparently taken such a high road, and spoken well about our relationship and his nation's agreement to enlist the assistance of the ICJ in settling our territorial dispute. Our leaders made little direct mention of the current crisis in Gaza, but chose to reiterate the Guatemalan leader's positive outlook on the cordial trade and friendly relations that exist between our two countries, and also our commitment to abide by the court's determination on the case before it regarding Guatemala's claim to our territory. But our leaders could have said more; critically, their message lacked an essential point that is vitally substantive to the whole deliberation of the ICJ, which is currently faced with international campaigns for a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine, and a number of other territorial disputes between nations.

When police officers stop a vehicle at a checkpoint, they are usually looking for clues in the behavior of the driver or passengers in the vehicle, which might suggest there is something they are uncomfortable about, like perhaps something – drugs, guns, stolen goods – they are trying to hide. A calm and cool demeanor, on the other hand, transmits a feeling of confidence

and security, based on the knowledge that one has nothing to fear. Perhaps that was the intent of our leaders at the UN General Assembly: not wanting to appear fearful of anything or anyone, being super-confident that our case is "iron clad", like US president Biden's declared support for Israel. The only problem is, there is no one in the international community to comfort little Belize with that type of assurance. All we have is the righteousness of our cause and our belief in justice; but so do the terrorized and traumatized people of Gaza, and now those of Lebanon. Ironically, despite the ICJ's declared opinion that there was a plausible case of genocide being committed by the Israeli army, the support for Israel remains strong from the most powerful nation in the UN, the USA, as well as from our western neighbor whose "unfounded claim" has led us to the International Court of Justice.

What was absolutely amazing, was that, even with the vast majority of nations calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, and for Israel to respect the ICJ's warning about genocide and crimes being committed against humanity in Gaza, and the ICC even lodging calls for the arrest of the Israeli prime minister and

its army general, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu was still welcomed at the UN and given applause during his speech by the few members who remained to hear his address, which demonstrated rank disrespect for the ICJ's and the ICC's recommendations.

More than any other UN General Assembly, this one exposed the toothlessness of this global organization's mandate to ensure peace among nations, since its most powerful member, the USA, although long considered a bastion of peace and democracy in the world, has been openly chastised and rebuked as a hypocrite and engaging in double standards, by a number of nations for flagrantly flaunting its veto power in the UN Security Council, and in effect giving a green light to Israel to do whatever it wants with the Palestinians, the ICJ and the ICC be damned. But we did not expect our leaders to comment on such matters.

When Belizeans were coaxed and convinced to vote in favor of taking our problem with Guatemala to the ICJ, the chief selling point in this decision was that, with an ICJ vote in our favor, which was presumably guaranteed, all our problems with Guatemala would be over. But what we have seen over the past months with Israel's disdain for the ICJ and ICC rulings, with the support of the US, is cause for much concern.

It is widely suspected that it was the power of the US lobby, threats or enticements, that garnered a small group of nations to actually applaud accused war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu at the UN this past week. The most powerful nation on earth wields its influence where it coincides with its interests. Belize is on record for our support of Palestine's right to nationhood. Guatemala and the US are among the few in the corner of Israel.

With the pressure on judges of the ICJ to see their court maintain its stature and respect among all nations of the world, it will be under the spotlight to provide rulings in a number of international territorial disputes, and will be hoping to increase the peace, perhaps with some compromise, through its wise rulings.

Little Belize, with less than half a million citizens, will be on the table against the military giant, a far more technologically advanced Guatemala, who will likely be supported by top US lawyers. And we will be there by mutual agreement, seeking the court's wisdom in settling this dispute. Will the court be under pressure to seek satisfaction for both sides who signed a "compromis" to bring them the matter?

It is the feeling of some citizens that our leaders wasted an opportunity to send an important message far and wide, and to the ears of the ICJ.

The UN General Assembly should have been told that Belize is at the ICJ under duress; we had no business or desire to be there. The UN General Assembly already reviewed and adjudicated our case for self-determination and territorial integrity way back in 1980; and the new nation of Belize was admitted as a member of the United Nations, with all our territory intact, in September of 1981. And that was that! We should not be revisiting this matter of our right to self-determination and territorial integrity, unless the UN has reneged on its charter.

The new Guatemalan president has spoken like a true statesman, and his overtures of good relations to our prime minister and government are sincerely appreciated.

However, the UNGA needed to know, that powerful elements within the Guatemalan oligarchy and its military have repeatedly violated Belize's territory, both on land and sea, and continue to rape our forests and intimidate our citizens in Belizean waters near our southernmost boundary in the Sarstoon River. The case of murdered tour guide, 20-year-old Danny Conrrique on September 25, 2014, near the western border by Guatemalan intruders has still not been solved. And to avoid an incident in the future, we were assured that with an ICJ ruling, this matter of Guatemala's unfounded claim would be forever laid to rest. But now we are not so sure.

The UNGA needed to know that Belizeans did not go to the ICJ to offer any compromise on our territory; "not one square centimeter." We were driven there under duress and intimidation from the Guatemalan oligarchy and military. And the Guatemalan president's assurances notwithstanding, the UN needs to be reminded that this is a nation that has once experienced a coup when the elected leader ran afoul of the military/oligarchy's interests. To ensure the maintenance of peace in our region, we would like an assurance from the UNGA, that when (if) the ICJ rules in our favor, and if the US turns a blind eye, that the UN will make it a priority to see that the ruling is respected by the GAF and thus prevent any possible conflagration in this region.



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Mensaje no entregado

Lunes, 30 de septiembre de 2024

Tanto el Primer Ministro como el Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores de Belize tuvieron la oportunidad durante la semana pasada de decir algunas palabras al mundo en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York, EE.UU. Y, mientras nuestros estimados estadistas utilizaron su mejor criterio y experiencia diplomática para determinar qué decir y qué no decir a las naciones reunidas sobre la situación entre Belize y Guatemala, con el caso de la CIJ sobrevolando nuestras cabezas colectivas, algunos ciudadanos sienten que nuestros dos líderes representantes no dijeron lo suficiente en nuestro nombre.

Tal vez sintieron que no era apropiado expresar ninguna queja, después de que el presidente guatemalteco aparentemente había elegido el camino tan noble y había hablado bien sobre nuestra relación y el acuerdo de su nación de solicitar la asistencia de la CIJ para resolver nuestra disputa territorial. Nuestros líderes apenas mencionaron directamente la crisis actual en Gaza, pero optaron por reiterar la actitud positiva del líder guatemalteco sobre las relaciones comerciales cordiales y amistosas que existen entre nuestros dos países, y también nuestro compromiso de acatar la decisión de la Corte en el caso que tiene ante sí respecto del reclamo de Guatemala sobre nuestro territorio. Pero nuestros líderes podrían haber dicho más; lo que es crítico, su mensaje carecía de un punto esencial que es de vital importancia para toda la deliberación de la CIJ, que actualmente está enfrentada con campañas internacionales en favor de una solución de dos Estados entre Israel y Palestina, y a una serie de otras disputas territoriales entre naciones.

Cuando los agentes de policía detienen un vehículo en un puesto de control, generalmente buscan pistas en el comportamiento del conductor o de los pasajeros del vehículo, que podrían sugerir que hay algo que los incomoda, como tal vez algo—drogas, armas, bienes robados—que están tratando de ocultar. Una actitud tranquila y serena, por otro lado, transmite una sensación de confianza y seguridad, basada en el conocimiento de que uno no tiene nada que temer. Tal vez esa era la intención de nuestros líderes en la Asamblea General de la ONU: no querer parecer temerosos de nada ni de nadie, estar súper seguros de que nuestra postura es “irrefutable”, como el apoyo declarado del presidente estadounidense Biden a Israel. El único problema es que no hay nadie en la comunidad internacional que pueda consolar al pequeño Belize con ese tipo de garantía. Todo lo que tenemos es la rectitud de nuestra causa y nuestra creencia en la justicia; pero también la tienen el pueblo aterrorizado y traumatizado de Gaza, y ahora también la tienen los del Líbano. Irónicamente, a pesar de la opinión declarada de la CIJ de que había un caso plausible de genocidio cometido por el ejército israelí, el apoyo a Israel sigue siendo fuerte por parte de la nación más poderosa de la ONU, los EE. UU., así como de nuestro vecino occidental cuyo “reclamo infundado” nos ha llevado a la Corte Internacional de Justicia.

Lo que fue absolutamente asombroso fue que, incluso cuando la gran mayoría de las naciones pedían un alto el fuego en Gaza y que Israel respetara la advertencia de la CIJ sobre el genocidio y los crímenes contra la humanidad que se estaban cometiendo en Gaza, y la CPI incluso había pedido el arresto del primer ministro israelí y de su general del ejército, el Sr. Benjamin Netanyahu fue recibido en la ONU y aplaudido durante su discurso por los pocos miembros que permanecieron para escucharlo, lo que demostró una total falta de respeto por las recomendaciones de la CIJ y la CPI.

Más que cualquier otra Asamblea General de la ONU, ésta ha puesto de manifiesto la ineficacia del mandato de esta organización mundial de garantizar la paz entre las naciones, ya que su miembro más poderoso, los Estados Unidos, aunque considerado durante mucho tiempo un bastión de la paz y la democracia en el mundo, ha sido abiertamente reprendido y tachado de hipócrita y de aplicar un doble rasero por varias naciones por hacer alarde flagrante de su poder de veto en el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU y, en la práctica, dar luz verde a Israel para que haga lo que quiera con los palestinos, al diablo con la CIJ y la CPI. Pero no esperábamos que nuestros dirigentes hicieran comentarios sobre estos asuntos.

Cuando se convenció a los beliceños de votar a favor de llevar nuestro problema con Guatemala a la CIJ, el argumento principal de esta decisión

fue que, con un voto de la CIJ a nuestro favor, lo cual estaba presumiblemente garantizado, todos nuestros problemas con Guatemala se acabarían. Pero lo que hemos visto en los últimos meses con el desdén de Israel por las resoluciones de la CIJ y la CPI, con el apoyo de los EE.UU., es motivo de gran preocupación.

Se sospecha ampliamente que fue el poder del lobby estadounidense, las amenazas o los incentivos, lo que llevó a un pequeño grupo de naciones a aplaudir al acusado criminal de guerra Benjamin Netanyahu en la ONU la semana pasada. La nación más poderosa de la Tierra ejerce su influencia allí donde coincide con sus intereses. Belize ha dejado constancia de nuestro apoyo al derecho de Palestina a su soberanía nacional. Guatemala y los EE.UU. están entre los pocos que están del lado de Israel.

Con la presión sobre los jueces de la CIJ para que su tribunal mantenga su estatura y respeto entre todas las naciones del mundo, estará bajo los focos para emitir fallos en una serie de disputas territoriales internacionales, y esperará aumentar la paz, tal vez con algún compromiso, mediante sus sabias decisiones.

El pequeño Belize, con menos de medio millón de ciudadanos, estará en la mesa contra el gigante militar, una Guatemala mucho más avanzada tecnológicamente, que probablemente será apoyada por los mejores abogados estadounidenses. Y nosotros estaremos allí de mutuo acuerdo, buscando la sabiduría del tribunal para resolver esta disputa. ¿Se sentirá el tribunal bajo presión para buscar satisfacción para ambas partes que firmaron un acuerdo para llevarles el asunto?

Algunos ciudadanos sienten que nuestros líderes desperdiciaron una oportunidad de enviar un mensaje importante a lo largo y ancho, y a los oídos de la CIJ.

Se le debería haber dicho a la Asamblea General de la ONU que Belize está en la CIJ bajo presión; no teníamos interés ni deseo de estar allí. La Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas ya revisó y dictó sentencia sobre nuestro derecho a la libre determinación e integridad territorial en 1980, y la nueva nación de Belize fue admitida como miembro de las Naciones Unidas, con todo nuestro territorio intacto, en septiembre de 1981. ¡Y no hubo más! No deberíamos volver a tratar este asunto de nuestro derecho a la libre determinación y la integridad territorial, a menos que las Naciones Unidas hayan incumplido su Carta.

El nuevo presidente guatemalteco ha hablado como un verdadero estadista, y sus gestos de buena relación con nuestro primer ministro y nuestro gobierno son sinceramente apreciados.

Sin embargo, la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas necesitaba saber que elementos poderosos dentro de la oligarquía guatemalteca y su ejército han violado repetidamente el territorio de Belize, tanto en tierra como en el mar, y siguen violando nuestros bosques e intimidando a nuestros ciudadanos en aguas beliceñas cerca de nuestro límite más meridional en el río Sarstún. El caso del guía turístico Danny Conrrique, de 20 años, asesinado el 25 de septiembre de 2014 cerca de la frontera occidental por intrusos guatemaltecos aún no se ha resuelto. Y para evitar un incidente en el futuro, nos aseguraron que con un fallo de la CIJ, este asunto del reclamo infundado de Guatemala quedaría para siempre en el olvido. Pero ahora no estamos tan seguros.

La Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas necesitaba saber que los beliceños no acudimos a la CIJ para ofrecer ningún compromiso sobre nuestro territorio; “ni un centímetro cuadrado”. Fuimos llevados allí bajo coacción e intimidación por la oligarquía y el ejército guatemalteco. Y a pesar de las garantías del presidente guatemalteco, es necesario recordarle a la ONU que esta es una nación que una vez experimentó un golpe de Estado cuando el líder electo se enfrentó a los intereses de los militares y la oligarquía. Para garantizar el mantenimiento de la paz en nuestra región, nos gustaría que la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas nos garantizara que, cuando la CIJ falle (si falla) a nuestro favor y Estados Unidos hace la vista gorda, la ONU tendrá como prioridad asegurarse de que las Fuerzas Armadas de Guatemala respeten el fallo y así evitar cualquier posible conflagración en esta región.

Alcohol in a bottle, girl, 2 men of the “military” breed

by Colin Hyde

So, Compol Williams got himself into some deep water for expressing his disappointment with the punishment a guy got for “wrestling” him. The story is that Compol was at a parade in Orange Walk Town and he saw a guy who reports say had a bottle of Belikin, and the Commissioner, being the serious cop that he is, asked the guy for the bottle. And the guy refused to hand it over.

According to the transcript on *Channel 5* of the Commissioner’s comments on the incident, he said the guy was the type who acts “big and bad”, the guy was “*in the company of a female*”, *he told the guy, very nicely, “Sir, you cannot be consuming alcohol in bottles”, and the guy got belligerent, grabbed his shirt and challenged him.*

The Commissioner says he approached the guy in a nice way. Years ago, a very astute person told me that males who don’t know me read hostility in my aura. I was very surprised by his analysis, but I had wondered why at times guys had responded to me in ways I didn’t understand. I’ve told enough people how happy I am that my hair is greyish and now the guys call me, “Dads”. Whoa there, just for being so buff the first impression some people

have of the Commissioner is that he wants to fight you.

I suspect a part of the responsibility for that incident falls on the shoulder of the Police Minister, Kareem. Compol Williams should be on a day off when people are having their alcohol fix. If the Compol had his way, we would live under Prohibition. You bet that a part of the problem was that there was a girl around. I say, an officer who understands drink, coupled with an environment where a girl is nearby, would have been more than nice, he would have been apologetic when asking for that Belikin.

I suspect a part of the responsibility for the crime falls on the organizers of the parade. Knowing the lax leadership we have in this country, I bet they didn’t scream it from a bullhorn that drinking from glass bottles was strictly prohibited.

The Commissioner complained because the magistrate “only” fined the felon. But the penalty was right on the money, especially if it was in US dollars. If the villain had gone beyond grabbing our Compol’s shirt and uttering stupid words, I bet the magistrate would have added nights in a cell.

We don’t know if the guy is a DNA ass. We know alcohol makes asses of some of us. He was with a young lady. We know being with a girl also makes

some of us guys into asses. Well, he got fined for his folly. Will you put him in a jail, and maybe cause him to lose his job, because he is an idiot, or acted like one?

Respect to you, Compol, for your restraint in a situation in which you personally lost a little face, and a man who couldn’t hold his liquor disrespected our nation’s police uniform. Oh boy, I can feel you, your regret for not bullying his ass. Again, know that there are people in our country who are seriously grateful for the maturity you showed.

Noh worry yoself, Elvia, yu sexier than she

I have some snippets on the politics of Ms. Elvia and Ms. Thea, but I don’t come to conclusions with scant data unless I have to make a spot decision. One complaint I have about “people” is that they put too much on snippets. Check yourself; you might be malicious. Of course, it’s not impossible that Elvia deserves the shelf she got from her party. No, I’m not going to insert myself in blue business.

I say, Elvia has to feel wahn way about getting pushed aside for Thea, the new lady. I think Elvia was the last person on the government’s side to give her yay or nay to the Taiwan celebration. She looked so lonely, so all alone while everyone else in the House is getting ready to face the electorate in 2025, some to get five more years, some to get told by the electorate to clean out their desk and take home their other accessories.

Whoa there, Elvia, you needn’t be so down; I have here some consolation, if you want it. Judging you and Thea from the cover, if when you were young girls you were both in love with a young guy from my “demographic”, she would have been the girl pahn di side, you would a mi be the one to step down the aisle. Yep, from the get go you would have been ahead in the group that judges the sex appeal the way I do.

Of course, quién sabe, the nuptials proposal might have been scuttled if Elvia is one of those girls who have bad ways. You can’t always tell what’s behind the smile of a beauty queen. Ai, you have heard of those kinds of women who think man was made to serve them, completely contrary to how the Master designed it. Hn, I expect some misguided soul will say, what does luks have to do with it. I don’t mean to be rude, but please don’t make me laugh.

Ah, Ivan Ayuso

The story last week is that Ivan went to court and pled guilty to mishandling funds that belonged to the National Sports Council. In the clips I saw in the news, Ivan was smiling from ear to ear, and the rumor I heard for the grin is that his time in the pen will be reduced by half because he fessed up.

They say in the long, lonely days in prison, people spill the truth. What the hell happened with our Paslow Building? Because Diki Bradley and Rufus X

couldn’t rest their hatred for Thomas Paslow, when I heard the news that the historic building was on fire, well, you don’t have to ponder long whom my mind settled on when I wondered who du it. Diki Bradley was in government then, and his department had just bought a spanking new shiny red aerial platform fire truck, just in time to deal with a fire like the one at the three-story Paslow. Daam, there was no saving us; a helpless Belize watched its valuable, historic building burn to the ground.

No philistine was brought to justice for the crime. They would have gotten some long years for the ehm, arson. Ivan, who worked on one of the floors of the building, was reportedly suspected of some improper money handling. The justice system chalked down the hateful rhetoric of Bradley and Rufus X as just talk. Ivan, they said, had a motive, and he was hauled off to court, where the lawyers provided evidence that his hands were clean. I’ll go to my grave thinking ... wait, who the hell cares what I think?


Lashing is a boys’ thing

In all the time I have been throwing my two cents for lashing, it never occurred to me that it could be interpreted that I was about an equal gender thing. That is absolutely not so. I know that the other gender has gotten the whip, but their whippings were few, their reprimand coming almost exclusively when they strayed from acting ladylike.

Whipping is mainly a male thing, almost exclusively for young boys. Whipping is always provoked. I can recall only three times the belt was applied by my parents when their sons were teenagers. I got whipped twice when I was 13. My mom had a phobia, I didn’t consider her fear, and I got whipped. I couldn’t give in, and so she got my dad to whip me. I still didn’t give in, and well, she had to get over it. I remember one time my mom got the belt and gave it to my dad when he got home from work. Two of my older brothers had gotten into a fight at BEC field. They never fought each other again.


Four sinners at Plus TV

In a little exchange on *Plus TV* concerning coming short of the glory in the past, absolutely no one in Camalote was surprised when Brother Kerm gave a little wink. Brother Stirm readily admitted that he too had had his follies. Brother Santi, he has never shied away from telling about the weed; and Brother Fem, it’s a wonder I never met him in a rum shop. Ah, the Bible speaks about the tremendous celebrations in heaven when a sinner is saved.



Canaan S.D.A High School

P.O. Box 1690
1508 Coney Dr, Belize City
Belize C.A.
Phone #: 223-2297



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

1 Full-time Business Teacher Effective November 2024

1 Information Technology Technician

2 Watchman

Qualifications a Business Teacher:

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

SALARY:

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

APPLICATION PACKAGE:

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

1 Information Technology Technician

Qualifications

Diploma or Bachelor’s Degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, or a related field (or equivalent work experience).

- Proven experience as an IT Technician or in a similar role, preferably in an educational environment.
- Strong knowledge of computer systems, networks, hardware, and software.
- Familiarity with Windows, Mac OS, and Google Workspace platforms.
- Experience with server management, Active Directory, and networking protocols.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and the ability to work independently.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and priorities in a fast-paced environment.
- Commitment to maintaining the confidentiality and security of school information.

Compensation:

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

Certified copies of qualifications and transcripts, current curriculum vitae, two letters of recommendation, valid police record, and a copy of a valid Social Security card.

2 Watchman

The Watchman will be responsible for safeguarding school property, monitoring activities on the school grounds, and ensuring that security protocols are always followed. The successful candidate will work to prevent unauthorized access, deter vandalism, and respond promptly to any security issues.

Compensation:

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

Interested candidates should submit their application and resume to:


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

The deadline for submission of the complete application package is no later than
midday on Friday, October 18, 2024.

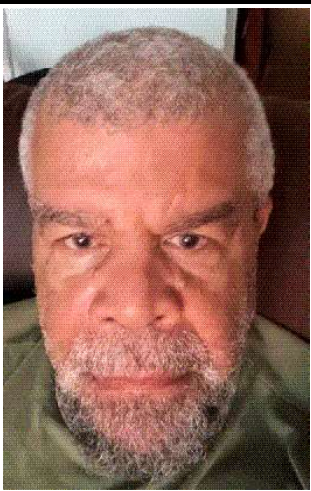
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Slouching towards statelessness!



Sunday, September 29, 2024 at 11:09 AM

As I watch all the merciless chaos that is a worldwide phenomenon these days, whether it's Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan or Venezuela, I've come to realize that, while those situations are the most newsworthy, unrest and distrust are worldwide, including inside our own little Jewel. As we start counting down to the ICJ decision on our fate as a nation, we have to acknowledge that we are hostages in the larger scheme of things, that we don't really have a say in the matter. All we have is hope, but is that enough? My friend has told me on various occasions that we are not paying enough attention to this threat to our sovereignty, and I totally agree with him. We are too busy fighting for our own personal survival to pay attention to the survival of our country!

I believe that, because we have become so Central Americanized, we have become so diluted by immigration and intermarriage, the threat that is Guatemala is not as urgent, as seminal, as we old-timers have always considered it to be. They don't see, or refuse to see, the disruptive changes that would occur if we should have to cede one inch of Belize to Guatemala, one inch! What's the saying—give them an inch and they take your whole country? That's not the exact saying, but that's exactly what would happen!

I say, and believe that if the ICJ rules that parts of our country should be given

to our neighbor, that gives them permission to want more, and still more. It would justify their claim on the entire country of Belize, not just what would be ceded to them; it's just human nature. "Give them an inch and they take a yard."

Some want to turn the page, to put the claim in the rearview mirror, to pretend it's not real. Some believe that a knight in shining armour will come riding in to save us, and in my humble opinion, most of us won't care until it's too late! And then what?

I don't know anything about the discussions, the arguments, the deals that are being discussed in The Hague regarding our sovereignty. We are not being apprised of the negotiations by our government, which in my opinion, is a dereliction of duty! But again, do we even care?

My friend was waiting to hear what our Foreign Minister had to say at the United Nations last week! Why should any of us have to wait? We should already know, because it concerns our sovereignty, our survival, as this hodgepodge of people who want nothing more than to be left alone, on our own property, on our own terms! How much longer will we have to wait?

Folks, we have already lived under colonialism for over 200 years. We thought that we had shed that yoke in 1981 with independence, only to substitute it with another yoke, one of economic colonialism! Now we are facing the reality of being recolonized, by a far less generous party. One that just wants to suck the marrow out of our already very fragile existence. Wat a ting!

I don't really know what we as citizens can do, those of us who care that Belize might become a department on the Guatemalan map, for real. Should we agitate, complain, or just wait? It seems that we have been waiting our entire lives!

Glen

Yearly checkup!

Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 7:51 PM

I just celebrated my old birthday, and so I made an appointment for my yearly bodywork and inspection from my doctor. It is a time of great trepidation and anxiety and expectation, especially as age creeps up on you without warning and without your permission. You get there hungry, because you can't eat before your appointment, then you are told to undress and put on some paper-thin contraption backwards with your butt exposed! Then they make you pee, which I find impossible to do; your blood pressure is up, because you are positive you have every possible disease there is; and then they weigh you. You are beyond certain that there's something wrong with the scale, because there's no way you weigh that much!

After the nurse or nurses are done, you are left in the office for a seemingly long period of time to think about all your sins, about all the garbage you have eaten, about not exercising enough, about your prostate and heart, liver, and

lights. Finally, the doctor comes in, cheerful as ever, as you are sinking deeper and deeper into a state of maximum terror! Wat a ting!

I have a woman doctor, of course. She stares down the throat, checks my eyes with the chart, feels me up a little. I'm spared the finger; a blood test will do. Sometimes you have to do a stress test, to see if you are still alive; but before you know it, you are done. She tells you to get dressed and reclaim your manhood; and then comes the worst part of the visit for me: the dreaded drawing of the blood! I hate needles more than anything in the world, and although it is usually painless, a little prick maybe, I become a whimpering fool before the needle goes into my arm.

Then it's over; at last, the physical abuse you suffered to find out how much gas you have left in the old tank, is over! Well, not over: the trepidation comes in waiting for the results of all that bloodwork; they are usually positive for me, but you know, human nature does

Leo Bradley hosts 23rd Book Fair



by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Sept. 27, 2024

The Leo Bradley Library hosted its 23rd annual Book Fair on Thursday, September 26, on the grounds of the library on Princess Margaret Drive in Belize City under the theme "Adventure begins at your library".

"Reading is an adventure. Like we say, you can travel anywhere you imagine; so our key focus is reading; and I think that is what our biggest promotion today is like every other day," said Shaunna Vaccaro, assistant librarian at the library.

"... reading is important, and we are trying to curb illiteracy, and it begins from the womb; so, once a mother reads to her child, that will be instilled in them; and we want to have children experience reading in different forms," she added.

The Book Fair had the participation of hundreds of students across Belize City at various educational levels—with kindergarten students participating in a coloring competition, primary school students being involved in a reading and

writing competition, and secondary students participating in a mural competition—along with literary-based games.

"The Book Fair is important to students because it allows them to see what all the library has to offer. It also builds community engagement, where the students can meet other students from different schools, so they can build friendships and share their love and passion for reading," said Geridene Reneau, librarian at the Leo Bradley Library.

This year's mural competition saw the participation of Belize High School, St. Catherine Academy, Pallotti High School, Edward P. Yorke, and Anglican Cathedral College.

Booths from local businesses such as Cubola, BRC, The Book Center, and Angelus Press were featured at the fair as a way to promote the library's initiative and the types of books they have published and sell, Reneau mentioned.

The Public Utilities Commission, Belize Bank, and the Belize Water Services sponsored this year's Book Fair.

not allow one to relax until the final verdict comes in.

I know that it can be scary, but after you are given a clean bill of health, all the suffering you heaped on yourself is worthwhile. If something is wrong, and if you get your yearly checkup, there is usually a great chance that it can be corrected! You realize that you have a new lease on life, and you promise yourself that you will take care of that temple and live forever!

Sh_t happens to all of us. But if you make that appointment and keep it annually after you are over 50, you have a greater chance of living a long and healthy life. It all begins with your lifestyle and how much you love

yourself. I'm madly in love with myself, and so as scared as I am, I enter the lion's den with my head held high, my heart beating at twice the rate, my outer regions sinking and shrinking, and take my punishment in purgatory!

It is worth every bit of it! I can't imagine people, especially men, feeling that something is wrong inside them, and just wishing it away. Ting no go so. Go get that checkup. Your life may depend on it. I've written about this before, and since I did the last time, I've lost friends who were afraid of doctors. It is always your choice; man up and take it, especially you, men!

Glen



Belize girls win Bronze at 1st AFECVOL Central American U-17 volleyball championship

by William Ysaguirre

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Sat. Sept. 28, 2024

Belize’s Under-17 girls won the bronze medal by 2 consecutive victories at the first-ever AFECVOL Central American Female U-17 Volleyball Championships at the National Sports Institute (IND) volleyball gymnasium in Managua on Friday and Saturday afternoon, September 27-28.

Best attacker Imaun Marin hammered 14 kills, as she led Belize to their 3rd win, as they dominated El Salvador, 3-0, on Saturday. Akili Jones scored 12 hits and served 2 aces to win the first set, 25-15. Amayah Lino scored 5 hits, had 2 kill blocks and served an ace to tally 8pts.



Akili Jones – Best Server, Best Scorer, 2nd Best Attacker



Belize National Female U-17 Volleyball Team – Bronze Medalists

Twelve-year-old Jamie Espejo of Hummingbird Elementary served 3 aces, and Sara Safa served 4 aces to win the 2nd set, 25-8. Rhea Tsai and Abigail Sharp scored 2 pts each and Hannah Auil scored a hit, as they profited from El Salvador’s 25 errors to win the 3rd set, 25-22. Katya Cunza led the “cuzcatelecas” with 6pts, and

Leon O’Brien & Chrystal Thomas win 4th annual BCC Half Marathon

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Sept. 29, 2024

Leon O’Brien reclaimed his crown as Belize’s premier long-distance runner when he won the 4th annual Belize City Council’s Half Marathon (21 kilometers) race under pouring rain, while Chrystal Thomas won the women’s category, on the Princess Margaret Drive and Newtown Barracks circuit in Belize City on Sunday morning, September 29.



Leon O’Brien and Chrystal Thomas, 4th Annual BCC Half-Marathon Champions

Belize City Councilor, Kaya Cattouse awarded cash prizes to all top 5 finishers in each category, and all runners received medals of achievement.

Below are the results according to race categories:

Men’s 21K: 1st Place - Leon O’Brien (Team Splash, Belize City, 1:12:30.8); 2nd Francisco Lima (Team Splash, Flores, Péten, 1:16:57.9); 3rd Albert Davis (Team Splash, Lucky Strike, 1:17:27.1); 4th Jesus Contreras (Team Splash Elite, San Pedro,

Ambergris Caye, 1:21:02.2); 5th Miguel Escamilla (Club Vlady Maraton, Playa del Carmen, Q.Roo, 1:23:01.1); 6th Amir Castilla (Team Splash, Orange Walk, 1:27:43.6); 7th Willie Dale (Belize City, 1:32:32.2); 8th Egbert Augustine (Team Splash Elite, Placencia, 1:33:46.5); 9th Edwin Garnett (Westrac Slick Runners, Belize City, 1:37:47.9); 10th Eddy Herrarte (Team Splash, Guatemala, 1:47:29.4).

Please turn to Page 10



Dasialynn Thurton – Best Libero & Best Defense



Imaun Marin – Best Attacker

Maria Rogel, Adriana Vargas and Maria Jimena Castaneda scored 4 pts each. Belize conceded 24 pts by unforced errors.

Marin hammered 14 kills and served up 2 aces to lead the Belize girls to their 2nd win, 3-1, over Honduras on Friday. Jones scored 12 hits and served an ace to win the first set, 25-12. Lino scored 7 hits and served 2 aces, and MVP Sara Safa served up 7 aces, scoring 2 hits and a kill block for 10pts, as Belize won the 2nd set, 25-17.

Ruth Villegas led Honduras’ counterattack with 11pts, and Enny Cecilia Ramos scored 9pts. Belize conceded 30pts by unforced errors, allowing Honduras to win the 3rd set, 25-18. Tsia scored 4pts, Jamielee Espejo scored 3pts, Jaycee Usher added 2pts, and Auil scored a hit, as they profited from the “catrachas” 35 errors to win the 4th set, 25-14.

The Belize girls were rebounding from a heartbreak loss, 1-3, to the hosts Nicaragua on Thursday night. Marin was voted MVP of the match, as she hammered 18 kills, scored 2 kill blocks and served an ace to lead Belize with 21pts. Jones hammered 12 hits and served 6 aces, as they forced the host to extra points to win the first set, 26-24. Lucia Ruiz and Luisa Rios led

Nicaragua with 12pts each, as they also took the 2nd set, 25-16.

Lino scored 6 hits and 2 blocks, Tsai scored 6 hits, Safa scored 5pts, and Jaycee Usher scored a point. They also profited from the host’s 25 errors to win the 3rd set, 25-20. Alas, Belize conceded 37pts by errors, as the “pinoleras” won the 4th set, 25-21.

Belize finished 3rd in the rankings with 14pts, following a 0-3 loss to the gold medalists, Costa Rica, who tallied 21pts from 5 wins. Nicaragua took silver with 19pts, after their only loss, 2-3, to Costa Rica on Friday night.

Belize won 6 individual awards, as Akili Jones won Best Server by serving 16 Aces, Best Scorer with 84 pts and 2nd Best Attacker with 67 hits, a 31.9 percent efficiency. Dasialynn Thurton won Best Libero with 186 excellent receptions and Best Defense with 133 digs. Imaun Marin won Best Attacker, scoring 67 hits – a 32.88 percent success rate.

Costa Rica’s Amanda Campos won the Most Valuable Player award, Nadia Granados won Best Setter, and Charlotte Martinez won 2nd Best Blocker. Nicaragua’s Maria Ebanks won Best Blocker, while Guatemala’s Melissa Guerra won Best Opposite, and Harumi Monney won Best Blocker.



Verdes FC sacks Pirates, 2-0, to lead PLB football

by William Ysaguirre

SAN IGNACIO, Cayo District, Sun. Sept. 29, 2024
Verdes FC blanked the San Pedro Pirates, 2-0, at the Norman Broaster Stadium on Sunday evening, September 29, and took the lead in the Premier League of Belize (PLB) standings of its 2024-2025 Opening Season; while Progresso FC remained in 2nd place with a 3-0 win over winless Wagiya SC at the People's Stadium on Saturday night. (See standings below.)

Desmond Wade's brace (15' and 19') were all the shells the Green Machine needed to sink the Pirates' ship. Colombian import Yubeiqier Arenas and Nahjib Guerra pressed for more goals, supported by Jordi Polanco, Darrel Myvett and Camilo Fajardo at midfield. Pirates' defenders Marlon Gutierrez, Brian Chavez, Louis Valdez and Moises Hernandez were hard pressed to help goalkeeper Selvin Sagastume concede no more goals.

Down at the other end, Mauro Cecreta and Keydenshay Bowen led the Pirates' counterattacks with the help of Tyrese Augustine and Jose Chimal on the wings and Delone Torres and Devon Makin at midfield. They made no impression on the Verdes' defenders Evral Trapp, Brandon Jones, Arles Abonia Balanta and Jaylen Lennan who

shut them down, and goalkeeper Woodrow West handled all other challenges.

Augustine ran out of gas after less than half an hour of play, and coach Jorge Nunes introduced Henry Bejerano to replace him, and Nicolas Orellano relieved Bowen before the half. Shedrick Swazo replaced Hernandez after the break, but it was too little to make a difference.

Verdes new technical director Jose Hernandez Perez refreshed his offensive line with Krisean Lopez relieving Arenas, and Alence Ayala replaced Wade. Juan Ocampo and Christian Sanchez replaced Jones and Lennan, and Ronald Benavides relieved Abonia Balanta to help secure the shut out of the Pirates.



Red hot Progresso FC comes to the Marion Jones on Sunday



Port Layola's "Small Axe", Rene Leslie explodes for 5 goals against Bandits Sports on Thursday night at Isidoro Beaton Stadium. (Game was originally scheduled for Saturday night.)

Rene Leslie's beaver hat trick (28', 30', 51', 53' and 55') led the defending champions Port Layola FC, as they sacked the Belmopan Bandits, 6-0, after Latrell Middleton (20') opened the scoreboard at the Football Federation of Belize Stadium last Thursday night. Mikey Palacio's brace (2' and 44')

sandwiched a Trimayne "Pepper" Harris goal (41') to lead Progresso FC to a 3-0 win over Wagiya SC.

Upcoming Week 9 matches:
Saturday, October 5
7:30 p.m. – Bandits Sports vs Verdes FC at Isidoro Beaton Stadium

Premier League of Belize 2024-2025 Opening Season								
Standings at Week 8, Sunday, September 29, 2024								
TEAMS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Verdes FC	8	6	0	2	23	4	19	18
Progresso FC	8	5	2	1	11	5	6	17
Port Layola FC	8	5	1	2	18	6	12	16
San Pedro Pirates	8	3	3	2	8	7	1	12
Bandits Sports	8	1	1	6	3	21	-18	4
Wagiya SC	8	0	1	7	6	26	-20	1

Sunday, October 6
4:00 p.m. – Port Layola FC vs Progresso FC at Marion Jones Sports Complex
4:00 p.m. – Wagiya SC vs San Pedro Pirates at Carl Ramos Stadium

Leon O'Brien & Chrystal Thomas win 4th annual BCC Half Marathon



Men's 21K: (l to r) 6th Amir Castilla, 4th Jesus Contreras, 2nd Francisco Lima, 1st Leon O'Brien, 3rd Albert Davis, 5th Miguel Escamilla



Women's 21K: (l to r) 4th Dorsha Sabido, 2nd Carmen Castilla, 1st Chrystal Thomas, 3rd Lizbeth De La Cruz, 5th Alma Pinelo

Continued from Page 9

Women's 21K: 1st Place - Chrystal Thomas (Team Splash, Sarteneja, 1:41:49.8); 2nd Carmen Castilla (Team Splash, Orange Walk, 1:44:14.5); 3rd Lizbeth De La Cruz (Club Vlady Maraton, Playa del Carmen, 1:51:05); 4th Dorsha Sabido (Quench UR Thirst, Belize City, 1:53:08.6); 5th Alma Pinelo (BNCG, Belize City, 2:10:03.7).

Women's 10K: 1st Place - Roxana Lemus (Westrac Slick Runners, San Ignacio, 52:29.9 minutes); 2nd Neydy Lopez (Team Splash, Belmopan, 57:26.9); 3rd Ayako Suginaka (Japan International Cooperation Agency, Orange Walk, 57:36.4); 4th Alondra Rosalez (Dangriga Town, 1:00:50); 5th Lucelly Ramos (Team Splash Elite, Belize City, 1:05:13.9); 6th Brendalee Coc (1:06:27.2); 7th Roberta Usher (Belize City,

1:10:08.2); 8th Wanny Fan (Belize City, 1:14:29.4); 9th Edie Rosado (The Belize Bank Ltd., Belize City, 1:23:33.3); 10th Julie Ann Matus (The Belize Bank Ltd., Belize City, 1:40:50.2); 11th Samiya Matus (Sam's Run Belize, Belize City, 1:43:01.7).

Men's 10K: 1st Place - Christopher Broaster (Team Splash, Belmopan, 43:50.2 minutes); 2nd Kliuvert Cal (Team Splash Elite, San Miguel, Toledo, 44:07.8); 3rd Kenroy Westby (Westrac Slick

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No alliance, but caretaking!

Op-Ed by Jeffrey J. Cunningham
Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Let us first clarify the popular misconception about the relationship between the United States and Israel as an "alliance". If we consider the United States' traditional and modern alliances, it becomes clear that "alliance" as applied to the relationship between the United States and Israel is a complete misnomer.

It is a fact that the Jewish people's presence on the stage in the United States began to be felt during their fleeing from the Nazis and seeking asylum in the United States in record numbers. It was the right choice they made, and no hostile and prejudicial opinion should be held against them. They began to flourish to the extent that they are now present at every level all across the United States government; and lo and behold, they have managed to get the United States deeply entangled in their relations with the Middle Eastern countries, especially in their conflict with Palestinians.

The intelligence/information Israel provides the West is purely for its own self-interest, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has tried to impress the West by making it look as if Israel is the firewall against "the destruction of the Western civilization" to attract more sympathy and support from the West. Israel has also sent up trial balloons to make the allegiance to the United States the same as allegiance to Israel! It also weighs in when the U. S. President wants to choose a Cabinet member, and it uses the member's support for Israel

as a litmus test of the member's qualification for the post.

As is abundantly clear by now, the United States has a caretaking role in the relations between the two sides, and the following suggestion for the permanent security of Israel may come across as a pipe dream and counterintuitive, but with some imagination and the willingness to take the first step, it will move closer to the reality of a safe harbor.

Before our journey to this safe harbor to explore it, let us touch upon some facts. A person's Jewishness does not have to be connected with Israel. There are many generations of the Jewish people who were born outside Israel, and they are not by any means considered less than Jewish by those who were born in Israel. It is also true that the United States opened its door and gave refuge to a record number of the Jewish people who were fleeing from Europe during World War II. They are now heavily dependent on the United States for building a country for a safe and secure home.

Even though the United States has not failed to give its ironclad support to Israel, it must be remembered that times change, and affect the zeitgeist of an era. It only takes a short period of an unsympathetic, unsupportive and hostile atmosphere to shake the foundation of the longed-for safe and secure home, and no degree of political lobbying of the decision makers and advertising campaigns to change the zeitgeist will be good enough. Just imagine trying to build a country, the very foundation of which

depends on the good wishes and military support from another country!!

Let us now visit this unique place in the world and find out what is in store for the Jewish people around the world. It is not "Somewhere over the rainbow way up high ...," but right here on this planet. The place is called The Yukon Territory, one of the three Canadian territories in northern Canada. Of course, this plan must first pass the acid test of plebiscites in Canada and Israel before it becomes a reality.

This right-triangular territory shares a border of 1,210 kilometers (752 miles) with the U. S. State of Alaska on the west and northwest of the territory, and because of its proximity to the Pacific Ocean, it has a milder climate than the other two territories to its east, i.e., the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The Yukon's area is 482,443 km², which is approximately 23 times the size of Israel. Give or take, the population of the Jewish people around the world is approximately 16 million, and the Yukon can accommodate many, many more people without even coming close to getting crowded. Its population is 40,232 people, of whom more than half (28,201 people) live in the territorial capital, Whitehorse, which is in southern Yukon and very close to the border with the Province of British Columbia.

If we draw a territorial border line a few miles to the north of Whitehorse, we will have two territories. The lower one will remain as the Yukon Territory and the upper one will be called New Israel (or any other preferred name) with its own territorial capital yet to be named. The Jewish people will become Canadian citizens with New Israel as their home territory. Just the very news about settling in New Israel will be far louder and stronger than any clarion call to the Jewish people around the world to come home to New Israel, and they will.

The number of advantages of this plan for Jewish people, the Middle East, the United States and the rest of humanity is beyond the scope of this Op-Ed, but we can name a few:

First, the Jewish residents of New Israel will not need any embassies around the world, and the present Canadian embassies will be their embassies as much as other Canadian citizens'. There

will never again be any need to spend staggering amounts of resources to maintain a strong military force, because that will be Ottawa's responsibility. Having the territory of New Israel will also change the dynamics of life in Canada for the better for all Canadians.

Moving from the Middle East to Canada is not any different from moving one's residence from a neighborhood to a new neighborhood. You take your belongings with you to the new neighborhood, and the Jewishness in you will still remain the same. With the present advanced technology, the structures that have profound religious and cultural significance can be dismantled and taken to New Israel and re-constructed there.

Considering the long history of hostilities between Israel and Palestinians and their deep distrust of each other, the prospects of a lasting peace between the two are an illusive and distant mirage for now. Assuming that the two-state solution became successful, it may still not guarantee a lasting peace. Even if it did, Israel is restricted to a small area in the Middle East that cannot accommodate approximately 16 million Jewish people without getting overcrowded, which affects the quality of life; whereas, the vast and beautiful Yukon Territory has no such limitations and it has space for all the Jewish people and their descendants for centuries to come. The movement out of the Middle East will provide peace there and will put an end to the internecine war and the sad and depressing news about killings will no longer poison the international milieu.

Last but not least, the relocation to New Israel in the Yukon Territory will relieve the United States of the heavy burden of spending billions of dollars to support and protect Israel at the expense of social programs in the United States, which are in dire need of funding.

I would like to urge the Israeli government to arm itself with the old saying: "A journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step" and approach Canada to explore the possibility of this plan.

(Jeffrey J. Cunningham is self-employed and lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.)

STATUTORY NOTICE
TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of JEAN-JEAN JOU GER deceased of Mile 56 Northern Highway, Trial Farm, Orange Walk District, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of JEAN-JEAN JOU GER, deceased, late of Mile 56 Northern Highway, Trial Farm, Orange Walk District, Belize who died on the 12th day of December, 2023 and in whose estate Grant of Probate has been granted to HORNG-JIUN JOU of 56 Northern Highway, Trial Farm, Orange Walk District, Belize, should lodge claims or demands with the said HORNG-JIUN JOU c/o Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 ½ Miles Phillip Goldson Highway, P.O Box 486, Belize City, Belize on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of the said three months the said HORNG-JIUN JOU shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said JEAN-JEAN JOU GER, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which he shall then have had notice.

DATED this 16 day of September 2024

BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of
JEAN-JEAN JOU GER

Leon O'Brien & Chrystal Thomas win
4th annual BCC Half Marathon

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Runners, Placencia, 44:10.4); 4th Delton Mariano (StoneFit Club, Belize City, 47:04.3); 5th Izon Gill (Dangriga, 48:54.4); 6th Onesimo Coc (Toledo, 51:06.5); 7th Tyrone Harris (Splash Running Club, Belize City, 52:01.6); 8th Roberto Pasos (Golden Gibnut Run Club, Belize City, 1:03:14); 9th Stuart Tucker (Team Splash, Independence, 1:04:37.9); 10th Rahul Ratwani Punjabi (S.P. Group Ltd., Orange Walk, 1:14:59); 11th Julio Matus (Sam's Run Belize, Belize City, 1:17:52.1); 12th Ezekiel Myvett (1:22:43.4).

Women's 5K: 1st Place - Irene Thiessen (Westrac Slick Runners, Belmopan, 27:20.9 minutes); 2nd Elisha Rash (UB Team, Belmopan, 28:21.3); 3rd Kristelle Young (Heart and Sole, Lord's Bank Village, 28:28.6); 4th Frankie Stein Reyes (Los Lagos, 28:45.3);

5th Delmi Cornelio (Westrac Slick Runners, Placencia, 29:53.2); 6th Mirtha Welch (Team Splash, Roaring Creek, 30:17.2); 7th Juana Avila (Belize Tennis Association, Belize City, 34:23.0); 8th Alicia Ico (Team Splash, Valley of Peace, 36:46.1); 9th Risela Magaña (Always Belize, Belize City, 41:12.8).

Men's 5K: 1st Place - Eyon Anderson (20:39.9 minutes); 2nd Shanir Thompson (501 Run Club, San Pedro, 21:08.9); 3rd Jonathan Chiquin (UB Track Team, San Ignacio, 21:14.3); 4th Wilbert Sho (UB Team, Pueblo Viejo Village, 21:41.6); 5th Jonathan Marroquin (UB, San Ignacio, 22:01.0); 6th Donald Coh (Big Falls Village, 22:06.0); 7th Cayden Flowers (UB Belmopan, 23:11.3); 8th Delbert Diego (Punta Gorda, 23:48.6); 9th Wilmer Cal (UB Team, Belmopan, 23:56.4); 10th Juan Santos (Splash Running Club, Belmopan, 25:27.0).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel's war on Lebanon and Netanyahu's October surprise to pick the next U.S. president

Jamal Kanj

www.counterpunch.org, September 27, 2024

The launching of the widespread terror campaign targeting civilians in Lebanon is an integral part of the Israeli war strategy to achieve tactical military objectives. The new Israeli strikes which started on September 17 with the exploding pagers have resulted so far in more than 5,000 killed and injured Lebanese.

For the past 11 months, the Lebanese Resistance limited its attacks exclusively to Israeli military bases, in or near the "Jewish-only" colonies along the Lebanese border. The current Israeli assault was likely planned to take place on September 16 ahead of the explosion of the pagers, but had to be postponed due to an unforeseen clash with the visit of Biden's envoy, Amos Hochstein. Consequently, Israel may have failed, either due to confusion or technical difficulties, to reprogram the pagers' activation to another date.

Considering it has been close to a year since the start of the border skirmishes, it's difficult not to recognize the timing of Benjamin Netanyahu's expanded war, and how he may use it to influence the U.S. elections as part of an October Surprise aimed at helping Donald Trump. This becomes especially relevant considering the importance of the anti-genocide uncommitted Democratic and independent voters in key swing states.

The "October Surprise" in American elections is not new. The term became an American political vernacular when it was introduced by William Casey, the 1980 Ronald Reagan's campaign manager. During that election, the Reagan campaign was accused of possibly collaborating with Iran to delay a deal for the release of American hostages, timing it in a way that would boost Reagan's electoral prospects.

More recently, many may recall the 2016 October Surprise, which played a major role in Hillary Clinton's defeat to Donald Trump. At the time, suspicions and accusations were directed toward Russia as the source for emails leaked from the Clinton campaign headquarters.

Much of the conversation was centered on the relation between Russia and the Trump campaign. The evidence of alleged collaboration, however, remained elusive, circumstantial, and ultimately failed to bring any charges against Trump directly. Meanwhile, a proven actor with concrete evidence of interference—yet largely ignored by the U.S. media for obvious reasons—was America's largest foreign welfare beneficiary: *Israel*.

The foreign meddling in the 2016 American elections was the subject of an eight-month investigation by a large number of journalists from 30 international news outlets in a major collaborative project including *Haaretz*, the UK's *Guardian* and *Observer*, France's *Le Monde*, Germany's *Der Spiegel*, and Spain's *El Pais*. According to the *Guardian*, the project exposed an Israeli "global private market in disinformation aimed at elections," run by Tal Hanan, a former Israeli special forces operative.



Israel airstrike, Lebanon. Youtube screengrab.

The "project" discovered that while U.S. politicians and security agencies focused on Russia's role in election interference, they conveniently ignored Israel's documented collusion. Moreover, Israel's extensive involvement in the October Surprise was heavily redacted in the Mueller Report, and not mentioned in the Senate Intelligence Committee Report.

In addition, FBI affidavits related to the Roger Stone investigation revealed an Israeli handler telling Stone in an August 09, 2016 message: "Roger—As per PM (Netanyahu), we have one last shot ... TRUMP IN FREE FALL. OCTOBER SURPRISE COMING!"

Then on August 12, the Israeli handler wrote, "Roger, hello from Jerusalem ... He (Trump) is going to be defeated unless we intervene."

We may never know the full extent of the Israeli scheme with Russia, or if Israel had a mole inside the Clinton campaign who assisted in the hack. Despite evidence suggesting otherwise, Russia was a perfect scapegoat to divert attention from Israel.

The Israeli role in the elections became so critical, on September 25, 2016, Trump, alongside his Zionist son-in-law, Jared Kushner, met with Netanyahu in Trump Tower penthouse. Following the meeting, which now appears to have involved a possible quid pro quo, Trump announced that if elected, he would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Unsurprisingly, 12 days following the meeting, WikiLeaks released more than 2,000 private emails from the Democratic campaign headquarters—a move that led, according to most observers, to upending Clinton's hopes of winning the White House.

Reminiscent to the September 25, 2016 meeting, last July Netanyahu huddled again with Trump, this time in Mar-a-Lago to reconnect and, probably, offer Trump act II for the 2024 October Surprise. It is essential to note that based on proven past history, Israeli meddling in U.S. elections is not mere conjecture, but incessant determined efforts to corrupt the American voting system at all levels.

In most recent elections and for this purpose, an Israeli government entity created at least 600 fake social media accounts that sent around 2,000 weekly disinformation messages to 128 U.S. elected officials. Furthermore, the

American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) spent millions of dollars in the last Democratic primaries, successfully buying the congressional seats of Jamaal Bowman in New York, and Cori Bush in St. Louis.

As long as the meek Democratic establishment continues to ignore Israeli interference in American elections, Netanyahu will validate, once more, his flaunted notion that "America is a thing you can move very easily." To that end and for 11 months, Netanyahu has played Secretary of State Antony Blinken and President Biden for fools. No one is to blame for Netanyahu's *chutzpah* but a submissive Biden who willed at every opportunity to repeat Netanyahu's lies and disinformation.

Therefore, it shouldn't be surprising if Netanyahu's rejection of the Biden mediated ceasefire overtures and exchange of prisoners is being carried out

in coordination with the Trump campaign to portray Biden as ineffective and irrelevant. Israel helped elect Trump in 2016 not because Hillary Clinton wasn't a loyal Israeli servant, but because Trump's largess outdid her promised deliveries. Now in 2024, we're witnessing another Netanyahu-led October Surprise—not for fearing a change in Kamala Harris' policy from Biden, the self-proclaimed first Zionist president, but rather because Netanyahu values his proven transactional relationship with Trump.

This week's unprecedented escalation of Israeli strikes on Lebanon could be part of an Israeli invasion leading to Netanyahu's broader plan to drag the U.S. into another made-for-Israel regional war. By doing this, Netanyahu aims to pivot the political discourse in the U.S. election, forcing Vice President Harris into one of two bitter choices: either lose support from uncommitted voters opposing to the Israeli genocide in Gaza if she maintains her timid position, or alienate the single-issue pro-genocide Israeli firsters if she dares to question Netanyahu's never ending wars.

Either way, Netanyahu is geared to deliver, with impunity, a new October Surprise designed to save Trump, over again, from the free fall. At the same time, Netanyahu hopes to sway what Trump referred to as "the Jewish people ... from voting for the enemy," and double down on his prowess to "very easily" move America to pick the next U.S. president.

(Jamal Kanj is the author of *Children of Catastrophe: Journey from a Palestinian Refugee Camp to America*, and other books. He writes frequently on Arab world issues for various national and international commentaries.)

Worldwide protests against Israel's war on Lebanon, Gaza

Thousands of people have rallied across the world, calling on Israel to end its war on Gaza and Lebanon.



Demonstrators march through the streets against Israeli strikes in Gaza and Lebanon in the central business district of Sydney, Australia. [Saeed Khan/AFP]

www.aljazeera.com, 29 Sep 2024

People have rallied around the world in response to Israel's deadly military offensive in Lebanon and Gaza. Solidarity protests have also been

organized against the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Demonstrators expressed outrage

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GoB to release technical report on hospital land

After FOIA requests, PM says GoB will release technical report on original hospital land

Continued from Page 1

relating to the purchase of Parcels 5624 and 11214 from Block 20 in the Belmopan Registration Section. The requests include a copy of the application that was made to the Ministry of Finance for the de-reservation of funds for the land purchase, the approval from the Ministry of Finance, the SMARTSTREAM payment documentation, copy of the sales agreement for the parcels, and a copy of the valuations for said parcels.


In the case of the Health Ministry, the Social Partners want the technical report which the Government said was produced by technocrats in the Ministry of Health and Wellness regarding the merits of the change in location for the university hospital from land to be provided by the University of Belize at its central campus in Belmopan. Additionally, the senators are requesting copies of the minutes of meeting of the Working Group that is dealing with the project.

Citing the construction of a tertiary level hospital as a significant step toward the fulfilment of the SDG Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-Being and improving health outcomes for our community - the Social Partners express that the feasibility study will help them better engage with their members on the crucial initiative. They are therefore also requesting information on the projected costs of the project, the potential impacts it would have on local healthcare

services, and the Environmental Impact assessment.

The NTUCB Senator on Thursday affirmed that the issue should not die down, despite such efforts being repeatedly beaten down by political will. He remarked, “We think that this is an issue that needs ventilation, that needs clarification – from, not just a common-sense approach, but from the questions being raised by tax payers about the appropriateness of the hospital land, one. But more importantly, in my mind, of the value that was paid for the purchase of this land and the expiration or lack thereof of other options.” Dennison is hopeful that they can make the Government see that “this sort of behaviour will not be countenanced, should not be countenanced, and needs to be addressed.” He is of the firm belief that we as a people should not stop doing this, “because every single second-guessing of a bad decision is for the betterment of the country.”

Confronted with the reality that FOIA requests are often frustrated, Senator Dennison responded that “the process that would next obtain, especially if we take the judicial review route, requires that you exhaust the other options that are available to you.”




20 September, 2024

Hon. Kevin Bernard,
Minister
Ministry of Health and Wellness
East Block Building,
Independence Plaza,
City of Belmopan

Dear Hon. Kevin Bernard:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE BELIZE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Social Partners of Belize write to formally request a copy of the technical report and the minutes of the Working Group's meetings related to the Tertiary-Level Hospital proposed to be constructed in the City of Belmopan, using the Freedom of Information Act sections 9, 11, 12 and 15.



20 September, 2024

Hon. Cordel Hyde,
Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum, & Mining,
H.M. Queen Elizabeth II Boulevard,
City of Belmopan

Dear Hon. Cordel Hyde,

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE BELIZE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Social Partners of Belize write to formally request information in accordance with the Belize Freedom of Information Act sections 9, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, Cap 13 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020.

Social Partners Freedom of Information Act requests on \$6.9 million land purchase

In their letters, the Social Partners remind the Government Ministers that, as per the Freedom of Information Act, they have 14 days to respond. On Saturday, September 28, Prime Minister John Briceño told *Amandala*, “But again, we are flogging a dead horse. We have made everything available. What more is there? The agreement – the DPM has explained to you what the agreement is all about. There is nothing more! But I could understand that they want to see the technical report, so we should be able to get that to them, probably in the next week or so.”

This would not be the first time that

the report is being requested. When we asked Nurse Lizett Bell, Deputy Director of Hospital Services, for the document at their press conference on the matter on August 26, she stated that it was submitted as a Cabinet Paper and therefore could not be released. In subsequent interviews, the Prime Minister did not respond to our request for the document to be made public. Notably, though, at the press conference, Nurse Bell had said that the focus of the report was on accessibility to the hospital if it was constructed on the University of Belize land.

Suspected cocaine found in Minister Andre Perez’s boat!

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sexually harassing a prominent female attorney, is once again in the hot seat after suspected cocaine was found on a docked boat belonging to him.

According to reports of this discovery which spread over the weekend, on Friday, September 27, a resident of the Back-a-Town area of San Pedro Town had informed police that known drug traffickers had been frequently visiting a certain local boat yard.

When officers arrived at the location, they conducted searches of all the vessels at that location, and during a search of a boat belonging to Minister Perez, they discovered 474 grams of suspected cocaine. When police contacted Hon. Perez, he admitted ownership of the boat and mentioned that it had been docked at the location for repairs, and that he had not used it for over six months.

The owner of the boatyard confirmed Minister Perez’s statement and mentioned that he had been paying a \$250 monthly docking fee.

“Based on that, we could not have tied the drugs to Minister Perez. There’s no information, not even the slightest iota of evidence to suggest that the drugs belong to him. While the boatyard is managed by a group of people, we couldn’t tie them either, because the boatyard is open. There are several ins and outs to the boatyard. So, anybody could walk into the boatyard and put what they want to put anything in any boat or on the property itself,” said

Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams.

Information to *Amandala* suggests that the drugs were placed on the boat without the Minister’s knowledge or consent. Local reporters caught up with Minister Perez, whose only comment was that someone was trying to set him up.

ComPol Williams told reporters that they are searching for one individual who they believe planted the drugs.

“We have a basic idea of who the person [is] that may have placed it there. We are searching for that person, but he went to Corozal. We have also notified the Corozal police to be on the lookout for him. Because we had gathered information, the person may have found a good amount of cocaine, parcels of cocaine. And he might have taken some of them to Corozal for sale,” he said.

In a press release today, the United Democratic Party (UDP) said that it “condemns the actions of the Minister of Police and the Commissioner of Police regarding the discovery of 474 grams of cocaine on Minister Andre Perez’s private vessel.” The release further declared, “This incident highlights a troubling pattern of preferential treatment that undermines the rule of law in our nation. It is deeply concerning that while an ordinary Belizean would face rigorous interrogation and likely legal charges in such a situation, Minister Perez appears to receive immunity from the scrutiny and consequences that would befall any other citizen.”

Worldwide protests against Israel’s war on Lebanon, Gaza

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and demanded an end to the Israeli violence in Gaza, describing the situation as “genocide” and insisting on global action.

Israel has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians since it launched its offensive in October 2023. Israel launched the war after more than 1,100 people were killed in an attack by Palestinian groups led by Hamas.

Palestinians have been fighting against Israeli occupation of their land for decades. Earlier this month, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling on Israel to end the occupation. The resolution came months after the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel’s continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and should swiftly be brought to an end.

Hundreds marched from Odenplan to the Israeli Embassy in Stockholm, waving Palestinian and Lebanese flags.

“Hands off Lebanon” and “Free Palestine” filled the air. Swedish artist and activist Samuel Girma called Israel “a terrorist state” and urged a boycott of trade with Israel following “terror attacks on Beirut and Lebanon”.

Swedish doctor Uno Horn condemned Israel’s operations. “They are killing children,” said Horn. “It’s not war; it’s a terror attack.”

Similar protests unfolded in Helsinki, where demonstrators demanded an

immediate end to Israeli operations in Lebanon.

In Paris, protesters gathered near the Innocents Fountain, holding banners that read, “End the genocide in Gaza” and “Boycott Israel”.

Many wore keffiyehs and carried images of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed by Israeli forces in 2022.

Alongside, organized by the Palestinian Action Committee, protesters marched from the Levent Metro Station to the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul, chanting: “Murderer Israel, get out of Palestine” and “Murderer Israel, get out of Lebanon”.

Carrying a large Palestinian flag, they unfurled a banner that read: “Genocidal Israel will be held accountable; the resisting peoples of Palestine and Lebanon will win.”

Protests were also organized in Indian-administered Kashmir against the killing of Hezbollah leader.

Protesters encouraged their governments to halt arms deals with Israel and to stand against the escalating violence.





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