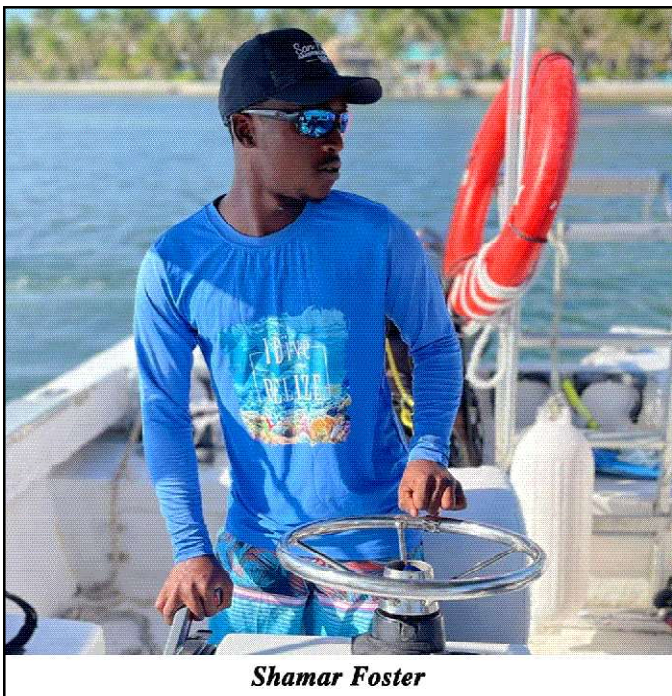


# Tour guide wins lawsuit against police

High Court awards tour guide \$25,000 in damages for illegal and unreasonable search by police



Shamar Foster

by Marco Lopez

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 1, 2024  
Today, the High Court of Belize handed down its judgment in the case of tour guide, Shamar Foster v the

Commissioner of Police and the Attorney General. High Court Judge, Martha Alexander ruled that the claimant's constitutional rights enshrined in sections 3, 6, 9, and 12 were all breached following an unlawful and illegal search conducted by Police Constable Albert Martinez on April 1, 2022, at the Belize City Municipal Airport.

Foster, who was 19 years old at the time, was working as a tour

guide, awaiting a 5:30 flight at the municipal airport with a group of 18 tourists.

Reports from Foster's evidence and an eyewitness on the scene are that

**Please turn to** **Page 2**

## One & A Million Anniversary Jackpot

by Charles Gladden

BELMOPAN, Mon. Nov. 4, 2024

The Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. (BGLL) announced its one-time game on Monday, November 4, in celebration of its first anniversary, titled "One & A Million Anniversary Jackpot".

"It is a way to give back to the community," highlighted Lourdes Gongora, Financial Controller, and Administrator at the Belize Government Lotteries Ltd.

The "One & A Million Anniversary



IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!!!

**ONE & A MILLION**

ANNIVERSARY JACKPOT

WIN UP TO \$1,000,000!!!

Jackpot" is a one-time game in which

**Please turn to** **Page 8**

## Belize City calendar of activities for Garifuna Settlement Day 2024

Story on page 12



## Option 1: GCoM Technical Mission in Belize City



BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 4, 2024  
The Belize City Council is hosting representatives from the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and

Energy (GCoM) for a three-day technical mission, aimed at advancing

**Please turn to** **Page 12**



# BDF holds ceremony for 115 new soldiers



by Charles Gladden

LADYVILLE, Belize District, Mon. Nov. 4, 2024

The Belize Defence Force (BDF) held a ceremony on Friday, November 1, to mark the completion of four months of military basic training by 115 persons who have now become BDF soldiers.

The ceremony, which welcomed intake sixty-seven (consisting of 103 men and 12 women) was held at the Sir Colville Young Parade Square at Price Barracks in Ladyville.

“We started 120, but as time went by, the weeks passed by, some of the participants started to drop out, and we had to work the standby list. About three hundred or so got called, and this is the result: 115. We were slated to pass out 120, but 5 were injured. So, a hundred and fifteen made it. We congratulate them,” said Brigadier General Azariel Loria, Commandant of the BDF.

Loria noted, however, that the injuries sustained by the 5 soldiers who were

injured during the training process were minor.

“There are some aspects in which they couldn’t perform that well, which were the physical injuries, ankle injuries, knee injuries, and sometimes back injuries; but, all in all, that was the struggle,” he said.

Brigadier General Loria said that the intake numbers have decreased throughout the years, particularly since the introduction of a requirement that applicants have a high school diploma. However, he mentioned that the women’s intake has risen, with numbers now ranging between 12 and 15 intakes.

“We celebrate not only your achievements, but also the dedication and sacrifice each one of you has made to become a part of the Belize Defence Force. Over the past months, your training has been very demanding, designed to bring out the best in you [and] transforming civilians into soldiers of strength, resilience, and professionalism,” said Hon. Oscar Requena, Minister of Local



Brigadier General Azariel Loria, Commandant, BDF

Government, during his keynote address.

Special awards were given to several recruits. Naomi Baki was selected as the Female Champion Recruit, while Jeffrey Eric was named Male Champion Recruit. Nixon Coc was recognized as the Champion Shot; and the Champion Physical Training awards went to Giselle August and Keiron Cal.

## GoB helping kids with cancer

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 4, 2024

The Ministry of Health released a memorandum today, Monday, November 4, that the Government of Belize will be assisting children who are suffering from cancer.

*Amandala* sought comment from Dr. Melissa Diaz-Musa, Director of Public Health and Wellness for the Ministry of Health, and the Belize Cancer Society; however, as of print time, neither entity

provided comment.

Nonetheless, according to the memorandum dated October 22, the ministry will provide medical assistance to children with cancer through the services of the Hospital Horan in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

The Ministry expressed that the parent, guardian, or treating physician for any child with cancer should report the case to the Belize Cancer Society or the Belize Cancer Center of Dangriga for the patient to receive the service.

## Tour guide wins lawsuit against police

Continued from Page 1

Constable Martinez approached the claimant and ordered him to stand up to be searched. Foster then asked the officer the reason for the search, and Constable Martinez, according to the judgement, responded by ridiculing and taunting him without giving any reason for the search.

At this point Foster took out his cell phone and began recording. This, according to the judgement, “enraged” Martinez.

Video evidence shows Martinez striking Foster’s arm, causing the phone to fall to the ground. The illegal search was conducted, and nothing incriminating was found on Foster’s person. No arrests were made.

According to affidavits from Martinez and from Corporal Chun, another officer who was on the scene, they had received information of a suspicious person dressed in a white T-Shirt and red pants. Foster, who fit the description, was approached, according to the officers. Martinez claimed that Foster said “he could not be searched,” and began resisting arrest, “pushing away

Constable Martinez.”

According to the judgement, a complaint was filed to the Professional Standards Branch (PSB), but the claimant was not informed about the progress of that investigation. He was called to give evidence in a proceeding against Corporal Chun, but that hearing was cancelled.

The PSB claimed that it had invited Foster to participate in the disciplinary proceedings, but he did not make himself available. While the PSB brought a “battery of police witnesses” to corroborate their evidence, they all failed to prove the claim that Foster chose not to attend the hearing.

The High Court, in its decision found that the search of Foster was done unlawfully, disproportionately, and was more than statutory authority. The court also declared that preventing the claimant from recording is a breach of his constitutional rights to protection under the law and freedom of expression.

The court also found that Foster was entitled to damages. A total of \$25,000 in damages was awarded - \$5,000 in compensatory damages, and \$20,000 in vindictory damages.

## Three motorcycle RTAs, one fatality confirmed

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 4, 2024

Two separate road traffic accidents (RTAs) involving motorcycles occurred over the weekend, and another was reported tonight, with one confirmed fatality so far.

The first accident occurred on Saturday, November 2, near Trio Village, Toledo District, as a motorcycle reportedly collided with the front of a Ford pickup truck. Information to *Amandala* suggests that the motorcycle driver was on the Thomas Vincent Ramos Highway when he collided with the truck and was flung onto the pavement. The extent of his injuries are uncertain, and his identity



Ellias Cowo, deceased



Trio RTA

has not been disclosed.

Meanwhile, the second accident occurred the same night, up north in the Orange Walk District, but this one turned out to be fatal, as 28-year-old Elias Cowo of San Felipe Village reportedly perished. Information indicates that Cowo was riding his motorcycle on the San Felipe Road when he reportedly lost control of his vehicle and fell onto the ground.

Additional reports noted that

Please turn to Page 4



# Man sentenced to two decades for rape of girl, 12

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Nov. 1, 2024

Michael Bowen, 28, must serve 19 years, 11 months and 22 days more behind bars after being convicted of two counts of rape and one count of sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl.

Bowen, who was initially remanded to prison for one week when he was first accused of the sexual crimes, learned exactly how much more time he has to serve behind bars for the heinous sexual offenses.

On Wednesday, August 28, 2024, Bowen, who was tried for two counts of rape of a child under 16 and two counts of sexual assault by penetration, was found guilty of 3 of those 4 counts.

Bowen was convicted of one count of sexual assault for touching the child inappropriately on her private parts on December 14, 2021 in Belize City, and one count of rape for having sexual intercourse with the minor on that same day. Another charge of sexual assault of a child and a rape charge were brought against him for touching the child inappropriately on another occasion on December 20, 2021, and subsequently having sexual intercourse with the minor on that day.

This morning, Bowen appeared before Justice Candace Nanton, who sentenced him to 19 years 11 months and 22 days for each of the 2 counts of rape, and 6 years 11 months for sexual assault.

Justice Nanton ordered that Bowen's



Michael Bowen, sentenced

three sentences are to run concurrently and not consecutively; hence, he will only serve 19 years 11 months and 22 days in prison instead of 46 years and 10 months.

The trial for Bowen commenced on July 29, 2024, and concluded on August 2, 2024.

Bowen was initially out on bail of \$8,000 plus two sureties of \$4,000 each, but on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, Justice Nanton revoked his bail and he was remanded to the Belize Central Prison.

That week that he spent on remand was deducted from his sentence.

# Delivery truck driver pleads guilty to causing death by careless conduct

by Roy Davis (freelance writer)

DANGRIGA, Stann Creek District, Mon. Nov. 4, 2024

Alwyn Buezo, 50, a truck driver charged with causing death by careless conduct in connection with the death of a 6-year-old girl, pleaded guilty to the charge when he appeared today before Justice Antoinette Moore.

Buezo will be sentenced after a sentence hearing in which a plea for mitigation will be heard and a victim impact statement will be submitted.

The incident occurred at about 11:30 a.m. on August 8, 2023, in the village of Hopkins, in the Stann Creek District.

The victim, Mayaka Andrea Magdaleno, was riding her bicycle on the north side of Hopkins when Buezo, who was driving a GMC truck and was on his way to deliver butane gas, hit her, killing her on the spot. Buezo stopped the truck, exited it and tried to help by calling 911 to report the matter.



Makaya Andrea Magdaleno, deceased

Police constable Robin Villagran then formally arrested Buezo and charged him with manslaughter by negligence and causing death by careless conduct. Buezo was also charged with driving without due care and attention.

On October 23, 2024, Buezo, who was unrepresented, indicated to the court that he wished to plead guilty to causing death by careless conduct; and the Crown, represented by Senior Crown Counsel Javier Chan, accepted the plea. The facts of the case were read into evidence; and after Buezo accepted them, the matter was adjourned until today for sentencing. But Justice Moore postponed sentencing until a date to be announced so that a sentence hearing can be conducted.



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# Taximan stabbed to death

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 4, 2024

A Belize City taxi driver was mortally wounded early Monday morning, November 4, during an altercation in the Fabers Road Extension area of Belize City. The victim has been identified as 42-year-old Shawn Ortiz, Sr., of Fern Lane.

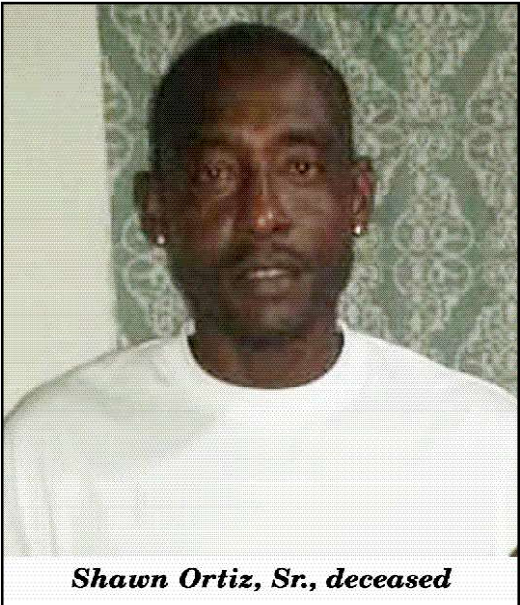
According to initial reports, around 3:00 a.m. Ortiz was at Stephen's Place on Jaguar Avenue with a friend, 46-year-old Aston Lewis of Flamboyant Street, and when he and Lewis were leaving the establishment a group of men started a fight with him.

The fight escalated, and Ortiz was stabbed in the left side of his chest. Before authorities arrived at the scene, Ortiz was taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead, a few hours later.

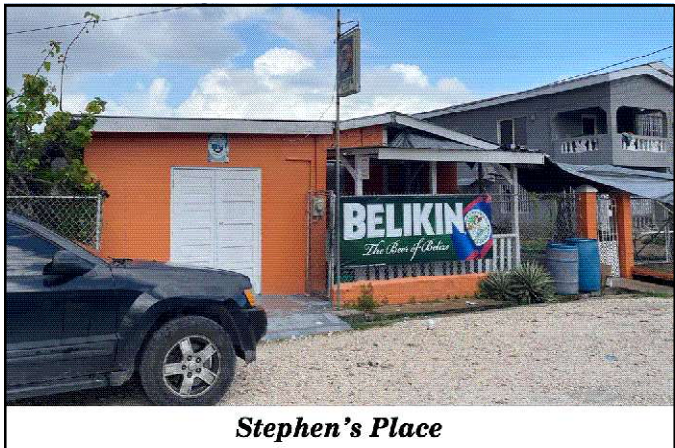
ACP Hilberto Romero, Regional Commander for the Belize Police Department's Eastern Division, told reporters that a motive has yet to be established as to what caused the fight. Meanwhile, three persons are being sought in connection with Ortiz's death.

ACP Romero noted that Ortiz wasn't affiliated with any street activity.

His body lies at the morgue awaiting a post-mortem examination, as police investigations are ongoing.



Shawn Ortiz, Sr., deceased



Stephen's Place



# UDP split in half – only a court can resolve differences and claims within party



by: Wellington C. Ramos

Friday, November 1, 2024

Many people believe that the United Democratic Party's (UDP's) division is something new for the party, but I disagree with that trend of thought. The problem started when their 1st Deputy Leader and then Deputy Prime Minister, Gaspar Vega stepped down in March of 2016 and did not seek reelection in 2020; and also when their former leader and then Prime Minister, Dean Barrow announced in 2018 that he would step down as the leader of the party and would not seek reelection in 2020.

When Gaspar Vega stepped down, he did not publicly give a reason or reasons why he was stepping down. There was a rumor that he had some disagreements with the then Prime Minister, Dean Barrow, over his removal from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources; but if so, we do not know if there was any truth to the rumor. There was a convention coming up on March the 16th of that same year, and he was going to be endorsed to serve as 1st Deputy Leader for another term, and he refused. A party convention was held on the 16th of March 2016 as was scheduled, and Patrick Faber was elected to be the new 1st Deputy Leader of the party and Deputy Prime Minister. It was known to all the members of the UDP that Patrick Faber was always preparing himself to be the leader of his party and the Prime Minister of Belize.

Patrick Faber and Gaspar Vega were both preparing themselves for those same roles, and because of this they became party rivals. This led to the party having three factions, namely: the Dean Barrow faction, the Gaspar Vega faction, and the Patrick Faber faction. Only Dean Barrow had the power to keep these factions under control. When Dean Barrow announced that he would be stepping down as the leader of the party, and that he would not be seeking another term in 2020, Gaspar Vega decided to throw his support behind John Saldivar along with all his elected representative supporters.

That led to a new faction with John Saldivar. Technically, John Saldivar was not the person with the most support; it was Gaspar Vega, but he threw his support behind him. A convention was held in 2020, and John Saldivar won it and became the new party leader; Patrick Faber resigned as 1st Deputy Leader and Deputy Prime Minister shortly after the convention. If Gaspar Vega had run in that convention against Patrick Faber, he would have won, because he had the same supporters John Saldivar had.

Due to the Lev Dermen scandal, in which John Saldivar's name came up for receiving money from him, Dean Barrow asked John Saldivar to resign

as the elected leader of the party, and suspended him from the Cabinet. A convention was scheduled in July of 2020 to elect a new leader. Despite John Saldivar's problems, he was allowed to run for the party leadership against Patrick Faber, and he lost the convention.

From the time Patrick Faber became the new leader of the United Democratic Party, he did not receive the overwhelming support from his party colleagues. The Gaspar Vega and John Saldivar factions remained loyal to each other. Patrick Faber's domestic problems would later lead to him stepping down from the leadership position in 2022. This left only the Gaspar Vega and John Saldivar factions. Still, Patrick Faber maintained support from many people in the UDP because he is seen as one of their formidable leaders. After the stepping down of Patrick Faber, a UDP convention was scheduled for March of 2022, and none of these two men decided to run for the leadership of their party.

Tracy Taegar-Panton, a Patrick Faber ally, and Shyne Barrow, the son of the former Prime Minister, Dean

Barrow, with support from some members of the Gaspar Vega and John Saldivar factions, decided to run. Shyne Barrow won the convention with a slim margin of three (3) votes. Due to the margin of victory that Shyne won by, it was clear to see that he did not have a lot of support in his party. He had to work hard to gain the support of his party members and colleagues. In the two years of Shyne Barrow's leadership, he has failed to gain the support that he needs to maintain his leadership.

Now, the members of his party and his colleagues are aggressively challenging his leadership. This challenge is headed by his former convention rival, Tracy Taegar-Panton, who has a lot of support because she only lost by three (3) votes to him. It seems as if after she lost the convention to Shyne, she was building a grassroots coalition to be prepared for the next leadership convention. Meanwhile, Shyne Barrow took it for granted that he is the leader of his party, and that the members and his colleagues would rally around him. Most of what I have seen in the media brings me to the conclusion that the differences the Shyne Barrow

faction and the Tracy Taegar-Panton faction have in interpreting their party's constitution, will end up in the Belize High Court and possibly the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). All the UDP internal attempts to mediate their conflict have failed. No one knows, including myself, what will be the final outcome of these court proceedings.

My best thinking is that the court rulings might force them to take one of the following options: (1) reach a compromise among themselves; (2) return to mediation with a Court-appointed mediator; or (3) go separate ways and form a new party. The worst of these three options is the third one, which I do not think they will choose, because that will definitely work to the PUP's advantage. The General Elections will be called soon, and the UDP does not have enough time to remain fragmented. Pressure will be made by the members of their party and their supporters, to end their differences now. This party has many accomplishments and has come a long way since its birth in 1973. I do not think they want to, "Start All Over Again From The Bottom Up".

## Belize taking steps to ship shrimp to Taiwan

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Nov. 1, 2024

On Friday, November 1, a delegation of three inspectors from the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) concluded its inspection of Belize's fishery production and processing system at the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) office in Belize City.

The inspection was the final phase of a process of evaluating the equivalency of Belize's Control System for Fish and Fishery Products with that of Taiwan. After the evaluation results are reviewed, the TFDA will decide whether Belize can be given the green light to export a wide range of seafood to Taiwan (especially shrimp), in addition to the lobsters that are currently approved for exportation to Taiwan.

"Our shrimp production sector was very interested in accessing this market, and it's one of the products included in the agreement with Taiwan. We have been exporting lobster, historically, to Taiwan, so this is an effort to expand the scope of products we can export ... We have three facilities that are exporting lobster to Taiwan, and so now we're trying to expand the scope of the products by expanding to shrimp. There are other facilities that will be included as well if we are approved," said Natalie



Natalie Gibson, Acting Director of Food Safety at BAHA

Gibson, Acting Director for Food Safety at BAHA.

"We started with documentation, where we had to submit documentation for them to evaluate our regulations, our authority, our standards for different fisheries products, the processing, food safety standards, specifically," she added.

The inspection by the Taiwanese team began on October 21 with an opening ceremony that included the participation of the Ambassador of Taiwan to Belize, H.E. Lily Wen-Hsu; Director General of Foreign Trade, Andy Sutherland; Managing Director of BAHA, Mrs. Zoe Roberson-Zetina; Chief Agricultural Officer, Dr. Victoriano Pascual; and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture/Food

Security, BAHA and the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

According to Gibson, the inspection was carried out over two weeks, during which the inspectors visited and examined exporting facilities and aquaculture farms prior to concluding their review.

Gibson noted that the inspectors will return to Belize within three months, and that will determine the way forward for the access of Belize shrimp and other fishery products to this lucrative market.

## Three motorcycle RTAs, one fatality confirmed

Continued from Page 2

when Cowo was found, he was lying on his back in a pool of blood and was pronounced dead shortly after being transported to the Northern Regional Hospital. Unconfirmed reports suggest that the accident leading to Cowo's death may have been caused by an elderly man

who was under the influence of alcohol and was walking in Cowo's path.

As we go to press tonight, another motorcycle accident, this one in Camalote Village, is being reported by Belize News Network, where "one man is seen on the pavement beside a motorcycle." No further details were given. Hopefully, this one is not also fatal.



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# Election fever, limited choices

Monday, November 4, 2024

In November of 2020, both Belize and the mighty USA had general and presidential elections, respectively; but the term of their presidency is four years, while our administration has a five-year term. So, right now Belizeans are fully focused spectators at this year’s US presidential election, in which there are two major candidates/parties – the Democrats and the Republicans, Kamala Harris vs Donald Trump. And Belizeans are as focused and excited about this election as if it were Belize’s. And with good reason. The old adage, that when Uncle Sam sneezes, Belize catches a cold, was never more real.

Our Belizean-American community is significant, and their safety is a concern at this time as tensions are high going into tomorrow’s final day of voting in the U.S. Elections are usually mostly about the economy, and the remittances that bolster our Belizean economy are very much needed; but safety is also a concern in this one – safety for our relatives and friends in the U.S., and also for the Jewel, if a certain candidate should win, and proceed with his announced mass deportations of illegal residents. And their safety is also a concern if he should lose, as there are possibilities of violent reactions affecting ordinary citizens across the U.S. Our advice to our folks over there in these coming days: “kip outa lick way”.

Unfortunately, both candidates have maintained a stern pro-Israel stance – “ironclad” is the term coined by incumbent president Joe Biden, and it has been reiterated by candidate Kamala Harris; while Donald Trump is even more extreme in his pro-Israel and anti-Arab/Muslim sentiments. In regard to what has been allowed to continue

occurring in Gaza for the past year, the massacre of Palestinians in the name of Israel’s “right to self-defense” has left many activists, including many Jews, feeling unhappy about their choices.

There is a third party in the U.S., but, like in Belize, the only viable participants in the electoral race are the two major parties. Despite their elaborate campaign financing regulations, it still is a big-money venture, and the platform of the third-party candidate, Jill Stein, may be very attractive, but voters all know that only two viable candidates are really in the race to become president; any other vote is a protest only. Because of their visceral pain and anger over their Democratic party’s reluctance, being the party in power, to stop the flow of bombs and military assistance to Israel until it stops killing Palestinians, some of the traditional Democrat voters find themselves forced to choose between “the lesser of two evils”, because they fear that the Republican’s Trump could be even worse. Some will still “waste” their

vote by staying home or casting it for the third-party candidate; but others – and the Democrats are hoping that it is a majority of them – will “hold their noses” and give their vote to Kamala.

Indeed, there are many voters in the U.S. right now who sincerely wish that there was another viable option besides the two major parties, but the likelihood of their sentiments affecting change in this regard is probably insignificant, considering the fact that the power to effect such legislative change lies in the same two major parties who are comfortable with the status quo. In Belize, we currently have the same dilemma, though in a different style.

One of the PUP Plan/Belize manifesto commitments in the quest of “good governance” was the enactment of campaign finance regulations, as there have been a lot of complaints from citizens about the perceived influence of big party donors on the decisions made by governments in their favor. It is called corruption, and the only way it seems that this problem can be addressed is to enact strict campaign financing legislation, so that elections are no longer driven by millions of dollars in campaigning, which effectively eliminates any possibility of a new party being able to compete in an election. But if even the mighty USA, with all their campaign financing regulations, has been unable so far to overcome the impact of “big money” in their elections, the prospects seem dim for us in Belize. Perhaps it is because the campaign finance legislations are drafted by lawyers hired by the same politicians in government whose campaigns will be affected. And when lawyers draft laws, they know where to set the loopholes to suit those who hire them. The people are then left with false hopes of some new regulations which will stop the easy flow of big money to politicians at election time, only to find that there are various legal mechanisms that are used to achieve the desired result – large sums of money in the campaign coffers of both major political parties. So, in Belize we are still waiting for the drafting of the promised campaign financing legislations, while another general election is less than a year away and may be fast approaching.

If there was ever a need for a viable third party in Belize, now is the time. The infighting going on in the UDP has left the country without a strong Opposition, and it has resulted in the governing PUP being guided by their own commitment to their party and national vision, without the energetic and effective challenges and criticisms to keep the ruling party from slipping into corruption or making faulty decisions due to lack of sufficient consultation or outspoken criticism of a project before it becomes “a done deal.” The recent hoopla over the UB hospital land deal is a good example of a controversial decision by government that could have been avoided if there was greater respect for and concern about a strong and viable Opposition to deal with. In their drive for development and foreign investment to grow the economy, etc., the current PUP government runs the risk of overreaching and becoming reckless, like a runaway horse without the bridle of a strong Opposition to keep them in check.

In the U.S., the pundits are saying that this election is a toss-up, and it will be high drama, with very serious implications for everyone, including us in Belize and the diaspora, when the vote counting is underway tomorrow night. In Belize at the present, with the current state of the UDP, there is generally no doubt that the incumbent PUP government will sweep the next general election whenever it is called. There is no third option, maybe because of our first-past-the-post electoral system, and come election time, Belizeans will go to the polls to fulfill their civic duty. Die-hard blue voters will be celebratory; some die-hard red voters will solemnly do their painful duty, knowing that it is a losing effort, and hoping that next time around their party will be stronger. Both in the USA and in Belize, there has been frustration expressed at times with both major political parties; in Belize we have heard the reference to PUDP. For sure, both in the U.S. and in Belize, many citizens are wishing that there was a viable option besides the traditional two parties.



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# Fiebre electoral, opciones limitadas

Lunes, 4 de noviembre de 2024

En noviembre de 2020, tanto Belize como el poderoso Estados Unidos tuvieron elecciones generales y presidenciales, respectivamente; pero el mandato de su presidencia es de cuatro años, mientras que el nuestro es de cinco años. Por lo tanto, en este momento los beliceños son espectadores totalmente concentrados en las elecciones presidenciales estadounidenses de este año, en las que hay dos candidatos/partidos principales: los demócratas y los republicanos, Kamala Harris contra Donald Trump. Y los beliceños están tan concentrados y entusiasmados con estas elecciones como si fueran las de Belize. Y con razón. El viejo adagio de que cuando el Tío Sam estornuda, Belize se resfría, nunca fue más real.

Nuestra comunidad beliceño-estadounidense es importante, y su seguridad es una preocupación en este momento, ya que las tensiones son altas de cara al último día de votación mañana en los EE. UU. Las elecciones suelen ser principalmente sobre la economía, y las remesas que impulsan nuestra economía beliceña son muy necesarias; pero la seguridad también es una preocupación en esta: seguridad para nuestros familiares y amigos en los EE. UU., y también para la Joya, si un cierto candidato ganara y procediera con sus anunciadas deportaciones masivas de residentes ilegales. Y su seguridad también es una preocupación si pierde, ya que existen posibilidades de reacciones violentas que afecten a los ciudadanos comunes en todo EE. UU. Nuestro consejo para nuestra gente allí en estos próximos días: manténganse alejados del peligro.

Desafortunadamente, ambos candidatos han mantenido un firme postura pro-israelí —“férrea” es el término acuñado por el actual presidente Joe Biden, y ha sido reiterado por la candidata Kamala Harris—, mientras que Donald Trump es aún más extremista en sus sentimientos pro-israelíes y antiárabes/musulmanes. En cuanto a lo que se ha permitido que siga ocurriendo en Gaza durante el año pasado, la masacre de palestinos en nombre del “derecho a la autodefensa” de Israel ha dejado a muchos activistas, incluidos muchos judíos, sintiéndose descontentos con los candidatos a elegir.

En Estados Unidos existe un tercer partido, pero, como en Belize, los únicos participantes viables en la carrera electoral son los dos partidos principales. A pesar de sus elaboradas regulaciones de financiamiento de campañas, sigue siendo una empresa de mucho dinero, y la plataforma de la candidata del tercer partido, Jill Stein, puede ser muy atractiva, pero todos los votantes saben que solo dos candidatos viables están realmente en la carrera para convertirse en presidente; cualquier otro voto es solo una protesta. Debido al dolor visceral y a la ira que sienten por la renuencia de su partido, el Demócrata, que está en el poder, a detener el flujo de bombas y asistencia militar a Israel hasta que deje de matar palestinos, algunos de los tradicionales votantes demócratas se ven obligados a elegir entre “el menor de dos males”, porque temen que el Trump republicano pueda ser aún peor. Algunos seguirán “desperdiciando” su voto quedándose en casa o depositándolo en el candidato del tercer partido; pero otros —y los demócratas esperan que sean la mayoría de ellos— “se tapan la nariz” y darán su voto a Kamala.

De hecho, en este momento hay muchos votantes en los Estados Unidos que sinceramente desean que exista otra opción viable además de los dos partidos principales, pero la probabilidad de que sus sentimientos afecten el cambio en este sentido es probablemente insignificante, considerando el hecho de que el poder para efectuar tal cambio legislativo reside en los mismos dos partidos principales que se sienten cómodos con el status quo. En Belize, actualmente tenemos el mismo dilema, aunque en un estilo diferente.

Uno de los compromisos del manifiesto PUP/Plan Belize en la búsqueda de una “buena gobernanza” fue la promulgación de

regulaciones de financiamiento de campañas, ya que ha habido muchas quejas de los ciudadanos sobre la influencia percibida de los grandes donantes de partidos en las decisiones que toman los gobiernos a su favor. Se llama corrupción, y la única forma en que parece que se puede abordar este problema es promulgar una legislación estricta de financiamiento de campañas, de modo que las elecciones ya no estén impulsadas por millones de dólares en campañas, lo que elimina efectivamente cualquier posibilidad de que un nuevo partido pueda competir en una elección. Pero si hasta el poderoso Estados Unidos, con todas sus regulaciones sobre financiación de campañas, no ha podido hasta ahora superar el impacto del “gran dinero” en sus elecciones, las perspectivas parecen sombrías para nosotros en Belize. Tal vez se deba a que las leyes de financiación de campañas son redactadas por abogados contratados por los mismos políticos en el gobierno cuyas campañas se verán afectadas. Y cuando los abogados redactan las leyes, saben dónde colocar los resquicios legales para que convengan a quienes los contratan. La gente se queda entonces con falsas esperanzas de que algunas nuevas regulaciones detengan el flujo fácil de grandes sumas de dinero a los políticos en época de elecciones, sólo para descubrir que hay varios mecanismos legales que se utilizan para lograr el resultado deseado: grandes sumas de dinero en las arcas de campaña de los dos principales partidos políticos. Así que, en Belize todavía estamos esperando la redacción de las prometidas leyes de financiación de campañas, mientras que otras elecciones generales están a menos de un año de distancia y pueden estar acercándose rápidamente.

Si alguna vez hubo necesidad de un tercer partido viable en Belize, ahora es el momento. Las luchas internas que se están dando en el UDP han dejado al país sin una oposición fuerte, y ha resultado en que el gobernante PUP se guíe por su propio compromiso con su partido y su visión nacional, sin los desafíos y críticas enérgicos y efectivos para evitar que el partido gobernante caiga en la corrupción o tome decisiones erróneas debido a la falta de suficiente consulta o crítica abierta de un proyecto antes de que se convierta en “un hecho consumado”. El reciente alboroto por el acuerdo de tierras del hospital de la Universidad de Belize es un buen ejemplo de una decisión controvertida del gobierno que podría haberse evitado si hubiera habido un mayor respeto y preocupación por una oposición fuerte y viable con la que lidiar. En su impulso por el desarrollo y la inversión extranjera para hacer crecer la economía, etc., el actual gobierno del PUP corre el riesgo de extralimitarse y volverse imprudente, como un caballo desbocado sin las riendas de una oposición fuerte que lo mantenga bajo control.

En Estados Unidos, los expertos dicen que estas elecciones son impredecibles y que habrá mucho drama, con consecuencias muy graves para todos, incluidos nosotros en Belize y la diáspora, cuando comience el recuento de votos mañana por la noche. En Belize, en la actualidad, con el estado actual del UDP, no hay duda de que el actual gobierno del PUP arrasará en las próximas elecciones generales, sea cual sea la convocatoria. No hay una tercera opción, tal vez debido a nuestro sistema electoral de mayoría simple, y cuando llegue el momento de las elecciones, los beliceños acudirán a las urnas para cumplir con su deber cívico. Los incondicionales votantes azules estarán de celebración; algunos incondicionales votantes rojos cumplirán solemnemente con su doloroso deber, sabiendo que es un esfuerzo perdido y esperando que la próxima vez su partido sea más fuerte. Tanto en Estados Unidos como en Belize, se ha expresado frustración en ocasiones con los dos principales partidos políticos; en Belize hemos oído la referencia al PUDP. Sin duda, tanto en Estados Unidos como en Belize, muchos ciudadanos desean que hubiera una opción viable además de los dos partidos tradicionales.



Pehreh, Patt, and other things

by Colin Hyde

... Last week Channel 7 had a rather extensive interview with Hugo Patt, the man who holds the vote that decides who leads the UDP in the House of Representatives. In that interview Hugo explained why he was staying with Shyne Barrow, the leader elected at last year’s UDP convention. Previous to Patt appearing on 7, his name came up in a discussion on 7 between the television station’s proprietor and Pehreh, the chairman of the UDP faction that Patt is presently aligned with. We know the fraternity reasons why Brother Pehreh goes down with the ship Shyne, so no need to go there. The incredible story we got from Pehreh when he sat down with 7 is that Patt’s support for Shyne is set in cement. If I got it correctly, he said the only way Patt would switch to Tracy was over his (Patt’s), get this, dead body.

Damas y caballeros, one of my best friends in my adopted home village, an older man, told me that there are three things a man should never change: his church, his wife, his party. My friend, who is deceased now, would later take a new wife, only after his wife predeceased him. Clearly the new wife didn’t constitute a breach of my friend’s position on those three pillars in his life. Well wala, surprise, surprise, my friend lived to change his party, from

red to blue. Dee Brown, in the book, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, quoted an Indian sage who said: *Everything changes, only the earth remains*. Hmm, it looks like our shift is always from red to blue. Oh, wait, there’s always an exception. You’ve met, Tracy!

I think it’s a song out there that a day in politics is a lifetime. What the hell does Pehreh have/know that would make him say that a living, breathing Patt absolutely would not cross over to Tracy?

Mr. Patt spoke eloquently of a principled stand, but from a point of practicality, he is responsible for his party hemorrhaging. Belizeans should be pardoned if they think that he is beholden, a man who feels indebted to the gills to Dean Barrow, the father of the leader he supports. We know Dean Barrow, as counsel, has won gobs of money (from us) in the court for Mr. Patt, and when he appeared before the Senate committee to answer questions about some land near Northern Lagoon, the former Minister of Natural Resources went mum on the advice of the aforementioned counsel.

I don’t know that money can buy the kind of loyalty Pehreh says Patt has to the counsel’s son. Money doesn’t have that kind of sway on Patrick Faber. I remember that in a time when the PUP had all our money and were reportedly buying votes owta briefcase stuffed

with blue notes, han oava fis, Pehreh’s estranged brother, Patrick, strung a banner across CA Boulevard with the unforgettable words, ‘*tek dehn money an vote dem out*’.

... I’m with the principals who insist on a hair policy in primary and secondary schools that confines girls’ hairdos to little plaits, and *bandu*, clips, and pins. I sympathize with Rastafarians and their religious hair thing for their boys, but I don’t see how schools can accommodate that. We had to accept the thin edge of the wedge when we toppled Section 53 to end a segment’s suffering and their fear of incarceration. But we can’t go that far for, hair.

I heard the UEF chairperson, who has gone to the fore for a revamped hair policy in primary and secondary schools, charge that present rules came straight from Europe. Well, Miss, a whole lot a people in Belize like those rules. Don’t throw out baby with the bath water. If you didn’t notice, some good things do come out of Europe.

... Ms. Marisol’s paper, “Belize’s Fisheries Waters: New Frontiers Under Threat?” is loaded with valuable information, much of it new stuff for us to chew on. My only criticism of the paper is that she drifted off course, off the dinner table with her, ehm, mention of better-tasting fish from the deep. Fair enough, taste buds aren’t all the same. I’ve eaten deep sea red snapper twice, and in neither experience did it come close to inner reef red snapper. Dehn fatter, but dehn noh nicer.

About the reference in Marisol’s discussion to Taiwan and their *voracious* fishing, I say forewarned, forearmed, but if anybody foreign fu get fishing rights, it must be Taiwan. If all of the world abandons Taiwan, if Taiwan goes broke and can’t help us out here and there anymore, we have to stand with their right to self-determination. China played a rotten hand when she said, if you are with us you can’t be with Taiwan. Braa Big China, you chose to not be our friend.

... Marisol told us another report is coming up on our marine status, this one by Brother Marco Lopez. Marco is great, no doubt about that, but because I read all his articles I am aware of some of the company he keeps. I find no fault with the substance of the Federation and with George Myvett; they deserve our support for keeping fire under the tail of that Minister Perez, but I take exception to some of their attacks on the Blue Bond.

I say that to forget where we were at when we went Blue Bond, that’s stuff we find in red and blue politics. We are an independent country, so we take responsibility for ourselves. If our leaders “corrupted” or “incompetenced” or “bad lokid” our resources away; if we “lazy” away what we had or “unwisely” supported initiatives that had a bad end, they are our responsibility; da we allow it fu happen. I bet we could have done better; we can always do better; but we cannot ignore the fact that we were on the ropes, our belly was pressed on a barrel, and our pantalon was down.

And the Blue Bond came along and saved our blank.

Trump called Harris a communist. The US called Einstein one too

The following is excerpted from the first few paragraphs of a May 1, 2024 story, “Einstein’s ‘Why Socialism?’ and ‘Monthly Review’: A Historical Introduction”, by John Bellamy Foster:

“A Spring 1949 memorandum in the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s ‘Albert Einstein File,’ part of the FBI’s *Vault* of documents released under the Freedom of Information Act, states:

‘Advised [by an agent in the field that] in April 1949, a circular was distributed in the Nashua, New Hampshire area, announcing a new magazine entitled ‘Monthly Review,’ ‘an independent Socialist magazine.’ The first issue was dated to come out as the May 1949 edition. The first issue would contain articles by Albert Einstein—‘Why Socialism[?]’...

“Albert Einstein, the world’s most famous theoretical physicist and its most celebrated scientist, had fled Germany upon Adolf Hitler’s rise, immigrating to the United States in 1933, where he became a citizen in 1940. Yet, for J. Edgar Hoover’s FBI, Einstein remained a dangerous and Un-American figure, threatening the internal security of the United States by his very presence in the country.

“The FBI had opened its file on Einstein in 1932, when he was seeking to immigrate to the United States, with a long report by the Woman Patriot Corporation (WPC), which in its extreme anti-Communism, claimed that Einstein was inadmissible to the country. ‘*Not even Stalin himself*,’ the WPC charged, ‘is affiliated with so many anarcho-communist international groups to promote... world revolution and ultimate anarchy, as ALBERT EINSTEIN.’

“Although Einstein famously sent a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 2, 1939, on the possibility of developing an atomic bomb—a letter that has often been seen as directly leading to the Manhattan Project—the U.S. military declared him a security risk, and he was excluded from the development, and even knowledge, of the making of the atomic bomb during the Second World War, including the decision by President Harry S. Truman to drop it on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”

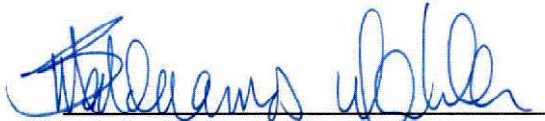
I say bully for Mr. Einstein that he had no part in the terrible sin of bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki. You know we are forced to be wily when dealing with Americans who think anything on the left is communism. Those kinds of Americans don’t mind if we starve. Ah, every action has a reaction. When we starve, we end up at the Rio Grande in caravans, and that absolutely terrifies them. This story could go on and on until it runs off the page, so I have to cap it. The US would be “less” rich if we were “allowed” to be less capitalist. They have their end game.

STATUTORY NOTICE  
TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of **PETRONA HAYLOCK**, deceased of 56 Victoria Street, Belize City, Belize.

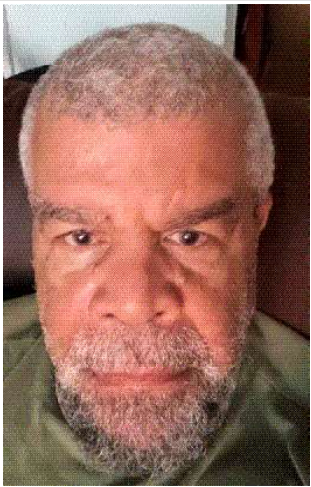
**NOTICE** is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the *Administration of Estates Act*, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of **PETRONA HAYLOCK**, deceased of 56 Victoria Street, Belize City, Belize, who died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 1997 and in whose estate Grant of Administration has been granted to **LORRAINE GOMEZ** of Burrell Boom Village, Belize District, Belize, should lodge claims or demands with the said **LORRAINE GOMEZ c/o Balderamos Arthurs LLP, Charter House, Suite 6, 3 ½ Miles Philip 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 **LORRAINE GOMEZ** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **PETRONA HAYLOCK**, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which she shall then have had notice.

DATED this 04 day of November, 2024

  
**BALDERAMOS ARTHURS LLP**  
Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of  
**PETRONA HAYLOCK**



# Anticipation!



Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 10:36 PM

After all my pronouncements and my predictions about the race for the presidency, I was going to wait until the election was over to gloat, or to fade away into irrelevancy. But being as impulsive as I am, and still believing I'm right in believing that Kamala Harris will be the 47th president of the United States, I still have some observations, which are objective, but are still part of my opinion that we will not slide into some nightmare that could last forever!

I know about all the dire warnings of Trump being president again. I know that there are those who believe, earnestly so, that he would become a dictator, like Orban or Maduro or Erdogan. I don't think that the constitution of the United States would accommodate such a drastic change in our governance, our democracy. This is my opinion only, even after seeing all the support this deplorable is getting – for goodness sakes, the race is tied!

It's disturbing that so many people are backing this man, knowing his history, knowing his disregard for the rule of law, his total lack of integrity, empathy, and especially his lack of knowledge of history! He is not a well-read person;

he's thin skinned and will carry a grudge against anyone who doesn't agree with him, or support him. I'm not going to recite all his faults; they are well known to the American people. And yet the race is tied!

This is going to be short and sweet! I believe that as improbable as it is, on Tuesday we will be electing the first woman as president of the United States. I believe that it will not be as close as the polls are predicting, and I do think that in the end she will win. Women are going to lead us in this new direction, resulting in our closing this great divide that has grown wider over the last 4 years. Morning in America, to quote a former president! And yet the race is tied.

So, come Tuesday, I will either have egg on my face, or that self-assuredness that I try to project through all my writings. But it is more than that; it is the faith I have in my fellow humans. They may stray from home, but eventually all come back to that safe harbor. That harbor where freedoms and security and equality and success are a given. Where minorities and women know that they belong, as a right, and not just as an aspiration. Where one can read and think and love whatever and whomever they choose. Where everyone can prosper and grow in a country without constraints. And by "constraints" I mean, not being judged or penalized for not being lemmings. And yet the race is tied!

Okay, I have said my piece. Hold your breath and close your eyes and relax. Everything will be okay. Namu myoho renge kyo; namu myoho renge kyo.

Glen

## Have you ever wondered who the real Merideette Martinez is?

by Jill Cotter

PUNTA GORDA TOWN, Toledo District, Fri. Nov. 1, 2024

Merideette Ann Martinez Augustine was born in PG, lived some years in Orange Walk and Corozal, and spent the years since her 14th birthday, living, surviving, and prospering in PG.

While her mother went to Canada as a nurse, her father moved to Corozal to work in a factory. "Women look for a better living. It's part of our culture," explained Merideette. Her father had children with another woman, and Merideette wound up with 9 brothers and 4 sisters.


While in Corozal, Merideette's aunt told her that she had a gift. She was able to predict things. She loved plants. Her grandmother was a bush doctor, so Merideette studied with a Mayan Shaman, Don Sisto Solis, and learned everything about natural herbal healing and healing prayers. Her father, Timothy Edward Augustine, was a healer as well. Healers used to get together in Orange Walk to share information.

Back in PG at the age of 14,

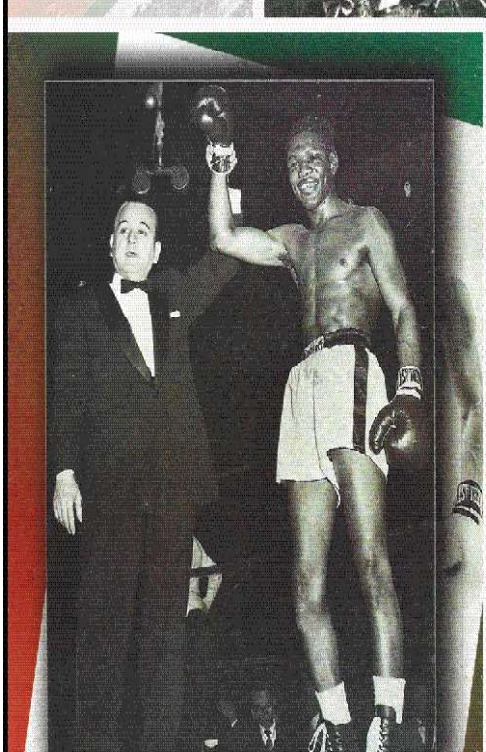



Merideette spent 3 years surviving on her own, staying with different people, working at this and that, until she met Karl Kircilis, Jr., an Amish investor who helped many people in need in the area. He promised to help her build a house in Cattle Landing if she were able to get a road built to the property she had managed to purchase. "I always ask for what I want. I harassed government officials until they built the road. I've been living in the same house since," she said.

Merideette went on to spend 7 loving years as Karl's common-law wife, having 5 children. The eldest is now 41. Karl took them to the United States to



# SPORTS, SIN AND SUBVERSION



## Evan X Hyde

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Ludwig Lightburn after he defeated New Orleans' Ralph Dupas, the no. 11 lightweight contender in the world, at New York City's Madison Square Garden in 1933. This was Lightburn's first nationally televised fight in the U.S. It was also seen in Mexico and Canada, and broadcast worldwide on shortwave radio. (The ring announcer is Johnny Apple)

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Amandala

## One & A Million Anniversary Jackpot

Continued from Page 1

contestants will purchase tickets from any BGLL sub-agent countrywide and will choose a 4-digit sequence – similar to the Jackpot – at \$5 per ticket, with the main prize being one million dollars.

If more than one person have the winning numbers the cash prize will be evenly divided/shared between/

among them. On December 20, 2024, at 9:00 p.m., ticket sales will end; and the drawing will be done on December 21 at 10:00 a.m.

BGLL says that the winning ticket(s) can be redeemed during regular working hours, starting December 23 in Belmopan at the BGLL office, and will be valid for 30 days.

Gongora noted that the prize will be tax-free.

study, and 3 of them are still living there – the two girls in Maine. One daughter is married to Lila Vernon's son. Another daughter studied in India and is now a teacher in Mango Creek. "I never wanted to go to the States. I love it here", she smiled.

Every morning, Monday through Saturday, Merideette can be found on Front Street in front of the fish market, selling her herbs, giving her energy to the town – cedar bark that heals bones,

Billy Web for diabetes, provision bark for low blood pressure, cola nut for cancer, and 9 different herbs and sticks in a bottle (China Roots, wild yam, Billy Web, Cats Claw, cedar bark, balsam bark, Strong Back, Palo De Hombre, and Contribo) for good health. "I buy the herbs from different local women. While their prices have tripled over the years, my prices have stayed the same. Even when I don't sell a lot, I'm happy. I love what I do," she said.





## Ladyville Rising Stars & Tut Bay FC lead BTB U-13 Mundialito

*by William Ysaguirre*

BELIZE CITY, Sat. Nov. 2, 2024

Ladyville Rising Stars and Tut Bay FC are leading the 5th Belize Tourism Board Under-13 Mundialito, which after 2 weeks of rain-outs, kicked off at the Berger Field in Belize City on Saturday morning, November 2.

In Game 1, the defending sub-champions, Ladyville Rising Stars upset the defending champions, Belize United, 3-1, led by Kent Noralez's hat trick (15', 35' and 36'), after Jefferson Martinez (13') had struck first for Belize United.

In Game 2, Tut Bay FC scorched Phoenix FC, 4-1,



Tut Bay won, 4-1, over Phoenix

with goals by Michal Copius (8'), Kevin Alvarez (14'), Tyrone Guy, Jr. (29') and Kyrone Martinez (33'). Only Ornell Rubio (26') scored a consolation goal for Phoenix FC.

In Game 3, Jerome Moore's 17th minute strike was enough to secure the Sampson/Brown's 1-0 win over Ebony Lake.

And in Game 4, Khayri Martin (20') scored Berger United's winning goal over Reality Youths.

Upcoming games on Saturday, November 9:

Tut Bay FC vs Sampson/Brown FC  
Reality Youths vs Ebony Lake FC  
Phoenix vs Ladyville Rising Stars  
Berger United vs Belize United

## Hydro Yabra & Ballers for Life win Over-50 basketball semifinals

*by William Ysaguirre*

BELIZE CITY, Sat. Nov. 2, 2024

The Hydro Yabra over-50 veterans and the Ballers for Life have qualified to the Belize Basketball Federation Over-50 championship finals, as both squads enjoyed victories in the semifinals at the Belize City Civic Center on Saturday afternoon, November 2.

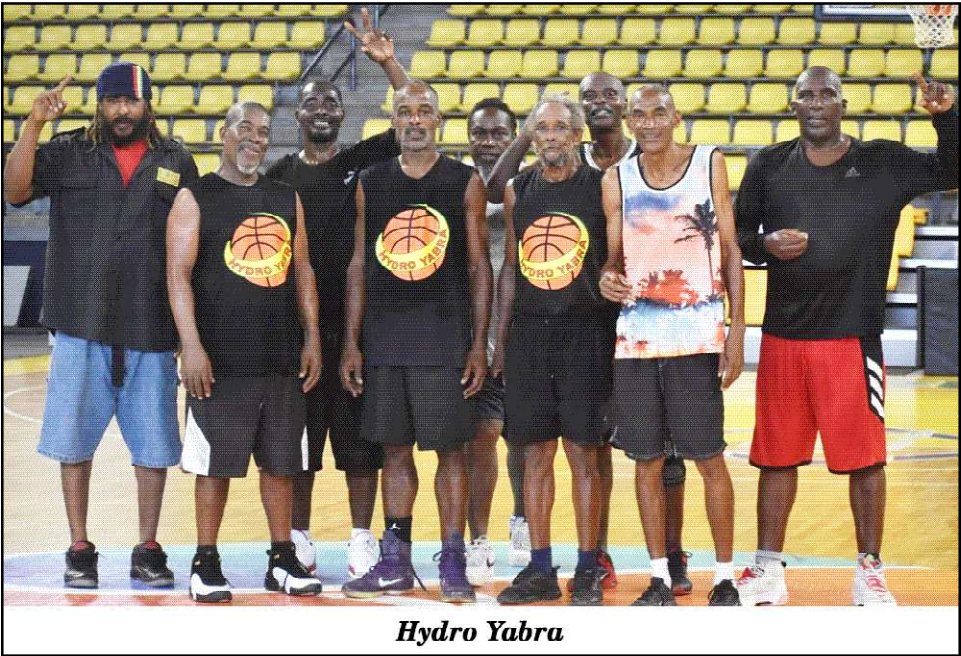
In Game 1, Hydro Yabra eliminated the Belmopan Bullsharks, 51-39, led by Vince "Post" Lamb (Estrada) who struck thrice from outside the circle for 23 pts. Byron "Shackles" Flowers posted 10 pts, and Reuben "Postman" Crawford, Cassian "Russian" Flowers, Leroy Forbes and "Snake" Villanueva each shot 4 pts. Angus "Walla" Cherrington threw in a bucket.

For the Bullsharks, Doug Penland also struck from outside the arc for 16 pts, Mervin "Bae" Castillo put up 8 pts and Richard Meighan scored 6 pts, Shelton Defour netted 4 pts, Nelson Mendez added 3 pts and Cliff King tossed in a bucket.

In Game 2, the Ballers for Life outlasted Maria Chang, 34-27, led by Andrew Robateau's 7 pts. Clement Palacio and James Saunders put up 6 pts apiece, Greg Williams and Calbert Quilter scored 4 pts each, and Roger Bradley and Broderick Neal each tossed in a bucket.

Maria Chang's D. Jones scored 8 pts, Julian Murillo posted 7 pts and George Tillett shot 6 pts. D. Murillo added 4 pts and B. Neal threw in a bucket.

No date has yet been announced for the championship final.



Hydro Yabra

## No Limit & Mayan Man win Over-35 basketball semifinals

*by William Ysaguirre*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 4, 2024

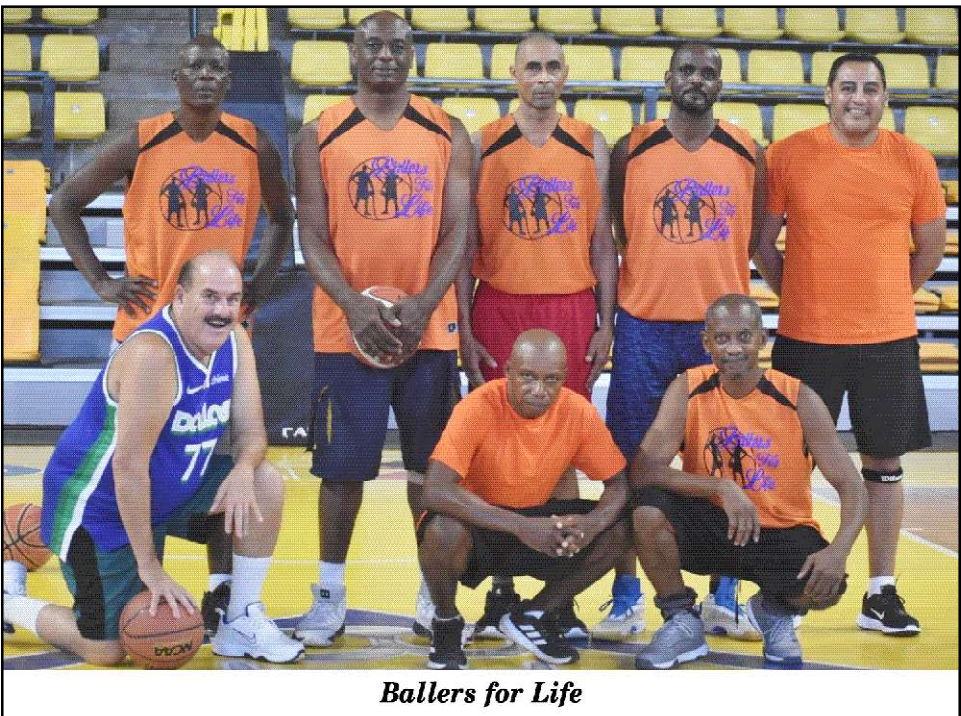
The No Limit and Mayan Man teams have qualified to the Belize Basketball Federation Over-35 Masters championship finals, as both squads enjoyed victories in the semifinal at the Belize City Civic Center on Saturday evening, November 2.

In Game 1, No Limit disconnected DigiCell, 71-34, led by Greg "Chippy" Rudon who struck 5 times from outside the circle for 22 pts. Brandon Rogers, Sr.

followed suit 6 times outside the arc for 18pts, and Paul Swasey put up 12 pts. Darwin "Puppy" Leslie scored 7 pts, Devon Defour netted 4 pts, and Bernard Felix, Alyson Revers, Kevin Lorenzo and Marcel Orozco each threw in a bucket.

Lennox Cayetano led DigiCell with 13 pts, Kenroy Usher put up 7 pts, and Edward Thompson shot 6 pts. Chadwick Ysaguirre netted 4 pts, and Ashley Hemsley tossed in a bucket.

The Mayan Men outlasted the Island



Ballers for Life





# Brown Bombers, Kulture Yabra & Caye Caulker win in BDFA Over-40 football

by William Ysaguirre

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Nov. 3, 2024

The Brown Bombers, Kulture Yabra and Caye Caulker veterans all enjoyed big wins when the Belize District Football Association (BDFA) Over-40 tournament continued in its 2nd week at the Berger Field in Belize City on Sunday evening, November 4.

In Game 1, the Caye Caulker Veterans schooled Plaza United, 5-1, led by Sanja Pitts' hat trick. Other goals came from Joseph Tillett and Aston Lewis, Sr. George James scored a consolation goal for Plaza United.

In Game 2, Kevin Rowland's



Kulture Yabra Over-40

beaver hat trick (4 goals) led Kulture Yabra FC to a 4-0 win over Berger Lake.

In Game 3, the Brown Bombers bombed the Survivors, 6-0, led by Paul Woods' hat trick as he scored the 1st, 3rd and 5th goals. Kenroy Martin delivered the 2nd goal, Robert Smith drilled home the 4th goal, and Vallan Symms served up his stock in trade – a midfield cruise missile that proved too much for Bernard “Dubu” Thomas to handle: 6-0.

Upcoming games on Saturday, November 9:

Caye Caulker Veterans vs Brown Bombers  
BDF Veterans FC vs Survivors  
Plaza United vs Kulture Yabra (Ebony Lake FC rests.)

# Hard Rock wins 3x Sprite “William Dawson” basketball championship



Hard Rock - 3x Champions Sprite “William Dawson” Basketball Tournament 2024



Hattieville Underdogs – 3rd Place Sprite “William Dawson” Basketball Tournament 2024



Orange Court Generals – 2nd Place Sprite “William Dawson” Basketball Tournament 2024

by William Ysaguirre

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Nov. 3, 2024

The Hard Rock Boys won their 3rd consecutive championship in the 6th annual Sprite “William Dawson” Police Basketball Tournament in a game played at the Swift Hall in Belize City on Sunday afternoon, November 3.

In the championship final, Hard Rock, led by MVP Raheim Thurton's 12 pts, overpowered the Sprite rookies – Orange Court Generals, 33-26. Other contributors to the score for Hard Rock were Earl “Bolo” Johnson, who posted 9 pts in heavy traffic, Travis Bermudez, 6 pts; Keidel Lino, 4 pts; and Kevin Hamilton threw in a bucket.

Francis Arana and Jayron Baptist led the Orange Court with 7 pts each, while Jason Staine and Aswin Castro scored 4 pts apiece, and Antwain Warrior tossed

in a bucket.

The Hattieville Underdogs won the consolation game for 3rd place, 34-32, over team “And One.” Brandon Rogers, Sr., led Hattieville Underdogs with 8 pts. Zahir Harris contributed 6 pts; Devon Defour, Herman Ramos, Jarvis Usher and Marcus Lewis netted 4 pts each; and Gregory Buckley tossed in 2 free throws.

Markuest Arnold led And One with 14 pts, Godfrey Arnold posted 12 pts, Andane Swazo scored 6 pts, and Glenford Gillett chipped in a free throw.

The Sprite “William Dawson” Police Basketball Tournament is sponsored as an anti-crime initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Tournament organizer Douglas Hyde noted that the Ministry of Home Affairs has invested \$150,000 in organizing the tournament since 2022-24, and this was the largest tournament so far, with 26 teams – 19 from the City

and 7 from the villages. A total of 260 young men participated in this community upliftment initiative aimed at youths from crime affected neighborhoods, and they played a total

of 170 games from when the tournament began on July 19, mostly at the Yabra outdoor court and at the 501





# Police win thru to Interoffice basketball finals

by William Ysaguirre

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Nov. 1, 2024

The defending champions, Police, will be challenged by Tuff e’Nuff in the Interoffice Basketball League (IBL) finals, having eliminated the Airport team, 64-56, in Game 3 of their semifinal series at the Belize City Civic Center on Friday night, November 1.

Herman Ramos led the Police attack on Friday night, as he struck from outside the circle for 13 pts, while Kevin Brown put up 12 pts. Other contributors to the Police tally were Sheldon Williams, 10 pts; Gilbert Leslie, 7 pts; Jamal Augustine, 6 pts; Jorette Jones, 5 pts; Linton Broaster and Akeem Trapp, 4 pts each; and Alyson Revers, 3 pts.

Michael Shaw and Zahir Harris led the Airport crew with 14 pts each, Shaqueem Valerio and Xylon Belgrave posted 11 pts apiece, and Justin Wade shot 4 pts. Edward Adu threw in a bucket.

The Finals begin on Friday night, November 8.



Defending Interoffice Basketball League champions - Police

# No Limit & Mayan Man win Over-35 basketball semifinals



No Limit



Mayan Man

**Continued from** **Page 9**

Ballers, 58-55, led by Earl “Bolo” Johnson’s 21 pts. Sheldon Williams and Doug Penland struck twice from outside

the arc for 10 pts each, Zahir Harris put up 9 pts, and Leon Galvez netted 4 pts. Tyrone “Mission” Edwards shot 3 pts, and William Black chipped in a free throw.

Neil “Max” Nicholson struck twice

from outside the circle as he led the Island Ballers with 16 pts, Felix Martinez followed suit from outside the arc for 10 pts, and Alrick Olivera put up 9 pts. Farron Louriano posted 8 pts, Darwin

“Dawgy” Elijo netted 6 pts, and Duane Staine added 4 pts. Ron Nicholson threw in a bucket.

No date has been given yet for the finals.

# Hard Rock wins 3x Sprite..

**Continued from** **Page 10**

Hub Center when it rained.

**Individual awards:**

Most Valuable Player – Raheim Thurton (Hard Rock)

Most Points – Kendale Clare (Mahogany Heights)

Best Defense – Keiron Salazar (Survivors Ballers)

Youngest Player – Joauyvann Morgan (I.G. Ballers)

Oldest Player - Clement Palacio (59 years) (Tora Bora)

Best Disciplined Team – Western Paradise Ballers

Best Sponsor – Bowen & Bowen Ltd.

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# Belize City calendar of activities for Garifuna Settlement Day 2024



BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 4, 2024

Last Friday, November 1, 2024, saw the official launching of the Calendar of Activities leading up to Garifuna Settlement Day by the National Garifuna Council (NGC) Belize City Branch. This event took place at the House of Culture in Belize City at 7:00 p.m. The event highlighted speeches from the Mayor of Belize City, Mr. Bernard Wagner; NGC Belize City Branch President, Mr. Raphael Martinez; Miss. Garifuna Belize City, Jailyn Sabal; and saw representatives from the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH) and various other donors and friends of NGC.

Musical entertainment during the official ceremony was provided by Larubeya Drummers and the Wabagari Dance Group.

Before the official Thank You, Mr. Raphael Martinez, President NGC Belize City, highlighted all the events for this year's celebration. The calendar includes the following events:

1. Saturday, October 26th – Miss Garifuna Belize City Pageant @ Holy Redeemer Parish Hall;  
— Garifuna Cultural Kick Off @ Travellers Bar, Philip Goldson Highway.
2. Friday, November 1st - Motorcade @ 3:00 p.m.;  
— Official Launch @ House of

Culture at 6:30 p.m.

3. Friday, November 8th - Luba Garifuna Museum Tour at House of Culture, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;  
— Solidarity Service at Swift Hall, St. Martin De Porres Parish at 6:00 p.m. All denominations are encouraged to participate.
4. Saturday, November 9th - Drummer at Barranco City on McKay Blvd.;  
— National Solidarity Mass at Our Lady Of Guadalupe Co-Cathedral in Belmopan at 9:00 a.m.  
— National Miss. Garifuna Belize Pageant in Belmopan at the Civic Center starting at 6:30 p.m.
5. Wednesday, November 13th - High School Rally at Westley College from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon;  
— Garifuna Spirituality Forum at UWI Auditorium at 5:30 p.m.
6. Thursday, November 14th - Garifuna Awareness Day, Annual Outstanding Award at the Mexican Cultural Institute at 6:00 p.m.
7. Friday, November 15th - Drumming at the Arana's on Mahogany St. at 6:00 p.m.
8. Saturday, November 16th - Ligemeri Watu "FLAMES" Dance Concert with Ugundani Dance Group at the Bliss at 7:00 p.m.
9. Sunday, November 17th -



Garifuna Mass at St. Martin De Porres Church at 9:00 a.m.

10. Monday, November 18th - Garifuna Cultural Display at the Battlefield Park at 10:00 a.m.;  
— Cultural Extravaganza to bring in Garifuna Settlement Day at the Civic Center Yaaad. 6:00 p.m. till the next day.
11. Tuesday, November 19th - Yurumein at the Court House Wharf at 5:00 a.m.;  
— Settlement Day Mass at St. Martin De Porres Church at 8:00 a.m.;  
— Official Ceremonies at the Civic Center at 10:00 a.m.;

— All day jamming at the Civic Center.

Immediately following the official launch, a traditional musical and dance concert was held in the court yard of the House of Culture. The Larubeya Drummers, Wabagari Dance Group and several Garifuna youths serenaded the night with their melodious voices. To top it all off, there were lots of mouth-watering Garifuna food and drinks on sale.

"Afeduha waméi wagücha, afareinha waméi wanichigu! - Celebrating our roots; sharing our culture".

## Option 1: GCoM Technical Mission in Belize City

**Continued from** Page 1

the city's Climate Action Plan. From November 4 to November 6, Daniela Artusi-Montiero, Assistant for International Affairs & Climate Change at the GCoM Helpdesk, and Judi Clarke, GCoM Expert for the Caribbean Region, will be working directly with Belize City officials to strengthen local climate action initiatives.

The main objective of this mission is to deliver hands-on technical support for the completion of Belize City's Climate Action Plan, a critical component in the city's sustainability and resilience efforts. The collaborative initiative aligns with GCoM's mission to combat climate change and promote low-emission, climate-resilient urban development.

Mayor Wagner underscored the importance of the Climate Action Plan, noting its alignment with both the city's needs and GCoM's vision. "Belize City joined the Global Covenant of Mayors to proactively address the urgent challenges

posed by climate change, which are increasingly impacting our community. Belize City stands at a crucial juncture where the effects of climate change are no longer distant threats but immediate realities affecting our people, our infrastructure, and our future. Developing a robust climate action plan is not just about resilience; it's about ensuring that our city thrives sustainably. By committing to proactive measures today, we are safeguarding a healthier, more resilient, and prosperous Belize City for generations to come," Wagner said.

During the opening meeting on November 4, the visiting GCoM representatives met with Mayor Wagner, city councillors, and the city's technical team to initiate the mission's agenda. Artusi-Montiero, in her presentation, introduced GCoM as the largest global alliance dedicated to city-level climate leadership, with over 13,000 committed cities spanning six continents and representing 144 countries. GCoM's initiatives support over one billion people

worldwide by fostering policies aimed at reducing emissions and strengthening climate resilience.

Belize City officially joined GCoM in 2023, marking a step forward in accessing valuable resources and expertise. Artusi-Montiero highlighted that securing climate financing is often more feasible for cities that have developed comprehensive climate action plans and are part of robust alliances like GCoM which focuses on measurable initiatives with a strong emphasis on consistent reporting, progress, and achievements. GCoM provides connections to potential project funding sources and opportunities for climate-resilient development, supporting local governments in identifying both financial options and business partnerships for their climate projects.

Mayor Wagner's administration has championed several climate-conscious initiatives that align with GCoM's goals, including the Belize City eRide Bus

Service, launched in July 2024, and the upcoming eRide Taxi Service, expected to launch in November 2024. These projects emphasize low-emission transit solutions, reducing Belize City's carbon footprint while enhancing local transportation options. Through GCoM's guidance, the city aims to expand these efforts, establishing a solid framework for sustainable growth and resilience.

Following the mission in Belize City, GCoM representatives will travel to Belmopan, the capital of Belize, to continue their regional support. Belmopan, which joined GCoM in 2018, has also been pursuing climate-resilient strategies as part of its commitment to the alliance's global vision.

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New Year's Day

2025



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New Year's Day 2025!!



1991	Michael Lewis (first)	2010	Carlos Hernandez (first)
	Ernest Meighan (second)		Carlos Manuel Hernandez (second)
1992	Francisco Flores (first)	(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	Fitzgerald Joseph (second)		Anthea Sutherland (second)
1993	Derrick Mahler (first)	2011	Marco Salas (first)
	Orlando Chavarria (second)		Juan Rojas (second)
1994	Douglas Lamb (first)	(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	Ronald Sutherland (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second)
1995	Robert Mariano (first)	2012	Geovanni Choto (first)
	Gustavo Carrillo (second)		Byron Pope (second)
1996	Nigel Matus (first)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (first)
	Ian Smith (second)		Shalini Zabaneh (second)
1997	Fred Usher (first)	2013	David Henderson (first)
	Michael Lewis (second)		Gregory Lovell (second)
1998	Francisco Flores (first)	(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	James Frampton (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second)
1999	Ernest Meighan (first)	2014	Byron Pope (first)
	Skip Spangenburg (second)		Carlos Lopez (second)
2000	Ariel Rosado (first)	(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	Quinton Hamilton (second)		Gabrielle Lovell (second)
2001	Miguel Perez (first)	2015	Hector Rangel (first)
	Shane Vasquez (second)		David Santos (second)
(Ladies)	Karen Rosito (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
	Amilita Knowles (second)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
2002	Barney Brown (first)	2016	Joel Adan Borland (first)
	Hugo Rostrain Monterosa (second)		Gregory Lovell (second)
(Ladies)	Ann Marie Bennett (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
2003	Douglas Lamb (first)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
	Frank Cannon (second)	2017	Ron Vasquez (first)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes-Gonzalez (first)		Brandon Cattouse (second)
2004	Marlon Castillo (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
	Mateo Cruz (second)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes-Gonzalez (first)	2018	Giovanni Lovell (first)
	Claudett Maheia (second)		John DeLong (second)
2005	Michael Lewis (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
	Shane Vasquez (second)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Marinette Flowers (first)	2019	John DeLong (first)
2006	Scottie Weiss (first)		Clayton Travis (second)
	Marlon Castillo (second)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (first)
(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)		Nicole Gallego (second)
	Marinette Flowers (second)	2020	Oscar Quiroz, Jr. (first)
2007	Shane Vasquez (first)		Joslyn Chavarria, Jr. (second)
	Marlon Castillo (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
(Ladies)	Gina Lovell (first)		Nicole Gallego (second)
	Shalini Zabaneh (second)	2021	NO RACE (DUE TO COVID)
2008	Neo German Camacho Villegas (first)	2022	Brandon Cattouse (first)
	Reyes (second)		Derrick Chavarria (second)
(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)	(Ladies)	Gabrielle Gabourel (first)
	Alicia Thompson (second)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
2009	Marlon Castillo (first)	2023	Derrick Chavarria (first)
	Gregory Lovell (second)		Jyven Gonzalez (second)
(Ladies)	Lori Harkey (first)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (first)
	Shalini Zabaneh (second)	2024	John Delong (first)
			Cory Williams (second)
		(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse