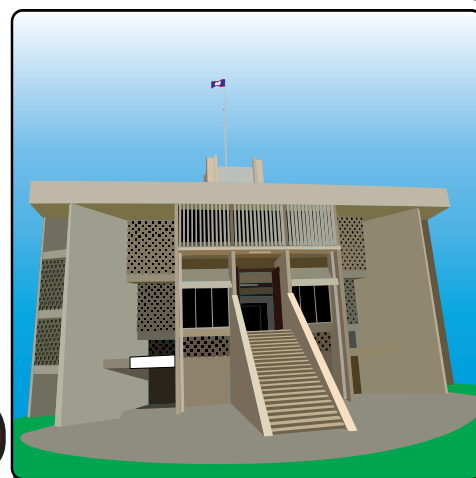




# Capital Weekly

*From the Heart of the Nation to the Soul of the People*



No. 015

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Price: \$1.00

## Let There Be Lights!

### *Christmas Comes to the Capital City*



*A family poses in front of the Christmas Tree*

Residents came out by the hundreds. In fact, the unofficial count was well over a thousand. The occasion was the third Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, this one kicking off the Christmas celebrations for 2011 in the Nation's Capital. It took place last Saturday December 10, 2011 at the Sir George Brown Field starting at 6:30 in the evening.

On hand for the event were Belmopan Area Representative Hon. John Saldivar, Mayor Simeon Lopez, members of the Belmopan City



*Belmopan Area Rep. Hon. John Saldivar and Mayor Simeon Lopez turning on the switch to light the Christmas Tree that will warm the hearts of Belmopan residents throughout the season*

Council and aspiring councilors on the UDP ticket for municipal elections 2012.

MC for the evening was Ismael 'Miley' Garcia, National Coordinator in the

Ministry of Sports. A beautiful rendition of the national anthem was sung by Radiance Thompson, a local singer made famous by her participation as a fea-

tured artist in Frankie Renau's Celebration Album.

The gathering was lead in prayer by Pastor Scott Stirm of Jubilee Ministries. Deputy Mayor Amilcar Umana did the welcome. There were speeches by Mayor Simeon Lopez and Area Representative Hon. John Saldivar who both encouraged residents to participate in the activities planned for the season and work together to ensure a merry and blessed Christmas for all. The thank you was done by Councilor and former Deputy May-



*Students of El Shaddai Primary School entertained in song*

*Continued on Page 2*



# Editorial

## Belizean Survival- Top Quality

This past weekend I was visited by a friend who had just delivered a truck load of oranges to the factory. He was working for one of the big citrus farmers in the Stann Creek district. The trucker was upset because over 200 of the 800 boxes of oranges delivered were rejected.

Truckers get paid by the amount of accepted fruit delivered. Therefore, this trucker was only being paid for some 600 boxes transported. The trucker was upset with his employer, not the factory. He said he noticed some of the oranges were green. The big citrus farmer thought he could get away with delivering inferior fruits.

At present, the factory is very committed to accepting only the best quality fruit. Even though some farmers are upset, this is the only way Belize can compete in the global citrus market; with the best quality.

A country must learn to adapt to the circumstances. Our population is small. Labour is a problem. We do not have quantity in products. Countries like Mexico and Brazil, can always out-supply Belize.

Our survival must always be based on the quality of our products and services. We must produce the best oranges, the best sugar, the best chocolate, the best bananas, the best shrimp,...

When the name Belize is mentioned in the global economy, it will never be because of the size of our production. We can ensure, however, that Belize survives because of one word: QUALITY.

Send comments to [w.cut66@yahoo.com](mailto:w.cut66@yahoo.com)

## Let There Be Lights!



*Students of Garden City Primary School doing their thing*

*Continued from Page 1*

or Victor Perdomo, under whose portfolio the event was organized, with special events coordinator Tricia Pelayo spearheading the effort.

Entertainment was provided by El Shaddai Primary School. There were beautiful Christmas songs by the Belchoral Society. There were also performances by Garden City Primary School and Kushlin Ha Government School. Miss Magdalene Gibson performed a ballet dance, and there was a presentation by the Police Drama Group. The Youth Legacy Church Group of Ontario Village provided live music.

The event was alcohol free, being a real family occasion. Free sodas were provided by Bowen and Bowen Limited, who have always supported the event, having provided the Christmas Tree for the two previous years' event. This year, the Belmopan City Council acquired its own Christmas Tree, and prizes given out at the event were donated by the councilors and staff at City Hall who also did the decoration of the Christmas Tree and other logistical work to make the event possible.

The entire event was

planned and executed in conjunction with the Office of Area Representative Hon. John Saldivar, he and his team along Mayor Lopez and his team setting a good example of unity and cooperation for the residents of the Capital City.

The grounds on which the Christmas Tree stands will be the venue for various events during the Yuletide Season, including Children's parties.

## Capital Weekly

*From the Heart of the Nation  
To the Soul of the People*

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# Major Works in the Capital

## Upgrading Infrastructure- Creating Jobs



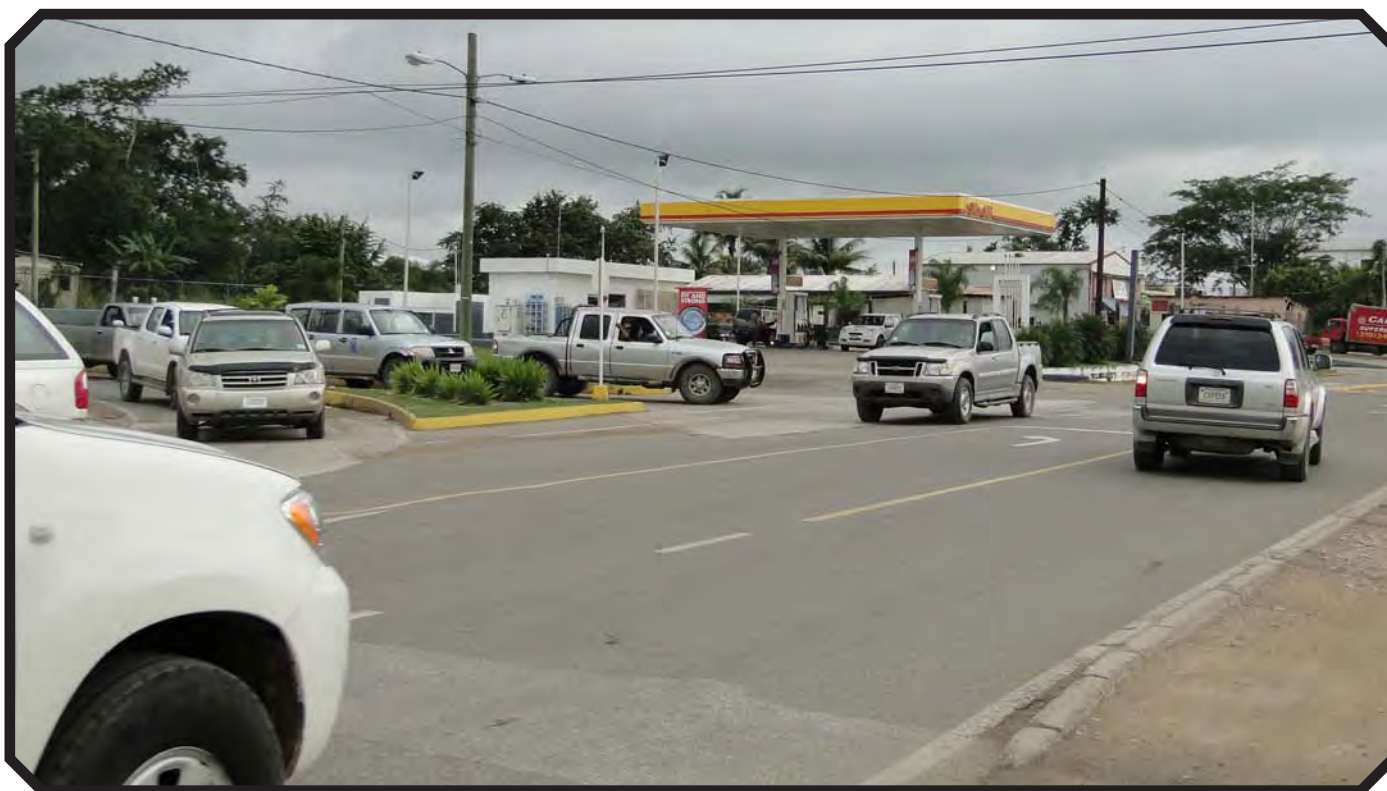
*Constitution Drive with newly installed features to organize the traffic*

Dean Barrow to improve infrastructure in the City, while also providing employment.

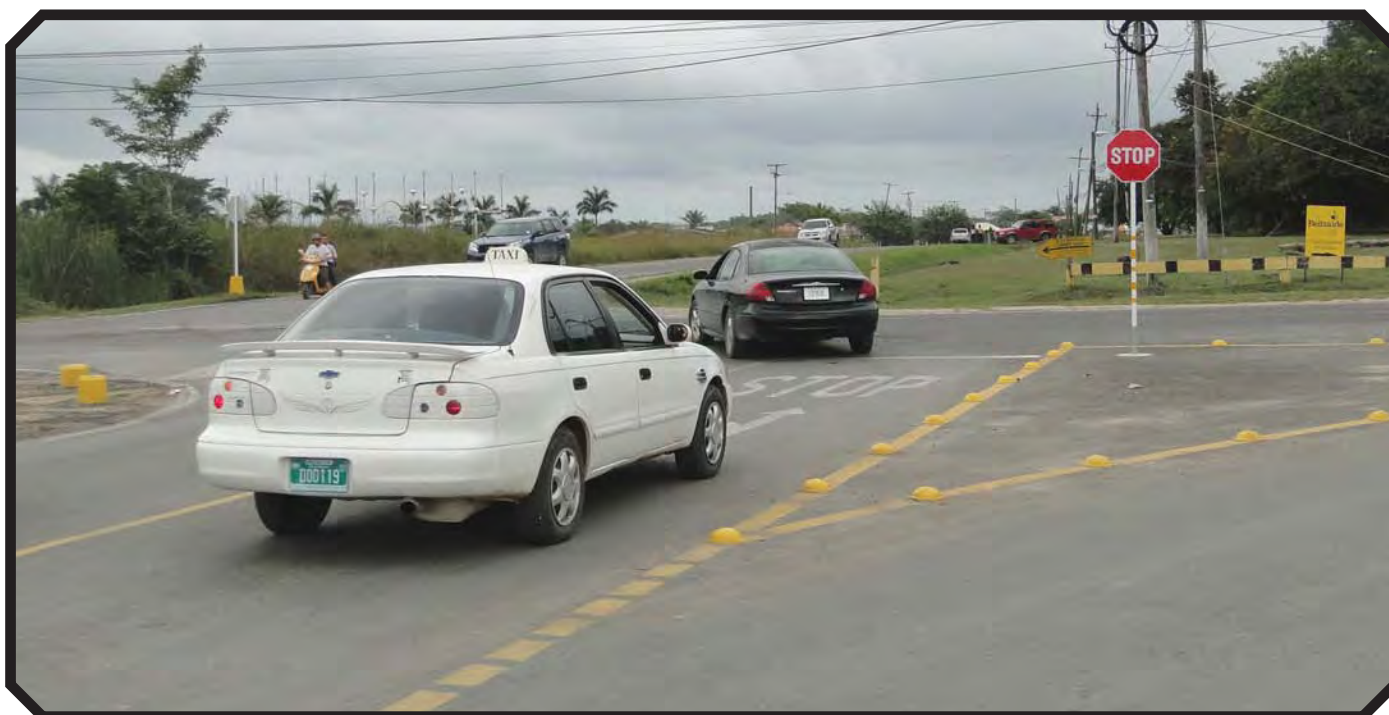
As we all know by now, Prime Minister Barrow has been determined and unwavering in his commitment to create employment everywhere, despite financial limitations imposed by global economic conditions and heavy demands on our local resources as a result of the wasteful spending by the last administration that left us an onerous debt burden in the billions.

If you move around Belmopan City these days, you will notice a flurry of activities taking place simultaneously, all intended to upgrade the Capital City's infrastructure, improve its aesthetics and make life easier and safer for those who live here, work here or visit for business and other purposes.

First of all, there is major upgrading and repairing of streets, drain restoration, walkway repairs and bushing, all part of a project utilizing the City Council's own funds as well as special funds committed by Prime Minister



*One of the intersections on Constitution Drive that has become very busy of late*



*Another busy intersection connecting the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Lands and the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan*

In the Capital City, the Prime Minister's initiative, as we noted, has provided much needed resources to supplement the City Council's own funds for upgrading and repairing of the City's infrastructure. It has also, at the same time, created employment for over 100 persons, many of them young people, who represent a serious challenge for the entire nation, particularly where crime and violence is concerned.

The Prime Minister's

*Continued on Page 8*



# Pre-school Project Launched in Santiago Juan Layout of San Ignacio



*Taking part in the ground-breaking: SIF's Daniel Cano, Hon. Salvador Fernandez and Hon. Erwin Contreras*

A project for the construction of the Santiago Juan Pre-school building was officially launched Monday December 12, 2011 during a ground breaking ceremony in the Santiago Juan Layout Area of San Ignacio Town.

The project is being implemented by the Social Investment Fund at an approximate cost of \$211,895.00 and financed by the Government of Belize through a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank.

The project entails the

construction of a 2,000 sq feet concrete building with zinc roof, reinforced concrete floor, galvanized aluminum louvered windows with burglar bars and solid timber doors. The building will have one class room and will include a kitchenette and a boys and girls bathroom facility. Landscaping, installation of playground equipment a supply of toys and electronic equipment such as a DVD Player, television and radio will be included as part of the project.

The pre-school will be

able to accommodate 50 students in the morning and 50 in the afternoon. A ramp will be built to accommodate special needs children. The building and playing area will be properly fenced.

Pre-school education sets the foundation for the life long process of learning by equipping children with the basic literacy and social skills. Early childhood education is crucial for human development and poverty reduction.

The pre-school project

falls in line with Millennium Development Goal No. 2, which aims to achieve Universal Primary Education and Target 5 which aims to ensure that by 2005, children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling up to Standard 6. A proper pre-school education will enable entry into primary school making possible the fulfillment of this goal.

Santiago Juan Layout is located in the suburbs to the west of San Ignacio Town, Cayo

*Continued on Page 5*



*Hon. Erwin Contreras, Min of Economic Development*



*Hon. Salvador Fernandez, Area Rep for Cayo North*



# Pre-school Project Launched in Santiago Juan Layout of San Ignacio



*John August, Mayor of San Ignacio*



*Daniel Cano, Social Investment Fund*

## *Continued from Page 4*

District. This growing suburb lies west of the Bullet Tree Road and is expanding north towards Bullet Tree Village and west towards the Guatemalan border.

With a growing population, the need for a pre-school in the Santiago Juan Layout has become a priority for parents in the area. The project has

the full support of the Ministry of Education and the Government of Belize, which provided the land for the project.

The facility will facilitate all the learning areas required for a pre-school by the Ministry of Education, which include: Language, Music, Creative Art, Sand, Books, Dramatic Play and Science/Discovery.


There is one Roman

Catholic school on the Bullet Tree Road that is near to the community and other primary schools in San Ignacio also provide access to primary education for the children of Santiago Juan Layout Area.

The guest speaker at the project launching was Hon. Erwin Contreras, Minister of Economic Development, Commerce, Industry and

Consumer Protection. Other speakers included Hon. Salvador Fernandez, Area Representative for Cayo North, Representatives of the Social Investment Fund, the Ministry of Education and the Santiago Juan Pre-school Management.

(Information provided by Mike Hernandez Jr. (Sr J.P.) Director of Public Relations of the Social Investment Fund)




## Our FUTURE is Secure

## with RAMON WITZ

## and the

## UDP







By Zelda Hill

If Belize subscribed to the fallacy that “what goes on behind closed doors is not my business,” then we would not have joined with other countries in their sixteen days of activism to end gender based violence, specifically violence towards women [girls included].

Most abuses towards women occur behind closed doors and occasionally the evidence of such is seen in public places. The Centre for Women’s Global Leadership theme for these activities, “From peace in the home to peace in the World...” reflects the heart of the Church’s mission in her calling to society, beginning with the individual.

Although the efforts of other groups may be more obvious, the Church has been ministering to the family unit: victim, children and abuser, since she realizes the importance of family and acknowledges that each person has the capacity to be healed and restored.

While others may want the Church’s role to be just restorative, as the gatekeeper of morality in the society, the church has been known to foster social change. William Wilberforce,

a British politician and evangelical Christian, was one of the leading English abolitionists in the movement to abolish the slave trade. Martin Luther King, Jr, who is best known for the advancement of civil rights in the United States and around the world, was a Baptist Minister. Generally, people who genuinely had a salvation experience, attend church regularly and strive to live according to Biblical standards have peaceful homes and their children receive multiple benefits. This fact does not mean that church-going people are not abusers and victims but obviously there is some benefit to the family from the Church’s messages, programs and activities.

As a preventative measure, the Church has been warning against activities, vices and entertainment that promote violence. Substance abuse, addictions, pornography, violent movies and video games, sex-loaded movies and shows and abuse itself all contribute to violence in the home which extends to the streets, schools and the workplace. As an agent of socialization, the Church’s programs and activities teach children and youth that it is wrong to hit and to bully others that are weaker

(male or female). The Church teaches courtesy and respect for the opposite sex and promotes and supplies healthy family entertainment and emotional support for those affected through pastoral and professional counselling. Adults are taught how to communicate, how to vent anger and frustration positively and how to handle conflict and disagreements, especially in marriage enrichment workshops and marriage counselling sessions. Christians reach out to victims in their neighbourhoods, support families and local shelters through donation of money, food, clothing, medicine or service and have provided shelters, even their homes, to battered wives and their families.

The Church also understands that sin is the root cause of such violence and in the case of the abuser, he also needs healing. Many abusers were raised in abusive homes and have witnessed abuse. They are unable to communicate effectively, to express anxiety or fear and their abusive tendencies are not usually an expression of anger toward their partner but more likely the ventilation of their own feelings of inadequacy and pent up anger and frustra-

tion. By being physically domineering they try to reassure themselves that they are strong and in control. On numerous occasions, Christian men have befriended abusers, counselled, advised and become a role model to them in order to help them correct their ways and restore peace in their homes.

The power of God through the Church proves itself when there is healing of someone in the society, be it abuser, victim or both. There are numerous ways in which the Church can become more visible and active in the society in an effort to bring an end to such violence. Looking the other way or not caring about what goes on behind closed doors should never be the Christian’s attitude.

In times like these when the God-ordained institution of family is challenged, let’s seize every opportunity to save society’s fundamental building block from the attack of the enemy.

In our yearning for peace in the home and peace in the world we must remember that such peace can be realized when we make Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, dwell in our hearts and in our homes in this Season and throughout the year.

# Faith Lift

## *The Church’s role in bringing Peace to the Home*

# Seasons Greetings From

*Department of Transport*

**THERE'S A THIN LINE  
BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.**



## **TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS**

1. Check your motor vehicle to ensure that everything is in good working condition. Example- brakes, all lights, horn, wipers, tires, spare-tire, tire tools, oil, water, brake fluid & dash board gauges.
2. Ensure that your driver's license is valid and that your vehicle is licensed and insured.
3. Wear your seat belts at all times when on the highways. (It is an offence for drivers and front seat passengers not to wear seat belts on the high ways).
4. Don't carry passengers in the back of open pickup trucks. (Vehicle only insured to carry amount of passengers as stipulated on certificate of registration/title).
5. Don't drive if you are consuming Alcoholic beverages or taking medication (drugs). Have designated driver (alcohol and drugs affect your vision and judgement).
6. Avoid making calls on cell phone when driving, it is best to pull off to the right to make calls or to answer your cell phone, don't text while driving.
7. Wear your helmet at all times when operating or being carried as a passenger on a motor cycle.
8. Only overtake if you have a clear view of the road ahead, never overtake around blind curves or when driving over a hill.
9. Drive within the speed limit at all times.
10. Obey all traffic law and signs.



**THINK! DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**



# Major Works in the Capital

## Upgrading Infrastructure- Creating Jobs

*Continued from Page 3*

philosophy, if we can call it that, is that if our young people are gainfully employed, then a life of crime and violence will be much less attractive to them; and that, by itself, would go a long way in curbing the crime situation. If we can call it that, we say, as we are sure the Prime Minister would contend, and rightly so, that this is no profound philosophy, but basic logic and common sense.

Whatever the case, the facts seem to be bearing out the practical wisdom in the philosophy or policy as, even in the Old Capital, Belize City—which, in recent times, had assumed more of a status as ‘murder capital’—homicides and other violent crimes have seen an encouraging reduction over the past few months, since the implementation of a gang-truce and the government’s accompanying pledge and follow-through in providing employment for the youths involved.

But, coming back to the current capital city, there is also, as we noted, the marking of streets and installation of other features to organize the flow of traffic and make life easier and safer for all. That particular project is being funded by the Social Investment Fund (SIF), being executed in conjunction and coordination with the City Council’s infrastructure project being carried out, as we noted, with its own funds and special monies committed by the Prime Minister.

We must also add that the Area Representative for Belmopan, Hon. John Saldívar, has been fully engaged, helping to lobby for funds at the Cabinet level, assisting in identifying specific areas



*Streets being repaired in the Capital City*



## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Section 6 of the **Electricity (Tariffs, Fees and Charges) Byelaws**, S.I. 145 of 2005 as amended by S.I. 116 of 2009, the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) made a submission to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on December 1, 2011, for a Full Tariff Review Proceeding (FTRP).

Members of the public may participate in the FTRP by submitting written comments on BEL’s submission to the PUC by January 3, 2012, at [info@puc.bz](mailto:info@puc.bz) or at the PUC office at 41 Gabourel Lane in Belize City.

Members of the public may also make comments at a Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at 7:00pm at the Princess Hotel on Newtown Barracks in Belize City. BEL shall participate in the Public Hearing.

Members of the public will be allotted a maximum of five minutes at the Public Hearing in which to present comments and information, as time permits.

Persons wishing to make comments at the Public Hearing are advised to contact the PUC by 5:00pm on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, to ensure participation.

Where any person submits comments or information purported to be factual, such comments or information shall be accompanied by a sworn affidavit.

Three copies of all applications, reports, documents, comments or information provided by members of the public shall be filed at the PUC’s office and a copy shall be provided to the licensee at his principal office of business on the same day.

BEL’s submission is available for viewing at the offices of BEL and on the Company’s website at [www.bel.com.bz](http://www.bel.com.bz) as well as at the PUC office and on our website at [www.puc.bz](http://www.puc.bz).

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**Delroy Cuthkelvin**  
Chairman, Editorial Board

# From the Desk of the Chairman

## *The Salt and Its Savour*

When this administration took office almost four years ago, it enjoyed the greatest goodwill any administration has had in recent memory; and, by all accounts, it has retained a good deal of that goodwill from most sectors and from the public at large.

This is attributed, in large measure, to the fact that the last administration went down as the worst government ever, and that it is apparent the party and the players that formed that administration have learnt virtually nothing during their four years wandering in the wilderness of political rejection. They seem to be counting entirely on the kind of political fallout with the electorate that has traditionally plagued the UDP when it is in office. All they need to do, they seem to think, is to stalk and lie in wait, ready to pounce upon the

UDP once the opportunity presents itself.

From all indications, it's not going to be so easy for them this time around, partly because the PUP as an administration had become so horrible by 2008, and because the lingering taste of their misdeeds remains so bitter, that even they seem unable to stomach each other long enough to convalesce and coalesce in any effective manner.

It's also due in part, though, to the fact that the UDP is better organized as a party today than it ever was. Much of the credit for that must go to the Hon. Dean Barrow. In 1998, he inherited a devastated, demoralized and dysfunctional party. Layer by layer, he built and transformed it into a machine that has now become the envy of those on the other side who once bragged about their 'invincible Blue Machine'.

Lest you begin to think we are starting to worship ourselves—as Evan X Hyde accurately noted of the PUP before its great fall—let us hasten to assert that the thesis of our essay

is quite the opposite. It is that the UDP has been on such a roll politically over the past eight years since the Cayo South by-election of 2003, and the PUP has been in such a pathetic state of decline, it's quite easy on this side for arrogance and complacency to start setting in. And we are ever mindful of what, according to the Good Book, pride goeth before. (*"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."* Proverbs 16:8)

If we are to avert the kind of catastrophic fall that seems to inevitably follow prolonged political success, we would do well to not forget, for a minute, the source of that success. So clichéd it is, we often get tired of hearing it. But there's a reason it has become clichéd, and the reason is that it's true. It is the fact that power is derived exclusively from the people and can be maintained only through direct and deliberate contact with, and involvement of the people.

Let us not forget those who took to the streets and stormed

the assembly of thieves in 2005 and 2007. Let us not forget those who pounded the pavement in 2006 and 2008 proclaiming the gospel of UDP redemption; those who have since done so time and time again, regardless of the personal reward, or lack thereof. Let us not forget those who sounded the trumpet as we went to battle for Belize; those who rallied the troops; those who sacrificed their own bodies and their own lives for the future of the nation. Let us not forget the overwhelming majority of Belizeans who gave us that approving nod as they paraded to and from the polls on Election Day.

Above all, let us not forget why all of us did what we did. It's all inextricably interwoven, for if we lose touch with the people, we lose sight of the cause; and once we've lost sight of the cause, then there's no 'people' in it anymore, and the whole exercise becomes fruitless and failing.

*If the salt has lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted?* (Matthew 5:13)



# Sports Update

*-With Ismael "Miley" Garcia*



*Ismael "Miley" Garcia  
National Sports Coordinator  
Ministry of Sports*

The year is rapidly winding down but the sports calendar remains busy right down to the wire. We note with satisfaction that the Belize Volleyball Association held a successful Annual General Meeting at which there was an election for members of their National Executive. The elections were held under a very open and transparent process and the Ministry of Sports and the Honorable John Saldivar congratulate those persons who were elected to office. We also thank and congratulate those who were on the past Executive for their hard work and dedication in bringing volleyball to the level of popularity it now enjoys.

The Basketball calendar remains busy also with mini basket picking up steam countrywide. Coach Bernie Tarr was in Toledo and the Stann

Creek districts this past weekend giving impetus to this program. It is hoped that when the basketball programs are fully in place countrywide we will see the farm system that will have our youth ready for sports scholarships tryouts with international institutions by age sixteen to seventeen. We just witnessed the crowning of Central Division Basketball Champions, Sadie Vernon High School this week as they triumphed over St John's College. There are already a few prospects from this division that are being closely viewed by Coach Tarr as prospects for scholarship opportunities in College Basketball abroad. This weekend all the basketball action will be in San Pedro for the High Schools National Competition.

Meanwhile the works have picked up at the Marion Jones Sporting Complex as we move towards having an international class facility in place. Modern Construk and Urbanizadora Continental, which is the company that was awarded Phase 4 of the

works at the Stadium, have now engaged their sub contractors, FT Williams and Ayuso's Plumbing, in an effort to ensure that all the works are carried out at professional standards. Under the watchful eye of Anthony Thurton and Associates, Government is ensuring that we get value for money. We will keep you updated on our progress.

In football news, the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) continues the process of holding elections for its members countrywide. Last Thursday, December 8, elections were held for the Toledo District. Incumbent Cecil "Andy" Tillet and his slate won this election, except for the post of Vice Chairman. This position was won by challenger Allen Genus. We are gratified that finally Toledo, like so many other football districts, has an ELECTED Executive and we trust that this new Executive will now begin to organize football in Toledo. Meanwhile, in the Cayo District, where the FFB representative was one of the few countrywide to truly organ-

ize football tournaments under the FFB umbrella, the incumbent Chairman, Mr Kent Gabourel, lost to the slate of Mr Earl "Trappy" Trapp. We say thank you to Mr Kent Gabourel for his service and we are sure he will be staying close to football for a very long time.

This weekend elections are scheduled for Saturday in the Stann Creek District and on Sunday for the Belize and Corozal Districts. Interestingly, the challengers in Corozal have not received a response from the Electoral Appeals Commission, and neither have the four members of the Belize and Stann Creek Districts who were turned down by the Electoral Commission. Readers will recall that the slate for Belmopan was turned down by the Electoral and Electoral Appeals Commission. The members of the Electoral Appeals Commission of the FFB are Mr. David Cruz, Mrs Andrea Mckoy and Honorable Marcel Cardona. The Football Family holds its breath and we continue to monitor at the Ministry.

**Read Capital Weekly Online  
in Living Colours at:  
[belizenews.com/Capital Weekly](http://belizenews.com/Capital Weekly)**



## Mexico and Belize sign Educational and Cultural Cooperation Programme 2010-2013



*The Document being signed by Mexican Ambassador, Mario Velázquez and Belize Minister of Education, Patrick Faber*

Belmopan, Belize, 14 December 2011.- Mexico and Belize signed today the Educational and Cultural Cooperation Programme 2010-2013. This new program reinforces the cooperation between both countries on areas such as education, culture, youth and sport, as well as its financing.

Mexican Ambassador, Mario Velázquez and Belize Minister of Education, Patrick Faber signed the document this morning at the Institute of Mexico in Belize City.

The Program 2010-2013 is one of the outcomes of the 6th Bi national Commission and of the 8th Meeting of the Joint committee of Educational and Cultural Cooperation, held simultaneously in Chetumal, Mexico, on the 29th and 30th September, 2010.

Throughout the years, this agreement has been a useful tool between both countries, particularly in education, hu-

man resources training, and the education of Spanish and English.

The Programme of Educational Cooperation and Cultural 2010-2013 includes several subjects such as an increasing number of scholarships for Belizeans to study in Mexico, more training for teachers and technical staff in computing, educational and research cooperation between universities, support to the Bachelor's Degree in Spanish at the University of Belize (UB), training for Spanish teachers, as well as support to technological projects.

The Programme also provides bases for the collaboration in archaeology, conservation and restoration of the historical and cultural heritage, participation in international festivals, training and cultural management, collaboration between archives and libraries, as well as encouraging contacts between media and film institutions.



Notice is hereby given that Ivanhoe Mcpherson is applying for a Restaurant and Bar Liquor License to be operated at I & J Restaurant and Bar, Valley Community, Stann Creek District for the Year 2012, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance, Revised Edition, 1980.





# Bringing in Christmas with a Bang: Western Regional Championship



*Champions (First Place), Penarol of San Ignacio (Trophy and \$1,000 Cash)*



*Hon. Witz presents trophy and jersey to Penarol - 1st Place*

(Written by Raynord Garbutt)

Twenty teams competed in the first ever Western Regional Cup that was under the organization of Mr. Aaron Swift and his committee.

This tournament that ran for a little under six months was the longest tournament played in the Cayo District ever. Aaron Swift, the organizer, said that the reason why the tournament was that long was to insure that the athletes always

menia Scorpions, Penarol, Touch of Class, Alianze Duck Run One and Billy White Eagles.

As the teams competed every Sunday they knew that what was at stake was the One Thousand Dollars cash prize along with a trophy and a set of jerseys that was donated by the Cayo South Area Representative Hon. Ramon Witz, who assured Aaron Swift that he would commit to the next tournament was n the line.

With that in mind, the teams also knew that they had to put themselves in the best position to win the tournament. As the twenty teams fought hard, eight of the twenty made it to the Quarter Finals, and the eight, four went on to the next round, the Semi Finals. The four teams were Cotton Tree, Penarol, Western Dairies and Los Tambos.

So the stage was

had something to look forward to when it comes to the game of football.

The twenty teams that started the competition were divided into two groups. In group A was Western Dairies, Little Texas, Tambos FC, Gaza Boys, Buena Vista, World FC, Hopkins, Franks Eddy, BNE Oilers and Backstreet Boys.

Group B was made up of Blackman Eddy, Astros United, Olympus FC, Bullet Tree Scorpions, Cotton Tree, Ar-

*Continued on Page 13*



*Western Dairies - Third Place- Trophy and \$300, plus gift certificates*



# Bringing in Christmas with a Bang: Western Regional Championship

*Continued from Page 12*

set for those teams, and the best two of the four that made it to the Finals were Cotton Tree and Penarol. Western Dairies and Los Tambos had to settle for third and fourth place, respectively.

Cotton Tree and Penarol took to the pitch last Sunday, December 11, 2011 to do battle; and to the fans delight, it was an awesome game. Penarol came in with their national team sensation Danny Jimenez and Cotton Tree with their contingent of talented players was set to go.

Both teams fought very hard in the first sixteen minutes of the game, with Cotton Tree coming up short on numerous opportunities to take the lead in the game. But the solid defense of Penarol took up the challenge of Cotton Tree and held them at bay. In the seventeenth minute of the first half, Penarol, who were also putting pressure on



*Cotton Tree (Second Place), Trophy and \$500 Cash*

the Cotton Tree defense got a break when Miguel Aguilar received a pass within the eighteen yard box and blasted a right foot bomb that found the back of the net to give Penarol a one to nothing lead.

Both teams continued to press on with Cotton Tree looking for the equalizer, and Penarol looking to extend on their lead. But at the end of forty five minutes, the score remained at one to nothing Penarol. As the second half begun, Cotton Tree went on the attack, look-



*Hon. Witz presents trophy to Cotton Tree (Second Place)*



*Organizers: Cruz Gamez, Hermin Tzib, Terry Swift, Aaron Swift, Jose Menjivar and Emir Quiroz*

ing for the equalizer. But Penarol was determined not to give up the lead.

Penarol, on the other hand, kept the pressure on the Cotton Tree defense to add to the lead but Cotton Tree kept on turning them back. And when the final whistle blew it was Penarol who emerged as the first ever Western Regional Christmas Cup Champion. After the game, prizes were given out by

*Continued on Page 14*



# Bringing in Christmas with a Bang: Western Regional Championship



*Best Goalkeeper, Jamie Guerra, Penarol*

*Continued from Page 13*

the Hon. Ramon Witz.

First Prize of \$1,000, a trophy and a set of jerseys went to Penarol. Second Prize of \$500 and a trophy went to Cotton Tree. And Third Prize of \$300 and a trophy went to Western Dairies. The Best Goal Keeper Award went to Jaime Guerra of Penarol who received \$100

and dinner for two, courtesy of the Orange Gallery.

Best coach went to Miss Audrey of Blackman Eddy Bulldogs. She was awarded \$150 cash and dinner for two, courtesy of the Orange Gallery.

Most valuable player went to Rony Martinez of Western Dairies. He received \$100 cash and

*Continued on Page 15*



*Astros - United Ville*



*Hon. Witz presents Akeem Flowers of Astros (Unitedville) with Trophy for Best Sportmanship*



*Aaron Swift presents Best Coach award to Western Dairies*



# Bringing in Christmas with a Bang: Western Regional Championship

*Continued from Page 14*

dinner for two courtesy of the orange gallery. Also the prize for the best sportsmanship went to Akeem Flowers of Astros.

Terry Swift says she and her husband thank the following for their commitment to the tournament: Mr. Jack Barnes, Roaring River Resort, Hot Mamas, The Plant

Center, Mr. Adala Bedran, Mrs. Lilly Lee, Mr. Norman Reimer, Mile 58 Shopping Center in Unionville who gave the trophy for the best sportsmanship and The Orange Gallery who gave \$350 and the gift certificates.

Next year Aaron Swift said it will be bigger and better. And we say, congrats Mr. Swift for a job well done.



*Hon. Witz presents Best Coach (Female) to Audrey Curling Newsham (Bulldogs)*



*Referees who officiated the games: Abner Alvarez, David Jones, Mauro Manzanero and, Rogelio Bennett*



*Hon. Ramon Witz presents gift certificate and jersey to MVP Ronnie Martinez*



*Hon Ramon Witz presents trophy to Western Dairies, Third Place, Cecilio Lopez- Player Coach*



## Major Works in the Capital

*Continued from Page 8*

to be addressed through the project, and referring and directing potential workers to capitalize on the employment opportunities created.

On the ground, the project is being directed by James Robinson, Technical Director at the Belmopan City Council.

Robinson told us he is entirely pleased with the quality of work being put out by the persons employed.

He said they have even been able to identify and appoint supervisors and drivers from the same pool of workers; and he noted that most of them have shown major progress in acquiring important life-skills, qualifying them for permanent employment with the City Council or elsewhere in the job-market.

He said he is entirely satisfied that the funds are being well spent and well accounted for; and the positive results, he added, are right there on the ground in the form of the improved and restored infrastructure, and in the persons of the scores of productive citizens who would have otherwise been unemployed.

Robinson told us some of the youths employed through the project are even being utilized as temporary

school wardens to improve safety for students in institutions throughout the Capital City, which has been experiencing massive and rapid growth in vehicular traffic, the general movement of people and goods, and the accompanying expansion of services.

Others, still, are being utilized by the Red-Cross, an organization whose role is more vital today than it ever was; and Helpage Belize, an institution that provides essential services for our elderly citizens.

The SIF-funded project responsible for the installation of traffic safety features is scheduled to be completed before the Christmas Holidays; but the project funded by the City Council itself and with monies secured through the Prime Minister's special initiative, will continue until March of 2012.

The Prime Minister has, of course, pledged to remain tireless in his efforts to continue finding new funds, whether from the government's own resources, or grants and concessionary loans from abroad, to ensure that the vital, infrastructure-upgrading, community-enhancing, job-creating projects and programs continue.

### Notice to Residents of Belmopan:

Your Belmopan City Council will start picking up debris and white garbage as usual on the 15th of the month, and will continue doing so until the city is properly cleaned for the Christmas Holidays.



BELIZE

### INTEGRATED WASTEWATER AND SANITATION PROJECT FOR THE PLACENCIA PENINSULA WATER AND SANITATION

#### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

TC No.: ATN/OC-12456-BL

Project No. BL-T1048

Contract/Bid No. 002PMUBWS

The Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB, the "Bank") for the detailed design of a wastewater collection and treatment system for the Placencia Peninsula. The resources of the Technical Cooperation Agreement will be used to procure technical assistance to prepare the detailed design of the wastewater collection and treatment system based on recommendations of a feasibility study of design options undertaken by the United States Trade and Development Agency, provide for customer surveys and a public awareness campaign.

BWSL now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described above. Interested consulting firms must provide information establishing that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consulting firms may associate with local firms to enhance their qualifications.

Consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank](#) (2006 edition) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the policies.





# Merry Christmas with LOVE

## *Images from Love FM's Christmas Parade*

(Belize City, Saturday December 10, 2011)



Photos Courtesy of Patrick Jones





# Ministry of Health

## Monthly Publication



December Issue

### Ministry of Health improves on Food Borne Disease (FBD) surveillance

The Ministry of Health conducted Laboratory training this month for the staff of the Western Regional Hospital, Central Medical Laboratory, San Ignacio Laboratory and La Loma Luz Hospital. The training focused on the isolation of Food samples that will better assist with Food Borne Disease surveillance. The training covered the identification of a wide scope of microorganisms that cause Food Borne Diseases. It looked at improving the early detection of cases using surveillance and sampling techniques for collection amongst those who are affected.

The training also helped to prepare and increase surveillance and laboratory response of the disease. The Ministry also anticipates that this training will assist the doctors and nurses to better care and manage cases at health care facilities across the country and it will also develop and execute the best possible public health interventions and programs to decrease the burden of the disease across Belize. The Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin along with the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry is committed to improve on the surveillance of all diseases in Belize.

### Regional award for the Nutrition Unit

The Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin and the management staff of the Ministry of Health

proper nutrition in both the teachers and students through a fun and motivational way, with a goal to achieve positive behavior changes in the practice of nutrition and lifestyle. This year for the first time an award for Best Organizer of a National



congratulates Ms. Robyn Daly, Nutritionist along with Ms. Melissa Belezair Tucker, School Health and Nutrition Coordinator on receiving a regional award as part of the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) of Jamaica for the Secondary Schools National Nutrition Quiz competition. The competition is in its twelfth year and its main purpose is to educate and create awareness about

Competition was instituted as part of Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute prizes. There are eight Caribbean countries that hold a national competition and this year we are proud to report that Belize won the award for Best Organizer of a National Competition. The Ministry of Education takes the lead role in implementing the Nutrition Quiz competition activity with the support from the Nutritionist and Health Education and Community Participation Bureau in the

### World AIDS Day 2011

The Ministry of Health celebrates the success of many of its activities that were carried out in conjunction with the commemoration of World AIDS Day and National Testing Day on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Activities were carried out across the country in collaboration with the National AIDS Commission under the theme, "Getting to Zero." Some of the activities included Health fairs, peer counselling sessions, Candle Light vigils, Walks for HIV and AIDS and a



national bicycle race on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. In Belmopan, the Western Regional Hospital had a walkathon around the Ring Road on the morning of December 1<sup>st</sup> and a Health Fair at the Market area that Friday. They reported that 54 persons visited their booth and volunteered to get tested on their HIV status. The Ministry of Health encourages everyone to continue in the campaign to know your HIV status

### More Belizeans benefit from dental service across the country

The Ministry of Health, Dental Health Department in collaboration with Belize Mission Project teamed up recently to once again provide free dental service across the country. The dental department is especially pleased that this effort assisted thirty four Belizeans with false teeth. Dr. Raphael Samos explained that the team was happy to provide the dentures that will improve an individual's speech and digestion but most of all improve that person's self esteem and physical appearance. The team headed by Dr. Frank Whipps included volunteer Dentists, Medical Practitioners, Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants and Lab Technicians from the United States. They carried out fillings, cleaning, fluoride treatments, sealants and tooth brushing

drills in the rural and urban communities of the Corozal, Belize, Stann Creek and The Toledo Districts. The target population were children at the Primary schools and persons who visited the Community Health Centers. The Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin congratulated the dental team from Dr. Otto Rodriguez Polyclinic in San Pedro Town and the team from Central Health Region in Belize City. The Ministry anticipates future partnerships to help extend services to even more Belizeans next year.

**Ministry of Health**  
**Belmopan**  
**822-2325/2363**

*The Ministry of Health wishes all Belizeans a very happy and healthy Christmas Season.*



# Book Review By Penny Casasola

## MY REFLECTIONS OF DENTISTRY IN BELIZE



BY

**Dr. Chris Bennett, Dental Surgeon  
B.D.S.(Univ. of London); L.D.S.R.C.S.(England);  
D.D.P.H. R.C.S.(England)**

**M**y Reflections of Dentistry in Belize" written by Dr. Chris. Bennett is a big picture approach to Dentistry in his homeland of Belize. Dr. Bennett cleverly takes one back in time to the Central American Country of Belize, to how life used to be for a young man growing up in Belize City, the book relates Dr. Bennett's drive to fulfill his career ambitions and to make life meaningful for himself, his nation and the world.

The book documents a proactive approach to oral health, and the struggles and achievement of a man of vision in the area of oral health. "The book is about the History, Attitudes and Culture of Dentistry and Dental Treatment in Belize" it describes the profound impact and transformation which can be achieved in our Belizean people, when a more positive atti-

tude is created towards Dentistry.

The period of time spans the 1960's to the new millennium. In the book Dr. Bennett takes one on a journey through his formative years in Belize to England and back to Belize. The book proves that Southside Belize young men who possess ambition, drive and perseverance can reach their highest career potential. He continuously displays these qualities throughout the book. As the Krem. TV slogan states "Show weself, see weself, be weself"

"My Reflections on Dentistry in Belize" by Dr. Chris Bennett describes how a stewardship approach of service before self interest allows Dr. Bennett to boldly step out with faith in God, his country, and his devotion to serve mankind universally. The book is about a community approach to Dental Health, it discusses the importance of nutrition and dental hygiene from the earliest stage of

life to dental care of the elderly.

The book should be of interest not only to Dentists and Historians, but to everybody. Besides having some practical aspects of Dental Health Education and Dental Disease Prevention, a variety of topics are dealt with, which include Dental Tourism, Dental Folklores in Belize, the Mennonites in Belize, and Dental Treatment, Dental Diseases in Belize due to Ethnic Differences, Some Eating Habits in Belize which affect Good Dental Health etc.

In the book entitled "My Reflections of Dentistry in Belize" written by Dr. Chris. Bennett, the writer discusses how dental health evolved into a public health priority in the country of Belize and he gives credit to and acknowledges all who pio-

neered Dental Health in Belize. Of great interest to me is his diligence in the research and his systematic documentation on the School Dental Programs he collaborated in. This book makes an excellent gift. The book has a number of interesting historical photographs, is full of humor, it is enlightening, and easy to read and should be a required reading in schools. "My Reflections of Dentistry in Belize" is a must read for all who desire a beautiful smile and good health.

After reading the Book, "You will extract the truth and not the tooth".

*(The Book "My Reflections of Dentistry in Belize" can be bought at Dr. Bennett's Dental Clinic(2230404) Or Brodies and Angelus Press for \$35.)*

# Sigamos con



# Ramon

# "el Campeon"



# UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## Belmopan City Council Candidates

# March 2012



### **Simeon Lopez – Mayoral Candidate**

Educator for 40 years; Graduate of Western Australia School of Advanced Education- Perth Australia; Resident of Belmopan for 38 years; Completing second term as Mayor of Belmopan.



### **Joel Westby**

Educator and community activist. Presently teaching at Kuxlin Ha Government School (Maya Mopan). Has worked with the Red Cross, HelpAge and Cancer Society and has served as an officer in the Volunteer Battalion of the Belize Defence Force. Internationally accredited softball umpire and current Chief Umpire for softball in the country of Belize.



### **Anna Guy**

Community activist. A part of her neighborhood committee spearheading neighborhood initiatives and advocating for progress. Owner of Emjay's Beauty Salon.



### **Amilcar Umaña**

Educator at the Belmopan Comprehensive School since 1991 and head of the Information Technology department for the past nine years. Graduate of the University of Belize with summa cum-laude distinction. CXC examiner since 1998 and co-author of five computer textbooks; presently pursuing double Masters Degree in Information Technology.



### **Steven W. O'Brien**

Certificate in Economics, Sixteen years experience in Accounting and Management of Food, Beverage, Construction and Tourism Industries, Community Organizer, Sports Organizer, Social and Cultural Activist.



### **Tita Balona**

Primary school teacher at St. Martin's Primary School in Salvapan, Belmopan. Currently pursuing a degree in primary education at the University of Belize.



### **Victor Perdomo**

Businessman. Currently pursuing a Law Degree. Served as Deputy Mayor and councillor for two terms.