

STAR

"The Newspaper That Cares And Dares To Bring Out The Truth"



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PUP CAYO NORTH STANDARD BEARER ARRESTED FOR HANDLING STOLEN GOODS

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Monday, March 31, 2008:

Handling stolen goods is a crime that often times goes unreported in the media, however the situation changes somewhat when the person facing such charges is in the spotlight.

San Ignacio police reports the Thursday night, March 27, arrest of **Otto Coleman**, PUP Candidate in the Cayo North Division, on a single charge of handling stolen goods.

The arrest stems from a report by San Ignacio businessman **Julio Hegar** who told the police that sometime between March 21 and 25, 2008, someone entered his premises and stole the back windshield from his 1987 Izuzu Trooper valued at \$100.

Hegar said that at first he was



Otto Coleman

going to let it slide but after careful consideration, and particularly given the brazen action of the intruder to have actually entered his premises to get the item, he decided to proceed with requesting court action on the matter.

Police investigation subsequently led to Otto Coleman's Thornley

Street residence in San Ignacio Town, where the windshield was recovered.

The discovery led to the arrest, on a theft charge, of **Ruben "Cofox" Arnold**, 38, Belizean laborer of San Ignacio Town.

Cofox appeared in court on Tuesday, March 25, where he pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$600.00 in default six months imprisonment. He was given until June 16, 2008 to pay the fine.

The report also led to the arrest of Otto Coleman on the charge of handling stolen goods. He was released that same Thursday night on a \$500 police bail and was ordered to return to court the following morning.

In the absence of magistrate **Kathlene Lewis** who was on official duties elsewhere, the Clerk of Court was called in on Friday morning and the bail was renewed as Coleman was ordered to reappear in court on Monday, March 31.

Coleman appeared before Magistrate Kathlene Lewis as ordered. He pleaded not guilty to the charge and was offered bail in the sum of \$1,000 to reappear in court on Monday 26 May.



Ruben "Cofox" Arnold

In an interview with the **STAR Newspaper**, Coleman expressed confidence that he will be exonerated from the charge describing it as nothing more than a politically motivated act.

He said that he was surprised when he learnt that he would be criminally charged as he had freely assisted the police with the investigation and recovery of the item.

He does not deny that the item was found at his residence but said that although he could have used it to replace the one broken from his vehicle, he had no intention of utilizing that specific one because he had already gotten one, free of charge,

Turn To Page 2

Central Business Community Says Thank You

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Wednesday, March 26, 2008:

Members of the central business community comprising that area of Savannah Street, Hudson Street and Burns Avenue in central San Ignacio Town extends a **"BIG THANK YOU"** to San Ignacio's **Principal Fire Officer, Mr. Ernest Dominguez** and the officers under his command as well as to **Mayor John August** for the consideration demonstrated in addressing the dusty condition which, over the past several days, was the cause of major discomfort in the area.

At the request of the Town Council, Mr. Dominguez and his

officers, with assistance from the local branch of the Belize Water Services Limited, mounted a community operation during which the streets in the affected area were watered and washed of the dust gathered produced by a recent earth movement project in the area.

The business community therefore extends a heartfelt thank you to all the parties involved in this show of concern for those of us who do business in the area.

This undertaking is a clear indication of that which can be achieved when the local authorities work in harmony for the greater good of the people.

Fuel Prices Gone Up Again

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Sunday, March 23, 2008:

Just in case you noticed that the usual \$20.00 worth of fuel you normally put in your vehicle did not quite take the fuel gauge where it did a few weeks ago, that's because at midnight on Holy Saturday, March 22, the price of fuel prices went up

again for the umpteenth time.

The hardest hit in this latest increase was diesel fuel which was increased by a whopping 81 cents per gallon – from \$8.21 to \$9.02.

Regular and super gasoline both went up by 20 cents per gallon – from \$9.60 to \$9.80 and from \$9.85 to \$10.05 respectively.

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NO INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY RATES We Predict That More Good Things Are Yet To Come On February 7, 2008 - The People Voted For A Change

The road to success, it is said, is paved with good intentions. Reality has shown however, that external influences often times have a tendency to derail the actions of those with good intentions.

Let us take for example the recent rejection by the PUC of BEL's request for a 15% hike in electricity rates, except for **John Avery**, editor of the Guardian Newspaper who only on March 1, 2008, was appointed to the commission, all other 6 members have been serving for many years, some from the inception of the commission in 1999. These are the very same people who religiously approved every single previous request for rate increases submitted by the BEL over the years. In fact, they even approved one such request that was made on the very day that BEL/Fortis was inaugurating the new hydro facility at Chalillo.

Prior rate increases were approved, almost as if automatically, by this same commission at a time when oil prices were not even increasing at the rate that it has gone up since they approved the last hike.

Now all of a sudden, despite sharper increases in fuel prices, the PUC has come to its senses and are now saying that which Belizeans have been saying for all these years - **"BEL has made enough money off our backs and should therefore sacrifice a slight decrease in its tens of millions of dollars in annual profits and secondly the BEL must tighten its belt by reducing management and operating costs"** - It looks as if all of a sudden the PUC was shaken from its slumber and are only now echoing the sentiments of those who have been punishing under the weight of BEL's burdensome rates.

Belizeans are generally people of good intentions. It could therefore be deduced that those serving on the PUC had every good intention but that the dreaded **"external influence"** was constantly derailing their desire to express that hallmark Belizean trait of good intentions.

On February 7, 2008 the Belizean people went to the polls

and marked that sacred **"X"** specifically to remove that external influence that was choking the life blood out of the nation.

On February 7, 2008 the Belizean people went to the polls and gave the PUC and other similar slumbering toothless institutions of government that wake up call.

On February 7, 2008 the Belizean people went to the polls and gave that wake up call even to the PUP themselves and so when they had a chance to choose a leader this past Sunday, with eyes wide open, they went to the polls and registered their dissatisfaction with the **Said Musa/Ralph Fonseca** clan by voting against their anointed choice, **Francis Fonseca**.

How many more strikes does Said Musa need for him to realize that he is **"O-U-T"**. We have all heard the phrase **"Three strikes and you are O-U-T."** Said Musa now has four strikes - **STRIKE 1:** Municipal Elections 2006 - (7-0). **STRIKE 2:** Village Council Elections 2007. **STRIKE 3:** General Elections 2008 (25-6) and now **STRIKE 4:** His very Inter-Party Leadership Elections 2008 where his choice to take over the leadership of the fragmented PUP was defeated at the polls.

The general feeling is that **Prime Minister Dean Barrow** and his government is on the right track. The nation now anxiously awaits the first real sitting of the House of Representatives and the announcement of the removal of the burdensome GST for basic

food items and medicines.

And while the government continues to address the needs of the people, it must be ever mindful of those PUP moles in the service especially those serving on the front lines that are hell bent on making the administration look bad. One of the many examples is that Customs Officer at the Western Border, who under the previous administration would allow struggling Belizeans to pass with the little item now and then but who now has been transformed

into a hawk at the Western Border **"Quitarling"** every little bit he can from poor people thereby giving the impression that the previous PUP government was more lenient whilst this **"big bad UDP government"** is coming crashing down on their heads - As he displays that **"Don't blame me - It was you who voted for the UDP"**, attitude.

The government must rid itself of these moles in the system as its every good intention will be undermined by these moles in the system.

Andy Palacio's WATINA in Garifuna

Wátina. Sítina. Dimuretina tuma lugunena mua Máhati ayudante lanügünina

Arihabei lásügürün amuleñei le ya lémeri wageira Sügürügü sügürügü ugunei

Bungiu Baba, sánsibei me ei niwiwan nu aü lidan irumu le

Mama luéigien nariengu bun aü luni basansiruni niwiwan luni báfarunina giraraü yebe bana ya lun ügüriu me Dagagüdarau yebe bana ya lun ügüriu me

Gálati nubusedun. Gebegiti nupasei ei, menege hamutina gaseinsutian.

The English Version Of WATINA

I called out. I whistled. I shouted at the vehicle. The person refused to pick me up.

Just look at this brother suffering here on our country's roads. The vehicles just keep passing him by.

Oh God, please change my life this year. I ask you to change my

life but please do not take it away Please leave me here where I can be a bothersome spirit. Just leave me here where I can be a bothersome spirit.

I have money in my pockets. I can pay my fare but my appearance does not make me look rich.

PUP CAYO NORTH STANDARD BEARER ARRESTED.....

From Front Page

from an acquaintance.

He said that whenever the evidence is presented in court, it will be confirmed that he had absolutely no intention to handle that piece of stolen goods.

Coleman informed that Cofox brought the article to his residence over the Easter Holiday and left it in clear view on a table under his house but since he was busy with his family over the holiday he did not even have time to bother with. He said the he recalls specifically asking Cofox to present the seller before any

transaction could take place.

Coleman said that the timing of this incident is very unfortunate especially at this time when he was getting ready to call it quits with the PUP and is seriously thinking about returning to his roots in the UDP especially after the results of Sunday's PUP leadership convention which resulted in the defeat of the candidate he was supporting.

Coleman who is an accountant by profession said that he intends to engage the services of an attorney to deal with this latest stumbling block in his path.



Julio Hegar's Trooper with the missing back glass

STAR Newspaper

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Galen University Hosts Caracol Presentation

GALEN UNIVERSITY, Central Farm, Cayo, Wednesday, March 26, 2008:

The Caracol - YCD (Youth Communication Development) group of Galen University today gave its students an insight of the photography world.

Their exhibition, “*Living On The Borderline*”, is currently hanging in University’s Lecture Hall.

The purpose of the exhibition was to share the experience of twenty two young Belizean and Guatemalans, past and present members of the Caracol Photography Club in Arenal.

The material on display is the end product of two years work. Each club member participated with their own banner, which shows a main image, a self portrait and a short text in Spanish and English telling the viewer the story behind the photo.

The exhibition opening was very

interesting with three club members doing a presentation.

Galen’s Belizean and international students asked many questions. They especially wanted to know if the Guatemalan claim to Belizean territory had any affects on their group, and the answer was a resounding NO.

Galen hopes to host the club again in the near future, as its students were very interested in their creative work.

Police Takes Possession Of Suspicious Vehicle

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Monday, March 31, 2008:

On Thursday, March 27, 2008, the attention of San Ignacio Police was drawn to the presence of a late model Blue Nissan Frontier pickup truck, with at least two inconsistent features, in the parking lot at Café Sol in San Ignacio Town.

The inconsistencies included a pair of government license plates CY-C-1511 and what appeared to

be a bogus RF&G Insurance sticker.

Investigation revealed that the vehicle was left in the parking lot a week earlier on Holy Thursday, March 20 and had not moved since.

Police informed that set of blue government license plates on the vehicle were actually assigned to a 1993 Toyota 4 Runner attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that the 4 Runner has been out of commission for several years.

Police suspect to vehicle to be

stolen possibly from Independence Village.

The vehicle was removed from the parking lot to San Ignacio Police Station compound then, on Monday March 31, it was transferred to Police Headquarters for further investigation.



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Galen University Celebrates Culture Day

BY: Rhondine Petrof, Program Coordinator, Belize Institute for Tropical Studies (BITS) GALEN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, Central Farm, Cayo, Tuesday, March 25, 2008:

Galen University announces the celebration of Culture Day 2008 at the University's Campus in Central Farm, Cayo.

The program of events begins promptly at 11:00 am on Friday, April 4, with the arrival of Belize's Governor General, **Sr. Colville N. Young** and **Lady Young**.

The Governor General and Lady Young as well as other special invited guests will be introduced to the gathering by **Dr. Colin Young**, Assistant Professor of Ecology and Environmental Science, who along with Economics Student, **Carmencita Sosa** will be serving as Master and Mistress of Ceremonies respectively.

The opening ceremonies includes the playing of the National Anthem of Belize; A welcome address by the University's Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, **Dr. Eve Aird** and the announcement of judges as well as the generous sponsors of the event after which the Governor General and Lady Young will join members of the University's faculty and staff for a

luncheon hosted by Dr. Eve Aird and Dr. Colin Young.

Cultural presentations will be featuring performances by students from the University of Vermont; as well as from the Mennonite, Mestizo, Swedish, Garifuna, Irish and Kriol groups.

There will also be a presentation of Belizean short stories from the Kriol culture by the Governor General and a presentation of the poem *"Drums of our Father"* by **E. Roy Cayetano**.

The event was designed to involve students in an activity that honors their differences and give them a chance to exchange cultural knowledge with others.

"I am very eager to learn about the international students that attend Galen University," said **Ashanti Garcia**, Student Coordinator of Culture Day, who also suggested the idea to administrators. Galen University takes this time and opportunity to thank all its sponsors and participants.

Galen University hopes to have your support again next year since we are planning to make this an annual event.

Primary and secondary schools from the areas that are scheduled to tour the various multicultural displays and booths include St. Barnabas Primary School from Central Farm; St. Hilda's Primary School from

Georgeville; Eden and St. Ignatius High Schools from Santa Elena; San Ignacio's Sacred Heart College as well as Santa Elena and Eden Primary

Schools.

The event will end at around 4:30 with the announcement of winners and a vote of thanks by **Jody Williams**.



THE BELIZE MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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Email: belmeddenassoc@gmail.com

Website: www.bmdaonline.org

PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

Valley of Peace, April 1, 2008:

The Belize Medical and Dental Association (BMDA) in partnership with the Challenge Gobie Foundation conducted an outreach clinic involving 16 volunteer Belizean medical professionals and support staff in the Valley of Peace area.

The clinic began at 9:00 a.m. on 16th March and the last patients were seen at around 6:00 p.m. that day.

A total of 141 patients including men, women and 53 children were seen by a team that included 5 general practitioners, 5 specialists, a registered nurse, and three pharmacy technicians.

A part of the sponsorship by the Challenge Gobie Foundation included funds for the purchase of medication for the villagers attending the clinic.

The BMDA would like to thank the following medical professionals for volunteering their time:

OBGYN Specialist: Dr. Mauricio Navarette - **Urologist:** Dr. Marcos Rugama - **Anesthesiologist:** Dr.

Beatriz Thompson - Vice President BMDA

MBA Public Health: Dr. Aisha Andrewin..Two drivers from the Ministry of Health. Approximately 6 Community Health Workers One Volunteer: Mr. Thompson

General Practitioners: Dr. Martha Habet - President BMDA, Dr. Johanne Perez - Executive Member BMDA, Dr. F. Gutierrez - Secretary BMDA, Dr. Silvio Correa, Dr. Omar Aviles, Dr. Crespo, Dr. Stephen Daly and Nurse Casey.

Pharmacists: Wilhelm Wade, Trina Samuda, Venia DePaz and Pharmacy student: Hsieu Li Chen

The BMDA is active in providing free medical clinics to rural parts of the country using Belizean expertise. The Challenge Gobie Foundation was founded by Belize Natural Energy's Production Manager, Alan Gobie and is dedicated to the support of medical needs of underprivileged Belizean children.

We hereby thank all who gave of their time and resources for this worthy cause.



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Hon. Carlos Perdomo's Working Tour Of The West

CAYO DISTRICT, Friday, March 28, 2008:

Continuing on his countrywide working tour, Minister of National Security **Hon. Carlos Perdomo** today made several stops in the west.

The first stop was at the San Ignacio Police Station where he was met by Commissioner of Police **Gerald Westby** and the Officer Commanding the Cayo (Police) District, Sr. Superintendent **David Henderson**.

After inspecting a guard of honor mounted by personnel from the San Ignacio Police detachment, Minister Perdomo received the keys to a new Mielun trail bike for use by the San Ignacio detachment. The motorcycle which came courtesy of the Twin Towns Crime Committee was handed over by the committee's president, **John Acott**. In thanking the committee for the generous donation, Minister Perdomo assured them that the motorcycle will be put to good use by the detachment.

The Minister was then ushered into the recreation hall where a two hour meeting was held with the staff, members of the Twin Town Crime Committee and personnel from the Citizens on Patrol program.

The meeting began with a welcome address delivered by the formation's Deputy Commander, Assistant Superintendent **Eugenio Fuentes** after which the formation's Commander, Sr. Supt. **David Henderson** presented a power point synopsis of the aims, objectives and challenges confronting the formation. The presentation was followed by remarks from the Minister and the Commissioner of Police.

In addressing the two primary concerns relating to personal and vehicle shortage, Minister Perdomo informed that two new vehicles have been earmarked for assignment to the San Ignacio Police Station and that increased personnel will be drawn from the new recruit squad upon completion of training in May.

The opportunity was also taken to recognize Special Constable **Wayne Myvett** as Officer for the Month of December and PC #1121 **Ciriaco Medina** as Officer for the Month of January 2008.

SC Myvett and PC Medina were each presented with a \$100 cash award courtesy of Mayor **John August** and the Town Council in keeping with the council's commitment to the police.



PC Ciriaco Medina (L)
SC Wayne Myvett (R)



Hon. Carlos Perdomo (L) addressing members of the San Ignacio Police Detachment. Compol. Gerald Westby (C)
Sr. Supt. David Henderson (R)

The next stop was at the BDF post in Succotz village where, in the company of retired General **Lloyd Gillett**, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of National Security; Minister Perdomo was met by the Officer Commanding Cayo's Belizario Camp, Col. **Omar Pulido**. Upon arrival the minister was given a situation briefing and needs report by the Commanding Sergeant. Minister Perdomo committed to taking action to address the immediate needs of the soldiers manning the post.



Commanding Sergeant Briefing

From Succotz village the tour proceeded into Benque Viejo Town stopping at the police station. The program began with the inspection of an honor guard after which the Minister, in the company of Commissioner Westby and CEO Gillett, was invited into the recreation hall where the detachment's Commanding Officer, Superintendent **Louise Willis**, presented a detailed overview of the formation's aims, objectives and needs.



Inspecting the Guards in Benque Viejo along with Supt L. Willis (L)

The Police, both in San Ignacio and Benque Viejo, expressed concern on the matter of allowances and benefits. Minister Perdomo informed that

Prime Minister Barrow is committed to improving and upgrading the terms and conditions of service for the police which specifically includes a revision of benefits and allowances. He informed that the Commissioner of Police has already been tasked to conduct the review for presentation to cabinet as early as possible.

The police also expressed concern about what they termed as non-existent guidelines for promotions within the department. Minister Perdomo informed that the Ministry is in the process of establishing specific policies and guidelines to address this concern even to the extent of possibly legislating these guidelines and requirements with a view to discourage future abuses. He additionally informed that the department is seeking to revive the Police Association specifically to provide the enabling environment for members of the department to meaningfully voice their concerns.

In addressing the crime situation, Minister Perdomo informed of the rebirth of the Conscious Youth Development Program (CYDP) which will begin first in Belize City and later expanded to other districts.

Minister Perdomo additionally informed that while government is committed to addressing the needs of the police, ***"We will be hard against corruption and wrongdoings in the ministry and all its corresponding departments."***

I want all of you to fully understand that there is no room for corruption in the government and in the ministry. This is

something that will not be tolerated" said Minister Perdomo.

The next stop was at the Western Border Station where Minister Perdomo was met by the Immigration Officer in Charge, **Mrs. Sharon Flowers**, along with Supervisors **Antonio Teck**, **Eldon Gillett** and **Ruby Gutierrez**. The Immigration officials took the opportunity to brief the Minister on personnel and staffing matters as well as the inadequate state of the department's computer equipment and other pressing needs such as inadequate detention cells, filing cabinets and office furniture.



Mrs. Sharon Flowers briefing the Minister on Immigration Personnel matters at the BWBS

Also at the Western Border Station Minister Perdomo, along with CEO Gillett, proceeded to the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in the adjacency zone Belize-Guatemala where they entered into private discussions with Director **Miguel Angel Trinidad**. The discussion centered around the illegal settlement of Guatemalans at Santa Rosa focusing on the progress of the repatriation process as well as the coordination of activities between security forces on both sides of the border.



With CEO Gillett (L) & Director Trinidad (R)

Returning from the Western Border Station and at the invitation of the village policeman, PC# 22 **Bernard Villanueva**, Minister Perdomo's final stop was at the police sub-station in Succotz village where PC Villanueva proudly presented most of the 95 members of the community's Police Cadet Corp. In addressing the cadets Minister Perdomo encouraged them to stay on the right track and to grow into productive citizens of Belize. The seven hour ministerial working tour ended at 5:30 p.m.



Meeting the Succotz Cadets

Letters to the Editor

Solar Power Does Not Come Cheap

Dear Editor;

I enjoyed reading Dr. Leo Obando's article about Solar power in last weekend's edition of the **STAR Newspaper** on line. I just wanted to comment on it a little bit.

It makes sense to have solar power as an alternative or eventually the main source of power. However, I have been researching it and found out it

does not come cheap. It's too expensive for the common folk to invest in it.

I think that Dr. Obando is preaching to the choir. I would love to use power that is beneficial to the environment but it also has to be practical.

It would help if he has a plan in mind. Does he have a website for more information?

Mike R.

Belizeans Interested In Solar Power

Dear Editor;

Thank you for publishing my article "*Belize can go Solar*" and for the editorial of the Easter weekend.

I already have Belizeans interested in getting more information on Solar Energy and

that is a good sign. I will provide them with that information.

Again, thank you and I will keep in touch with you and the readers of the **STAR Newspaper** from Europe. I return to Spain on April 4, 2008.

Leo Obando



The two Ms. Janes - Jane Hail, the victim, (R) and her friend Ms. Jane Hertz, an equally active volunteer in the community

Romolo Popper Jr Gets Six Months For Thieving From Ms. Jane Hail

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 31, 2008:

Romolo Popper Jr. 18, Belizean laborer of an Independence Lane address in San Ignacio Town was today sentence to spend the next 6 months in jail after pleading guilty to committing the crime of "*Theft From The Person.*"

San Ignacio Police reports that at around 10:30 am on Tuesday, March 25, Popper rode up from behind **Ms. Jane Hail**, 69, American volunteer teacher of a 4th Street address in San Ignacio, as she was walking in front of the Cafe Sol Restaurant also in San Ignacio Town.

Ms. Jane said that she had just left the office of Cayo Cable Vision in front of the BTL office on Burns Avenue after making queries about her cable service that was disconnected in error.

"*I was walking back home*" said Ms. Jane, "*When this person rode up on a bicycle from behind and grabbed my brown leather purse and he began to ride up West Street contrary to the flow of traffic. I set chase behind him and began shouting for help indicating that this person had just robbed me. The employee for a coke delivery truck was further up the street and when the robber saw that I was serious about getting after him he threw my brown purse to the side of the street but he had already emptied it of its contents. Which included several cards, the receipt from the cable company which resembled a cheque and \$322 dollars in cash.*"

With the assistance of **Sergeant Zuniga** from Benque Viejo Police along with a mobile patrol in the area, Ms. Jane was able to spot the robber from a distance on Joseph Andrews Drive.

The suspect was apprehended and a search of his person led to the discovery of all the cash, the cards



Romolo Popper Jr. 18

and the cable receipt made out in the name of David Neathrill.

On Monday, March 31, Popper appeared before magistrate Kathlene Lewis in San Ignacio Town where he pled guilty to the charge of theft from the person.

After offering no objections to the facts of the case as presented by prosecutor George Gomez, Popper was sentenced to spend the next 6 months behind the walls of the Belize Central Prison in Hattieville.

In summing up the experience Ms. Jane told the STAR that "*When the incident occurred I was angry and I was determined to get back my property, that is the reason why I set chase after this much younger person. Despite the incident, I am not afraid. I understand the crime situation because there's a lot more crime where I come from in the States. This one incident will not dampen my spirits. I will continue walking the streets of San Ignacio because I love this place and the people who live here*" concluded Ms. Jane.

Ms. Jane has been living in San Ignacio since 2006. As a retired teacher, she continues to volunteer in the field of education. Her most recent project is the setting up of a library at St. Andrews Anglican Primary School in San Ignacio Town with over 2,600 books that she brought into the library.

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Bredda Allen - Another Victim Of The Senseless Wave Of Murders On The Streets Of Belize City

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Thursday, March 27, 2008:

He went from Santa Elena to Belize City several weeks ago in search of employment but instead he encountered death on the dangerous south side streets of the city.

It was shortly after 7:30 on the night of Holy Sunday, March 23, when Belize City police responded to reports of the sound of a single gun shot in the area of Tenchie's Los Cocos Club on Armadillo Street in Belize City.

When police arrived on the scene, near the park, they found a male person on the ground suffering from a single gunshot injury in the region of the right eye. The injured man was immediately transported, in an unconscious state, to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where he was identified as **Windel Alexander "Bredda" Allen**, 31, Belizean laborer of an Up-The-Hill address in Santa Elena Town, Cayo.

After working on the patient for over two hours, doctors exited the emergency room with the report that the impact of the single bullet produced irreversible damage to the brain. The victim was classified as brain dead and placed on life support while awaiting family members to



In happier days, Windel Alexander "Bredda" Allen (R) and aunt Isolene Estell

make the difficult decision of letting go.

The victim's maternal aunt, **Isolene Estell**, with whom he was lodging at #7177 Queen Charlotte Street in Belize City, told the media that *"The bullet went in near his eyes and the bone diverted it upwards shattering his brains. From that moment he was unconscious and unresponsive. The life support is what kept him alive until my sister (his mother) came yesterday. We waited until she*

came from Cayo and then the decision was made to take him off the life support."

Armed with information from several eye witnesses, police instantly mounted a massive manhunt with a specific aim. The hunt continued throughout the night and just as the sun was rising in the eastern sky, at around 4:30 that Monday morning, police laid hands on the two prime suspects identified as brothers **Nelson Martinez**, 19, and **Gilbert Martinez**, 22, both residing at #19 West Street, Belize City.

According to ASP (Assistant Superintendent of Police) **Aaron Guzman**, Officer Commanding Belize City's Eastern Division Crime Investigation Branch, preliminary investigation revealed that the Martinez brothers were aggrieved over a gun that had previously gone missing and more recently they were also looking for a cellular telephone that was robbed from one of them earlier that same day when they came upon the deceased and a few friends who were gathered near the park. One of them asked for the return of the telephone. After no one in the group presented the telephone, the brothers reportedly walked away.

Probably sensing the impending danger, several of the guys departed



Gilbert Martinez, 22

the area. The Martinez brothers returned shortly thereafter only this time riding separate bicycles. One of them approached the deceased and asked him about the whereabouts of the person they were looking for. When the deceased told them that he did not know where the person went,



Nelson Martinez, 19

one of them pulled out a small object, pointed it at the victim's face. A single shot instantly broke the silence of the early night. The victim fell to the ground and those who were in his company fled to safety. The Martinez

Please Turn To Page 8



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STAR HUMOR




Participating In Your Children Education - Priceless

Dave enters Save U Supermarket at the foot of the Belcan Bridge in Belize City and notices an attractive woman waving at him.

He is rather taken a back because he can’t place where he knows her from.

So he goes over to her and says, **“Do you know me?”**

The woman replies, **“I think**

Joe Is Still Singing

Joe was on death row. He was scheduled to die by hanging the next morning.

The prison guards were eager to comply with the Governor General’s show of mercy by granting him one final wish given that a hanging had not taken place in more than half a century in Belize.

The guards told him that whatever his wish, their supreme instructions was to comply.

At the coaxing of the guards Joe refused a special meal; he refused special clothing; he refused a final moment with the prison priest; he refused to be with his wife, he refused

Changing The Priority For Quick Response

George Phillips was going to bed last night when his wife told him that there were some strange noises coming from the tool shed.

George looked through the window and saw some men in the tool shed in the process of stealing his things.

He immediately phoned the police, who asked **"Are they inside your house?"**

“No” said George **“but they are stealing my tools from the shed.”**

The officer on the phone explained that there was no vehicle at the station and that George should stay inside his house until a vehicle is available.

"Okay," said George. He hung up the phone and counted to 30 then

Sister Mary Jean With The Right Answer

Three friends; **John, James** and **Charlie**, were standing behind a group of nuns at the Memorial Park last Saturday afternoon waiting to witness the finishing of the Annual Cross Country Cycling Classic.

The nuns’ head gears were blocking the three friends’ view of the finishline.

The guys decided to harass them in an effort to get them to move out of the way.

In a very loud voice, John said, **"I think I'm going to move to Orange Walk Town because there are only 100 nuns living there."**

James spoke up and said, **"I want to go to Dangriga, there are only 50 nuns living there."**

Charlie said, **"I think that I am going to move to Punta Gorda because there are only 15 nuns living there."**

One of the nuns turned around, looked at the men, and in a very

you’re the father of one of my kids.”

Now his mind travels back to the only time he has ever been unfaithful to his wife and says, **“Oh My God, are you the stripper from my bachelor party.”**

She looks into his eyes and says calmly, **“No, I’m your son’s teacher.”**

to be with his children; he refused everything.

Then the time came for him to enter the gallows. As the rope came around his neck, Joe spoke, **“Music has always been an important part of my life. My final wish is to sing my favorite song, without interruptions, one last time before I die”** he said.

“It’s the Governor General’s orders and we must comply” said the Chief Guard. **“Go right ahead Sir, sing your song.”** said the Guard.

And Joe began, **“One Billion bottles of beer on the wall...”**

phoned the police again.

"Hello, my name is George Phillips, I just called you a few seconds ago and reported that there were some people in my tool shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I've just shot them all."

He hung up and within five minutes three police vehicles, a BDF Response Team and two ambulances showed up. Of course, the police caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the policemen said to George: **"I thought you said that you shot them!"**

George said, **"I thought you said that your did not have any vehicle."**

sweet, calm, voice said, **"Why don't you all go to hell because there aren't any nuns living there."**





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Ooops, Guess I Got The Wrong Number

“Hello?”

“Hi honey. This is Daddy. Is Mommy near the phone?”

“No Daddy. She's upstairs in the bedroom with Uncle Paul.”

After a brief pause,

“But honey, you don’t have an Uncle Paul.”

“Oh yes I do, and he is upstairs with Mommy, right now.”

BRIEF PAUSE.

“Uh, okay then, this is what I want you to do. Put the phone down on the table, run upstairs and knock on the bedroom door and shout to Mommy that Daddy's car just pulled into the driveway.”

“Okay Daddy, just a minute.”

A few minutes later

“I did it Daddy.”

“And what happened honey?”

“Well, Mommy got all scared,

jumped out of bed with no clothes on and ran around screaming. Then she tripped over the rug, hit her head on the dresser and now she isn't moving at all.”

“Oh my God!!! What about your Uncle Paul?”

“He jumped out of the bed with no clothes on, too. He was all scared and he jumped out of the back window and into the swimming pool. But I guess he didn't know that you took the water out of the pool last week to clean it. He hit the bottom of the pool and I think he is dead.”

LONG PAUSE....LONGER PAUSE....EVEN LONGER PAUSE.

Then Daddy says, **'Swimming pool!! what swimming pool? Is this 824-3741.**

Bredda Allen - Another Victim.....

Continued From Page 7

brothers jumped on their bicycles and disappeared into the darkness.

According to the aunt, Isolene Estell, the unexpected death of her nephew was a classic case of him being in the wrong place at the wrong time. She described him as being **“very kind and mannerly. He was not someone who would get in trouble. He came to Belize City to work and he only had one friend and that is the friend he went to visit when he was killed.”**

Although police strongly suspect the older Martinez brother, Gilbert, to be the trigger man, the brothers were nevertheless jointly charged for the indictable crimes of murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

They were arraigned in Magistrate Court #1 before **Chief Magistrate Margaret Gabb Mckenzie** on Tuesday, March 25 and were remanded to the Hattieville Central Prison for the next court date on Thursday, April 3, 2008.

Windel Allen is survived by his

parents **David Alexander** and **Brenda Allen**; brothers **David Jr.** and **Phillip Allen**; sisters, **Helen, Idolly** and **Maria Allen**. He is also survived by several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins as well as other relatives and countless friends.

The loss of a loved one is never easy on a family. The loss is more difficult when it is sudden and brutal. This was the sentiment expressed by the grieving mother, **Mrs. Brenda Allen**, who in the face of the sudden loss of a son told the media **“I have heard about incidents like these. I have seen mothers crying and I have always had pity for these mothers. I saw their hurt. Now I am personally feeling the pain and it really hurts. It hurts so bad.”**

Windel Alexander “Bredda” Allen was laid to rest on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at the Carmen Memorial Cemetery in Santa Elena after 3:00 pm funeral services at St. Ignatius Church also in Santa Elena. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



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To The Belize Electricity Limited NO INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY RATES

BELIZE CITY, Friday, March 28, 2008:

Government business normally closes at 4:30 pm on Fridays for the weekend, and so it was at this 11th hour today when the news squeezed out of the offices of The Public Utilities Commission informing that the PUC was rejecting the request from the Belize Electricity Limited's request for a 15% hike in electricity rates

Fifteen days earlier, on March 13 the BEL submitted four proposals to the PUC for consideration as part of the Tariff Event Review Proceeding (TERP) in which the company was requesting approval to increase electricity by an average of 15%, all four proposals were rejected by the PUC.

The request to increase electricity rates did not go down well with the Belizean people as was evident by the many telephone calls into the various

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **KARINA MORADEL** is applying for the renewal of her **RESTAURANT & BAR LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CAFE SOL** located on West Street, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **MARIA LUISA LOPEZ** is applying for the renewal of her **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **TURTLE BACK RESTAURANT** located in Bullet Tree Falls in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SAYRA JIMENEZ** is applying for the renewal of her **RESTAURANT & BAR LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **RESTAURANTE SAYRA** located at #7 Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **AMINI HABET** is applying for the renewal of her **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **SHELL SAN IGNACIO** located at #1 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

morning radio call-in shows.

The PUC is reported to have received 190 pieces of written comments all of which were against the rate hike.

In rejecting BEL's request, the PUC highlighted the following three points:

1) Given it's current revenue stream, the B.E.L can meet and satisfy its financial obligations in 2008.

2) The BEL can manage cash flow by reducing capital expenditure and operating costs and

3) In examining the BEL's Annual Review Proceeding (ARP) which will be submitted as early as Wednesday, April 2, the PUC will be seeking ways to minimize the impact on rates by analyzing the escalating balance on the Cost of Power Rate Stabilization Account which is said to be the result of increasing oil prices.

The PUC has announced that it

will be holding a press conference on Monday morning to provide further details on its decision.

BEL's Corporate Communications Manager, **Dawn Sampson** informed that the company is now reviewing this latest decision by the PUC.

The current seven commissioners of the PUC are:

Roberto Young (Director General and Chairman of the commission), **Eugene Cleland** (Director, Water & Waste Water as well as member of

the commission) **Ernest Alfred Chanona Jr.**, **Mary Martinez** (serving since the inception of the commission in 1999), **Harry Noble** (also serving since 1999), **Ilona Smiling** (since 1999), and **John Avery**, (Editor of the United Democratic Party's Guardian Newspaper who on March 1, 2008 replaced Attorney **Oscar Sabido** after Sabido declined reappointment at the expiration of his appointment February 29, 2008.

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This Week's Crime News From Police Press Office



Gunshot Kills Prison Officer On South Side Street

BELIZE CITY, Wednesday, March 26, 2008:

Belize City police were called out to the emergency unit of the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital at around 7:20 on Wednesday night where they encountered **Prison Officer Edgar Segura**, 24, of #2920 Flamboyant Street, Belize City, undergoing emergency surgery related to a gunshot wound in the region of his private parts.

Initial investigation revealed that at about twenty minutes earlier Segura was standing in front of a residence on Oleander Street on the south side of the city when a male person passed by firing several gun shots in his direction one of which caused the injuries.

Segura passed away about five and a half hours later whilst undergoing surgery.

Police investigations have since led to the arrest of **Leonard Casanova** and **Art Skeet** both of Belize City.



Art Skeet



Leonard Casanova

Taiwanese Charged For Murder of Fellow Taiwanese

BELIZE CITY, Saturday, March 29, 2008:

At around 5:30 pm this Wednesday, March 26, Belize City Police were called out to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where they found **Ivy Chan**, 41, Taiwanese Business woman with two gunshot wounds, one to the right side of her abdomen and the other to the lower back.

Also undergoing emergency treatment was **Chi Che Ong**, 50, Taiwanese Businessman he was found with a single gunshot wounds to the left side of the abdomen.

Police investigation revealed that on about half an hour earlier both Ivy Chan and Chi Che Ong were in their business place Belize Aluminum and Glass Limited located at 3 1/2 miles

on the Northern Highway when a Taiwanese man, identified as **Yung Zhang**, arrived. Shortly after Zhang's arrival, an argument erupted between all three persons.

It is reported that in the heat of the argument, Zhang reached into the right pocket of the jacket he was wearing, pulled out a 9mm pistol and squeezed off three shots. Two of the shots caught Ivy Chan and the third one caught Chi Che Ong.

Three days later at around 5:00 pm on Saturday, March 29, Chi Chen Ong passed away.

One of the two attempt murder charge against Yung Zhang has since been upgraded to murder thereby landing him inside the confines of the Belize Central Prison at Hattieville.

Another Youth Is Killed On South Side

BELIZE CITY, Sunday, March 30, 2008:

The senseless shooting deaths on the south side of Belize City is taking on a new and more brazen character as gunmen are now not waiting for the cover of darkness to commit these capital crimes.

It was a few minutes before 11:00 on the morning of Sunday, March 30, when police were summoned to the trauma center at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital to take note of the latest shooting death.

Initial investigation revealed that at around 10:40 am on the morning of Sunday, March 30, **Tyron "Bucket" Terrick Castellanos**, 20, of a Caesar Ridge Road address in Belize City and other persons were inside a yard at # 3 Central American Boulevard when an individual identified as **Charles Castillo**, also know as **Charles Wang**, along with

one **Cordel Flowers** and **Alrick Olivera** were seen walking from the direction of Arlington Drive and upon reaching in front of the house at #3 Central American Boulevard, several shots were fired.

The bullet which struck Castellanos is believed to have penetrated a sheet of zinc used as fencing for the yard. After receiving the shot to the back of the head, Castellanos reportedly fled to an area behind a wooden house in the yard where he collapsed. He was placed in the back of a truck and transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where he was officially pronounced dead.

Police investigations have since led to the arrest, on murder and conspiracy to commit murder charges, of all three accused.

They have all been remanded to the Belize Central Prison in Hattieville awaiting due process.

Swazo Shot In Independence Village

INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE, Stann Creek District, Sunday, March 23, 2008:

Nicolas Swazo 22, Belizean laborer of Independence Village reported to police at shortly after 10:30 on Easter Sunday night he was shot whilst was walking on a street in front of Polyclinic in the village.

In his statement to the police Swazo informed that a green Ford Ranger pickup truck without license plate

pulled up beside him and the next he heart were three distinct gunshot.

Swazo emerged from the incident with two gunshot wounds, one to the right side of chest and the other to lower section of the abdomen.

He was transported to the Southern Regional Hospital in a critical condition.

Independence police are following several leads but are yet to make an arrest as the investigation continues.

Three "Forgetful" Policemen Fired

BELMOPAN CITY, Monday, March 31, 2008:

The police press office today informed of the dismissal of the three notorious "forgetful" cops.

The release informed that "A correspondence from the office of the Solicitor General has confirmed the dismissal of Sgt. # 789 Anthony Polonio, Sgt. # 668 Clement Cacho, and PC. # 35 Darius Ramos."

The memo from the Sol Gen's Office states: "Having received the relevant disciplinary proceedings evidential documents, we hereby confirm the sentence of dismissal with effect from 23rd January 2008 as recommended."

The police press office release ends by informing that "The Commissioner of Police continues to emphasize zero tolerance for police misconduct."

The proceedings against the three "forgetful" cops arouse out of an incident in which they suddenly developed amnesia and were unable to identify the defendant when they took the witness stand in the case of the police versus Belize City businessman, **Ben Bou-Nahra**, charged for manslaughter in the September 17, 2005 shooting death of **Shawn Copius**.

A police disciplinary tribunal had initially found all three cops guilty of an act prejudice to good order and discipline and had recommended their dismissal from the department. This is the recommendation that was today confirmed by the office of the Solicitor General.

Although not mentioned in today's press release from the police, they are also facing criminal charges for perjury in connection with the same incident.

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Organic Vegetables In Cayo

By: Heather du Plooy, Certification Coordinator, BOPA
SAN IGNACIO, Cayo, Saturday, March 29th, 2008:

There is something new available at the San Ignacio market and it's good for all of us.

At first glance the buckets of tomatoes and sweet peppers, stacks of cabbage and big heads of lettuce sold by **Juan** and **Mattias Tun** of Santa Familia, look like all the rest. What sets these vegetables apart is a small sign that reads "**Organic Vegetables**".

The vegetables grown on the Tun farm have been endorsed by the Belize Organic Producers Association (BOPA).

The availability of organic produce means that people can now choose to consume foods free from synthetic chemicals when they go to the market.

At the moment organic farming in Belize is limited to the production of cacao farms in Southern Belize. Until very recently the Toledo Cacao Growers Association were the only ones obtaining certification through the UK based Soil Association. Now BOPA is working with Belizean



Juan Tun in his Santa Familia Farm

farmers to implement a national organic certification system.

Though the farms in Santa Familia have not yet been officially certified as organic, BOPA has regularly inspected the farms and crops at all stages of production to ensure that they are grown according to organic methods. While the process of official certification is underway vegetables can be sold as '*BOPA Approved*' which is an interim label

that means that the producing farm has been inspected by qualified members of the Belize Organic Producers Association (BOPA). BOPA member **Thomas Tillet**, from the Ministry of Agriculture, has been overseeing the production to ensure that the farm is managed according to organic standards.

The Belize Organic Producers Association (BOPA) was established in 2000 by a small group of

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technicians from the public and private sectors who recognized the need for the promotion of organic agriculture as a viable alternative production system for small and medium sized producers in Belize. The favorable response received from the private and public sector for national organic agricultural programs resulted in the formal registration of BOPA in April of 2002 under the Trade Union Act, Chapter 300 of the laws of Belize. Farmers that wish to be certified and join the Tun's as Belize's small but growing organic producers can contact **BOPA's certification coordinator, Heather duPlooy. (Tel: 824 - 3101; email: info@belizebotanic.org).**



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