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Editorial

Restoring Confidence In Our Justice System

The Attorney General's response to the Honorable Chief Justice's address during last Monday's ceremonial opening of the Supreme Court, should serve as an eye opener for many.

For one, it is a first in Belize's post-independence history in this kind of setting. One of the relics of the colonial era has always been the fear of repercussions associated with the slightest criticism of the justice system.

Admittedly deviating from the text of his prepared address, Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the **Honorable Wilfred "Sedi" Elrington**, minced no words in laying the cards on the table.

His eye opening revelation has created some reaction within the justice system. This has reportedly prompted the call for an emergency meeting this Friday with a view towards analyzing some of the points brought up by the learned Attorney General in his address.

We refer specifically to the Attorney General's pronouncement of the public perception of an erosion in the confidence of the justice system particularly when he mentioned the view that in some quarters there is the feeling that the court is dispensing more injustice than justice, and this could be attributed to the reason why an increasing number of persons are resorting to settling old beef outside of the justice system. This could most likely also be attributed to the high murder rate for which the Honorable Chief Justice

expressed concern during his presentation.

Without ruffling feathers, the Attorney General could have stuck to the text of his prepared address thereby continuing business as usual and the nation would have probably proceeded into yet another year of escalating violent crimes.

We trust that with this development and with Friday's meeting of Magistrates and Judges, the learned Chief Justice would have commenced a real soul searching exercise for the purposes of regaining and maintaining the public confidence in the judiciary being one of the pillars on which our democracy rests.

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**42A Western Highway,
Santa Elena, Cayo,
Belize, Central America**

Publisher: Alberto August
Editor: Nyani Azueta-August
Circulation: Errol Gonzalez

belizenorth.com/thestar.htm
belizenews.com/thestar
star.belizeanlife.com

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**Tel: 626-8822
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Mexico To Rethink Death Penalty

BY: Stephen Gibbs BBC News, Mexico City, Friday, January 23, 2009:

The Congress in Mexico has agreed to debate the issue of reinstating capital punishment for some crimes.

The move follows a surge in murders and kidnappings in the country, many linked to drug cartels and organised crime.

Mexico abolished capital punishment in 2005, but recent surveys suggest that 70% of Mexicans are in favour of the death penalty.

The campaign to reinstate judicial executions has, unusually, been led by Mexico's Green Party.

Hundreds of posters, carrying the Green Party logo, and demanding capital punishment for murderers and kidnappers have appeared all over Mexico City.

The party says it is simply conveying the voice of the people, but its opponents say it is playing politics.

No date has been set for the forums, which will bring together crime experts, academics and human rights campaigners.

The chances that the Mexican constitution will actually be amended currently appear remote. The government, church and human rights groups all strongly oppose reinstating capital punishment.

Mexico has long been a powerful voice in international forums calling for the abolition of capital punishment and has not carried out an execution since 1961. But millions of Mexicans are appalled by the rising insecurity in this country, and are looking for any means to control it.



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Corozal Police - Promoting Sports As An Alternative To Crime

BY: Supt. Miguel Guzman, RVM, LSM, MSM

Officer Commanding Corozal (Police) District

COROZAL TOWN, Monday, January 19, 2009:

In keeping with the Police Action Plan, Corozal police, this past weekend, launched the Police Athletic League Tournament which is geared towards keeping youths out of prison and inside the sporting arena.

The Corozal Police Formation began the drive this past Sunday with a football tournament.

To date six teams have registered while the invitation remains open for other teams desirous of

participating in the event. Registration is free of cost.

All games will be played in Corozal District on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The tournament is scheduled to last for 6 weeks concluding towards the end of February, 2009.

Trophies be awarded to winners teams.

The first game held at the Ricalde Stadium in Corozal Town on Sunday, January 18, 2009 with the Police Drifters going up against the team from Carolina Village. The Police Drifters won the game by three goals to one.

The next game scheduled for Thursday January 22, 2009.



Participating Teams in last Sunday's game - The Police Drifters (L) - The 4 Game Officials (C) - Carolina Village Team (R)

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Carnal Knowledge Charge Against Corporal Grinage Withdrawn

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Thursday, January 22, 2009:

Latest information reaching us indicate that after no less than nine adjournments, the unlawful carnal case against police corporal #536 Joel Grinage was withdrawn, reportedly for want of prosecution.

Corporal Grinage was initially arrested and charged for the crime on February 20, 2008 and after the fourth adjournment, the complainant, accompanied by her parents, visited the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) on June 12, 2008 where she informed that the statement she gave to the police was not true and that it was only given at the urging of the investigating corporal.



**Police Corporal
#536 Joel Grinage**

On that visit to the DPP's office the child's father reportedly expressed the desire not to proceed with the matter as the child was preparing to commence high school and he would not want the

matter to affect her school work.

The parents were advised to visit the San Ignacio police station and give a statement to that effect.

Notwithstanding the directive, it took five subsequent adjournments over the next five months for the charge to be finally withdrawn against corporal Grinage.

In addition to carnal knowledge, Corporal Grinage was likewise

facing a charge for extortion. Although this charge has not been formally withdrawn against the corporal, there are strong indication of the lack of interest to proceed with it.

By all indications, the interdiction against Corporal Joel Grinage has been lifted and he is currently on active duty at the Dangriga police station in the Stann Creek District.

Colombian Judge Sentences Ex-Mayor To 28 Years In Rare Conviction For Ordering Reporter Killed

By LIBARDO CARDONA, Associated Press Writer

2:38 PM EST, January 22, 2009

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

A Colombian judge has

sentenced a former mayor to 28 years in prison for ordering the April 2003 killing of a journalist who had repeatedly denounced the politician as corrupt.

Julio Cesar Ardila was among three men convicted in the murder of **Jose Emeterio Rivas** of the local radio station "*Calor Estereo*," who was shot to death in the steamy refinery city of Barrancabermeja on Colombia's main river, the Magdalena.

The sentence, handed down by judge **Nelly Vallejo** in the regional capital of Bucaramanga on January 13, only came to light Thursday after the InterAmerican Press Association's (IAPA) president, **Enrique Santos**, publicized it.

Santos, co-publisher of Bogota's El Tiempo newspaper, noted that it is rare in Colombia for the mastermind of a journalist's killing to be brought to justice.

In the past 15 years, 57 journalists have been killed in Colombia while exercising their profession, according to the IAPA, with more than 70 percent of those killings going unpunished.

Ardila, Barrancabermeja's mayor from 2000-2003, was arrested last year.

Rivas had accused him not just of corruption but also of ties to far-right militias of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, death squads that killed scores in the city as they rid it of alleged guerrilla sympathizers.

The key witness was a demobilized paramilitary gunman, Rayner Enrique Brokate, who said he was present when Ardila and the two other convicted men agreed to pay militia leaders about \$68,000 to kill the reporter.

The judge's sentence, which was obtained by The Associated Press, did not indicate whether the money was paid.

A day before he was killed, Rivas called Ardila "*a plunderer*" in a television appearance, according to the sentence.



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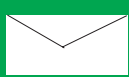
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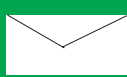
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Readers Write



Our Condolences To The Families

Dear Editor;

Thanks for the **STAR**. What the hell is happening! We're pretty sure that the house on George Price Avenue is the one we passed by everytime we walked into San Ignacio from the Aguada Hotel when we are in Belize.

Were the bad guys high on drugs or what? I mean they came out ready to kill...and they killed and in broad daylight.

So sorry for the family of the slain

security officer. What a pitiful loss. Then, on top of that, we read about the three kids who murdered the storeowner's son. We noted that all three were identified as Belizean labourers and not students, which at that age, they should have been. Really liked the write up of the bank robbery, it's good stuff. Very riviting. Keep up the good work, all the best,

**Brian and Evelyn,
Canada**

Where Have Our Borders Gone?

Dear Editor;

I quote from the front page sub-headline article in last week's edition of the **STAR** entitled "GUATEMALAN WALKS FREE OF ALL CHARGES".

"Information reaching us indicate that in presenting a no-case submission, the defense based its submission on the argument that the 1 kilometer adjacency zone and imaginary boundary line between Belize and Guatemala is the subject of ongoing negotiations between both countries and that a 1 kilometer intrusion is too slim a margin to actual convict the accused of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt.

The defense also convinced the court of the dubious reading of a Global Positioning System (GSP) and consequently the production of erroneous coordinates. The prosecution claimed."

So in effect the judge ruled that Belize does not have a clue as to where it's border with Guatemala is (exactly what the Guatemalans are saying). Furthermore, is this judge saying that Belize is not capable of properly reading the GPS to find out.

Maybe the judge should have called Guatemala and asked them if this man was in Belize or not since they seem convinced as to where the border actually is.

Al Eastmond, Bermuda



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The Actions Of Irresponsible People

Dear Editor;

It's a given that our streets and roads across the country are in bad condition due either to terrible weather conditions and in some cases - like sinking culverts on our highways - due to poor or total lack of maintenance. Whatever the cause, the Ministry of Works and Town Councils are doing their best to improve these conditions.

There are some people out there however, with very little or no civic pride, shamelessly breaking up our streets.

I am referring here specifically to those irresponsible people I saw this Tuesday evening running an excavator on that section of the Bullet Tree Road near Rene Moreno's house in San Ignacio Town.

The Ministry of Works and the Town Council recently prepared

that section of the street to be paved and here comes this irresponsible person making a mess of the surface with the metal tracks of the excavator.

The irresponsible operator of this heavy duty equipment cause further damage to the street every time he dropped the bucket to turn the excavator.

Two things I recommend. 1) The Ministry of Works/Town Council should find out who owns that piece of equipment and charge them for the damage.

2) These heavy duty equipment must first obtain permission from the Town Council before they even begin working within town limits so that the Council is aware of their presence and so that charges can be brought against them for any infrastructural damage they cause.
Antonio, San Ignacio Town.

I'd Rather Have A Central American Passport

Dear Editor;

I read with interest the story posted to Channel 7's website about Belize converting to CARICOM passports in February of this year. I, for one, am outraged.

Except for a very small part of the population of Belize City, nobody else in the entire Belize COUNTRY has anything remotely similar culturally with the Caribbean.

Even the other CARICOM countries only marginally think of Belize (and Guyana) as even remotely "Caribbean".

I, for one, would much rather have a Central American passport than a CARICOM passport.

Our leaders who are mostly Creole-centric individuals from Belize City keep perpetuating the myth that somehow Belize is "more culturally connected" to the Caribbean. Far from it!

Over recent decades Belize has become overwhelmingly Hispanic. Most of Belize relates closer to Central American culture than the Caribbean culture. And economically, it is in our nation's best interest to align ourselves locally with our neighbors, not unreachable island states.

Why isn't this issue being put to a referendum?

Cheers,

Wendy Auxillou, Caye Caulker

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ITEM	QUANTITY
Air Freshener Spray	420 Boxes of 12 cans per box
Alcohol (Rubbing)	52 Boxes of 12 bottles per box
Bathroom Freshener Dispensers (Time Mists)	32 Cases
Brooms	132 Units
Buckets	68 Units
Buffing Pads	16 Units
Carpet Deodorizers	32 Bottles
Carpet Stain Remover	20 Bottles
Clorox (Bleach)	132 Boxes of six 1 gallon bottles per box
Deck Broom	8 Units
Dishwashing Liquid (750 ml)	148 Bottles
Dust Pans	16 Units
Disinfectant	10 Cases of six 1 gallon bottles per box
Furniture Polish – non aerosol	156 Cans
Garbage Bags (13 gallons)	224 Rolls at 50 bags per roll
Garbage Bags (29-33 gallons)	224 Rolls at 50 bags per roll
Garbage Bags (50 gallons)	116 Rolls at 50 bags per roll
Garbage Containers (13 gallon)	50 Units
Glass Cleaner	108 Bottles
Hand Liquid Soap	76 Boxes at 12 units per box
Hand Paper	220 Cases at 12 rolls per case
Insect Spray	232 Cans
Jumbo Toilet Paper (for dispenser)	244 Cases at 12 rolls per case
Lime Away	272 Bottles
Lysol Antibacterial Spray	104 Units
Cleaning Cloths	36 Boxes
Mops (small)	164 Units
Mops (large)	24 Units
Muriatic Acid	116 Bottles
Orange Cleaner	28 Cases
Rubber Gloves	48 Packs
Scrub Brushes	12 Units
Powdered Detergent	9 Packs
Toilet Bowl Deodorizer	8 Boxes
Toilet Paper	36 Bales
Toilet Plunger	10 Units
Toilet Scrubber (brush)	12 Units
Unitabs (for urinals)	24 Boxes at 12 units per box
Vacuum Bags	4 Boxes

All submissions must include the unit price of each item and the brand and size of the product.

Submission of tender must be made in a sealed envelope to the address below. The envelope shall bear the name of the tender and a warning not to open before the specified time and date. The deadline for the submission of tenders is **February 9, 2009. Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.**

The Social Security Board, Tender Committee, will open tenders and the Social Security Board will not defray any cost incurred by any tenderer. The Social Security Board does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept or reject any tender, and to annul the process and reject all tenders, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective contractor or any obligation to assign any reason for the rejection of any tender. Prospective tenderers must be in compliance with the requirements of Social Security Act in order to be considered.

Mrs. Merlene Bailey Martinez
Chief Executive Officer
Social Security Board
Bliss Parade, P.O. Box 18
Belmopan, Belize

The High Cost Of Living - A Major Concern For Caribbean Youth

BY: Gloria Whitney, CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana, Thursday, January 16, 2009:

The prevailing high cost of living has been cited as one of the top five issues affecting Caribbean youth.

National Research Coordinator, **Shelly Carter** in divulging preliminary research findings told participants of the Regional Planning Workshop organized by the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (CCYD) that high cost of living, crime and violence, limited access to education, increasing rate of unemployment and a lack of Caribbean cultural identity were the top five critical issues identified by Caribbean Youth in a study on Youth Dreams' and Aspirations.

Ms Carter's presentation was one of five on research being conducted by the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (CCYD) which seeks to fulfill its mandate from the CARICOM Heads of Government to *"provide a provide a comprehensive analysis of challenges and opportunities for youth in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME); and to make recommendations on how to improve their well-being and empowerment."*

Ms Carter said the research findings had indicated that high food prices and high tuition costs had severely limited the earning and spending power of Caribbean families and youth and had made it increasingly difficult for them to meet basic needs.

Linked to that, she said, were the challenges of unemployment and under-employment as a direct consequence of global economic recession, Caribbean contracting economies and subsequent limited avenues for job creation.

As a result, it was noted that a number of highly qualified youth were forced to settle for relatively low paying jobs, within their country.

In addition, she explained that crime and violence which seemingly plague several Caribbean countries had engendered a spirit of fear and despair among youth to the extent

where many perceived that *"they might not live long enough to realize any dream and aspiration."*

The relevance of education outputs to private sector needs was also brought into critical focus. The findings indicated that youth perceived a dissonance between education provided at secondary and tertiary levels and the demands of the Caribbean job market.

Also of significance were issues related to Caribbean identity. The findings revealed that many Caribbean youth were not knowledgeable of national or Caribbean history, failed to identify with things Caribbean and demonstrated apathy toward the

Caribbean Community and its flagship programme, the Single Market and Economy.

Participants agreed that the findings on the Youth Dreams and Aspirations research did not augur very well for the promotion of the ideals of the CSME and recommended that national youth organizations, NGOs and CBOs be trained to sensitize young people in their communities to the practical implications of CSME and to develop concrete knowledge and skills through the implementation of cross-border entrepreneurial development projects.

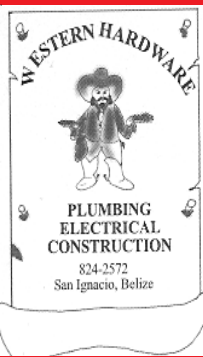
The Commission's report is to be presented to a special meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development in April prior to its submission to the 30th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government.

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The Policeman Joke

Mr. Jones was riding in a bus from San Ignacio to Belmopan when he decided to strike up a conversation with the man sitting next to him.

"I've got a great policeman joke. Would you like to hear it?"

said Jones.

"I should let you know first that I am a policeman." said the man.

"That's okay," responded Mr. Jones, "I'll tell it really, really slow!"

The Crossed Eye Judge And The Three Defendants

With Time The Drunkeness Will Pass

Mr. Tom was completely drunk and stumbling down Burns Avenue in the center of San Ignacio Town with one foot in the drain and the other on the street.

A policeman pulled up and said, *"I've got to take you in, Sir. You're obviously drunk."*

"Ociffer, are ya absolutely sure I'm drunk?" asked Mr. Tom

"Yeah, buddy, I'm sure," said the policeman. *"Let's go."*

Breathing a sigh of relief, the drunk said, *"Thank goodness, because I was thinking that I was a cripple."*



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Cayo Chess News



BY David Coombs,
Cayo Chess Coordinator
Monday, January 19, 2009

The Belize National Youth Chess Foundation is pleased to announce the dates for the upcoming

Primary School Children Chess Tournaments in the Cayo District.

West Cayo Tournament is being held on Friday, February 6 at the Aguada Hotel.

East Cayo Tournament being held on Saturday, February 14th, at the Belmopan Convention Hotel.

Chess Clocks will be introduced at these events while notation is optional.

A total of 12 winners from each of these competitions will be invited to participate at the final "All Cayo District" Tournament scheduled for Saturday, March 14th. Clocks will be used and basic notation will be mandatory.

The 12 Winners of the "All Cayo District" Tournament will qualify

Another Decrease In The Cost Of Butane Gas

BELMOPAN CITY, Cayo District, Tuesday, January 20, 2009:

Another reduction in the acquisition cost of butane gas has been passed on consumers.

A release from the Ministry of Finance today informed that effective, Wednesday, January 22, the price of butane gas will go down by four dollars countrywide.

to represent the Cayo District at the 2nd Annual Belize National Chess Olympiad to be held in Belmopan on April 25th, 2009. The winners will be offered additional training as preparation for that event.

Check-in time for all 3 events is 8:00 am with the first rounds starting at 8:30am sharp without delays.

The Award Ceremony will be from 2:00 to 2:30pm. Lunch will be provided for all pre-registered primary players.

In addition, at each event, there will be a separate adult section for friendly matches. It is open to all players from high school and older who pre-register.

There is no charge for registering but pre-registration is mandatory for both primary and adult players.

The Belize National Youth Chess

The new retail price, excluding delivery cost, for a one hundred pound cylinder of butane will cost \$86 in Belize City, \$87 in Corozal and Orange Walk; \$88 in Belmopan and San Ignacio; \$89 in Benque; \$90 in Dangriga and \$91 in Punta Gorda.

The Ministry informs that as prices decrease, these savings will be passed on to consumers.

Foundation encourages all primary chess players to register for these tournaments and the opportunity to play at the Belize Chess Olympiad 2009 and for all parents to show their support by attending the tournaments with their children.

To register for these events, please contact the Cayo District Chess Coordinator David Coombs at 670-5435 or by e-mail at lightningcoombs@yahoo.com



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Mr. Gregory Chiac (Belmopan)
Winner 2nd Consolation Prize
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Your Horoscope & Lucky Numbers

ARIES (March 22 to April 20)



This week brings several opportunities that you can use to achieve professional goals. You are likely to meet different people who offer you interesting perspectives regarding work. The catch is that there will be clues and leads but translating them into success will be a task that you have to handle. A mentor like figure will help you in finding your direction. In personal life, be as patient as possible. **Lucky numbers:** 9, 44, 78.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 21)



You will be brimming with energy, confidence and intensity this week. Even though you have a much focussed approach at work, try not to get fixated with ideas. Being passionate about something is one thing; try not to get obsessive or inflexible in this context. Be tactful when you want to get work done. The recognition you desire will come to you. **Lucky numbers:** 6, 58, 70.



GEMINI (May 22 to June 21)

There will be a lot of emphasis on restructuring of life. You will strive to be better organised. You will try to engage yourself constructively. There will be a sense of guilt that has been gnawing at your mind for neglecting your loved ones and this is the time when you try to get your house in order. Emotions should be kept away. **Lucky numbers:** 5, 29, 63.

CANCER (June 22 to July 23)



There is a greater sense of belonging that you register at the workplace as well as in the home environment. Your mood is upbeat and a do-good spirit helps you in carving a place in the mind of people around you. There is harmony in the domestic situation and it begins to reflect in the initiatives that you are willing to take now. You could be involved with charitable work. **Lucky numbers:** 2, 26, 49.

LEO (July 24 to August 21)



This is a week of adjustments, where you will have to put the greater good over narrow interests. You

could be very willing in doing this but then the leonine traits will show up rather sometime soon. You will try to accommodate the ideas of others and will put your own agenda on the backburner for sometime. Keep a balanced head on your shoulders where money is concerned. **Lucky numbers:** 1, 65, 84.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 21)



The year begins on a very positive note for you and there will be success galore. If you have been feeling like an underdog, it will be now your time in front of the arc lights. There are indications of power, money, appreciation and good work coming to you. There will be a joy that overtakes your heart. However, make sure that you forgive the people against whom you hold resentments. **Lucky numbers:** 12, 52, 80.

LIBRA (September 22 to October 23)



There is a lot that you want to achieve and also a lot that you desire. And it is not just about the material ends. You wish for all the joy that you can add into the life of your loved ones and will be working hard to achieve this end. There is good money in the offing and you are able to make a good start in this direction. You could take up an additional activity that also brings in money apart from keeping you constructively occupied. **Lucky numbers:** 7, 68, 87.

SCORPIO (October 24 to November 21)



This week sees you as a more open figure, more willing and outgoing. There is a sincerity with which you approach work and people. And this in turn draws people to you. The environment around you is also likely to be very genial and adds to the positive results. Personal relationships will be rewarding and romance will light up this phase. **Lucky numbers:** 14, 60, 76.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)



There will be an overwhelming desire for recognition; social approval and success that makes you work very hard. You look back

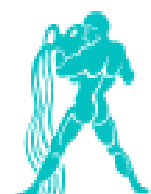
in the past at what you have achieved for an affirmation of your abilities. You have defined some clear goals in your head and are bent on achieving them. You are supported by a great network of friends, a loving family who prove to be a part of the driving force. **Lucky numbers:** 3, 25, 69.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20)



There will be quite a bit of work that will need to go into improvement of a dwelling place refurbishing an office space or decorating your home in a novel manner. There will be moments that define your abilities in your own eyes. Stand up for yourself and work towards achieving what you want. You will be occupied with nurturing new life around you. **Lucky numbers:** 8, 40, 94.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19)



The mantra for you is to be calm. This is the waiting period before the design of success begins to manifest. Maintain a low profile and get your plans right. If you have been suffering from an ailment you should get the problem addressed at the earliest. There are indications

of the past becoming overwhelming in your mind. Develop your spiritual side for comfort. **Lucky numbers:** 3, 21, 54.

PISCES (February 20 to March 21)

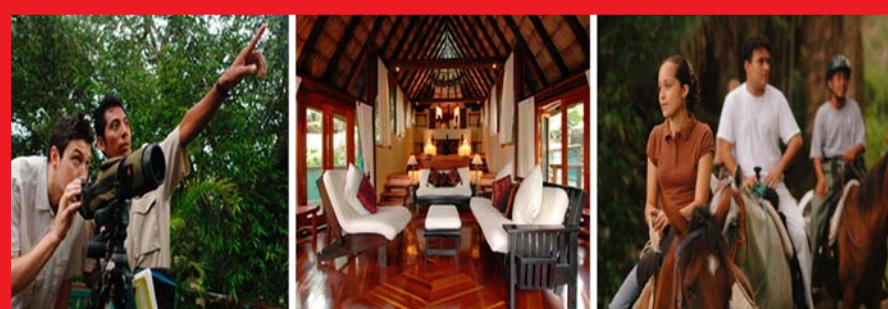


The year starts on a positive note with most of the things working in your favour. You are likely to be high on the breakthroughs you are making in your sphere of work. It gives you a new kind of excitement altogether. There will be social recognition. There will be guests to be entertained and arty activities to be indulged in. **Lucky numbers:** 10, 45, 90.

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Dignity and justice for all of us



All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms.

The United Nations is committed to upholding, promoting and protecting the human rights of every individual. This commitment stems from the United Nation's Charter which affirms the faith of the peoples of the world in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person.

In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has stated in clear and simple terms, the rights which belong equally to every person.

These rights belong to you.

They are your rights.

Familiarize yourself with them.

Help to promote and defend them for yourself as well as for your fellow human beings.

Adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights has resulted in barbarous acts which outrage the conscience of, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in

the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect

for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of

sovereignty.

Article -

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement of such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act of omission.

Please Turn To Page 12

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Mexico City Prize 2009 For Primary School Students

BELMOPAN CITY, Cayo District, Monday, January 20, 2009:

As part of the activities of the Embassy of Mexico in promoting mutual understanding of the history and culture of both Mexico and Belize among their societies, the Embassy invites all elementary school students in Belize to participate in the Children Drawing Contest *"Mexico City Prize 2009"*.

This year's theme is *"What do you know about the Mexican Revolution of 1910?"*.

The winner will be awarded an eight day trip to Mexico City from 8 June 2009 and will participate in a cultural and leisure activity program. The prize includes a round trip airfare, accommodation and food expenses for both the winner and an adult chaperone.

Participants must be between the

ages of 8 to 12 years from any elementary school in Belize.

Paintings or drawings should measure 17" $\frac{3}{4}$ X 12" (45 x 30 cm.), horizontal or vertical format, either on Bristol board, cardboard or drawing paper, using coloring pencil, acrylic paint, water colors, crayons or any other material.

At the back of the painting or drawing the following information should be written: full name, place and date of birth, age, address,

telephone number, name of school, grade, painting or drawing title and a brief description of the work.

All works should be submitted no later than 27 March 2009, through the school to the Institute of Mexico in Belize, corner of Newtown Barracks & Wilson Street, Belize City. The winner's name will be announced on 21 April 2009.

For more information please contact the Institute of Mexico in Belize, at 223-1408. E-mail: institutodemexico@embamex.bz

Hon. Eden Martinez Refutes False Advertisement

An announcement coming out of the Office of Toledo East Area Representative and Minister of Human Development, **Hon. Eden Martinez** informs of what it refers to as "A misleading advertisement has been running in a certain section of the media.

The advertisement which purports to come from a lands group in Punta Gorda falsely alleges that *"the new lots committee in PG has embarked on a program to cancel leases in Punta Gorda Town to give to others"*. The misleading advertisement ends by advising that if your land is being cancelled you should call 702-0058.

The Office of the Hon. Eden Martinez wishes to place on record the following:

1. No systematic cancellation

of lot leases is occurring in Punta Gorda or surrounding areas, or anywhere in the country for that matter, under this administration.

2. Any cancellation of any individual lease would occur only under the standard process where a leaseholder has failed to meet the terms and conditions clearly stated in his lease documents and only after the required notice of intent to cancel and due process by the Ministry of Lands.

3. The telephone number referred to in the misleading advertisement (702-0058) is that of the Office of Toledo East Area Representative Hon. Eden Martinez.

The Toledo East Representative is here to serve the people of his constituency and therefore welcomes calls from residents of

his constituency on any matter with which he can assist them, but there is no need for anyone to call the office inquiring about any systematic cancellation of leases since nothing of that sort is occurring or will occur under this administration.

4. Considering the desperate position of certain elements contesting the upcoming municipal elections, it is not surprising that such false propaganda would be circulated at this time with the obvious intention of instilling fear and distrust towards the Area Representative and the Dean

Barrow Government.

5. The Office of the Hon. Eden Martinez cautions media organizations against running false and misleading advertisements purporting to come from sources that cannot be verified, and with respect to this particular advertisement, advises that any further airing of such could lead to legal action being taken against the media organizations in question.

Hon. Eden Martinez and the Dean Barrow Government have great confidence in the people of Punta Gorda to recognize such false propaganda for what it is.

The BEST Cure For Acne

BY: Garen Arnold January 21, 2009

The battle to fight acne is raging as more and more products line the shelves at practically every store and infomercials line up the beautiful clear faces that they claim were covered in blemishes and scars only weeks or months before.

Every product is promoted as the best acne cure and promises quick results, but the actual results for many people will be less than what is seen on the television. But what if the best acne cure is not in the health and beauty aisle at all?

The best acne cure is the one that not only clears up your skin as quickly as possible, but which keeps it clear for the future. There are many products available that will put chemicals into your pores and clean out the bacteria that caused your current break out. You can even apply more chemicals on a regular basis in attempt to prevent further break outs, but for many people these products simply do not work in the long run. Even the prescription drugs and the high priced products seen on TV do not work for a lot of people. Maybe

they do not work because they only target the surface skin. Many people believe their acne is just caused by oily skin, but that is often not the case. Acne is often caused by an imbalance in the body as a whole and therefore the best acne cure will be one that corrects the entire body from within, not just the outside skin. The best acne cure is very simple: water!

Water is the most effective way of keeping bacteria and toxins out of your body, and bacteria are what cause acne. If you have a serious acne problem you need to start drinking as much water as possible right away. It seems too simple compared to all of the complicated systems you may have tried in the past, but water is associated with clear, vibrant skin and it will help. There is also growing evidence that what you eat can affect acne. If you are eating a lot of sugar, processed grains, and milk products you may be making your acne worse. If you can gradually make changes to start including more whole grains and cutting back on your milk products you could see great improvements to your acne.



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**Normal business resumes
at 8:00 a.m on Monday,
January 26, 2009.**

**We apologize for any inconvenience
caused.**

P.M. Barrow Unveils \$200 Million Stimulus Plan...

BY: Al Eastmond, Bermuda

In a recent interview Prime Minister Dean Barrow is quoted as saying: “So, as I said, we are looking at around two hundred million dollars. That then is our version of the stimulus package that of course so very many countries in this world are resorting to. This will increase employment, pump money into the economy and create the rising tide designed to float all boats even in a time of recession.”

I remember a STAR Newspaper article a few months ago regarding foreign workers that was employed on the construction of the dam at Vaca Falls, and recently there was an article about a busload of illegal workers that came across the border on the way to Placencia to get construction jobs.

Is there any system in place to ensure that the \$200,000,000 that is spent will in fact end up in the pockets of Belizean workers and not in the foreign bank accounts of undocumented foreign workers?

Are Belizean businesses, and others hiring workers, made to understand that if they employ foreign undocumented workers, especially during this economic nightmare, they are selling the

country down the drain? Are there laws in place (and SIGNIFICANT penalties for non compliance) that can/will be enforced against anyone that employs illegal

workers?

Is the general population conditioned to look out for these infractions and report them to the department of Immigration (or

whatever ministry handles this); and is this ministry ready and able to immediately investigate and take necessary action?

If the stimulus package does not end up in the Belizean workers pockets then it certainly will not stimulate Belize.

Ceremonial Opening Of The Supreme Court

The 2009 legal year of the Belize Supreme Court was officially declared opened by the Chief Justice of Belize, Hon. Dr. Abdulai Conteh at a ceremonial session held at the Supreme Court in Belize City, Monday, January 19, 2209

The session commenced with a mass attended by judges, members of the Bar Association, Magistrates, Commissioners and other legal practitioners at the Saint John’s Anglican Cathedral followed by a gathering inside the Chief Justice’s Chambers.

The Chief Justice gave a situational report outlining many issues over the past legal year including financial constraints, case load, and the insufficiency in the number of judges. He also mentioned his dissatisfaction in the unfortunate pattern of the criminal justice system where cases are increasingly ending in nolle prosequi status. “In the course of

2008, the Director of Public Prosecution office; I’m sorry to say, lodged not less than eighty-three nolle prosequi.” said the Chief Justice.

Murder was the leading charge dealt with in the Supreme Court followed by attempted murder.

There were sixty-three murder cases, twenty-nine attempted murder cases, three robberies, eighteen rapes, twenty-seven carnal knowledge and sixteen unlawful carnal knowledge cases. Two hundred and fourteen divorce petitions were also filed.

Speaking on the adjournment, Attorney General of Belize, Hon. Wilfred Elrington, spoke on the progress of the Attorney General’s Ministry since taking office and also on the assistance given to the other various departments that fall under that Ministry.

The Attorney General also indicated that there appears to be a lack of confidence in the system of

justice as it appears now safer to commit murder than to steal. He highlighted the long delays in delivery judgments. He said that the time had come for judges to be held accountable for their actions or inactions.

In closing, the Attorney General implored the judges to, “faithfully discharge their functions and regain the confidence of the Belizean People.”

The Chief Justice informed that effective December 2008, he has taken up an appointment on the Cayman Island’s Court of Appeal but he mentioned that it will not affect his work as the head of Belize’s Supreme Court.

Another announcement was the January 1, 2009 appointment of Justice Oswald Legall from Guyana.

The new Registrar General; Mrs. Velda Flowers takes over from Attorney Aldo Salazar at the expiration of his contract.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT VALUED AT APPROX. US\$100,000.00 DONATED TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Minister of Health Hon. Pablo Marin and Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) H. E. Ting Joseph Shih discuss areas in which the equipment will be utilized.



Minister Marin gave a plaque to Ambassador Shih as a show of appreciation for the continued support he has given to the Ministry of Health.

The Ambassador of the Republic of China – Taiwan, H.E. Mr. Ting Joseph Shih officially handed over medical equipment from the TAO YUAN Hospital, Department of Health, Republic of China - Taiwan to the Ministry of Health at a ceremony held at the Central Medical Supplies compound in Ladyville on Wednesday January 21, 2009.

The medical equipment valued at approximately US\$100,000.00 was procured following the visit of the Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin and CEO Ministry of Health, Dr. Peter Allen to Taiwan last November.

Receiving the equipment on behalf of the Ministry of Health was Hon. Pablo Marin who acknowledged this generous donation from the Government and People of the Republic of China – Taiwan. Minister Marin expressed appreciation for the exemplary work and continued support of Ambassador H.E. Mr. Ting Joseph Shih and the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Belize.

Ambassador Shih commented on the excellent relationship between Belize and the Republic of China Taiwan and his country’s commitment to the continued support of the healthy development of Belize.

This handing over of equipment follows a cash donation made by the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) of US\$100,000.00 to Belize for flood relief and emergency medical supplies in an effort to assist with the recent flood events of Tropical Storm Arthur and Tropical Depression 16 in June and October 2008.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) has been supporting the Ministry of Health, Government of Belize in several areas including training as well as donation of medical equipment and supplies.

From Page 9

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and return to his country.

Article 14

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

(1) Everyone has the right to nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its

dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; the will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and

its benefit.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

United Nations Department of Public Information
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www.orchr.org/english/issues/education/training/udhr.htm
www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/index.asp

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US Priests 'In \$800,000 Theft'

BY: Robert Pigott, BBC Religious Affairs Correspondent

Two Roman Catholic priests have been accused of stealing \$800,000 from the collection plate of their church in the US state of Florida.

They allegedly planned to spend the money on property, holidays, gambling and to meet the expenses of mistresses.

One of the priests, **Fr John Skehan** has admitted the charges, but his colleague **Fr Francis Guinan** denies them. US law - the statute of limitations - prevents the priests being charged with thefts that occurred before 2001. But the auditors say that up to \$8m might have disappeared over a period of 20 years. It could be the biggest embezzlement case to affect the Catholic Church in the United States.

One of the priests - Fr John Skehan - abandoned his not-guilty plea just before his trial began, and admitted stealing \$800,000 given by parishioners at St Vincent Ferrer Church in West Palm Beach. The priests allegedly hid the money in the church ceiling and opened offshore accounts. Fr Skehan - who is 81 and has been given the honorific title "**Monsignor**" - served at the church for 40 years.



Father John Skehan

He admitted spending stolen money on expensive houses and gambling in Las Vegas. Police reports claimed that he used more than \$100,000 to pay the expenses of an alleged lover, and almost \$300,000 on rare coins.

'Well-supported' Fr Skehan's colleague at St Vincent Ferrer Church, Fr Francis Guinan, has been accused of using his share of the embezzled money to support a mistress and take her on expensive holidays. The authorities claim Fr Guinan had an "intimate" relationship with a former church book-keeper and spent much of the money on her. Fr Guinan - who is 66 - denies the charges and will go on trial next month. Fr Guinan's lawyer, Richard Barlow, said "*just because both priests worked at the same church and one pleads guilty, it doesn't mean my guy is*

guilty".

The lawyer acting for Fr Skehan, Scott Richardson, said "*Fr Skehan accepted responsibility for his actions by virtue of his guilty plea*", adding, "he has the support of many people, many of whom will speak on his behalf". He could be sent to jail for as long as 31 years.

Both priests were originally from Ireland. Fr Skehan comes from Johnstown in County Kilkenny and Fr Guinan from Birr in County Offaly. Fr Skehan was arrested at Palm Beach International Airport in



Father Francis Guinan

September 2006 on his return from Ireland. Both the priests left the United States after the Church received a tip-off in a letter, and began an investigation into the accounts at St Vincent's, and what they called "**alleged improprieties**".

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News Release



IX CHEL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Ix Chel Tropical Research Foundation is now offering it's new after school program, **KIDS FOR CONSERVATION**. This Program will have volunteers to assist children with their daily homework and other school projects.

Students will have the opportunity to do their assignments in a peaceful, supportive environment. When homework is completed, we will have sessions on medicinal plants, animals, arts and crafts, organic gardening, fun games and songs.

Doors will be open as of January 12th 2009 Monday to Friday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

ICTRF always working hand in hand with the community to make a positive difference in the lives of children.

For further information, to register your child, to volunteer services, to donate books or school supplies call 804-0264 or email us at ixcheltropicalresearch@yahoo.com



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- * **Wait staff**
- * **Housekeeping**

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Serious applicants can forward their resume along with cover letter and two references to:

Human Resources
Blancaneaux Resorts
P.O. Box B
Central Farm, Cayo
Or Email:
camila@blancaneaux.com
Tel: 824-4914/12

Citrus Products Of Belize Team Wins 2nd Annual Boom to Manatee Canoe Race

BY: Jerry Wilken, Grumpy Old Men Monday, January 19, 2009:

I want to thank all of those who participated and assisted in the running of the Second Annual Boom to Manatee Lookout Canoe Race.

The race took place on Saturday 17th January and started promptly at 10:00 am. The weather was cool and cloudy but remained dry throughout the day.

Due to the recent rains, there was a good current, which assisted in getting the very fast times recorded, up some 20 minutes on last years race.

The race ended at Manatee

Lookout Bar and Restaurant, thanks to **Jamiel** for the use of the facilities.

Chris Guydis and the CPBL (*Citrus Products of Belize Limited*) crew were first across the line by an amazing 2 minutes ahead of **Armin Lopez** and Belize Bank crew followed, in third place, by **Andres Cabb** and his Atlantic Bank team a minute later and in fourth position was **Jerry Rhaburn's** Don't Blink team four minutes behind them.

The first male team and overall champs recieved \$400 and two trophies for their efforts.

First Pleasure Craft and fifth overall went to **Rudolph Gentle**

and his Print Belize crew and First Female and 6th overall went to **Marcela Cruz** and family paddling for PR Marriott Drilling.

In 7th place and first masters, **Johnny Watt Searle** and his team Junkanu just nudged ahead of us, **Grumpy Old Men**, by a mere 2 minutes to get first masters and 7th overall.

Our team, Grumpy Old Men, came in 8th but managed to collect quite a bit of garbage along the way allowing us to claim Orlando Harrison's offer of a free La Ruta Maya River Challenge entry.

As we were the race organizers, we felt that we should offer the prize to a team without corporate

sponsors and so we nominated Jerry Rhaburn's team the recipient of the award. We hope that this is acceptable to Orlando Harrison and his Ruta Maya Committee.

Finally in a valiant effort, the Defenders of the Realm from BATSUB brought up the rear guard at 9th place achieving the remarkable feat of paddling backwards the whole way. Winners of each catagory received \$150 and a trophy.

We want to thank **Jose Swasey** and his crew for looking after the safety boat, **Ray Herrera** and the Architectural Accent staff for the fine job on the BBQ, **John, Maurice** and **Susan** for the time keeping and administration.

We would also like to thank **Johnny Searle Sr.** from Belize Global Travel Services and **Joe Fuzy** of SkyLighters Unlimited for their financial support.

A special thanks also to **Johnny Watt** for kindly volunteering to take on the next race from Boom to Belize City, which should end at The Wet Lizard Restaurant and Bar in the Tourist Village. That event is tentatively set for for Saturday 21st February.

The proceeds, although nominal, will be donated to the crew heading for the Texas Water Safari this year.

Housing Grants For The Needy

RADISSON FORT GEORGE HOTEL, Belize City, Monday, January 19, 2009:

A release from the Government Press Office informs that on Monday, January 19, 2009, the Ministry of Housing called a press conference at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City to present the procedures that will be undertaken for the management of a US\$10 Million grant donated by the Government and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Housing, **Rosalie Gentle**, informed those in attendance that the grant will be disbursed as followed, BZ \$1.5 Million for the rehabilitation of homes that were damaged due to the Tropical Depression 16. The remaining BZ\$18.5 Million will be expended through the Ministry of Housing for home improvement and the reconstruction of new homes.

CEO Gently informed that for this purpose the country will be divided into four regions; Northern, Western, Southern and Central regions encompassing all 31 electoral constituencies across the country.

Except for the Northern Region which comprises all four Corozal and in addition to the four Orange Walk District and the three rural constituencies of the Belize

District (Rural North, Rural South and Rural Central) all other three regions basically comprises the electoral constituencies in those regions.

Each of the four regions, according to CEO Gentle, will be managed by a six member oversight committee which will include a representative each from the Ministry of Housing; the Ministry of Works, Ministry of Human Development (Social Worker), the Chamber of Commerce, the National Trade Union Congress of Belize and two Area Representatives. They will primarily oversee the vetting and approval of application forms as well as the monitoring and the signing-off of all approved grants.

CEO Gentle further informed that in order to qualify for a home improvement grant, applicants should own a house and not earn more than BZ\$15,000 per annum. Furthermore, applicants seeking the construction of a new house should not own a house and not earn more than BZ\$20,000 per annum.

Application forms can be obtained from the constituency offices of all 31 Area Representatives across the country.

An estimate for the improvements to homes or the construction of new homes should be attached to each application.

Also speaking at the press conference was Minister of Housing, **Hon. Michael Finnegan**. In his presentation Minister Finnegan stressed that the grants will be given to the "... *poorest of the poor citizens of Belize.*" He also explained that no monies will be handed out directly to any beneficiary and that the Ministry will not accommodate more than

BZ\$10,000 for repairs of homes per applicant and not more than BZ\$30,000 for the construction of a new house.

Also present at the press conference were National Emergency Management Minister, **Hon. Melvin Hulse**, and Works Minister, **Hon. Anthony "Boots" Martinez** who both briefly addressed the conference.

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Six Volleyball Positions For Elections

BELIZE CITY, Thursday, January 22, 2009:

A release from the The Belize Volleyball Association (BVA) today informs that six positions will be up for election when the Association holds its Annual General Congress on Saturday, February 7th 2009 at 2pm at the Belize City Center's Conference Room.

Those six positions are as follows:

- 1) Vice President (*District development*),
- 2) Vice President (*Female Development*),
- 3) Technical Commissioner, 4)

Police Minister's Second Visit

From Front Page

the Police Youth Cadet Corp.

After inspecting the guard, Minister Perdomo was ushered into the new conference room for a meeting with members of the detachment. The brief encounter began with the Officer in Charge of the Formation, **Sr. Supt. Paul Wade** introducing first the Commissioner, and then the Minister.



Inspecting the guard, Youth Cadets In Formation

In his address Commissioner Westby spoke about being impressed with the progress that has continued under Supt. Wade especially as it pertains to the police working in partnership with the community resulting in an enhance working environment, a refurbished and freshly painted police station and a state of the art conference room. He likewise expressed satisfaction with the job that the detachment has been doing, particularly highlighting the swift apprehension of those responsible for the first two incidents of murder in San Ignacio since the year began.

In his presentation Minister Perdomo echoed Commissioner Westby's sentiments and encouraged the police, despite limited resources, to continue doing a good job. He informed that with the Merida Initiative coming on stream, additional funds will be made available for the procurement of much needed equipment for the police.

At the end of the meeting,

Beach Commissioner, 5) Tournament Director, and 6) Press Officer.

The release further informs that any person desirous of seeking elected office at the General Congress must be an affiliated member and must submit their name in writing - *nominated by at least three (3) other affiliated members* - to the Secretary General seventy-two (72) hours prior to the holding of the General Congress.

All members are asked to attend and be on time.

Minister Perdomo was invited to tour the upgraded cell block. In briefing the Minister, Supt. Wade informed that there have been cases in recent months of prisoners escaping from cells through the roof which was made of wood and zinc. This situation has been rectified as the old roof was removed and replaced with a cement slab. He also informed of the addition of a fourth holding cell

specifically for female prisoners.

From San Ignacio, the tour proceeded to the villages of Bullet Tree Falls, Santa Familia, Spanish Lookout and Georgeville where Minister Perdomo toured police substations and held meetings with village Chairpersons and other community leaders.

From Georgeville the tour returned to Santa Elena Town where Minister Perdomo visited the proposed site for the construction of a Substation in Santa Elena near the Fire Station in the area of the Rotary Park, just off Loma Luz Boulevard.

After a lunch break, the tour continued to the Village of San Antonio where, again, the Minister met with village leaders and was treated to a cultural presentation organized by the village council.

From San Antonio Village the tour returned to San Ignacio Town for a scheduled 7:00 pm public meeting at the Center of Employment Training in San Ignacio.

TWO CHARGED FOR CARNAL KNOWLEDGE

From Front Page

After the reports were made by the girls' mothers, the search for them began and when two haggard looking girls got off a bus at the terminal in San Ignacio, an alert policeman at the terminal approached them and requested that they identify themselves. They were identified as the reported missing pair and were taken over to the nearby police station where they were interviewed.

They were subsequently taken over to the San Ignacio Hospital, where medical personnel certified that one of them in particular was subjected to a traumatic sexual experience the likes of which we will refrain from going into details.

Armed with a positive identification of both accused, investigators waited for their return

from Toledo to Cayo as they walked directly into the open long arms of the law.

The accused appeared before San Ignacio Magistrate, **Kathleen Lewis**, on Wednesday, 21 January 2009 – a day marking the 23rd birthday of the accused, David Molina Jr. Both accused pleaded not guilty to the charge of unlawful carnal knowledge. **Prosecutor George Gomez's** strong objection to the granting of bail was upheld by Magistrate Lewis. Both accused were consequently remanded to the central prison in Hattieville and are scheduled to return to court on Thursday, February 19, 2009.

Given that the incident is alleged to have been committed in the Toledo Judicial District, the matter will be heard in Punta Gorda Magistrate's Court.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **INEZ FERNANDEZ** is applying for the renewal of her **SHOP LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **INEZ FERNANDEZ GROCERY STORE** located at #11 George Price Avenue, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **MICHAEL BOGAERT** is applying for the renewal of his **MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **MIKE'S PLACE** located in Barton Creek in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **LEONARDO FLOWERS** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **TOUCH OF CLASS COMFORT INN** located on Perez Street, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **CARLA IRELAND** is applying for the renewal of her **SHOP LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **IRELAND GROCERY** located in Blackman Eddy Village in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ERVA ESPAT** is applying for the renewal of her **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **ERVA'S RESTAURANT** located on Far West Street, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **BOLEZIO PEREZ** is applying for the renewal of his **MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **D&R RESTAURANT & BAR** located in the village of Unitedville in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ANNA MARIE WILLIAMS** is applying for the renewal of her **MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **A&M** located in Georgeville Village in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ALHENRY WESTBY** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **CHAMPION'S BAR** located in the Savannah Area, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **COLLEEN & ALLAN SPRING** are applying for the renewal of their **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **TABLE ROCK RESTAURANT** located in Cristo Rey Village in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **DOLORES BARRERA** is applying for the renewal of her **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **LOLY'S BAR** located on Maya Vista Drive, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

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