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Sunday, March 10, 2013

Beaten In Separate Incidents In United Two Villagers

SAN IGNACIO, Cayo, Thursday, March 7, 2013:

Two male persons have been detained as the search continues for another two comprising a group of four young men suspected to have attacked and injured two men in separate incidents in the western village of Unitedville on the George Price Highway in the Cayo District.

In the first reported incident, Unitedville resident Rosa Macharro reported to the police that she was at home at around 8:30 pm on Sunday, March 3, 2013, when her husband, Miguel Macharro, arrived at home in a taxi from a trip to Guatemala City.

The husband was reportedly unlocking the gate to enter the yard when he was approached by a group of four young men one of whom is said to have asked him for a dollar. He reportedly ignored the request and this was when he was allegedly attacked with sticks and a machete by the group.

The wife's desperate call for help alerted neighbors who rushed to the



The Badly Beaten **Miguel Macharro**

rescue but not in time to save the husband from a severe beating resulting in several cut wounds to the face. The group reportedly fled the scene and disappeared into the darkness.

The police investigation revealed that a group of four young men, fitting the description of those who attacked Miguel Macharro had, a few minutes earlier, likewise attacked another male villager who was later identified as Santos



The Second Victim, Santos Vasquez, 36

Vasquez, 36, Belizean, labourer also from Unitedville.

In a statement to the police Vasquez informed that he was walking on a back street in the village when he was attacked by four young men whom he was able to identify as Fidel, Carl, Chull and Bush Grabber.

Vasquez alleges that he was

attacked by all four men who administered a severe beating on him for no apparent reason. He emerged from the attack with a cut wound to the left side of the head for which he was treated at the Community Hospital in San Ignacio and later released after being kept under observation for several hours.

The investigation has since led to the detention of two suspects. Up to press time however no charge has been levied upon any of the two detainees as the search continues for the other two suspects.

Good Luck To All Teams Participating In The 15th Annual Running Of The Belikin La Ruta Maya River Challenge! Have a happy & Safe National Heroes &

Benefactors Day 2013 Planning for







The UDP Getting

Stronger And Stronger

SAN JOSE SUCCOTZ VILLAGE, Cayo, Sunday, March 3, 2013:

As this year's round of village council elections draw nearer, the number of supporters seeking to contest these elections for the United Democratic Party (UDP) is growing exponentially.

This new phenomenon has resulted in the Party having to conduct an unprecedented number of conventions across the country.

Two recent such conventions were held over the past two consecutive weekends in the western villages of San Antonio in the Cayo Central Constituency and the other in the village of San Jose Succotz in the Cayo West Constituency.

In the San Antonio convention which was held between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on Sunday, February 24, an astonishing 601 villagers, of the 972 registered voters on the voters list for the village, flocked to the polls to cast their votes for one of two candidates seeking to contest the upcoming elections as the UDP Chairman candidate for their Village.

When the votes were counted former Chairman, **Cruz Mai**, with 361 votes, was declared the winner. While the incumbent Chairman, **Rene Canto**, received 237 votes. There

to offer themselves for election.

Furthermore, one dozen persons were nominated and accepted nominations to fill the six positions as candidates for members of the village council on the UDP slate.

Despite the mere two hours of voting, an impressive 290 villagers cast their ballots.

When the votes were counted, the current Vice Chairman **Emigdio Manzanero**, with 94 votes was announced as the Party's candidate for Chairman of the villages.

The other four contestants were **Elito Puc**, 67 votes; **Wilson Pat**, 49 votes; **Benjamin Itza**, 42 votes and **Edwardo Cano** 19 votes. There were 19 spoilt ballots.

When the votes for members was tabulated, Maribel Lopez and Jose Lopez each with 148 clinched the first two positions while the other four positions were captured by Virgilio with 140 edging Rigoberto Chan's 139 votes while Julio Cesar Valdez received 126 votes and Martha Carillo got 123 votes.

The remaining six candidates were Nazario Itza Jr., 121 votes; Elsa Irma Chi 110 votes; Jose Luis Cocom, 106 votes; Johanna Camal, 97 votes; Jose Luis Chan, 86 votes and Azucena Godoy, 61



The UDP Slate For San Jose Succotz

were only 3 rejected ballots.

In conceding defeat, **Rene Canto** informed the gathering that the real enemy is certainly not **Cruz Mai** but rather the opposition Peoples' United Party. He pledged to work shoulder to shoulder with the new candidate in the campaign to return victory to the UDP in San Antonio Village.

The second convention was held between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 3, 2013 in the village of San Jose Succotz.

In this hotly contested convention, the first ever such event in the village, a total five candidates came forward votes. There were 23 rejected ballots.

Both conventions were supervised by the Party Chairman, **Alberto August**, ably assisted by a team of party officials and delegates from Cayo West, North and Central.

Another such convention will be held in Calla Creek Village (Cayo West) this coming Sunday, March 10 and in Bella Vista Village (Toledo East) next Sunday, March 17. The date for the Bullet Tree Falls convention in Cayo North and other villages countrywide will be announced later.



NEW! 7 + acs at Monkey Falls, Cristo Rey Road, 2 miles from the George Price Hwy. 1500 ft frontage on Macal River plus creek and small waterfall, huge trees, Santa Elena town limits and on grid. Has final approval for subdivision into 17 riverfront lots. Priced to move at 225k USD.

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663-6777 or 668-0749 roberson.elizabeth@gmail.com



Readers Write



Dear Editor;

It was a proud moment for me this Thursday evening to have attended the official opening of the recently constructed Welcome Center in San that once occupied the area.

In addition to being pleasing to behold, the new Welcome Center also enhances economic activity in the area while providing



Cutting Of The Ceremonial Ribbon By;
(L-R) IDB Representative Anneke Jessen, Minister of
Tourism & Culture Manuel Heredia Jr., BTB Director
Laura Esquivel Frampton, Sustainable Tourism Project
Director Christy Mastry

Ignacio.

This spanking new facility is a clear testimony of that which can be achieve with strong leadership and clear vision.

It is a massive improvement from the outdated Coronation Park

much needed employment opportunities.

Hats of to all those with the vision and the will the bring this possibility to reality.

J. Aldana San Ignacio

STAR Newspaper

The Newspaper that cares and dares to bring out the truth"

#42 George Price Highway, Santa Elena, Cayo, Belize, CA

Publisher:

Nyani K. August Editor:

Albert Nigel August

Office Tel: 804-4900 Cell: 626-8822 and 626-8841 tarnewspaper@gmail.con

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Ministry of Health

Monthly Review



February Issue

First historic National Communication System installed

For the first time, the Ministry of Health has established a National Communications System to network with the Public health providers across the country. Enhanced communications have already been established between Northern Regional Hospital, Southern Regional Hospital and Central Health Region since its installation last month.

This system will support real-time reporting and communication from incident site directly to the Emergency Operating Center (*EOC*) at the headquarters in Belmopan. It will also be useful during possible electricity downtime during disasters or emergencies.

Works will commence shortly



to include connecting San Pedro Town and Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan. Regional Managers of the respective EOCs will be responsible to manage and maintain the equipment. The system was procured through technical cooperation with PAHO at a total cost of BZ\$28,000.

Third Cohort of Field Epidemiology Training Program commences



The Ministry of Health has commenced on the third cohort in a basic level course in Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) for participants including, Public Health Inspectors, Public Health Nurses, Laboratory Technicians and Medical officers of the Ministry and from the Belize Defence Force.

Objectives of the program include building capacity for front line responders in the detection, surveillance, response, analysis and prevention associated with high priority public health problems.

Presentation topics include Modeling and Measuring Diseases, Presenting Epidemiology data and Outbreak and Investigation Steps among others.

Coordinator for the FETP Module, Englebert Emmanuel anticipates that the training will further strengthen the technical leadership of all the participants who work directly with surveillance and investigation of diseases in Belize.

Twenty professionals have since graduated from the first and second Basic Module Training and four from the Advance Module since 2009.

World Cancer Day 2013

A Cancer Symposium was held at the Bliss Center in observation of World Cancer Day celebrated globally February 4th. It was a night of facts, statistics and survivor's stories.

In the Caribbean, Central and South America, cancer remains as the second leading cause of death. Dr, Francis Morey, National Tuberculosis Coordinator, at the Minstry was among the presenters featured that night at the symposium. He mentioned that in Belize more than 10% of annual deaths are related to cancer. During the 5 year period, 2007-2011, there were a total of 857 cancer deaths and almost half of these occurred in persons less

than 65 years of age.

While 80 percent of cancers are attributable to environmental, dietary, social and cultural risk factors, the Ministry is taking a leading role with the support of other organizations in the promotion of health and prevention of all types of cancers. Research shows that a third of most cancers can be prevented and that is why the Ministry is also working on greater collaboration in data collection to direct and develop guidelines, norms and policies World Cancer Day was celebrated under the theme,

"Cancer, Did you know? Get

Nutrition Unit conducts training to improve Dietary Services at Hospitals

the Facts!"

In an effort to improve on Dietary Services within the regional and district hospitals across the country, the Nutrition Unit of the Ministry hosted a Dietary training session at Southern Regional Hospital Kitchen with cooks, dietary aides and dietary supervisors to

The session also allowed staff to address weakness in the dietary unit of their respective hospitals. Nutritionist Robyn Daly encouraged the staff to commit to a more nutritious menu including a daily diet of more fruits and vegetables, and preparing foods low in fat, sugar



improve on the quality of food preparation in hospitals.

During a short theory session, participants were educated on specialized diets and the importance of nutrition care and the quality of foods served at patients. A practical session was conducted in the preparation of nine commonly used recipes. These recipes included Corn, Oatmeal, Squash and Rice Porridges, whole wheat Johnny cakes and tortillas, soy milk and preparing herbal seasonings mixture.

and salt. A commitment was also made on behalf of the Ministry to assist the kitchens to becoming more equipped with the necessary utensils and training as a means to enhance food quality.

For More
Information
Contact The
Ministry of Health
Belmopan
Tel: 822-2325

Or: 822-2363

PROTECT OUR RIVERS AND WATERSHEDS!!! WATER FOR LIFE, NOT FOR DEATH!

BELPO PRESS RELEASE - 6 March 2013:

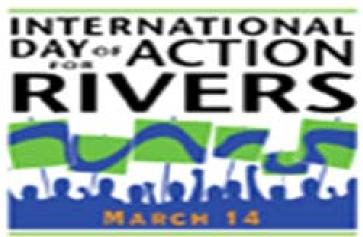
BELPO joins with groups from countries around the world in celebrating International Day of Action For Rivers on 14 March. The aim on this Day of Action for Rivers is to bring awareness about the importance of our rivers to our lives.

BELPO's struggle against destructive dams and the current model of water and energy management is a struggle against a social order that puts profits before people. BELPO rejects the spread of dam projects that threaten our rivers and the downstream communities; BELPO rejects the promotion of intensive mineral and oil exploitation in our watersheds.

Every year BELPO joins millions across the world to celebrate victories such as river restoration, dam removal and theprohibition of the building of dams. It is a day to educate one another about the threats facing our rivers, and learn about better water and energy solutions. Above all, it is a day to unite – by acting together, we demonstrate that

B E L P

Belize Institute of Environmental Law & Policy



these issues are not merely local, but global in scope.

Join us in honoring our rivers by using dance, film, music and fun to connect with your community and encourage everyone to share in the celebration.. Things you can do:

- publicize threats to our rivers
- demand that action be taken to protect our rivers
- paddle down a river
- dance beside a river
- jump into a river
- have kayak events
- clean up along the rivers
- hold a ceremony at the river

Every year at the start at La Ruta Maya Canoe Race, BELPO tries to bring awareness of the importance of our rivers and watersheds. JOIN us in making this celebration a better one. One act of consciousness towards protecting our rivers goes a long way.

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starnewspaper@gmail.com albert.starnewspaper@gmail.com

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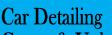
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MONEY LENDERS APPLICATION

Notice for the publication in newspaper of application for a moneylender's certificate

I, Werner Urs Kolliker, hereby give notice that I have applied to the Magistrate Court, at one of its sitting in San Ignacio Town during the month of March 2013, for a certificate to be granted to me under the Moneylenders Act, Chapter 260 to authorise me to carry on business as a moneylender in the name of SWITA at #7 Simpson Street, San Ignacio, Cayo



National Heroes & Benefactors



Hon. Gasper Vega
Deputy Prime Minister
&

Minister of Natural Resources and Agriculture

Wishes to take this opportunity to wish Belizeans everywhere, especially residents of Orange Walk North a very safe and happy National Heroes & Benefactors Day 2013!!!

Celebrating past and present

Heroes & Benefactors

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

St. Ignatius Students Expressing Their Views

Relocation Of Gang Members

I am honoured to express my perspective, through your renowned newspaper, about the situation whereby the Government has decided to relocate some gang members of Belize City. As a concerned citizen of Belize, I hope to shed some light on the absurd distribution of numerous, dangerous gang members across our county.

On January 8, 2013, a massacre was committed in the heart of a gang territory known as George Street. This unfortunate incident caused the citizens of Belize, especially Belize City, to become afraid assuming that the George Street Gang (GSG) would respond to this incident by terrorising civilians. As a result, the Government had a meeting with the gang members. Among all the solutions found to alleviate this situation, the one that struck me the most, was the idea of relocating gang members.

"The key leaders of George Street have left the city under an arrangement with the security forces and their location is one in

which we expect them to continue to be over the next few days." These were the words coming from our beloved Prime Minister in a press conference addressing the GSG massacre. The idea of relocating these men and possibly distributing them across the country is ridiculous. Because of these people, Belize City is known as a hotspot for crime. By relocating them, the government is simply putting the whole country of Belize in danger because they could eventually form 'cults' of their own, luring our youths into a lifestyle of – Guns, Drugs, and Murder.

This is not something to be underestimated, as you read this a GSG member could be moving into the house next to yours....nowhere is safe, and we Belizeans should make our voices be heard concerning this issue. My suggestion is to deal with the problem at the root because branching it off will only make it bigger. Leave these people in their territories, and try to control them there.

~Anonymous



Relocation Of Gang Members

Dear Editor:

While conducting business this week in San Ignacio and Santa Elena, my attention was drawn to Town Council workers installing new and impressive directional signs around town.

While the signs are impressive, they likewise provide effective direction to

locals and visitors alike.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to take care these signs. Let us be mindful that our tax dollars was used to pay for and erect these signs. Let us therefore take care of that which is rightfully ours.

Regards, Alicia Lopez



BTL partners with ROTARY BELIZE to host DISTRICT 4250 18TH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

BTL is proud to champion the work of the Rotary Clubs of Belize and its members who give selflessly of their time, resources and energy for the realization of the club's causes and projects. Over the years, BTL has solidified its partnership with Rotary Belize in support of their ongoing projects that impact the

areas of education, scholarships, health, sanitation and water purification.

BTL's most recent contribution of \$5000 enlisted the Company as a Gold Sponsor for the 18th District Conference for Belize, Guatemala and Honduras; a four day event which was held from 27th February – 2nd March at the San Ignacio Resort Hotel. Event organizers hosted some 300 Rotarians hailing from the United States, Canada and Central America. During the course of the conference, Rotary Belize showcased their projects and developed new meaningful partnerships. When not in meetings, event organizers hosted conference attendees to a number of social events and day trips that promoted the beauty of Belize.

In addition to the monetary contribution, attendees had access to complimentary Wi-Fi powered by BTL. Rotary organizers also streamed the conference online with broadband provided by the Company. Knowledgeable and friendly BTL representatives were on site to lend assistance to conference guests.

BTL is certainly proud of this partnership as it allowed the Company to play a key role in the wider scope of Rotary's projects which are socially conscious and undoubtedly impact those that need the support. We look forward to a continued collaboration with Rotary Belize for the betterment of Belize and Belizeans.





Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

ARIES: March 22 to April 20

Things in the love department may be looking up for you but beware that you aren't getting pushed around. Your partner could feel the need for more freedom in the relationship, while you are hoping to find more commitment. Take it one day at a time. Don't get ahead of yourself by projecting scenarios that may not come to fruition. You're only setting yourself up for disappointment.. Lucky numbers: 08, 19, 25.

TAURUS: April 21 to May 21

You may find that you are indecisive when it comes to issues concerning love and romance. For some reason, you have a tendency to pull one way and then the other, yet neither way seems very rewarding. Don't feel like you have to take concrete action at this time. In fact, if you do, this commitment may cause you more frustration later. Lucky numbers: 11, 36, 56.

GEMINI: May 22 to June 21

Try to get more grounded in your actions regarding love and romance, Gemini. You may need to take a more reserved approach in your actions in order to get where you need to go. At the same time, however, your freedom-loving, adventurous side may feel the need to roam more freely. This is a tough combination of energies to work with, so do your best to find a balance. Lucky numbers: 21, 45, 89.

CANCER: June 22 to July 23

You are quite sure of yourself and solid about many things except one. When it comes to romantic relationships, you feel a bit unsure and inadequate, Cancer. It could be that you are indecisive about how to proceed. There's a strong urge to take charge, but also a tendency to slow things down and let others take the lead. Figure out your needs before you make long-term plans with others. Lucky numbers: 30, 51, 90.

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LEO:

July 24 to August 21

When it comes to love and romance, things are definitely in your favor. The thing to be aware of this week is that there might be some manipulation on the part of someone close to you. Take care that someone else's need for freedom isn't negatively affecting your relationship. Communication is key in order to maintain a healthy romance at any level. Lucky numbers: 33,72,85.

VIRGO: August 22 to September 21

Things regarding love and romance may be a bit dicey for you. You may find that you have to make a few adjustments in order to remain on the same page as your loved ones. Neither one of you may feel like taking the lead at this time, causing some hesitation in the relationship. While each of you is trying to second-guess the other, confusion is likely to reign. Lucky numbers: 14, 26, 48.

LIBRA: September 22 to October 23

The more tightly you try to hang onto something the more likely it is it will want to slip through your fingers. Grab what you want, but don't squeeze too hard. Maintain an important balance between showing someone you care by taking them under your wing and allowing them the freedom to be their own person. Sensitive feelings are operating this week, so proceed with care. Lucky numbers: 03, 60, 75.

SCORPIO: October 24 to November 21

Matters involving love and romance might not go exactly the way you'd like. You could be waiting for your partner to make the next move, since you are unsure of which way the relationship is progressing. At the same time, it may be that your partner is the one waiting for you. Keep the lines of communication open

and stop playing confusing mind games. Lucky numbers: 20,55,63.

SAGITTARIUS: November 22 to December 21

Things should be going well for you in the love and romance department, but you could find that this week things get a bit tenuous. While you want things to be clear and planned out, it could be that your partner longs for more freedom and spontaneity. Tension may result if either party becomes too set in their ways. The tension may arise when neither partner wants to take the lead. Lucky numbers: 10, 26, 41.

CAPRICORN: December 22 to January 20

People may be wondering how to proceed while you are off doing your own thing. Don't go in one direction and leave someone else behind. In matters regarding love and romance, you may have to slow down and communicate with your partner. Take the lead and try not to get slowed down by other people's

indecisiveness. You know which direction to go, so go there. Lucky numbers: 47, 69, 97.

AQUARIUS: January 21 to February 19

Recent events in the love and romance department may have you feeling like you aren't getting your needs met. Remember that other people aren't mind readers the way you are. If someone's behavior isn't right with you, say so. Romantic partnerships should uplift and support your dreams, not something you make personal sacrifices for just to maintain. Lucky numbers: 02, 44, 77.

PISCES: February 20 to March 21

Be careful that you aren't manipulating a romantic situation so your partner loses any power. You may think your actions are noble and well meaning, but you may be creating a scenario that has no basis in reality. People could be impressionable, but that doesn't mean you should take advantage of this by promoting your own interests at the expense of another's. Lucky numbers: 06, 60, 86.



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Hugo Chavez's Body To Stay On Display In Venezuela

The body of the late Venezuelan President **Hugo Chavez** is to be embalmed and put on display after his funeral, Vice-President **Nicolas Maduro** says.

The decision reflects the huge crowds queuing to pay their respects in Caracas, where he is lying in state.

Mr Chavez's body will be moved to a military museum after the state funeral on Friday, Mr Maduro said.

Hugo Chavez, who led Venezuela for 14 years, died on Tuesday after a long battle with cancer.

More than two million mourners have already filed past his body at the military academy in Caracas, queuing for hours to see him lying in



Venezuela's government says the crowds of mourners have exceeded all expectations.

state.

Leaders from Latin America and

beyond are gathering in Caracas for his funeral on Friday, and Mr Maduro

Wishing You A Happy
& Safe National
Heroes
& Benefactors Day
2013
From All Of Us Here
At The
STAR Newspaper
On The George Price
Highway In Santa
Elena Cayo
Tel: 626-8841 or
626-8822

said the ceremony would go ahead as planned.

His body would be embalmed "like Lenin and Mao Zedong", and put on display for at least another seven days, Mr Maduro added.





Jose Orellano

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Mr. Bryant Tzib

General Manager United Pentecostal School San Antonio, Cayo

For more information you can call Cell: 661-8106 or 665-7249.







Hon. Rene Monter

Minister of Works & Transport

Takes this opportunity to encourage all Belizeans at home and abroad to be heroes in their community, lend a helping hand to those in need, you may never know when you will be on the receiving end of kindness.

On March 9, 2013, we pause to salute past and present Heroes and Benefactors who have and still play a huge role in the development of our beautiful country.

I encourage all Belizeans to take advantage of the day and lend a helping hand to someone who may be in need.

"Hand in Hand we build a Stronger and safer Belize"

"Hard times don't create heroes.



It is during the hard times when the 'hero' within us is revealed."



STAR HUMOR

Mother Hen

A pampering mother drops her son off at school for his first day at kindergarten.

"Behave, my Buibaleh" she says. "Take good care of yourself and think about your mother, Tataleh! I will come back for you after school my Kindaleh.

One Hour & Thirty Five Minutes Later

An old Army Sergeant Major in uniform found himself inside a popular downtown disco. There was no shortage of extremely young and beautiful ladies around, one of whom approached the Sergeant Major for conversation.

"Excuse me, Sir, but you seem to be a very serious man. Is something bothering you?"

"Negative, ma'am. Just serious by nature."

The young lady looked at his awards and decorations and said, "It looks like you have seen a lot of action."

"Yes, ma'am, a lot of action indeed."

Getting tired of trying to start up a conversation, she said, "You know, you should lighten up a little. Relax and enjoy yourself."

The Sergeant Major just stared at

Phone # 664-7747 Paslow Falls Road, Bullet Tree Village

Your Mommy loves you a lot Ketsaleh!"

At the end of the school day she returns for the child and hugs him. "So what did my Pupaleh learn on his first day of school?"

The boy answers, "I learned that my name is Jerry."

her in his serious manner. Finally the young lady said, "You know, I hope

you don't take this the wrong way, but when is the last time you been with a woman?"

"1955, ma'am."

"Well, there you are. No wonder you're so serious. You really need to chill out! I mean, not having been with a woman since 1955!"

She took his hand and led him to a private room where she proceeded to "relax" him several

Afterwards, panting for breath, she leaned against his bare chest and said, "Wow, you sure didn't forget much since 1955."

The Sergeant Major said in his serious voice, after glancing at his watch, "I hope not; it's only 2130

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Everyone Heard

An Elderly couple is attending Mass. About halfway through, the wife leans over and says to her husband, "I just let out a silent

fart; what do you think I should

He replies, "Put a new battery in your hearing aid."

Grandma's Birth Control Pills

After working most of her life Grandma finally retired. At her next checkup, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her.

As the young doctor was looking through these, his eyes grew wide as he realized she had a prescription for birth control pills. "Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are BIRTH CONTROL pills?"

"Yes, they help me sleep at

night."

"Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely NOTHING in these that could possibly help you sleep!"

She reached out and patted the young Doctor's knee. "Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16 year old granddaughter drinks and believe me, it helps me sleep at night. "

Aunt & Peanuts

A man visits his aunt in the nursing home. It turns out that she is taking a nap, so he just sits down in a chair in her room, flips through a few magazines, and munches on some peanuts sitting in a bowl on the table.

Eventually, the aunt wakes up,

and her nephew realizes he's absentmindedly finished the entire bowl. "I'm so sorry, auntie, I've eaten all of your peanuts!"

"That's okay, dear," the aunt replied. "After I've sucked the chocolate off, I don't care for them anyway."

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Readers Write



Dear Editor;

I work hard and I oftentimes play hard. I sometime visit clubs to loosen up while enjoying myself with relatives and friends.

Of late however I have been noticing that an increasing number of such recreational spots are fitted with video cameras.

I might be mistaken but I am not at all comfortable in the knowledge that someone might be taping and keeping records of my actions

especially when I am seeking to have a nice time.

In protecting myself against what I consider to be an invasion of my privacy, I have now developed the habit of scouting for video cameras in these places.

As soon as I sense that my privacy is compromised by the presence of a video camera, I make a hasty retreat never to soon return to any such establishment. David Gonzalea San Ignacio

Brazil's Bruno Fernandes Jailed Over Ex-lover's Murder

Brazilian football star Bruno Fernandes has been given a 22-year prison sentence for ordering the murder of a former girlfriend.

He was also found guilty of hiding the body of Eliza Samudio and kidnapping their baby son in 2010.

The ex-Flamengo goalkeeper admitted to knowing that Ms Samudio had been strangled and her remains fed to dogs, but denied ordering the killing.

He said two other defendants in the case carried out the murder.

The murder has attracted intense media interest in Brazil where it has been compared to the OJ Simpson trial in the US.

Fernandes, who was hugely popular with fans, had been tipped to play for Brazil in the 2014 Fifa World Cup finals.

Complex case

One of his friends, Luiz Henrique Ferreira Romao, and a former policeman, Marcos Aparecido dos Santos, were also charged with Ms Samuido's murder.

She was killed after demanding that Fernandes pay child maintenance for their baby son, prosecutors said.

According to police reports, she was then strangled, her body cut up and parts were fed to dogs. It has never been recovered.



Brazil Football Star Bruno Fernandes

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Last November, Romao was jailed for 15 years after admitting his involvement in the crime but maintained that Fernandes had ordered its execution.

Mr Santos is accused of torturing



Eliza Samudio

and dismembering the woman. He is yet to be sentenced.

Ms Samudio was lured to a hotel in Rio de Janeiro in June 2010 on the pretext of obtaining a DNA test to prove the married footballer was the father of her baby.

She and her son were then abducted

and taken to Fernandes' home in Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais state.

The baby was found a fortnight later in the home of friends of Fernandes's ex-wife, Dayanne Rodrigues.

Ms Rodrigues, who was also arrested in connection with the case, has been acquitted on charges of abduction involvement in the plot.

Fernandes was jailed for four-and-ahalf years in December 2010 after being found guilty in a separate trial of abducting and assaulting Ms Samudio the previous year.

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Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Contributed by: Eric Heyden Public Affairs Officer Embassy Belmopan

It is difficult to put on paper the beauty of watching the sun rise over the ocean while heading out to sea for a day on the water. I have seen Belize's extensive biodiversity while snorkeling off of the cayes, including a variety of sharks and stingrays. The United States and Belize have long worked hand in hand to protect our natural heritage, especially in the sea.

Sharks and manta rays are important to ocean ecosystems, and the United States is concerned about the conservation status of species that are increasingly affected by international trade. These species are all biologically vulnerable to overexploitation, as a long-lived, low productivity species. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a valuable tool to address the threats posed by unsustainable global trade in shark and manta ray parts and products, including fins, meat, and gill plates.

CITES lists species according to the level of protection each species needs. Listing decisions are made at meetings of CITES member countries (referred to as "Conferences of the Parties") that take place every two to three years. The next Conference of the Parties in early March will consider listing a number of marine species in CITES, including proposals to list the oceanic whitetip shark, three species of hammerhead sharks (smooth, scalloped, and great), porbeagle sharks and manta rays. Adoption of these proposals will help ensure that the trade of these species is monitored and occurs at sustainable levels. Another proposal will provide the freshwater sawfish with the highest level of protection under CITES.

The United States strongly supports all of these proposals, but our support is not enough. A two-thirds majority of the CITES member countries that are present and voting is needed to adopt a proposal. While this might seem difficult to achieve, the protection of hundreds of species is testament to the fact that with concerted effort, we can trade natural resources sustainably.

Some argue that CITES is not needed because some of the species proposed for listing are already managed under regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). Yet these regional agreements alone cannot ensure that the survival of these species is not threatened by international trade – marine species swim thousands of miles, crossing countless international borders. This

is where CITES comes in. Listing species in CITES will complement RFMO measures by regulating international trade of these species at sustainable levels.

Our oceans are under increasing pressure from human exploitation, but listing hammerhead sharks (smooth, scalloped, and great), porbeagle sharks, and manta rays under CITES

will go a long way in making the trade of these species sustainable. These species play an important role in preserving the health of unique ocean ecosystems upon which millions of people around the world depend.

Belize is a valuable stakeholder in CITES and has shown its care for its marine preserves through its designated protected areas, announcing its newest and largest in late 2012. I encourage Belize to continue to show the world its environmental leadership by supporting these proposals.



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Carlos Slim Tops Forbes Rich List For Fourth Year

Mexican tycoon **Carlos Slim** has topped Forbes magazine's list of the world's richest billionaires for a fourth year.

The magazine estimates that Mr Slim, whose business interests range from telecommunications to construction, is worth \$73bn (£49bn).

He is followed by Microsoft founder **Bill Gates** on \$67bn.

Famed investor **Warren Buffett** has dropped back to fourth place, with third spot going to **Amancio Ortega**, the founder of the Zara fashion chain.

Record profits, and a resulting surge in the share price of the holding company Inditex that he owns, has propelled Mr Ortega from fifth place, leapfrogging Mr Buffett.

In contrast, the "Sage of Omaha" admitted last week that his Berkshire Hathaway investment company had a "sub-par" year in 2012, underperforming the S&P 500 index



World's Richest Man Carlos Slim

of US share prices for only the ninth time in its 48-year history.

Mr Buffett, 82, was one of seven over-70s in the 10 wealthiest people on the list, with the average age of the top 10 reaching 74 this year.

Besides Mr Ortega, another fast

riser has been **Larry Ellison**, the Oracle tycoon, whose software firm has risen 20% on the stock market over the last year.

There have been mixed fortunes in the French luxuries sector. **Bernard Arnault**, the man behind Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessey, saw his stock fall last year, dragging him down from fourth spot to 10th.

That put him one place behind 90-year-old L'Oreal heiress **Liliane Bettencourt**, whose estimated \$30bn fortune has been put under the custody of her daughter after a long legal battle.

The two Koch Brothers, who own a giant US industrial conglomerate and have helped bankroll the Republican Tea Party movement, came in joint sixth place, with \$34bn apiece.

Li Ka-Shing has held onto the eighth position and remains the

highest-placed Asian, with \$31bn. The Hong Kong-based owner of Hutchison Whampoa and Cheung Kong Holdings is the world's biggest operator of container terminals.







Processed Meat 'Early Death' Link

Sausages, ham, bacon and other processed meats appear to increase the risk of dying young, a study of half a million people across Europe suggests.

It concluded diets high in processed meats were linked to cardiovascular disease, cancer and early deaths.

The researchers, writing in the journal BMC Medicine, said salt and chemicals used to preserve the meat may damage health.

The British Heart Foundation suggested opting for leaner cuts of meat. The study followed people from 10 European countries for nearly 13 years on average.

Lifestyle factors

It showed people who ate a lot of processed meat were also more likely to smoke, be obese and have other behaviours known to damage health.

However, the researchers said even after those risk factors were accounted for, processed meat still damaged health.

One in every 17 people followed in the study died. However, those eating more than 160g of processed meat a day - roughly two sausages and a slice of bacon - were 44% more likely to die over a typical follow-up time of 12.7 years than those eating about 20g.

In total, nearly 10,000 people died from cancer and 5,500 from heart



problems.

Prof Sabine Rohrmann, from the University of Zurich, told the BBC: "High meat consumption, especially processed meat, is associated with a less healthy lifestyle.

"But after adjusting for smoking, obesity and other confounders we think there is a risk of eating processed meat.

"Stopping smoking is more important than cutting meat, but I would recommend people reduce their meat intake."

Health benefits

She said if everyone in the study consumed no more than 20g of processed meat a day then 3% of the premature deaths could have been prevented.

The UK government recommends

eating no more than 70g of red or processed meat - two slices of bacon - a day.

A spokesperson said: "People who eat a lot of red and processed meat should consider cutting down."

However a little bit of meat, even processed meat, had health benefits in the study.

Ursula Arens from the British Dietetic Association told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that putting fresh meat through a mincer did not make it processed meat.

"Something has been done to it to extend its shelf life, or to change its taste, or to make it more palatable in some way... and this could be a traditional process like curing or salting."

She said even good quality ham or

sausages were still classed as processed meat, while homemade burgers using fresh meat were not.

"For most people there's no need to cut back on fresh, red meat. For people who have very high intake of red meat - eat lots of red meat every day - there is the recommendation that they should moderate their intake," she added.

Ms Arens also confirmed that the study's finding that processed meat was linked to heart disease was new.

Mr Roger Leicester, a consultant surgeon and a member of the Meat Advisory Panel, said: "I would agree people should eat small quantities of processed meat."

However, he said there needed to be a focus on how meat was processed: "We need to know what the preservatives are, what the salt content is, what the meat content is...meat is actually an essential part of our diet."

Dr Rachel Thompson, from the World Cancer Research Fund, said: "This research adds to the body of scientific evidence highlighting the health risks of eating processed meat.

"Our research, published in 2007 and subsequently confirmed in 2011, shows strong evidence that eating processed meat, such as bacon, ham, hot dogs, salami and some sausages, increases the risk of getting bowel cancer."



Supporting our young people by engaging them in positive activities that will catapult them into role models in their schools, social groups and homes is of great importance. As BTL continues to partner with key stakeholders, we are pleased to highlight organizations that make a difference.

The company was approached by the Wesley Lower School Faculty to assist with their annual sports day where students practice teamwork, sportsmanship and compete to be top performers. BTL is pleased to defray part of the cost to parents and faculty by contributing \$2,000 towards their sports day t-shirts. We are happy to assist in making this event a reality and by extension, put smiles on the faces of students, teachers and proud parents.

BTL has also partnered with a newly formed NGO, REACH (Research, Education and Advocacy for Social Change) to take a stance against the rapid escalation of social violence that is plaguing our youths and communities. The mission of this group is to foster community self-evaluation, social-change and enable more informed policy and decision making through quality social research. BTL committed another \$2,000 towards this social initiative.

With BTL's generous contribution, REACH will organize a visual art exhibition in June 2013 which will give prominence to the participants' creative forms of expression through photography and video. It will also see through the production of a spoken word DVD which will reflect the social and emotional circumstances affecting our youths through their expression of poetry. Through both projects, REACH's objective is educating our communities on the effects of social violence and other social ills that affect our Belize.

BTL commends the efforts of Wesley Lower School and REACH who succeed in educating and developing our young people. We wish them every success with their timely and meaningful projects.

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