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



No. 353

Sunday, March 31, 2013

Price \$1.00

Zamir Guerra Makes Us All Proud

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 25, 2013:

Santa Elena's 16 year old **Zamir Guerra** of *Cayo High Road Cycling Team* shattered the record to be crowned the new Junior Cross Country Cycling champion of Belize.

With 19 riders participating, the 14th Annual Junior Cross Country Cycling Classic got underway at 9:00 am on Sunday March 24, from the village of San Jose Succotz on the George Price Highway for the 72 mile ride to the finish line at Leslie's Imports, mile one just outside Belize City.

Guerra completed the race in three hours, 34 minutes and 38 seconds leaving the chase group a whopping 12 minutes behind and in the process crushing the record set six years ago by Byron Pope.

Although he is young in age, Guerra has been riding for the past four years

competing in other youth races. This is however, his first time in the Junior Cross Country Classic.

He accredits his win to the tremendous support he has received over the years from his family, friends and colleagues in cycling especially, his strong and dedicated teammate **Aiden Juan**, who he says was instrumental in keeping the chase group behind.

Zamir wishes to thank his sponsors, **Carrillo Puerto Hardware** and **Belize Natural Energy Limited** as well as his immediate family, the Neal and Flowers family who supported him from the very beginning and pushed him to the max.

The new champion returned to his hometown on Sunday evening with the coveted garland, SMART credit, jewelry, racing equipment, a box of energy bars and the 2013 Junior

Please Turn To Page 2



The Three Top Finishers (L-R) Tarique Flowers, Champion Zamir Guerra & Michael Wagner

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MARCH 2013 30TH

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Roni Banos Crowned Best Reggaeton Artist in Belize

Good things have been happening in Santa Elena, Cayo: The reigning Cross Country Champion comes from Santa Elena; The current Junior Cross Country Champion hails from Santa Elena and the Reggaeton Superstar also comes..... you got that rightfrom Santa Elena.

The circle would have been complete if only our Dream Marching Band would have been, last Saturday, crowned Band Fest

Please Turn To Page 3

Two Alleged Rapists Continue In Uniform

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 25, 2013:

The news began spreading like wild fire on Sunday morning of the Saturday night brutal raping, by two policemen, of a woman from Bullet Tree Falls Village, Cayo.

Given the implications of the grave betrayal of the public trust, we moved swiftly to check into this matter and found that such a report indeed existed.

There was also the simultaneous indication of the attempt to cover up the allegation at the highest local level of the police in San Ignacio.

The incident began at around 4:00 pm when a first report was received at the Bullet Tree substation which is manned by elements of the Special Patrol Unit on weekly and sometimes bi-weekly rotation mostly for the purposes of anti drugs and anti contraband activities from across the border in the Peten Area of Guatemala.

A member of the local neighborhood watch group, which was conducting a family fun day program at the football field in the village, responded to the first report of a woman villager allegedly consuming alcoholic beverages at a local bar along with her underage daughter.

In following up the report, the police and the neighborhood watch rep encountered the woman drinking in the bar, but the child, as alleged, was not in her company. With no offence committed the woman was merely informed of the report made and the responders left the establishment.

The second report was received at around 7:00 pm of a domestic

dispute between the now suspected inebriated woman and the husband. Two policemen reportedly rushed to the scene in a small red private car with taxi license plates accompanied by a civilian in his private car.

The intoxicated woman was placed in the policeman's private car driven by the policeman owner while the man was placed inside the civilian car. They were transported to the substation where it is alleged that the man was reprimanded and told to keep away from the house.

It is further alleged that the two policemen, attached to the Special Patrol Unit, left the station with the woman in the small red car, allegedly inviting her to more drinks. The woman reportedly informed that, in her drunken state, she does not know where she was taken by the two policemen but that she allegedly confirmed being raped by the two of them.

The third report occurred at around 10:00 pm that same day when the alleged bleeding woman visited the chairman of the local neighborhood watch group and reported that she was raped by the two policemen. At this point elements of the San Ignacio police were brought into the picture.

By Sunday evening the woman was in Belmopan for medical attention and one of the policemen was in detention at the San Ignacio police station while the other one was in police custody in Benque Viejo Town.

By midday on Monday however, things began falling apart as both policemen were released and the one that was in Benque Viejo was amazingly told to "escort" himself to San Ignacio police the following day.



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Officer Commanding San Ignacio Police, Supt. **Ralph Moody**, confirmed on Tuesday afternoon that the medical report from the doctor at the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan confirmed that the woman was indeed violently sexually assaulted. Notwithstanding the two policemen have been released and returned to active duty as, according to Moody *"the victim required no further action and since it is a sexual crime, the police did not want to cause any further trauma*

to the woman" UN-FREAKING-BELIEVABLE.

Another crime, this one as serious as rape, is going unrecorded. Mr. Moody and his station are well on the way to winning another one thousand dollar cash prize next month to throw yet another party in exchange for providing those who pay their salaries with a false sense of security. Oh what a slippery slope we are climbing when we practice to deceive. Where is the Women's Commission of Belize?

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Zamir Guerra Makes Us All Proud

From Front Page
Cross Country Cycling Champion Trophy.

Residents of Santa Elena, San Ignacio and indeed the entire Cayo District are proud of Zamir's accomplishment as he continues to be a perfect example for other youth seeking to make a positive difference in their lives away from crime and violence into the realm of national positive fame. **Zamir Guerra** is a classic example of hard work paying off. Congratulations Champ!!!



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Roni Banos Crowned Best Reggaeton Artist in Belize

From Front Page

Champion. But wait. the circle can be competed if we recapture the garland in this Holy Saturday's Cross Country Classic.

Santa Elena's Reggaeton superstar **Roni Banos** has been crowned the 2013 Best Reggaeton Artist at the third annual Belize Music Awards held on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at the Bliss Center for the performing arts in Belize City.

Banos who was nominated for his hit single "Si Tu Te Vas," from his album entitled, Connectando Corazones, has exploded all across Belize.

The winning hit song, accompanied by a music video, was shot on Burns Avenue in downtown San Ignacio. In

putting together the project Banos was assisted by big name artists in Reggaeton such as **Blonndy the Melody** and producer **Josh El Codeo** of **RVM Records** who produced the album, falling under various genres such as; Reggaeton, Bachata, R&B and Hip-Hop.

Banos explains that while he has been singing professionally for the past five years, his love for the performing arts stems from the time he was a child growing up listening to great R&B artists and Hip-Hop Kings.

Saturday's win, said Banos is the result of the huge support he has been receiving from his family, Belizean fans and friends, especially **DJ Super Mario** who has been playing his hit

songs over the radio for all Belizeans to enjoy.

In the wake of Saturday's big win Banos' biggest gig ever will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2013 inside Club VIP in Belmopan, where he is

scheduled to open the show for DJ Flex. All you music lovers mark that date on your calendars: **Saturday, May 4, 2013** inside Club VIP in Belmopan.

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Public Notice

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Left at the Altar...Again?

Contributed by: **Karla Heusner**
March 25, 2013:

I don't know about you, but there seems to be a real sense of deja-vu in the latest communication from the Guatemalan government regarding the long-standing territorial claim. Despite their previous bravado about being more than willing to take the issue to the International Court of Justice, it seems they are reverting—once more—to their previous pattern of stalling, postponing, and giving every excuse they can come up with to keep from participating in the agreed-to referendum in October. Yes, my friends, we have on our hands, once more, a runaway groom...

The most recent proposals from the Guatemalans shared with us by the Honorable **Wilfred Elrington**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, have done little to improve my confidence in Guatemala's good faith stance. As of this writing, their latest proposals ask Belize to change our referendum law to require a simple majority vote, and **then** they would agree to honor the agreement to hold the referenda simultaneously. Their second proposal is that they would wait and see if our people vote "Yes," **then** they would hold their referendum.

The first proposal seems to reveal a lack of confidence in Guatemalan voter turnout, despite the Guatemalan government's portrayal of the referendum at the Organization of American States as an issue of national importance. The second, well, even a child could see that defeats the whole purpose of a *simultaneous* vote. Is the bride's groom so nervous he has to have someone in the church waiting to see if the bride says, "I do," before he will come inside himself?

In my opinion, this whole *telenovela* approach to the dispute shows a real lack of respect—and integrity—for what we had previously believed to be a real threat to our territorial integrity. But perhaps this *pappy show* gives a real glimpse into the difficulties facing the Guatemalan government right now.

It has me wondering about number of things:

1. Is the Guatemalan government so financially strapped it is unable to afford to hold a referendum, or its accompanying educational campaign?

2. Is the Guatemalan government afraid the majority of Guatemalan citizens may in fact believe their country's claim to Belize territory is so ludicrous they cannot be expected to turn out to vote on the issue of the ICJ in significant enough numbers?

3. Conversely, has the Guatemalan government done such a good job with their propaganda campaign to convince their countrymen and women that Belize belongs to Guatemala that they are afraid their voters will say "Yes" to the ICJ, believing they actually have a legal case? If so, is the effort to postpone the referendum an attempt to head off the ultimate humiliation at the ICJ?

Of course, there may be some behind-the-scenes rationale that we do not know about for the latest proposals, or should we say, "**non-proposals**," so perhaps we cannot take them at face value. Then again...

Despite what many of them say, I don't think many senior Guatemalan government officials want the claim resolved. As I have maintained before, I believe the un-resolved claim gives them some useful political rhetoric during elections that they require as a rallying point for their party faithful. The claim is part of their national mythology and history-making. So much so that their Ministry of Education is still producing textbooks that shows Belize as part of Guatemala. There is nothing new in this; it is just part of the old regime members clinging to the past.

But change is inevitable. It may already be upon us. Last week, **Wellington Ramos** wrote in the **STAR Newspaper**, "*The Guatemalans who have been saying for centuries that Belize belongs to them are beginning to believe that they will lose this case if it goes to the International Court of Justice.*"

I am inclined to agree with that assessment.

I believe many Guatemalan leaders, perhaps with the assistance of their own and international legal experts, now recognize that the Guatemalan claim really is what Belizeans have always known it to be, **fiction**.

This understanding, while welcome to Belize, traps Guatemala in a

double-bind: how can it save face with its citizenry after decades of false propaganda, while at the same time saving face with the international community? What will the fallout be—both at home and abroad—when the ICJ dismisses its long cherished fantasy of dominion over a country it never occupied, controlled, nor even influenced and which has been an independent nation since 1981?

Most of us can empathize with our own Ambassador Mendez and the rest of the Belizean delegation for being frustrated by this perpetual game of playing "**hard to get.**" But can you imagine the position the Guatemalan Ambassador and delegation are in? At least Belize has always acted with absolute integrity over its territorial and maritime areas integrity. Guatemala, the historical aggressor, is about to be revealed as a paper tiger.

I suspect many people in Guatemala, particularly in the business sector, are tired of the posturing and just want to get on with regional

integration and trade with their neighbors. I believe they want we want: peaceful and profitable relations, an end to the political strain and uncertainty caused by a seemingly unsolvable historical, geographical and political impasse.

The question now is, if the Guatemalans are not willing to hold a referendum, and are bent on postponing any approach to the ICJ, what is the next move for Belize? Just how do you deal with a neighbor who pretends to own half of your house but won't go to court to prove their case, or listen to anyone who tries to tell them they were just imagining things?

To me, this is an even greater political and diplomatic challenge than going to the ICJ would ever be. Now is when we will see just how well the current leaders of Belize can handle their particular chapter of the historical record on Belize-Guatemala relations.

Now is when we will see if we have mere diplomats, or true statesmen, who can break this cycle of endless rounds of negotiations with no resolution, and no referenda—on anything—yet again.



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Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

ARIES:

March 22 to April 20

Stop dwelling on old projects and routines based on situations that have long since expired. This is a good time to honestly examine your situation. Being aggressive in your approach toward improvement and change means letting go of what no longer serves you. Move forward with courage instead of hesitation. **Lucky numbers: 12, 41, 76.**

TAURUS:

April 21 to May 21

You are apt to feel stronger within, helping you to connect the inner and outer sides of your personality. You may feel like you have all your troops united on a common front and are making tremendous progress toward reaching your goals. Don't stop. Your momentum is strong. Things you set in motion now will have a tremendous effect that will continue to increase over time. **Lucky numbers: 08, 30, 57.**

GEMINI:

May 22 to June 21

There is an explosive quality you. You may walk along, minding your own business, when someone accidentally bumps into you. Your first reaction may be to push that person back. Do your best to keep these tendencies under control, especially when driving. **Lucky numbers: 18, 53, 88.**

CANCER:

June 22 to July 23

You have a tremendous amount of drive and enthusiasm to help you move forward in your projects. Be careful that you don't act hastily or impulsively. Be careful of starting out on a new path without having a good idea about where it's going. Rash decisions may lead to dangerous situations, so know what direction to go in before you start the car. Be safe. **Lucky numbers: 26, 65, 91.**

LEO:

July 24 to August 21

A relationship with a close partner may get a bit confused. You could react quickly to a situation without really thinking. There may be some confusion in your mind about whether to stay silent or take a more aggressive route and blurt out everything you feel. It's important that you find an equal balance of both. **Lucky numbers: 34, 60, 86.**

VIRGO:

August 22 to September 21

You may run into a great deal of opposition from just about every quarter. The most frustrating part about this is that even the people you

turn to for help will transform the situation into an even bigger mess. Instead of finding relief, you may find more complications and misunderstandings. Perhaps you need to take the situation into your own hands and deal with it yourself. **Lucky numbers: 03, 44, 82.**

LIBRA:

September 22 to October 23

You are becoming much more perceptive. You may find that you know more about the way someone feels than that person does. More than likely, this sort of perspective is causing you to want to take aggressive action in order to shake people up and help them open their own eyes to the situation at hand. **Lucky numbers: 37, 71, 95.**

SCORPIO:

October 24 to November 21

You are likely to act with great immediacy. You will instantly know what to do in a situation, especially a crisis. You are likely to be thinking at top speed and moving with efficiency and courage. You should feel strong knowing that there is a terrific support system surrounding you in case things go awry. Go out on a limb and take a chance that you might not have considered before. **Lucky numbers: 32, 80, 93.**

SAGITTARIUS:

November 22 to December 21

If someone criticize you, defend yourself. Other people aren't going to be afraid to speak their minds, and you shouldn't either. They probably just want to get some sort of reaction out of you. Be honest about how you feel and explain your statements

instead of just being curt. **Lucky numbers: 10, 49, 77.**

CAPRICORN:

December 22 to January 20

Be a friend to someone new and lend a hand to a greater cause than just your own advancement. Give more of yourself and you will find that in the long run you will receive a great

energy to the day just waiting to be unleashed. Know what you are getting into before you light that match. The effects of your actions will ripple for some time. That said, go ahead and set the situation on fire. Perhaps there's an issue brewing that can no longer be ignored. **Lucky numbers: 36, 61, 85.**

PISCES:

February 20 to March 21

This is truly a day of new

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deal more than you ever would have asked for. Be generous to the people around you and form collective goals that will benefit everyone. **Lucky numbers: 17, 52, 90.**

AQUARIUS:

January 21 to February 19

The gas is on. One spark can cause an explosive fireball. There is a tremendous amount of potential

beginnings. You can start a fresh cycle of emotions and understanding that can help you develop the quality and depth of your relationships. Note that all levels of your relationships will be affected in some way. Take time to consider the fact that you are at the starting line. Focus and align yourself with your goals and the people who can help you meet them. **Lucky numbers: 27, 46, 66.**

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safe Easter Holiday

Especially to the
residents of Santa
Elena, Georgeville,
Cristo Rey, San
Antonio & Seven
Miles



John
11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and
the life. He who believes in me will live, even
though he dies; and whoever lives and believes
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Happy Easter

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sus mejores deseos para una
agradable y bendicida
celebración de Semana
Santa 2013



Have a very Happy and Safe Easter
Weekend.

Drive safe, remember that drinking and
driving do not mix.

Jesus said to her,
"I am the resurrection and
the life. He who believes in me
will live, even though he dies;
and whoever lives and
believes in me will never die.

John 11:25-26

Happy Easter 2013



★ STAR HUMOR ★

The Results

Mr. John visited his doctor and told him that he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination was complete, John said, "Now, Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain

English what is wrong with me." "Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy." "Okay," said the man. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

911 Call

There was a blonde that lived in a small house on the corner of 4th Avenue.

She had a small shed in her backyard where she kept gardening tools.

One day, she thought she saw smoke coming out of the roof of the shed.

In a panic she called 911. They

answered and said "This is Joe, is there an emergency?"

The blonde replied "Yes my shed is on fire!!!" Joe said, "Don't panic help in on the way...where do you live?"

The blonde said, "IN A HOUSE, NOW HURRY!!!"

Joe calmly responded back, "How are we supposed to get there?"

The blonde answered back, "DUH!!! A BIG RED TRUCK!"

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that GLORIA TOBAR is applying for the renewal of a MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2013 to operate Rosita's Deli located on Benque Veijo Road, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Have a very happy & Safe Easter Holiday from all of us here at the STAR NEWSPAPER
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Happy Easter

From The Management & Staff Of

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*Les desea a todo residentes de Benque
Veijo del Carmen, San Jose Succotz,
Arenal y Calla Creek*

*Una Feliz y Bendicia Celebracion De
Semana Santa*

John 3:16

*Porque de tal manera amó Dios al
mundo que dio a su Hijo único, para que
todo aquel que en él cree no se pierda,
mas tenga vida eterna.*

*A most Happy & Safe Easter to all
Belizeans as we remember and celebrate
the true meaning of Easter*

Happy Easter Belize

Ambergris Caye Wins 2013 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Islands Award

Contributed by Andrea Polanco
Media & PR Manager at the
Belize Tourism Board

Belize City, Belize, Tuesday,
March 26, 2013:

Belize today proudly recognizes Ambergris Caye as the top recipient of the TripAdvisor® Travelers' Choice® Islands awards.

These awards honor top islands around the world, based entirely on the millions of valuable reviews and opinions from TripAdvisor travelers. In total, more than 100 winning islands were named across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, South America, South Pacific and the U.S.

Honourable Manuel Heredia, Minister of Tourism and Culture, said, "We are delighted that Ambergris Caye of Belize has been recognized as the world's top island in the TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Islands awards. We would like to thank all the travelers who have made this win possible, simply by sharing their love of Ambergris Caye with the TripAdvisor travel community. We look forward to welcoming more visitors to our paradise this year and beyond."



**Hon. Manuel Heredia,
Minister of Tourism and
Culture**

"Whether you're looking for idyllic palm-lined islands, or islands that offer a more cultural experience, you'll find inspiration in these lists," said Barbara Messing, chief marketing officer for TripAdvisor. "From the world famous to the hidden gems, what unifies every award winner is the fantastic feedback from travelers across the globe."

This announcement comes on the

heels of numerous properties in Belize receiving outstanding awards for TripAdvisor's 2013 Travelers' Choice Awards. Properties all over Belize placed in the Caribbean categories, as well as the World categories.

The Phoenix Resort placed #2 in Top 25 Luxury Hotels in the World and #20 for Top 25 Small Hotels in the World. Pelican Reef Villas Resort

placed #16 for Top 25 Small Hotels in the World.

**STAR
Newspaper**
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Santa Elena, Cayo, Belize, CA

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Wish all Belizeans
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All of our offices countrywide will closed during the
Easter Break as follows:

CLOSED	RE-OPEN
Holy Thursday March 28 th , 2013 at 1:00 p.m.	Tuesday April 2 nd , 2013 Belize City: <u>7:30am</u> All Others: <u>8:00am</u>
NB: All offices will be open through the lunch hour	



**MINISTRY OF ENERGY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND PUBLIC UTILITIES**

2nd Floor Lands Building, Market Square, Belmopan, Cayo District

Telephone No. 822-0160/62

Fax No. 822-0433

Email: minister.sec@estpu.gov.bz

**Vacancy Announcement
Science and Technology Coordinator**

1.) Introduction

The Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. Dean Barrow established a new Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology and Public Utilities (MESTPU) in March 2012. The MESTPU is expected to execute an ambitious mandate that is aimed at strategically integrating energy, science and technology into national development planning and decisionmaking. The Ministry has received funding to hire a consultant to serve as Science and Technology Coordinator to lead the Ministry's activities relating to science and technology.

3.) Purpose of the Consultancy

Overall Objective:

The Science and Technology Coordinator will lead and coordinate the development of the **Belize Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Development (2013-2030)** as well as coordinate the Ministry's science and technology activities outlined in its strategic plan.

4.) Scope of Work

1. Coordinate the implementation of the Ministry's S&T strategy
2. Serve as the primary focal point for science and technology (S&T) initiatives within the Ministry
3. Lead the development of annual works plans and action matrix related to S&T
4. Assist in the preparation of project proposals to fund S&T program of works, with emphasis on S&T applications in low carbon, renewable energy initiatives and Information and communications technology (ICT)
5. Maintain close working relationship with the CARICOM Caribbean Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and SIDS DOCK Secretariat in identifying S&T applications for dissemination nationally
6. Maintain active partnerships across various Ministries that relies on S&T to harmonize efforts and initiatives
7. Primary liaison between Ministry and Ministry of Education regarding science education
8. Liaise and work closely with other government ministries and departments, relevant institutions and key organizations in S&T
9. Plan and represent the Ministry on the above matters at press conferences, school presentations, international and local conferences, training and etc.
10. Coordinate annual S&T fairs and activities
11. Work full time at the MESTPU

5.) Qualifications and Experience of Consultant

Execution of this position requires a consultant will the following competencies, skills and experience:

- Significant expertise and experience in one or more of the following areas: science and technology, climate change, renewable energy, information and communications technology and project management
- At least three years demonstrable work experience in a similar or related position
- A minimum of a bachelors degree in a science related field
- Experience in writing grant proposals and fundraising
- Capability to manage complex technical assistance projects and to deliver required outputs on schedule
- Good working relations with government, private sector and non-government organizations
- Fluency in English with excellent writing, presentation and communication skills.

6.) Duty Station: The S&T Coordinator will be expected to work at the MESTPU in Belmopan on a full-time basis.

7.) Commencement: The Science and Technology Coordinator is expected to be employed for the period 1st May, 2013 to 30th April, 2014. Opportunity to renew at the end of the contractual year is dependent on funding availability and performance.

8.) Application Procedure: Applicants are asked to submit an application package consisting of: a) a cover letter, b) an updated curriculum vitae, and c) two letters of recommendation in hard copy no later than 5 p.m. on April 12th, 2013 to:

Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Energy, Science & Technology and Public Utilities
2nd Floor Old Lands Building
Market Square
Belmopan, Cayo District
Belize, Central America

Note: A comprehensive Terms of Reference for the positions can be provided upon request.

Leave The Rest To God

Submitted By: Ernestine Patnett, New York, USA, Tuesday, March 26, 2013:

This is a beautiful and touching story of love and perseverance. Well worth the read.

At the prodding of my friends I am writing this story. My name is **Mildred Honor** and I am a former elementary school music teacher from Des Moines, Iowa, USA.

I have always supplemented my income by teaching piano lessons - something I have done for over 30 years.

During those years I found that children have many levels of musical ability, and even though I have never had the pleasure of having a prodigy, I have taught some very talented students.

However, I have also had my share of what I call **'musically challenged'** pupils - one such pupil being Robby. Robby was 11 years old when his mother (a single mom) dropped him off for his first piano lesson. I prefer that students (especially boys) begin at an earlier age, which I explained to Robby. But Robby said that it had always been his mother's dream to hear him play the piano, so I took him as a student.

Well, Robby began his piano lessons and from the beginning I thought it was a hopeless endeavor. As much as Robby tried, he lacked the sense of tone and basic rhythm needed to excel. But he dutifully reviewed his scales and some elementary piano pieces that I require all my students to learn. Over the months he tried and tried while I listened and cringed and tried to encourage him.

At the end of each weekly lesson he would always say **'My mom's going to hear me play someday'**. But to me, it seemed hopeless, he just did not have any inborn ability.

I only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled, but never dropped in.

Then one day Robby stopped coming for his lessons. I thought about calling him, but assumed that because of his lack of ability he had decided to pursue something else. I was also glad that he had stopped coming - he was a bad advertisement for my teaching!

Several weeks later I mailed a flyer recital to the students' homes. To my surprise, Robby (who had received a

flyer) asked me if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and that because he had dropped out, he really did not qualify.

He told me that his mother had been sick and unable to take him to his piano lessons, but that he had been practicing. **'Please Miss Honor, I've just got to play'** he insisted. I don't know what led me to allow him to play in the recital - perhaps it was his insistence or maybe something inside of me saying that it would be all right.

The night of the recital came and the high school gymnasium was packed with parents, relatives and friends. I put Robby last in the program, just before I was to come up and thank all the students and play a finishing piece. I thought that any damage he might do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my 'curtain closer'.

Well, the recital went off without a hitch, the students had been practicing and it showed. Then Robby came up on the stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked as though he had run an egg beater through it. **'Why wasn't he dressed up like the other students?'** I

thought. **'Why didn't his mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?'**

Robby pulled out the piano bench, and I was surprised when he announced that he had chosen to play Mozart's Concerto No. 21 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys they even danced nimbly on the ivories. He went from pianissimo to fortissimo, from allegro to virtuoso; his suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent! Never had I heard Mozart played so well by anyone his age.

After six and a half minutes he ended in a grand crescendo, and everyone was on their feet in wild applause! Overcome and in tears, I ran up onstage and put my arms around Robby in joy. **'I have never heard you play like that Robby, how did you do it?'**

Through the microphone Robby explained: **'Well, Miss Honor remember I told you that my mom was sick? Well, she actually had cancer and passed away this morning. And well she was born deaf, so tonight was the first time she had ever heard me play, and I wanted to make it special.'**

There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening. As the people from Social Services led Robby from the

Please Turn To Page 16

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Minister of Education, Youth & Sports



Hon Patrick Faber

Special Easter Greetings to all the wonderful residents of the Collet Division and to Belizean everywhere from the Minister of Education Youth & Sports. May God continue to shower you and Belize with his blessings.

John

11:25 - 26 (niv)

“Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

Happy Easter 2013

Belize Rejects Guatemalan Proposals

BELMOPAN, Cayo, Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today informed that after having reviewed the proposals by the Republic of Guatemala as presented in writing on 17th March, 2013 to Secretary General of the Organization of American States, **Jose Miguel Insulza**, for the parties to consider postponement of the referenda for an indefinite period or for Belize to proceed on its own to hold a referendum on the agreed date, has decided to reject the Guatemalan proposals in their entirety.

The Government of Belize notes that tremendous efforts over many years and through successive administrations have been spent in finding a negotiated solution that would bring to a definitive end Guatemala's unfounded claim to Belize, and that the failure of these attempts is what led to the signing of the Special Agreement by Belize, Guatemala and the OAS on 8th December, 2008. That Special Agreement provides for referenda to be held in Belize and in Guatemala

simultaneously on the date of 6th October, 2013 and had also been jointly agreed upon by the Parties for the purpose of consulting the respective publics on whether or not the solution should be found in

submitting Guatemala's claim to the International Court of Justice. Any changes in the Special Agreement or the agreed dates of the referenda must therefore be jointly agreed upon.

The Government of Belize is today

writing to OAS Secretary General Insulza to inform him that Belize rejects the proposals by Guatemala and to confirm Belize's continued commitment to abide by the Special Agreement of December 2008, including the holding of simultaneous referenda as agreed on 6th October, 2013.



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Leave The Rest To God

Continued From Page 14

stage to be placed into foster care, I noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy. I thought to myself then how much richer my life had been for taking Robby as my pupil.

No, I have never had a prodigy, but that night I became a prodigy of Robby. He was the teacher and I was the pupil, for he had taught me the meaning of perseverance and love and believing in yourself, and may be even taking a chance

on someone and you didn't know why.

Robby was killed years later in the senseless bombing of the Alfred P. Murray Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April, 1995.

Thank you for reading this. May God Bless you today, tomorrow and always. If God didn't have a purpose for us, we wouldn't be here! Live simply; Love generously; Care deeply; Speak kindly and leave the rest to God.

STAR Newspaper
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Cares & Dares To Bring
Out The Truth

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We take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter Holliday 2013!



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Colombian Police Seize Cocaine Stashed In Bricks

Police in Colombia say they have seized half a tonne of cocaine hidden in a shipment of bricks.

Officers said the drugs had a value of \$1.7m (£1.1m) - and were intended for the US.

The cocaine was found stashed inside the cargo in the Colombian port city of Cartagena.

Police are investigating the construction firm behind the shipment, which they suspect was set up solely for the purpose of smuggling drugs.

The shipment was destined for Honduras, from where police believe the cocaine would have been smuggled to the United States.

Officers from Colombia's counter-



Police Estimate The Drugs Could Be Worth Almost \$2m If Sold In The United States

narcotics police force and members of the US Drug Enforcement Administration had received a tip-off about the new construction firm.

When they tested the shipment, 13 out of 15 pallets of bricks proved to contain cocaine.

According to the United Nations World Drug Report, most of the cocaine seized in the US comes from Colombia.



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- o Participates in approved training program and study operating manuals to assure increased knowledge and competency in work performance
- o Performs minor maintenance during normal shift and assists in maintenance effort during unit and/or equipment outage.
- o Performs other related duties as required

SALARY:

- o Dependent on Qualifications and experience

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- o Associates degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering or High School Diploma with five years related experience
- o Knowledge of power plant or large industrial equipment and operating procedures preferred
- o Ability to comprehend complex operating manuals, blueprints and flow diagrams
- o Have a clean police record and good inter-personal skills
- o Must have a valid driver's license

The successful applicant must relocate and reside in the San Ignacio\Santa Elena Town area or Benque Viejo del Carmen Town. Application letters, accompanied by two (2) letters of reference, must be submitted by April 15, 2013 to:

Administrative Assistant
BECOL
P.O. Box 87
San Ignacio Town
Cayo District

Mexico Uncovers Ancient Pelota Courts At Tajin Site

Archaeologists in Mexico say they have uncovered three ancient playing fields at a pre-Hispanic site in the eastern state of Veracruz.

They found the courts, dating back some 1,000 years, at the Tajin World Heritage site by using laser scanners.

They believe the fields would have been used to play pelota, a game in which players used their hips to propel a rubber ball through stone hoops.

The sport was widely played by Mayan and other pre-Columbian people.

Experts from the National Institute for Anthropology and History (INAH) said the use of aerial photography, remote sensors and laser scanners had made it possible to find the ancient structures, hidden by layers of soil and dense vegetation.

Clue to the past

Guadalupe Zetina of the Tajin archaeological site said they would



Tajin Was Declared A World Heritage Site In 1992

now proceed to excavate parts of the site to further investigate the find.

As well as the three playing fields, the archaeologists found remains of "balconies", platforms between 10m (33ft) and 12m high that would have provided a panoramic view of the surrounding area.

Ms Zetina said so far they had found two balconies but that they suspected there may be more.

"At the moment, we're studying their characteristics and making 3-D digital models, but we'll need to carry out excavations to determine how they were used, but

we're sure they were viewing platforms," Ms Zetina said.

Ms Zetina's team also found traces of living quarters in the western part of the archaeological site, which could have housed large families.

The archaeologists hope this last find may provide them with clues as to how the inhabitants of the Tajin site lived.

Tajin is thought to have had its heyday between the early 9th and early 13th Century, at which point it became the most important centre in north-east Mesoamerica.

The discovery of the three playing fields brings the number of pelota courts uncovered in Tajin to 20. Tajin is therefore also known as the "city of pelota".

It is not known who the original inhabitants of Tajin were.

**STAR
Newspaper**

problems, such as fighting or bullying.

"Our work suggests that limiting the amount of time children spend in front of the TV is, in itself, unlikely to improve psychosocial adjustment."

She said interventions focusing on the family dynamic and the child were more likely to make a difference and that much may depend on what children are watching and whether they were supervised.

Sonia Livingstone, professor of social psychology, at the London School of Economics, said the findings were a "good reason to ask why some children spend so much time watching television".

Prof Annette Karmiloff-Smith, of Birkbeck, University of London, said that rather than focusing on the possible adverse effects of TV and video games, it would be better to look at what positive impact they could have on children.

"This important study suggests the relationship between TV and video games health is complex and influenced by many other social and environmental factors."

Tv Time 'Does Not Breed Badly Behaved Children'

Spending hours watching TV or playing computer games each day does not harm young children's social development, say experts.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) team who studied more than 11,000 primary school pupils says it is wrong to link bad behaviour to TV viewing.

Although researchers found a small correlation between the two, they say other influences, such as parenting styles, most probably explain the link. But they still say "limit screen time".

This cautionary advice is because spending lots of time in front of the TV every day might reduce how much time a child spends doing other important activities such as playing with friends and doing homework, they say.

US research suggests watching TV in early childhood can cause attention problems at the age of seven.

In the US, paediatric guidelines



recommend that total screen time should be limited to less than two hours of educational, non-violent programmes per day. There are currently no formal guidelines in the UK.

For the MRC study, published in Archives of Diseases in Childhood, Dr Alison Parkes and colleagues asked UK mothers from all walks of life to give details about their child's TV viewing habits and general behaviour.

Electronic entertainment

Almost two-thirds (65%) of the

11,014 five-year-olds included in the study watched TV between one and three hours a day, 15% watched more than three hours and less than 2% watched no television at all.

Watching more than three hours' TV a day at this age predicted a very small increase in "conduct" problems at the age of seven.

After their seventh birthday, these boys and girls were slightly more likely to get into fights, tell lies or be bullies than their peers, according to their mothers' reports.

Time spent playing computer games bore no such relationship.

And there was no association between TV or any screen time and other issues such as hyperactivity or problems interacting with friends.

Dr Parkes, head of the MRC's social and public health sciences unit in Glasgow, said it was wrong to blame social problems on TV.

"We found no effect with screen time for most of the behavioural and social problems that we looked at and only a very small effect indeed for conduct

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Minister of National Security

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A happy and safe Easter.

Share the gift of Faith with others during the Easter season. Pray and hope this will make our world a kinder place for everyone.

Happy Easter Belize!!!

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