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# STAR

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No. 409 Sunday, August 10, 2014 Price \$1.00

# Novelo Caught In The Act

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Wednesday, July 30, 2014:

A man caught carrying a washing machine on his shoulder in the early hours of the morning on Monday, July 28, was arrested, charged and denied bail.

Police on mobile patrol shortly after 3:00 am on Monday, July 28, in the Bradley's Bank area of Santa Elena town reportedly came upon a male person of Hispanic decent carrying a washing machine on his shoulder. When questioned he was unable to provide a reasonable response for his action. He was detained

and transported to the police station in San Ignacio along with the PL Laundromat brand, 6 kilo washing machine. The detainee was identified as **Armando Novelo**, 24, Belizean mason residing in the Hill View Area of Santa Elena Town.

The detainee was still in police custody when at around 5:00 am on Tuesday, July 29, **Christine Codd**, Belizean housewife residing in Bradley's Bank, visited the police station and reported that her washing machine was missing from its usual spot on the verandah of her house. The machine held by the

police was shown to her whereby she immediately and positively identified it as being her property resulting in the formal arresting and the issuance of a theft charge to Armando Novelo.

Novelo appeared before magistrate **Herbert Panton**, in San Ignacio magistrate's court on Wednesday, July 30 where, before pleading not guilty to the

theft charge, said to magistrate Panton, "*I neva thief it, I buy it*". He was advised to leave all statements for the trial. Magistrate Panton concurred with the prosecutor's request for the denial of bail. Novelo was consequently remanded to prison with the next court date set for, Wednesday, September 3, 2014.

C.O.B.Y ENTERTAINMENT AND NEXT LOUNGE SAN IGNACIO PRESENTS





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# AUGUST 16TH 2014

## NEXT LOUNGE SAN IGNACIO

# Police Holds Public Meeting

WELCOME CENTER, San Ignacio Town, Cayo, Wednesday, August 7, 2014:

Over one hundred residents of San Ignacio, Santa Elena and surrounding villages gathered today at the Welcome Center in San Ignacio Town to listen to the police report on the local crime situation and citizen security plans.



ACP, Aaron Guzman, OC Cayo (Police) District



Supt. Dinsdale Thompson, OC San Ignacio Police

The meeting was called by the Officer Commanding the San Ignacio police formation, Superintendent of Police, **Dinsdale Thompson**.

Sitting at the head table with Supt. Thompson and likewise addressing the gathering were

Please Turn To Page 3



## Editorial



### Who Is Lying? Who Is Telling The Truth?

If there is any truth in the most recent allegation, against the PUP Standard Bearer in the Belize Rural North constituency regarding impropriety involving large sums of missing money from a client, then the accused might just be in for very rough times ahead.

While we sit on opposite sides of the political divide, for the sake of his sanity, his political aspirations and indeed his entire well being, we wish him no ill. The allegations against him however are extremely serious in nature given that, in months just past, he portrayed himself as the vanguard for all that is right. Even more serious is that at one juncture in his life he was aspiring to become the leader of the political party to which he belongs, an aspiration that, who knows, he might still be harboring in the back deep recesses of his mind.

The complainant in this matter would be venturing into dangerous territory in the advancement of false charges against this individual. The revelations of the sequence of events however presents diametrically opposite versions of what

actually transpired; hence it can be safe to draw the assumption that one party is telling the truth while the other is not being truthful. The million dollar (**no pun intended**) question had therefore got to be: Who is lying and who is telling the truth?

Leading the charge for the institution of possible criminal action against the accused is a senior counsel cut from same political stock as the accused, the proceedings, as it currently stands, therefore cannot attract allegation of the involvement of the usual raw political maneuvering as was the case when the very man who stands accused today, was leading the charge against his political opponent in the Belize Rural North constituency in a matter that fades in comparison to the allegation now looking him directly in the face.

It is written somewhere: *"To whom much is given, much is expected"*. In the past several months the accused stood as the vanguard for all that is right. How could he therefore, if he truly has, have fallen from his perch on

high?

The interview with the accused, aired on Channel 7's Thursday evening newscast, seems to have come across as, if not an outright display of arrogance, bordering very close thereto.

The unfolding of this matter will be very interesting to follow. One thing is for certain however: It has opened an inter party wound, cutting at the very core of the opposition, a deep, deep wound that will never soon heal.

Given that the allegation seems to have all the elements required for the levying of a theft charge against the accused. Furthermore, given that it directly and individually implicates one who is seeking an elected position on his party's ticket for the next general election, the silence on the part of the leader of the opposition is deafening. Is this how leaders act? Do they simply wait in the wings hoping that matters of this serious nature just **"blow away like a lee breeze?"**

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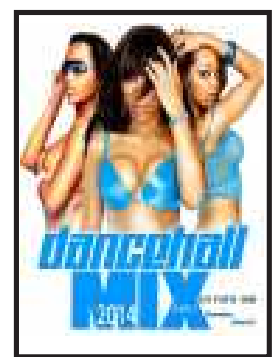
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# Garcia Accused of Burglarizing His Sister's House

SANIGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, August 7, 2014:

The Cristo Rey village home of **Jeffery Gonzalez** was reportedly burglarized between 8:00 am and

1:00 pm on Wednesday, August 6. In making the report to the police, Gonzalez informed them of the prime suspect being his brother-in-law, **Selvin Garcia**,

## Police Holds Public Meeting

**Continued From Front Page**

Thompson's deputy, **Inspector Reymundo Reyes**; Assistant Commissioner of Police, **Aaron Guzman** in his capacity as the Officer Commanding the Cayo (Police) District; **Julian Sherrard**, Chair of the People's Coalition of Cayo; neighborhood watch Chair, **Ernie Braun** and retired Superintendent of Police **Rudolph Orio** currently serving as the National Coordinator for Citizens On Patrol (COPS) program.



**Supt. (r) Rudolph Orio**

police, was due primarily to effective police patrols, rapid police response to reports and the quick apprehension of offenders.

While the police were commended for the reported



**Insp. Reymundo Reyes**  
**2nd In Command**  
**San Ignacio Police**

The primary purpose the meeting was to inform the community of the drastic decrease in major crimes within the community. This success, informed the



**UDP Mayoral Candidate,**  
**Councilor Earl Trapp**

also residing in Cristo Rey village.

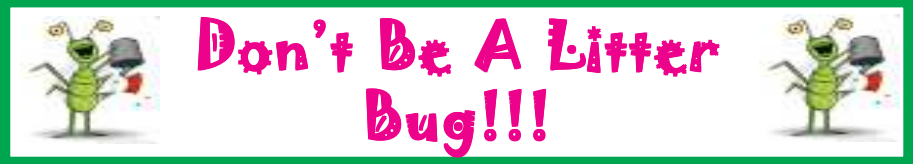
The police visited the scene where they observed that entry was gained by breaking the lock on the front door. In his statement to the police requesting court action, Gonzalez itemized the missing property as a gold engagement ring valued at \$900, a black Cannon brand digital camera valued at \$400, an Apple brand iPod valued at \$400 and a black Gucci brand wrist watch valued at \$600, all for a total value of \$2,300.

While the police report is mute on the recovery of any of the alleged stolen items, swift police action led to

the detention of the 19 year old brother in law. He was transported to the police station in San Ignacio where he was processed and issued with a burglary charge.

The accused Belizean laborer appeared before magistrate **Levi Moe**, on Thursday, August 7, where he pled not guilty to the burglary charge and was offered bail.

The offering of bail was short lived as prosecutor **George Gomez** rose in objection to the granting of bail on the basis of the accused having a prior aggravated assault charge. Magistrate Moe concurred with the prosecutions' request thereby proceeding to remand the accused to prison. The matter was adjourned to Wednesday, September 3, 2014.



**Julian Sherrard**

decrease in crimes, residents requested further decreases. The police informed that the best way to further decrease crimes is for the community to continue working in partnership with the police.

For its part, the police informed of the close



**Ernie Braun**

collaboration with the community, especially the business community in the important crime reduction effort. The police further encouraged communities to form neighborhood watch groups offering assistance in this endeavor.

## Ebola: Global Experts Begin Emergency Talks At WHO

Global health experts at the World Health Organization (WHO) are meeting to discuss new measures to tackle the Ebola outbreak.

The meeting is expected to last two days and will decide whether to declare a global health emergency.

On Wednesday, a man suspected to have contracted Ebola died in Saudi Arabia. If confirmed, this will be the first Ebola-related death outside of Africa.

The virus has killed nearly 900 people since February in West Africa.

The outbreak began in February in Guinea, and has since spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

On Wednesday a nurse became the second person to die from Ebola in Nigeria.

Nigeria's health minister said

five other cases of Ebola were being treated in isolation in Lagos, sub-Saharan Africa's largest city.

It comes as leading infectious disease experts have called for experimental treatments to be offered more widely.

Two US aid workers who contracted Ebola in Liberia appear to be improving after receiving an unapproved medicine ahead of their evacuation back to the US.

But it is not clear if the ZMapp drug, which has only been tested on monkeys, can be credited with their improvement.

**Prof Peter Piot**, who co-discovered Ebola in 1976, **Prof David Heymann**, the head of the Centre on Global Health Security, and Wellcome Trust director **Prof Jeremy Farrar** said there were several drugs and vaccines being studied for



Airports in Nigeria are now screening passengers for Ebola on arrival

possible use against Ebola.

*"African governments should be allowed to make informed decisions about whether or not to use these products - for example to protect and treat healthcare workers who run especially high risks of infection,"* they wrote in a joint statement.

The WHO, "the only body with the necessary

international authority" to allow such experimental treatments, "must take on this greater leadership role", they said.

The meeting of the WHO's emergency committee in Geneva is focusing solely on how to respond to the Ebola outbreak.

If a public health emergency is declared it could also involve

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# **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**



## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and motivated candidates in respect of the following employment opportunities:

### **1. Director - Finance and Administration**

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

The **Director - Finance and Administration** is responsible for the general management and supervision of the finance and administration functions of the Office of the PUC, including but not limited to:

- a) Direct supervision of finance and administrative staff
- b) Development, implementation and operation of financial and accounting systems
- c) Preparation of annual budgets and reports
- d) Human resources functions, programs and plans
- e) Human resources development and training
- f) Consumer affairs and customer services functions
- g) Public relations and public education functions, programs and plans
- h) Processing of applications for licenses, authorizations, reports, documents, etc.
- i) Maintenance of registers of licensees, Byelaws, Orders, Decisions, Regulations, etc.
- j) Maintenance of office equipment and other relevant assets of the PUC
- k) Other relevant duties and responsibilities that may be assigned from time to time

#### **Qualifications:**

The successful candidate shall possess:

- a) Minimum of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Administration or related field
- b) At least five (5) years' experience in a senior management position in comparable organization
- c) Outstanding interpersonal, planning, motivational and organizational skills
- d) Unwavering interest and commitment to the purpose, duties and responsibilities of the PUC

#### **Benefits:**

The base salary will be based on personal qualifications and experience, within the salary scale of BZ\$50,000.00 to BZ\$90,000.00 per annum. The successful candidate will be entitled to an annual gratuity of 20% of base salary and to twenty (20) working days' vacation annually. Successful candidates will also be entitled to participate in all benefit plans, if any, provided by the PUC to its employees generally, including its ongoing training program.

### **2. Consumer Affairs/Public Relations Officer**

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

The **Consumer Affairs/Public Relations Officer** is responsible for assisting the PUC in the regulation of licensees for all utility sectors particularly with respect to matters directly affecting consumers, including the handling of complaints, and to manage the public relations and public education functions of the PUC. Specific duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- a) Direct supervision of assigned staff
- b) Assist in the development and implementation of Byelaws, Regulations, Orders and methodologies or processes for handling of complaints against licensees in all utility sectors
- c) Planning and logistical control of public proceedings, meetings, conferences, workshops, etc.
- d) Assist, as appropriate, in the determination and setting of tariffs, rates, fees and charges in rate review proceedings or filings
- e) Assist in the collection and analysis of comments received from Interested Persons and the general public where required
- f) Assist in the maintenance and operation of the PUC Website
- g) Assist in the development of codes of practice for licensees and monitoring of licensees for compliance to such codes
- h) Assist in the Preparation of annual budgets and reports
- i) Other relevant duties and responsibilities that may be assigned from time to time

#### **Qualifications:**

The successful candidate shall possess:

- a) Minimum of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications, Public Relations or related field
- b) At least five (5) years' experience in a relevant position
- c) Outstanding interpersonal, planning, motivational and organizational skills
- d) Unwavering interest and commitment to the purpose, duties and responsibilities of the PUC

#### **Benefits:**

The base salary will be based on personal qualifications and experience, within the salary scale of BZ\$36,000.00 to BZ\$75,000.00 per annum. The successful candidate will be entitled to fifteen (15) working days' vacation annually. The successful candidates will also be entitled to participate in all benefit plans, if any, provided by the PUC to its employees generally, including its ongoing training program.

### **Applications**

The deadline for applications for both positions is **5:00 PM on August 22, 2014**.

Completed applications along with two letters of reference should be sent to:

**Employment Opportunities  
Public Utilities Commission  
41 Gabourel Lane  
Belize City, Belize**



## Readers Write

### How Do I Let It Go?

AUGUST 1, 2014:

#### How Do I Let It Go?

SUZIE ELLER

*"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness, And rivers in the desert."* Isaiah 43:18-19 (NKJV)

Three-year-old Elle arched her arm and pointed her fingers. "You're frozen, Gaga!"

I stopped in place, one arm behind me, the other in the air. She giggled, then quickly unfroze me.

If you are in the vicinity of anyone under the age of 6, you're familiar with the movie, Frozen. In it, two sisters struggle in their relationship with each other and in finding acceptance.

At one point Elsa, the older sister, sings these words:

*"Let it go, let it go ...*

*"And I'll rise like the break of dawn ..."*

Let it go.

Those are words I sensed God speaking to me years ago.

Let go of the past that you cannot undo.

Let go of the warped view you have of yourself. It doesn't match the one I have as your Heavenly Father.

Let go of the hurts that hold you too tightly.

Just as I playfully stood frozen while my granddaughter giggled, there was another time when I felt frozen. I couldn't take a step toward healing.

"Let it go, sweet daughter," was a whisper I heard from God to discover the Suzie He saw me to be.

Maybe you've sensed God asking you to let something — or someone — go.

Let go of the mistakes you once made. I've forgiven you.

Let go of the anger that's consuming your thoughts.

Let go of condemnation, so you can live free.

You want that desperately, but it can be hard to let go when you don't know what that means. May I share the definition of letting go with you? It was freeing for me when I finally understood it.

Letting go is giving up what is beyond your control to embrace what you can change.

In Isaiah 43:18-19, God spoke to His people through the prophet Isaiah saying: *"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness, And rivers in the desert."*

The people held so tightly to the past that they missed the new things God wanted to show them.

God speaks the same warning and truth to us. We can't control the past, but we can focus on the miracles around us today.

We can't control the words that once shaped our hearts, but we can replace them with truth from Scripture.

We can't control negative people, but we can choose joy for ourselves.

Letting go isn't easy in the beginning, because holding on is our natural response. But there's so much hope! Just as the prophet Isaiah describes new roads in the desert and rivers in the wilderness, as we give up what we can't control to embrace what we can change, new ways of thinking, relating and living are carved into our very being.

And the beautiful thing about letting go?

It doesn't just change us.

It has the power to alter the next generation, and the next after that, like the cute little

blonde-haired, blue-eyed darling chasing her Gaga through the house, singing, "Let it go!"

Dear Jesus, I've wanted to let go for a long time, but I didn't know how to do that. Now that I do, I'm ready to take that leap of faith. I give up what I cannot control to embrace what I can. Thank You for carving new roads in the desert of my heart and new rivers in the wilderness of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TRUTH FOR TODAY:

Philippians 3:12-14, *"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* (ESV)

RELATED RESOURCES:

Suzie's newest book, The Mended Heart: God's Healing for Your Broken Places is a powerful resource to help you as you heal from past heartaches.

Would you like to bring Suzie Eller to your church? Click here to learn more about Suzie as your next retreat or keynote speaker. You can also visit Suzie's blog today, where she takes this topic deeper.

You might also enjoy Karen Ehman's book, Let. It. Go.

Contributed BY: Janice Swift

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# Roni B Releases New CD

BY: Josh Code

Belizean producer **Rubio "Josh The Code" Tzib** will be Releasing a new CD under his record label RVM records on Saturday, 9 August 2014 at Costa Maya in San Pedro Town. The title of the CD is **"K.O.B The Gold Edition"** highlighting Josh The Code as the producer, engineer and composer.

The Album is a compilation of various talented artist from the beautiful country of Belize, artists such as **Roni B T-Romeo del Sentimeinto, Osky la Ultima Pieza, Cholin el Pirate, El Toro Ferros and Blondy D Melody.** Also debuting in the album



**Roni Banos**

are new artists such as **Alex and Brian** and **Frequency 3.**

Also participating in the launching of this CD are invited guests, **"Romantic Boys"** from Guatemala, which is



**Rubio "Josh The Code" Tzib**

a very popular group with their hit Single **"There is Love/hay Amor"** which is playing nation wide and on most radio stations in Belize, also internationally.

This album created and organized by Josh, T-Romeo and Roni B is a fresh fusion of musical styles such as soca,

punta, and latin music which is composed and sang in English and Spanish. The music video for this Album is in progress.

The CD has a lot of energy and various musical styles like Electro Pop, Punta, Merengue urbano, Hip hop and Reggaeton, of course. The Album has already been distributed across the country of Belize, and it is also available in itunes, amazon and other online digital stores.

We would like to take this time to thank the general public including all our fans for their numerous support they have given to us and for also believing in us.

We would like to incourage you to like us on Facebook at **RONI B MUSIC** or follow us on Twitter at **RVMRECORDSBZ** for pictures, free music, music videos and much more. We encourage you to continue support us. We love you.

# The Ultimate Father

BY: Karen Schenk

August 10, 2014

Submitted By Janice Swift

**"Now may God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you."**

**1 Thessalonians 3:11**

I'll never forget the moment when my husband held each of our children in his arms the first time. The almost instant and complete adoration for each child was remarkable! As the children grew, I continued to marvel at the evidence of my husband's love for each of them. His profound love for every child has helped shape them to become godly young men and women.

As I study Scripture and see the many references to God as being our Father, I read time and time again where the Bible uses "Father" in a context where it stresses God's loving care, provision, discipline, and suggests the way we are to address God in prayer. God, as our Father, clears the way so that we can come to Him and have a deep and rich relationship with Him. He desires that!

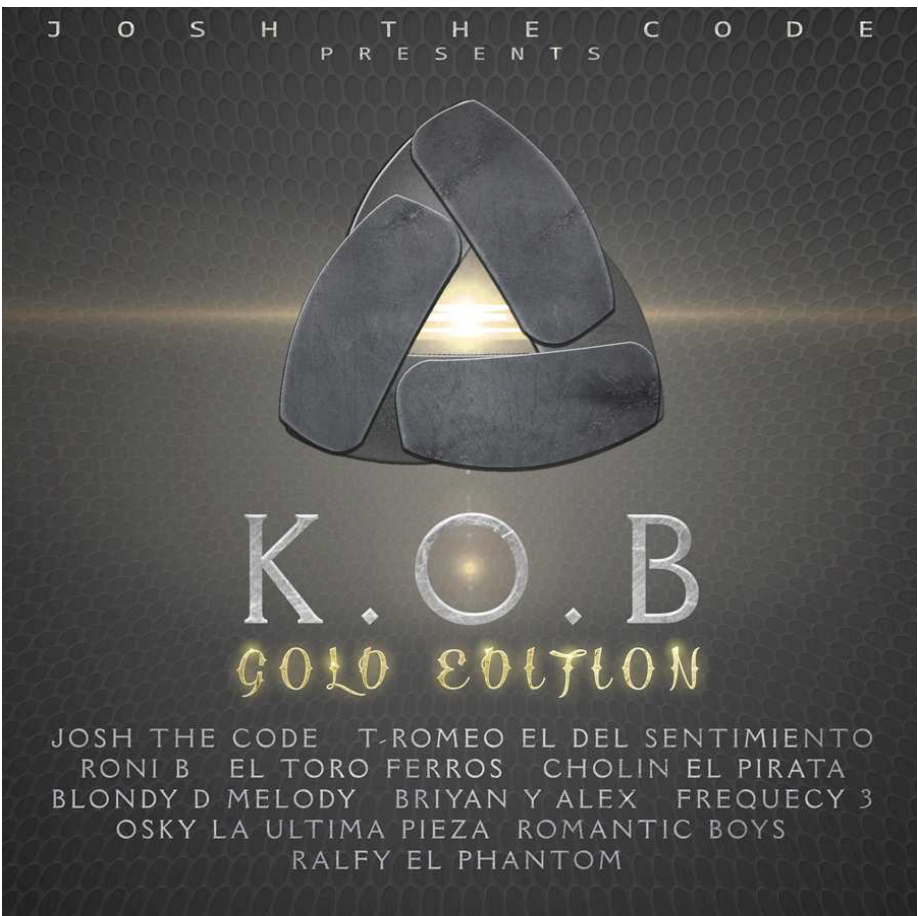
I have a loving father and my relationship with him made it natural for me to see God as a loving Dad who guided me, corrected me and wanted the best for me. For others, the word 'father' brings many grim memories. Others had fathers who have caused much hurt in their lives and have left them with deep "father wounds". These wounds make it difficult to see God the Father as a loving Dad who desires the best for them. It may take years, professional help

or even a lifetime to forgive and deal with the pain. If this is your story, I pray that God would reveal Himself in a brand new way today.

Lord, I thank You so much that You love us deeply. I pray that if there is anything in my life that interferes with me experiencing Your love the way You intend, that You would reveal that to me so that I can be free to love You and experience You as God, the Father, the way You desire. Thank You for loving me. Please wrap those who face 'father wounds' in Your arms. Hold them close, Lord, and reveal to them the warmth of Your love. In Jesus' Name. Amen

## Action Step

Take some time and write out some examples of how God, as the perfect Father, shows His love to you. Embrace that love, and then pray about how you could share that love with others. If your own relationship with your father has caused you pain and that strained relationship affects how you see God, begin to pray about steps you could take so that you can truly experience God's love for you the way He intends it to be.



# ★ STAR HUMOR

## The Busy Doctor

A young doctor had just opened office and felt really excited. His secretary told him a man was here to see him. The young doctor told her to send him in.

Pretending to be a busy doctor, he picked up the phone just as the man came in. "Yes, that's

right. The fee is \$200. Yes, I'll expect you ten past two. Alright. No later. I'm a very busy man."

He hung up and turned to the man waiting. "May I help you?"

"No," said the man, "I just came in to install the phone."

## The New Born

Once there was a woman who had a baby at the age of 85. The neighbor lady across the street was thrilled to see the baby. When the old woman return home from the hospital she was in perfect health, so the lady ventured across the street to ask to see the newborn babe. She knocked on the door and heard the new mama call out, "Come on in. It's open."

So she went on in. She asked the older lady if she could see the baby and the older woman replied, "You can see the baby in a minute. He is sleeping." So they proceeded to have some tea and cookies.

Later, the younger lady looked

at her watch and realized that the time had gotten away from them. So, she asked again if she could see the baby. This time the older woman seemed to be a little annoyed. Finally the younger woman said, "I really don't understand why you will not let me see the baby. It has been three hours and I am still waiting to see him."

With that the older woman replied, "I know you have been here for quite some time and have showed remarkable patience with me. The truth is I keep hoping the baby will wake up and start to cry so I can remember where I put him!"

## Birth Control Pills

Mrs. Smith, an elderly woman, went into the doctor's office. When the doctor asked why she was there, she replied, "I'd like to have some birth control pills."

Quite surprised, the doctor thought for a minute and then said, "Excuse me, Mrs. Smith, but you're 75 years old. What possible use could you have for

birth control pills?"

The woman responded, "They help me sleep better."

The doctor thought some more and continued, "How in the world do birth control pills help you to sleep?"

The woman said, "I put them in my granddaughter's orange juice and I sleep better at night."

## Perfume Purchase

After being away on business, Tim thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift. "How about some perfume?" he asked the cosmetics clerk.

She showed him a bottle costing \$50.00.

"That's a bit much," said Tim, so she returned with a smaller

bottle for \$30.00.

"That's still quite a bit," Tim complained.

Growing annoyed, the clerk brought out a tiny \$15.00 bottle.

"What I mean," said Tim, "is I'd like to see something really cheap."

The clerk handed him a mirror.

## Church Gossip

Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed arbiter of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose in the other members' private lives. Church members were unappreciative of her activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his pickup truck parked in front of the town's only

bar one afternoon.

She commented to George and others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing.

George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny; he said nothing.

Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house... and left it there all night!

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# Facebook Sued By 25,000 Members

A data privacy campaigner has signed up 25,000 people to a *"class action lawsuit"* being taken against Facebook.

**Max Schrems** alleges that the way the social network monitors its members' activity on and off the site puts it in breach of EU laws.

As part of the claim, he also alleges that the company co-operated with Prism, a US surveillance scheme.

Facebook has previously denied knowing about Prism before it was mentioned in leaked US government documents.

The company has, however, acknowledged complying with national security requests from US government agencies.

Facebook has not commented on the wider case being brought against it.

The BBC understands it does not plan to respond until it has been served the relevant papers.

## Facebook search

Mr Schrems asked Facebook users based outside the US and Canada who wished to take part in the case to sign up via an app.



The case is targeted against the company's Irish subsidiary, which is responsible for all accounts belonging to users outside of North America. It has been filed with the Commercial Court for Vienna, the 26 year old's home city.

Among the allegations are that Facebook broke EU privacy laws by introducing:

**Graph Search** - a facility allowing users to find out about other members' activities on the social network

**External website tracking** - monitoring members through the Like buttons embedded into third-party webpages

**Big data analysis** - the ability to gain insights into Facebook members' by data-crunching the billions of interactions people have with the site every year

## Model case

Mr Schrems is demanding 500 euros (\$667, £396) in damages for each of the first 25,000 people who signed up to the case.

While the Austrian legal

system does not make provision for US-style class actions, Mr Schrems is working round this by getting the other participants to transfer their financial claims to him, which is permitted.

If he wins he intends to share the money after delivering a 20% cut to a German firm that is funding the case.

While the promised payout might have helped him attract support, Mr Schrems says the money is a side-issue.

Instead, he explains, the dispute with Facebook is intended to be a *"model case"* that sets a precedent addressing the wider problem of tech firm developing products that comply with US laws, but are not adapted for other countries' rules.

*"It is not an epic fight with Facebook but more of a general question of where we are going and if we respect our fundamental rights in Europe,"* he told the BBC.

*"Right now I have the feeling that we love to point the finger at the US in Europe, and say they are not respecting our privacy. But the reality is that we don't really do anything"*

**Please Turn To Page 14**

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**THE GARIFUNA COLLECTIVE**

The Garifuna Collective has represented Belize and Belizeans on numerous world stages with music that represents the Garinagu way of life. With a heavy focus on keeping this unique cultural heritage alive, DigiCell is supporting The Garifuna Collective with a contribution of \$22,000 to assist in their quest to carry the torch of cultural preservation and musical innovation around the world.

The Garifuna Collective is a unique multigenerational and talented group of Belizean artists who in 2007 blew up the local and international musical scene with the release of their Wátina album with late lead singer and Belizean musical icon Andy Palacio. In 2013 The Garifuna Collective released Ayó (goodbye), A touching tribute album to their fallen hero which has released worldwide to great critical acclaim.

As a Belizean owned Company, we believe that it is our responsibility to support this talented world-class home-grown group in sharing the rich Garifuna and Belizean culture with the world. DigiCell is honored to partner with the Garifuna Collective as they take Belize's music to higher heights and in so doing, pave the way for all Belizean artists. We look forward to future collaborations that will further solidify our partnership with this group and others who continue to represent the best of Belize.

# Chikungunya

Chikungunya is an infection caused by the Chikungunya virus. It causes an illness with an acute febrile phase lasting two to five days, followed by a longer period of joint pains in the extremities; this pain may persist for years in some cases.

The disease is transmitted similarly to dengue fever. It is transmitted to humans by virus-carrying *Aedes* mosquitoes. Specifically, there are two species of mosquitoes, *A. albopictus* and *A. aegypti*, that are extrinsic hosts (**vectors**) of chikungunya virus. The strain of chikungunya spreading to the US from the Caribbean is most easily spread by *A. aegypti*. There is concern that this strain of chikungunya could mutate to make the *A. albopictus* vector more efficient. If this mutation were to occur, chikungunya would be more of a public health concern to the US. The *A. albopictus* or "**Asian Tiger**" mosquito is more widespread in the US and is more aggressive than the *A. aegypti*. It is known that monkeys, apes, and rodents act as a reservoir for the virus. Having rodents as a viral reservoir for chikungunya differs from that of dengue which has only humans and nonhuman primates as hosts.

## Signs and symptoms

The incubation period of chikungunya disease ranges from one to twelve days, typically two

to three. The majority of those infected will develop symptoms. Symptoms include a fever up to 40 °C (104 °F), a petechial or maculopapular rash of the trunk and occasionally the limbs, and arthralgia or arthritis affecting multiple joints.

Other nonspecific symptoms can include headache, nausea, vomiting, conjunctivitis, slight photophobia and partial loss of taste. Ocular inflammation from chikungunya may present as iridocyclitis. Retinal lesions may also occur. Pedal edema (**swelling of legs**) is observed in many people, the cause of which remains obscure as it is not related to any cardiovascular, renal or hepatic abnormalities.

Typically, the fever lasts for two days and then ends abruptly. However, other symptoms—namely joint pain, intense headache, insomnia and an extreme degree of prostration—last for a variable period; usually for about five to seven days. People have complained of joint pains for much longer time periods; some as long as two years, depending on their age. Recovery from the disease varies by age. Younger people recover within 5 to 15 days; middle-aged people recover in 1 to 2.5 months. Recovery is longer for the elderly. The severity of the disease as well as its duration is less in younger people and pregnant women. In pregnant women, no untoward effects are



**Asian Tiger Mosquito - Attacking**

noticed after the infection.

## Prevention

The most effective means of prevention are protection against contact with the disease-carrying mosquitoes and mosquito control. These include using insect repellents with substances such as DEET (**N,N-diethyl-metaltoluamide; also known as N , N ' - d i e t h y l - 3 - methylbenzamide or NNDB**), icaridin (**also known as picaridin and KBR3023**), PMD (**p-menthane-3,8-diol, a substance derived from the lemon eucalyptus tree**), or IR3535. Wearing bite-proof long sleeves and trousers also offers protection.

In addition, garments can be treated with pyrethroids, a class

of insecticides that often has repellent properties. Vaporized pyrethroids (**for example in mosquito coils**) are also insect repellents. Securing screens on windows and doors will help to keep mosquitoes out of the house. In the case of the day-active *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, however, this will have only a limited effect, since many contacts between the mosquitoes and humans occur outside.

## Treatment

Currently there is no specific treatment. Attempts to relieve the symptoms include the use of NSAIDs such as naproxen, paracetamol (**acetaminophen**) and fluids. Aspirin is not recommended.



**The Arm Of An Infected Patient**

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# Protecting The Chiquibul

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, August 7, 2014:

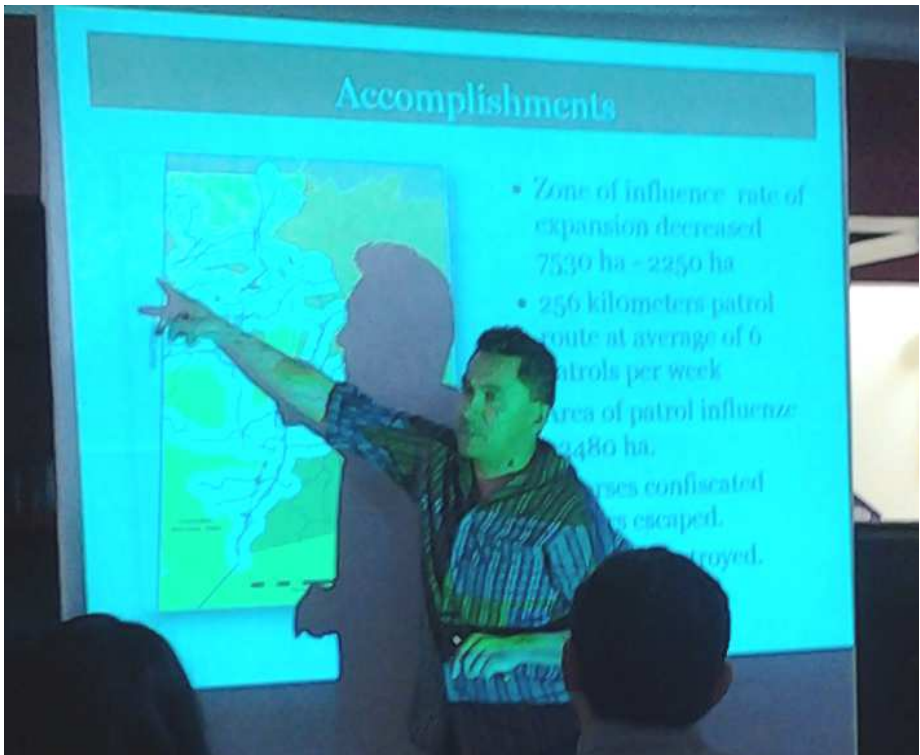
Friends of Conservation and Development (FCD), a non-profit organization charged with the responsibility to protect the Chiquibul Reserve in the Mountain Pine Area of the Cayo District, today held closing ceremonies for European Union's ECP-FLEGT project 2013-2014 at the Rumors Resort on the western outskirts of San Ignacio Town.

During the ceremony **Rafael Manzanero**, FCD's Executive Director and his team received special commendation for the wonderful work they do in the national reserve.

In his presentation Manzanero informed that the major challenges confronting FCD in the Chiquibul are illegal logging, the illegal panning for gold and the extraction of the exotic Xate plant.

Manzanero additionally informed of the complexities involved, given that Guatemalans residing in neighboring communities are major offenders who operate primarily during nighttime hours thereby posing extreme difficulties for enforcement as the FCD lacks the capacity to conduct patrols after sunset.

In terms of staffing the FCD currently operates with a manager and eight rangers. In further strengthening its enforcement capabilities, Manzanero informed of the planned creation of a Joint Enforcement Unit comprising elements from the Belize Defence Force, the Belize Police Department and of course FCD Rangers. Notwithstanding current challenges the FCD continues to protect the reserve whilst instituting mechanisms to reduce the loss of biodiversity in the area under its charge.



In order to enhance its capacity the FCD plans to undertake the following:

- a) The creation of a joint enforcement task force to better patrol the area,
- b) the upgrading of key posts in order to recruit qualified staff
- c) the search for additional funding to cover recurrent operational costs such as vehicle, vehicle maintenance, fuel, supplies, equipment and salaries, and
- d) legal training and legislative change in order to increase the rate of convictions.

Recent successes of the FCD in the execution of its duties include the arrest and successful conviction of several offenders, all Guatemalans, on charges ranging from illegal entry, illegal logging and the illegal possession of arms and ammunition. The FCD has also confiscated one hundred and sixteen fitches which were later burnt due to the inability to transport them out of the reserve given the terrain and road conditions to Caracol and Las Quevas. They have also taken possession of six horses abandoned by those engaged in illegal activities as they flee possible detention and

subsequent arrests.

With Guatemalans as primary offenders, the FCD is aggressively seeking the consolidation of bi-national collaboration and the development of strategies with Guatemalan authorities to address incidents of incursions into the national territory of Belize as well as to minimize the detention and possible incarceration of Guatemalans.

Manzanero informed that the Chiquibul Forest Reserve comprises 7.7 percent of Belize's land mass. It comprises lush forests with an abundance of flora and fauna and a wide array of exotic woods.

Manzanero additionally informed of the recording of 439 illegally logged cedar and mahogany trees with a combined value of almost 10 million US dollars (**4.2M in cedar and almost 5.2 M in mahogany**). Given this statistics, the questions being asked are: How much do you value the Chiquibul? What is it worth to you? Do you think we can stop illegal activities especially logging in the reserve? Who is brave enough to work and protect what is ours?

## Venezuela To Close Colombia Border Each Night

Venezuela says it will close its border with Colombia at night from Monday, to try to stop large-scale smuggling of petrol and food.

The government says that tonnes of goods - produced in Venezuela and heavily subsidised - are sold in Colombia at much higher prices.

The shortage of many staples in Venezuela's western border area this year led to anti-government protests.

The border closure was agreed with the Colombian government.

President **Nicolas Maduro** discussed the measures with his Colombian counterpart, **Juan Manuel Santos**, at a summit on 1 August.

The 2,200km-long (**1,360 miles**) border will be closed between 22:00 local time and 05:00 every night.

Cargo vehicles, including vans and lorries, will be banned from crossing from Venezuela to Colombia between 18:00 and 05:00.

The cross-border smuggling is also a problem for Colombia, with a big loss in taxes and complaints of unfair competition by local businessmen.

The profits are often used to finance drug gangs and left-wing guerrillas, says the BBC's **Arturo Wallace** in Bogota.

More than 40 million litres of petrol and 21,000 tonnes of food have been seized so far this year.

"They were ready to be smuggled across the border," said the head of the Venezuelan Armed Forces Strategic Operational

Command, **Vladimir Padrino Lopez**.

"That amount of food is enough to feed 700,000 people for a month," he added.

Mr Maduro's left-wing government subsidises petrol and many food staples, such as milk, rice and pasta, which are sold at controlled prices.

But it says that up to 40% of the goods produced in Venezuela end up on the other side of the border.

Dissatisfaction with the shortage of many staples, as well as rampant crime and high inflation, led thousands of people in the western Venezuelan states of Tachira and Merida to take to the streets in January.

The protests quickly spread to the rest of Venezuela, which faced similar problems.

The opposition blames failed left-wing policies of the past 15 years - initiated with the late president, **Hugo Chavez** - for the country's economic crisis.

*You never  
know how strong  
you are until  
being strong  
is the only choice  
you have.*

*Bob Marley*

*"This is your  
UDP  
Government  
at work in  
the  
normal  
course"*

*Hon. Dean  
Barrow,  
Prime  
Minister of  
Belize*

## Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

### ARIES:

**March 22 to April 20**

Though there's a fun element to the week, you'll also be aware of a difficult issue that needs attention. For instance, the heady enjoyment of romance might contrast with problems around finances, which take the edge off of a date night or special occasion. Things might be made all the more difficult as your motivation could limp along on Thursday and Friday. You'll need to summon your energy and make a determined effort to face up to whatever is bothering you. It's party time over the weekend! **Lucky numbers: 02, 20, 35.**

### TAURUS:

**April 21 to May 21**

There may be a power struggle going on, so be careful what you say if you want to come out of it looking good. Words can sting, especially at this time when Mars in Scorpio can encourage heated disagreements. Yet with a little diplomacy you'll be able to talk through matters and soothe ruffled feathers. Over the weekend the Full Moon in Aquarius suggests you may be in the spotlight for one reason or another. You'll also get a chance to reflect upon your goals and priorities. **Lucky numbers: 72, 88, 92.**

### GEMINI:

**May 22 to June 21**

There's a lively social undertone this week encouraging you to pursue contacts, friendships, and memberships. Yet you may need to work hard at communicating with a significant other, particularly if you're not seeing eye-to-eye. Stubbornness could be a major stumbling block if neither of you is willing to compromise. Perhaps you both want the same thing in the end, which you'll find out by keeping the conversation going. Meanwhile, there's a chance of romance over the weekend. **Lucky numbers: 46, 54, 69.**

### CANCER

**June 21 to July 21**

Directing your energy into the right channels brings opportunities for success. In this case, brainstorming moneymaking ideas and coming up with creative outlets for your talents could substantially increase your income. When it comes to romance, though, a love interest could be irritable and hard to please. Persuading the person to join you for a social outing or date night could be an uphill struggle. But the weekend Full Moon could be your saving grace in this regard, encouraging positive interaction. **Lucky numbers: 09, 19, 29.**

### LEO:

**July 24 to August 21**

You're vibrating to the social buzz of summer and eager to mix and mingle

with pals and associates. And you're truly in your element with your astrological ruler, the Sun, in your sign. But you could be treading a fine line when it comes to home and family matters. Your upbeat mood could be offset by someone's darker and more manipulative energy. However, the Full Moon on Sunday may push you into saying things you've been holding back - to good effect. **Lucky numbers: 32, 43, 57.**

### VIRGO:

**August 22 to September 21**

Though you may be busy this week, the current lineup hints that this is a good time to relax and recharge. With a focus on your spiritual sector, your inner world and inner life may seem more appealing and even more important than your day-to-day circumstances. Meditating and reflecting on your goals and dreams could be particularly rewarding, especially if you've been feeling uncertain about a course of action. Time out can bring valuable insights and clarity concerning decisions that need to be made. **Lucky numbers: 61, 77, 83.**

### LIBRA:

**September 22 to October 23**

With partnership activity stimulated, there may be a few kinks and disagreements to work through before you can make progress this week. At times you could hit up against communication problems that might not yield easily to discussion or compromise. However, with a fabulous social scene showing up, time spent with friends can help ease any heartache. The result will be that you'll begin to see things from a healthier and more relaxed perspective. However, aim for sensitivity when dealing with loved ones. **Lucky numbers: 65, 76, 98.**

### SCORPIO:

**October 24 to November 21**

A fortunate trend provides freedom of action and the chance to showcase your skills and abilities to good effect. With a sizzling focus on career, opportunities abound for enhancing work and business success. However, you may need to clear up unfinished business first in order to be ready for new and exciting projects. There could be a conflict of interest that you'll need to resolve before you can take advantage of the smorgasbord of favorable circumstances on offer. The Full Moon is excellent for partying over the weekend. **Lucky numbers: 13, 26, 39.**

### SAGITTARIUS:

**November 22 to December 21**

The urge to get away is strong, which could mean getting lost in a daydream, fantasy, good book, or movie. Equally, you'll be eager to travel to new places and explore new

horizons. Whether or not you can take a trip now, contemplating one for the future may give you something to look forward to. Watch out for the Full Moon on Sunday, as feelings could be intense. Try not to do or say anything that you might regret at a later date - but do have fun! **Lucky numbers: 07, 52, 95.**

### CAPRICORN:

**December 22 to January 20**

An opulent lineup in your zone of shared resources hints at a windfall or increase in business and income. However, there could be a temptation to indulge. It could be all too easy to max out your credit card and come unstuck later. Budgeting may be a way to go in order to guard against this. In addition, your social life looks livelier than has been in some time. Use this opportunity to network with folks who pull the strings and make the decisions. **Lucky numbers: 10, 23, 60.**

### AQUARIUS:

**January 20 to February 18**

While it won't all be clear sailing in your career, a more focused and

incisive frame of mind can make solid headway possible. When talking to others, you might need to ignore their words and instead go with your gut feelings, particularly when sussing out deals or job opportunities. However, relationships of all kinds continue to flourish. Whether you're in a long-term partnership or looking for love, the week ahead brings all the ingredients together for you to have as much fun as possible. **Lucky numbers: 16, 21, 49.**

### PISCES:

**February 20 to March 21**

Where your job and lifestyle are concerned, whether you feel a restless stirring within or circumstances beyond your control provide the motivation, it's to your advantage to embrace the notion of change. Passions are strong when it comes to expanding your horizons in general, giving you the courage to make a bold move. The presence of Mars in Scorpio can push you to explore new options. You may be looking for something that speaks to your need for intense experiences that can transform your life. **Lucky numbers: 66, 80, 94.**

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# USB 'Critically Flawed' After Bug Discovery, Researchers Say

Cyber-security experts have dramatically called into question the safety and security of using USB to connect devices to computers.

Berlin-based researchers **Karsten Nohl** and **Jakob Lell** demonstrated how any USB device could be used to infect a computer without the user's knowledge.

The duo said there is no practical way to defend against the vulnerability.

The body responsible for the USB standard said manufacturers could build in extra security.

But Mr Nohl and Mr Lell said the technology was **"critically flawed"**.

It is not uncommon for USB sticks to be used as a way of getting viruses and other malicious code onto target computers.

Most famously, the Stuxnet attack on Iranian nuclear centrifuges was believed to have been caused by an infected USB stick.

However, this latest research demonstrated a new level of threat - where a USB device that appears completely empty can still contain malware, even when formatted.

The vulnerability can be used to hide attacks in any kind of USB-connected device - such as a

smartphone.

**"It may not be the end of the world today,"** Mr Nohl told journalists, **"but it will affect us, a little bit, every day, for the next 10 years"**.

**"Basically, you can never trust anything anymore after plugging in a USB stick."**

USB - which stands for Universal Serial Bus - has become the standard method of connecting devices to computers due to its small size, speed and ability to charge devices.

USB memory sticks quickly replaced floppy disks as a simple way to share large files between two computers.

The connector is popular due to the fact that it makes it easy to plug in and install a wide variety of devices. Devices that use USB contain a small chip that **"tells"** the computer exactly what it is, be it a phone, tablet or any other piece of hardware.

It is this function that has been exposed by the threat.

In one demo, shown off at the Black Hat hackers conference in Las Vegas, a standard USB drive was inserted into a normal computer.

Malicious code implanted on the stick tricked the machine into

thinking a keyboard had been plugged in.

After just a few moments, the **"keyboard"** began typing in commands - and instructed the computer to download a malicious program from the internet.

Another demo, shown in detail to the BBC, involved a Samsung smartphone.

When plugged in to charge, the phone would trick the computer into thinking it was in fact a network card. It meant when the user accessed the internet, their browsing was secretly hijacked.

Mr Nohl demonstrated to the BBC how they were able to create a fake copy of PayPal's website, and steal user log-in details as a result.

Unlike other similar attacks, where simply looking at the web address can give away a scam website, there were no visible clues that a user was under threat.

The same demo could have been carried out on any website, Mr Nohl stressed.

**Mike McLaughlin**, a security researcher from First Base Technologies, said the threat should be taken seriously.

**"USB is ubiquitous across all**

devices," he told the BBC.

**"It comes down to the same old saying - don't plug things in that you don't trust."**

**"Any business should always have policies in place regarding USB devices and USB drives. Businesses should stop using them if needed."**

The group responsible for the USB standard, the USB Working Party, refused to comment on the seriousness of the flaw.

But in more general terms, it said: **"The USB specifications support additional capabilities for security, but original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) decide whether or not to implement these capabilities in their products."**

**"Greater capabilities of any product likely results in higher prices, and consumers choose on a daily basis what they are willing to pay to receive certain benefits."**

**"If consumer demand for USB products with additional capabilities for security grows, we would expect OEMs to meet that demand."**

Mr Nohl said the only protection he could advise was to simply be ultra-cautious when allowing USB devices to be connected to your machines.

**"Our approach to using USB will have to change,"** he told the BBC.

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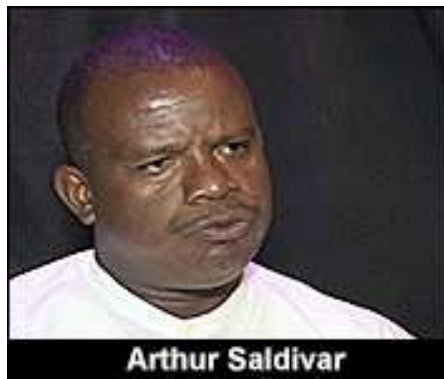
# Attorney Authur Makes Money Allegations Against Melonie

Attorney **Arthur Saldivar** is making national headlines - after his former client **Melonie Coye** accused him of making off with nine hundred thousand dollars of her money that was recovered from the Central Bank. Saldivar said he did no such thing, but her new attorney Eamon Courtenay is filing suit against Saldivar to get the money back.

Saldivar says that he did not take her money, but that he is owed 1.6 million dollars in fees. He explains that the allegation came as a shock, and where he speculates as to what may be behind it...

**Arthur Saldivar. Former Attorney - Melonie Coye**

*"In terms of the latest round of cases I have not been paid not a dime. So when I heard of this news it came as a shock, a real shock to me. The allegation itself is somewhat to me some justification or rationale that perhaps my former client is using to justify not returning funds that may not be hers. I don't know. That's the only thing I can conjure up at this time. That's the only thing I can fathom at this time. I wish her well but I don't understand why it was that she would want to drag*



Arthur Saldivar

*my name through the mud like she has done here in this particular matter."*

Coye's new attorney Eamon Courtenay told 7News, quote, *"Mr. Saldivar will have an opportunity very shortly to give an account to the Supreme Court for his actions. In the meantime, he should ensure that the monies are not spent."*

Surely, the Arthur Saldivar interview is one of the most memorable sit-down's we've had in a while - and that's because, despite the allegations against him, Saldivar always entertains.

He certainly did when we asked him about the court order he went to enforce on Don Blunt in Placencia. But, that's not the first time he's faced complaints enforcing eviction orders on the peninsula. We know of at least one other time that came to our



Melonie Coye

attention and almost made the news. We asked him about it...

**Jules Vasquez**

*"This is the second time that we have been alerted to your activities as an enforcer of court orders on the Peninsula. You will remember the other case that the people captured you on camera which we never aired because I received a satisfactory explanation from you."*

**Arthur Saldivar, attorney**

*"You are going to go there?"*

**Jules Vasquez**

*"No sir."*

**Arthur Saldivar, attorney**

*"Who is paying you? I have to ask*

*you Jules. Every once in a while I need to ask you."*

**Jules Vasquez**

*"Really?"*

**Arthur Saldivar, attorney**

*"Really, who is paying you?"*

**Jules Vasquez**

*"I am doing this longer than you doing that."*

**Arthur Saldivar, attorney**

*"Certainly, you've been assassinating characters for a long time. You have become adept at it. But I love you still."*

**Jules Vasquez**

*"You do in deed, but sir I am saying, is this something because of the vagaries and vicissitudes one encounters when having to enforced these lawful court orders? Is it something that perhaps you might rethink involving yourself in because it's a messy business?"*

**Arthur Saldivar, attorney**

*"Jules, again, I do what I do within the parameters of law. I serve my clients interests within the parameters of law. I have no regrets. I will fight for every client as if they were the only client I have. My clients are like family to me, I do my best to take care of them."*

## Facebook Sued By 25,000 Members

**Continued From Page 14**

*about it - we complain, then go home and drink beer."*

**Risk to reputation**

This is not the first action Mr Schrems has taken against the social network.

In 2011 he forced the firm to reveal all the information it was holding on him.

When he discovered the 1,222 pages of information included details he thought he had deleted or had not consented to being shared, he lodged a complaint with the Irish data protection commissioner.

The case has since been referred to the European Court of Justice, but has already resulted in the firm restricting its use of facial recognition software and making it easier for members to find out more about the data held on them.

One of the UK's leading data protection lawyers, who is not involved in the case, suggested the latest action could deliver a landmark ruling.

*"The current climate of data protection enforcement in the EU in the courts and by the data protection regulators, coupled with an increasing awareness by consumers of their rights means that this case could well run its course in the Court in Vienna and achieve a result for Max Schrems and Facebook users," said Robert Bond, a partner at the law firm Speechly Bircham.*

*"Of course it remains to be seen whether or not Facebook will try to settle as reputational damage may be worse than a financial penalty."*

Mr Schrems has limited the number of people involved in the case to 25,000 because each participant's submissions must be vetted.

However, he says other Facebook users wishing to take part can still register their interest in case he later decides to expand the legal action.

## STAR Newspaper

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**Maya Angelou**

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# US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Visits Belize

**BELMOPAN, Cayo, Thursday, August 7, 2014:**

The Embassy of the United States of America in Belize today informed of the visit of US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

The release informed that on Monday, August 4, 2014, the

embassy hosted **Luis Arreaga**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) who spent two days in Belize, visiting key locations in Belize City on the first day and travelling to western towns of San Ignacio and Benque Viejo on the second day prior to crossing the border into

Guatemala in continuance of the tour.

On arrival the US official was greeted on the airside of Phillip S.W. Goldson International Airport by staff of the embassy after which he was ushered into the main terminal building where he was afforded the opportunity to observe immigration and customs equipment funded by the US government, in operation.

From the airport he was transported to Belize City, where he was afforded a short tour of "gang areas" and then on to St. John's Vianney Primary School where the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program was in full session. This afforded the US official the opportunity to visit each classroom where he interacted with instructors and students engaged in the program. The two week summer program, funded by CARS (Central America Regional Security Initiative), involves lengthy educational experience, encompassing classroom instructions, athletics, art expression and two field trips. It seeks to educate young Belizeans about the dangers of gang association and gang violence.

Hitting the ground running, the US official was whisked from St. John's Vianney to the Queen Street Police Station where he was afforded an upfront view of improved methods being implemented by the police to electronically log arrests and other crime information using the Crime Information Management System (CIMS) a project also funded by CARS. At the Queen Street police precinct the US official was hosted by the Officer Commanding Eastern (Police) Division, Assistant Commissioner of Police, **Dezerie Phillips** and other high ranking police officers who highlighted improvements resulting from CARS funded projects particularly in the areas of technology, scenes of crime processing, forensics and ballistics analysis.

On the second day of the visit the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State visited the Ministry of National Security at the Curl Thompson building in Belmopan where he was met by National Security Chief Executive Officer, Retired Colonel of the Belize Defence Force, **George Lovell**. From Belmopan he was transported further west to San Ignacio where he met the senior



**Deputy Assistant Secretary,**

**Luis Arreaga**

command as well as members of the Cayo Neighborhood Watch Association and People's Coalition.

Heading even deeper west he was afforded the opportunity to see the Mobile Interdiction Team (MIT) in action at a check point on the George Price Highway leading into Benque Viejo Town. Prior to departing Belize for Guatemala, the US official met with Customs, Immigration, and Border Management Agency officials at the Western Border Station in Benque Viejo Town.

The embassy release informs that the government of the United States of America, through CARS, is engaged in assisting Central American governments in their efforts to combat violent crimes while simultaneously improving citizen security.

CARS programs, says the release, enable Central American governments to weaken the influence and violence of gangs, organized crime, and narcotics. The United States of America, through CARS, is committed to implementing sustainable, high-impact programs in law enforcement training and professionalization, anti-gang activities, equipping police and other security forces, sharing information within the region for the investigation and disruption of criminal activities, and assisting in the interdiction of narcotics, firearms, bulk cash, and smuggling.

The release ends by informing that the government of the United States of America through INL aims to continue funding gang prevention programs using CARS as the vehicle to supply up-to-date training and equipment to the police in the effort to prevent violent crime and the distribution of narcotics thereby enhancing citizens' security and the rule of law.

## Ebola: Global Experts Begin Emergency Talks At WHO

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detailed plans and efforts to identify, isolate and treat cases.

It could involve imposing travel restrictions on affected areas.

A WHO spokesman said: "We can't speculate in advance what the committee members are going to decide in advance."

Meanwhile, the World Bank is allocating \$200m (£120m) in emergency assistance for countries battling to contain Ebola.

It is the world's deadliest outbreak to date and has centred on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Eight people are currently in quarantine in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, and two have died there.

The Saudi man died after showing Ebola symptoms when he returned from a business trip to Sierra Leone, the Saudi health ministry said.

He died in an isolation ward at a hospital in Jeddah, it added.

Officials in Liberia said a Spanish priest and two Spanish nuns had been infected in the capital, Monrovia.

The Spanish government said it would send a plane to repatriate its citizens.

British Airways has temporarily

suspended flights to and from Liberia and Sierra Leone until 31 August because of the health crisis, the airline said in a statement. It follows a similar suspension by two regional airlines last week.

The virus spreads by contact with infected blood and bodily fluids. The current outbreak is killing between 50% and 60% of people infected.

There is no cure or vaccine for Ebola - but patients have a better chance of survival if they receive early treatment.

Ebola has initial flu-like symptoms that can lead to external haemorrhaging from areas like eyes and gums, and internal bleeding which can lead to organ failure.

\* Symptoms include high fever, bleeding and central nervous system damage

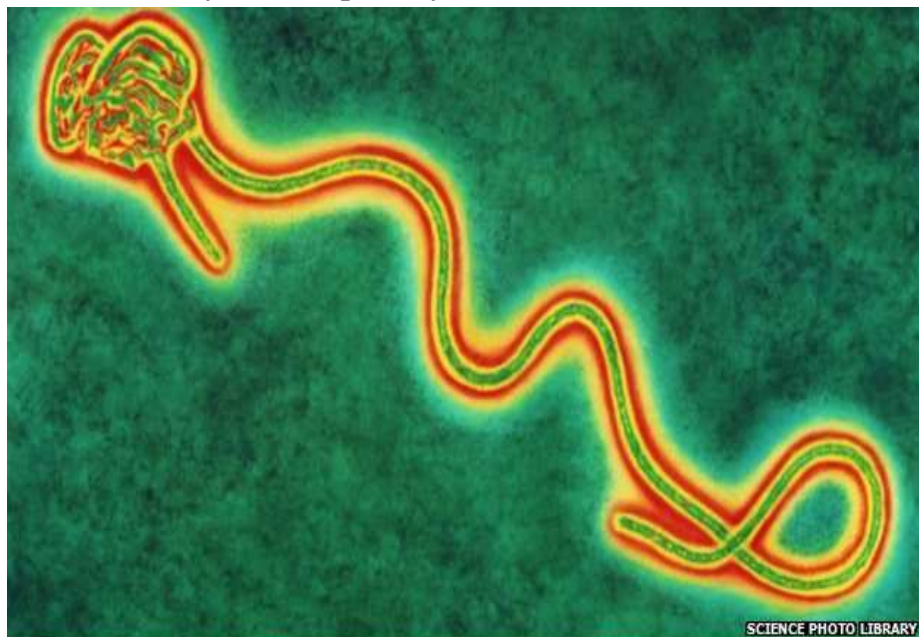
\* Fatality rate can reach 90% - but the current outbreak is about 55%

\* Incubation period is two to 21 days

\* There is no vaccine or cure

\* Supportive care such as rehydrating patients who have diarrhoea and vomiting can help recovery

\* Fruit bats are considered to be virus' natural host



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