

# SURVIVAL Vs. CONSERVATION *“I think something is wrong with their brains.”*

photos courtesy of channel 7



Harvey Sandoval



resident working with  
US Capital Energy Ltd.



Barranco resident

The Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) was born in 1997 out of its mother organization the Sarstoon Temash National Park Steering Committee.

SATIIM along with the Forestry Department manages some Forty One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety Eight acres of land which makes up the Sarstoon Temash National Park. The lands and communities surrounding the park are inhabited primarily by a mixture of

Garifuna and Mayan people of Belize.

The vast majority of the lands in this area are virtually untouched, virgin lands that will never be touched in our life span or the life span of generations to come.

In reality many of the people of Belize who were born and grew up in these communities have had to leave their home and relocate to other parts of the country as a result of the lack of jobs and the extremely limited opportunities to provide for

themselves and their families. There exists little forms of employment other than traditional farming and fishing.

While these traditional jobs does account well for the extremely healthy and intelligent people in these areas it speaks little or none whatsoever of the aspirations and progress of a people that simply just don't want to merely exist but who want to truly live, grow and uplift themselves.

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The consequences of these aspirations is sending a death-blow to SATIIM and its associates as last week members of the very

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## Universal Radio Christmas Parade...



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**I**t's that time of the year again. December has come and with it all the thoughts and excitement of Christmas. Many ask themselves what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under that beautiful decorated tree you took delicate time to put up? The Christmas lights outside your home? The Christmas cards you made and delivered to everyone or the annual traditional turkey and ham dinner you have with your love ones? Is this what is consider to be the meaning of Christmas?

For many, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They stress themselves over frivolous things like not having the extra money to buy gifts for their children or friends. Many are sad because their family members are not able to come to visit them for whatever reasons.

Christmas for us at The Northern Star Newspaper is a reason for great joy no matter what. It is a time of God showing his great love for us when he sent his Son, Jesus Christ. It is a time of healing and renewed strength. Jesus Christ made this possible. His birth has brought great joy to the whole world.

God loved and continues loving us so greatly that he sent Jesus to save us from what we had become. His story (history) is one of true love and hope which brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die eternally in our sins. Being fortunate to spend time away from

work with the people you most often don't see is uniquely special to this time of the year.

Saying hello to your neighbor and inviting them over to partake in your special relaxed moment while stopping to remind your love ones that you love them is by extension a reflection of the love God shared with us at the birth of The Christ Child on Christmas Day.

Share your love with those who are less fortunate and thank God for your many blessings. Inhale, breathe, realize now that the very gift of life is a precious gift from God which you must never take for granted. Whatever your trials and tribulations may be? Know now, that the only person who cannot change the position they are in is a dead person so LIVE because God LOVES YOU!

Remember Christmas has absolutely nothing to do with material stuff for Jesus Christ the Son of God was born in a manger. Christmas has everything to do with love.

Truly be happy and thankful this Christmas and count the many reasons! We are celebrating the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We challenge you, our faithful readers both locally and internationally to look at Christmas in this new way this year. A time for sharing love, to be thankful for life, peace and joy while also celebrating those precious memories of the lives of those who have ascended to the pure spiritual life in paradise with Our Father. May God continue to bless you and your family and **M E R R Y CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012!!!**

## DOUBLE MURDER and SUICIDE in CARMELITA VILLAGE



*Anacleta Pech and daughter Judith Rhaburn*

Just two days before Christmas Day, in Carmelita Village Lorne Lisbey murder his ex mother-in-law and ex sister-in-law, shot his ex common-law wife and then killed himself.

Judith Rhaburn had Lorne Lisbey arrested for domestic violence about a month ago, he was release a couple of days after. Judith had decided that this would be the end of their relationship and moved out to go live with her mother, Anacleta Pech in Carmelita Village. Apparently, Lisbey did not like the idea and had been threatening her ever since.

At around 11am on the morning of Thursday, 22nd December, Lisbey arrived at the home of Anacleta Pech in his US military Humvee. He parked it in the middle of the road, got out with a shot gun in his hand, entered the yard and just open fire.

At the arrival of the police officers at the scene they observed the motionless body of Anacleta Pech with a gun shot wound around the chest region. The body of her daughter Ana Julia Clarita Pech was later dis-

covered with a gun shot wound to the right side of the abdomen. Judith Rhaburn had received gun shots wounds on the right side of her arm and abdomen. She was rush to the Northern Regional Hospital where she is listed in a critical but stable condition.

Lisbey fled the scene after he had committed the gruesome murders. Police had been looking for him to charge him with the murders and attempted murder. But this morning the life-

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### **The Northern Star Newspaper**

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**Dr. Errol Elrington**

In 1984 & 1993 I longed for changes in the Constitution that would 'truly protect' the interest of Belizeans. In 2008 I longed for two things: 1) A referendum to cancel ALL the "crooked contracts", and 2) A referendum to vest the mineral wealth of Belize in the Trust for ALL Belizeans!

I recently went to the Oceana site and I was impressed, indeed! Movie Stars, Millionaires, Experts, Trusts, Foundations, Money! Human Beings successful in Business, Finance and Life! Power! All very rich - more money that they can spend and definitely more money than they need in this life, and they can take not a penny with them to the next!

Bear in mind that I am a trained Marine Ecologist, Biologist, Chemist and Physician - yet I was impressed by the absolute power and wealth that I saw on the Oceana web site! What chance do we Belizeans have against the super rich?

Belize is young, the people of Oceana come from the First World; outsiders! Belize is poor, the people of Oceana come from the richest countries. Belizeans are cursed by poverty, the people of Oceana have already made

## THOUGHTS ACROSS THE MILES

### Referendum, Oceania, Belize, Oil!!

theirs! The Oceana people do not worry about where the money will come for water bill, light bill, school bill, food, education, house rent, transportation, etc., etc., etc. Belizeans want jobs, the people of Oceana are retired and rich. Belizeans do not grudge them, but we see the world very differently from the people of Oceana, Bless their tiny souls!

Baron Bliss left money to HELP Belizeans. Ashcroft, on the other hand seem to want ALL the money! The upcoming elections will be about giving Ashcroft his way (PUP Victory) or about the PEOPLE (UDP Victory). It is NEVER right to take advantage of the young and the poor! NEVER!

Belizeans have long suffered because of the greed of others. Logwood money gone, Mahogany money gone, Chicle money gone, Capt'n Foot money gone, some of the Oil money gone...and Belizeans are extremely fearful that the rest of the Oil money will go.

Belizeans are NOT fearful of drilling. Belizeans do NOT want to damage the environment; it is the greedy, selfish exploiters who do such bad things. Belizeans are extremely proud of the way we try to protect the environment - largest jaguar reserve in the WORLD.... We are used to Credit Unions, Co-Operatives; we protect our forests, lands, reef, sea, rivers, mountains, plants, animals, PEOPLE.

Belizeans are proud of the Jewel and want to preserve our heritage. Belizeans understand that NO Man/

Woman is responsible for the oil/mineral in the ground; so why do the greedy want to lay claim to the property of the PEOPLE? Stealing from the people is the way of the PUP and that is wrong.

Belizeans want the interest of the oil and minerals to be vested in the PEOPLE, collectively. Belizeans only want drilling done if it will benefit the country, not any single individual. I am 100% in agreement with this concept, it is the right step! Once that first requirement is met, then Belizeans will demand that ALL drilling be safe - nothing less.

Oceana should help the poor developing country of Belize by making available to us ALL the material on wells that had NEITHER leaked NOR exploded. They should also make ALL the material on the problem wells available. This will help Belize to avoid 'worst practices'. Remember that it was none other than BP's CEO Tony Hayward who boasted on May 12, 2009 at Stanford University Graduate School of Business that: "We had too many people that were working to save the world". Oceana should have protected the Gulf of Mexico from him! Oceana failed there. Belizeans do not have his type of arrogance, greed nor uncaring heart. Go and fight the Big

Money Boys and help small Belize to become a success. Stop using small poor countries as 'Test Cases'. I personally do NOT appreciate the bullying. Help us, don't hinder our progress.

Belizeans, if you feel good about the improvements that you have seen over the last 3 years: improvement in infrastructure, massive decrease in Said Fonseca type corruption, decrease in consumer prices, decrease in taxes, decrease in electricity bills, decrease in phone bills, decrease in crime, decrease in violence, decrease in murders - then you KNOW that the country is on the right track! Heading the right way....Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan were right in principle when they suggested the Public Assets be sold to private interests. Alas, there are many a slip betwixt the cup and the lips! Said Fonseca corrupted that idea; they gave away the People's assets to thieving croones who neither paid the People for them, nor could the thieving croonies run them successfully! The People loss under Said Fonseca. The evidence of that failure is all around us; this is what the Citizens are fearful of: C O R R U P T I O N , Belizeans, do not fail to demand that Oceana help you in using your resources safely and wisely - for your collective benefit!

See the



**In Living Colors at**  
[www.belize news.com/NorthernStar](http://www.belize news.com/NorthernStar)



## The Prime Minister's Christmas Message



*Prime Minister of Belize  
Hon. Dean Barrow*

**T**he usual good wishes that my family and I offer all our countrymen and women every Christmas, are this year mixed in with the thanks we give for the solidarity and support we have received from Belizeans over the last month and a half. Ever since the nation learned of my wife's cancer affliction, people's prayers and intercession have been non-stop. This has served not just greatly to comfort us, but as

a wonderful reminder of what Christmas is really about: individuals drawing closer to God and to each other in recognition of the supreme sacrifice of the Christ child, and what that has ever since meant for the ties of our common humanity.

My Christmas hope, then, is for the star that lights Belize and all the world at this time, to be extra bright. May it bring good tidings and peace to everyone; but especially to those that are sick and in need. And let each of us that is able, personally reach out to the poor and the less fortunate. Let us, with kind words and good deeds, ensure that no Belizean is without the spirit and the good things of the season. Let us spread cheer in every corner of our beloved country.

To all in this great land, then, a blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2012.







## Mensaje Navideño del Primer Ministro



*Primer Ministro de Belice  
Hon. Dean Barrow*

**L**os buenos deseos que de costumbre mi familia y yo les ofrecemos a nuestros compatriotas cada Navidad, este año están mezclados con agradecimiento por la solidaridad y el apoyo que hemos recibido de Beliceños a través de las últimas seis semanas. Desde que la nación supo del padecimiento de cancer de mi esposa, las oraciones e intercesiones por parte del pueblo no han cesado. Esto ha servido grandemente no solo para consolarnos, sino también como un maravilloso recordatorio de lo que es Navidad

en realidad: individuos acercándose más a Dios y uno al otro en reconocimiento del supremo sacrificio del niño Cristo, y de lo que eso ha significado desde entonces para los lazos de nuestra común humanidad.

Mi esperanza Navideña, entonces, es que la estrella que ilumina Belize y todo el mundo en este tiempo, que sea aún más resplandeciente. Que traiga buenas nuevas y paz a todos; pero especialmente a aquellos que se encuentran enfermos y en necesidad. Y que cada uno de nosotros que puede hacerlo, personalmente ayude a los pobres y los menos afortunados. Con palabras bondadosas y buenos hechos aseguremos que ningún Beliceño se halle sin el espíritu y las buenas cosas de la temporada. Seamos nosotros portadores de alegría en cada rincón de nuestro amado país.

A todos, entonces, en esta gran nación, Feliz Navidad y próspero 2012 (dos mil doce).





# FROM THE PUBLISHER

## DRILL BABY DRILL!



Offshore oil rig

There has been a special interest group with international funding and global back-a-tive operating in our small and still relatively young country that is been lead by an attorney, Audrey Matura.

This organization which goes by the name OCEANA has been running multiple advertisements and infomercials in all forms of the media while sponsoring and/or co-sponsoring various activities and events through-out our developing country, Belize.

Here at the Northern Star Newspaper we have been observing them for quite some time and for admitted neglect we had not seen it fit to address their issue until now.

Late last month the organization held a Press Conference in which they tabled purportedly the signatures of ten percent (10%) of the voting masses of the populace of the country. OCEANA demanded a referendum on off-shore and protected areas drilling.

OCEANA, with its foreign umbilical cord firmly attached now feels that

they have amass enough clout to challenge the duly elected Government of Belize which has been given the mandate and blessing by the people of Belize to move this country forward.

The tone of their Press Conference was not only distasteful but at times was downright disrespectful to the Government of Belize. We at the Northern Star Newspaper must shoulder some of the blame for allowing this organization whose higher echelons locally are obviously handsomely paid to get this far, while we remained mute on the matter of off-shore or protected areas drilling.

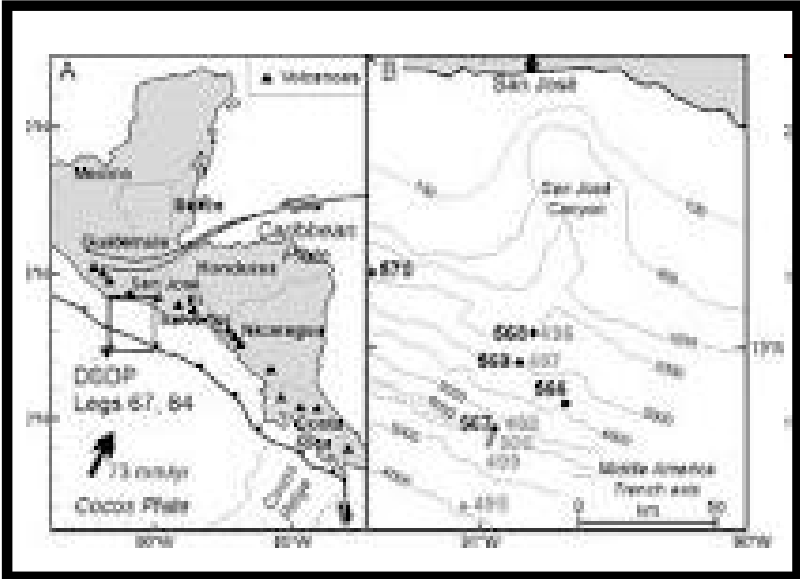
OCEANA has been escaping with a series of misleading fright-ads and infomercial designed to scare the Belizean Populace about off-shore drilling.

In deep considerations of the provision that all safety precautions and procedures be put in place; we must empathically state that here at the Northern Star Newspaper we fully support Off-shore and Protected Areas Drilling and further all efforts of Oil Explorations in our country Belize.

In an era when every nation on planet earth is fighting to become self sufficient, when

the global economy has collapsed, when we are burdened with depth payments (Super Bond), when for half the year we cross our fingers and pray

Last week SATIIM had the local internet flooded with anti-exploration messages from across the world. To both OCEANA and SATIIM and for the benefit of our



that a major hurricane does not venture our shores which would result in the fatal crash of our fragile Tourism Industry while wiping out the much needed monies derived from the Agriculture and Aquaculture Industries. In this nation we are tasked with finding solutions in order to create more jobs and attract genuine foreign investor to Belize. Our boarder neighbouring countries of Mexico and Guatemala are rigged-up in the north, south and west of Belize and have sucessfully extacted oil from veins which without question literally flow right beneath our feet. OCEANA is telling the people of Belize not to drill. XYZ\*\*XMjTH and that is not a typing error.

readers we are sharing with you some photos of where Guatemala have and is exploring for oil today. We will also list for the record some of the names of countries and numerous parts of the world where oil has successfully been extracted for “donkey’s years”. Note that Shell has been digging for oil in Belize since the late 1930s.

Guatemala, Mexico, The United States of America, Canada, Trinidad, Brazil, United Kingdom, Norway, Angola, The Arabian Gulf, Cameroon, Italy, Egypt, Congo, China, Russia, Cuba, West Africa, India, Ghana, Holland, Australia, Equatorial Guinea, Tunisia, Gulf of Suez, Ivory Coast,

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### Areas where oil is known to exist





# Universal Radio Christmas Parade 2011 in Orange Walk





# The Felipe Wagner's Saga !



*Donna Flores Wagner*



*Felipe Wagner*



*Martha Alicia Wagner*

In the edition of the Northern Star Newspaper dated November 28th, 2011 we wrote an article on Martha Alicia Wagner who was stabbed by her husband of 15 years. She was hospitalized and has been recently released.

On Thursday December 15th, the daughter of Martha Alicia Wagner, Jade Trapp said in an interview that they fear for their lives since they have been receiving threats from Felipe Wagner and his family members. She claims that her mother has been in this abusive relationship for years and she begs the authorities in charge of this case to carry it out with caution.

She states that she has been witness on various occasions when Felipe Wagner had threatened her mother with the same weapon he used to stab her. She also claims that it was not reported to the responsible authorities because they were being compensated to throw off the cases. Jade Trapp even went further saying that if Felipe Wagner was granted bail he would return to finish the job he started on November 16th.

There are always two sides to every story and after Jade Trapp was interviewed by

the media about her mother's attempted murder, Felipe Wagner's sister, Donna Flores Wagner went to Channel Seven News to be interviewed.

Donna Flores Wagner says that her brother was not the only one at fault and that there was a level of provocation involved which resulted in the stabbing of Martha Alicia Wagner.

She claims that Martha Wagner was in a love triangle with her husband and his brother. "Martha Alicia Wagner claims that my brother always abuses her and on the contrary she is the one that abuse my brother all the time," Donna went further saying that her brother had being abused publicly from the beginning. She claims that Martha Alicia was obsessively jealous and that she had scarred him with stabbing him with anything she could find even with the heel of her shoes.

On the day of the incident, Donna said that Felipe was looking for Alicia and he allegedly "found her with his own brother in a compromising embrace. Alicia started provoking Felipe telling him that she had a new man in her life and that she no longer was in love with him". This is what Donna believes took Felipe

to the edge. She stated that she doesn't condone what her brother did to his wife but said, "She had it coming".

Regarding the threats that Martha Wagner claims to be receiving, Donna Wagner says it's not so. She showed the Northern Star Newspaper text messages on her phone that she received where it states: "I forgive no one and I hope he gets raped" and "you will get what you deserve."

On her first interview with the media Martha Wagner said that the Wagner's family allegation of her sending threatening messages is not true. She denies the accusation of her being involve with Felipe's brother in any love triangle. Martha Wagner claims it's all just an excuse to attempt to justify what her husband did to her.

With accusation flying all around in this Felipe Wagner's Saga another alarming one came from Martha Wagner who is now

accusing her husband of using her as a mule for the Zetas Cartel?

As for Felipe Wagner, on Wednesday December 21st, the court granted him a bail of \$10,000 which he met today. He was released on the conditions that he is to report to the Orange Walk Police Station every Friday and surrender all his travel documents. In the view of Justice Hanomansingh, the prosecution did not demonstrate that the Crown had a case against Felipe Wagner.

Felipe is now residing with his mother in San Pablo Village where he awaits a court hearing dated on January 19th, 2012.



*Jade Trapp  
Daughter of  
Martha Alicia Wagner*

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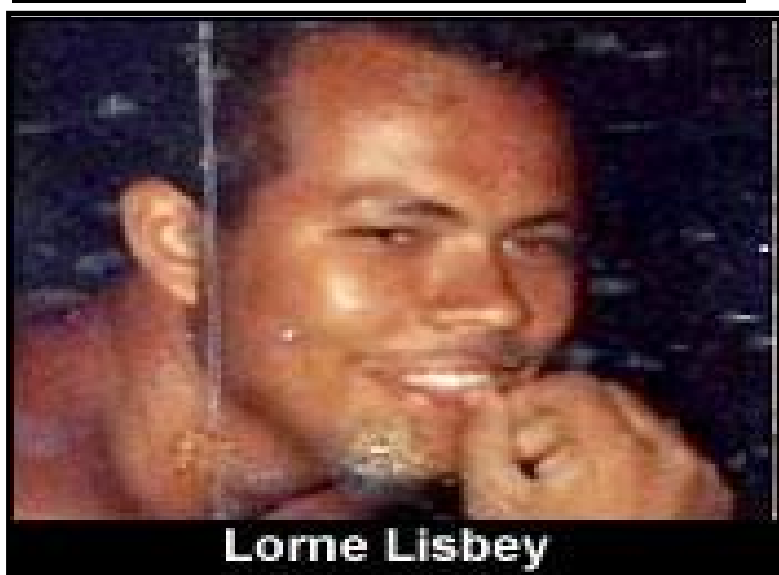
**At 629-1308 or 636-1409**





**DOUBLE MURDER and SUICIDE  
in  
CARMELITA VILLAGE**

*Continued from page 2*



**Lorne Lisbey**

less body of Lorne Lisbey was discovered in an area seven hundred yards southwest of Carmelita Village. It appears that he took his own life shortly after he committed the ruthless murders of both Anacleta Pech and her daughter Ana Julia Clarita Pech.

He was found wearing camouflage long pants with a gaping shotgun wound to the back of the head in an overgrown area near the outskirts of the Village. Lorne Lisbey, despite popular belief and what was reported in other forms of the media was never a B.D.F Soldier.

**The Corozal Free Zone. The reality today!  
Investing in it's Community**



**David Akierman**

The Executive Chairman of the Corozal Free Zone (CFZ) Mr. David Akierman and his dedicated administrative team which has been in charge of the Free Zone since February of 2008 has given some sixteen full scholarship and various part scholarships in their ongoing Educational Assistance Program.

In Medicine, the CFZ has partnered with various medical groups such as the Belize Mission, Dentistry groups, Dermatologists and General Medical Practitioners which has resulted in over 1,600 children being treated with fluoride within this year alone.

In Arts and Culture, the new administration of the CFZ

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# UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## Orange Walk Town Council Candidates



**Francine Burns**  
LLB (Hons); Postgraduate  
Diploma in Professional  
Legal Skills; Barrister



**Albert "Memorable" Dawson**  
Employed at Belize Sugar  
Industries Limited; Active  
Member of Orange Walk  
Jockey Club



**Ivan Leiva – Mayoral Candidate**  
Employed at Santiago Castillo Group of Companies;  
Pursuing Bachelors Degree in Business Administration  
at Galen University



**Fiona Liu Mazier - BBA**  
majoring in Human  
Resource Management;  
Management and Accounting  
Teacher at Muffles Junior  
College



**Lionel Leon Palacio**  
Teacher at New Hope High  
School; known as "Mista P".  
Building Designer and Music  
Instructor



**Carlos "Charlie" Peralta**  
Justice of the Peace;  
Insurance Sales  
Representative at RF&G  
Insurance; Active member  
in Catholic Church Parish



**Carlos "Charlie" Slusher**  
Goalkeeper for the Belize  
National Football Team.  
Bachelors Degree in Business  
Administration. Works at  
National Sports Council as  
National Sports Coordinator

# March 2012

# VOTE UDP



# FROM THE PUBLISHER

## DRILL BABY DRILL!

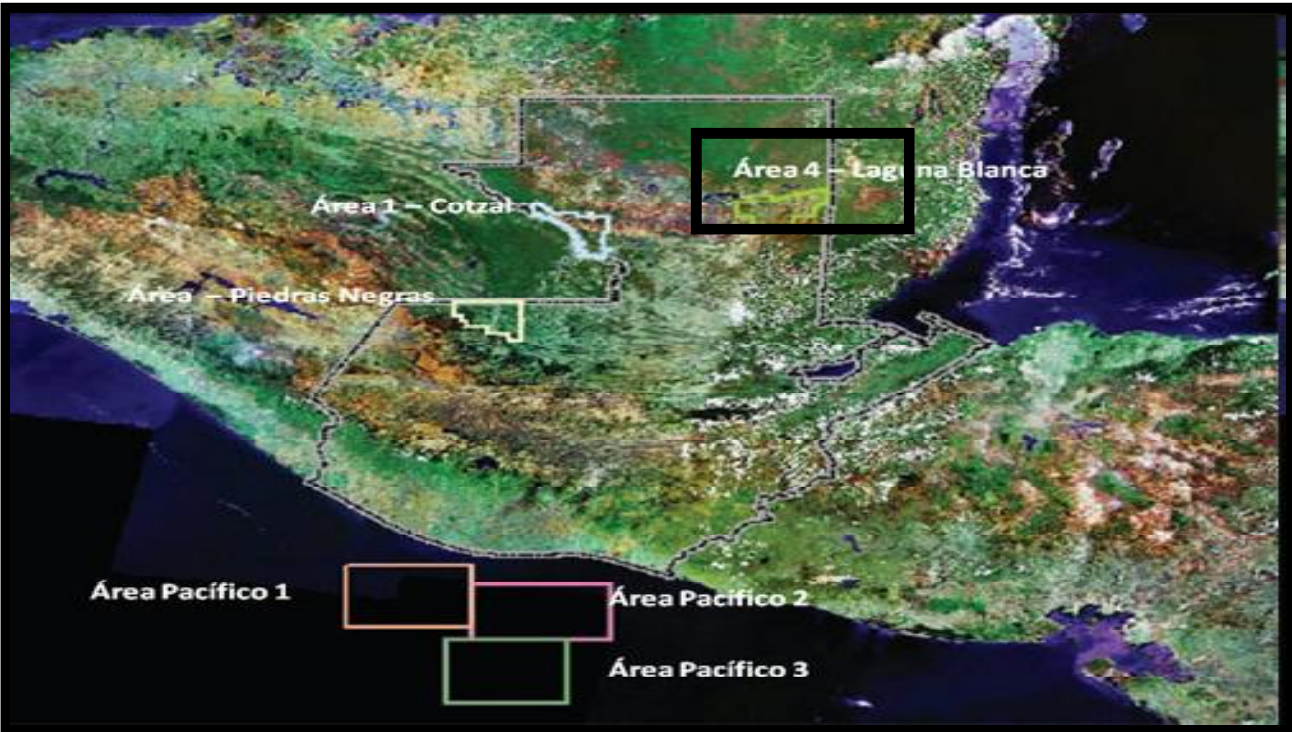
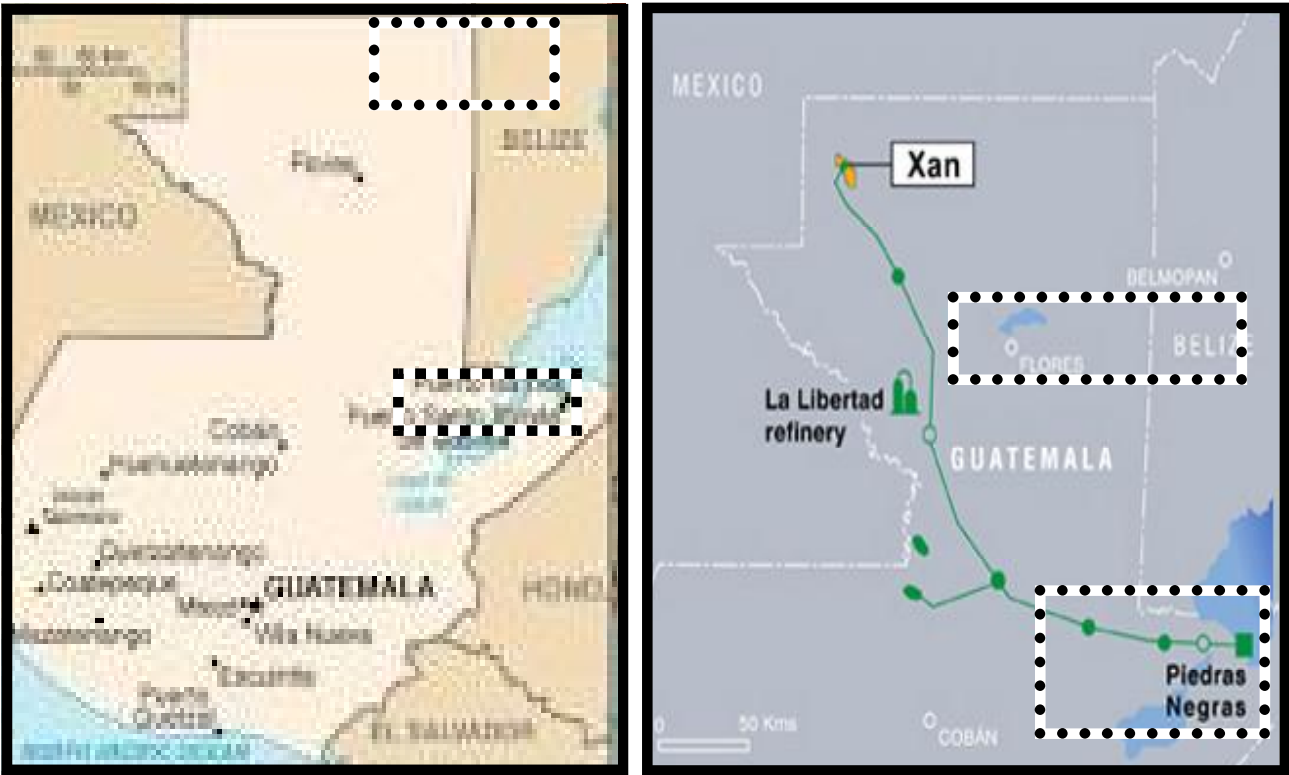
*Continue from pg. 6*

Malaysia, Norway, Venezuela.... We will stop for now with just one question which is that whenever you hear about Airplanes crashing it usually results in many fatalities so why do we still fly in them routinely?

In an earlier issue of this newspaper we expressed the concern that there are people in Belize who are practically owned by foreign interests' individuals, groups and/or organizations and that we must be vigilant in exposing these misfits whose interest are anti- development, anti-progress and anti-Belize for that matter.

We are however convinced that the actions of both OCEANA and SATIIM are born from the lack of the aforementioned information. Just to say no to oil exploration in either Off-shore or Reserve Areas is simply unacceptable in 2011 and to point out one

incident in the Gulf while ignoring the thousands of successes is simply being disingenuous. In Belize we must continue to leave the door wide open for the potential of tapping into that which flows like a river under our feet Oil, "Black Gold, Texas Tea". We have a responsible United Democratic Party's Government in place today and "yesterday was too late"! Let's keep it that way. Drill baby Drill!



**Area 4 -Laguna Blanca.**

*Area 4 -Laguna Blanca. September 2009*

*World Energy Research, a New Zealand-based energy research and investment company, is moving into energy exploration in Guatemala. WER plans to investigate the viability of 12 project sites with a focus on environmentally-friendly oil and natural gas extraction methods.*

Located in the Northwestern region of Guatemala, in the Petén Mining Area. PROPOUNDED AREA: 126,649.35 hectares. OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the potential of the Laguna Blanca structure. Reports on the drilled well state that there are 330,000 cubic feet of gas a day, as well as the production in Belize of 500 bopd per well, located at - distance of 35 km from the propounded area.



Area where oil Exploration is occurring to date



Area where oil Exploration is named in this article

# UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## Corozal Town Council

### Candidates

# March 2012



**Hilberto Campos**  
**Mayoral Candidate**

Current Mayor. Has an Associate's Degree in Applied Science, Electrical & Mechanical Engineering. President of Belize Mayors' Association for period 2008-2010 and Vice President of Belize Mayors' Association for period 2010 to present.



**Daisy Marroquin**  
Graduated from Corozal Junior College. Has Associate's Degree in Business Administration.  
Businesswoman.



**Guillermo Arana**  
Graduated Corozal Junior College. Has Associate's Degree in Business Administration. Business Owner of Restaurant and Bar. Served as Vice President of the Corozal Billiards Association, presently the Treasurer of Corozal Billiards Association.



**Elva Oralia Perez**  
Has Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Education. Teaches at Corozal Junior College. Past Department Chair at both Corozal Community College and Corozal Junior College.



**Rafael Castillo**  
Graduated from Corozal Community College and Corozal Junior College. Has a Bachelor's Degree in Science with a Major in Biochemistry and Minor in Environmental Science from Olivet College in the state of Michigan, USA. Presently teaching at the Tertiary level.



**Stacey Elizabeth Chi**  
Graduated from Belize Adventist College. Has one year training in Computer Technology at ITVET. Presently a Pre-School teacher at Play-World Methodist.



**Willie Cruz**  
Graduated from Corozal Community College. Has Associate's Degree in Business Administration from Corozal Junior College.



# FOOD AND NUTRITION

## Too Late For A FLU Shot?

Although the flu season lasts from October until May, with most cases occurring between late December and early March, the flu vaccine is usually offered between September and mid-November. Getting the shot before the flu season is in full force gives the body a chance to build up immunity to, or protection from, the virus.

Even though it's ideal to get vaccinated early, the flu shot can still be helpful later. Even as late as January, there are still 2 or 3 months left in the flu season, so it's still a good idea to get protected.

### Who Should Get the Flu Shot?

Federal health officials

now recommend flu vaccinations for everyone 6 months of age and older (instead of just certain groups, as was recommended before). It's still especially important that certain groups of people get vaccinated. These groups, which should get priority during times of shortage, are:

People at higher risk for developing serious complications from the flu.  
People who live with or care for the people at high risk.

High-risk groups include:  
All kids 6 months through 4 years old.  
Anyone 50 years and older.  
Anyone with a weakened immune system.  
Women who will be preg-

nant during the flu season  
Anyone who lives or works with children under 5 or adults aged 50 or older.  
Residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes.

Any adult or child with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma.  
Health care personnel who have direct contact with patients.  
Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of anyone in any of the high-risk groups.

Ideally, kids and adults should be immunized in October so they're adequately protected before flu season hits. Kids under 9 who get a flu shot for the first time will receive it in two separate shots a month

apart. It can take 1 to 2 weeks for the flu shot to become effective, so it's best to get vaccinated as soon as possible if your doctor thinks it's necessary.

### Those Who Should Not Get a Flu Shot

Those who should not get a flu shot include:  
Infants under 6 months old.  
Anyone who's severely allergic to eggs and egg products. People with a mild egg allergy can receive the vaccine, but it should be given in a doctor's office so that they can be monitored for side effects for 30 minutes after the shot is given.  
Anyone who's ever had a severe reaction to a flu vaccination.

*Continue on Page 15*

## TAKEDA RECIPES

### Ny'm Good Belizean Bittles

#### Wild Duck Breast with White Wine Cream Reduction and Wild Rice

##### Ingredients:

6-8 Wild Duck Breasts  
2 sprigs Rosemary  
1 tbsp minced yellow onion  
1 clove minced garlic  
Olive oil  
Salt

##### Reduction:

Pan Drippings  
White Wine or Sherry  
Cream  
Nutmeg  
Black Pepper

##### Directions:

1. Heat in a skillet 2 tbsp of olive oil with garlic, onion, and rosemary.
2. Remove the garlic and onion, and add the duck



breasts to the hot oil.

3. To preserve the juicy breast, after cooking, let the breasts rest 10 minutes before serving.

##### Sauce:

1. Heat the dripping from the skillet.
2. Add 1/2 cup white wine

to deglaze the drippings.

3. Ensure to whisk in all the little brown pieces that may have decided to stick to the pan.

4. Add 1/4 cream and 1/4 tsp fresh ground nutmeg and black pepper
- 1 tbsp olive oil

5. Reduce until creamy.

6. Sliced duck and serve it alongside wild rice.

##### Wild Rice

##### Ingredients:

1 tbsp olive oil  
1 large onion, chopped  
2 large carrots, chopped  
2 stalks celery, sliced

2 cloves garlic, minced  
3 1/2 cups vegetable broth  
1/2 cup uncooked wild rice  
1 cup uncooked regular long-grain white rice  
2 tbsps chopped fresh parsley

##### Directions:

1. Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onion, carrots, celery and garlic and cook until tender. Stir in broth and wild rice. Heat to a boil. Cover and cook over low heat 25 minutes.

2. Stir white rice. Cover and cook over low heat 20 mins or until rice is done. Stir in parsley.

**-END-**





The Board, Management and Staff of

*Belize Water Services Limited*

*Wishes Everyone, especially our Customers*

*A Joyous Holiday Season And a New  
Year filled With Love, Peace and Good Health*



All of our Offices countrywide will be closed during the  
Christmas Holidays as follows:

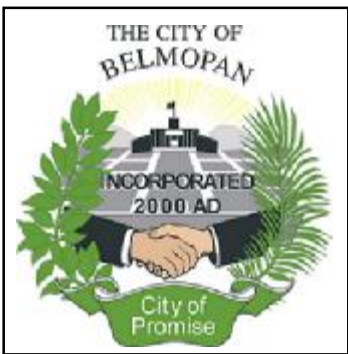
	CLOSED	RE-OPEN
All Offices Countrywide	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December, 2011 at 4:00p.m.	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011 at 8:00a.m.
	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January, 2012 at 8:00am
Belize City Office	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011 at 4:00pm	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January, 2012 at 8:00am

Normal Offices will resume on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at 8:00a.m.  
Any problems or leaks please call hotline at 0-800-BWS-LEAK or  
0-800-CALL-BWS.

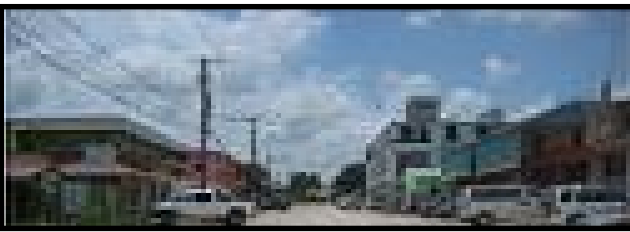
*Happy  
Holidays*







### UPDATE ON THE BELIZE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE CITY OF BELMOPAN



Under the World Bank Infrastructure Project four(4) streets will be rehabilitated in the City of Belmopan: One-Way Street adjacent to bus terminal, Nim Li Punit Street, Racoon Street, Hummingbird Drive (a portion)

The following have been accomplished in regards to the project:

- The project has been approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
- The Subproject Agreement has been signed. This agreement outlines the respective responsibilities, rights and obligations of the Social Investment Fund and the Belmopan City Council.
- The Belmopan City Council has deposited an amount equal to 1% of the estimated cost of the project as a counterpart contribution.
- Anthony Thurton and Associates, an engineering consultancy firm, have been hired to prepare the designs, costs estimates and technical specifications for the four streets and work have begun on the designs etc. which is expected to be completed by the end of January 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. Ernest Raymond, Project Co-ordinator, Belize Municipal Development Project, Constitution Drive, Belmopan Tel: 822-0239/0508 or via email: [ernest.raymond@sifbelize.org](mailto:ernest.raymond@sifbelize.org) or Cell No. 610-1836. Website: [www.sifbelize.org](http://www.sifbelize.org)

The Corozal Free Zone  
The reality today!  
Investing in  
it's Community  
*Continued from pg. 9*



has partnered with various groups promoting the arts and enhancing our culture. The Institute of Creative Arts Corozal, the Corozal Community Dance Company, the Yo Chen Cultural Committee have all joined in acknowledging the tremendous efforts and help they received from the CFZ.

The many contributions of the CFZ management are in their view a social responsibility to their community which they pledge to continue investing in throughout the tenure of this administration. On behalf of the Chairman Mr. David Akierman, the Management and Staff of the Corozal Free Zone.

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! To Be Continued in the next issue of The Northern Star Newspaper ■■■■***

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

*Continued from Page 13*

Anyone with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), a rare medical condition that affects the immune system and nerves.

Anyone with a fever. A non-shot option, the nasal mist vaccine, is now available, but because it con-

tains weakened live flu viruses it is not for people with weakened immune systems or certain health conditions. The nasal mist vaccine is only for healthy, non-pregnant people between the ages of 2 and 49 years. Check with your doctor to see if your child can — or should — get this

type of flu vaccine.

### Are There Side Effects?

Most people do not experience any side effects from the flu shot. Some have soreness or swelling at the site of the shot or mild side effects, such as headache or low-grade fever.

Some people who get the nasal spray vaccine also may develop mild flu-like symptoms, including runny nose, headache, vomiting, muscle aches, and fever.

**-END-**



CHEERS!

FROM  
THE NORTHERN STAR  
NEWSPAPER LTD.

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

### CREOLE PROVERBS

Champagne dreams wid  
lime juice money

English: Champagne  
dreams with the lime juice  
money.

Meaning: Wanting things  
that one clearly cannot af-  
ford.

Dat one cut like panya ma-  
chete.

English: That one cuts like  
panya machete.

Meaning: A person may  
seem duplicitous, a phony  
in one gathering may take  
a certain stand, make cer-  
tain statements or share a  
particular opinion, then

contradicts or disclaims  
them when in another gath-  
ering.

Blud kant bee waash out  
wit blud.

English: Blood cantto be  
washed out with blood.

Meaning: Two wrongs do  
not make a right.

Di sins of the madda falls  
pon di child.

English: The sins of the  
mother will fall upon the  
child.

Meaning: Children will  
bare the consequence of  
their mother (parent's) ac-  
tions.





## **BELIZE NATURAL ENERGY CHARITABLE TRUST**

May you have peace and goodwill,  
not only at this time of year,  
but all year through.  
Our best wishes for  
Happy Holidays  
and a  
Prosperous New Year

- Student Loans
- Educational Infrastructure Projects
- Social Environmental Initiatives
- Capacity Building Programs

From:  
The Board of Trustees,  
General Manager & Staff



# Your Weekly Horoscope



## Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

You're feeling even more generous than usual this week, which could mean that someone new is the focus of some serious positive energy. Don't think about reward - it's coming at its own pace.



## Pisces

February 19 - March 20

There's way too much going on for you to take it all in at once. Things are almost certainly going your way, but you've got to make sure that you can deal with one thing at a time.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Don't be afraid to show off your opinionated side - it's working for you, and you may be able to sway a few minds before the week is done. The social scene is definitely in your favor, at least for now.



## Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Show off your flexible side. Someone needs to see that you can shift with circumstances, so look around, see what's going on, and then make sure that you're on top of it all.



## Capicorn

December 22 - January 19

This week isn't quite as easy as it ought to be, as far as you are concerned — but it could get better pretty quickly! Keep waiting, and by the end of the week you should start to see some signs of improvement.



## Aries

March 21 - April 19

You need to indulge your competitive side this week — even more so than usual — and that could mean that you're eyed with suspicion by those nearby. Things start to get weird later, but for now, you're all good.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Financial dealings should go well for you this week, thanks largely to your ability to make smart choices and to find better deals. If you have to spend all week shopping for retirement plans, so be it.



## Libra

September 23 - October 22

You need to draw on your social networks to get things done this week, so make sure that you're reaching out to all the right people. You might find that your best friend has exactly the skill you need.



## Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

A big change comes your way this week — one that could mean a world of difference between this week's daily life and what comes next week. Be ready for anything but expect the best.



## Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Your sense of purpose may be driving others away from you — so try to roll it back a bit! You should be able to get what you need without making a big deal out of it and scaring your friends away.



## Leo

July 23 - August 22

Accept that you're the best at what you do — at least in some way or other. Your great energy is indisputable, and you should find that you're well ahead of the pack by next week.



## Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

A new challenge presents itself just when you were afraid that things were starting to get boring. It might take quite a bit of energy to make it right, but that just means that things are better.

## Jokes of the Week

### `Glad to be drunk

**A completely inebriated man was stumbling down the street with one foot on the curb and one foot in the gutter. A cop pulled up and said, "I've got to take you in, pal. You're obviously drunk."**

**Our wasted friend asked, "Officer, are ya absolutely sure I'm drunk?"**

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

**Breathing a sigh of relief, the wino said, "Thank goodness, I thought I was crippled."**

### Beer Contains Female Hormones

Yesterday, scientists for Health Canada suggested that men should take a look at their beer consumption, considering the results of a recent analysis that revealed the presence of female hormones in beer.

The theory is that drinking beer makes men turn into women.

To test the finding, 100 men were fed 6 pints of beer each.

It was then observed that 100% of the men gained weight, talked excessively without making sense, became overly emotional, couldn't drive, failed to think rationally, argued over nothing, and refused to apologize when wrong.

No further testing is planned!



## The Hottest Events & Entertainment

Happy Sweet Sixteenth Birthday  
Kimberly Lopez



The  
Mirage Inn  
Hosted  
This  
Event

#80 Otro  
Benque  
Road  
Orange  
Walk Town  
Tel:  
610-1516



Birthday Girl with her Family



Friends



Friends



# From The Ministry Of Sports



*Ismael 'Miley' Garcia  
National Sports Coordinator  
Ministry of Sports*

**SPORTS NEWS**  
**DECEMBER 19, 2011**

This column wishes all the many sports enthusiasts and athletes a very BLESSED CHRISTMAS and all the best in the NEW YEAR 2012.

The school year closed with the exciting finals of the National High Schools Basketball tournament held in San Pedro last weekend. In the female division the girls from St. Catherine's got the best of their rivals Muffles College 30-13 to claim the National High Schools Female Basketball Championship.

In the male division the boys from Sadie Vernon High School emerged victorious over the host team San Pedro by an impressive score of 82-68 right on the heels of having won the Central Division Championship. Coach Tarr tells us that he is impressed with the level of play displayed at this weekend's National High School Finals. Congratulations to both high schools, their players, coaching staff, parents and school administration for supporting the tournament.

We congratulate the Belmopan City Volleyball

Association for the successful completion of the interdepartmental competition.

In the Ministry's competition Immigration/Police defeated the Education/Public Service and Sports squad to become the interministerial CHAMPIONS. In the competition between non-government firms and businesses it was Social Security Board defeating the competition from the Buildder's Hardware/Courts to become CHAMPIONS of that competition.

On Monday, December 18th the grand CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS for Belmopan may be determined between the top dogs from both the interministerial and non-government firms and businesses. In a monster match up Social Security and Immigration/Police go into game two which could be the deciding game since Social Security Board has defeated Immigration/Police in game one of a best of three series. Once again we congratulate the Belmopan City Volleyball Association for the excellent organization of this tournament.

In football news two elections were held on Saturday for the members of the Football Federation of Belize (FFB). On Saturday morning Floyd Jones, the challenger, beat the incumbent Vice President of the Belize District Football Association (BDFA) Michael Novelo, to become Chairman of the BDFA. The other four members who were elected were members of the Michael Novelo slate. There were

three (3) spoilt ballots so it is a wonder that Jones got nine votes to Novelo's seven votes in an election where sixteen teams voted. The members who were elected were merely announced as winners but no numbers were given by the Electoral Commission.

Later the same day in Dangriga, Mr. Leroy Romero and Mr. Herman Pastor of the Electoral Commission, conducted elections for the Stann Creek District Football Association (SCDFA). Mr. Patrick Henry, Acting Director of the National Sports Council supervised this election and was involved in the count. At the end of the counting it was the slate headed by Kenrick "Mugga" Flores that won four positions over incumbent Davis Marshall's slate. One member of the Nelson Moss slate "Strings" Castillo was also elected to make up the fifth member of the SCDFA.

The election for the Corozal District Football Association was postponed for a second time, this time at the request of FIFA, according to an FFB release of Friday, December 16th.

Both the Electoral and Electoral Appeals Commission have rejected the slate of Mr. Virgilio Acosta

that wishes to challenge incumbent Frank Sutherland. This case, however, has been referred to FIFA since even the incumbent Corozal District Football Association President has written that there is no reason to disallow the slate and he believes the slate should be allowed to run. The Ministry and FIFA have been in contact and we await the outcome of this review by FIFA of the facts of this case.

So far the entire Belmopan slate of Mr. Peter Alvarez was rejected as well as Mr. Marvin Ottley and his proposed Vice Chair for the Belize District and Mr. Nelson Moss and his proposed Vice Chair for the Stann Creek District.

Elections for the top league are schedule for December 28th and the two slates contesting in this branch of the FFB are headed by Mr. Sergio Chuc and Mr. Omario "Maito" Perdomo.

And in closing the football we wish to highlight that the John Saldivar Cup, being played at the newly lit San Martin Football Field, is in full swing with night games on Tuesday and Thursdays and all day on Sundays. We will have a detailed update on this competition in our next article.

See the



**In Living Colors at**  
**[www.belizenews.com/NorthernStar](http://www.belizenews.com/NorthernStar)**



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Investment Bankers Die in New Jersey Highway Plane Crash



*Emergency workers gather at the scene of the plane crash Tuesday in New Jersey.*

#### HARDING, N.J.

A small plane heading for Georgia crashed Tuesday on a major New York-area highway, spiraling out of control, breaking up and scattering wreckage across the road. All five people aboard were killed.

Federal investigators said the pilot had discussed icing with controllers just before the plane went down but were unsure what role, if any, icing played in the crash.

The New York investment banking firm Greenhill & Co. said two of its manag-

ing directors, Jeffrey Buckalew, 45, and Rakesh Chawla, 36, as well as Buckalew's wife, Corinne, and two children, Jackson and Meriwether, were on the plane that crashed on Interstate 287. No one on the ground was injured.

Buckalew was the registered owner of the single-engine plane and had a pilot's license.

Wreckage was scattered over at least a half-mile-wide area, with a section found lodged in a tree of a home about a quarter-mile away, near a highway en-

trance ramp.

Chris Covello of Rockaway Township said he saw the plane spin out of control from the car dealership where he works in Morristown, near the site of the crash.

The high-performance, Socata TBM-700 turbo-prop had departed from nearby Teterboro Airport in New Jersey and crashed about 14 minutes into its flight. It was headed for DeKalb Peachtree Airport near Atlanta.

The pilot had a seven-second call with a controller about icing shortly before the crash, said Robert Gretz, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, told a late-day news conference.

Gretz said he did not know if the pilot was reporting icing had occurred or was questioning the location of possible icing conditions. He said he was unaware of any icing on the ground that would have required deicing.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the pilot had requested clearance to

a higher altitude shortly before the plane dropped off radar. The NTSB said the plane had climbed to 17,500 feet.

On an audio recording available online, an air traffic controller is heard telling the pilot about "moderate rime", or a coating of ice particles, up to 17,000 feet.

A few minutes later, a different controller is heard telling another pilot about reports of moderate to severe icing up to 14,000 feet and moderate icing up to 17,000.

The crash left charred wreckage across the median and the highway, a heavily used route that wraps around the northern and western edges of the New York City area. A huge ball of charred metal sat in the middle of the northbound lanes. Both sides of the highway were shut down, only partly reopening by late afternoon.

Gretz said the plane just missed a truck on the southbound lanes before crashing into the median, then scattering wreckage across the wooded area and into the northbound lanes.

### UN Drops Call To Outlaw 'Defamation of Religions'

**UNITED NATIONS** — For the first time in more than a decade, the U.N. General Assembly on Monday condemned religious intolerance without urging states to outlaw "defamation of religions," an appeal critics say opened the door to abusive "blasphemy" laws.

The call on countries to prohibit "defamation" had been

included in a non-binding resolution on combating religious intolerance passed annually by the 193-nation assembly.

The resolution approved on Monday declares that "discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief constitutes a violation of human rights".

It also expressed concern about the incitement to religious hatred and the failure of some states "to combat this burgeoning trend".

The General Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus without a vote.

The versions passed in previous years had enjoyed increasingly less support in assembly votes due to

Western and Latin American opposition to the "defamation" idea. The resolution barely received a majority of yes votes in 2010.

Earlier this year Western countries and their Latin America allies joined Muslim and African states in backing a new approach that switched the focus

*Continued on page 24*

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Cuba allows private ownership of state land in all but name, expert says



A farmer tends to his crop on a farm just outside of Port-au-Prince

HAVANA - Cuba, trying to lure people back to the land and increase food production, has modified a land lease program so that people can rent more land and keep it in their family as if they owned it, according to farmers.

The measures, adopted at a recent Council of Ministers meeting and not yet announced, are the latest loosening of the doctrinaire communism that has ruled Cuban agriculture policy for decades and were hailed by farmers as a step forward.

Farmers said in telephone interviews they were told in local meetings they will be able to lease up to 165 acres from the state beginning in January, compared with the current maximum of 33 acres mandated in a program begun in 2008.

They said the leases will extend for up to 25 years, compared with the current 10 years, and can be renewed and passed on to family members and in some cases laborers.

Farmers also will be al-

lowed for the first time to build homes on the leased land and make other improvements under a regulation that guarantees the state will reimburse them if they lose their lease.

#### 'A lifetime of work'

They had complained that the small size of the plots, short leases and other restrictions hampered production.

Cuba nationalized most property after the 1959 revolution and the state owns more than 70 percent of the arable land on the Caribbean island.

Private farmers, using 24 percent of the land, were responsible for 57 percent of the food produced in Cuba in 2010, a local agricultural expert said.

President Raul Castro has made agriculture the centerpiece of his efforts to reform the stagnating, Soviet-style economy in favor of more local and private initiative.

But food production has increased only slightly since he replaced his brother, Fidel Castro, in 2008 and remains below 2005 levels.

#### Farmers promised more freedom

The country imports a budget-busting 60 percent to 70 percent of the food it consumes and the average age of farmers and laborers is now 50 years old.

Castro has decentralized decision-making on agricultural policy, increased prices paid for produce and promised farmers more freedom to grow and sell their crops.

In November new measures were announced making it easier for farmers to get bank credits and allowing them to sell produce directly to the tourism sector, bypassing the state.

They are all part of more than 300 reforms adopted by the ruling Communist Party at an April congress to "update" the economy.

### UN Drops Call To Outlaw 'Defamation of Religions'

*Continued from page 23*

from protecting beliefs to protecting believers. That new approach led to Monday's resolution.

Since 1998, the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) had won majority approval in U.N. rights bodies in Geneva and at the U.N. General Assembly for annual resolutions on "combating defamation of religions".

Critics said the concept ran against international law

and free speech and left the way open for tough blasphemy laws like those in Pakistan that have been invoked this year by the killers of two moderate politicians there.

They argued that it also allowed states where one religion predominates to keep religious minorities under tight control or even leave them open to forced conversion or oppression.

### Amish Girl's Death Appears Accidental

By CNN Wire Staff

bullet hit the girl.

The shooting death of a 15-year-old Amish girl in east-central Ohio last week is likely to be ruled an accident, Holmes County Sheriff Timothy Zimmerly said on Tuesday.

Racher Yoder, 15, was shot while inside a horse-drawn buggy on her way home.

It appears she was struck by a stray bullet, Zimmerly said. A neighbor told authorities he fired his weapon while cleaning it, and the sheriff believes that

Still, an official ruling is pending the results of a ballistics report. No charges have been filed.

Yoder was on her way back from a Christmas party when she was shot. She managed to stay in the buggy until it neared her home, at which point she fell out. The victim's brother found Yoder on the ground.

She was transferred to Akron City Hospital and died Friday afternoon.



# SURVIVAL Vs. CONSERVATION

## *"I think something is wrong with their brains."*

**CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE**

communities began to speak out against SATIIM.

The communities that surround the park are Barranco, Midway, Sunday Wood, Conejo and Crique Sarco.

The US Capital Energy Ltd. was given a permit to explore for oil by the Government of Belize in this very area, an exploration permit that SATIIM has vehemently opposed.

While SATIIM or its associates in fourteen years has failed to deliver on any alternative solutions to the crippling jobless situation that exist among the people in these surrounding communities, SATIIM has not failed in steadily lobbying primarily the international community for support also in the form of donation to its cause.

On its web site you will find the following: SATIIM-Environmental destruction. Human rights violation. Cultural erosion. By giving a voice to the indigenous people of southern Belize, SATIIM strives to prevent these imminent consequences.

US Capital Energy want the oil from under their feet. Not even the law that protects the land will stand in the way. Founded by the people it protects, SATIIM aims to save the Sarstoon-Temash National Park from oil development. Support us in our battle. Follow our progress here...

Now government of Belize recklessly jeopardizes the nation's natural resources, giving away oil exploration concessions over practically the entire area of Belize, including its national parks, the barrier reef and



Antonio Cucul

atolls!...Please help Belize's indigenous people, and its civic society organizations, like SATIIM, to avert an ecological disaster in Belize NOW by: 1} Posting a comment here, supporting the fight against oil drilling in Belize's protected areas and offshore!

2} Donating - urgently and generously - to SATIIM's anti-oil campaign by linking to its project (# 5763) on Global Giving's Open Challenge starting July 5, 2010!

3} Spreading the word to all birders, environmentalists, snorkelers, divers, eco-tourists and others, who care about this planet and its natural treasures and want to preserve them!

Absolutely no mentioned is made about the true conditions of the populace of the surrounding communities nor of the fact that the actions of SATIIM has angered many of the residents living in the said area.

Channel 7 news went to the area in question and spoke with some of the people who had the following passionate comments. **Harvey Sandoval:**

*"They want to shut down the oil company. I think something is wrong with their brains. They need to go check a psychiatrist. They promise sustainable and alternative livelihood of which*

*have never been done and the people are tired of their promises."*

*"We have never got anything that was promise from Satiim. I was a board member of Satiim but I don't see anything that they have done for my village."*

**Antonio Cucul**

*"In my village some children are going to high school and some of them want to go to UB. They want some money to invest in their children to get a higher education. That's why we are working and that's why we are here to work along with this company."*

*"They can't stop us because, I know this guy from Sarstoon/Temash National Park. They want to stop it but they stop it. If they stop it then we don't have any more job, no more benefit, we can't send our children to school. We can't eat because there is no job in the village. There is nothing, we only do harvest, crops, farming, only that."*

**Barranco Resident** *"Now they got the ok from government, they come with something else again, we don't want to hear that, we want to see oil. We want to see the big rig come down and find the oil of whatever the seismic results are."*

**Area resident, Working with US Capital Energy** *"If they want to come out and stop the oil company, they could go ahead but they must give us jobs, let us*

*have work like how we are working now."*

*"As usual Satiim will say that people from the villages don't want to work with oil companies. That is automatically a lie; about 20 people from each village are working right now. With this oil company we have about 150 people working right now and we have transportation so I don't see how these people are saying that we don't want to work. We need the job because we want to live a better life. Even if the company is here for 3 months, at least we get job for 3 months."*

The question of the very survival of the people and the success of their generations on a scale far outweigh the matter of conservation. One question that automatically comes to mind is conserve, preserve for who?

One of my favorite artists is the singer/song-writer Tracy Chapman who said "If it's not now then when? If it's not today, then why make your promises a love declared for days to come is as good as none!"

SATIIM has been promising for fourteen years and still continues to promise while a generation has gone by and the next is here. The people in these areas have rights and their progress and interests must be considered paramount to those of bird-watchers, environmentalist, snorkelers, divers or eco-tourist etc.

SATIIM along with its counterpart OCEANA will soon discover that in this real world Belize, where real people live to merely exist is simply not the option.



**Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
From  
The Department of Transport**  
**THERE'S A THIN LINE  
BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.**

**TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS**

1. Check your motor vehicle to ensure that everything is in good working condition. Example – brakes, all lights, horn, wipers, tires, spare-tire, tire tools, oil, water, brake fluid & dash board gauges.
2. Ensure that your driver's license is valid and that your vehicle is licensed and insured.
3. Wear your seat belts at all times when on the highways. (It is an offence for drivers and front seat passengers not to wear seat belts on the highways).
4. Don't carry passengers in the back of open pickup trucks. (Vehicle only insured to carry amount of passengers as stipulated on certificate of registration/title).
5. Don't drive if you are consuming Alcoholic beverages or taking medication (drugs). Have designated driver (alcohol and drugs affect your vision and judgement).
6. Avoid making calls on cell phone when driving, it is best to pull off to the right to make calls or to answer your cell phone, don't text while driving.
7. Wear your helmet at all times when operating or being carried as a passenger on a motor cycle.
8. Only overtake if you have a clear view of the road ahead, never overtake around blind curves or when driving over a hill.
9. Drive within the speed limit at all times.
10. Obey all traffic laws and signs.



**THINK! DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**

