

STAR

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

No. 135

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STAND-OFF AT THE WESTERN BORDER STATION

BELIZE'S WESTERN BORDER STATION, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo, Friday, November 9, 2007:

The stand off between Belizean Customs Brokers/Importers and the Border Management Agency at Belize's Western Border Station in Benque Viejo Town moved into its fifth day today.

At the center of the controversy is the Border Management Agency's intention to impose substantial cost increases on importers who must use the facility to conduct their daily business.

An official memo, dated October 30, from the Border Management Agency informed of the imposition of new fees to take effect within six days, being last Monday, November 5, 2007.

Paito Robateau Laid To Rest

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Wednesday, November 7, 2007:

Despite the promise of the resurrection, it will never be easy for family and friends to bid good bye to a loved one in death. It becomes even harder on the family when the passing of a loved one is sudden.

We therefore join with the people of this community in expressing deepest sympathy to **Mr. Raymond** and **Mrs. Adriana Robateau** and their family in the sudden passing of their eldest son, **Raymond Albert Robateau Jr.** who was affectionately known as "**Paito**".

In a brief chat with the **STAR Newspaper**, Mr. Raymond and Ms. Adrian informed that in order to provide a change of environment,

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The fees, as outlined in the memo, appear under three distinct headings as follows: "**Visual Customs Inspection**" by which a new \$50.00 charge is to be imposed on **a) Scrap Iron Operations b) Steel c) Mi Gas (Butane) and d) Other petroleum products.**

Under the same heading, the fee for the importation of cement is pegged at \$38.00, being \$12.00 less than what the other four categories of importation would be taxed.

Under the second heading, "**Parking Fees**" although not a new charge, will see a 100% increase as follows: **a) Small 4 cylinder vehicles** previously paying \$10.00 per day will now be required to pay \$20.00.

The fee for the parking of trucks (*containers, buses etc.*) is slated to

be increased from \$20.00 to \$40.00 per day.

Under the third heading a new fee for "**Ramp Use**" will be charged at \$20.00 for pickups; \$50.00 for small trucks and a whopping \$100.00 for all containers.

According to Belizean Custom Broker, **Edgar Garrido**, the man leading the charge for Brokers and Importers, the challenge against these new fees stems from several concerns that importers are expressing.

The primary concern is the arbitrary manner in which the fees are being rammed down the throats of the very people who generate the bulk of revenue payable to the Government of Belize by way of customs duties.

"To just simply sit down and take this licking", said Garrido "will set a dangerous precedence, not only for importers but, for every single Belizean consumer throughout the length and breadth of the entire nation of Belize as all such increases will eventually be passed on to every consumer living within the borders of Belize.

If allowed to slide by easily, these fees, in the months and years ahead will be gradually ratcheted upwards to reach astronomical proportions as an unbridled Border Management Agency will seek to maximize its profits at the expense of every single person living within the natural borders of Belize.



Edgar Garrido, heading the cause in Benque

The confrontation therefore is not only for brokers and importers but it must instead be seen as an attempt on the part of importers to keep the cost of living within reach of every single person living in Belize".

Garrido further contends that, prior to receiving the written notice for the implementation of these burdensome charges, there was no consultation with stakeholders in the industry that he represents.

He further informed that a mere six days notice for the imposition of this major increase in operational costs was not enough and that the lack of consultation and the short notice borders on being utterly disrespectful to all those persons who play a vital role in the economic stability of the nation.

"There is much talk about these new fees being in line with those charged at the Northern Border Station in Corozal. Nothing could further from the truth," said

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+RIP+

**Raymond Albert Robateau Jr, 30
SUNRISE: December 14, 1976
SUNSET: November 4, 2007**



"BOREDOM ENDS HERE"

Yes, Life HAARD but Cocopele Bar still has LOW prices, FREE internet with drinking, FREE Entrance FREE pool, FREE darts and FREE fussball. COCOPELE is still off limits for all persons under 18, they know so!!

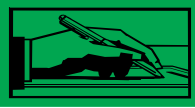
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Editorial



The Good And The Bad

We take this opportunity to commend **Sr. Supt. David Henderson** for listening to the concerns of the people as it pertains to those liquor establishments opening long after closing time.

The police, especially **Corporals Barrow** and **Grinage**, over the past few weeks have been effectively and aggressively taking action against those establishments that are in the habit of violating the conditions of the liquor licenses they hold.

The action on the part of the police has brought a sense of peace and quite to many neighborhoods in proximity with these establishments.

No longer do we see motorist parking in front of these establishment at two or three o'clock in the morning blasting their stereos.

No longer do we see those bicycle riding boys hanging out in front of these establishment during these early morning hours drinking beers, interfering with those passing by or fighting among themselves as the liquor consumption reaches its max.

No longer do we see children out of their beds at two or three o'clock in the morning visiting these establishments to buy food, and sometimes even beers, for adults at home. And for this we **MUST** commend the police.

There are times however, when we wish that there would hardly be any need for us to critically write about the police, but how can we turn a blind eye or bury our heads in the sand when they openly tell us that they do no give a darn about what we write and that they know what actions to take whenever we slip in our writings.

Notwithstanding, we take this opportunity to call on our policemen to discontinue the illegal practice of arresting people and then conduct investigations. This is a dangerous practice as it opens up the department to lawsuits for unlawful imprisonment.

The regularity of these instances has recently prompted the Ombudsman to write to the Officer In Charge of the Cayo (Police) District, asking him to address this concern.

In his letter to the Commanding Officer, the Ombudsman expressed concern about a lady who was arrested solely on the basis of a "complaint". In this instance the

Ombudsman requested for the policeman in question to apologize to the lady for unlawfully arresting and detaining her for several hours.

If left unchecked, this practice, which is increasing in regularity, will reach the point when a simple apology will not be enough as the eyes of the citizenry is opening up to the option of filing lawsuits against the police for unlawfully imprisonment.

Oh how we dream of the day when policemen will use thorough investigation as the basis on which to effect an arrest instead of routinely doing it the other way around in which they arrest, imprison and then investigate.

After going through this dilemma, many are the persons who are so happy to be released from custody that they do not as much as contemplate the options of filing a suit against those who unlawfully imprisoned them. This illegal and intimidating practice should be terminated with a sense of extreme urgency.

Take for example the case of the lady from the sanitation section of the San Ignacio Town Council. Even up to this date, almost three weeks later, the poor soul is still traumatized. She was arrested on a complaint from a lady who reported to the police that she allegedly lost her cellular telephone while shopping at the farmers' market in San Ignacio. She told the police that she did not see anyone taking the

telephone but that the sanitation worker was around the stall where she her phone might have gone missing.

The sanitation worker was detained and questioned. She denied taking the lady's phone. The police did not find anything incriminating on the sanitation worker and despite the lack of any physical evidence or corroboration statement from any witness who might have seen her taking the telephone, the police nevertheless proceeded to arrest and charge the lady.

To add insult to injury, the lady was taken to court on the charge of "**theft**" and she is now out on \$800.00 bail.

Without physical evidence or corroborating statements from witnesses who could say that they saw this lady taking the telephone, it will be next to impossible to convict her. But then who cares, the poor lady will be glad to be freed of the charge and she would be prone to consider that the acquittal was a favor done to her when in reality she should **NEVER** have been arrested in the first instance, much less charged for any crime.

Any policeperson who is worth his or her salt will tell you that the laws of Belize defines the elements of theft as: "**The**

dishonest appropriation of property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it."

Without the telephone, how will the police be able to convince the court that there was even any property for it to have been dishonestly appropriated.

On the basis of the complainant's statement alone, how can the police prove that the complainant actually had a telephone?

We will not even venture into elaborating much about the case in which the police, for over a month, are illegally holding onto the licensed firearm belonging to **Dr. Ricardo Bush**.

The police might very well be within their legal rights to hold onto any such property in the course of an investigation. However, by law, such investigation must be conducted within a reasonable time. Over a month can hardly be considered reasonable time for this matter to have been taken to court. And the court is the only entity that can legally order the confiscation of the property belonging to another person.

Oh how we continue to pray for the time to come when there will be no need for us to critically write about the police.☆



Pardon the Interruption...

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) advises customers in the **Cayo District** that the supply of electricity will be interrupted on **Sunday, November 11, 2007**.



Time:

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



Affected areas:

All of San Ignacio Town will be affected



Reason:

To upgrade the Distribution System in the area.

BEL regrets any inconvenience that may be caused by this power interruption.

Customers may call toll free for any additional queries or other customer-related issues at: 0-800-BEL-CARE or 0-800-235-2273.

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STAR Newspaper

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

42A Western Highway
Santa Elena Town,
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Tel: 667-STAR (7827)
626- 3788

starnewspaper@gmail.com

Publisher:

Alberto August

Editor:

Nyani Azueta-August

Circulation:

Errol Gonzalez

VISIT US ON LINE AT:

[belizenorth.com/
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Letters to the Editor

Living In Guatemala - Collecting Social Security Money

Dear Editor;

It pains my heart to see the amount of senior female “*citizens*” from the across the Melchor border religiously making that monthly trek to the Social Security Branch Office in Santa Elena to collect the \$75, soon to be \$100, non-contributory pension benefit.

It pains my heart because this money goes directly into the Guatemalan economy while there are countless deserving Belizean women, living in Belize, who are repeatedly turned

down from participating in the program.

I believe that the program should be amended to require those collecting the pension to be living in Belize.

This is an easy situation the monitor as the list of those benefiting from the program can be handed to immigration officers at the border and they will seen the trend of those ladies making the programmed monthly trip from Melchor across the border to the Social Security office.

Olivia, Santa Elena, Cayo. ☆

Something Is Wrong With My Water Bill

Dear Editor,

Please allow me space in your newspaper to voice a serious concern.

My complaint is about the Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL). Let me start off by saying that I am of the opinion that the staff at the San Ignacio branch office of BWSL are not responsible for what is happening as they are merely employees of the company.

I am a single mother, with two sons, usually when we leave home at 7:30 in the morning, we do not return until 5:30 in the evening and this has been the way we have been living for the past several years.

When I moved into my new house in 2000, my water bill was around fifteen dollars. It has since increased to double that amount and I know for a fact that we use the same amount of water.

My bill has now gone up even higher and is now fluctuating anywhere between forty and fifty dollars per month.

Then the shocker came last month when I received a bill for a whopping **SEVENTY FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS (\$74.50).**

I called the BWSL office with intention to find out what went wrong and they coldly told me that I must pay the bill or else they would disconnect the water and that I will have to wait and see what the next bill will be.

I went home and checked for leaking pipe but everything was OK. I haven’t made any addition to my house lately, I try my best to conserve water when I wash clothes, I use the rinse water to mop my house. I have an outside pipe and it is fitted with a lock.

Without making any changes in the way we consume water, my new bill

came and the amount was only \$47.86, this just proves that last month I paid for water I did not consume

As a single mother, my money is limited, but when I have to pay so much for water that I did not use, then I get angry like hell. I am sure there are many persons with similar experience.

We are getting the feeling like maybe BWSL is not being honest with the poor people and I want to know if there is anything we can do about it.

If it is a mistake on reading the meter why don’t they acknowledge it and refund our money.

BWSL please stop taking advantage of we the poor. If this continues I might get me a vat or get a well dug and cut off BWSL forever.

Quite frankly, we are fed up of all these high utility bills. We are hoping and praying that someday things will get better for us the poor.

S/ Miss Dolly Witz ☆

Ed. Note: All you might need to do is to check for yourself to find out if you are being charged for water that you have not consumed.

To conduct this check, you will need to look at the reading on your meter to see if the numbers correspond.

The number on your meter should not be much greater than number under “PRESENT READING” on you newest water bill.

If you find a big difference in these numbers then we encourage you to take this information into the BWSL off and request an explanation. ☆

ATTENTION SCHOOLS

BRC will donate, free of cost, any BRC books that schools want to use.

Earlier we made the offer on the condition that the Government would allow BRC’s books to be used as the main text.

BRC will now donate its books, unconditionally. Schools have seen the need.

We can get the books to the District Towns. Just call BRC at 823-2143 and give your order.

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Food and one drink provided for all guests.

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All proceeds go to The Cornerstone Foundation, help support your community

Suggesting For Hillview To Become Independent



By: Ray Auxillou

FALCONVIEW TOURIST BACKPACKERS ADVENTURE HOSTEL, Hillview Community, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District, Thursday, November 1, 2007:

PETITION TO FORM VILLAGE COUNCIL IN HILLVIEW

Anthony DeLeon of Hillview, the second resident of the area, when Hillview was formed, as a DFC housing subdivision some sixteen years ago, will be circulating around the residents of the Hillview area, with a PETITION to collect signatures; to apply to forming a legal VILLAGE of the Hillview area. All residents are requested to sign the petition.

Anthony currently is working for Mario Castellanos on his PUP election campaign. In normal times, he is a Jack-Of- All-Trades and does carpentry, masonry, plastering, cutting yards and looking after houses of absentee owners. He lives in Hillview on the slope of Green Parrot Valley.

The concerns of a number of residents in the area, is the lack of services from the current Twin Town, Town Board, run by a UDP dominated council.

While streets in Santa Elena Town on the north side of the highway known as OLD town get patched and serviced an average of five times a year, the streets in Hillview have not been serviced in the past sixteen years. Requests for street work have met with deafness from the Town Council.

Hillview gets no postal mail service and terrible telephone and internet service. It is generally felt that we could control our future and community better, with independence as a village community.

A new housing scheme of ten acres in Hillview community,

consuming the orange grove, next to La Loma Hospital, has already been completely given out by the PUP central government area representative, **Mario Castellanos**.

The ten acres had been surveyed by central government and house lots already allocated without a lot lottery, or any committee of local residents who might wish to participate, or control their own area destiny and future. Expansion or community planning is not in the control of residents.

The only services currently being received by the Hillview community, a suburb of Santa Elena Town currently under the Twin Town Council over on the San Ignacio side of the river; is GARBAGE pickup, twice weekly sometimes, and once a year street side cleaning, or done at election time.

The Central Government health department circulate and inspect the community once a year for containers of water as a mosquito and malaria control measure and also run a sprayer in seasons when mosquitoes are more common, lower down in Santa Elena Town. This is an institutional central government service for health reasons.

The current Town Council have said they cannot collect the property taxes from current residents because the PUP government will not pay them to the UDP Town Council over in San Ignacio.

Property taxes are owing by Central Government going back sixteen years in the old subdivision and the new subdivision is expected to continue in this manner.

A village council is expected to have more clout and would and could, possibly take Central Government to

court, to get back a decade and a half of property taxes to further the community street work, if the UDP Town Board allegations are true?

There has been no attempt yet this year and it is getting late, to mail property tax notices to Hillview residents with discounts for October and early payment. We don't really expect any notices of property taxes.

The UDP Town Council have vested interests in old established localities from our viewpoint and while they are nice well meaning people, they lack the innovative idea matrix to running a big town like our twin towns. They don't seem to be able to innovate and get some volunteerism with what is a difficult task. Nobody wants to do anything over there without getting paid? Consequently in strict fiscal times like the next twenty years nothing is getting done to advance us as a community.

The Hillview community residents want more services. They want a government elementary school in Green Parrot Valley, that is secular and non-religious. The Twin Towns is inundated with religious schools brainwashing children for various religious sects and cults. Seems like every crackpot under the sun, calls himself, a priest, pastor, minister, or what have you. There are more churches than rum shops, not like yesteryear.

We want a community center. Our community want a park for children to play. With the addition of the new ten acre housing subdivision near Loma Luz Hospital, further down the slope toward the Western Highway, the current population estimated at 120 families is expected to be doubled over the next couple of years.

A twenty acre subdivision for an industrial park is also wanted and a decent sized community bus station along the Western Highway.

Included in Hillview boundaries are Eden High School, Loma Luz Hospital, the cabinet shop, a number of tiny grocery shops, a cheese factory, a butane gas service, a Tourist Backpackers Adventure Hostel.

If the petition is successful and an election for Village Council is made over the next year under the new government, the new Village Council will collect business licenses, property taxes and do garbage pickup, fix the streets, or arrange same.

Decorative shade trees will be encouraged along the streets verge, to make Hillview a more pleasant place than is possible under the Twin Town Council system currently in place.

All residents of Hillview are asked to sign the petition and if you are interested on serving on the Village Council, notify Anthony De Leon at telephone 608-0737.☆

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Better Late Than Never - Presenting The Three Latest Police Officers of the Month

BELMOPAN CITY, Thursday, November 8, 2007:

A release from the police press office today informed that **Commissioner of Police Gerald Westby** has bestowed Officer of the Month awards on three six-year veterans of the Department.

The honor is bestowed each month on an officer who displays exemplary behavior and who goes above and beyond the call of duty in service to the community. Due to the hectic

schedule of the past few months, which included a couple of hurricane threats and September celebrations, the award ceremony was set aside for matters of higher priority.

Officer of the Month for July is **PC Kent Martinez** who is currently assigned to the Belmopan Police Station.

Officer of the Month for August is **WPC #991 Constance Pascacio** currently attached to Punta Gorda Police Station.

And the award as Officer of the Month for September was bestowed on newly promoted **Corporal #391 Bradord Berry**.

Corporal Berry has been with the



The 3 Awardees With Senior Police Commanders

Community Policing Unit for the past three years and has developed excellent relations with many members of the community.

All three police officers expressed pride in being so honored and challenged their fellow officers to strive harder in regain the public's respect and cooperation.

All three officers received cash and certificate awards.☆

Rolson

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Tuesday: Local Rum
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Wednesday: Margaritas
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Thursday: Piña Colada **\$9.95**

Friday: Micheladas
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Rolson
Is Also Featuring A Family Platter

Halloween At The Aguada

AGUADA HOTEL, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District, Friday, November 2, 2007:

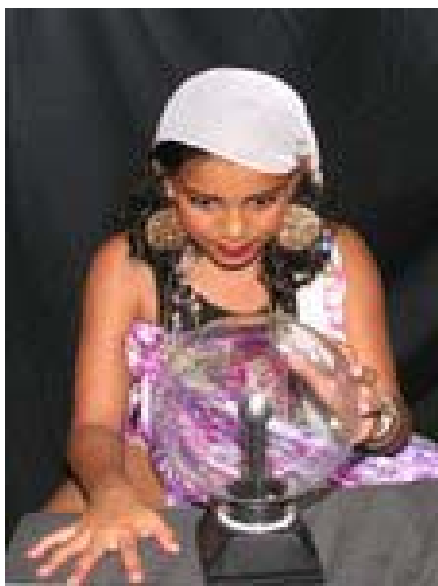
Halloween has come and gone and this year the Santa Elena Jaguar Scouts # 27 mixed work with fun to bring back old traditions.

Several parents of the members of the scout group shared their concern about the dangers of the children being on the street at late night hours trick or treating. Other parents suggested that even though trick or treat is a fun custom; it is an American tradition and there is a need to bring back our Belizean Customs and share them with the kids.

The scouts along with their parents organized the First Annual Halloween Thrill and it was a major success with over \$700 being raised for the Annual Christmas Food Drive that is held in December.

The event was held at The Aguada Hotel on Friday, November 2, 2007. The festivities began with traditional folklore story telling by Mr. John Mena. The tales of Tata Duende and La Sucia were only a few that captivated the children's attention.

After the story telling session, the mini fair was open where children had opportunities to win great prizes by playing fun games for only 25 cents. *"It was important for us to keep the price of the games cheap so that all kids could enjoy themselves. We wanted this to be a fun family event where everyone could have fun in a safe*



Taryn
looking deep into the crystal ball

environment," stated **Mrs. Cecilia Neal Flowers**, Scout Leader of the Troop.

In keeping with tradition, a table was set with candles and calaberas and delicious food was placed on the table in honor of All Soul's Day. Party goers were able to enjoy bollos and espesha along with many desserts and snacks throughout the evening.

For those with a brave heart, they were able to buy a 50 cent ticket to enter the Haunted Trail. According to many of those that took the challenge, it was shared that they've never been so scared and it was one of the best haunted scenes they've ever gone through.

None of this could have been possible without the support of the parents and the hard work of the Scout Troop. It has been mentioned that this may become an annual event

for the fundraising efforts of the group.

The Santa Elena Jaguar Scouts would like to take this opportunity to thank all their parents, The Aguada Hotel, Exodus Travel, Cayo Cargo,

You Gave Us Your All And So We Gave Back To You

An unemployed man woke up one morning and checked his pocket. All he had left was \$5.

He decided to use the money to buy food and then wait for death to take him over because as he was too proud to go begging.

He was frustrated as he could not find a job, and nobody was ready to help him.

He went to the nearby chinese restaurant and bought a \$5 chicken as he sat down to eat, an old man with two boys came along and asked him to give them something to eat as they had not eaten for almost a week.

He felt sorry for them and gave them the \$5 fried chicken. The old man and children prayed that God would bless him. Before sitting down to eat the old man reached into his pocket, pulled out a coin, and gave it to the man.

With no money, no job, no food, the hungry man went under the Hawksworth bridge to rest and wait for death. As he was about to fall asleep, he saw a page from an old newspaper on the ground. He picked it up, and suddenly he saw an

Cayo Adventure Tours, Continental Airlines, Federal Express, Art Wagner, and the students of Sacred Heart Junior College, Tourism Management Program that prepared all the cookies, treats and desserts for the fair along with assisting in the party planning.☆

advertisement for people with old coins to come to a certain address on Burns Avenue.

He got up, brushed off his pants and walked to the place on Burns Avenue. When he arrived he handed over the coin to the lady behind the counter. When she saw the rare coin she screamed. She brought out a big book and showed the man a picture of the old coin. *"Your coin is worth 3 million dollars, would you like to cash it in"* she said.

"Yes" said the man.

The lady soon appeared with a cheque for 3 million dollars which she gave to the man.

After collecting the cheque the man went in search of the old man and two little boys. By the time he got to where he left them eating, they had gone.

He asked the owner of the canteen if he knew them. He said no but they left a note for you. He quickly opened the note thinking it would lead him to find them. This is what the note said: *"You gave us your all and we have rewarded you back with the coin"* Signed *God the Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost.*☆

REAL ESTATE SEMINAR

Hosted by: Ale Business School

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"Learn the secrets in the use of legal channels for the sale and purchase of property in Belize".

Seminar will commence on November 24th, 2007.


Registration starts on October 22, 2007 until November 21, 2007.

Cost of Registration is \$300.00 bze.

(Included refreshments and Land Transaction Handbook for Belize)

For early resgistration and queries contact Cayo Connections at phone 670-3296 or visit our office located at #1 Bullet Tree Rd. San Ignacio, Cayo - Expressions Printing.

Any Registration after November 21, 2007 will cost an additional \$50.00 so register early.



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Nobody Is Measuring The Oil

Press Release from the Belize Landowners Association, Contact: Jim Cavanaugh, Coordinator Phone:804-4432 junglejim@btl.net FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SAN IGNACIO, Cayo, November 8, 2007:-

Some villages along the Western Highway like Ontario, Blackman Eddy and Buena Vista have been installing new water systems to meet the growing demands.

In the past everyone paid a flat fee of \$15 or so, but some people used a lot more water than others, especially commercial users like chicken processing plants, and those who use the village system for agricultural irrigation. So the new village water systems now include a water meter, which is fine with most of the villagers, but strongly opposed by the big consumers who have had a free ride. Measuring the water is, of course, the “*normal practice of the industry*”, thus the protests fall on deaf ears.

Water is relatively cheap at pennies a gallon, but suppose you were dealing with expensive crude oil which is now about BZ\$4.50 a gallon? You would surely want to very carefully measure the volume, especially if you own even a small part of it, because a leak or spill or scamming or skimming, can mean losing a lot of money. The discovery well at Spanish Lookout, Mike Usher #1, was completed in May 2005, and now, after more than two years of production, with some BZ\$200 million worth of oil sold, the Oil Contractor, BNE, not only has not installed any meters to measure the production at the oil wells but they flatly refuse to do so.

To date no meters or any accurate and verifiable measuring systems have been installed on any oil wells in Belize to accurately measure and record the oil production

Now according to the Petroleum Law, the landowner is supposed to receive a royalty payment from the oil produced on their land:

Belize Petroleum Act Chapter 225, Part VI Section 31 (4) “*The owner of any private land beneath which a petroleum reservoir is located shall receive from the Government five per centum of the royalty payable in respect of any petroleum won therefrom...*”

So the first question every landowner would have is: “*5% of what?*” If the oil company does not measure the oil at the well site, how is a landowner supposed to know the amount of “*any petroleum won therefrom*”? How much oil is produced from a well on his land? BNE says they will measure it later and tell the landowner how much oil they took. **Now just imagine that!** How successful do you think we would be with water, electrical and

phone metering if we insist that the companies don’t use meters, and we will just tell them what we use each month? It is so ridiculous it is insulting that some foreign company, as well as GOB, would think we are all so stupid that we would accept such a plan.

And it gets worse! When the Landowners approached the Department of Geology and Petroleum for help to require metering at the wellsites, they were told that there was no need to measure the oil production because the government knew how much oil was being produced! Colonial thinking that the government is not to be held accountable isn’t over after all! But the only way for GOB to know how much oil is produced is for BNE to tell them, because there are no meters for GOB to read and confirm the figures.

The Petroleum Act, Chapter 225, Revised Edition 2000, has a serious omission because there is no clause which specifically requires a contractor to accurately measure petroleum production with a verifiable metering system. Of course this measuring requirement is inherent in the provision where the law does require the contractor:

18 – (1) (c). “to keep current financial and cost accounting records of petroleum operations, with pertinent records and vouchers, during the term of the contract, in accordance with normal practices in the international petroleum industry”

There is obviously no way to keep accurate financial and cost accounting records without accurate and verifiable measurement of the petroleum produced. “Normal practices” in the petroleum industry require careful accurate and verifiable measurement of all petroleum

products extracted from a reservoir. Such accurate measurement requirements are fundamentally essential where the production is subject to Landowner Royalty, Overriding Royalty Interest (ORRI), Production Sharing, shared ownership, taxes and where any other divided interest is involved.

The “**normal practice**” is to install precision metering systems that cannot be reset or bypassed, where the production totals are cumulative, and where the meter readings can be verified at any time by any or all of the parties involved who have an interest in the oil. Even the most sophisticated metering systems for a well will cost only about a days production of that well, so it doesn’t make any sense at all to refuse to install meters unless **there is some reason that the oil contractor and GOB don’t want people to know how much oil is produced?**

Please Turn To Page 7

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

**BY ORDER OF THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BELIZE
THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE
AT THE MAGISTRATE’S COURT, BELMOPAN CITY
AT 2:00 P.M. ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007**

1. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 1 acre or thereabout situate along the Western Highway in the Franks Eddy Agricultural Layout, Cayo District
2. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 1984.783 square meters situate in the San Jose Succotz Village Extension, Cayo District.
3. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising 500 square feet or thereabouts and situate in the Society Hall Registration Section Parcel 555 of Block 24

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

**BY ORDER OF THE MAGISTRATE OF THE BELMOPAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT
THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE
AT THE MAGISTRATE’S COURT, BELMOPAN CITY
AT 2:00 P.M. ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007**

1. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 4 acres or thereabouts and situate in the Las Flores Area of Belmopan, Cayo Distrcit, Belize

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

**BY ORDER OF THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BELIZE
THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE
AT THE ORANGE WALK TOWN MAGISTRATE’S COURT
AT 8:30 A.M. ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007**

1. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 2 acres or thereabouts approximately 1 1/4 mile south of Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District
2. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 10 acres or thereabouts in the Ann Gabourel Layout
3. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 20 acres or thereabouts and situate in Xaibe Village, Corozal District, Belize
4. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 1.02 acres or thereabouts and situate in the Ten Pound Caye Subdivision, Corozal District
5. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 1 acre of land or thereabouts and situate in the Cristo Rey Agricultural Layout, Corozal District

Nobody Is Measuring The Oil

From Page 6
And it gets even worse! Fueling the doubts we all have as to why BNE and GOB would want to hide the true production figures, huge quantities of oil seem to have gone missing.

Last April at a meeting with GOB and BNE at Spanish Lookout, the Inspector of Oil explained 881,000 barrels of oil were produced by 31 December 2006, of which the GOB 7.5% royalty share was about BZ\$2.7 million. The average price of oil was BZ\$120/barrel or some BZ\$105 million total oil sales, which would make the GOB royalty about \$8 million, **not \$2.7 million.**

·What happened to that BZ\$5.3 million due to the GOB?

In July BNE published a propaganda insert in local newspapers claiming that 806,264.81 barrels of oil were produced in 2006, instead of 881,000 barrels.

·With only one full year of production in Belize there was already an apparent discrepancy in the reported production of more than 75,000 barrels of oil, an inconsistency amounting to over BZ\$14 million!

·What happened to 75,000 barrels?

·What happened to the BZ\$14 million?

And let’s take a look at that 806,264.81 barrels of production figure. BNE claims they are measuring the oil to an accuracy of 0.01 barrels, that is 1/100 of a barrel. These figures may represent the oil sold to the refinery which accurately measures what they buy, but nothing which the contractor has released to date suggests they can measure with the accuracy they are reporting, especially the tank dip stick system they are using.

·If BNE could measure to 1/100 of a barrel precision why can’t they keep track of 75,000 barrels?

Local residents see tanker trucks at the Iguana Creek junction later in the day after the other tankers trucks have left, but these late trucks head to the Guatemalan border instead of south to Big Creek. With all the secrecy about production figures, it is only natural that our people wonder if these shipments are accounted for or are they just slipping over the border?

·Accurate and verifiable measurement of the oil production would eliminate these doubts.

And it gets even furhter worse!

In spite of the hype that Spanish Lookout has received a lot of money, to date not one penny of the royalty money has been paid.

Allen Reimer, Chairman of the Spanish Lookout Oil Board reported at the recent Belize Landowners meeting that a few days ago he inquired at the Department of Geology and Petroleum about the money that was owed from over 2 and a half years of production. He was told GOB would pay a figure that

was less than 1/3 of what was due, but he would have to sign a statement that SLO had been paid all that was due them. Allen asked for an accounting of how GOB arrived at such a low figure and was informed that he was not entitled to an accounting. Allen Reimer asked to see the production figures GOB used to calculate the royalty due and was told.... now get this... **that these figures were confidential and would not be given to landowners!**

When ever there is a divided interest in the petroleum production, such as exists in Belize with royalties, production sharing, and the like, each and every party holding an interest must be supplied an accurate and verifiable measurement report of the amount of production during any specified period to support any payments that are due them . Where every surface owner should receive a small royalty percentage of the total production, such percentage entitlement demands accurate measurement to insure that the payments made to satisfy the royalty due are correct.

·The current method used to measure production by the oil contractor is inaccurate, does not protect the landowner from “shrinkage” or losses, **and cannot be verified**, creating an illusionary accounting of production based upon what a contractor “*says*” was produced.

This certainly is **not a normal practice** of the international petroleum industry, or any industry for that matter, and as such is in itself a violation of the Petroleum Laws, as well as contracts with and entitlements due surface owners.

Measuring Petroleum Production

Every barrel of oil is almost like handling a \$100 bill, so it is important to know how much you receive and how much you pass on. Just like a bank or any business. When oil arrives at the surface it is in the custody of the landowner. When it leaves the landowner’s property, the custody is being transferred to someone else.

Keeping track of oil production means keeping track of the custody transfers. The landowner needs to know how much oil was produced from his land and how much he transfers to a truck or pipeline.

In nearly every oil producing country in the world today every custody transfer of oil is accompanied by accurate and verifiable metering when the oil arrives and leaves custody at every point of transfer. The process starts as petroleum is produced at the wellhead, that is as custody is received from the reservoir. Accurate meter measurements at the wellhead are essential to protect all royalty interests as well as the GOB share of ownership. If the oil is transported by tanker truck or pipeline, the

custody of the oil is being transferred, and thus must be measured as it enters the truck or the pipeline.

A private landowner’s royalty rights, when accurately metered at the wellsite are therefore not affected by any corruption, theft or shrinkage which may and seems to occur after the oil leaves the landowners property.

Whenever oil is transferred from one point to another, the change of custody of the oil must be carefully controlled and recorded, just like a bank transfers money. With Belize oil there are at least seven custody transfers of oil which occur between the wellhead and the point of sale.

- 1·Wellsite to storage tank or pipeline
- 2· Pipeline or truck to central storage tanks
- 3· Central storage tanks to tanker trucks
- 4· Tanker trucks to coast storage tanks
- 5· Coastal storage tanks to barges
- 6· Barges to buyers terminal
- 7· Terminal to refinery

Theft can occur at each transfer of custody of the oil, thus it is easy to understand why accurate and verifiable metering at each custody transfer site is so important.

· To put this in perspective, the custody of over BZ\$130,000 of oil is transferred from a wellsite each day. It must be measured carefully.

Please Turn To Page 10

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

**BY ORDER OF THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BELIZE
THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE
AT THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING, BELIZE CITY
AT 11:00 A.M. ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007**

1. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 501.503 square meters or thereabouts situate in Ladyville Village, Belize District
2. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 832.897 square yards or thereabouts situate south of La Democracia Village along the Western Highway, near Mile 31.5, Belize District
3. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 2 acres or thereabouts situate along the Western Side of the Burrell Boom-Hattieville Road, approximately 1 mile from Hattieville Village, Belize District
4. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing some 2 acres or thereabouts situate in Ladyville Village, Belize District
5. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 345,806 square meters situate on the southern side of the Western Highway, Mile 8, Belize District
6. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 2 acres or thereabouts situate along the southwestern side of the New Northern Highway, near mile 24.5, Biscayne Village Area, Belize District
7. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 10.116 hectares or thereabouts situate along the western sideNew Northern Highway near mile 34 in the Belize District
8. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 4444.44 square yards situate in Caye Caulker Village, Belize District
9. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 2.8 acres or thereabouts situate in Ladyville Village, Belize District

FOR SALE

*** 12.64 Acre estate with 4-bedroom home...newly constructed home, 3300 sq. ft. with outdoor patios and picnic pavilion, private yet close to San Ignacio Town, property is kept in a park like appearance....must see! Located on Bullet Tree Road 1.5 miles away from town. This one is IDEAL for a Vacation/Retirement Home.**



*** 1/2 Acre on Macal River in Santa Elena Town, Cayo, water and electricity on site, with phone and DSL in the area! Many Improvements....ready to build on!**



*** 1/2 Acre, (4-lots) side by side in the Carlos Habet New Area. Landscaped and well maintained....ready to build on!!!**

*** 1 Acre on Bullet Tree Road, 1.5 miles from town and 100 yards from main road, electricity, cleared and semi-landscaped. A location that's ready to build your dream home.**

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Email: rallen@btl.net**



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Fax: 822-0150
Email: info@belizeenergy.bz

BNE Repairs Hammock Bridge In Calla Creek Village

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
BELMOPAN CITY, November 7, 2007

In late October, Belize Natural Energy Limited repaired the Calla Creek hammock bridge that was destroyed by the recent flooding in the Cayo District.

The bridge is a vital lifeline for the area, connecting residents on both sides of the river. While it was down children could not go to school, many villagers could not travel to work and some risked their lives crossing the rapidly moving water in small canoes.

Understanding the urgency of the situation, BNE sent a skilled crew and the necessary building materials to the

area where work was carried out to reconstruct the bridge. *(The bridge reconstruction was completed to specifications provided by the Ministry of Works, who oversaw the completion of the project.)*

In less than a week, the Calla Creek hammock bridge was completely repaired and villagers could go about their daily lives without hindrance.

Belize Natural Energy believes that it is important to support its local communities and takes its responsibility as a corporate citizen seriously. The company hopes that the hammock bridge will serve the community of Calla Creek for many years to come. ☆

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SHARYN BRINKER** is applying for the renewal of her **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **MARIPOSA JUNGLE** located at the junction of the San Antonio and Pine Ridge Roads in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ZHAO TING ZHUO** is applying for the renewal of a **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **PING MEI RESTAURANT** located on Joseph Andrews Drive, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **YAN FEN SU** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **ALWIN'S RESTAURANT** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SU CAN LIN** is applying for the renewal of a **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **FU HUA FAST FOOD** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ROSE SANTIAGO** is applying for the renewal of her **MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **ROSE DELI & SHUGA SHAK** located on Bishop Martin Street, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ZHONG XIANG CHEN** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT & BAR** located on Kennedy Street Benque Viejo Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **HANTLEY PIERIS** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **THREE FLAGS** located at #27 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

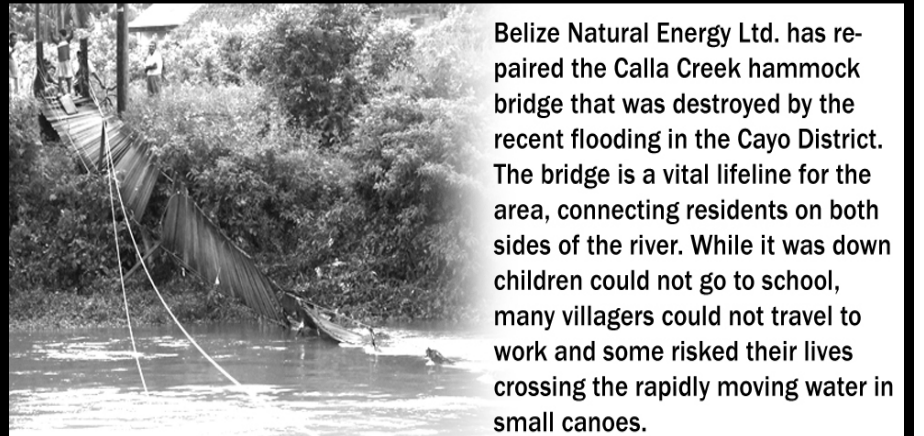
Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SENG YING PANG** is applying for the renewal of his **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **THREE FLAGS** located in the village of Unitedville, in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **JUN HUA LI** is applying for the renewal of his **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **LEE'S SUPERSTORE** located on Bullet Tree Road, San Ignacio, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **HE YUE DONG** is applying for the renewal of his **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **ANTHONY'S SUPER STORE** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.



BNE Repairs Hammock Bridge In Calla Creek Village

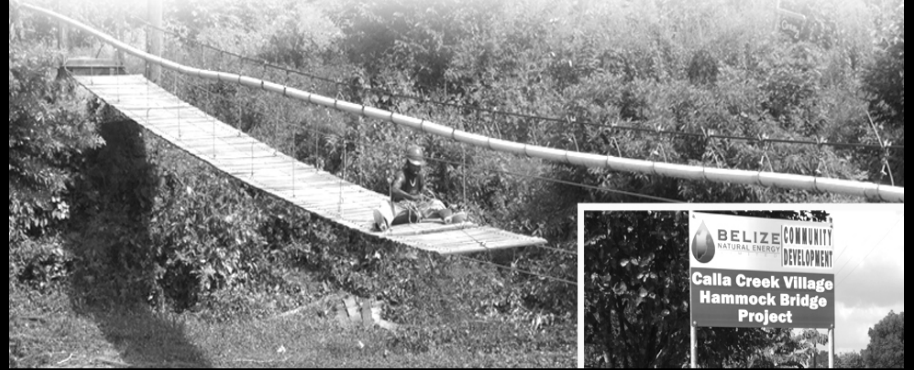


Belize Natural Energy Ltd. has repaired the Calla Creek hammock bridge that was destroyed by the recent flooding in the Cayo District. The bridge is a vital lifeline for the area, connecting residents on both sides of the river. While it was down children could not go to school, many villagers could not travel to work and some risked their lives crossing the rapidly moving water in small canoes.

Understanding the urgency of the situation, BNE sent a skilled crew and the necessary building materials to the area where work was carried out to reconstruct the bridge. *(The bridge reconstruction was completed to specifications provided by the Ministry of Works, who oversaw the completion of the project.)*

In less than a week, the Calla Creek hammock bridge was completely repaired and villagers could go about their daily lives without hindrance.

Belize Natural Energy believes that it is important to support its local communities and takes its responsibility as a corporate citizen seriously. The company hopes that the hammock bridge will serve the community of Calla Creek for many years to come.



Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SHU QING HUANG** is applying for the renewal of his **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **HUA YONG SUPERMARKET** located in the village of Succotz, in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **CHEN JIN CHENG** is applying for the renewal of his **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CHEN'S SUPERMARKET** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **CATALINA V. BUTCHER** is applying for the renewal of her **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **THE AGUADA** located at #1 Aguada Street, Santa Elena Town, in the Cayo District

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **JANA LEA HILL** is applying for the renewal of her **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **EVA'S RESTAURANT** located at #22 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Venus Photos & Records



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Nobody Is Measuring The Oil

From Page 7

The Contractor's agreement with Spanish Lookout states that: **Produced petroleum will be measured by a verifiable industry standard measuring system at the storage tanks at each well site subject to the specification requirements of the Contractor.** A "verifiable industry standard measuring system at the storage tanks at each well site" is very specific wording of which the key words are **measuring system** and **verifiable**.

When production was first established at Spanish Lookout, the oil went straight from the well to on-site storage tanks where it could be measured. Unfortunately the contractor used an indirect measuring method called "dip sticking" or "gauging," where the level of oil in a tank is measured and then converted to volume, which was supposed to be reported to GOB and the Landowner as the measure of oil produced.

The problem was the system was not verifiable, and thus the production reported was only what the contractor said it was. Today the production of the wells is not even measured indirectly by dip sticking before the custody of the oil is transferred to a pipeline.

The recommended metering system to be installed on Belize wells is unequivocally a **Lease Automatic**

Custody Transfer Unit or **LACT** unit, which should be installed and operated at every well according to the *American Petroleum Institute (API) Manual of Petroleum Measurement Standards, Chapter 6.1*. Regulatory agencies throughout the world are now mandating the use of **LACT** units because they can meet all the requirements for accurate measurement, the total volumes can not be reset or changed and they are accurate to 0.05% or better. The **LACT** units also can measure all three phases of produced oil, gas and water.

The readings are recorded and thus easily verifiable and the meters can be equipped with printout capability for periodic totals. The cost of a **LACT** unit is about the same as ne day's production of a typical Spanish Lookout well, so they are not economically unreasonable.

There has been a lot of talk about all the benefits Belizeans can expect from our oil. After BZ\$200 million of our oil has been produced and sold, has anyone seen any benefit? Has any school building been improved? Have the students received improved facilities, supplies, equipment? Has any hospital received new equipment, better labs, improved medical care? Are any teachers getting better benefits? Are the hospital staffs getting better pay? The politicians are scrambling to get their hands on the oil money, but what are Belizeans getting?

Butane On Strike - When It Comes Back, The Price Will Shoot Through The Roof

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, CAYO, Friday, November 9, 2007:

Butane Retailers are going on strike with effect from today as they are closing down their operations in protest of the small return they are getting on their investments.

A letter was sent to **Prime Minister Said Musa** by Butane Retailers on Wednesday, November 7.

The letter advised the Prime Minister that the profit margins for retailers have been cut too thin for them to keep doing business in a sustainable manner.

The letter also warned the Prime Minister that unless he takes drastic corrective actions which accurately reflects the soaring cost of acquisition, they'll have to shut down.

Prime Minister Musa, during a tour of the Cayo Central Division on Thursday, November 8, told the media that he had not yet seen the letter from Butane Retailers.

He however informed that he was visited on Monday, November 5, by

Roque Reyes with whom he met in the presence of the current **Acting Financial Secretary Joseph Waight**.

Musa informed that it was explained to Reyes that the price of butane fluctuates and that he knows that prices have been going up but that the product has been imported from other sources at a much cheaper price.

Musa said that he believes that the cheaper and better fuel comes from Salvador as compared to the product imported from Mexico.

He said that he explained to Reyes that a review will take place in time for the arrival of the next shipment so that the new landing price can be determined.

Retailers are asking for an \$18 increase in the 100 lbs cylinder of butane which is expected to go up from \$111 to \$129.

Butane retailers inform that the strike will likely continue until a compromise with government is reached.☆



A&R - Visit us today on the Western Highway in Santa Elena, Cayo For all your School and Office Supplies and Much, Much More!!!



St. Martin's Credit Union Ltd.

Cor. Eve & Far West Streets, San Ignacio Town, Cayo

Tels: 824-2093 824-2800 824-3231

St. Martin's Credit Union Ltd. hereby informs its members and the general public of its new opening hours effective December 3rd, 2007.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday	8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am to 12:00 noon
Saturday	8:30 am to 11:00 am

Also note that effective November 12th 2007 for every \$20.00 shares saved you will be entitled to a raffle ticket for the grand drawing on Saturday, December 22nd 2007 at the parking lot. Prizes will include Ham and Turkey. Come join the credit union and teach your dollars to have more cents.

★ STAR HUMOR ★

And This Was How The Roof Was Finally Repaired

The Bishop was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with the money that was needed to repair the roof of the church.

He prayed on the project for many weeks then late one night the answer came to him.

His church was selected for the Annual Police Church Parade and so he placed a book at the entrance with instructions for every policeman and woman to enter their name before venturing into his church.

During the service, the Bishop came to the opportune time to make the

announcement. *"My brothers and sisters in Christ, our church is badly in need of funds to do some urgent repairs to the roof. If there is anyone in this congregation who would like to make a \$100 pledge, please stand up. Please be reminded that your names are written in the entrance book. To assist you with making the decision, I will ask Sister Margaret to play a song on the organ especially for all of you."*

Without missing a beat, sister Margaret began playing the National Anthem of Belize.☆

Creating His Own Employment

Late one night Mr. & Mrs. Garcia were driving down the road on their way to visit their son in Santa Familia Village.

They came to a muddy patch in the road and the car became bogged. After trying unsuccessfully for several minutes to get the car out, they saw a farmer coming down the road in his tractor.

He stopped when he saw the couple in trouble and offered to pull the car out of the mud for \$50.

Mr. Garcia accepted and minutes

later the car was out of the mud.

The farmer turned to Mr. Garcia and said, *"You know, you're the tenth car I've helped out of the mud today."*

Mr. Garcia looked around at the nearby field and asks the farmer, *"With pulling so many vehicles out of the mud, when do you have time to plough your land, at night?"*

"No," responded the farmer, *"Night is when I put the water in the hole."*☆

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **BENJAMIN MENDEZ** is applying for the renewal of his **NIGHTCLUB LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **FIVE FLAGS** located in the Santa Cruz Area of Santa Elena Town, in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **WEI BIN CHEN** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CHEN'S RESTAURNAT** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **DAVID SMITH** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **THE SPOT** located on the Bullet Tree Road, San IgnacioTown in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SERJIO CHUC** is applying for the renewal of his **NIGHT CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **COCONUTS** located in the Savanah Area, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **WEI QIANG HUANG & CHUN HUA HUANG** are applying for the renewal of their **CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **ALWIN'S SUPERMARKET** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.



Now Offering 24 Hours Tow Service From Any Location In Belize.

We are located at the San Ignacio Texaco Service Station

For Further Information On The Service We Provide, Please Call 625-5012 At Anytime.

JUAN CHUC'S STORE

#31 Bullet Tree Road, San Ignacio, Cayo
Tel.: 824-2160:

Offering Best Prices In General Merchandise, Grocery and Hardware.



We encourage you to come on over and visit us today to get real value for your money.

VACANCIES

Chef and Kitchen Assistant needed. Must have good references and experience and willing to board overnight at jungle lodge.

Email resume to stephanie@duplooy.com

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ALHENRY & ANDREA WESTBY** are applying for the renewal of their **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **CHAMPION SPORTS BAR** located in the Savanah Area, San IgnacioTown in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **YIN DI MEI** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **YAXIANG YUAN RESTAURANT** located at #65 Hudson Street, San Ignacio Town, in the Cayo District.



St. Martin's Credit Union Ltd.

Cor. Eve & Far West Streets, San Ignacio Town, Cayo

Tels: 824-2093 824-2800 824-3231

NOTICE

Saint Martin's Credit Union Ltd. hereby informs the public that the office will be closed on Saturday November 17th 2007. The Credit Union will resume normal working hours on Tuesday, November 20th, 2007.

*We wish all our members and friends
A Happy and Safe Garifuna Settlement Day.*

STAND-OFF AT THE WESTERN BORDER STATION

From Front Page

Garrido. *"The facilities at the Northern Border Station are far superior to the almost none-existent facility here in the west."*

Furthermore, the unloading services at the Northern Border Station is paid for the Border Management while here in Benque, we have to pay all those persons who unload our trucks for customs inspection.

We also note that one of the new fees appears under the heading "VISUAL CUSTOMS INSPECTION". This is exactly what the service is - It's a visual inspection conducted BY CUSTOMS - Why on earth would the Border Management want to tax us for a service provided by the Customs Department. It is obvious that they want to collect taxes under false pretenses and we will not stand for this," said Garrido

While Customs Officials are playing a *"watch - wait - and see what happens"* role in this situation, there is nevertheless a general feeling of helplessness and hopelessness on the part of customs officials working at the border station.

There is the general and almost tangible feeling among Customs Officials that the Border Management Agency is seriously venturing into areas that is serving no other purpose than to reduce, and in some instances usurp, the legitimate and legal authority of the Customs Department which is the nations primary revenue earner.

The sense of uneasiness between the Customs/Immigration Departments and the Border Management Agency goes way back to the time, a few years ago, when the Agency installed surveillance cameras that, even to this day, continue to overlook key Customs and Immigration Department workstations both in the interior and exterior of the border station.

In the current stand off, the Border Management Agency has installed new chains and padlocks on the outbound gate effectively prohibiting Customs from releasing any imported cargo without the knowledge and consent of the Border Management Agency.

We visited the Border Management Agency's point man on the ground, **Herman Morris**, inside his office at the border station, we had barely asked a single question when he said *"I cannot speak to the STAR Newspaper. I am not authorized to speak to any media house. I have to get approval from the board to speak to the media and I have not gotten any such permission to speak to the media. I cannot get that permission today because the Board Chairman, Andrew Marshalleck, is in*

court and the majority of the board would have to agree to give me permission to speak to the media. That majority approval is obtained by round robin telephone contact with all members of the board" concluded Morris.

The general consensus regarding the sense of uneasiness at the border station is attributed in larger part to Morris' perceived high handed management style.

He is viewed by many to enjoy major political clout having served as an Accountant in the Development Finance Corporation during the 1999-2004 period which was the subject of the recently concluded investigation.

Morris was actually one of the persons called to testify before the commission of inquiry into the affairs of the Development Finance Corporation.

As the situation currently stands, the Customs yards is filling up as more trucks are entering while none is exiting, as importers are acting in solidarity against the new border management fees.

The police have increased their presence at the border station as they undertake to keep the traffic flowing.

The situation can really get out of control when the customs lot is filled to capacity and the arriving cargo begins to choke the already tight maneuvering space between the Belize and Guatemalan border stations.

We were reliably informed that under normal operating conditions, customs duties generated at the border is in the region of three million dollars per month.

Although collections have been drastically reduced over the last five days, during the stand-off as the largest paying sector is not clearing their goods while the holding lot continues to full up, the revenue stream is expected to rebound with the termination of the stand-off as the payment of duties will resume for all those imports that are currently sitting inside the customs holding lot.

The situation could begin to produce adverse effect on the revenue stream if the stand-off is prolonged thereby forcing importers to curtail in their the movement to goods across the border.

Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry has joined in the discussion by issuing a statement calling on all the parties involved to find a rapid



Increased Police Presence



Cement and Gas Truck inside the Customs Holding Lot

solution to the situation. In commenting on the new fees, **Kevin Herrera**, General Manager of the Chamber said that *"Doing business in Belize is just becoming too costly."* This is precisely the sentiments, in a nutshell, expressed by **Edgar Garrido**.

For his part Edgar Garrido remains optimistic that sober heads will eventually prevail and that the fees will be rescinded thereby allowing the situation to return to normalcy. And so it did; as shortly after 12 noon on Friday, November 9, Garrido received written information of the suspension of the proposed new fees until further notice.

By 1:30 pm on Friday the situation was back to normal as importers began clearing their goods and

Paito Robateau Laid To Rest

From Front Page

Paito was sent to live with his maternal grandmother in Big Falls village, being the industrious person, he quickly found employment at a log sawmill in the village of Otoxha. When that job came to an end he moved back to Big Falls where he worked with a cousin up to the time of his death. *"The last time his father and I spoke to him was on that same Saturday evening"* said Miss Adriana. *"He was so happy when his father told him to come back home. Despite the challenges he faced, Paito was a loving son. He was especially jovial whenever he took a few drinks which was his favorite past time. His sudden death is a shocker us. He was our oldest son and we will never forget him,"* concluded Miss Adriana.

The report of Paito's sudden passing came in the form of a report from the Police Press Office in which the police informed that Punta Gorda Police are investigating what appeared to have been hit and run accident on the Southern Highway which occurred during the early morning hours on Sunday, November 4, 2007.

Upon arrival on the scene police encountered the apparent lifeless body of a male person lying on the highway near the southern approach to the Big Falls Bridge. The body, with severe head and body injuries, was removed from the scene and transported to the Punta Gorda Town Hospital where it was official pronounced dead and subsequently identified to be that of Raymond Albert Robateau Jr., 30, Belizean laborer from Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.



Two Locks & Chain on Exit Gate - BMA's new upper lock - Customs' lock, lower

paying the relevant fees under the previous structure.

In the meantime a meeting, to iron the difficulties, with all stakeholders in the industry, is tentatively scheduled to be held on Monday, November 12, at the Western Border Station.☆

The body was later transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in Belize City where the legally required post mortem examination was conducted, on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, by forensic specialist, **Dr. Mario Estradabran**. In his report Dr. Estradabran certified the cause of death as *"traumatic shock due to multiple injuries as a consequence of road traffic accident."*

As the investigation continues, the police are asking anyone with information that could assist in solving this case to please call the nearest police station.

The home service was held on Wednesday, November 7 after which the funeral procession proceeded to the Carmen Memorial Cemetery in Santa Elena where Paito was laid to rest.

Raymond Albert Robateau Jr. is survived by his father, **Raymond Robateau**; and his mother, **Adriana Boquin Robateau**.

He is also survived by one sister, **Cynthia Robateau** and three brothers **John**, **Mark** and **Randy Robateau**.

He is additionally survived by his paternal grandmother, **Mrs. Evelyn "Miss Rab" Robateau** and his maternal grandmother **Mrs. Clara Boquin** as well as several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and countless friends.

We pray that the family will find comfort in the many fond memories they shared.

We also pray for the eternal resting of his soul. ☆

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