

STAR

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



No. 155

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Price \$1.00

Cayo Taxi Driver Facing Rape and Wounding Charges

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Friday, June 13, 2008:

Although somewhat sketchy at this time, reliable reports reaching us indicate that the police will be pressing rape and wounding charges against San Ignacio Taxi driver **Ludin "Bling" Najera**.

Acting upon information received during the early morning hours on Thursday, June 12, police visited the San Ignacio Town Hospital where they encountered **Lori Knepp**, US citizen and volunteer at the same hospital, suffering from a large cut wound to the palm of her hand.

In a brief statement to the police, Knepp informed that the injury was inflicted by Najera, with whom she was riding in his brown taxi cab, subsequently resulting in him transporting her to a feeder road in San Ignacio where he allegedly raped and injured her.

Police also observed several bruises to the victim's face which she alleges were inflicted by the accused who punched her several times. She was later transferred to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in Belize City for further medical attention.

Based on the information received,

police visited the Trench Town home of the accused where they were initially informed by a relative that he was not at home. However, when police searched the house, they found him inside a room along with his wife. He was informed of the report after which he was detained and escorted to the police station along with his brown four door Toyota Corola car with Cayo taxi license plates CY-D-3350 which police found parked further up the street from his house.

The accused is being transported this Friday to Belize City where an identification parade will be held.

In the meantime, police are withholding the release of his photograph to the media as they believe that its publication could affect his right to a fair trial.

Amazingly however, **ASP Eugenio Fuentes**, who is currently holding over while Commanding Officer **David Henderson** is on a two weeks leave of absence informed that even after the identification parade and the formal arrest, he will continue to withhold the photograph of the accused from the media, as in his words, *"it's release will jeopardize a fair trial for the accused."*

If such would be the case, then hardly any media in Belize would ever carry photographs of those arrested and criminally charged.

Paul Wade and Dinsdale Thompson Heading To Cayo

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, Belmopan, Tuesday, 10 June 2008:

The police press office today informed that the Security Services Commission has approved the transfer of senior police officers in every district station across the country from Corozal to Toledo, and everywhere else in between, to take effect from July 16, 2008.

The release further informed that the transfers became necessary due to the scheduled retirement of Deputy Commissioner **Maureen Leslie**, Assistant Commissioner **Crispin Jefferies** and Superintendent **Rudolph Orio**.

The transfers will see Assistant Commissioner of Police **Allen Whyllie** leaving as the Officer Commanding Eastern Division in Belize City to take up the administrative desk as head of Management Services Unit at



Sr. Supt. Paul Wade

police headquarters in Belmopan.

Head Special Branch, Senior Superintendent **Paul Wade** leaves that office in Belmopan to take over as Officer Commanding the Cayo District from Senior Superintendent **David Henderson Sr.** who moves on to take up command of Eastern Division in Belize City.

Paul Wade will be assisted in Cayo by Inspector **Dinsdale Thompson** who will be replacing Asst. Supt. **Eugenio Fuentes** as Fuentes goes on to Internal Affairs in Belmopan.

Senior Superintendent **Robert Mariano** will be moving out of Orange Walk to take up the post as Deputy Commander Eastern Division while Superintendent **Joseph Myvette**, who is presently commanding the Corozal formation will move down to **Orange Walk** to take over from Mariano.

Superintendent **Miguel Guzman** will be moving as Commander of Administration in Belmopan to take over from Myvette in Corozal.

The current Officer Commanding Belize City Crimes Investigation Branch, Superintendent **Aaron Guzman**, will take over the Belmopan Police Sub-Formation which was vacated by the retirement, earlier this month, of Supt. **Rudolph Orio**.



Insp. Dinsdale Thompson
Force Chaplin

Assistant Superintendent **Julio Valdez** moves from the Belmopan post of Commander Major Crime Unit to take over from Guzman as OC CIB Eastern Division.

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Editorial



Those Responsible For Raping The Nation Are No Longer Steering The Ship Of State

In the abundance of land and an idle workforce of over one thousand strong and able bodied men sitting behind prison walls, the tiny Central American nation of Belize will, over the next several months, be importing millions of pounds of rice to satisfy the national need resulting in an instant drain of already scarce foreign exchange.

Can't we see that there is a bridge within sight just further up the river? Why then are we jumping into the river to get to the other side? Why on earth are we not walking towards that bridge?

We have heard much talk about reinstituting capital punishment. Why not let us start by reinstating **"hard labor"** in prison sentences. In fact, when did we actually lose this component of sentencing?

The basic principle of life is that an able-bodied man who cannot earn his keep is better off dead than alive. Why do we continue pouring tax dollars into paying for the keeps of those not wanting to fit into society? At the very least they should be earning their keep and by extension their continued existence and at best, they should be made to produce for the society they have wronged.

When a convict has served a sentence and is released back into society we usually hear the erroneous statement **"he has paid his debt to society"**. Paid his debt to society my foot, that convict has just been release from being a burden on society for however many years he was sitting idly behind bars eating and sleeping off tax dollars without contributing one ounce of energy for the national good for all those years he sat behind prison walls.

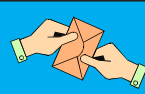
Take the case of the prisoner who, after spending 10 years in jail, earned an early release on parole from a 25-year sentence. Within the year he impregnated a young woman. The baby is now just over a month old and he is back in jail where he runs a very high chance of serving the remaining 15 of the original 25 years sentence in addition to whatever time is imposed on the new charge. What then happens to the young woman and the child? If ever she finds a job, she is now strapped with the responsibility of paying a baby sitter from whatever little money she earns. However, if the incarcerated father of that child was put to earn his keep and the keep of his child while serving time, what would prevent the prison authority from writing a monthly cheque for that mother to assist in raising that child?

It should not be acceptable for any prison administration to claim any level of success in the incarceration of convicts simply by warehousing all that potential energy while a weekend rain storm places the nation in a near crisis situation?

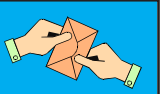
Whenever the prison system is converted into a productive revenue generating center, growing what it consumes and pumping the surplus into the national system, only then can it lay claim to any level of success.

A vibrant, revenue generating correctional facility will create more jobs as a greater number of prison officers will be required to supervise the workforce. Those who have wronged society will earn their keeps and only then can they truly say that upon release they have paid their debt to society. Anything less is nothing but rhetoric.

In an effort to get the ball rolling we ask: What is the current status of that huge track of land once known as Big Falls just off the Western Highway? Yes, that very same area which in years gone by, produced all the rice the nation needed and for export to the Caribbean. Is Big Falls in private hands? What can be done to reacquire this land for the national good? If this land cannot be reacquired, what then is keeping us from utilizing local expertise or even that of the Taiwanese agricultural technical



Letters to the Editor



ATLANTIC BANK - Your Friendly Bank

Dear Editor;

As we go around our daily lives we hear many things, most of which go through on ear and out the other as the popular phrase goes. It is not until one of them hits us smack in the face that we truly get the sense.

I have always heard the advertising phrase **"ATLANTIC BANK - Your Friendly Bank"** and quite honestly I have never paid much attention to it until it hit me smack in the face this past Tuesday morning.

This is what took place: I went to Belmopan on Monday morning to finalize arrangements to begin working in the Government Service. One of the conditions of the job was the opening of a bank account into which my salary can be deposited. By the time I returned to San Ignacio the banks were already closed for the day and so with \$40 in my pocket I set off to open an account on Tuesday morning.

I visited the first bank and I was told that there was no way I could open an account with anything less than

\$250. It's hard for a man who has been unemployed for several months to come up that kind of seed money and so I walked out of that bank.

I went to a second bank and I was told that the minimum accepted deposit to open an account was \$100 and that in addition to a photo identification card, I must present a light, water or telephone bill for them to confirm my address.

With only \$40 in my pocket, I was walking home while pondering on which friend I could approach, in these challenging times, for a \$60 loan to make up the \$100 that this bank was asking for. Then it dawned on me to step into Atlantic Bank just for the sake of curiosity. Imagine my surprise when the teller told me that all I needed was 20 bucks and a photo ID. I immediately pulled out the cash and my social security card and walked out with a savings pass book from Atlantic Bank.

Thank you **Atlantic Bank you are indeed my friendly bank.**

Joshua McKoy, Santa Elena Cayo

All Is Not Well At The San Ignacio Hospital

Dear Editor;

Please allow me to start off by saying that I am an employee of the San Ignacio Town Hospital.

I read with much interest your article last week on **Dr. Maria Gonsalves'** visit to your newspaper and I commend the **STAR** for the article.

I work with Dr. Gonsalves and can say without fear or favor that she is a true professional and that she has the best interest of, not only the hospital, but the people of Belize, at heart.

I will work with Dr. Gonsalves to help her achieve her goals. However, there are some people at the hospital who will do everything they can to make her work harder.

This kind of behavior cannot be allowed to fester and germinate in an institution as delicate as a hospital.

Just this week the situation reached the point where a violent confrontation erupted among senior members of staff as one of them is still logging behind in the ways of the past administration and appears to be set in undermining the new

government and the Ministry of Health.

There are some members of staff who went through hell and back under the previous administration. With the coming of the new government their lives are made even harder as a few of those in management are hell bent on showing them who run things at the hospital. The staff is becoming increasingly frustrated and this is not good for the delicate nature of the job.

Everyone at the hospital knows who these people are. We are not asking for their services to be terminated. All we are asking is for them to be transferred elsewhere to allow them to cool their heels and to give them time to realize that Joe Coye no longer heads the Ministry of Health.

We are asking for our Regional Health Manager to call a meeting of the staff so that these concerns can be brought to light before something worse happens.

Please for obvious reasons do not publish my name.

mission to identify suitable replacement land to address this national concern? The little packages of dry fruits that the Taiwanese mission is producing is all fine and well, but why are we settling for the penny when we can go for the dollar?

We hear much talk about taking back this and taking back that; nationalizing this and nationalizing that. The time to take back/nationalize the prison is now.

As time goes by more and more of us are becoming aware of the many instances of the raping of the nation in the name of privatization, including the prison system, by those who once walked the halls of power in the nation's capital.

The time to right these wrong is now as those responsible for bringing the nation to its knees have been put out to pasture and are no longer steering the ship of state.

STAR Newspaper

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

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star.belizeanlife.com

starnewspaper@gmail.com
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In The Relief Effort - Santa Elena Neighborhood Watch Group Humanitarian Mission To Four Of The Affected Southern Villages

By: Joshua McKoy

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, 10 June 2008:

On Sunday, 8 June 2008, the Santa Elena Neighborhood Watch Zone 10 Rapid Response Team headed to the villages affected by recent floods in the Stann Creek District in two vehicles loaded with water, food supplies, toiletries and clothes.

The team made stops in the villages of Hope Creek, Sarawee, Silk Grass and Sittee River.

The first stop was in Sarawee Village, located just 4 miles before reaching Dangriga Town, where clothes and groceries were left in the care of the village Chairman, **Ridley Pratt**, for distribution to the needy.

Then team then returned to Hope Creek Village where about fifty plates of hot dinner along with clothes and



In Sarawee Village, Chairperson Desol Neal (L) Cpl. Darius Martinez (2nd from left) and Elida (R)

the team made a commitment to return next week with those items most needed.

In this endeavor, Zone 10 is asking

made to pick up these donations by contacting Mrs. Desol Neal at telephone numbers **824-2590** or **607-4509** or by email at: nwzone10santaelena@gmail.com.

Zone 10 Neighborhood Watch Group thanks you in advance for your generous contribution to this worthy cause.

We also take this opportunity to thank ALL those persons who contributed in making our first mission to the affected villages in southern Belize a success.

We must especially thank Supt. **David Henderson** and Mayor **John August** for providing us with the two vehicles and fuel for the trip as well as **Dr. Maria Gonsalves** from the San Ignacio Town Hospital for the food items she personally donated and all those many other generous persons who donated other supplies. May the Almighty continue shining his blessings upon all of you.

We are now looking forward with much anticipation for our next humanitarian mission to the affected area.



Dishing out hot dinners in Hope Creek Village

food supplies were distributed.

From Hope Creek it was on to Silk Grass and later to Sittee River Village where the team dropped off the remainder of clothes and food supplies.

After talking with the various Chairpersons, community leaders and residents in the affected villages, the team became aware that those affected are in urgent need of non-perishable supplies such as mattresses, bed linen and toiletries.

After listening to the many concerns

the general public to contribute to the relief effort. All donation of the needed items will be most appreciated and can either be dropped off at the residence of the Zone Chairperson, **Mrs. Desol Neal** on Salazar Street in Santa Elena or arrangements can be



Providing clean & dry clothes to residents in the affected areas Elida (L) Joshua McKoy (2nd from left)



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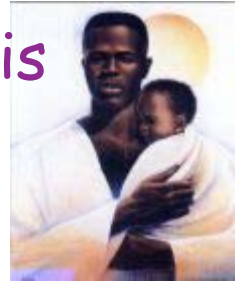
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Sending Out Happy Father's Day Greetings to all the Fathers of Belize especially the Fathers of the Twin Towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena



A Father is someone who holds you
securely by your arm when you take your
faltering first steps.

He makes sure that you abide by what is
being said to you at the cost of his
appearing strict.



He sits by your bedside caressing your hair
when you are not feeling well assuring you
that everything will be o.k.

A Father is someone you want to be like when
you grow up.



*Father's Day is a special occasion to
acknowledge the unconditional love and
protection proffered by our Fathers, and which
we sometimes take for granted.*

Happy Father's Day



**From
Mayor John August
Councilors & Staff
of the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council**

★ STAR HUMOR ★

Your Cheating Heart Will Tell On You

A man and a woman were having dinner in a fine restaurant. Their waitress, taking another order at a table a few paces away, noticed that the man was slowly sliding down his chair and under the table, with the woman acting unconcerned.

The waitress watched as the man slid out of sight under the table. Still, the woman remained calm and

unruffled, apparently unaware that her dining companion had disappeared.

The waitress came over to the table and said to the woman, *"Pardon me, ma'am, but I think your husband just slid under the table."*

The woman calmly looked up at her and replied firmly, *"No he didn't. My husband just walked in the door."*

Your Cheating Heart Has Told On You

John is the kind of businessman who frequently brings unusual gimmicks and gadgets from his many travels abroad.

Last Monday afternoon he arrived home from Panama with another one of his gadgets.

"What's this one?" asked his wife Marsha

"This is a lie detector robot" said John.

It was about 5:30 that evening when their 11 year old son Tommy stepped into the house almost 2 hours late from school and sat at the table.

"Why are you coming so late from school?" asked his father.

"We went to the library to work on a special project that is due tomorrow," responded Tommy.

The robot instantly walked around the table and slapped Tommy clean off the chair.

"Son," said John, *"that's because you are telling a lie. Now you must come with the truth."*

"We went to Bobby's house and watched a movie." said Tommy.

"What did you watch?" asked Marsha.

"The Ten Commandments." answered Tommy.

The robot went around to Tommy and for a second time, slapped him clean off the chair.

Tommy got up, sat down and said, *"I am sorry I lied. We really watched a tape called Sexy Lady."*

"I am ashamed of you son," said John. *"When I was your age, I never lied to my parents."*

The robot then walked around to John and delivered a whack that nearly knocked him out of his chair. Marsha doubled over in laughter, almost in tears and said, *"John, you can't be mad at Tommy. After all, he is your son!"*

No sooner had the last word left her mouth when the robot rushed straight over to Marsha and knocked her clean across the hall.

The Most Effective Weight Loss Program Ever Invented

Mr. Thompson calls the weight loss company and orders their 5-day, 10 lb. weight loss program.

The next day, there's a knock on his door and there stands before him a voluptuous, athletic, 19 year old babe dressed in nothing but a pair of Nike running shoes and a sign around her neck.

She introduces herself as a representative of the weight loss company.

The sign reads, *"If you can catch me, you can have me."* Without a second thought, he takes off after her down the Western Highway.

Several miles down the highway he finally gives up the chase. He stops almost out of breath, turns around and walks back home.

The same girl shows up for the next four days and the same thing happens.

On the fifth day, he weighs himself and is delighted to find he has lost 10 lbs. just as the company promised.

He calls the company and orders their 5-day/20 pound program.

The next day there's a knock at the door and there stands the most stunning and beautiful woman he has ever seen in his life.

She is wearing nothing but Reebok running shoes and a sign around her neck that reads, *"If you catch me you can have me."*

Well, he's out the door after her like a shot.

This girl is in excellent shape and he does his best, but no such luck.

So for the next four days, the same

routine happens with him gradually getting in better and better shape.

Much to his delight on the fifth day when he weighs himself, he discovers that he has lost another 20 lbs. as promised.

He decides to go for the bigger deal and calls the company to order the 7-day/50 pound program.

"Are you sure?" asks the representative on the phone. *"This is our most rigorous program."*

"Absolutely," he replies, *"I haven't felt this good in years."*

The next day there's a knock at the door; and when he opens it he finds a huge muscular rough neck guy standing there wearing nothing but pink running shoes and a sign around his neck that reads, *"If I catch you, you are mine!!!"* He ran like crazy for seven full days and lost 63 pounds that week.

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From Foundation To Foundation LifeLine Helps Cornerstone

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, June 10, 2008:

By: Aki Fukai

San Ignacio's Cornerstone Foundation was the recipient today of a \$10,000 cheque donation from LifeLine Foundation.

The cheque was handed over to **Mrs. Rita Defour**, Cornerstone Foundation's Managing Director by **Ms. Kim Simplis**, Founder/Director of LifeLine Foundation during a 10:00 a.m., brief ceremony at the Cornerstone Foundation office, 90 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio, Cayo.

Ms. Simplis informed that the donation was derived from proceeds raised during LifeLine's Third Annual Black & White Gala held earlier this year. The Gala event is specifically held each year to raise funds in order

to assist organizations dedicated to supporting children in need.

LifeLine Foundation is a philanthropic, non profit charity trust geared toward raising money to assist children who are in dire need of assistance for food, clothing, medical care and educational development. LifeLine has committed to carry out positive and impacting projects to help improve the quality of lives for our precious Belizean children.

Cornerstone's Managing Director **Rita Defour** informed that the funds will be used to expand the Foundation's feeding program for children attending primary schools in the San Ignacio area. A hot meal at noon for our children in need is provided to will help them to do



Presenting eight of the Wonderful and indeed Lovely Ladies from Lifeline and Cornerstone Foundations -

Ms. Kim Simplis (4th from left) and Mrs. Rita Defour (4th from right) - Making a positive difference in the lives of our children

better in school.

Organizers of the program are cognizant of the following basic guiding principles:

a) our children are our most precious resource

b) a hungry child does not learn well and performs poorly in school.

c) our children are our future and therefore we must ensure that they get a solid educational foundation on which to construct their adult lives.

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Spiraling Prices Threaten To Plunge Millions back into Poverty

Condensed from REUTERS news Agency.

Wednesday, 11 June 2008:

As the world faces its first global food crisis since World War II, even American consumers are starting to fret.

The World Food Program says that rising food prices, and a corresponding food shortage, threaten 20 million of the planet’s poorest children.

Food prices have risen 40 percent on average since mid-2007, and have led to riots in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

At a recent summit in London, the executive director of the World Food Program said that a *“silent tsunami” of hunger is sweeping the world’s most desperate nations. What we are seeing now is affecting more people on every continent,*” Josette Sheeran told a news conference.*“The price of rice has more than doubled in the past five weeks,”* she said.

The World Bank estimates food prices have risen by 83 percent in three years.

US President George W. Bush has released \$200 million in urgent aid and Britain has pledged an immediate \$59.7 million.

The causes are scattered among which are rising fuel prices, unpredictable weather, and demand from India and China. Tthe solutions are controversial and they range from ration cards, genetically modified crops, the end of pile-it-high and sell-it-cheap supermarkets.

Many analysts, including Britain’s opposition leader **David Cameron**, claim that people in the West will need to eat less meat, and consume, or waste, less food in general.

Some expect the shift in attitudes to herald the end of supermarket giveaways and cost-cutting grocery stores that stack goods to the ceiling and sell in bulk.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said that the spiraling prices threaten to plunge millions back into poverty and reverse progress on alleviating misery in the developing world.*“Tackling hunger is a moral challenge to each of us and it is also a threat to the political and economic stability of nations,”* Brown said.

Unrest over the food crisis has led to deaths in Cameroon. It has cost Haitian **Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis** his job, and caused hungry textile workers to clash with police in Bangladesh.

Malaysia’s embattled prime minister is already under pressure over the price increases and has launched a major rice-growing project.

Indonesia’s government needed to revise its annual budget to respond.

Former U.N. Secretary-

General Kofi Annan said more protests in other developing nations appear likely. *“We are going through a very serious crisis and we are going to see lots of food strikes and demonstrations,”* Annan told reporters in Geneva. Yet while angry street protesters call for immediate action, long-term solutions are likely to be slow, costly and complicated, experts warn.

Robert Zoellick, head of the World Bank, claims as many as 100 million people could be forced deeper into poverty.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said rising food costs threaten to cancel strides made toward the goal of cutting world poverty in half by 2015.

“Now is not too soon to be thinking about the longer-term solutions,” said **Alex Evans**, a former adviser to Britain’s Environment Secretary **Hilary**

Benn. Evans said that world leaders must help increase food production, rethink their push on biofuels, which many blame for pushing up food prices. and consider anew the once

Chronology Of Some Events Resulting From The Current World Food Crisis

September 7, 2007: Vietnam, the world’s third-biggest rice exporter, restricts rice exports to slow inflation.

December 4, 2007: Argentina temporarily restricts grain exports.

January 1, 2008: China, the world’s biggest grain producer, starts to curb overseas sales of wheat, corn and rice by issuing export permits.

January 19, 2008: Egypt bans rice exports.

February 8, 2008: The American Bakers Association asks the U.S. Department of Agriculture to curb wheat exports.

February 27, 2008: At least four people are killed during three days of

taboo topic of growing genetically modified crops.

The World Food Program’s Sheeran believes many already understand the impact. *“Much of the world is waking up to the fact that food does not spontaneously appear on grocery store shelves,”* she said.

protests over high commodity prices in Cameroon.

March 10, 2008: Philippines authorities begin to crack down on hoarders.

March 17, 2008: India halts all exports of non-basmati rice. It also extends an existing export ban on crops such as peas and beans.

March 28, 2008: Vietnam extends rice export restrictions.

April 4, 2008: Haitians riot over rising food prices. At least three people are killed.

April 6, 2008: Egyptians riot over rising food prices.

Please Turn To Page 10



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2nd Place: Luis Cawich - *Rico's Bar*

3rd Place: Aron Mai - *Turtle Inn*



Young Professional Category

1st Place: Patricia Lopez - *Cayo Espanto*

2nd Place: Henry Jex - *Happy Chick*

3rd Place: Elma Dominguez - *Radisson*



Bartender Category

1st Place: Enrique Alamilla - *duPlooy's*

2nd Place: Marsha Jones - *Old Belize*

3rd Place: Calixtro Guerra - *Windy Hill Cottages*



JUL - 2008 -

BELIZE



KREM Radio's Evan "Mose" Hyde Chairs CYDP Steering Committee

CENTRAL BANK, Belize City, Monday, June 9, 2008:

The Steering Committee of the resurrected **Conscious Youth Development Program (CYDP)** held its inaugural meeting at 2:00 p.m., today at the Central Bank Boardroom in Belize City.

All 18 members of the committee were in attendance as they listened to opening remarks delivered by the **Hon. Carlos Perdomo**, Minister of National Security.

Minister Perdomo told the gathering that the CYDP was resurrected specifically because it worked in the past and that he strongly believes that the solution for the high crime rate can only be derived through the concerted effort of the community. Minister Perdomo went on to challenge the members of the committee to come up with solutions to the nation's crime problem.

Committee Chairman **Evan "Mose" Hyde Jr.** told the gathering that he was not much interested in presiding over an 'intellectual exercise'. He stressed the direct engagement of the 'youth man' on



"Mose" Hyde

the street, an engagement, he said, without which the boardroom meeting would be met with little or no success.

The Chairman of Crime Control Council, **Attorney Michael Young** urged the committee and officers of the CYDP to *"tackle the crime problem efficiently and effectively. This,"* he said, *"can be done only with support from the community."* Young informed that the Crime Control Council will soon be launching its *"Operation Guns and Jobs"* initiatives geared towards putting youth at risk to work.

CYDP's Director **Edward Broaster** (Assistant Superintendent of Police) presented a synopsis of the program during which he highlighted the efforts to target young persons at risk. Broaster made reference to the *'tight rope we walk'* when dealing with gangs and drug dealers. He informed that the program's conflict resolution and intervention efforts are already producing results.

Retired Brigadier General Lloyd Gillett, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of National Security spoke about funding for the program as well as funding for other initiatives including the police summer jobs drive as well as an



Hon. Carlos Perdomo

apprenticeship program in boat handling and small engine repairs to be conducted by the Coast Guard all of which are geared towards instilling discipline, self esteem and leadership in young persons at risk.



Michael Young

In addressing the gathering, **Mrs. Dionne Miranda** from The Youth Business Trust Belize (YBTB)

cautioned that, in order to avoid duplication, the CYDP should establish clearly defined goals and objectives. Miranda's sentiment was reinforced by other members of the committee.

Another member of the committee, **Attorney Audrey Matura Shepherd**, Director of the Legal Advice and Services Centre, spoke about the treatment of juveniles by the police. She said that in many



Matura Shepherd

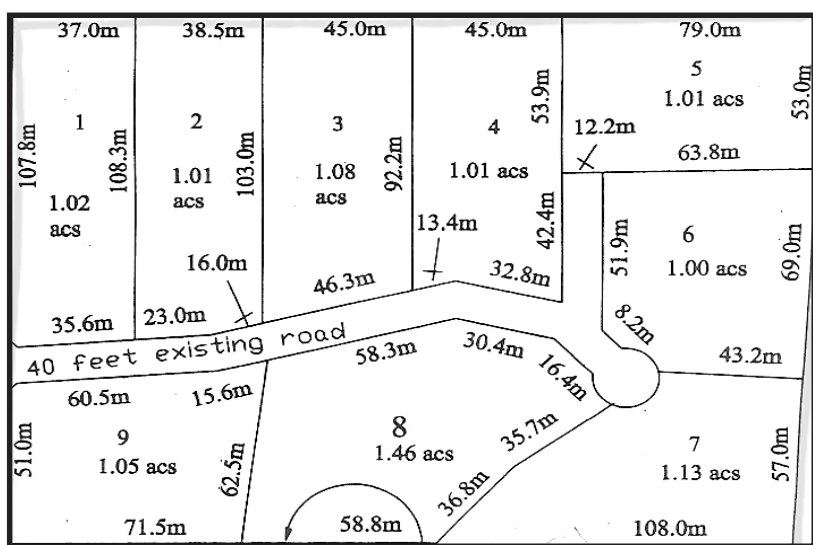
instances the harsh treatment of young persons at the hands of the police only serves to make matters worse as it creates bitterness, resentment and hostility towards the police. She recommended that emphasis be placed on educating the young people in matters of their basic human rights.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee of the Conscious Youth Development Program is set for Monday, June 23 also at 2:00 p.m., at the same location where the committee will be putting forward a motto and a logo.



Lloyd Gillett, CEO

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Chronology Of Some Events Resulting From The Current World Food Crisis

From Page 7

April 9, 2008: Corn commodities on the Chicago Board of Trade reach a record \$6.16 a bushel.

April 12, 2008: Police clash with 10,000 workers in Bangladesh who smashed vehicles and attacked factories, demanding higher wages to pay for food.

The Haitian prime minister is forced to step down in an attempt to defuse anger over food prices. A U.N. police officer bringing food to his unit in Port-au-Prince is killed.

April 14, 2008: U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says that a global food crisis has reached "emergency proportions."

The World Bank has forecast that 33 nations from Mexico to Yemen may face social unrest.

April 16, 2008: Malawi plans to restrict corn exports.

April 17: Kazakhstan, the world's sixth largest wheat exporter, bans wheat exports between April 27 and September 1, 2008.

April 18, 2008: India permits rice exports to Bhutan.

Indonesia, the world's third largest rice producer, says it will hold back surplus rice.

Thailand, the world's largest rice exporter, is under pressure to restrict exports. A World Bank official likens any restriction to Saudi Arabia reducing oil exports.

Source: The Associated Press and Bloomberg News

This item includes information from P-I reporter **Andrea James** and **The Associated Press**.

BTL Donates \$10,000 To YBTB

BY: Dionne Miranda, Project Director YBTB

BELIZE CITY, Monday, 9 June 2008:

The Youth Business Trust Belize(YBTB) today, received a generous donation of **\$10,000.00** from Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL).

This is the third donation being delivered as part of Telemedia's commitment to the development of youth enterprise programs in Belize.

The first donation from Telemedia was free internet service within the offices of the Trust, to be used for the daily office administration as well as a resource center for young entrepreneurs needing communication and research materials. The resource center is currently under construction.

The second donation was access to resources such as printing and design as well as use of BTL offices as satellite locations around the country for meetings with entrepreneurs and distribution of application forms.

This third donation of \$10,000.00 will be used to bridge the counterpart funding gap for the programme along with meeting much needed funding for daily operations.

Youth Business Trust Belize is a program offering young persons between the ages of 18-35 assistance in starting their own businesses.

The program offers loan financing, training and the most important component, mentoring, which guides the young persons business on the



BTL's Public Relations Executive, Lynette Canto (L) handing over cheque to YBTB's Project Director Dionne Miranda

road to success.

Those who pledged their commitment to the program, which is being funded by the Inter American Development Bank, have made a serious investment in the future of

Belize. The program follows the Youth Business International model started by the Prince of Wales and has following such as Nelson Mandela who is the Head of the South African Youth Trust.

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Father's Day**

To Fathers Everywhere

**From All
of us
at the
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Newspaper**

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SHIRLEY DAWSON** is applying for a **RESTAURANT & BAR LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **PALMS 2000** located in Esperanza Village Village in the Cayo District.

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The logo for Telemedia's HomeFone Service. It features a stylized house icon on the left, composed of a dark roof, a light-colored main body with three windows, and a dark base. To the right of the house, the text "Telemedia's" is in a small, sans-serif font. Below it, "HomeFone" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath "HomeFone", the word "Service" is written in a smaller, italicized, serif font. A horizontal line runs across the bottom of the text.

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Independent Expert Recommends Adjustment In Electricity Rates to 47.7 cents per kWh

BEL CORPORATE HEAD-QUARTERS, Belize City, Wednesday, June 11, 2008:

Contact: Dawn Sampson – Manager, Corporate Communications

E-mail:

dawn.sampson@bel.com.bz

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) today released the Independent Expert's Report, which reviewed the PUC's initial decision under the Annual Rate Review Proceeding (ARP).

The Independent Expert, **Jonathan Lesser Ph.D.** of Bates White LLC, Washington D.C, recommends that the Mean Electricity Rate be increased to 47.7 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh).

The Independent Expert echoed BEL's concerns, pointing out that *"whilst some of the findings made by the PUC may provide short-term rate relief to*

ratepayers, the longer term consequences of those findings, if enacted, are likely to exacerbate future rate increases and economic harm to those same ratepayers."

RATE OF RETURN

The report states that setting BEL's Rate of Return below the risk-free rate for bonds issued by the Government of Belize does not allow the Company the opportunity to recover its financing costs. *"A Rate of Return of 8.5% will clearly not be sufficient to assure confidence in the financial integrity of the enterprise, so as to maintain its credit and attract capital,"* the report states.

The report states that the target Rate of Return should be 12% as outlined in the 2008 Rate Setting Methodology.

VALUE ADDED DELIVERY

The report recommends the

exclusion of construction work in progress and the undepreciated value of the Mollejon Transmission Line from BEL's rate base, in line with the PUC's initial decision.

COST OF POWER

The report confirms that increasing oil prices have caused the cost of power to increase significantly since the rates from Mexico are indexed to oil prices. The report also confirms that BEL's drawdown from the Chalillo Reservoir was in the best interest of consumers and recommends that the PUC allow all cost of power disallowed in the PUC's initial decision.

DISALLOWANCE OF HURRICANE COST

The report confirms that BEL's treatment of its hurricane cost self-insurance program is appropriate and in line with industry practice and therefore recommends that the PUC allows all previously incurred

hurricane recovery cost.

SOCIAL RATE

The report recommends that the social rate of \$0.26 per kWh remains the same.

The report states that the introduction of the 2008 Rate Setting Methodology, which implements rules that make retroactive adjustments to BEL's results, does not confirm with Good Utility Practice and cautions that these new regulations *"may adversely affect BEL's financial stability."* These retroactive adjustments, in BEL's opinion, were illegally applied against the Cost of Power Rate Stabilization Account.

"Since the ARP commenced on April 2, 2008, oil prices have increased over 40%, further driving up the cost of energy as well as the cost of many other goods and services," said BEL's President and Chief Executive Officer **Lynn Young**. *"This is an international crisis which requires everyone to work together to try to minimize the impact on consumers who are being hit by significant increases in food and fuel prices. The report from the Independent Expert provides a critical and in-depth assessment of the relevant issues and makes some realistic recommendations such as the suggestion that rates should be adjusted quarterly to reduce the size of the adjustments needed and to ensure that the Company can meet its financial obligations."*

A full copy of the Independent Expert's report can be accessed from BEL's website at www.bel.com.bz and the PUC's website at www.puc.bz.

The PUC will announce its final decision on June 26, 2008 for implementation on July 1, 2008.

ED Note: Under the law, the PUC is not obligated to heed the recommendations of the Independent expert.

Interestingly, the BEL release makes no mention of the Expert's recommendation to bring back that dreaded service charge which in this case he is recommended at \$6.00 per customer.



The PACT Foundation, a legally recognized private, non-profit organization, was established in November 2004 and has funds available through the Debt for Nature

Swamp Funds to be administered to community based and non-governmental organizations through a grants process. The Foundation's main objective is to promote the protection and maintenance of Belize's protected areas.

The PACT Foundation Announces its

2008 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Priority Areas for Funding must be in relation to terrestrial protected areas management including:

- * Protected Areas Protection, Education, and Equipment
- * Protected Areas Training
- * Protected Areas Research

Maximum Grant: BZ\$40,000.00 for one year projects

Past recipients may apply.

For Application Forms and General Information, contact PACT'S Technical Programme Coordinator or email:

grantsinfo@pactbelize.org

Submit complete applications no later than July 18th, 2008 to:

**Technical Programme Coordinator
PACT
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Hon. Carlos Perdomo "We will continue to engage other Security forces until we rid ourselves of the scourge of crime"

Passing out parade was held on Thursday, June 12, as for Police Recruit Squad #84 comprising seventy (64 males & 6 females) new members of the Belize Police Department.

(74 males and 6 females) joined the ranks of the department as

Guest Speaker for the occasion was National Security Minister Hon Carlos Perdomo.

Excerpts of Minister Perdomo's address follows:

"Today in Belize, we are confronted by local and transnational organized crime involving illegal drugs, migrant smuggling, arms trafficking, and money laundering.

Our nation also faces the continued challenges of corruption, environmental degradation, natural disasters and threats of health pandemics including HIV/AIDS.

All this, and the types and nature of crime and violence in Belize City, has seized our attention like never before.

In the face of these threats I would like to outline a six prong strategy that we have initiated to curtail crime in the short time since our government came to office.

The first prong of our approach was the strengthening of legislation in the area of gangs and firearm related offences.

The Firearms (Amendment) Act 2008, which was recently passed by



**National Security Minister
Carlos Perdomo**

the National Assembly, makes provision for the imprisonment of persons in possession of an illegal firearm and ammunition for a first offence where previously only a fine could be levied. It also provides for an increase in the term of imprisonment for subsequent offences.

In addition, the Crime Control and Criminal Justice legislation is being strengthened to restrict the powers of magistrates to grant bail in serious and heinous cases, to strengthen the laws against criminal gangs, and to facilitate a declaration to launch special operations on crime in specific crime-ridden areas. We will also soon introduce a special Guns Court.

The second prong was to

immediately institute intervention activities to engage our youths in alternative activities.

We have reinstituted the Conscious Youth Development Program to offer youths a positive alternative to gang-life and violence.

Supt. Edward Broaster, as the Leader of the implementation team, continues to be involved in various conflict resolution efforts among Belize City youths.

This effort is also complemented with the Police community policing programme, the expansion of the Police Cadet Corps, the creation of the BDF Youth Cadets; and the

planning of skill-training summer programmes by the Coast Guard and the BDF.

The third prong involves increasing the operational tempo of the Police department by deepening increasing preventive patrols and intelligence collection.

The acquisition of ten new vehicles for the Police Department has assisted in the ongoing crime reduction efforts in Belize City. We have begun to see the results. Police intelligence driven operations have led to the removal of 69 firearms and 970 rounds of ammunition from off the streets.

We will continue to engage other security forces in this most pressing

Please Turn To Page 14

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Hon. Carlos Perdomo "We will continue to engage....."

From Page 13

concern until we rid ourselves of the scourge of crime.

Our fourth prong involves engaging the community to come up with solutions to the crime problem.

We also re-established the CYDP Steering Committee to provide the necessary civic leadership for this very important intervention effort.

The fifth prong involves the institutional strengthening of the Police Department. Present here today is Mr. Harold Crooks, who this week commenced a six month long Internal Audit of the policies and procedures of the Police Department.

Following this in depth review, Mr. Crooks is expected to table his recommendations to improve and refine the mandate for the Police Department's future course of action.



**Harold Crooks
is now in Town**

We have also this week made some transfers to place senior officers in positions suited for their qualifications, leadership styles, skills and experience.

The sixth prong involves ensuring that prisoners in custody seeking to be considered for parole undergo one of the many rehabilitation courses being run at the Kolbe Foundation. Rehabilitation from dependency drugs is a prime way to defeat criminal activity.

We are gathered to honour, recognize and celebrate the achievements of 64 males and 6 females of Recruit Squad # 84 as they leave the friendly confines of the Police Training Academy and venture out into the challenging and exciting world of policing. Today, all of us including your instructors, fellow officers, and members of your families share with great pride in your achievements. I commend the recruits on their swift foot drill movements and immaculate turnout. May you keep up this standard of smartness and discipline throughout your career.

Over the past six months you have endured a most demanding test of your intellectual and physical abilities and are now qualified to be members of the Belize Police Department.

Already your policing abilities have been tested, when you were called upon to work during the General Elections in February, in Belize City, providing extra patrols; and as hoped and expected you all performed commendably.

As Minister of National Security I want to personally thank you for the service that you rendered to the communities affected by Tropical Storm Arthur last week. Through your efforts a sense of normalcy has returned to some of the affected communities.

You have entered the Belize Police Department at a very important time in the growth and development of this nation.

A time when this new administration is taking vital steps to restore responsible governance and respect for law and order in this nation.

Sixty percent (60%) of you will be deployed in Belize City and the remaining forty percent (40%) will support the growing need for policing in Corozal, Cayo, San Pedro and Placencia.

I offer special congratulations to RPC Hermain Campos, who was awarded with the Baton of Honour and who also placed second in the written examinations.

RPC 878 Derrick Jones, the recipient of the Commandant's Prize.

WRPC 995 Dianah Rai for consistently good overall performance.

RPC 329 Gabriel Cano who placed first in the written examination.

RPC 1051 Bani Shol for first place in First Aid.

RPC 752 Andy Cacho for first place in physical fitness and

RPC 719 Mariano Cho for Best Shot.

Recruits, you can, and I know you will, make a positive difference for the future of Belize. Be strong and courageous, be honest and compassionate and know that you are doing one of the most important and necessary jobs to ensure the security and safety of our country. But let me say, that the best gift you can bring to your career: is Honesty. You are not required to accede to illegal requests by anyone senior to you. This Ministry stands ready to support you in your refusal to carry out any illegal orders.

Never compromise your integrity and be willing to stand for the right and we will stand with you. And, as a warning, should you ever think to compromise your morals, be aware that we will not be lenient with those who misuse and abuse the public trust.

I will ask the Commissioner of

Police to regroup all of you in 5 months time to discuss your experiences to see how we can improve our Department.

To the parents, families, children and friends of the men and women of Recruit Intake No. 84; you should be very proud of the men and women that stand before you today. Your sacrifices and support today. Your sacrifices and support today. I would like to conclude to by saying: we live in a blessed country that is full of beauty and charm and we are being

challenged by increasing violence and crime that spin off from transnational organized crime, drugs and arms trafficking that leaves a scar of destruction on our most vulnerable segment of our population – our youth. We must confront this plague and destroy it from every angle; it must be treated as a national security issue, an economic issue and a community issue. It affects us all and we all need to play a part to wipe out crime."

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Wade and Thompson Heading To Cayo

From Front Page

Superintendent Louise Willis, Officer Commanding Benque Viejo police will be moving into police headquarters in Belmopan to take up the post as Commander Planning, Performance Review and Inspection. She will be replaced by Superintendent Dezerie Phillips who is coming from the Tourism Police Unit in Belize City.

Superintendent Noel Leal heads up from the Toledo District to take over from Paul Wade as the new Head Special Branch in Belmopan while Assistant Superintendent Mark Vidal leaves the desk as Staff Officer in the office of the Commissioner of Police to become the new Deputy Head Special Branch.

Assistant Superintendent Joachim Sabal leaves the Traffic Branch in Belize City to take over from Leal as the new O.C Toledo.

Assistant Superintendent Ralph Moody is moving up from commanding the Intermediate

Southern Formation in Independence Village to take over as Commander of the Special Patrol Unit. He takes over from Superintendent Alvan Gentle Jr. who will be moving to take over command of Stann Creek Police from Superintendent Russel Blacket who will be moving into Belize City as Commander of the Anti Drug Unit.

Inspectors Alden Dawson and Selvin Tillett switch posts as Dawson moves from the post as Deputy Commander Orange Walk to Deputy Commander Stann Creek Police while Tillett moves from Stann Creek to Orange Walk.

Inspector Alton Alvarez will leave the Belmopan post as Operations Support Officer to take over from Moody as the new O.C. of the Intermediate Southern Formation in Independence Village.

Inspector Oscar Tzib will be moving from Special Branch Headquarters to command the Gangs/Violent Crimes Reduction Unit.



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