

STAR

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



No. 163

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Price \$1.00

Georgeville Beauty Pagent Ends In Tragedy

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Thursday, September 18, 2008:

The festive mood in the western village of Georgeville ended in tragedy last Saturday morning as one villager lost his life and another was charged with murder.

The deceased was identified as **Orlando "Chippy" Myers**, 24 while the accused was identified as **Ealsine Gentle**, 28, both Belizean laborers from Georgeville Village.

Reports reaching us indicate that residents from the village and neighboring communities came out to the community center last Friday night, September 12 to witness the selection of Miss Georgeville Independence 2008-09.

Organizers of the event informed that



The Victim

Orlando "Chippy" Myers, 24
Sunrise: January 4, 1984
Sunset: September 13, 2008

all was going well until just about the time when the function was drawing to a close. An altercation reportedly erupted between a group of villagers

in attendance.

Police investigations revealed that one of the male persons, a relative of the deceased, emerged from the initial squabble with an injury to the forehead. He departed the location and was reportedly walking towards his home along with the deceased when they were followed and confronted on the nearby basketball court by the same person who had caused the original injury, the accused Ealsine Gentle.

In an attempt to defend his relative, the deceased reportedly positioned himself between the two men when it is alleged that the accused pulled out a large knife and inflicted two stab wounds to the left side of the victim's abdomen.

The victim fell on the basketball



The Accused
Ealsine Gentle, 28

court and the accused disappeared into the darkness. The injured man was rushed to the San Ignacio Town Hospital.

Police report that at around 2:30 that Saturday morning, September 13, they arrived at the hospital where they encountered the victim, in an unconscious state, undergoing emergency medical treatment for "*a cut wound under the left armpit*". The victim passed away shortly thereafter.

About seven hours later the accused was in police custody. It was around 10:00 a.m., that Saturday morning when he entered the San Ignacio Police Station accompanied by his mother who lives in Teakettle Village. He was instantly detained and later formally arrested and charged for the murder. He was subsequently remanded to the Central Prison in Hattieville.

The accused is no stranger to the law as at the time of his arrest, he was out on bail on a theft charge.

Orlando "Chippy" Myers is survived by his mother **Dorla Myers**, father **Ralph Williams**, several brothers and sisters and a host of other relatives and friends. He was laid to rest in the village of Georgeville on Tuesday, September 16, following 2:00 p.m., funeral services.

A Belizean Patriot Laid To Rest

BY: Eulogio Cano

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, September 16, 2008:

He was one of 13 Belizean patriots slated to receive an award but he passed away three days before the official event.

Notwithstanding his passing, the committee, informed that the Meritorious Service Award will be presented posthumously to a relative on his behalf during the event slated for Thursday, September 18 at the Bliss Center for the Performing Arts in Belize City.

Victor "Ba" August, 58, was a family man, a devoted christian and a political leader in the community who, after several months of illness, passed away quietly during the early morning hours on Monday, September 15 at the Loma Luz Hospital in Santa Elena.

He was a grassroots citizen of



Victor "Ba" August, 58
Sunrise: April 15, 1950
Sunset: September 15, 2008

Santa Elena, Cayo. He was born on April 15, 1950 to the union of **Ms. Ursula August** and **Mr. Benedicto Cruz**.

During his childhood days Ba attended Santa Elena Roman

Catholic Primary School and during his teenage years he served with distinction in the nation's Special Unit Forces.

He was an outstanding football player. He was instrumental in the crowning of Cayo's Avengers Football Team as the national football champion of Belize.

In 1975 he met the lovely **Miss Leticia Paz** and shortly thereafter they were united in Holy Matrimony. The union, made in heaven, produced a single daughter, **Melody August** who is the apple of their eyes.

Apart from being a devoted family man, Victor was committed to Religion as he was a faithful servant of his Seventh Day Adventist Church. He was also committed to Politics and serviced his United Democratic Party with honor and distinction.

In his church mission Victor was a

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Editorial



Restoring Law And Order In A Lawless Society

The documentary on the gang/cocaine situation in Belize City produced by award winning UK Journalist, **Ross Kemp**, sparked much discussion over the past several days.

While we will agree that the publication is bad for Belize's image abroad and that it can produce some negative effects on Belize's tourism industry, Kemp's effort was an eye opener for many of us.

The documentary revealed precisely what the authorities have been hiding from us all these years.

In terms of the frequent shooting deaths in the streets of Belize City, all they tell us is **"another young man has been shot dead"** and as to the motive behind each killing the usual official line is **"as a result of an old beef"**.

Just as Kemp's documentary was being aired, another young man was shot in the streets of the city and while, in an interview, the victim's sister revealed the name of the shooter as identified by the victim, none other than the head of the Crimes Investigation Branch chose to withhold the name of the shooter from the same reporter.

There are those who are of the opinion that although Kemp's revelation might be true, it must be condemned because **"we must protect the image of Belize"**. This is tantamount to living in denial. It is an established fact that recovery begins first by admitting the existence of a problem then every effort **MUST** be expended to eliminate that problem.

As we continue to live in denial, the situation is only getting worse. We now find ourselves venturing into the stage where the lawless are graduating into using weapons of mass destruction, like grenades, to settle **"old beefs"** while threatening the safety of a larger number of innocent individuals.

Four months ago, in May of this year, a boy was arrested and charged for setting off a grenade in a Belize City neighborhood. One person was instantly killed and a dozen others were injured in the blast.

It looks like the authorities are content with this arrest as there appears to have been no further effort to trace the origin of this weapon of mass destruction. Could it be that the trail has stopped at the doorsteps of one of the untouchables among us? Why is it that, on a matter of such serious national security concern, someone in a more senior capacity is not asking for a **FULL** report subsequent to this boy's arrest?

While we appear not to have moved any further beyond the arrest of the boy charged with setting off the May grenade on Mayflower Street, a second one was launched four months later in the midst of a much larger gathering. We must be thankful that this second, more destructive, grenade did not explode.

Kemp's documentary revealed, **"from the horse's mouth"**, that there is a Belizean in our midst

who was prepared to **"jack"** an entire shipment of cocaine. We must again be thankful that the attempt failed as the havoc that the introduction of such large amount of cocaine would have inflicted on the Belizean society would have been tremendous.

It's high time for us to pull our heads out of the sand. There is a deep rooted problem in Belize. The problem is guns and drugs. Unless we seriously tackle these problems, as sure as day follows night, many more of us will hold our heads and cry as another relative is shot down and killed in the streets and even in our homes.

There is much that we could learn from our neighbors immediately north of the border. A few months ago, three Belizeans were arrested and charged for merely attempting to introduce guns into Chetumal. Today despite much outcry coupled with the local societal

status of one of the detainees, they remain locked up in Mexican jail. They did not shoot anyone. They did not kill anyone. The charge against them is entering the national territory of Mexico with guns.

Many are those in Belize who are today walking free from murder charges.

Countless are those in Belize who are walking free from charges of causing injuries to others with guns.

It somehow appears that the fear of increasing the prison population, with corresponding increase in prison maintenance costs, is thwarting the effort to get tough on crime.

In the short term, prison population will certainly increase but as the reality of the situation begins to sink into the minds of those with criminal intent, the numbers are bound to gradually taper off as law and order is restored within a lawless society.

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Happy September Celebrations!

from

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Moving Into The New Hospital Building

A Message From The San Ignacio Community Hospital

BY: Dra. Maria Goncalves
Ag. Deputy Regional Health
Manager
San Ignacio Community Hospital

SAN IGNACIO, Thursday,
September 18, 2008:

At present we are preparing the transition in moving to the new hospital.

We would like the public to know that the staff of the San Ignacio

Community Hospital is highly motivated.

The transition is divided in three levels of responsibility namely: Ministry of Health, the San Ignacio Community Hospital and the Community.

We would like suggestions from the public, to have a view of their expectations.

Our hospital is community oriented. We would like the community to

know and take charge of it. We are planning an open day (to showcase the new hospital facilities).

If you are interested in participating in the open day, please call the hospital at 824-2066 or 824-2761 where you can make an appointment with **Ms. Adilette Urbina** or **Mr. Elio Pulido** on my behalf.

You can send your comments or expectations to us via email at: sanighosp@yahoo.com or write to the hospital..

Ka'ana's Executive Chef Returns With 3 Medals

KA'ANA BOUTIQUE RESORT,
Western Highway, San Ignacio,
Cayo, Monday, September 15,
2008:

Too often we either forget or simply fail to recognize the accomplishments of those among us who excel in their chosen profession.

It is in this light that the management and staff of Ka'ana Boutique Resort take this opportunity to congratulate our very own **Chef Manolo Castillo** for excelling in the 2008 Festival Gastronomico held between the 8th and 11th September in neighboring Guatemala.

Chef Manolo did a superb job in representing Ka'ana Resort and indeed the nation of Belize as he took on culinary giants for across the globe in one of the longest and

toughest challenges known to the world of culinary arts.

Today the management and staff of Ka'ana Boutique Resort proudly acknowledges Chef Manolo's great talent as he returns to Belize with three medals.

Chef Manolo's unique appreciation for the arts and his expertise in food handling earned him top honors in the competition that brought together 2,300 chefs from Europe, North, Central and South America.

He placed first in the category of Chef Leader/Team Captain; second for his Rabbit Terrine with cold wasabi pea soup; and third for his Tom-Kah-Gai which is a unique Thai soup.

We believed that Belizeans should know about Chef Manolo's accomplishments and the tremendous

effort he expended in representing Belize and the Belizean people at this prestigious event.

Manolo Castillo is the Executive Chef at Ka'ana Boutique Resort located on the Western Highway, between the towns of San Ignacio and Benque Viejo in the Cayo District.

Once again we take this opportunity to congratulate Chef Manolo Castillo on a job well done.

Have a Happy & Safe
Independence Day!!!

From ALL of us
at the
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(Actual Images Not Shown)

Fire Destroys The Childhood Home Of Santa Elena Businessman

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, September 11, 2008:

It was one of the first buildings erected on Salazar Street in Santa Elena Town, Cayo and today the childhood home of Santa Elena businessman, **Michael "Max" Salazar Jr.** was destroyed by fire.

An official from the local fire service reported receiving the first call at around 6:30 on the morning of Thursday, September 11 and by the time they arrived on the scene, the two storey building was engulfed in flames.

Despite the presence of two fire tenders, the inadequacy of the fire fighting equipment was obvious as it took well over an hour to bring the blaze under control. Fortunately, there was no other structure in close



proximity of the blazing building.

A member of the Perez family, occupying the building at the time of the incident informed that the fire started inside a back room, quite possibly from an electrical problem produced by a overheated fan.

Mrs. Vanessa Perez who was at home with her 10 and 12 year old sons told investigators that it was shortly after 6:00 o'clock that morning when she was awakened by her 10 year old son who told her that his room was on fire.

They rushed outside the building managing to save only a few items of clothing.

Owner of the building, Michael Salazar and the Perez family estimate the combined value of the loss at around one hundred and seven thousand dollars. Neither the building nor any of its contents was insured.

No one was injured in the blaze.

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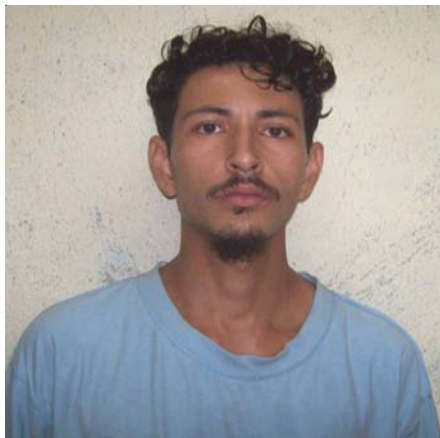
Accused CP Burglar On Bail One Item of Jewelry Recovered

SANTAELENA, Cayo, Thursday, September 4, 2008:

After spending a week in jail accused burglar **Jose de la Fuente** was today released on \$10,000 bail and ordered to return to court on Tuesday, September 23, 2008.

De la Fuente stands accused of the August 25, 2008 burglary of CP Gas Station located at the corner of Carillo Puerto Avenue and the Western Highway in Santa Elena, Cayo.

Police reports that on the day in question **Norberto Rancharan**, Belizean businessman and manager of the gas station reported that sometime between 10:30 p.m. the previous day and 6:15 a.m. the following day his gas station was burglarized.



Jose de la Fuente, 21

Rancharan reported that a fire proof combination safe containing an assortment of personal documents and jewelry, with an estimated valued of \$30,000, was missing.

De la Fuente along with three other suspects were initially detained. The others were subsequently released

and on the basis of De la Fuente's fingerprint reportedly matching one lifted from the crime scene he was consequently arrested and charged for the crime.

Latest information reaching us indicate that a 14 carat gold bracelet with diamond stones valued at \$3,000 was subsequently found in the possession of **Maria Vitzil** a resident of Benque Viejo Town. The bracelet was positively identified by Rancharan as being his property.

Maria Vitzil, 43, Guatemalan lottery vender of a Kennedy Street address

in Benque Viejo Town was consequently arrested and charged for the crime of handling stolen goods. The matter has since been transferred for hearing in Benque Viejo's Magistrate Court. When she first appeared in court on September 9, Vitzil pled no guilty to the charge.

As the investigation continues, San Ignacio police advises the public in general and pawn brokers in particular to be on the lookout for any suspicious items of jewelry that might come their way and to report any such incidents without delay.



CP Gas Station in Santa Elena, Cayo

Beware Of The Guatemala Scam

SANTAELENA, Cayo, Thursday, September 18, 2008:

An increasing number of Belizeans are reporting the receipt of telephone calls from across the border in Guatemala informing them that they are lucky winners of automobiles.

In order to claim the prize, "winners" are instructed to first make a cash deposit into a Guatemalan bank to begin the process of obtaining their prize.

Several unsuspecting persons have reportedly fallen victims to this scam and are reported to have deposited a few hundred dollars as instructed after which communication is severed by the prize agent and it is only then that they realize the they have been tricked.

The general public is hereby advised to exercise extreme care when confronted with a similar situation.

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STAR HUMOR

The Two Evil Brothers

There once were two evil, rich brothers living in San Ignacio.

They used their money to support their evil ways.

One of the brothers met a sudden death in a car accident.

As the family was making funeral arrangements, the surviving evil brother paid a visit to the pastor of the church.

"I know that your church is badly in need of repairs. There is \$20,000 cash in this envelope. I have only one condition" he said. "During the funeral service, you can say whatever you want about my brother. All I want you to say is that: HE WAS A GOOD MAN."

After thinking over the request for a few minutes, the pastor accepted the money and promised to do as the brother requested.

During the funeral service, the pastor did not hold back. He let it all out. **"Here he is before God and man in his coffin. He was no saint. He cheated on his wife. He was mean. He was extremely...."** The pastor continued on and on about the evil ways of the deceased.

After nearly half an hour of telling the blatant truth about the deceased, the pastor paused, took a deep breath and in closing said, **"But compared to his brother, HE WAS A GOOD MAN."**

HATERS

Contributed by: Michael "Max" Salazar, Max Headquarters, Santa Elena Cayo, Friday, September 12, 2008:

A hater is someone who is jealous and envious and spends all their time trying to make you look small so they can look tall.

They are very negative people to say the least. Nothing is ever good enough for them!

When you make your mark, you will always attract some haters. That's why you have to be careful with whom you share your blessings and your dreams, because some folk can't handle seeing you blessed.

It's dangerous to be likesomebody else. If God wanted you to be like somebody else, He would have given you what He gave them! Right?

You never know what people have gone through to get what they have. The problem I have with haters is that they see my glory, but they don't know my story.

If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, you can rest assured that the water bill is higher there too! We've all got some haters among us! Some people envy you because you can:

- Have a relationship with God
- Light up a room when you walk in
- Start your own business
- Tell a man / woman to hit the curb if he / she isn't about the right thing.
- Raise your children without both parents being in the home.

Haters can't stand to see you happy.

Haters will never want to see you succeed.

Haters never want you to get the victory. Most haters are people who are supposed to be on our side.

How do you handle those undercover haters?

You can handle them by:

- Knowing who you are and who your true friends are ***(VERY**



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IMPORTANT!!)

2. Having a purpose to your life: Purpose does not mean having a job. You can have a job and still be unfulfilled. A purpose is having a clear sense of what God has called you to be. Your purpose is not defined by what others think about you.

3. By remembering what you have is by divine prerogative and not human manipulation. Fulfill your dreams! You only have one life to live. And when it's your time to leave this earth, you 'want to be able to say, 'I've lived my life and fulfilled my dreams, Now I'm ready to go HOME!'

When God gives you favor, you can tell your haters, 'Don't look at me but instead look at Who is in charge of me.

Let us all from hencefort each make a concerted effort to stop hating and start truly loving each other the same as we would want others to love us.

The Tools of The Tiger

A mother and a baby tiger are talking one day when the baby tiger asks, **"Mom why have I got these brown and black spots all over my body?"**

The mother replies, *"Well son, it's our disguise when we roam the jungle in search of food. It also keeps us safe from other bad animals who might want to harm us."*

"OK" said the son. A few minutes later the son asks, **"Mom, why do I these extra long teeth unlike the other animals?"**

"They are there so that we can catch and kill our food in the wild and so that we can defend ourselves against attacks" replied the mother."

"Thanks Mom" replies the baby tiger.

After a short while, the son returns and asks, **"Mom, why have I got these great big paws and long nails?"**

The mother, now a little impatient from all the questions replies, *"They are the tools we need for everyday survival in the jungle my son."*

"That's great Mom, so we have a disguise to hunt and to keep us safe, extra long teeth, huge paws and long nails all of which we need to survive in the jungle, But Mom",

"Yes son?"

"Why the heck are we in the Belize Zoo?"

VACANCY

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San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council

Municipal Traffic Department NOTICE

**The San Ignacio/Santa Elena
Town Council takes this opportunity
to inform the general public that
effective Monday, September 1, 2008
the Council has taken over
responsibility for the management
of the Municipal Traffic Department.**

**In this regards, the processing of
motor vehicle licenses, drivers'
licenses etc., for vehicle owners
residing within the limits of the twin
municipalities of San Ignacio and
Santa Elena, will be undertaken by
the Municipal Traffic Department.
The office is located on the ground
floor of the Town Hall in San Ignacio.**

**PLEASE BE ADDITIONALLY INFORMED THAT ALL
MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTIONS WILL BE DONE ON
SIMPSON STREET, NEXT TO THE COUNCIL'S STORE
ROOM IN SAN IGNACIO TOWN.
(behind St. Andrews' School).**

A Belizean Patriot Laid To Rest

Continued From Front Page

Senior Pastor. He was instrumental in expanding the Adventist faith.

He assisted in the construction of Adventist Churches as well as Adventist Primary and Secondary Schools in Santa Elena, Benque Viejo and Bullet Tree Falls.

His mission even extended across the western border into La Polvora and Libertad in neighboring Guatemala where he was instrumental in the construction of educational institutions.

It is therefore safe to conclude that Brother Victor August has dedicated his entire life to his family, his church and indeed the people of Belize.

He excelled in the church. He excelled in politics as is evident by the fact that he served two terms as the Mayor of his beloved twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena.

Victor fell ill several months ago but despite his illness he continued serving his family, his church and his party right up to the very end when the Lord called him home on Monday, September 15.

We pray for his family during these difficult times. We encourage them to continue the good works of this dearly departed brother who in every sense of the word was a true Belizean patriot.

Rest in peace Brother Victor August, we will all miss you.



Mayor Victor August, inspecting the BDF Guard of Honor

**Wishing All
our Customers
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an enjoyable
and safe
Independence
Day.**

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Galen University Plants 150 Mahogany Trees

Press Release from Galen University, Central Farm, Cayo September 9, 2008:

In September 2003, Galen University opened its doors to 14 students. Today, exactly 5 years later, the university boasts a student population of 300.

As part of its 5th Anniversary, Galen will be investing in the planting of 150 Mahogany trees on its land in Central Farm.

The event takes place on Thursday, September 18th, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. The activity is symbolic of Galen University's commitment to

Sustainable Development and an endowment for its future.

Mr. Marion Cayetano, coordinator of this special event, remarks, *"My hopes and expectations of this event are that it marks the beginning of an effort to plant trees and demonstrate our pledge to sustainable development."*

Faculty, staff, and students at Galen will be planting the trees as a symbol of their commitment to the long term development of the University.

This is just one of the many events Galen has planned to commemorate its 5th Anniversary.

**We invite you to bring out the family
and come Celebrate the 27th
Anniversary of our Nation's Independence
with us.
Happy Independence Day to one and all
From the Management & Staff of**



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Why Kenyan Women Crave Stones

By Anne Mawathe BBC News, Nairobi

Nancy Akoth is four months pregnant and like many women in her state has strange cravings.

Some women eat coal, gherkins or soap but Mrs Akoth craves soft stones, known in Kenya, where she lives, as “odowa”.

“I just have this urge to eat these stones. I do very crazy things, I would even wake up at night and go looking for them,” she told the BBC.

“I consulted my doctor and all he told me is that maybe I’m lacking iron and gave me medication on iron, but I still have the urge to eat those stones.”

Luckily for Mrs Akoth, she is not alone in craving stones and they are easily found on sale in Nairobi’s sprawling Gikomba market.

Among the fish-mongers and dealers in second-hand goods who flock to the market are traders who specialise in odowa.

Stone-seller Stephen Ndirangu unsurprisingly says women are his main customers.

“Most of them buy the stones to go and sell them to women who are pregnant,” Mr Ndirangu says. He says he sells one 90kg sack for about \$6.

Although they are stones, they are too soft to break the teeth of Mrs Akoth and her fellow cravers.

Nutritionist Alice Ndong says the stones have a bland taste.

“It’s a pleasant taste. It doesn’t have a tangy flavour or a salty or a sugary flavour. It’s a bit like eating flour,” she told the BBC.

She says that because of their abrasive nature, the stones actually clean the teeth as the stone is chewed and the finer particles pass through the mouth.

However, she warns this should not be used as an excuse to eat the stones as the habit can also have harmful consequences.

“If somebody eats those stones and they don’t take enough water, then they will actually get severe constipation... It can actually be very dangerous,” she says.

“It can actually cause things like kidney damage and liver damage, if you don’t take enough fluid because it will form a mass that cannot be excreted.”

“When you eat these stones, it’s like eating metal. The particles - because it’s not food - are not digested as finely as fruits or vegetables,” she says.

The phenomenon of craving non-food items like soil or soft stones is referred to as pica, a Latin word for magpie, the bird notorious for eating almost anything.

Researchers from the University of Nigeria interviewed 1,071 pregnant women attending a prenatal clinic at

the Pumwani Maternity Hospital in Nairobi.

At least 800 of those interviewed said they ate soil, stones and other non-food items during their pregnancy.

But it is not only those who are pregnant who indulge in this habit.

Sylvia Moi still finds the soft stones irresistible, 14 years after she gave birth.

“I cannot do without it... Walking without it makes me feel bad, as if I’m lacking something [or] I’m hungry,” Mrs Moi says.

She says she would like to quit the habit but just cannot stop herself.

“When you eat it you look awkward, people think: ‘What is it that you lack in you that makes you eat that awkward stone,’” she says.

Experts say that the craving to eat odowa is largely due to a deficiency of vital minerals, like calcium, in the body.

“Unfortunately, these stones

don’t offer a lot of calcium. They offer some other forms of minerals like magnesium but not much calcium,” says Mrs Ndong.

Research shows that these habits have negative side-effects on the women’s health, ranging from parasitic infestations, anaemia and intestinal complications

“The problem with these stones is sometimes they’re not hygienic. I remember up-country I’ve seen

people just go somewhere, dig up and maybe people urinate in that spot,” she says.

Experts warn pregnant women and others who enjoy eating odowa to try to ignore these cravings for the sake of their health.

The researchers say that the women are better off eating a balanced diet, than remaining hooked to the myth that their changing bodies need soft stones and soil.



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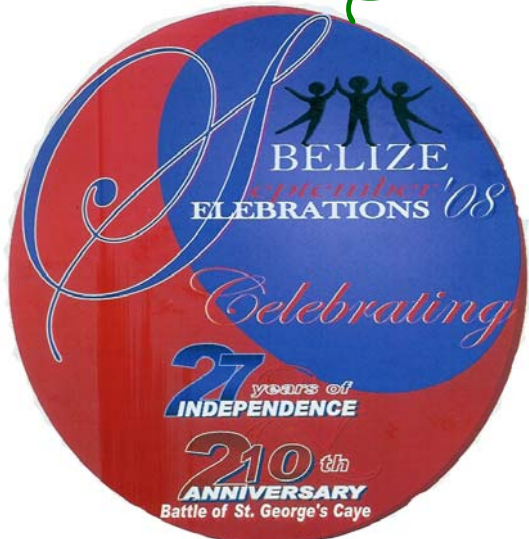
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*Also reminding you that our
ATM will remain in full
operation throughout the holiday*

**Happy
Independence Day
to one and all.**



Readers Write

The Bridge Is Now Properly Lighted

Dear Editor;

Whenever something goes wrong we must not be afraid to voice our concern and likewise whenever positive action is taken we must not hesitate to give credit where credit is due.

A few weeks ago the concern regarding the non-existence of lights on the Hawksworth bridge was publicly brought to the attention of the relevant authorities.

Within days of the publication of the concern the situation was rectified and now the bridge is properly lighted making it much safer to transit at night time.

I must congratulate the authorities for taking prompt action to fix this problem. I urge them to continue listening to and addressing the concerns of the people.

Thank you

Angel Chulin, San Ignacio.

Why Those Heavily Tinted Ministerial Vehicles?

Dear Editor;

Why do we see elected representatives riding around behind heavily tinted vehicle glass?

Why do they insist in hiding from the very people who voted them into office? Where is the transparency?

I strongly recommend that these elected politicians take example

from **Prime Minister Barrow** and the **Rt. Hon. Manuel Esquivel**. The windows of these two gentlemen's officially assigned vehicles are as transparent as they both promised to be.

I sincerely urge the others to follow the example of their leaders.

Richard Logan, Santa Elena, Cayo.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Pursuant to Decision 6(b) of the Final Decision issued by the PUC on June 26, 2008, in relation to the 2008 Annual Review Proceeding (ARP) for the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), the PUC hereby notifies the general public that a new Rate Setting Methodology (RSM) has been implemented effective September 1, 2008.

The new RSM is intended to provide for more timely collection of the costs paid by BEL for wholesale power and to encourage more efficient consumption of electricity by consumers.

The entire RSM will be posted on the PUC's website and made public in due course. Following are the general principles and a summary of the methodology of the new RSM:

General Principles of new RSM:

- a) The new RSM contains amendments for sections dealing solely with the cost of power component of the approved Mean Electricity Rate (MER). There are no amendments for the Value Added of Delivery (VAD), Rate Stabilization Account (RSA) Recovery and Corrections components of the MER, and these will remain fixed over the course of the current Annual Tariff Period (ATP), which runs from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009.
- b) The Social Rate tariffs approved in Decision 10 of the Final Decision will remain fixed over the ATP.
- c) The new RSM will seek to allow BEL to recover the full cost of power over the ATP, save for any excess costs that may occur in the final month of the ATP, which naturally has to be recovered in the subsequent ATP.
- d) The forecasts for electricity sales and cost of power that were employed during the 2008 ARP to set the MER are those that will apply during the current period of the ATP, being July 1, 2008, to December 31, 2008.

Summary of Methodology:

- a) BEL will provide the PUC with Forecast Sale of Power (FSP) and Forecast Cost of Power (FCP) over the ATP, to be updated/revised over the period as required by the PUC.
- b) Based on approved demand and supply forecasts, the PUC will set the Reference Price of Power (RPP - the cost of power component of the MER) on two occasions over an ATP, which should allow BEL to recover the full cost of power over the period. The RPP for the period July 1, 2008, to December 31, 2008, is \$0.312/KWh as set in the Final Decision. In December, a new RPP will be set by the PUC, which is to be applied over the period January 1, 2009, to June 30, 2009.
- c) Based on the Reference Price of Power, the Forecast Sale of Power and the Forecast Cost of Power, the PUC shall determine on a monthly basis, the expected variance in the costs BEL incurs for its supply and the amount collected from consumers for delivering such supply (Forecast Cost of Power Variance - FCPV).
- d) The monthly Forecast Cost of Power Variance will be credited or debited to a Forecast Cost of Power Variance Account (FCPVA), as the case may be. Any positive balance in the FCPVA will indicate expected amounts owing to BEL while any negative balance will indicate expected amounts owing to consumers.
- e) On or about the tenth day of each month in the ATP, starting with the second month, BEL will provide the PUC with actual figures for Actual Sale of Power (ASP) and Actual Cost of Power (ACP) for the previous month.
- f) Based on the Reference Price of Power, the Actual Sale of Power and the Actual Cost of Power, the PUC will determine on a monthly basis, the actual variance in the costs BEL incurs for its supply and the amount collected from consumers for delivering such supply (Actual Cost of Power Variance - ACPV).
- g) The monthly Actual Cost of Power Variance will be credited or debited to an Actual Cost of Power Variance Account (ACPVA), as the case may be. Any positive balance in the ACPVA will indicate amounts owing to BEL while any negative balance will indicate amounts owing to consumers.
- h) On a monthly basis, the PUC will compare the forecast balance in the Forecast Cost of Power Variance Account with the actual balance in the Actual Cost of Power Variance Account, and determine if there is any need to apply a recovery rate (Cost of Power Recovery – CPR) to consumers' bills, based on the following criteria:
 - i) Where the actual balance is fairly equal to the forecast balance, there will be no need to apply any Cost of Power Recovery, subject to vi) below.

(Please Turn To Page 17)

(Continued from Page 16)

- ii) Where the actual balance is lower than the forecast balance, it will be the discretion of the PUC whether to apply a Cost of Power Recovery.
 - iii) Where the actual balance exceeds the forecast balance by 10% or more, there will be an automatic Cost of Power Recovery applied to consumers' bills to recover the excess above the forecast balance. Where the excess is less than 10%, it shall be the discretion of the PUC whether to apply an immediate Cost of Power Recovery.
 - iv) Any excess costs or payments to be addressed by the Cost of Power Recovery will be immediately subtracted from the actual balance, and distributed amongst the various classes of consumers according to the cost allocation formula applied to the Tariff Basket Revenue (TBR) contained in Decision 6(a) of the Final Decision.
 - v) The excess costs or payments allocated to each class of consumers will be shared amongst individual consumers based on actual consumption registered during the period of the ATP that applies to the excess costs or payments, and the appropriate amount will be posted directly to the consumer's bill as a credit to the consumer or as a receivable for BEL.
 - vi) Where the PUC is satisfied that some imminent event may materially affect the Forecast Cost of Power or the Forecast Sale of Power, it may apply a forward-looking Cost of Power Recovery to mitigate the expected effect of such an event.
- i) On or about the fifteenth day of each month, the PUC will make a determination whether any Cost of Power Recovery will be applied to consumers' bills, and will issue a Public Notice to notify consumers and stakeholders of the total amount to be recovered from or rebated to consumers. The new Reference Price of Power for the period January 1, 2009, to June 30, 2009, will be published on or about December 15, 2008.

The new RSM has been applied in September, 2008, and BEL has provided the Actual Cost of Power and Actual Sale of Power for the months of July and August, 2008. The result of applying the new RSM is presented below in the format that will be employed for future public notices.

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Notice

Determination of Cost of Power Recovery for October, 2008

Mean Electricity Rate (MER) - July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008:

Value Added of Delivery (VAD):	\$0.135
Rate Stabilization Account (RSA) Recovery:	\$0.080
Corrections:	-\$0.086
Reference Price of Power (RPP):	<u>\$0.312</u>
MER:	\$0.441

Forecast Cost of Power Variance Account Balance - \$'000:

Month:	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Forecast Cost of Power (FCP):	12,545	12,181	10,223	10,423	9,125	8,870
Forecast Sale of Power (FSP):	10,961	11,009	11,198	10,658	10,316	9,921
Forecast Cost of Power Variance (FCPV):	1,584	1,172	-975	-236	-1,191	-1,051
Forecast Cost of Power Variance Account (FCPVA) balance:	1,584	2,756	1,781	1,545	354	-697

Actual Cost of Power Variance Account Balance - \$'000:

Month:	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Actual Cost of Power (ACP):	12,664	10,635				
Actual Sale of Power (ASP):	11,101	11,724				
Actual Cost of Power Variance (ACPV):	1,563	-1,089				
Actual Cost of Power Variance Account (ACPVA) balance:	1,563	474				

Conclusions and Determination:

The balance in the ACPVA is (\$2,756,000 - \$474,000 =) \$2,282,000 lower than that for the FCPVA for August, 2008.

There is no indication of any imminent event likely to occur during the current period to reverse the current trend of actual energy costs being lower than forecast energy costs.

There will be no Cost of Power Recovery (CPR) rate applied for the month of October, 2008.

The approved tariffs contained in the Final Decision of June 26, 2008, continues to apply.

Issued September 16, 2008, by the Public Utilities Commission

Your Horoscope, Lucky Day & Number



ARIES

March 21 - April 20

It's not a week to ignore what is occurring around you. Notice when things are happening, keep track of what is going on and be ready to show your interest in matters that could be beneficial to you. Lucky day: Wednesday Lucky Number: 14



CANCER

June 22 - July 22

Someone from the past will contact you with some interesting news. You feel inspired to make changes that are necessary in order to bring more excitement into your life. Fortunate on: Sunday Lucky Number: 23



LIBRA

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Instead of going along with other people's suggestions, use your imagination to mould and form ideas to make them uniquely yours. You could be signing an immensely profitable contract. Good day for luck: Monday Lucky Number: 6



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Even if an opportunity offered doesn't seem to be bursting with potential, take another look and you will see there's room for improvement. It's all a question of how you perceive new possibilities. Fortunate on: Tuesday Lucky Number: 10



TAURUS

April 21 - May 21

There should be a good balance between work and leisure. Share your dreams with a loved one. Some friendly advice will help you in a positive way. Good fortune forecast on: Monday Lucky Number: 7



LEO

July 23 - August 23

If things aren't turning out as you anticipated, take control of the situation while there is still a chance to make changes. Don't let circumstances restrain you. Good fortune forecast on: Saturday Lucky Number: 30



SCORPIO

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Rather than waiting for luck to come to you see what you can do to make good things happen. You could be surprised at other people's reactions; someone you least expected will invite themselves to help you. Expect luck on: Wednesday Lucky Number: 8



AQUARIUS

Jan. 21 - Feb. 18

You get that weird feeling that something wonderful is in the air. Someone you bump into will have a big impact; you will instinctively know you're going to form a close and special relationship. Lucky day: Sunday Lucky Number: 5



GEMINI

May 22 - June 21

Words alone will not persuade a loved one you mean what you say; you must prove you will keep promises through your actions. A good week to try your luck, gambling. Expect luck on: Tuesday Lucky Number: 18



VIRGO

August 24 - Sept. 22

If there's a temptation between a risky venture and a not so risky one, you're more likely to go for the safe option. When you're faced with a decision it won't take you long to make up your mind. Lucky day: Thursday Lucky Number: 12



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 23 - Dec 21

Opportunity doesn't knock often; for this reason be ready to seriously consider offers that now come your way. If this means making changes, it will be worth your while. Good fortune forecast on: Friday Lucky Number: 21

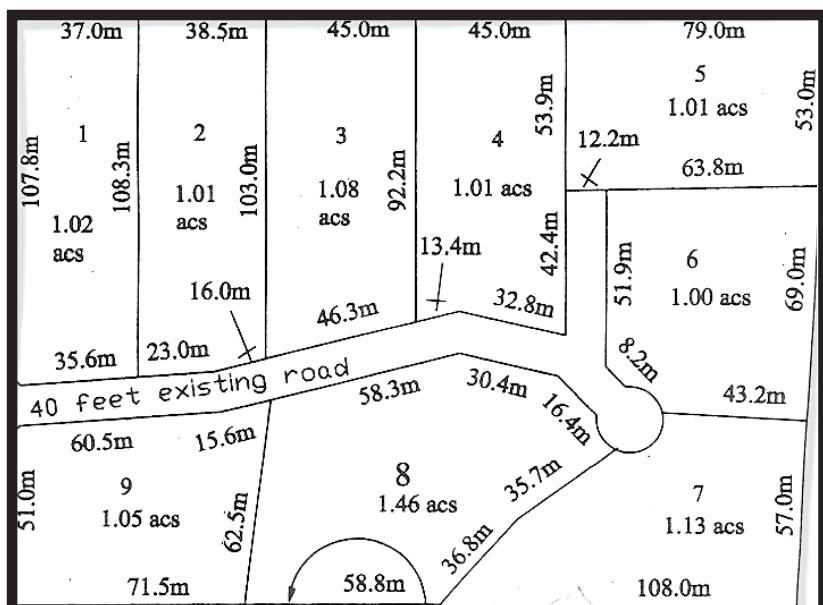


PISCES

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

You are ready to take steps to bring improvements into your life. Doing something to help yourself will release inner worries and tensions and improve your health. Lucky day: Thursday Lucky Number: 11

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Wearing Miniskirts Is Like Walking Naked In The Streets

Uganda seeking miniskirt ban
Uganda's Ethics and Integrity Minister says miniskirts should be banned - because women wearing them distract drivers and cause traffic accidents.

Ethics and Integrity Minister Nsaba Buturo told journalists in Kampala that *wearing a miniskirt was like walking naked in the streets.*

"What's wrong with a miniskirt? You can cause an accident because some of our people are weak mentally," he said.

The BBC's Joshua Mmali in Kampala, the capital, said journalists found the minister's comments extremely funny.

Wearing a miniskirt should be regarded as *"indecent"*, which would be punishable under Ugandan law, Mr Buturo said.

And he railed against the dangers facing those inadvertently distracted



by short skirts.

"If you find a naked person you begin to concentrate on the make-up of that person and yet you are driving," he said.

"These days you hardly know who is a mother from a daughter, they are all naked."

According to the minister, indecent dressing is just one of many vices

facing Ugandan society.

"Theft and embezzlement of public funds, sub-standard service delivery, greed, infidelity, prostitution, homosexuality [and] sectarianism..." he said.

Earlier this year, Kampala's Makerere University decided to impose a dress code for women at the institution, our reporter says.

The miniskirt and tight trousers ban has yet to be implemented, but

our correspondent sought the opinions of women on campus about the minister's opinions.

"If one wants to wear a miniskirt, it's ok. If another wants to put on a long skirt, then that's ok," one woman said.

But others had more sympathy with Mr Buturo.

"I think skimpy things are not good. We are keeping the dignity of Africa as ladies and we have to cover ourselves up," one woman, called Sharon, told the BBC.

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 **YESMIN LIZETH VILLALOBO** is applying for a **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **KALLUAS BAR** located at #8 Hudson Street, 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 **DOMINGA PEREZ** is applying for a **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **D&R HILLVIEW RESTAURANT** 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 **NELSON GONZALEZ** is applying for a **NIGHT CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **COCOPELE** located on Hudson Street, 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 **COLLEEN & ALLAN SPRING** are applying for a **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2008 to operate **TABLE ROCK RESTAURANT** located in the village of Cristo Rey in the Cayo District.

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GARBAGE DISPOSAL IN THE TWIN TOWNS OF SAN IGNACIO AND SANTA ELENA

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, September 15, 2008:

The San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council take this opportunity to inform the general public that beginning this week, the Council has assumed full responsibility for the collection and disposal of residential and commercial waste.

Until recently, Cox Solid Waste Management was performing this function under an eight-year contract signed in 2002 and expiring in December 2010. However, the current Council has always maintained the view that apart from being overpriced and bloated, the service provided was poor. Consequently, both parties arrived at an amicable agreement resulting in the Council taking over full responsibility for providing this vital service.

In light of this new undertaking, the Council is seeking your kind cooperation and patience as it fine tunes the operations for the timely, organized and effective performance of this service.

Please be informed that the Council will soon have a fleet of trucks and other machinery that will allow for the scheduled systematic and orderly collection and disposal of garbage within the twin towns.

During this initial stage, the Council is experimenting with several collection schedules in an effort to come up with one that will best serve all the people of San Ignacio and Santa Elena.

The Council again requests your cooperation, patience and understanding as it undertakes to iron out all kinks in the system which ultimately should result in the delivery of a service that is more cost effective, healthy and safe for all of us.

Your San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council

“Working together for a Healthy, Safe and Prosperous Municipality”