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STAR

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

No. 208

Sunday, December 6 , 2009

Price \$1.00

ACCUSED CON ARTIST ARRESTED

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Friday, December 4, 2009:

He stands accused of deceiving people from Ladyville, Belmopan and San Ignacio Town.

He has been brought before the court in Belize City,

Belmopan and this week in San Ignacio. He has been identified as **Artemio Virgilio Acosta**, 32, Belizean, businessman. He told the police that he resides on Neal's Pen Road in Belize City.

He professes to be a T-shirt/

Please Turn To Page 15

Governor General Visits St. Andrew's Anglican School

ST. ANDREW'S ANGLICAN SCHOOL, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District, Wednesday, December 2, 2009:

Bearing gifts of musical instruments, the Governor General of Belize, **Sir. Colville Young**, this morning visited St. Andrew's Anglican Primary School in San Ignacio Town, Cayo.

Students and staff gathered on the school compound for the Governor General's one hour visit.

He arrived to a cheering crowd at 10:30 a.m. signalling the commencement of the short and compact program which including an opening prayer by Vice Principal **Alma Quiroz**, the playing of the national anthem on keyboard by **Karina Lemus**, a standard V student while the

Please Turn To Page 15



Addressing Students, the Governor General of Belize, Sir. Colville Young



The Accused Con Artist, Artemio Virgilio Acosta, 32

Man Loses Arm In \$15 Debt Dispute

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Thursday, December 3, 2009:

One man is today recuperating from a severed left arm resulting from a chopping incident that occurred shortly before midnight on Friday, November 29, in the village of Buena Vista, Cayo.

San Ignacio police reports that acting upon information

received, they arrived in the village during the first few minutes of Saturday, November 28, where they received report of a chopping incident. By the time the police arrived the victim, along with the chopped off left hand was already transported to the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan.

Please Turn To Page 15

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Making Life A Little More Pleasant For Senior Citizens

Life is an ever changing and dynamic cycle. It requires constant evaluation geared towards making the inevitable passage a pleasant experience for all.

It is in this light that we applaud the authorities for providing that much needed social assistance to senior citizens by way a monthly allowance through the Belize Social Security Board.

Regardless of the small financial assistance, the evidence of its worthiness is manifested at the beginning of each month as those benefiting from the program make the pilgrimage to Social Security offices countrywide.

The anticipation to collect the allowance is further evident as in the Santa Elena, San Ignacio and surrounding communities scenario, these senior citizens brave the elements as they stand in line on the Social Security compound in Santa Elena Town for at least an hour before the office opens at 8:00 am.

Instituting the program is a good gesture. However, we believe that the time has now come for the program to be evaluated with a view towards making this life experience just a bit more pleasant for senior citizens and in the process making it more manageable for Social Security both in terms of its material as well as its human resources.

The human brain is into rocket science. We are in that era where humankind has ventured into outer space, exploring the mass expanses of the universe and in the process placing man, and other living organisms, on the moon.

The human brain has created laser guided missiles and unmanned, remote controlled, bomb carrying aerial vehicles of war.

The human brain is rapidly closing the digital divide and has ventured into the era of instant communication busting speed limits on the information superhighway.

In a nutshell, the sky is hardly the limit for the capacity of the human brain.

With all these advances in technology and the seemingly unlimited capacity of the human brain, why is it we ask that, in these modern times, senior citizens are required to make that monthly pilgrimage to Social Security offices to access the little social assistance.

The time has come to upgrade the system. The upgrade hardly requires the mental capacity of a Rocket Scientist. In this undertaking we offer the following suggestions.

1. Facilitate the opening of bank accounts for those senior citizens who do not yet have one.

2. Dispatch one cheque to the various banks where these accounts are held. This will certainly eliminate the need to make hundreds of individual cheques and should ease the monthly congestion at Social Security offices countrywide. It will likewise eliminate the need for senior citizens to make one stop at the Social Security office and another at the bank as in many cases, because of mobility challenges and the distance from Social Security offices, many of these citizens must pay bus and taxi fares out of the already small allowance.

3. Safeguard social security funds by legislating harsh penalties for anyone who, by deception, redeems Social Security cheques assigned to deceased senior citizens. Legislations already exists for the imposition of three times the value for the evasion of custom duties why not the same, or even harsher penalties, for those convicted of infringing on the process of making this life experience more pleasant for senior citizens.

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The Belize Karate Federation, Reaching Out To Those With Different Abilities

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Wednesday, December 2, 2009:

The Belize Karate Federation (BKF) in conjunction with the Community Agency for Rehabilitation and Education for People with Disabilities in Belize (CARE) is launching the “Karate for Disabled Youths” Program in the Belize, Cayo and Stann Creek Districts.

The objective of this program is to:

1) To provide opportunities

for individuals with disabilities to develop independence, confidence and fitness through participation in the sport of karate.

2) To support the vertical integration of disabled athletes into the Belize Karate Federation on an equal basis.

3) To acknowledge the UNESCO Charter of Physical Education and Sports, which refers to the right of access of every human being to sports, which is essential for full development of physical, intellectual and moral powers.

For information and registration please contact:

1) **Sensei Herman Pastor Jr.**
 Cayo Shotokan Karate Club - Cell Phone # 678-1158

2) **Sensei David Diego** Cayo Shotokan Karate Club- Belmopan City- Cell Phone # 624-0390

4) **Sensei Frank McKenzie**, Belize City Center Dojo, Belize City- Cell Phone # 602-1391

5) **Yasmini Guerra**, Rehabilitation Field Officer, Cayo District, Community Agency for Rehabilitation and Education for People with Disabilities in Belize (CARE) Cell Phone- 623-7035

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Early Friday Morning Fire At Bishop Martin Primary School

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Friday, December 4, 2009:

It was at around 2:40 am this Friday morning when, a team of policeman for the San Ignacio station were on vehicle patrol on

Bullet Tree Road, San Ignacio Town when they observed black smoke coming from the Bishop Martin R.C. Primary School building.

The team rushed to the area where they discovered that a

large portion of the building was already taken over by flames.

The San Ignacio Fire Department responded promptly to the call for assistance.

The building measuring about 80ft by 20ft with zinc structure

material was completely destroyed. Total value of the building and its contents is yet to be determined as police investigation continues.

In the meantime members of the San Ignacio Fire Service are conducting a forensic examination in an effort to determine the origin of the fire.



DIRECTOR OF TOURISM BELIZE TOURISM BOARD

Terms of Reference:

OBJECTIVES (S)

The Belize Tourism Board is seeking a strategic and creative partner in marketing the Belize Tourism product, developing tourism initiatives and programs, and implementing tourism policies, to address the changing needs of visitors and stakeholders in a challenging economic climate.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POSITION

- › The Director of Tourism reports directly to the Board of Directors;
- › Under the direction of the Chairman of the BTB Board of Directors, the Director of Tourism enables the Board to fulfill its governance function and facilitate the optimum interaction between management and the Board;
- › The Director of Tourism, in consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture acts as primary liaison with various governmental entities and community organizations;
- › The Director of Tourism keeps the Board fully informed on the affairs of the BTB and all important factors;
- › The Director of Tourism under the direction of the Chair of the Board of Directors ensures effective and efficient board sub-committee structure;
- › The Director of Tourism under the direction of the Board of Directors hires and administers an effective management team with provisions for succession;
- › He/She leads the implementation of appropriate personnel training and development that ensures qualified human resources necessary for the achievement of the organization's mission, goals and objectives;
- › He/She serves as the primary spokesperson for the Belize Tourism Board and ensures proper representation to its various constituencies;
- › He/She, under the direction of the Board of Directors, formulates and directs the plans for achieving the BTB philosophy, mission, strategy, annual goals and objectives;
- › He/She ensures the implementation and supervision of all BTB programs;
- › He/She evaluates program effectiveness and recommends policy improvements to the Board;
- › He/She oversees employment of BTB Staff as stipulated within guidelines/policies set by the Board, and maintains a climate that attracts and keeps motivated top quality employees;
- › The Director of Tourism along with the Director of Finance takes responsibility for transparent and accountable management of the resources of the BTB.
- › The Director of Tourism in conjunction with the Director of Finance formulates budgets, maintains an accounting system that meets all ethical, legal and international standards;
- › The Director of Tourism in collaboration with the Director of Finance oversees the flow of funds to ensure steady progress toward goals, achievements of the mission of the Board to ensure proper allocation reflects present and future potential;
- › The Director of Tourism in conjunction with the Director of Finance prepares and submits regular budget and expenditure reports to the Board;
- › The Director of Tourism in collaboration with the Director of Finance establishes and maintains an efficient personnel records system;
- › The Director of Tourism performs other duties as directed by the BTB Board of Directors.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for the post of Director of Tourism shall hold a Master's Degree in Tourism Management, Economics, Business Administration, or related field. In lieu of a Master's Degree, applicants that possess the Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in areas relevant to Tourism and/or at least five years demonstrated experience in management or tourism related work experience will be considered. Applicants must exhibit qualities of leadership, public relations, and the ability to effectively manage a diverse organization, and must exhibit a high proficiency in speaking and writing in English. Fluency in Spanish is an asset.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications with resume and two letters of recommendation should be submitted no later than Monday, December 14th, 2009 to:

Chairman
Board of Directors
Belize Tourism Board
P.O. Box 325
Belize City, Belize

Re: Director of Tourism

Safe Potable Water Supply Comes To Trio Village

BY: Mike Hernandez Jr. J.P.,
Director Public Relations,
Social Investment Fund

TRIO VILLAGE, Toledo District, Wednesday, December 2, 2009:

A project providing safe and clean potable water to over 850 residents in 170 households in the Southern Village of Trio, Toledo District was today officially inaugurated.

The project was implemented by the Social Investment Fund, a statutory body under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Development.

The total cost of the project was \$388,000. Of this amount, the European Union provided \$291,000, and the remaining \$97,000. in counterpart funding was provided by the Government of Belize.

The project is part of an Euros 732,916 (Bz \$1.9 Million) funded agreement between the European Union and the Government of Belize to construct new water systems in the villages of San Pablo, Trio, Bladen and San Isidro in the Toledo District as part of the E.U.'s Banana Belt Clean Water Project.

These villages are considered poor communities along the



Hon. Edén Martínez,
Area Representative and Minister of Human Development and Social Transformation, delivering the main address

banana belt that constantly experience critical shortages of safe drinking water.

This situation has continuously posed health hazards in the respective villages by water borne illnesses due to contamination.

The project, therefore, aims to provide universal access to safe potable water for the four communities and in the process eliminating health hazards posed by current water sources.

Upon completion of the four water systems, over 2,035 persons in 420 households will benefit from a supply of quality potable water.

The project scope in Trio Village included the construction of a ground level 20,000 gallon water tank at the highest point in the village, a pump house and chlorinator and a network of distribution pipes. A generator was also provided to supply the system with electricity.

Trio village is located 3 miles off the Southern Highway in the Toledo District.

Prior to the construction of the new system, the villagers relied on a nearby creek for their water supply.

The new water system will serve to improve the living and health conditions of the villagers, especially the children, who previously were primarily responsible for collecting the water from the creek for their individual household needs. With the elimination of this responsibility, these children will now have more time to study, recreate and become engaged in other productive activities.

The keynote speaker at the official inauguration of the project was the **Hon. Gabriel Martínez**, Minister of labor, Local Government and Rural Development.

Other main speakers included the **Hon. Edén Martínez**, Minister of Human Development and Social Transformation and Area Representative for Toledo East; **Mr. Cosimo Lamberti-Fossati**, E.U. Program Officer for Belize, who is currently visiting the country; **Mr. Ian Mcmillan**, Executive Director of the Social Investment Fund as well as representatives of the National Authorising Office (NAO), Officials from the Trio Village Council and Water Board among others.



Hon. Edén Martínez, officially commissioning the new water system in Trio Village, Toledo District




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Important Notice from the Management and Staff of Social Security Board



Pensioners and Beneficiaries:

You are hereby reminded of the following:

- ◆ Pensioner's Declaration Form (P6) for Contributory and Non-Contributory pensions are due in **June and December yearly.**

The form is available at any of the Social Security Branch Offices and Sub Offices countrywide.

- ◆ Proof of education for Beneficiaries of Survivors and Death Benefits are due yearly in the following months:
 - **January and September** for minors 16 years and over attending Sixth Form & University;
 - **September** for minors 16 years and over attending High School.

It is important that you comply with the above responsibility to ensure that you receive your monthly pension payments on time.

If you have any queries, feel free to call your nearest Social Security Office.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

REPORTS ON ITS ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2009



Nurse Jane Avila and Nurse Elizabeth Blanco were honoured at this year's ceremony

December 1st is celebrated as World AIDS Day. In Belize, December 1st is also designated as the National Day for HIV testing. As part of the activities to observe this day, a joint ceremony was held between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health at the Radisson Fort George Hotel, Belize City.

The highlight of this year's events was an award ceremony to honor two retiring psychiatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) who have been intricately involved in HIV testing and counseling. **Nurse Elizabeth Blanco** currently working at the Corozal Community Hospital and **Nurse Jane Avila** attached to the Punta Gorda Community Hospital were honored for their active involvement in providing VCT services to their communities



Thummalapally.

A special address was given by **Hon. Patrick Faber**, Minister of Education and the keynote address was given by **Hon. Pablo Marin**, Minister of Health. Both ministers stressed the importance of one National Response and the commitment this current administration has in this response.

To launch the National Day for HIV testing, Ministers Faber and Marin got their HIV test done on site and so did US Ambassador to Belize, Mr. Thummalapally.

Forty one total tests were done on

site at the hotel and a further 106 tests were done in Belize City at the NICH Parking lot. Multiple sites were also set up across the country and the activities will continue in this regard until mid-December.



Hon. Pablo Marin did his HIV test on National Testing Day

FRIEND PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Health, under the direction of the Minister of Health, **Hon. Pablo Marin** and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the National Sports Council, initiated a pilot programme entitled FRIEND-*"Focusing Resources in Education and Nutrition Development"* to encourage and promote Healthy Lifestyles in primary schools.

The programme is a skill based approach to health and nutrition education which will focus on the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to make and carry out positive health decisions through nutrition education and physical education.

FRIEND's target group is primary school children. Nine Standard 4 classes in Corozal Town are participating in the pilot project. The programme was launched six weeks ago and is proving to be a success based on the participation and reception by students, teachers and parents.

Objectives of the programme include:

- To improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviour that are directly related to health living. To lay a foundation for lifelong health eating based on acquiring skills and knowledge.

- To improve nutritional status and reduce the likelihood of children developing chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension.

- To emphasize the importance of physical activity and promote increased physical activity in children which can lead to lifelong practices.

- To increase public awareness and encourage health living practices.

Activities already executed include

RECEIVING GRANT FROM THE WORLD BANK

The Ministry of Health, Government of Belize will be receiving a grant from the World Bank valued at US\$501,744.00. This short-term grant will be used to strengthen the Government's ability to detect and respond to potential H1N1 Influenza Epidemic. Grant funds will be used to train health providers, establish diagnostic laboratories at air and sea ports, purchase and distribute protection equipment such as masks and gloves, maintain and expand a public information campaign, and strengthen the diagnostic capacity of the National Public Health Medical Laboratory Building.

The Ministry of Health, Government of Belize is receiving the grant based on its response to the H1N1 pandemic. Prior to the H1N1 pandemic, the Ministry of Health had



Hon. Pablo Marin at the sports meet for the FRIEND Programme

assessment of the children participating, establishing a healthy corner for students in the classroom and sports meet.

The Teacher Wellness/Weight Loss Challenge is another aspect of the FRIEND Program which focuses on the teachers developing good nutrition and incorporating wellness into their lifestyles.

A total of 25 teachers from the nine town schools in Corozal participating in this initiative.

During the second week of October all of these teachers were weighed, BMI taken, Diabetic check, blood pressure check. They received nutrition counseling sessions and they have gym and aerobic classes being provided to them.

Wednesday Nov 18th marked one month after their first assessment. They were weighed and evaluated for a comparison to their previous measurement.

The FRIEND pilot programme in the Corozal District will conclude on December 18 at the close of the first term for the students.

been collaborating closely with PAHO and other stakeholders to produce its influenza pandemic preparedness plan. Furthermore, consideration was given to the support given by the Government to the Ministry of Health by providing emergency funds to effect mitigating measures against H1N1.

The Minister of Health, **Hon. Pablo Marin** and Chief Executive Officer, **Dr. Peter Allen** will be signing the agreement with the World Bank shortly.



NORTHERN REGION - COROZAL-ORANGE WALK

World Health Day Activities for the Northern Health Region

Nov. 26th, 2009 - Workshop with the Psychiatric Consumers's Group and Drug Rehabilitation Group on HIV stigma and discrimination

Nov. 27th, 2009 workshop with support group on HIV and nutrition

Nov. 28th, 2009 - Workshop with teachers and parents from trinidad on HIV and STI's

Nov. 30th, 2009 - Workshop with barbers and hair dressers on HIV & AIDS

Dec. 1st, 2009 - World AIDS Day Health Fair at Queen Victoria Park

- General Distribution of health information

- Condom Demonstration and distribution.

Western Health Region, Ministry of Health/ Belmopan City Council Clean-up Campaign 2009

Purpose: To break the transmission of Dengue in the communities of Salvapan, San Martin, Maya Mopan and Las Flores through a clean-up campaign, thereby significantly reducing the number of mosquito breeding sites and Dengue in these communities.

Objectives: To prevent the transmission of Dengue through environmental activities.

Community Participation—Environment Health Workers/Public Health Inspectors have been deployed in the designated areas informing and educating residents about the clean-up campaign. Each household or family will assist in the cleaning of their surroundings.

Collection of containers—Refuse must be set out by the residents to allow quick and easy flow for the



truck to pick up the garbage in the area.

Note. The clean-up campaign will be carried out in three consecutive weekends.

1) 28th, November 2009 - Las Flores.

2) 5th December, 2009 – Salvapan &

3) 6th December, 2009 – Maya Mopan
12th December, 2009 – San Martin

All residents in these areas are asked to actively participate in the clean-up campaign to make it a success.

RECENT TRAINING - Western Health Region

- Evaluation of Vital Sign Skills for Nurses Aide and Auxiliary Nurses

- Public Relations training for all staff

- Standards/Protocols-Maternal and Neonatal Tools for Maternity Ward Nurses

- Public Service Regulation – Procedures – for all Nurses

Your Horoscope & Lucky Numbers

ARIES: March 22 to April 20



This week sees you trying to balance the pull of two contrasting forces. You will be keen on giving a release to your creativity, as new ideas find their way at work. The other pull is from spiritual pursuits. Blend in sensitivity and practical wisdom in relationships to maintain harmony. **Lucky Numbers: 09, 34, 68.**

TAURUS: April 21 to May 21



It is a time for caution, especially in case of business deals. You need to be clear in your communication. In case things do not work out in your favour, do not get desperate and give in. Also you will need to make sure that you do not bend your principles to get things done. **Lucky Numbers : 6, 22, 81.**

GEMINI: May 22 to June 21



You will will train your guns on few work related targets. These will feature high on your mind and include establishing connections with influential people. Take logical routes in thinking about serious issues. Keep emotions, and anxiety out at all costs. **Lucky Numbers: 05, 17, 94.**

CANCER: June 22 to July 23



People around you will expect you to render help in every way. You could feel as if you have to cope with too many demands and difficult people. What sustains you in this phase is warmth from loved ones. Take care to get adequate rest or the stress will affect you. **Lucky Numbers: 02, 48, 53.**

LEO: July 24 to August 21



You may find yourself hurting. Even if you find that someone has been dishonest with you, do not respond with extreme emotion, rather look at the situation as a third person would and then work out a solution. Be cautious about expenses and try to curtail all unnecessary ones. **Lucky Numbers: 01, 50, 75.**

VIRGO: August 22 to September 21



You desire to make personal breakthroughs and this is a good time. You find courage within you, to make some radical moves. There could be some reliable personality aiding you. However, there could also be sudden changes in a way that you take on a completely new route to achieve your ends. Nothing happens overnight though. **Lucky Numbers: 04, 23, 71.**

LIBRA: September 22 to October 23



It will be a favourable time for you, provided you use your intelligence to alter your approach based on the situation. Adjust to win is the mantra for the week. Good company is what you will be seeking after a long spell of solitude. **Lucky Numbers: 07, 36, 79.**

SCORPIO: October 24 to November 21



New and unusual events are likely to take place. Make sure that you do not make promises in haste, especially if it is about money or your emotional involvement. You may be on the edge about a particular family situation. Maintain a safe level of detachment. Towards mid week you may feel that you have found the key to what will work for you. **Lucky Numbers: 14, 42, 88.**

SAGITTARIUS:

November 22 to December 21



You could be undertaking a responsibility in an altogether new line of work. Although at this time you can get adventurous with professional aspects, you should steer clear of any emotional involvement in personal life, no matter how enticing it appears. **Lucky Numbers: 03, 20, 96.**

CAPRICORN: December 22 to January 20



You are committed to leaving no stone unturned to make your work life successful. People who are close to you personally may behave erratically and this may leave you quite confused. It will be best to give them space at the moment. Also, romance may be a roller coaster ride. **Lucky Numbers: 25, 51, 98.**

AQUARIUS: January 21 to February 19



Tread wisely with your money. Do not get into any deal on an impulse. You may want to do a lot for your loved ones, but you have to see the ground realities and your existing commitments before making any promises. Health may take a beating. **Lucky Numbers: 11, 27, 84.**

PISCES: February 20 to March 21



There will be little irritants lining the path to your goal. Try to keep them from pulling you down. Your own temperament may be detrimental to your interests as pessimism threatens to overshadow all the hard work that you have put in. You will have to keep yourself motivated. Keep the company of people who brighten up your mood. **Lucky Numbers: 16, 67, 73.**

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Making A Difference In The Community

UNITEDVILLE VILLAGE, Cayo District, Monday, November 30, 2009:

San Ignacio resident **Hart Gillett Sr.** today donated three volleyballs and a volleyball net to St. Vincent Pallotti RC School in Unitedville, Cayo.

The humanitarian gesture came about when three days earlier Gillett was passing the school and he saw the children knocking a volley ball across a make-shift net made of police **“Yellow Caution Tape”**. In an instant he decided to make a difference in the lives these children.

He arrived at the school at around 3:30pm on Monday

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **TARCISIO COC** is applying for the renewal of his **MALT & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2010 to operate **COOL SPOT BAR** located in San Antonio Village in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **JORGE GUERRA** is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2010 to operate **PICCADILLY BAR** located #35 Churchill Street, Benque Viejo Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ZI CHAO LIANG** is applying for the renewal of his **RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2010 to operate **ALWIN'S RESTAURANT** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town n the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **MARIA MENDEZ** is applying for the renewal of her **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2010 to operate **ROOF TOP** located at #35 Wyatt Street, Benque Viejo Town in the Cayo District.

CHRISTMAS

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In the company of students, Hart Gillett (back center) along with Principal Gilbert Cocom on his left

afternoon where he handed over the donation to the school’s Principal, **Mr. Gilbert Cocom**.

In accepting the donation Principal Cocom expressed

both surprise and appreciation for the gift.

In commenting on the goodwill gesture, Hart Gillett said **“I drove by the school on Friday**

when I noticed a yellow caution tape stretched between two posts being used as a volleyball net. It really touched my heart to see this, so I decided that instead of receiving for my birthday on November 28, I should give. I am sure this donation will benefit the school in many ways and it will provide better incentives to keep students off the street and out of trouble by playing a healthy and safe sport”.

Principal Cocom said that the donation was a blessing for all the students and teachers. He is very thankful for the kind gesture. The students surrounded both the principal and the donor with joy and gratitude on their young faces and went straight off to play the game with their new balls and net.

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You Are An Engineer

You might not have an actual Diploma but you are an Engineer if:

1. At Christmas, it goes without saying that you will be the one to find the burnt-out bulb in the string of lights.

2. In college you thought Spring Break was a metal fatigue failure.

3. The clerk at the electronics store can't answer any of your questions.

4. You have ever saved the power cord from a broken

appliance.

5. You have used coat hangers and duct tape for something other than hanging coats and taping ducts.

6. You see a good design and still have to change it.

7. You spend hours repairing your child's \$3 broken toy.

8. Your laptop computer costs more than your car.

9. You've already calculated how much you make per second.

10. You've tried to repair a \$5 radio.

Waiting In The Bank

Here are the reasons I'd like to thank the bank for having 6 teller slots and only 2 open at any

given time:

1. I can re-read all the text messages on my cell phone.

2. I can be one of those annoying cell phone users and catch up on all my phone calls to my mother-in-law, and Auntie Anne and other persons that will make me look important in the line.

3. I can catch a quick nap rather than falling asleep on the drive home.

4. I can finally apply my top coat of nail polish with plenty of drying time.

5. I can gaze at the other species in front and behind me in the line.

6. I can clean out my sling bag of all the unwanted garbage like chewing gum wrappers and old shopping receipts.

7. I can buy the frozen chicken across the street before entering the bank and it will be defrosted in time to prepare lunch for the children and I don't have to pour hot water on it when I get home.

8. I can count along with the two available tellers as they give people their money.

9. I might just be present inside the bank when a hold up takes place.

The Challenges Of The English Language

The tourist got off the ship last Wednesday morning and she entered the terminal inside the tourist village..

The tourist shopped around and she bought several little clay

kitchenware for a Mayan vendor.

As she was re-boarding the boat for the ride back to the ship a policeman stopped her and ask her if she had anything of value to declare.

"Not really," replied the tourist, "All I bought was some pot."

She was instantly taken in for a full body search.



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Three Young Belizean Labourers Facing Drug Charges

BENQUE VIEJO TOWN, Cayo, Tuesday, December 1, 2009:

Acting upon information received Benque Viejo Police, at around 7:30 on the morning of Tuesday, December 1, 2009, visited the bus terminal located on the main street in that western municipality where they detained three young men on drug charges.

Police reports finding a suspected marijuana cigarette on the ground near the young men and that further search lead to the discovery of a black plastic bag containing suspected marijuana amounting to 100.9 grams.

Those arrested on drug possession and drug trafficking



Alex Wade, 21

charges were identified as **Alex Wade**, 21, Belizean, labourer who told the police that he



Ovidio Garcia, 20

resides in San Pedro Town; **Ovidio Garcia**, 20, Belizean, labourer of #24 St. Joseph Street,



Edwin Flores 19

Benque Viejo and **Edwin Flores** 19, Belizean, labourer of Burns Street, Benque Viejo.

CAYO RENTALS

We are located at the San Ignacio Texaco Service Station on the Benque Viejo Road in San Ignacio Town.

We are the #1 supplier For all your Tables, Chairs & Tents At the most reasonable price in town.

For the entire month of December, bring in this ad and receive a whopping 10% Discount on all rentals.

This offer expires on December 25, 2009.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

22 inch LCD Television only \$799.⁰⁰

Limited Quantity Available 602-2753

BELIZE WATER SERVICES LTD.



PRESS RELEASE

Belize City, Belize, December 02, 2009:

BWS objects to PUC Initial Decision on BWS FTRP Application

The Public Utilities Commission issued its Initial Decision (2009 Full Tariff Review Proceeding) for Belize Water Services Limited (BWS) on November 17, 2009. BWS had submitted its Full Five-Year Business Plan (FFBP) report on October 1, 2009, for the period April 1, 2010 through to March 31, 2015 to the PUC for their review.

BWS has submitted a formal objection to the PUC regarding the Initial Decision. There are a number of reasons for this objection, including:

- The Initial Decision ignores BWS' proposal to reduce the monthly bills for some 7,000 or so lower-consumption residential customers who use 750 gallons or less. The BWS proposed tariffs were specifically designed to minimise the impact on lower income and lower consumption residential customers. For the 5,000 households (11% of the customer base) who use 500 gallons or less of water monthly, **their bill would actually REDUCE by an average of 20%.** Also, recognising the cries from San Pedro where the tariffs are higher than on the mainland, the percentage increase in San Pedro was kept much lower.
- The Initial Decision ignores the company's regulatory mandate to provide a fair return to the over 1,300 shareholders who invested their hard-earned funds.
- The proposed Rate Setting Methodology (RSM) does not seem appropriate for a water utility which has constraints on cash generation and therefore on obtaining debt financing. The effect of such a methodology on a cash-short water utility can be disastrous.
- The proposed Regulated Asset Value (RAV) embodied in the RSM reduces the overall asset value by subtracting contributions to assets and misses the key fact that these contributions were necessary as BWS was unable to fund them due to lack of cash. Furthermore, the RAV uses historical cost rather than market value or replacement cost on assets. The proposed RAV therefore significantly understates the cost of providing the services to customers.
- The proposed regulatory changes, which would impose mandatory annual reviews, will add additional costs and overhead to both BWS and the PUC.
- The issues identified above, combined with various other elements of the Initial Decision, will create an environment of uncertainty for BWS, which, especially with the need to obtain financing for major projects, will have a negative effect when reviewed by lending institutions.

Overall, the Initial Decision seems to ignore a number of requirements, issues, influences, and economic assumptions included in BWS' Business Plan submission as well as the company's requirement to ensure **"that the company can meet the investment needs of population growth, handle emergency/disaster situations, provide fair return to shareholders and ensure the overall viability of BWS"**.

BWS feels that this Initial Decision can be improved for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Belize Water Services Ltd. – Delivering water and more...

For more information regarding this or any other BWS Release, please contact Mr. Haydon Brown at Tel: 222-4757 Ext. 234 or via e-mail at haydon.brown@bws.com.bz

The Rotary Club Assist In Converting A Dream to Reality

BY: John Acott

BULLET TREE FALLS VILLAGE, Cayo District:

"It is a dream come true," says the Chairman of Bullet Tree Falls Village, **Manuel Balan**, as he proudly concluded the official opening ceremony for the new childrens' playground in Bullet Tree Falls Village.

Yes, it was a dream come true and through the efforts of Rotarians in Belize and Canada and the Emmanuel Foundation, the children of Bullet Tree now have the best playground in the country.

A second playground was also installed in the nearby village of Santa Familia. The playgrounds are valued at BZ \$180,000.

Rotarian and Vice Chairman of Bullet Tree Falls Village, **André Lopez** and Rotarian **Stephen Lindop** of the Rotary



(L to R): **Stephen Lindop; Wendy Andrews; San Ignacio Rotary President Dan Habet; André Lopez; Betty Serepnek**

Club of Nisku-Leduc, Canada had been working on the idea of bringing playgrounds to Belize for nearly two years prior to this inauguration.

They were unable to bring this

idea to fruition until Stephen met Rotarians **Wendy Andrews** and **Betty Serepnek** of the Rotary Club of Edmonton Glenora, Canada. These two dynamic ladies searched out and met **Lyle**

Johnson of the Emmanuel Foundation who specialises in dispatching playgrounds around the world.

The BZ \$40,000 cost of actually getting the playgrounds prepared and shipped to Belize was paid for by Canadian Rotarians, as was the thick layer of sand spread around the apparatus to prevent injuries to the children.

As part of the agreement for providing the playgrounds, the village councils of Bullet Tree Falls and Santa Familia agreed to pay all of the in-country expenses associated with transporting the containers in Belize, provide the labor to erect the playgrounds, provide meals for all the volunteers, provide signage, and maintain the playgrounds.

Members of the Interact Club of Nisku-Leduc, flew to Belize at their own expense to help install the apparatus.

In addition, besides the two playgrounds in the container, the Rotary Club of Nisku-Leduc sent an electric solar system to the village school of Los Tambos, and a huge amount of schools supplies for Eden Primary School in Santa Elena.

In his remarks to the gathering during the inauguration ceremony, **Chairman Balan** thanked all of the people who so generously contributed to make this dream come true and promised that his village committee would take good care of the apparatus.

The thanks of the people of Santa Familia are joined with Bullet Tree's in saying *"gracias"* to all of these wonderful people who came together to make this possible.



The Playground in Bullet Tree Falls Village, Cayo

BELTRAIDE - Targeting Small And Medium Belizean Enterprises In Tourism

BELMOPAN CITY, Thursday, December 3, 2009:

The Belize Trade and Investment Development Services (BELTRAIDE) informs that as part of its commitment to develop and enhance the capacity and competitiveness of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Belize, the Service, in conjunction with Scotia Bank of Belize, Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and sub-contractor ECONOLER from Canada, is actively participating as strategic partners in an Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Technical Assistance program called GREENPYME launched by the

Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) in March 2009, targeting SMEs in Latin American and Caribbean countries that have high energy-saving potential.

The objective of this program is to provide SMEs with know-how, tools and technical & financial support for implementing energy efficiency measures and clean technologies based on a Walk Through Energy Audit (WTA) to be conducted by consultants from ECONOLER.

In Belize, GREENPYME has focused its attention to SMEs in the tourism sector, particularly, restaurants, hotel & resorts. Initially a list of potential SMEs

was submitted to IIC by BELTRAIDE, Scotia Bank & BCCI from which IIC made a short listing of 12 SMEs to participate in the WTA, some of these companies are: San Ignacio Hotel & Resort, Robert's Grove, Coco Plum Island Resort, Caribbean Paper Company, and KA'ANA Boutique. The consultant Mr. Eaton Haughton is in Belize doing the Walk through Audits from November 22nd 2009 to December 9th 2009.

For further information, please contact **Jose Herrera**, Director of the SME Capacity Building & Development Unit at 822-3737 or via email, jose@belizeinvest.org.bz

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AMS

New Playground In Santa Familia Village

BY: Millard Tun
Vice Chairman
Santa Familia Village Council
SANTA FAMILIA VILLAGE,
Cayo District:

It give me real pleasure to report that Santa Familia Village now has a first of its kind playground for the use and enjoyment by all our children.

This dynamic venture brought renewed excitement to our children as their little hearts scream with joy.

This park was made possible through the grand effort of the Rotary Club of Canada working in conjunction with the Rotary Club of San Ignacio.

"I used to see this type of play ground on TV in those first world cities abroad like United States of America. I never dreamt that such a play ground would ever be built at my village Santa Familia. I'm very proud of this play ground and I hope that my people will also be." said Vice Chairman Millard Tun

Some might say, *"So what, it's*



Residents of Santa Familia Village also came out to provide labour for the project and for this we say "Thank you so very much"

just a play ground". But there is the old but yet familiar proverb that says: *"All work and no joy makes Jack a dull boy"*. Our children have the right to play and have fun!

The villagers of Santa Familia would like to thank the **Minister of Sports, Mr. Elvin**

Penner, who provided financially for the installation of the equipment and **Mr. David Carillo**, who spearheaded the project and motivated the young people of Santa Familia, **Mrs. Joana Yulik** and **Paulette Rabinette** for their efforts through the Rotary Club of San

Ignacio.

A special thank you also goes out to **Mr. Cecil Garbutt** from the local Ministry of Works for clearing and filling the site. Also to **Mr. Neil Blackburn**, who supported us in many ways. We also thank the Rural Community Development Officer **Mr. Orlando Jimenez** for his technical support, and the villagers, who cooked and volunteered to undertake the manual labour culmination into making the project a reality.

A special thank you is also extended to **Mr. Lyle Johnson** Director of The Emmanuel Foundation of Canada,- the Engineer who made it all happen. Mr. Johnson supported the project with his professional advice and instructions as well as with his active engagement.

We encourage our children to first of all take care of the equipment and secondly to make good use of it.

May God bless Belize, the Rotary movement and the kind people of Canada we wish them a pleasant stay in Belize and a safe trip back home.



BELIZE AIRPORTS AUTHORITY NOTICE

The Belize Airports Authority is securing funding for an Airport Development Project with the primary aim of improving safety standards at the Municipal Airport facility in Belize City. The Authority hereby invite suitably experienced and qualified civil engineering consultants with businesses registered in Belize to submit bids for the provision of engineering services for this project.

Information relating to the scope of works and the terms and condition of the project will be available at the offices of the Belize Airports Authority during normal working hours from December 7 to December 18, 2009.

Interested parties are advised to contact:

The General Manager
Belize Airports Authority
Municipal Airstrip
P.O. Box 1572
Belize City, Belize

Telephone: 23-3784 or 223-4200.

Belize Telemedia's Press Conference The Chairman's Opening Remarks

BY Nestor Vasquez,

Chairman

Board of Directors

Belize Telemedia Limited

BELIZE CITY, December 2, 2009:

Three months have passed since the Government of Belize acquire d ownership of Belize Telemedia Ltd on Tuesday 25th August 2009. The Board of Directors felt that it was time to meet with the media and through you to update the Belizean public on the status of the company.

We know that there has been some delay in sharing information with the public, but this has been because we have had to spend the time reviewing the status of the company and addressing the issues which we have found. All of this is leading up to the successful re-privatization of BTL, which is the final objective of this interim Board of Directors.

The status of the Company at acquisition

So what did we find when the new board took control of the company on the afternoon of August 25, 2009?

We found that in the three days between Sunday August 23 and Tuesday August 25, the previous owners of BTL caused it to pay out millions of dollars. For example:

- * Even though the company had top local management, the company insisted on paying one of its own shareholders, Ecom Ltd., management fees. Ecom Ltd. cost BTL \$5.51 million per year in management fees. On the 24th of August 2009, the day before the acquisition was concluded, Ecom Ltd. ended its management contract and charged BTL \$6.8 million dollars in termination fees, of which \$3 million was paid immediately.

- * The foreign lawyers for BTL, Allen and Overy, also ended their relationship with BTL. They were paid \$1.6 million between August 24th and 26th and they have not accounted to BTL for any money they received on the basis of an engagement letter signed with them on 19 August 2009. From April 1, 2008 until the acquisition, BTL paid Allen and Overy \$7.3 million. There is no copy of their engagement letter or contract on the Company's premises.

- * Price Waterhouse Coopers UK was paid a total of \$1.3 million on August 25th. They have offered to return a portion of the money but have not accounted for any work that they claim to have done to justify keeping roughly \$500,000. To date we do not know what they were contracted to do. There is no copy of their engagement letter on the Company's premises.

- * On 24 August, the previous directors wrote off approximately \$10 million worth of debt owed by Great Belize productions Ltd. (Channel 5) to BTL. This \$10

million included the cost of purchasing the shares in Great Belize Productions, the cost of the building on Coney Drive, and bills for telephone services, salary payments, Christmas party, bonus etc. The new Board found that this write off had not been implemented and has taken a decision to reverse it. This is a matter that will likely require settlement in the courts. On August 24th, BTL also paid \$86,000 in advance to Great Belize Productions [Channel 5] for unspecified advertising services to be delivered.

Loan Situation

In July 2007, BTL took a loan of US\$22.5 million, from Belize Bank (Turks & Caicos) at a rate of interest of 12% to be repaid over 4 years (2 years interest and 2 years interest and principal). These were terms that the former directors must and ought to have known BTL could not meet.

The company has not made profits at the rate required to repay a loan under those terms. In fact, on June 18, 2009, BTL sent a letter to Belize Bank (Turks and Caicos), now known as British Caribbean Bank, formally asking to defer the first principal payment - in effect to restructure the loan. There is no record of a reply from the Bank to this request

We have discovered that this US\$22.5 million was used by the company to purchase its own shares. The new board has been advised that under the laws of Belize, this was unlawful and void and this board will not be a party to this kind of transaction. The Bank is now also claiming an additional 10% as legal fees in the lawsuit which they have brought against the company. This is a claim based on a loan facility agreement of which no copy has been found on the company's premises.

The shares that were bought with this loan were distributed to shareholders and Mr Ashcroft's affiliated companies received 94% of these shares without paying BTL a cent for them. This means that those shares should not have received a dividend because they were shares purchased back by BTL.

In 2008, the year following the loan of US\$22.5 million, the company paid out dividends of \$70 million - this, in a year when the company made \$37 million in profits. This \$70 million was given to Belize Bank who gave shareholders loan notes indicating that they would receive their payments sometime in the future. The only rationale for this transaction that the current directors can see is that it was designed to extract cash from Belize Telemedia and at the same time benefit the Belize Bank.

It is clear to us that the former owners have been bleeding the company for years on the assumption

that any losses would be made up through the Accommodation Agreements.

I should mention, at this point, that the filing cabinets in the Dean Boyce's office were cleaned out and left practically empty. The identifying labels remain in the cabinets, but the contents are gone.

The relationship with Speednet

We also found, on taking over control of the company, that there were a series of agreements with Speednet Ltd that are detrimental to BTL and concessionary to Speednet.

BTL is prepared to compete, but competition must be arms length and transparent. The agreements are not fair to BTL or to the Belizean people for the following reasons:

First, the two companies were owned substantially by the same owners. In February 2004, an Ashcroft controlled company owned 24% of Speednet. By March 2006, two Ashcroft controlled companies owned over 50% of Speednet and by January 2009, three Ashcroft controlled companies owned 77% of Speednet.

Furthermore, the rates set out in these agreements placed BTL in the position of providing services to Speednet below the cost of such services. In other words, BTL was made to subsidize Speednet. For example:

- * Under a Tower Lease Agreement, Speednet was being charged \$1,100 per month to put its antenna on a million dollar tower which costs \$100,000 a year to maintain it.

- * Under an Agreement for termination of incoming international calls, BTL and Speednet would share the revenue in a 75/25 split, with Speednet getting 75% of the revenue.

Critically, the Main Agreement purports to bypass the Public Utilities Commission and take disputes to arbitration in Miami under the London Court of International Arbitration rules.

Why would the directors put BTL in this unfair position? Why would directors of a company act to the detriment of the company? Is it that they were following the instructions of the "Shadow Director" and were not thinking for themselves? It is clear to the new board that the Accommodation Agreements were designed so that any revenues that BTL gave away to Speednet through these agreements would be paid back to BTL by the Belizean people under the provision which required the Government to make up any shortfall in BTL's revenue below a 15% rate of return. The arrangement was such that the single person exercising control of both companies could benefit at both ends.

We leave that to you to consider. The fact is, the agreements were not arms length arrangements and were unfair to BTL.

The PUC has now declared these agreements to be unlawful and instructed that they be re-negotiated before the end of this year. We are

prepared to move ahead with the negotiations and have invited Speednet to the table to commence the negotiations. We are awaiting their reply.

We are prepared to cooperate with the Public Utilities Commission for the benefit of BTL, the telecommunications sector and the country.

The way ahead

What happens now? In addition to taking measures taken to address the problems we have found - the Board of Directors is moving ahead with preparing the company for re-privatization. Real competition is here and BTL is fully capable of competing and winning at fair competition.

We have streamlined the internal organization of the company for better management. We have given staff the opportunity to work the way we know they can: to bring their creativity to bear on the solutions to the current challenges and the future direction. BTL is a knowledge based technology company and our human resources are the key to the future.

We are putting the company on a solid footing, financially and technologically:

- * We have cut significant waste - legal fees, the Ecom contract, special arrangements for related companies, for example, no longer apply.

- * We are successfully regaining market share which was lost through unfair competition. The Make the Switch campaign is a part of that effort. We are also rolling out a range of new and improved services for our customers over the next several months: pre-paid mobile internet which was launched a few days ago is an example of those new services.

- * We have almost completed the installation and testing of a major advancement to our GSM network. This is a key project that was facing some challenges in its completion. This project is already delivering improved and expanded coverage and new services to our customers. We have already achieved much bigger DigiCell coverage with new cell sites in the Pomona Valley, Progresso, Big Falls, Bermudian Landing, Ladyville and very shortly, Sarteneja.

- * We are also completing the implementation and testing of the CDMA network that will provide quality telecommunication services to areas that are not served at this time - especially in rural communities and marine areas. This service will be rolled out early in the new year.

We are establishing a strategic direction for the company. BTL is readying itself for the future when it returns to private ownership. We are committed to our target of completing the re-privatization process on a timely basis, although we recognise that it would be better to do it properly than to do it quickly.

Thank you for your attention, we will now take questions.

Vernon Accused Of Stealing From The Butane Company

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Friday, December 4, 2009:

San Ignacio police reports the arrest of **Nigel Vernon**, 21, Belizean supervisor of Belize Western Energy Limited's butane outlet in Santa Elena.

At around 8:00 a.m., on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, **Alex Linez**, 25, operations manager of the company stationed at its depot in Hattieville, visited the San Ignacio police station where he reported receiving a call from Vernon informing him that he took the cash from the days' sale on November 28 and November 30 to his home where it reportedly went missing.

Linez, informed however that the sales for the 29th November were deposited by Vernon as is required by the company.

Police visited Vernon's Santa Cruz, Santa Elena residence where they reportedly found no sign of forced entry into the house. While the investigation continues, it appears that neither



The Accused, Nigel Vernon, 21

the police nor BWEL'S operations manager are believing Vernon's account of the money going missing from his residence. The investigation has subsequently led to the arrest and the formal laying of two counts

of theft against Vernon. The first count is for the sum of \$1,099.36 being the sales for November 28 and the second count is for the sum of \$1, 130.05 being the sales for November 30.

Again, in the absence of a Magistrate in San Ignacio, Vernon appeared before Belmopan's Magistrate, **Aretha Ford**, where he pleaded not guilty to the charge and was offered bail in the sum of \$5,000 (2 sureties) to reappear on February 3, 2010.

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BELIZE TOURISM BOARD TOURISM NEWS



2010 FCCA Foundation



Children's Environmental Poster Competition

The Florida - Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) invites all primary & secondary students of Belize to participate in the 2010 FCCA Foundation Children's Environmental Poster Competition.

- Each student must submit one poster and select a topic of their choice that promotes environmental awareness.
- Each poster must depict at least three (3) ways in which his/her country can make a difference in preserving the environment and must be in English.
- Each poster must accompany a summary description in English along with the title of the poster.
- Words may be used to highlight the ideas illustrated. (Must be in English)
- Poster size should be 22" X 28" on poster/bristol board.

The poster competition will be conducted in two categories: Junior Division and Senior Division. Posters will be entered into the FCCA Regional Competition.

Ages 12 and under

Junior Division	Student	School
1 st Place	US \$3,000	US \$3,000
2 nd Place	US \$1,500	US \$1,500
3 rd Place	US \$1,000	US \$1,000

Ages 13 to 16 years

Senior Division	Student	School
1 st Place	US \$3,000	US \$3,000
2 nd Place	US \$1,500	US \$1,500
3 rd Place	US \$1,000	US \$1,000

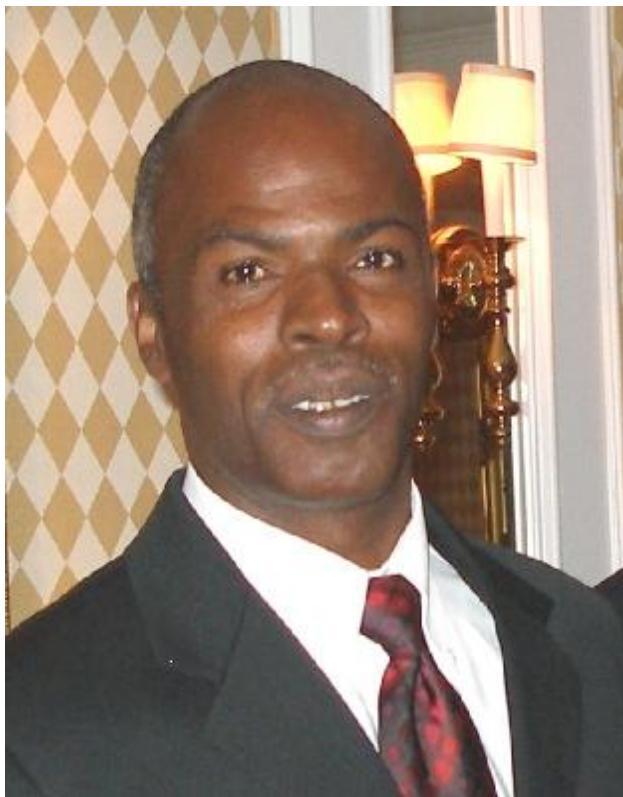
Schools countrywide are invited to participate; each school must submit ONLY two entries, ONE FROM EACH AGE CATEGORY no later than Monday, January 11th 2010.

For more information please contact:

Lorraine Herrera - Montejo, Public Awareness Officer – Belize Tourism Board
Tel: 227-2420 ext.263 E-mail: lorraine@travelbelize.org

MINISTRY OF WORKS

PUBLIC NOTICE



**Minister of Work
Hon. Anthony Martinez
along with
Chief Executive Officer,
Cadet Henderson
and Engineers from the
Ministry of Works**

Hereby informs the general public that, in an effort to increase public safety on the highways, the Ministry will soon embark on a nationwide Highway Marking Project.

The Ministry has recently completed the training of personnel that will be operating the equipment as preparations gets underway to begin the median and shoulder marking of all highways across the country.

The Ministry hereby advises the motoring public to please obey all temporary road signs installed for the safety of its work crews.

The Ministry apologizes for any inconvenience caused during the project execution stage of this vital road safety project.

ACCUSED CON ARTIST ARRESTED

Continued From Front Page

logo designer. In the Cayo line-up of charges he stands accused of obtaining property by deception amidst report by the principal of Bishop Martin RC School, San Ignacio.

It is alleged that around 10:00 a.m. on September 23, 32009, he visited the school offering his services. He was contracted to produce 1,000 uniform badges

for which he received \$500 advance payment in the form of two \$250 Scotia Bank cheques. When he walked out of the compound with the cheques in his position that was the last time anyone from Bishop Martin RC School saw him.

He also stands accused of walking away with a \$120 Atlantic Bank cheque from Cornerstone Foundation being

deposit for the printing of shirts. That cheque was reportedly handed to him on September 9, 2009 and he was not heard from since.

He also reportedly walked away with \$75 from a Burns Avenue businesswoman as advance payment for producing T-shirts for her fast food establishment. Again, neither Acosta, money nor merchandise resurfaced. In this instance, the businesswoman is reportedly

electing not to proceed with criminal charges.

In the absence, this week, of a Magistrate in San Ignacio, the accused was transported to Belmopan on Thursday December 3, where he appeared before Magistrate **Aretha Ford**. He pleaded not guilty to the charge and was offered bail in the sum of \$2,500 (*1 surety*) and ordered to reappear in court on February 3, 2009. The accused remains in police custody as he is being held on a commitment warrant.

Governor General Visits St. Andrew's Anglican School



Governor General Presenting to the Principal and Students

Continued From Front Page

National and School flags were raised by elements of the school's Police and Defence Force Cadets.

The other item on the agenda was the performance of a special welcome prepared by standard III students, other presentations included the singing of "Gud Mawning Miss Lady" by infant 1 students and a Garifuna dance by standard V

students.

The Governor General was then invited to address the students where he related the story of the lady who went to the market and bought a pig with which she wanted to get home before the sun went down.

The Governor then invited the principal, **Ms. Kathleen Staine** and a random selection of 6 students and presented them with 6 silver plated flutes along with an "ELEGANCE" brand piano with 54 standard keys, LCD display, 100GM standard timbre, 100 popular rhythm, 10 demonstrative songs, 2 teaching modes, 5 percussions and vibrato/sustain/echo/.

In accepting the gift of musical instruments, Principal Staine, thanked the Governor General for his generous donation. She also took the opportunity to extend a personal invitation to the Governor General on the occasion of the very first musical performance by students using the instruments he donated.

The program ended with the Governor General playing keyboard for a song by standard VI members of the school choir.

The Governor General departed at exactly 11:30 am.

Man Loses Arm In \$15 Debt Dispute

Continued From Front Page

The police later visited the hospital where they encountered **Andres Linares**, 20, Belizean laborer of Buena Vista Village with his left hand chopped off midway between the elbow and the wrist.

Linares told the police that he was drinking at the local bar where he encountered **Miguel Angel Trejos**, 21, Belizean laborer of the same village who reportedly owed him \$15. According to Linares, when he requested payment a confrontation erupted resulting in Trejos pulling out a machete and chopping off his hand.

During the morning hours on Sunday, November 29, the accused Miguel Angel Trejos handed himself to the village Chairman who transported him to the nearest police station located in the Mennonite Community of Spanish Lookout from where he was subsequently transported to the San Ignacio police station where he was formally arrested and charged for the crime of maim.

Contrary to the victim's account of the incident, the accused informed that he was reportedly approached by the victim, brandishing a machete, at the local bar. He reportedly walked away to a panades shop in the village where the victim reportedly followed him,

threatening to chop him with the machete. He reportedly disarmed the victim who reportedly continued charging at him. This was when he raised the machete with the victim simultaneously raising his hand, the accused reportedly came down with the chopping motion and with the sharp machete he chopped the victim's hand completely off.

Miguel Angel Trejos appeared in San Ignacio's Magistrate Court where he pleaded not guilty to the charge and was offered bail in the sum of \$5,000. He was ordered to return to court on January 26, 2010.

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