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No. 318

Sunday, July 22, 2012

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Lowe Blow Injures Vasquez

**SANIGNACIO, Cayo, Thursday,
July 19, 2012:**

As San Ignacio police continues to grandstand with every appearance of Bert Vasquez, the lack of adequate protection for today's appearance resulted in one being injured and another facing a wounding charge.

The transportation of prisoners from Hattieville to San Ignacio's Magistrate Court is normally done during the evening or early morning hours. Vasquez was

however, transported today from Hattieville to San Ignacio but instead of arriving during the early morning hours it was not until 11:00 a.m. that the police van pulled into the San Ignacio police station much as if giving the crowd the opportunity to swell inside the Columbus Park for the usual police theatrics.

As if following the script, when the van pulled in from Hattieville, the crowd had swelled and was all

Please Turn To Page 2

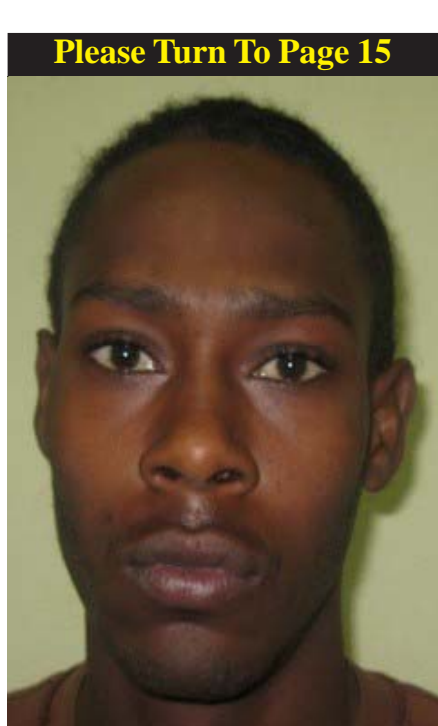


Chris Lowe Attacks Bert Vasquez (Photo AMS)

Pandy And Trapp Get Five Years



Leonard Pandy, 23



Jahnon Trapp, 21

Please Turn To Page 15

American Woman Found Dead

**SANTAELENA, Cayo, Thursday,
July 19, 2012:**

No foul play is suspected in the death of a US national whose lifeless, decomposing body was found in the apartment room she rented, for over six years, in Santa Elena, Cayo.

At around 9:00 am on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, a team of

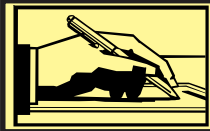
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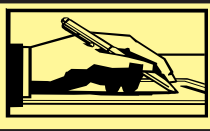
In Younger Years,
Susan Jean Harrsen, 66



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Editorial



Anything else is just a waste of precious time

As the murder conviction rate slips further from the national grip with this week's announcement of yet another accused murderer walking free because of witnesses refusal to testify in court for fear of themselves being murdered, the national discussion is amazingly this week focusing on fast tracking the effort to decriminalize the possession of marijuana.

Where are we, as a nation, going wrong? It was none other than the Honorable Prime Minister of the nation who, in wrapping up the debate last Thursday in the House of Representatives, on the 2012-13 budget debate, rightfully chastised the member for Fort George for proposing the decriminalizing of marijuana as his suggestion to address the crime situation in Belize.

The issue of possession of marijuana fades in comparison to the spiraling murder rate in Belize while the discussion on this MAJOR national issue is yet to garner any traction.

Granted that because of international pressure the hanging of convicted murders might, despite the public outcry of the institution of death by hanging for convicted murderers, will never be realized, the least we can do is to begin the discussion geared towards increasing the rate of murder convictions.

As the high per-capita rate of murder continues to showcase Belize

Lowe Blow Injures Vasquez

Continued From Front Page

riled up. They were lined right up to the door of the police station ready for lights!!! cameras!!! action!!!

In hindsight, one would have thought that, like the last experience when stones were thrown at the accused, the police would have created a more secure environment this time around. Not so however, as it seemed like the interest was more geared towards posing for the cameras and the crowd instead of the police doing that which they are trained to do.

The attack on the accused occurred in full view as he was being whisked from the police station to the upstairs courtroom when the cameras caught **Christopher Lowe** slamming the accused from behind with an umbrella. The bleeding man was rushed to the upstairs courtroom merely to be informed of a new date of adjournment and the receipt of disclosure.

Realizing that the injured man could not be taken to the hospital, the medical officer on duty, **Dr. Misael Ramirez**, was summoned to Magistrate's Court where he provided emergency medical treatment to the accused who sustained a cut wound to the back of the head. In signing the medico legal form, Dr. Ramirez classified the injury as wounding

subsequently leading to the arrest and appropriate charging of the accused Christopher Lowe, father of the child that Vasquez is charged for murdering. Lowe was granted police bail in the sum of six hundred dollars to return to court on Tuesday, July 24, 2012.

The list of unusual occurrences today in this matter are as follows:

- The van arrived at 11:00 o'clock instead of the usual earlier hours as if intended to give the crowd time to grow
- The accused was attacked right in front of police guards
- Despite the presence of the civilian prosecutor, the prosecution was solely represented by none other than the Officer Commanding the (Cayo) Police District
- The doctor was brought to the patient instead of the patient going to the doctor, and
- Despite the presence of a Magistrate sitting in her office upstairs, a man charged with wounding, was granted police bail instead of being taken before the magistrate to be arraigned.

We trust that with the unfolding to the sequence of events today, the police would have learnt that showing off to the public and the cameras must always come far behind the execution of the sacred duty with which they are charged.



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internationally as a lawless nation, we are, in fast track fashion, seeking to reward lawlessness as we seek to decriminalize the possession of marijuana.

Many are those among us who would rush to the front line in support of decriminalizing the possession marijuana if only those who are leading the charge could show us how decriminalizing marijuana possession would assist in, if not reducing the murder rate, at least increase the rate of murder convictions.

It is no secret that the major challenge to secure convictions for murder is the increasing refusal on the part of witnesses to testify in court against accused murderers. Apart from the fear of being murdered, the long drawn out process of bringing accused murders to trial widens the window of opportunity for witnesses to have a change of heart either by losing interest in the case or by providing the time for witnesses to either be threatened or murdered.

We have long been taught to **"Strike while the iron is hot"**. Any two cents investigator will readily tell you that the best time to get a witness statement is while the investigation (*the iron*) is still hot. The ability of gather crucial evidence fades as the case grows cold.

In an effort to address the challenge of witnesses refusal to testify, has anyone thought about introducing enabling legislation permitting the admissibility of video evidence in court?

Any death, apart from those resulting from obvious natural or accidental causes, necessitates the conduct of a legally required post mortem examination. The nation is currently being serviced by a single Forensic Specialist. Why then we as ask, cannot the nation be likewise serviced by a single, well trained and professional, Murder Statement Video Recording Unit (**MSVRU**)? A Unit which, much like the Forensic Specialist, would traverse the nation compiling the crucial documentary evidence needed to strengthen murder cases and by extension increasing convictions.

Show us how decriminalizing marijuana possession will saves lives and we will drop all we are doing and rush with you to the frontline in the effort. Given the prevailing murder and murder conviction rates, apart from the effort to relieve the burdensome financial weight on the nation's finances cause by the super bond, anything else is just a waste of precious time.



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Sugar City Hosts Fiestarama Business Expo And Fair 2012!

Contributed by:

Lenny Ayuso

**Local Press and Event Officer
Belize Tourism Board**

BELIZE CITY, Monday, July 16, 2012:

“Sugar City”, Orange Walk will be the place to be at the end of the month as the town will be celebrating its **Fiestarama Business Expo and Fair 2012**. Fiestarama is one of Orange Walk’s biggest annual events with entertainment for all ages. This year will be no exception as it promises to be a blast! The Fiestarama gets underway at the Orange Walk People’s Stadium on July 27th until the 29th.

On Friday July 27th, a parade from the Orange Walk Central Park to the People’s Stadium will kick off the festivities, followed by the official opening ceremonies. The night then

explodes as the **DJ Competition** and **Rock Concert** featuring Orange Walk’s very own Rock bands strike up.

Saturday, July 28th starts very early with a Triathlon and will continue with all day sporting events open to sport fans at the stadium. The afternoon will thunder as the Band fest competition entertains everyone with a varied collection of pieces, and closes with a grand dance. Events for the third day will feature a first ever cook-off competition and a Car show for automobile enthusiasts of all ages. Fiestarama will party its way to its finale as the night is filled with the music of a Rock and DJ Concert on Sunday, July 29th.

The three days will be filled with a diversity of live

performances, various sporting events, entertainment and a wide variety of food and drinks. Everyone is invited to enjoy a true Orange Walk experience

with the Fiestarama Business Expo and Fair 2012.

*For more details on
Fiestarama 2012.
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Cayo Becoming Belize's Hollywood

Contributed by:
Matthiew Klinck

A team based in San Ignacio has recently completed the production of a movie entitled **"2012: Kurse a di Xtabai"**.

It is a feature length Creole-language supernatural thriller featuring 20 Belizean actors & mostly Belizean crew. The movie was filmed entirely in the Cayo district, mostly in the **Eljio Panti National Park** in San Antonio village, Cayo District.

The story, which borrows from Belizean folklore, follows a group of students into the jungle to defeat a curse placed on the village by the ancient Mayan spirit **Xtabai**.

The movie, which stars **Jim Goodchild Arnold, Arran Bevis, Nicasio Coc, Ian Flowers, Shelley Glionna,**



The Cast and Crew of "2012: Kurse A Di Xtabai"

Robert Greig, Esmeralda Hernandez, Roseli Hernandez, Nehanda Higinio, Memory Magdaleno, Miriam Antoinette Ochaeta and Edgardo Serrut was selected as the opening night film of the Belize International Film Festival held from July 13th to the 17th, and received a warm reception from the audience. It is now beginning a national tour that will project it in communi-

ties around Belize, beginning with a 2-night run at the **San Ignacio Resort Hotel** in San Ignacio on Friday July 20th and Saturday July 21st. Showtimes are 7pm and 9pm, tickets cost \$10bz and are available from **Mayawalk** and **San Ignacio Resort Hotel**.

This movie is the first major project undertaken by **Make-Belize Films**, an organization that was launched in 2012 to

provide training and promote a viable movie production industry in Belize inspired by the Nigerian model. **"2012: Kurse a di Xtabai"** was sponsored locally by **Central Cable Vision, DigiCell, Cayo Adventure Tours and the San Ignacio Resort**. **Make-Belize Films** intends to produce between 5 to 8 movies annually, and continue its training of young Belizeans in the cinema arts.

BWCN Jaguar Rescue

On Saturday, July 14, the **Belize Wildlife Conservation Network (BWCN)** was alerted to a black jaguar in distress at **Ballum Na Lodge** in the **Punta Gorda** area. **Wil Maheia**, a BWCN member and well known Belizean conservationist, had been able to gain access to the jaguar, named **Bosch**, and he attempted to provide him with food. During this time he was able to take a photograph of the animal and the condition of the jaguar in the photograph made it clear to the BWCN that urgent action was required. There were also suspicions that other animals may be on the property or may have recently died. Working closely with the **Belize Forest Department**, it was decided that due to the location of the animal, the most urgent issue was to have the jaguar and any other animals on the property assessed and, if necessary, provided with food and fresh water.

Ian Morton, a BWCN volunteer, in the **Punta Gorda** area was able to view **Bosch** on the morning of Sunday, the 15th of July. He discovered that only one jaguar, **Bosch**, was on the property. He took further reports that another jaguar had recently died but could get little information about any other animals. During this time, he was able to take photographs to document the condition of the jaguar as well as ensure that food and fresh water was available. He

immediately reported back to the BWCN with his observations and photographs. During this time, efforts were underway to develop a rescue strategy for **Bosch** with BWCN volunteers and the Belize Forest Department. **Dr. Isabelle Paquet Durand**, wildlife specialist from the **Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic** in Cayo, was able to provide Mr. Morton with clear advice on providing a specially prepared feed, containing vitamin supplements, to assist **Bosch** and prevent further deterioration in his condition until she would be able to assess him personally. Mr. Morton visited **Bosch** again on Monday the 15th of July to make sure he received the diet recommended by Dr. Paquet Durand.

At this time it was also brought to the attention of the BWCN that another conservation group. **Ya' axche Conservation Trust** had observed and photographed a dead jaguar at the same site on Friday the 13th of January, confirming previous reports of a jaguar death.

On Tuesday the 17th of July, Belize Forest Department Wildlife Officers, accompanied by Dr. Paquet Durand left Cayo at 4am to make their way to **Ballum Na Lodge** in **Punta Gorda**, where a full veterinary assessment was made. While the BWCN had every hope **Bosch** could have been removed from his current situation today, his condition is



Bosch The Rescued Jaguar

too poor to attempt to move him at this time. Arrangements have been made to ensure he will receive the care that he needs this week and he will be closely monitored in the hope that he will be fit for travel by Friday. The BWCN very much appreciate the support and well wishes from the community for **Bosch's** quick recovery and want to assure the public that everything possible is being done to have a positive outcome. The BWCN will, of course, provide updates on **Bosch's** progress.

BWCN has been working on creating a nationwide network of volunteers called the **Wildlife Emergency Response Team (WERT)**. Although WERT is not

fully operational, BWCN is proud that it could already call on volunteers to spring into action to deal with such an urgent and serious wildlife issue. BWCN has also been collaborating closely with the Belize Forest Department to update wildlife laws and develop guidelines to prevent cases like this happening in future. If you would like more information on how to become a WERT volunteer or how you can assist wildlife in Belize, please contact BWCN at bwnbelize@gmail.com. If you have a wildlife emergency or would like to report a wild animal in distress, please contact the Belize Forest Department at Telephone N0. 802-1524.

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Manhunt By Foot, Motorcycle, Vehicle And Plane

SANIGNACIO, Cayo, Thursday, July 19, 2012:

The ordeal experienced by a man from Esperanza village, Cayo, serves to reiterate the fact that gone are the days when the Mennonite community of Spanish Lookout was the place to commit and get away with crimes.

During the early morning hours on Tuesday, July 17, **Samuel August**, 28, Belizean laborer of Esperanza village was in the Mennonite community, between 2 and 3 am, when the community would normally be fast asleep.

August was “*on a little business*”. It took only one person to become aware of the presence of an outsider lurking around when the alarm was sounded and the community became alert.

Within minutes the call was received at the police substation in Spanish Lookout informing that a group of villagers were in hot pursuit of two persons in a black vehicle who were attempting to steal diesel from a truck in the community.

Having just been released on bail, we caught up with August at the police station in San Ignacio on Thursday morning as he was seeking the release of his vehicle.

In relating the experience, August said that he was in the area “*on a little business*” when something went wrong. “*They began chasing me in trucks and on motorcycles and I could hear many gunshots being fired*” he said.

Fearing for his life, August abandoned his vehicle and dashed into a cornfield. “*This*”, he said, “*was the last time that morning I saw the other person who was*



Samuel August, 28
with me”.

August said that he was aware that they were looking for him in the cornfield and so he moved carefully to avoid ruffling the corn stalks.

August’s black Isuzu Rodeo, bearing Stann Creek license plates SC-C-7982, with several empty five gallons plastic buckets stacked into each other, were found inside the back of the vehicle. Police suspect that the buckets were intended to carry the diesel.

August said “*As the sun was rising I saw an airplane overhead circling the cornfield and then I realized that they were also using a plane to look for me*”. He said that he crawled towards the edge of the field and headed to a farmhouse where he came upon a small black Mazda truck, the door was unlocked but the key was missing. Next he spotted a “*nice*” maroon Suburban truck, the door was unlocked and the key was in the ignition “*It was like God sent this one for me*” he said. He cranked up the engine and drove

out of the garage and hit the road, at high speed, towards San Ignacio by way of the back road through Billy White, Santa Familia and Bullet Tree. The stolen vehicle report was received by the police within minutes and so the search was redirected towards the stolen Suburban.

The surveillance airplane spotted the speeding vehicle in the trail of dust and the police set chase in the direction of the fleeing vehicle. It sped through Billy White village and as it approached Santa Familia village, the police was closing in. August said that he drove off the road on the right and abandoned the vehicle under a tree. The police began searching for him on the right side of the road but he crossed over to the left side by crawling through a culvert. He made his way to the river bank, boarded a dory and paddled his way across the river landing in a bamboo patch emerging therefrom with several scrapes to his left arm. He said that the ordeal was too much for him and so he swam back across the river with intent to surrender himself to the police. He got to the other side of the river and was walking “*like an ordinary person*” through the village street, when a Humes bus, heading to San Ignacio came by. He hopped on the bus and, while heading to San Ignacio, he spotted a police vehicle racing towards Bullet Tree.

Just when he was feeling comfortably free, the bus came upon a police vehicle parked across the street near the junction of Bullet Tree Road and Joseph Andrews Drive in San Ignacio. The police boarded the bus, moved straight to him,

handcuffed him and pulled him out of the bus into the police vehicle for the ride to the police station.

He was later arrested and formally charged for the theft of a 2002 maroon Chevrolet Suburban vehicle with license plates CY-C-33147, valued at twenty thousand dollars being the property of **Margaret Penner**.

And as if one Penner was not enough, the investigation led to two additional charges being one for theft and the other for handling stolen goods. The charges resulted from a July 16, 2012 incident in Unitedville village where it is alleged that August stole three tires valued at seven hundred and fifty dollars being the property of **Gladwin Penner**.

The stolen tires were reportedly found at Shaw bus compound in Unitedville. August appeared in the San Ignacio courtroom of Magistrate **Narda Morgan** on Thursday, July 19 where he pled not guilty to all three charges. He was offered and met the three thousand dollar bail. He was ordered to return to court on Wednesday, October 10, 2012.

With assistance from Spanish Lookout residents a man identified as **Aldo Moro**, 22, Belizean Laborer of a Hillview address in Santa Elena was found lying in the bush at around 8:00 am that same Tuesday morning.

Moro was detained and first transported to the police station in Spanish Lookout and later to San Ignacio. He was held for the 48 hours maximum detention period and released without charge. August said that inside the holding cell was the next time he saw Moro after they dashed into the cornfield.



August’s black Isuzu Rodeo with Stann Creek plates SC-C7932

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Your Weekly Horoscope & Lucky Numbers

ARIES:

March 22 to April 20

New people you meet this week are likely to be favorably impressed by your manners. Don't be surprised if all of this brings you some new opportunities! Your health is radiant and you are looking great. This is an excellent time to plan an evening out with friends or, better yet, a romantic partner. **Lucky numbers: 09, 41, 70.**

TAURUS:

April 21 to May 21

Romantic feelings blossom this week. Your entourage may suddenly appear more attractive than usual. Lovers and potential lovers may seem unusually attentive. You could also be feeling very creative, and you might want to try your hand at poetry or fiction. Reading romantic novels or seeing romantic movies could also be appealing. Surround yourself with candles, flowers, and music, and enjoy! **Lucky numbers: 11, 25, 72.**

GEMINI:

May 22 to June 21

You could wake up this week, look around, and decide you want to spend as much time as possible working on your home. You could be bored with the decor and want to make some changes. Spend the week coming up with ideas and then try to analyze the situation and see what's feasible now. Most likely you will be able to do some but not all of what you want. **Lucky numbers: 03, 39, 54.**

CANCER:

June 22 to July 23

This week you could receive an affectionate, supportive letter or phone call from someone close to you. Communications with others should go smoothly, and intelligent conversations could well take place. You do have the talent use it wisely. **Lucky numbers: 01, 12, 75**

LEO:

July 24 to August 21

Your financial affairs could look especially rosy now. Some benefits are definitely coming your way, although everything isn't quite as promising as it seems. You could well find yourself with less than you were hoping for. Think of whatever gain may be coming as something extra, but don't count on it. That way, whatever comes will be a welcome bonus rather than disappointment. **Lucky numbers: 18, 32, 87.**

VIRGO:

August 22 to September 21

You should be happier than usual with what you see in the mirror, Virgo, because your inner beauty is more visible than usual. You could also feel especially sociable. Both old friends and new should find your company especially congenial. Romance blossoms, although there's a slight tendency today to see partners through rose-colored glasses. Hang onto your common sense, but not too tightly. Days like this don't come around that

often! **Lucky numbers: 48, 62, 96.**

LIBRA:

September 22 to October 23

Although you might feel a bit inclined toward solitude this week, don't indulge it. This is a great week to get out with friends and meet new people. You can forge closer bonds at this time, and you might also make valuable business contacts that prove profitable in the future. Affectionate communication with a romantic partner can make your Week. **Lucky numbers: 07, 31, 93.**

SCORPIO:

October 24 to November 21

An appealing new face could appear on the scene this week. This might lead to a new friendship, although this person could be charming enough to bring out your insecurities. Put these aside - you are looking great. Since your efficiency is at an all-time high, plan on taking advantage of that by dealing with some errands you have been postponing for quite some time. **Lucky numbers: 36, 66, 89.**

SAGITTARIUS:

November 22 to December 21

A male friend could introduce you to people from foreign countries or people who have traveled a lot. They might have valuable information that you could use later. This information could also help you finish old projects that have been waiting to be done. Your eye for detail is especially acute **Lucky numbers: 14, 29, 80.**

CAPRICORN:

December 22 to January 20

You are probably feeling especially sexy. You would especially enjoy going all out, experimenting with a new outfit, scent, or hairstyle. On a more mundane note, investments of either time or money should pay off this week, as could hard work performed in the past. Have a great day! **Lucky numbers: 02, 53, 84.**

AQUARIUS:

January 21 to February 19

Romance and marriage are very much on your mind this week. A special encounter with a possible love partner could have you hankering for happily ever after. Books on attracting and maintaining relationships might be especially appealing as well as useful. Take care not to put too much stock in detailed analyses, however. Remember that such books are based on generalities. You're unique. **Lucky numbers: 21, 45, 76.**

PISCES:

February 20 to March 21

You are feeling especially healthy, energetic, and attractive this week, and some friends may suddenly see you in a new light. This could bring a valuable boost in self-confidence. New careers that pay more and offer more of a challenge are especially appealing to you now. Consider them seriously. Write down your ideas and research them to see if they're workable. This may be the start of a whole new life. **Lucky numbers: 19, 22, 58.**

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Paulino Gets Nine Months

SAN IGNACIO, Tuesday, July 17, 2012:

The eight month trial of a San Ignacio man, charged for sexually assaulting a female child, ended today with the convict going straight to jail.

The incident occurred during the early morning hours on Thursday, November 24, 2011. A team of police officers, responding to an emergency call, rushed to 1st Street in San Ignacio where they met the child, the father and the mother on the street. They were transported to the police station where a statement was recorded from the child in the presence of the



Keret Paulino, 24
mother.
The 14 year old female child

told the police that she was sleeping in her bedroom when, at around 1:30 that morning, she was suddenly awoken by someone touching her. She said that she immediately recognized the man Keret Paulino, a family friend. She told the police that she began struggling with Paulino who overpowered her and proceed to sexually fondle her.

After going thought the statement recording process the mother, on the child's behalf, requested no court action against Paulino.

There was an apparent change of heart as, two days later, on

Saturday, November 26; the mother visited the police station requesting court action against Paulino. Later that same day **Keret Paulino**, 24, Belizean laborer of # 1 Hummingbird Street in San Ignacio was detained, arrested and formally charged with aggravated assault against the girl.

After several adjournments, the trial concluded this week, on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, before Magistrate **Narda Morgan**. Paulino was found guilty as charged. He was sentenced to nine months in jail. Paulino was defended by attorney **Orlando Fernandez** while prosecutor **George Gomez** represented the crown.



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Belize Represented At CCT Meeting In Nicaragua

Belize City, Thursday, July 19, 2012:

A contingent of four tourism delegates represented Belize at the 85th ordinary meeting of the **Central American Tourism Council (CCT)** on July 11th - 12th 2012. The series of meetings were held at the Hotel Camino Real in Managua, Nicaragua. The 85th Ordinary Meeting is a conference geared towards technical tourism meetings and a general meeting for the Tourism Ministers of Central America. Belize was represented by **Tracy Panton and Valdemar Andrade of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Alyssa Carnegie and Lenny Ayuso of the BTB.**

Participants discussed plans and projects related to enhancing the promotion of Central America as a tourist destination. **Tracy Panton**, CEO in the Ministry of Tourism and Culture shared, "One of the highlights of the meeting was the inauguration of the new CCT president, Nicaragua's Minister of Tourism, Mario Salinas. On behalf of **Dr. Nelly Jerez**, past CCT President, and Minister of Tourism of Honduras, **Cynthia Bennett Salomon**, Tourism Vice Minister of Honduras presented



(L-R) Tracy Panton, Lenny Ayuso, Valdemar Andrade and Alyssa Carnegie

the new President **Mario Salinas** with a plaque displaying the names of the past CCT Presidents."

President **Mario Salinas** thereafter presented his plan expounding on how he would work to continue the course

of presenting the positive image of Central America. Other discussions included sustainable tourism, tourist security and the preparations being made for the **Central America Travel Market (CATM)** to be held in October, 2012 in San Pedro Sula,

Honduras, in which Belize will participate. **Cinia Molina**, Director of CATM from the **Tourism Institute of Honduras (IHT)** said, "CATM encourages the establishment of business relationships between Central American tourism service providers with major international wholesaler markets. It seeks to promote knowledge of the regions along with their diverse tourism products."

The 85th CCT Meeting concluded on July 12th. Belize looks forward to participate in future meetings to promote Belize and Central America as a top tourist destination.

For more information on the CCT visit <http://www.sica.int/cct/>.



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TEMPORARY FACULTY VACANCIES

Three vacancies exist at **SHC HS** division for the following Temporary teaching posts:

(1) **Math Teacher** for the first semester (**August 23 to December**).

Applicants should be prepared to participate in faculty orientation sessions in August, and should have a B.Sc. in Math Education, or Mathematics.

(2) **Religion Teacher** for the period **August 23 to October**.

Applicants should be knowledgeable about the Roman Catholic faith and its teachings, and should have some experience in teaching Religion and/or Youth Ministry.

Applicants should be prepared to participate in faculty orientation sessions in August.

(3) **Spanish Teacher** for the extended period August through mid-March.

Applicants should possess a minimum of an Associate's Degree with Spanish, and some experience in the teaching of Spanish.

Applicants should be prepared to participate in faculty orientation sessions in August.

Remuneration is commensurate with **MOE** approved salary scales.

Successful applicants should have a Teacher's License.

Completed application packages can be dropped off at the College, or emailed to president@shc.edu.bz.

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Readers Write



Why Does Belize Have To Do like Others?

Dear Editor:

In response to the proposal to decriminalize marijuana,I would like to comment.

Why does Belize have to do what other countries of the world are doing? Just because other countries do something, that does not necessarily make it correct. There are evil forces moving in this world--under satan's power -- doing what he wants done -- to ruin people's lives.

There are many Christians in Belize who are sincere born again believers. We know that if we, who are born again and have the Holy Spirit within us, defile our temples (our bodies), God will destroy us; for the temple of God is holy, which temple we are (*I Corinthians 3:17*). Then what happens to those who are not true believers in Jesus Christ?

Is smoking marijuana a good example for children? Smoking itself is wrong -- as is drinking and taking drugs. It causes tissues, cells, and organs in the body to become destroyed,

resulting in diseases and debilitation taking place.

Studies have shown that marijuana contains more carcinogenic hydrocarbons that tobacco smoke, it impairs the immune system, affects learning ability, inhibits disease preventing actions of key immune cells, and increases the risk of developing bacterial infections and tumors.

Children born to mothers who used marijuana during pregnancy showed problems with neurological development, problems with sustained attention and memory, and poor problem-solving skills.

Even a small amount doubles the risk of a fatal highway accident.

If the use of marijuana is decriminalized, and the use of cocaine and other harmful addictive drugs begin to get out of hand, then, I suppose, Belize will want to decriminalize them also-- because the prison is overcrowded. So, it seems that,

instead of correcting what is wrong and standing for righteous principles, a country that decriminalizes things that are wrong will end up being destroyed -- destroyed from within.

Then -- there are those who do not smoke (*including children*). If they are in the presence of a smoker -- especially in a building, home, or enclosed space, they are being exposed to the harmful effects just as much as the smoker.

If our leaders in government would get down on their knees and truly, sincerely pray to Almighty God for guidance -- in

His will and ways -- and they would be right in their hearts (Psalm 66:18) before Almighty YAH -- then I believe God would move and they would hear correctly what the Almighty wants done. His WORD is true - - and man should live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). People don't seem to realize why other "great" nations have fallen. It's because they have not followed His WORD. Psalm 9:17 states: The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Sincerely,
Elaine J. Pinkerton

Decriminalizing Marijuana

WE NEED YOUR QUICK EMAIL ACTION!!!

July 19, 2012:

Greetings from the **Belize Action Team**.

You’ve probably heard some of the news stories on the issue of DECRIMINALIZING MARIJUANA IN BELIZE. In line with the Mission Statement of Belize Action, to mobilize the Church and Belizeans concerning issues & legislation related to morality, family values, etc., this issue definitely hits home with this.

To be clear, the issue is not the LEGALIZING of marijuana, but actually the DECRIMINALIZING OF SMALLER AMOUNTS so that there would be a FINE instead of jail time.

Those Supporting Decriminalizing say that limited Police resources are being wasted on menial issues like dealing with small amounts of weed when we have a crime wave and need to be focusing on more important things. To implement an administrative fine would be the best solution rather than packing out the courts & judicial system as well as the prison which costs more money & resources.


Those Opposing Decriminalizing say that backing off on enforcing laws on an illegal drug is a step in the wrong direction and will only lead to greater chaos & disorder in our nation. It’s like removing traffic signs & laws to make the Transport officers job easier and eliminate tickets – it will simply lead to chaos. We should be CRACKING DOWN to where things will tighten up and people will behave themselves!! Police are not having to specifi-

cally go out and pursue the smaller amounts, but when someone is busted with a gun, a bullet proof vest, AND WEED, it adds to the infractions which will increase the charges against them!!

WE NEED YOUR QUICK EMAIL ACTION!!! FRIDAY DEADLINE!! Please email and ask for EXTENSION OF TIME!!

This news broke MONDAY and they’ve already set a deadline of FRIDAY, which is WAY too short!! So many people don’t know about this issue!! Please weigh in on this issue, we need you to act quickly by SENDING AN EMAIL TO decriminalizebelize@gmail.com Feel free to share your positions quickly with Doug Singh who is heading up this effort. The DEADLINE IS FRIDAY!!! AFFIRM THE TIME IS TOO SHORT ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AND PLEASE EXTEND THE TIME!!

One of our concerns is the “*decriminalize*” concept as a whole and the people pushing for this in our nation. The “*decriminalizing*” of marijuana, the “*decriminalizing*” of homosexuality, etc. We’re not fully certain, but worst case scenario is that this is kind of a move toward lawlessness as a whole, which obviously concerns us greatly. We appreciate your getting involved quickly with this issue. We have much to report on the UNIBAM homosexual issue as well, but we’ll follow that up later. Thanks for being a part of the movement and stay tuned!!!



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★ STAR HUMOR ★

Three Wishes End In Tragedy

Alex had a party attended by all wealthy people in the community. In his yard he has a pool filled with crocodiles. He announced that anyone who was brave enough to swim across the pool and come out alive will be granted three wishes. But no one wanted to go for the challenge.

The Perks Of Being A Preacher

The Preacher explains that he must move on to a larger congregation that will pay him more. There is a hush within the congregation. No one wants him to leave.

Joe Smith, who owns several car dealerships in the town, stands up and proclaims, *"If the Preacher stays, I will provide him with a new Cadillac every year and his wife with a Honda mini-van to transport their children!"*

The congregation sighs in appreciation and applauds.

Sam Brown, a successful entrepreneur and investor, stands and says, *"If the Preacher will stay on here, I'll personally double his salary and establish*

Always Look Before You Leap

Lionel the vacuum cleaner salesman goes to the first house in his new territory.

He knocks on the front door. A real mean and tough looking lady opens the door, and before she has a chance to say anything, Lionel runs inside and dumps a bucket of cow droppings all over the carpet.

He says, *"Lady, if this vacuum*

cleaner don't do wonders cleaning up that cow mess I'll eat every chunk of it."

Alex asked the brave man, *"What are your three wishes?"*

To which the man replied, *"1. Give me a shotgun. 2. Give me some bullets and 3. Show me the idiot who pushed me in.*

a foundation to guarantee the college education of his children!"

More sighs and loud applause. Sadie Jones, age 88, stands and announces with a smile, *"If the Preacher stays, I will give him sex."*

There is total silence. The Preacher, blushing, asks her, *"Mrs. Jones, whatever possessed you to say that?"*

Sadie's 90 year old husband, Antonio, is now trying to hide, holding his forehead with the palm of his hand and shaking his head from side to side while his wife replies, *"Well, I just asked my husband how we could help, and he said, 'Screw the Preacher'."*

cleaner don't do wonders cleaning up that cow mess I'll eat every chunk of it."

She turns to him with a smirk and says, *"Do you want ketchup on that?"*

The salesman says, *"Why do you ask?"*

She says *"We just moved in and we haven't got the electricity turned on yet."*

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Pay Back Is A B*#@#h

A successful businessman flew to Vegas for the weekend to gamble. He lost the shirt off his back, and had nothing left but a quarter and the second half of his round trip ticket. He went out to the front of the casino where there was a cab waiting. He got in and explained his situation to the cabbie and promised to send the money from home but to no avail. The cabbie said *"If you don't have fifteen dollars, get the hell out of my cab!"*

So the businessman was forced to hitch to the airport and was barely in time to catch his flight.

One year later he returned to Vegas and this time he won big. Feeling pretty good about himself, he went out to the front of the casino to get a cab ride back to the airport. At the end of a long line of cabs, he saw the very driver who had refused him a ride when he was down on his

luck. He thought for a moment and got into the first cab in the line. *"How much for a ride to the airport,"* he asked?

"Fifteen bucks," came the reply."

"And how much for you to give me a blowjob on the way?" he added.

"What??? Get the hell out of my cab!!" responded the cabbie.

The businessman got into the back of each cab in the long line with the same result. When he got to his old friend at the back of the line, he got in and asked *"How much for a ride to the airport?"*

The cabbie replied *"fifteen bucks"* to which the businessman replied *"ok"* and off they drove.

As they drove past the cabs in the long line, the businessman gave a big smile and thumbs-up sign to each driver. !!



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Cayo Archaeological Sites To Benefit From Sustainable Tourism Program (STP) Investment

Commitment from the **Ministry of Tourism and Culture** and the **Belize Tourism Board** to invest in a quality tourism experience and improved visitor management at Belize's archaeological sites was cemented on Friday July 13th. Construction contracts totaling over **Bz\$680,000** were signed with 2 local firms, **ASCON** and **Usher Construction Ltd.**

Under the **Sustainable Tourism Program (STP)** funds totaling **Bz\$ 504,596.74** will be spent on expanded bathroom and interpretation facilities at **Cahal Pech** and Belize's second most visited site, **Xunantunich**. A new visitor center will be built at Xunantunich to present and communicate its history,



Xunantunich Mayan Ruins

architecture and Maya cosmology. The existing visitor center at Cahal Pech will undergo a revamp, and improvements will be made to the site trail. The enhancements are timely, as Cahal Pech is the chosen venue for a number of the

special events planned to celebrate the completion of the 13th **B'ak'tun** in December.

Actun Tunichil Muknal (ATM) will benefit from **Bz\$177,500** investment. It is an exclusive tour, as ATM is one of the most spectacular subterranean

Maya archaeological sites in the region. By December, visitors will enjoy complete restroom and bathing facilities, set in a landscaped jungle environment at the entrance to the site.

The STP is a **US\$15million** tourism development program funded through **GOB** and the **BTB** with **IDB** loan assistance.

Last month work began on the construction of a new ferry for the river crossing to Xunantunich site under the STP.

For more information please contact the Sustainable Tourism Project Co-ordinating Unit
info@sustainabletourismbz.org
 or visit the STP website
www.sustainabletourismbz.org

Human Rights Watch attacks 'abuse of power' in Venezuela

The abuse of power by the Venezuelan government under President **Hugo Chavez** has increased over the past four years, according to Human Rights Watch.

Legislation limiting free speech and the removal of institutional safeguards give the government free rein to censor and intimidate critics, the group says.

In 2008, Venezuela expelled HRW representatives, accusing them of interfering in the country's affairs.

This latest report comes in the midst of Venezuela's election campaign.

Contacted by the **BBC**, the Venezuelan government did not have an immediate response, with an official in the information ministry saying it had not seen the report.

In 2008, HRW detailed its view of how President Chavez's



President Hugo Chavez Waving To Supporters

government had "*squandered a historic opportunity to shore up the country's democratic institutions and strengthen the protection of human rights in Venezuela*".

In Its latest report, entitled **Tightening the Grip: Concentration and Abuse of Power in Chavez's Venezuela**, argues that the human rights situation in the country has

become even more precarious. It focuses on the judiciary, the media and human rights defenders, drawing comparisons with the situation in the country four years ago.

"*The accumulation of power in the executive, the removal of institutional safeguards and the erosion of rights guarantees have given the Chavez government free rein to intimidate, censor and prosecute Venezuelans who criticise the president or thwart his political agenda,*" the report says.

Political control continues over the judiciary, with the Supreme Court packed with the president's supporters, according to HRW.

It cites the case of Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni as the most disturbing example of the lack of

judicial independence.

In 2009, Judge Afiuni ordered the release of a Venezuelan businessman and government critic accused of breaking currency controls. He had been held for nearly three years without trial, exceeding legal limits.

She was arrested shortly after President Chavez publicly criticised her ruling and demanded she be jailed for at least 30 years.

Judge Afiuni has been under house arrest since 2011.

The report acknowledges that sharp criticism of the government is common in newspapers and on other broadcast outlets such as opposition TV channel Globovision.

But it argues that the fear of government reprisals has made self-censorship a serious problem.

The government frequently accuses private media companies of using their power to try to undermine the democratic authorities.

In October, Venezuelans go to the polls, with Mr Chavez seeking a third term as president.

His main challenger is **Henrique Capriles**.

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Rural Chinese get online as mobile overtakes desktop

Mobile phones are now the most common way for people to connect to the internet in China, a report has said.

For the first time, desktop computers are no longer the leading method for the country's 538 million connected citizens to get online.

The report from the **China Internet Network Information Center (CINIC)** said over 50% of the year's new internet users were from rural areas.

A fall in smartphone costs has been the key cause of growth, experts said.

"Mobile phones are a cheaper and more convenient way to access the internet for [residents in] China's vast rural areas and for the enormous migrant population," said the report from the state-linked CINIC.

Mobile internet users now number 388 million, up almost 10% since the start of the year. *"Mobile phone prices continued to drop,"* the report said.



Mobile Internet Users in China Now Numbers 388 Million

"The emergence of smartphones under 1,000 yuan [\$157, £100] sharply lowered the threshold for using the devices and encouraged average mobile phone users to become mobile web surfers."

The total number of those online has risen 5% since the end of last year, many of whom are very active in cyberspace.

Bill Dutton, professor of internet studies at the **University of Oxford**, told the **BBC** that the trend followed similar growth in other parts of the world.

"We're moving to what we call next-generation users," he said.

"They're likely to have three or four devices in their homes, therefore they're able to integrate computing into their lives wherever they are."

He added that the rapid adoption of mobile among the rural community was one of necessity over desire.

"There's a wave of people coming online that would not otherwise be able to afford to be there."

Great Firewall

Over half of the connected population in China frequently use microblogging sites like Sina Weibo, a service similar to

Twitter which is banned in the country.

The popularity of these services has prompted the government to force users to sign up using their real names.

Internet use in China has had a rocky history. The country has been on the end of sharp criticism from human rights groups for blocking large amounts of content from its citizens - a system which has been dubbed the **"Great Firewall of China"**.

The report's implications are likely to have been noticed by the country's Communist leaders.

Mobile phones are an ideal platform for the microblogs which have become unofficial forums for information about unrest, scandals or disasters.

While internet access through web-browsers is constrained by the Great Firewall, specially written mobile programmes - or apps - frequently circumvent China's internet controls.

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BELIZE PRESS OFFICE

Ministry of Trade Negotiates Significant Decrease in Retail Price in Butane

The Ministry of Trade, Investment Promotion, Private Sector Development and Consumer Protection is proud to announce that it has negotiated a significant decrease in the retail price of Butane to the public.

Effective Tomorrow July 20th, the retail price of Butane will be reduced by \$30 per 100 pound cylinder. This will mean that a 100 pound cylinder of Butane will now be sold for \$105 in the case of the higher quality butane, and \$96 in the case of the lower grade. This reduction resulted from a meeting today between butane suppliers and representative from the Ministry of Trade, Investments, Private Sector Development and Consumer Protection. In light of a general downward trend in the global market price for natural gas, the Ministry took proactive steps in engaging the suppliers, and it was determined that were able to pass some of these accumulated savings to the consumers.

Other items discussed at the meeting included the new standards to be followed by Butane suppliers that will be implemented via SI by the end of August. These standards will govern many aspects of the Butane industry with a heavy focus on consumer safety and product quality, with the expected result being greater value for money for the consumer. During the meeting, the Ministry further reiterated that butane suppliers must continue to observe the legal requirement for use of weighing scales when selling butane.

The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Trade, Investment Promotion, Private Sector Development and Consumer Protection, remains committed to reducing the cost of living to Belizean consumers and will be engaging in similar meetings with vendors of basic commodities to ensure the best prices and service to the Belizean public.

For more information, please contact:
Belize Bureau of Standards
Phone: (501) 822-0446
or
Ministry of Trade, Investment Promotion, Private Sector Development and Consumer Protection
Phone: (501) 822-0405.

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

Ministry of Foreign Trade, Investment Promotion, Private Sector Development and Consumer Protection

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|-------------|--|---|
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| San Ignacio | \$105 | \$98 |
| Benque | \$106 | \$99 |
| Orange Walk | \$104 | \$97 |
| Corozal | \$103 | \$96 |
| Dangriga | \$107 | \$100 |
| Punta Gorda | \$108 | \$101 |

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Pandy And Trapp Get Five Years

Continued From Front Page

SANIGNACIO, Cayo, Monday, Wednesday, July 18, 2012:

It took over three years and almost 25 ajournments for the case against two Cayo boys to reach its conclusion.

On March 2, 2009, **Jahnon Trapp**, then 18, unemployed Belizean from Esperanza Village and **Leonard Pandy**, then 20, attempted to pull off a robbery at Mr. Greedy's Pizzeria then located at the foothills of La Loma Luz hospital in Santa Elena.

The attempt was foiled when,

having experienced a previous robbery, the Cariddi brothers, **Jonathan** and **Christoper** stood their grounds in protection of their property and in the process administering a severe beating on the robbers.

By the time the police arrived the struggle was still in progress and in the confusion the police landed a few blows on Christopher until they were actually apraised of the situation.

Charged with two counts of aggravated assault and one count of attempt robbery, Pandy and Trapp appeared before Magistrate

Narda Morgan who despite several adjournments for the apperance of the defense counsel they said they had, the case began in the absence of their lawyer. In the end they were both found guilty of all charges.

On the attempt robbery charge,

they were both sentenced to five years imprisonment and 18 months each on the two aggravated assault charges.

Magistrate Narda Morgan ordered for the sentences to run concurrently for a maximum of five years each in jail.

American Woman Found Dead

Continued From Front Page

policemen visited the Santa Cruz Road, Santa Elena residence of **Raul Estrada**. Upon arrival the team was directed to a downstairs apartment where they encountered the motionless body of a white woman, on a bed, on her back with blood streaks coming from the mouth, nostrils and ears.

After struggling for about two hours with inadequate equipment and the tail gate of the vehicle that refused to open, the police finally removed the body wrapped in a borrowed sheet and transported it to the San Ignacio community hospital where it was officially pronounced dead. The body was subsequently placed inside the morgue where it awaits the legally required post-mortem examination.

The deceased was identified as US national, **Susan Jean Harrsen**, 66, from Toledo, Ohio, USA. She is said to have been a retiree from one of the US Armed Forces on a monthly pension which she religiously collected on the third day of each month. Suffering from a hip injury, she was confined to a wheel chair. She is known to have lived a solitary life, locked up inside the downstairs apartment and would emerge only to collect the pension which she would use

to pay the rent, buy groceries and cigarettes as she was a chain smoker.

The landlord, Raul Estrada informed that he saw the deceased alive at around 1:00 pm the previous day. He said that with Tuesday being a garbage day, he knocked on the tenant's door as he usually does to get the garbage but when he got no response he decided to investigate and this was when he saw her motionless body on the bed inside the disorganized and filthy room. The police arrived shortly after receiving Estrada's call.

The landlord informed that he was fully aware of the unhealthy condition in which the deceased lived on his property. Incredible as it may seem however, he was adamant that whenever he requested assistance from the Department of Human Services and the local health authorities to get her to leave, he was told that as long as she paid the rent he could not evict her.

On Thursday morning, more than 48 hours after the dead body was found; on instructions from the authorities, Estrada is still awaiting the arrival of officials from the US Embassy to visit the apartment and to release the place to the family so that they can begin cleaning and disinfecting the locus.

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