

CANOE RACE

CANOE RACE

CANOE RACE

Saturday, June 1st, 2013 commencing at 9:00 am

in front of the old slaughter house in Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town and finishing at Bullet Tree Falls bridge.

Registration fee is \$100 per canoe, maximum of 3 persons.

Register at Mr. Greedy's Pizzeria on Burns Avenue, San Ignacio Town.

The deadline for registration is May 15th, 2013.

For more information contact:

Jonathan Cariddi – 620-2975 OR Estevan Perez – 653-5591 OR

Sandro Manzanero – 666-3019

STAR

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No. 357

Sunday, April 28, 2013

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Neal Surrenders - Lamb Remains On The Lam

AN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, April 25, 2013:

Today marks exactly three months since the January 25, 2013 murder of **Steven Valencia** which occurred in his Loma Luz Boulevard home in Santa Elena, one of two men suspected to have collaborated in the home invasion turned murder was today accordingly charged.

In the wake of the murder of Steven Valencia, police launched a nationwide manhunt for **Marvin "Bombo" Neal**, 20, of an Eve Street address in Santa Elena Town, Cayo, and **Jarod "Steal Bob" Lamb** of an Ontario Village address also in the Cayo District both wanted for questioning in connection with **Valencia's** murder.



Accused Murderer
Marvin "Bombo" Neal, 20



The Deceased
Steven Valencia

Police were unable to capture the suspects when they again became prime suspects in the April 16, 2013 invasion of a family home near Rumors Hotel on the George Price Highway between the towns of San Ignacio and Benque Viejo. It is reported that during the home invasion the lady of the house was assaulted and the house was burglarized. All stolen items were eventually recovered as both suspects managed to escape from the police.

While, to date, "**Steal Bob**" remains at large, **Marvin Neal** walked up the stairs of the Police Station in San Ignacio at around 11:30 am on Friday, April 20 where he calmly handed himself in to the

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A False Sense Of Safety

SAN IGNACIO, Cayo, Monday, April 22, 2013:

As the none-public reporting of crimes in the community continues, deceptively leading residents to believe that they can let down their guards as all seems to be well; there are two reported burglaries reaching us this week.

In the first incident, we were reliably informed that the San Ignacio home of Dr. **Miguel Depaz**, Director, Animal Health Department, Belize Agriculture Health Authority (**BAHA**), was burglarized/invaded as his mother in law and son lay asleep in their rooms.

The report indicated that the eldest

son **Andre Depaz**, 29, left home at around 8:00 pm on Saturday, April 20 leaving the 28 year old brother and 65 year old grandmother inside the house. Andre reportedly returned about seven hours later, at around 3:00 am on Sunday, only to find the house in a ransacked state being an instant indication that something was just not right.

The investigation revealed that the house, a three flat concrete structure located in the Hanging Rock Area, Cahal Pech, San Ignacio, was indeed burglarized while the brother and grandmother were asleep inside.

It was noted that entry was gained

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BWS Water Finally Coming To The Belize River Valley



Full Story On Page 2

(L-R) Hon. Edmund Castro, Chairman BWSL Alberto August and Hon. Godwin Hulse



Saturday, April 27, 2013

Party With The Sounds of **Cloud 9**

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Going Down Inside The Princess Int'l San Ignacio



Sports -An Alternative To Crime

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Friday, April 19, 2013:

As he continues to fulfill his manifesto promises to constituents of Cayo Central, Area Representative Hon. **Rene Montero**, today officially declared open the extensively renovated Carmen Street basketball court in Santa Elena.

The Minister of Works and Transport, has again fulfilled another of his manifesto promises to bring back social activities to the youths of Cayo Central.

The project which included the installation of new bathroom fixtures, electrical and water facilities as well as extensive works on the perimeter fence, bleachers, court surface, backboards, entrance gate, and landscaping of the grounds, was implemented by the Ministry of Works at a cost of over twenty thousand dollars.

In addressing the packed arena during the inauguration ceremony Minister Montero emphasized government's commitment to providing adequate and safe recreational facilities for the people of Belize. He additionally informed that he intends to continue working hard



Hon. Rene Montero Handing Over New Jersey And Basketballs To A Young Player

for the people of Cayo Central throughout the duration of his tenure and that he will not wait until election year to begin working for the people.

Another highlight of the inaugura-

tion was the handing over, by Minister Montero of new uniform and basketballs to all eight teams competing in the Cayo Central basketball tournament carrying his name.

The Hon. **Rene Montero** Basketball Tournament kicks off with a marathon on Saturday, April 20.

In closing minister took the

opportunity to ask users of the refurbished facility to make maximum use of the facility and to take good care of it so that they can enjoy many years of sporting activities and social interaction on a basketball court that they can truly call theirs.

Hon. **Rene Montero**, Minister of Works and Transportation: Working for Belize; Working for Cayo Central.

BWS Water Finally Coming To The Belize River Valley

From Front Page

Double Head Cabbage Village, Belize District, Wednesday, April 24, 2013:

The old promise to provide reliable, constant and safe potable water to the chain of nine communities in the Belize River Valley is now well on the way to finally becoming a reality.

Ground was today broken in Double Head Cabbage, following a 2:00 pm ceremony signaling the commencement of this long awaited project.

The 7.78 million dollar project will be funded by way of a loan to the Government of Belize by the Caribbean Development Bank with over eight hundred thousand dollars coming by way of counterpart funding through the Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL).

The project, to be executed by the BWSL, encompasses the laying of 45 miles of water mains and service connections to over 550 new customers. All the necessary pipes and fittings are already in country and the trenching contracts with two local contractors has been duly signed and the work will commence immediately.

In an interview after the ground breaking ceremony, minister with responsibility for Rural Development, Hon. **Godwin Hulse**, who hails from Isabella Bank, one of the nine communities in the Belize River Valley, told the media that: *"Today is*

a happy day for all the nine villages of the River Valley because we broke ground for the commencement of the construction of a water delivery system for all the nine villages from Rancho Dolores all the way to Flowers Bank and the ones in between including Isabella Bank, Lemonal, Willows Bank, St. Paul's Bank, Double Head Cabbage and Bermudian Land-ing. It's a seven point seven million dollar project which is being funded through a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank with BWS counterpart funds of about eight hundred thousand dollars. The project encompasses the installation of roughly forty five miles of pipes and will connect all the households in the area and of course there will be pump stations in between. The project should take, I guess, about eighteen months, as I understand it, to be completed but it is a long standing wish of the people of this area."

For his part, Area Representative, Hon. **Edmund Castro** informed that the promise for potable water to the Belize River Valley is finally becoming a reality. He informed that after this project has been completed, the focus will be directed to communities on the other side of the Phillip Goldson Highway which

includes Biscayne, Gardinia and Maskal among other villages.

The thank you address was delivered by **Alberto August**, Chairman of the Belize Water Services Limited Board of Directors. Chairman August thanked the students of the Belize Rural High School for the magnificent rendition of the national anthem of Belize. He likewise thanked the villagers and other village chairpersons for coming out to witness the historic event. Special mention was also made of the presence of the Chairman and other

STAR Newspaper Always keeping You Informed

representatives of the Public Utilities Commission as well as members of the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Belize Water Services Limited. He ended by encouraging beneficiaries of the long awaited water system to, as a show of appreciation for the investment, be consistent in paying their water bills which in turn will be used to service the loan.

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Contributed by: Karim Juan, M.Ed. Academic Vice Principal Sacred Heart College

Sacred Heart College embarked on a very ambitious project in 2006 to raise funds to build an auditorium that would serve our institution, as well as the community of the western Cayo District. With the hard work of our faculty, staff, students, parents, community and other stakeholders, we are proud to say that the project commenced in January 2013 with Phase 1 and Phase 2. These two phases includes the cement foundation, the purchase and erection of the steel structure and the back fill. SHC has invested over \$430,000 for these two phases, which are monies that were attained via multiple fund raising projects over a 7 year fund-raising period. Phase 3 of the project is the cement floor/slab, which will



Sacred Heart College Needs Your Assistance In Making Our Auditorium A Reality

cost approximately \$200,000 and we are anticipating that this will be completed by June 5, 2013, in time to hold our Graduation Ceremonies.

To make this possible, we continue to rely on the support of the SHC family - our parents, staff members, the business community, alumni and other stake holders as we work to raise the necessary funds to complete this phase of the project. We are presently organizing a cement and

steel drive to complete the cement slab/floor.

If you would like to assist financially, please give us a call and we would be more than willing to pick up your contributions. We can be reached at 824-2102 or 824-2758. You can also contact **Karim Juan** at karim@shc.edu.bz or at 607-5619 or Mr. Julio Llinas at julio@shc.edu.bz or at 622-5986. Deposits can be made in our account at Atlantic Bank

Heart College Facebook page to track how much donation we have received via pledges. Alumni and friends in the US and around the world can send their donations via Moneygram or Western Union to Sacred Heart College in c/o Dr. Eve Aird, President.

We remain grateful for all the support given to date, and for the continued support of the SHC community, at home and abroad!



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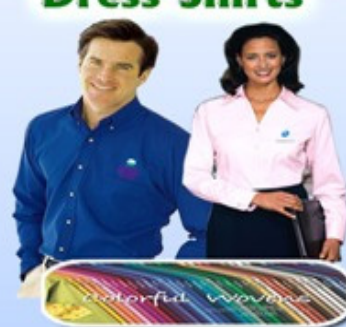
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My Body is Precious

April 23, 2013

The office of the Special Envoy for Women and Children in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation will be launching a children's book entitled *"My Body is Precious"*.

It is becoming increasingly important to discuss the sensitive subject of Sexual Abuse of Children. Recognizing that it is not an easy conversation to have, my office

partnered with the Ministry of Human Development and with assistance from UNICEF, we were able to produce 30,000 copies of the child-friendly *"good touch, bad touch"* booklet to be distributed countrywide.

"My Body is Precious" is part of a national public information campaign on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and follows successful symposiums hosted by my Office in August 2010 and October 2011.

The book, which targets children between the ages of 6 and 10 years, will assist parents who have a hard time talking about the Sexual Abuse of Children while teaching children what to do if they are touched inappropriately. We hope that this book will ultimately contribute to the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of children as well as an increase in perpetrators being reported and convicted.

With the help of the Institute of Creative Arts, a dramatization of the book has been produced and is

being presented countrywide in a NICH sponsored tour. A special launch of *"My Body is Precious"* will be held in Cayo and we invite your media house to cover that event on **Friday, April 26, at 11:00am at the Octavia Waight Center in San Ignacio.**

For additional information or inquiries, please feel free to contact my Assistant Program Coordinator, Delahnie Bain, at 223-1941/42 or by email at: special.envoy.office@humandev.gov.bz.

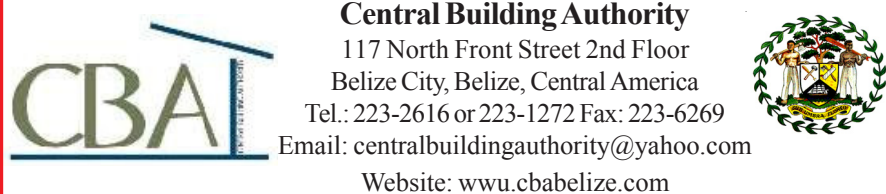


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Website: www.cbabelize.com



NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The Sacred Heart College located in San Ignacio, Cayo District, has made an application to the Central Building Authority for a waiver of fees in connection with the construction of an auditorium. The conditions for requesting the waiver is that Sacred Heart College is a state- aided educational institution, the auditorium is not a commercial endeavor but will be used for educational and local community activities and sporting events, and its potential to serve as a hurricane shelter.

The Central Building Authority agrees to the waiver as a support of the conditions stated above and will proceed should no objections be put forward.



On May 7th the homosexual organization UNIBAM and Caleb Orozco will attempt to change a law called Section 53, the Unnatural Act Law. They say this law violates their human dignity, their human rights, and the Government has no business dictating to what they do in a consensual act.

Did you know that Section 53 has NEVER ONCE been used to charge, prosecute, or convict ANY person for a consensual act? What they claim as a violation has actually NEVER occurred in Belize!! Never!

Did you know that the NUMBER ONE type of situation where Section 53 is used in a court of law has to do with SEXUAL ABUSE cases? Male rape, Sexual abuse against women, against minors, even against CHILDREN. Literally EVERY case where Section 53 is used is against sexual abuse.

Belize, Section 53 is a good law, yet UNIBAM & Orozco want to change it!! Say NO to the UNIBAM agenda!! For more information, sign up at belizeaction@gmail.com

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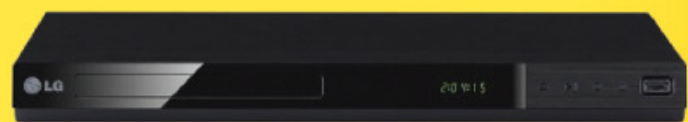
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Tropigas Contributes To Early Childhood Education

SANTA ELENA COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL, Thursday, April 25, 2013:

The Santa Elena Community Preschool on Carillo Puerto Avenue today received a much needed recreational facility generously donated by **Tropigas** Santa Elena Branch resulting from a competition organized and executed by Tropigas staff with assistance from the community.

The award valued at \$2,500 includes a swing set with attached slide. Competing preschools were asked to explain why their school was deserving of the award.

In accepting the generous award, Santa Elena Community Preschool's head teacher Mrs. **Lorena Rancheran** expressed heartfelt appreciation to the management and staff of Tropigas as well as to parents and the community for their support in recommending Santa Elena Community as deserving of the award. The new facility came at an



Handing Over Ceremony At The Preschool

appropriate time explained Mrs. Rancheran, since the current recreational facilities at the school are inadequate. She applauded Tropigas for the outstanding gesture as proactive leaders in the development of early childhood education and for

the company's impressive outreach program. She encouraged other businesses to follow the example set today by Tropigas. In closing teacher Rancheran informed that the school, with an enrolment of over 40 students, intends to take good care of the facility and promised to put it to good use.

In presenting the award, Mr. **Danny Gongora**, Manager of Tropigas, Santa Elena branch, explained that the company's community outreach project is a clear demonstration of the company's active involvement in the welfare of the community. He said that Tropigas recognizes the importance of early childhood education as a crucial component in fostering the development of future leaders. He additionally informed that today's event marks the commencement of what will be an annual award.

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Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports

CONALEP SCHOLARSHIP CALL 2013

Colegio Nacional de Educacion Profesional Tecnica

The Government of the United States of Mexico, under the Belize/Mexico Bi-lateral Agreement is once again awarding scholarships to the Government of Belize. The scholarships will allow qualifying Belizean students to enter the *Colegio Nacional de Educacion Profesional Tecnica (CONALEP)* to obtain a Bachiller.

Tenure of Scholarships

The Scholarship is normally for the duration of the programme of studies and requires the scholarship holder to maintain above average passing grades at the aforementioned institution.

The Scholarships become tenable in August 2013.

Eligibility

1. Be a minimum of 17 years old.
2. Be of Belizean nationality; applicants (citizens or residents) must reside in Belize.

Career Areas

Faculty of Industrial Studies

Electricity and Electronics

- Maintenance of electronic systems
- Mechatronics
- Electrical distribution networks
- Electronic aviation systems

Information Technology

- Maintenance of computer equipment
- Digital graphic expression
- Telecommunications

Information Technology

- Maintenance of computer equipment
- Digital graphic expression
- Telecommunications

Maintenance and Installation

- Automotive
- Autotronics
- Electromechanical Industrial
- Alternate energy sources
- Bodyworks and coating of aircraft.
- Maintenance of engines and gliders
- Maintenance of automated systems
- Diesel engines
- Refrigeration and air conditioning

3. Have adequate (intermediary) knowledge of Spanish both in oral and written communication.
4. Have completed **at minimum** a Second Form level of studies.

Production processes and physical transformation

- Quality Control
- Industrial Sewing
- Machine Tools
- Metal Works
- Metal Processing
- Industrial Productivity
- Textiles

Chemistry-Biological production and transformation processes

- Conservation of the environment
- Horticulture
- Metallurgy
- Mining metallurgist
- Plastics
- Industrial food processing
- Production and processing of aquaculture products
- Chemical industries

Services

Tourism

- Tourist hospitality
- Food and beverage

Application

Applications packages can be downloaded and printed from www.moe.gov.bz. Packages are also available at the Ministry of Education in Belmopan and District Education offices countrywide. Completed application packages must be hand-delivered to the office of Tertiary and Post Secondary Education Services no later than May 31, 2013 and should be addressed to:

Director,
Tertiary and Post Secondary Education Services
Ministry of Education, West Block, Third Floor-Room 10
Belmopan

Jose Orellano
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Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

ARIES:

March 22 to April 20

Today is a fantastic day for you. Your sensual, caring nature will be appreciated. Whether you actively pursue it or sit back and relax, you will receive the love and good fortune you desire. Your creativity is also at a peak during this time. You should take advantage of this energy and actively use your talent to create something beautiful and meaningful. **Lucky numbers: 12, 42, 69.**

TAURUS:

April 21 to May 21

Being married to someone for many years takes work. No one said it was going to be easy. Hollywood promotes a fantasyland that can make your life look drab and boring by comparison. Realize that your life can be good and interesting, too - reality is even better than the movie version. This week is a good week to prepare for future growth. **Lucky numbers: 07, 33, 90.**

GEMINI:

May 22 to June 21

This week is a great week to make your big move. If there is something in the love and romance department that you feel you need to act on, this is the week to do it. It's now or never. Approach all situations in a practical, caring manner. Plow forward with confidence and don't look back. Indulge in those things that give you pleasure. Get a massage or take a bubble bath tonight. **Lucky numbers: 51, 76, 84.**

CANCER:

June 22 to July 23

Take your focus off you and concentrate on someone else for a day. This doesn't mean focusing so the person will stop and pay attention to you. It doesn't mean getting their attention so that you have someone who will listen to you talk. Get someone's attention because you really want to hear what he or she has to say. **Lucky numbers: 10, 29, 50.**

LEO:

July 24 to August 21

It might take an extra few minutes to get out of bed, but it will be worth it when you do. You will find that the more honest you have been with people, the more payoffs you will receive. Being dependable and trustworthy are key issues to focus on. Act strong and proud with regard to who you are and the rewards will come. Bring a certain amount of tenderness to all your actions. **Lucky numbers: 04, 37, 63.**

VIRGO:

August 22 to

September 21

Don't try to fit into a mold you simply don't belong in. You may have gone through a major transformation lately in which you went from being a square peg to a round peg. Other people might still be trying to push you into the square hole. Don't let them. Let people know that it upsets you not to be treated the way you want to be treated. **Lucky numbers: 18, 31, 45.**

LIBRA:

September 22 to October 23

There may be subtle messages in people's words this week that you need to attend to. Other people could be trying to send you hints in order to push your buttons. Confront them on this behavior. Don't ignore the subtleties in their voices. Tender, loving messages may be laced with thorns intended to provoke you. Don't let this action go unnoticed. **Lucky numbers: 40, 66, 81.**

SCORPIO:

October 24 to November 21

Don't keep playing along with the games if you no longer want to repeat the same drama. By placing yourself in a victim role, you are opening yourself up to manipulation and control by others. To stop the repetitive pattern, it's crucial for you to stand up and recognize that you have an important part in the healing process. Recognize that you have the power and courage to change. **Lucky numbers: 49, 75, 93.**

SAGITTARIUS:

November 22 to December 21

This week is excellent for you. You should be encouraged to take action in any artistic realm. Cook a scrumptious dinner and share it with a loved one. Give your heart a chance to speak and act on what it says. Your feminine and masculine sides are on the same page now. Take the opportunity to balance these two aspects. You are a magnet for love and romance. **Lucky numbers: 21, 53, 92.**

CAPRICORN:

December 22 to January 20

Go weed the garden. If you don't have a garden, start one. It is important for you to get into the Earth this week, so roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty. Feeling a connection with the ground is an important step in manifesting your dreams. Buy some seeds, fertilizer, and a watering can. This is a great week to create a nurturing

environment in which a seed can grow. **Lucky numbers: 03, 55, 71.**

AQUARIUS: January 21 to February 19

There is great opportunity for romance. Love the people you are with, don't smother them. The more you loosen your grip, the more you will gain control of it. Cutting chains to the past is the first step in moving forward toward a goal. You might not realize how much a past situation holds

PISCES:

February 20 to March 21

The receptive natures of your being are coming together. You are able to attract the prosperity and love you desire by the way in which you handle yourself around others. This week is about the equilibrium between give and take. Make sure there is a healthy balance between you and your loved ones. **Lucky numbers: 26, 35, 83.**

New Director of Cruise and Regional Initiatives

Belize City, Monday, April 22, 2013:

The Belize Tourism Board is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Cruise and Regional Initiatives Director, Mr. **Valdemar Andrade**.

Mr. Andrade has been in the Tourism Industry for the past two years as the Technical Advisor/Project Liaison-Sustainable Tourism Program, for the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

He has several years of experience in conservation and other environmental areas, through his work experience with Protected Areas Conservation Trust, Ministry of Natural Resource and the Environment, and the Belize Audubon Society.

"As we embark this year to grow cruise tourism numbers and strengthen Belize's position in that market, the skills and experience that Valdemar Andrade possesses will augment our goal. The BTB is confident in Mr. Andrade's abilities, and happy to welcome him to our team," commented the Director of Tourism, Mrs. **Laura Esquivel Frampton**.

Mr. Andrade brings extensive



Valdemar Andrade

experience in management at an executive level, coupled with his familiarity of the regional tourism climate. His core competency and knowledge of sustainable tourism in marketing the Belize tourism product positions him in a strategic place to help develop and grow the cruise tourism sector. He will be key in the development of cruise tourism initiatives and program, and to liaise and network with primary regional partners.

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The Belize Logo Is A Finalists

Belize City, Tuesday April 23, 2013:

The Belize logo has been chosen as a finalist for the "One Show Design" 2013 awards, in the category of "Brand Identity - Logo Design." The Belize Tourism Board and its Advertising and Online Agency, Olson, created the Belize logo as a part of a re-branding of Belize's identity.

When creating the new logo, Olson made several trips to Belize to capture the essence of Belize's authenticity and incorporate it in the creative behind the new logo. The BTB and OLSON used the old logo as an inspiration, while the new look of the logo is expected to make Belize more recognizable and to better position the destination in terms of its tourism product offerings.

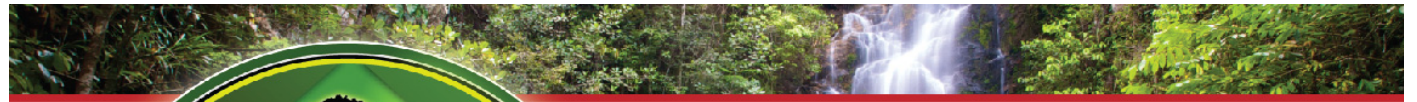
The One Show awards are products of The One Club, which is



an American non-profit organization which aims to recognize and promote

excellence in advertising. The awards consist of One Show, One Show Design, One Show Interactive, and One Show Entertainment, and each of these consist of various categories. The awards take place during Creative Week, which is May 6-10. The One Show Design winners will be announced on May 6th.

A full listing of all the awards, categories, and finalists can be found at The One Club website <http://www.oneclub.org/finalists/showcase/>



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Call for Tourism Trainers

The Belize Tourism Board is looking for experienced trainers in the fields of:

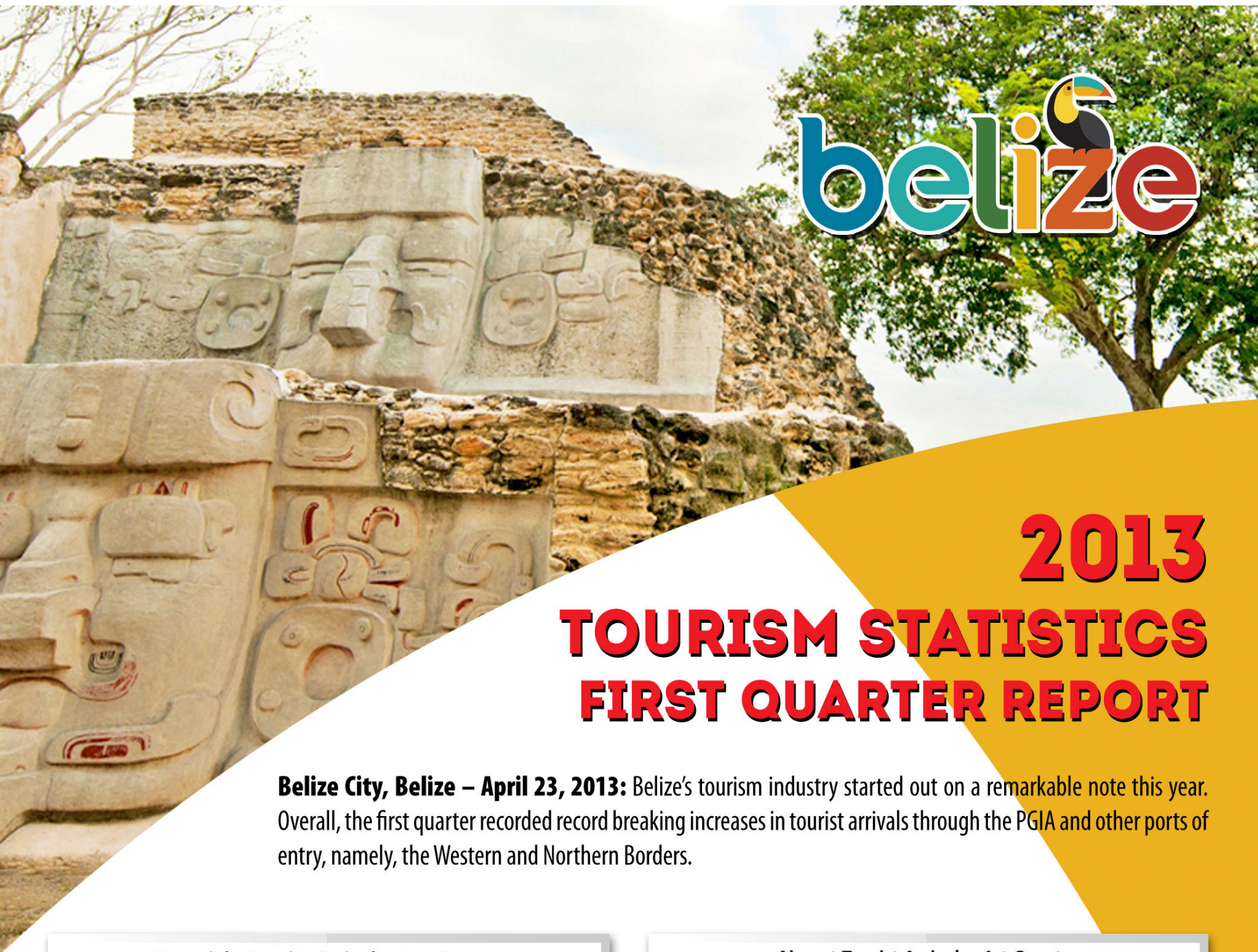
- Hospitality,
- Customer service,
- Tour guiding specializations (Belizean History, Natural History, Ornithology, Botany, Marine Biology, Advanced Marine, Ecotourism, Guide Interpretation, Fishing, Caving, Culture, Archaeology, etc.)
- Food and Beverage Operations, Food Services, Bartending,
- Sustainable Tourism,
- Events Planning,
- Tourism Health and Safety,
- Front Office Operations,
- Other related fields in tourism.

Interested persons are asked to submit their curriculum vitae along with copies of their relevant qualifications by email to training@travelbelize.org or via mail to the attention of:

Juliet Neal

Capacity Building and Training Officer
Belize Tourism Board
64 Regent Street, Belize City

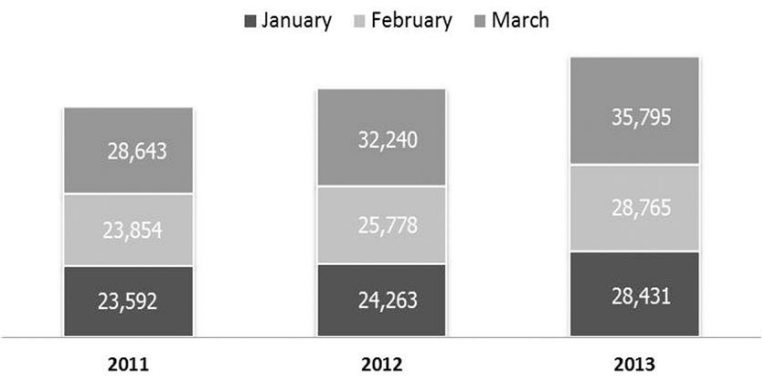
Deadline for submission: May 31st, 2013



2013 TOURISM STATISTICS FIRST QUARTER REPORT

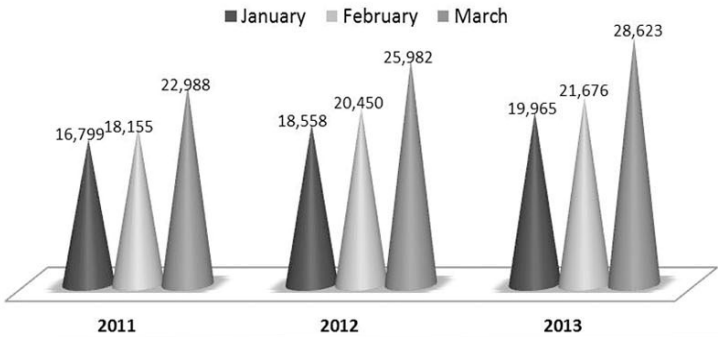
Belize City, Belize – April 23, 2013: Belize’s tourism industry started out on a remarkable note this year. Overall, the first quarter recorded record breaking increases in tourist arrivals through the PGIA and other ports of entry, namely, the Western and Northern Borders.

Overnight Tourist Arrivals - 1st Quarter



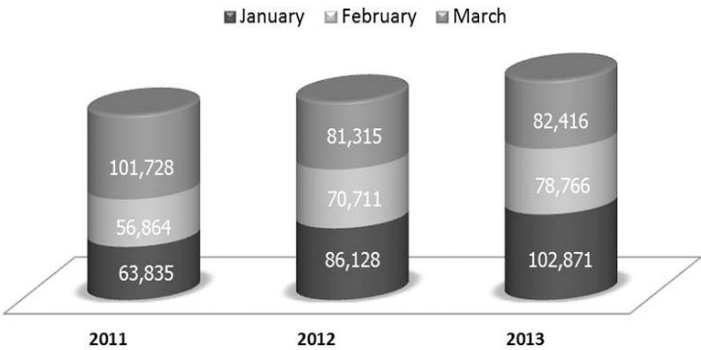
Overnight tourist arrivals during the months of January, February and March recorded increases of 17.2%, 11.6% and 11%, respectively. For the first time ever, Belize exceeded the 35,000 overnight visitors mark for a single month. The previous all-time high was 32,240 visitors in March, 2012. The overnight tourist arrivals increase indicates that there was a 13% growth, overall.

Airport Tourist Arrivals - 1st Quarter



Arrivals by air in January, February and March of 2013 showed increases of 7.6%, 6.0% and 10.1%, respectively. This year's month of March recorded 28,623 tourist arrivals, which is over 2,600 more tourists compared to last year's March total. This is the first time in history that arrivals by air exceeded the 28,000 mark. In summary, airport tourist arrivals showed 8.1% growth in this year's first quarter.

Cruise Arrivals - 1st Quarter



Despite dismal cruise arrivals last year, 2013's first quarter showed notable growth. There was a 19.4% increase in arrivals in January, and an 11.4% increase in arrivals in February. In addition, March saw a modest increase of 1.4%. In total, a 10.9% increase in cruise tourist arrivals was recorded in the first three months of this year.



www.travelbelize.org

For more information, please contact the Belize Tourism Board at 227-2420



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Mexican 'Drug Queen' Pleads Guilty In Us

A Mexican woman on trial in the US has pleaded guilty to helping the former head of the powerful Norte del Valle cartel evade justice between 2002-04.

Sandra Avila Beltran, 52, dubbed Queen of the Pacific, admitted to "hindering the arrest" of Juan Diego Espinosa Ramirez, her boyfriend at the time.

Avila, who has been in jail since 2007, was extradited to Miami last August.

She faces a prison sentence of 15 years after accepting a plea bargain. She previously denied any wrongdoing.

Avila was accused of being an important link between the Norte del Valle Cartel, in Colombia, and Mexico's powerful Sinaloa cartel.

Much of the cocaine produced in Colombia is smuggled into the United States via Mexico.

She is the niece of Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, who was known in the 1980s as The Godfather of drug trafficking into the US.

On Wednesday, Avila pleaded guilty in a Miami court to being an accessory after the fact for helping Espinosa run from police.

"Between approximately 2002 and 2004, Avila-Beltran provided financial assistance for travel,



Sandra Avila Beltran has been in custody since 2007 lodging and other expenses to [Espinosa] with the intention of preventing or hindering his arrest for drug-trafficking crimes," the US attorney's office said in a statement.

Although she faces a maximum of 15 years in prison when sentenced on 25 July, she is expected to receive a lesser jail term reflecting time already served.

Avila was arrested in September 2007 in Mexico City, and charged with money laundering and drug trafficking.

She initially fought the charges, claiming she made her money selling

clothes and renting houses.

After a legal battle against extradi-

tion, Avila was handed over to the US authorities in Mexico and was taken to Florida to face cocaine possession and trafficking charges.

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Pictures available E-mail: rallen@btl.net

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VACANCY



A vacancy exists for a **Computer Programmer** in the Information Systems Department of Belize Electricity Limited.

Duties

Develop, maintain and document software systems for use at BEL. Assist users in operating software systems and in overcoming operational difficulties as well as administer training in software systems developed.

Qualifications

- Associate Degree in Computer Science or related field with two (2) years' experience in the software development field **OR** Bachelor Degree in Computer Science or related field
- Knowledge of at least two programming languages
- Knowledge of web development techniques and principles
- Knowledge of MS SQL Server 2005 (or later) RDBMS and its data access tools
- Knowledge of at least one Microsoft Suite of development tools would be tremendous asset

Requirements

- Possess excellent analytical and organizational skills
- Be detail oriented
- Must be able to work effectively as a team player
- Ability to take initiative and work with little supervision is an absolute must
- Be assertive
- Be able to multi-task and work well under pressure
- Ability to explain IT technical matters in a concise, digestible manner to business managers, supervisors, and other non IT staff and stakeholders

Salary: In accordance with Company's Grade Structure.

Send completed application form, résumé and two (2) recent letters of reference to:

Manager
Human Resources Department
Belize Electricity Limited
2½ Miles Phillip Goldson Highway
Belize City, Belize

Deadline: **Friday, May 10, 2013.**

Readers Write

"Your Friendly What?"

Dear Editor;

Thank goodness that Atlantic Bank is branded as **"Your Friendly Bank"** because I could not even imagine what conditions inside the bank would be if it was not so branded.

As **"Your Friendly Bank"** security guards inside Atlantic Bank San Ignacio stand by customers' side as if every customer is about to rob the bank. Your phone rings, you dare not put it to your ears, lest the security is right up in your face. Reviewing incoming text and answering a text inside this bank is almost like committing a crime. A busy business

person remains incommunicado while inside this **"Friendly Bank"**. You seek to make a transaction without your pass book the bank automatically takes over six dollars from your account. Thank heavens Atlantic Bank is **"Your Friendly Bank"**.

I have not moved my account to the Belize Bank for the simple reason that I consider the Octopus to be bad and dangerous for Belize. However, if one was to grade the quality of service, between both banks, the Belize Bank would be light years ahead of Atlantic Bank and that is because

there is no **"Friendly"** in the Belize Bank brand. I can only imagine how much more pleasant it would be inside the Belize Bank, if only the word **"Friendly"** was in their brand.

The passbook is a thing of the past, it is almost obsolete inside the Belize Bank, you bring your passbook, it's cool with the Belize Bank Teller; you do not bring your passbook, it's also cool with the Belize Bank teller. You bring an ID; you do not bring an ID, it's cool with the Belize Bank Teller as they simply do a signature check on their computer and you are good to go.

Seems like Atlantic Bank has no intention of mending its ways toward customers as they continue to probably view all of us with criminal intent; It might also seem impossible

for the Octopus to mend his way towards Belize, and so I guess that I will just leave my little money in the credit union as I continue to take the lick whenever I have to do business inside **"Your Friendly Bank"** and others.

Just in case you might be wondering, I have not moved to Scotiabank because every single time I go there to cash a cheque they photocopy my ID, I can go in three times per day and they do it every single time. They can see your face every single day of the week and they will refuse to do any business with you if you do not present an ID.

Please withhold my name.

STAR

"In and of themselves, sugary soft drinks are only part of the picture - they're just one of the potential risk factors for Type-2 diabetes," he said.

"But since they are one we can easily eliminate - by switching to diet soft drinks or, even better, cutting them out of our diets altogether - it makes good sense to do so."

Gavin Partington, director general of the drinks industry body the British Soft Drinks Association said: *"Soft drinks are safe to consume but, like all other food and drink, should be consumed in moderation as part of a balanced diet."*



Diabetes Warning Over Soft Drinks

Drinking one or more cans of sugary soft drinks a day is linked to an increased risk of diabetes in later life, a study suggests.

A can a day raises the relative risk of Type-2 diabetes by about a fifth, compared with one can a month or under, say European scientists.

The report in the journal Diabetologia mirrors previous US findings.

A diabetes charity recommends limiting sugary foods and drinks as they are calorific and can cause weight gain.

The latest research was carried out in the UK, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Sweden, France and the Netherlands.

Some 350,000 individuals were questioned about their diet, as part of a large European study looking at links between diet and cancer.

"The consumption of sugar sweetened soft drinks increases your risk of diabetes - so for every can of soft drinks that you drink per day, the risk is higher," lead researcher Dora Romaguera from Imperial College London told BBC News.

She called for clearer public health information on the effects of sugary soft drinks.



"Given the increase in sweet beverage consumption in Europe, clear messages on its deleterious effect on health should be given to the population," Dr Romaguera and colleagues conclude in their research paper.

'Not definitive evidence'

An increased risk of diabetes was also linked to drinking artificially sweetened soft drinks, but this disappeared when body mass index was taken into account.

Fruit juice consumption was not associated with diabetes incidence, however.

Commenting on the results, Dr **Matthew Hobbs**, head of research at Diabetes UK, said the link between sugar-sweetened soft drinks and Type-2 diabetes persisted even when body mass index was taken into

account.

This suggests the increased risk is not solely due to extra calories, he said.

"Even so, it is not definitive evidence that sugar-sweetened soft drinks increase the risk of Type 2 diabetes, other than through their effect on body weight," he added.

"We do, though, already recommend limiting consumption of sugary foods and drinks as these are usually high in calories and so can lead to weight gain if you have too many of them."

"This is important for Type 2 diabetes because we know that maintaining a healthy weight is the single most important thing you can do to prevent it."

Statistics expert Professor Patrick Wolfe, from University College London, said the absolute risk of Type-2 diabetes is low at about 4% of the adult UK population.



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RESORT

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Four Belizeans Receive Prestigious Honour of the British Empire

BELMOPAN CITY, Wednesday, April 24, 2013:

Four Belizeans were today honoured at the Belize House for their selfless and outstanding contributions to Belize.

The honourees included Senior Counsel, Mr. **Denys A. Barrow**, who was awarded the insignia for Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his distinguished service to Belize and the field of law; Commissioner of the Supreme Court and Senior Justice of the Peace, Mr. **Patrick Alexander Bernard**, was bestowed with the insignia of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his dedication to the Public Service. Also receiving the insignia of a Member of the Most Excellent



(L-R) Denys A. Barrow, Patrick Alexander Bernard, His Excellency Sir Collville Young, Crispina Hyde and Pen Cayetano

Order of the British Empire were Mr. **Pen Cayetano** for his wonderful and

numerous contributions to music and art; and Senior Justice of the Peace, Ms. **Crispina Hyde**, for her selfless service to education and community. The Governor General of Belize, Sir **Collville Young**, conferred the prestigious honours to the citizens on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Free Hearing Test in Belmopan

BELIZE CITY, Belize—There will be free hearing tests available at the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan from April 24 to May 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as part of the New Horizons exercise.

If you are experiencing ringing or pain in your ears, difficulty hearing, or drainage from your ears, you are invited to the clinic to be evaluated. Depending on your symptoms, you

may be eligible for free hearing aids or a surgical procedure. These services are provided by a team of U.S. medical professionals.

New Horizons gives U.S., Canadian and Belizean personnel the opportunity to train jointly in an exercise setting, in order to be prepared to meet future challenges when and where needed. It provides medical and dental treatment, and also

constructs needed structures, such as classrooms, throughout Belize.

For updates on events and projects, follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NewHorizons2013>.

For further questions, please contact

New Horizons Public Affairs at NewHorizonsPAO@gmail.com, or call 671-2425.

US 'spy' Timothy Hallet Tracy detained in Venezuela

The authorities in Venezuela have detained a United States citizen they accuse of being an intelligence agent.

Interior Minister **Miguel Rodriguez Torres** said **Timothy Hallet Tracy** had directed funds towards student protests after the disputed presidential elections earlier this month.

He said Mr Tracy was trying to destabilise the country with the goal of starting a civil war.

The US has not commented, but Mr Tracey's family say he is innocent.

They say he was in Venezuela making a documentary, the Associated Press reports.

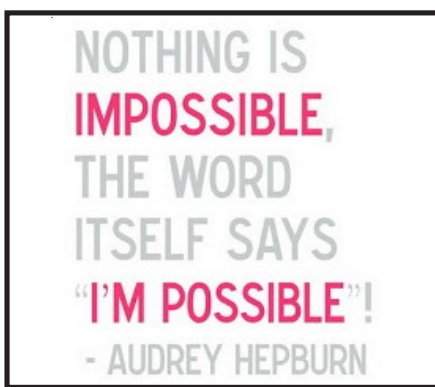
The presidential election was won

by less than 2% of the vote by Nicolas Maduro. He succeeds his mentor Hugo Chavez, who died in March of cancer.

But the opposition have alleged

election irregularities, and losing candidate Henrique Capriles has demanded a full recount of the vote.

Nine people died in post-election protests and both the government and opposition are planning more protests on 1 May.



Nine People Died During Venezuela's Post-election Clashes

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Guatemalan Gold Panners Convicted

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, April 22, 2013:

Three Guatemalans were today remanded to the Hattieville prison after being apprehended in the Ceibo Chico Reserve, allegedly mining for gold in a protected area.

According to a release issued by Friends for Conservation and Development (**FCD**), the incident occurred on Friday, April 19, 2013. The release states that the Joint Forces Unit, stationed at the Ceibo Chico Conservation Post, in South Chiquibul came upon a group of three Guatemalans reportedly panning for gold.

The men were later identified as **Mario Rolando Xol Caal**, **Marcos Domingo Pana Chiquin** and **Esteban Putul Mai** all residing in the Village of El Naranjon, near San Luis, Peten, Guatemala.

In the incident police reportedly found small transparent tubes



The Gold Prospectors Detained By The Joint Forces Unit

containing suspected gold on both Mai and Chiquin. The investigation led police to the prospectors' campsite about twelve hundred feet from the excavation site where **Mario**

Rolando Xol Caal reportedly handed police a 16 gauge sawed off shotgun.

All three detainees were escorted to the San Ignacio police station where

Mario Rolando Xol Caal was formally arrested and charged with keeping an unlicensed firearm and ammunition while **Esteban Putul Mai** and **Marcos Domingo Pana Chiquin** were jointly charged for illegal prospecting.

The three Guatemalans were arraigned before magistrate Narda Morgan on Monday, April 22, 2013, where the charges were read to them. Caal wasted no time in pleading guilty to the gun and ammunition charge. He was sentenced to serve five years on each charge, magistrate Morgan ordered that the sentences are to run concurrent, meaning that Caal with spend the next five years behind bars.

Mai and Chiquin also pled guilty to the charge of illegal prospecting and were each ordered to pay one thousand dollars in default six months imprisonment.

Mai and Chiquin were unable to pay the fine and were transported along with Caal to the Central Prison in Hattieville.

Neal Surrenders - Lamb Remains On The Lam

From Front Page

police. Believing that he would be charged only in connection with the April 16 home invasion, the police had news for him as he was also charged with the murder of **Steven Valencia** after which it is reported that he volunteered a cautioned statement in which he is reportedly fingering "**Steal Bob**" as the triggerman in the Valencia murder.

Neal was arraigned before San Ignacio magistrate **Narda Morgan** on Monday, April 22, 2013, where the murder charge and the aggravated burglary charge were read to him. He

was instantly remanded to prison on instructions to be brought back to court on Thursday, August 18, 2013.

As the nationwide manhunt continues for **Jarod "Steal Bob"**

Lamb, the police advises the public that Lamb is considered armed and dangerous. Any sighting of this suspect should be immediately reported to the nearest police station.



A False Sense Of Safety

From Front Page

by prying the lock off a back sliding glass door. The following were listed as stolen from the house: a flat screen television, a laptop computer, an iPod, a digital camera, a cellular telephone, a play station with assorted games, assorted liquor and two watches for a combined value of over 12 thousand dollars.

The investigation further revealed that the burglary/invasion might have been committed by two male persons and a female they observed acting suspiciously in the area. While looking for clues, a member of the family, at around 10:00 am Sunday morning, came upon the flat screen TV in nearby bushes, about 200 yards from the house. The TV was brought back to the house. It is reported that about two hours after the discovery, being around noon, a black V/W car with license plate 018172, later found to be owned and driven at the time by **Imer Guerra**, who works at Bowen & Bowen Distributors in Esperanza Village, was seen dropping off a male person in

the area who walked to the spot where the TV was recovered. The person later returned empty handed to the waiting black car.

As the investigation continues, the police manhunt is reportedly underway for one **Leroy Richards**, who is believed could assist police in the investigation and possible recovery of the remaining items stolen from the home of Dr. **Miguel Depaz**.

In the second incident, **Grant Perez**, Deputy Officer in Charge of the Fire Station in San Ignacio Town, reportedly left his home adjoining the fire station on Buena Vista Street, for brief period, between 6:30 and 8:00 pm on Friday, April 12 and upon returning, he found that his house was entered into and stolen there from was an undisclosed amount of cash and jewelry. It is suspected that entry into the house was gained through the front door as the intruder's hand was introduced into the house through a missing louver giving interior access to the door nub. The personnel on that evening shift were reportedly

questioned. None of the missing items have been discovered. No arrest has been made.

As with all such cases, the police remain mute on these matters whereby giving the community a false sense of security. Crimes in San Ignacio, Santa Elena and surrounding communities become public knowledge only when arrests are made and suspects are brought before the court thereby giving the false impression of an almost 100% police success.

Crime information, in statistical form, is discussed among a small clique calling themselves the People's Coalition of Cayo, comprising ex-pats in the majority, to whom the police readily provide this generic information during their once per month meetings in the conference room at the police station in San Ignacio, while the larger community, all 15 hundred who read this newspaper on a weekly basis remain ignorant of criminal activities within their community.

STAR Newspaper

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

#42 George Price Highway, Santa Elena, Cayo, Belize, CA

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