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Prowler Gets Five Years

SANIGNACIO, Cayo, Friday, June 20, 2014:

The ten month burglary case against **Michael “Prowler” Harrison**, 52, ended today in a guilty verdict and a five year jail sentence.

Harrison, usually shirtless, moves around town on horseback, of late however, he has been walking around town and, when recently asked, informed that his horse had been stolen. He is not a known trouble maker but in this instance he was reportedly caught in flagante delecto (in the act of committing the crime) inside the

downstairs storeroom of the KO-OX-HAN-NAH restaurant located on Burns Avenue in San Ignacio Town.

The restaurant manager reported to the police that at around 12:30 pm on August 12, 2013 as she was about to enter the downstairs storeroom she heard movements therein. At first she thought that a coworker was in the storeroom. As she was entering the door she saw Harrison inside the storeroom holding a bag containing meat. The manager reportedly shouted at the intruder informing him that she would call the police. He

reportedly dumped the contents of the bag on the floor in front of the freezer after which he ran out the door gripping the empty sack. The meat was checked and estimated to value \$400.

The accused was later arrested and issued with a burglary charge.

After several adjournments the case was concluded on Monday, June 16. The accused was found guilty and sentenced to five years imprisonment. It will therefore be a few years before the horse riding **“Prowler”** is seen around town.

Silva’s Murder Trial Set For September



Michael Silva



Maritza Santos

SANIGNACIO, Cayo, Tuesday, June 17, 2014:

Accused murderer **Michael Silva**, accompanied by defense attorney, **Richard “Dickie” Bradley**, appeared today in the San Ignacio Town courtroom of magistrate **Narda Morgan** for the preliminary inquiry into the September 23, 2011 murder of 19 year old **Maritza Santos**.

On hand in court to marshal the evidence was the Director of Public Prosecutions, **Mrs. Cheryl-Lynn Vidal** who, apart from statements, tendered in evidence a piece of wood and a bottle containing herbicide.

At the conclusion of the process today Bradley is reported to have made no submission. The trial was set for

hearing in the September 2014 session of the Supreme Court.

The deceased, a resident of the Hillview community in San Elena town, was a recent graduate of Eden High School. She is reported to having been dating the accused for a month prior to the incident. She was found bleeding from the head with a large cut wound to the right side of the forehead and a pillow was found covering her face.

Police reported finding a quart of paraquat herbicide in the kitchen and a piece of blood stained wood under the bed where the motionless victim was encountered.

The accused, Michael Silva, is the son of PUP Cayo Central stand bearer, **Daniel Silva Jr.**

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A New Era Is Blanketing Belize

While a very small minority is desperately seeking to convince the majority of Belizeans that not much is happening in terms of development and construction in Belize, the undisputed evidence is proving otherwise.

Those involved in the construction industry are reporting the regular scarcity of construction material especially cement and blocks.

Business persons engaged in the cement distribution business and the block making operations are reporting robust sales.

Government’s street concreting and the accompanying drain construction projects are consuming a large portion of the increasing inventory of these materials posing extreme difficulties for business persons to keep up with the increasing demand.

It is anticipated, that as the unprecedented transformation of

streets and roads continues countrywide, the demand for these materials will only increase.

Last week’s announcement by Belize City Mayor, **Darrell Bradley**, to seek reelection was greeted with much enthusiasm by Belizeans especially residents of Belize City. In making the announcement Mayor Bradley told the nation that he has completed the cementing of 30% of the five hundred streets in Belize City. He further announced that the burdensome contract for one of the sanitation contractors will come to an end in January, 2015.

The saving derived therefrom will be pumped into accelerating the street concreting project in Belize City. At this rate, an additional 30% or more of city streets will be concreted in the Mayor’s second term in office. A third term should therefore

make dirt streets and pothole ridden carriageways a thing of the past in Belize City.

This unprecedented new standard of development has infected other municipalities countrywide. As Punta Gorda, Dangriga, Belmopan, Benque, San Ignacio/Santa Elena, Corozal,

Orange Walk and San Pedro are now getting their fair share of concreted streets.

Despite the cries of desperation coming from a few neigh sayers, a new era of unprecedented infrastructural development is undoubtedly blanketing Belize.

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Weed Linked to Santa Elena Boy

SANTA ELENA, Cayo, Wednesday, June 18, 2014:

Police say that a 16 year old boy, believed to be the courier for a drug dealer, was caught with a sack containing 18 pounds of weed.

The report indicates that at around 8:40 am two policemen on motorcycle were on patrol on Bradley Street in Santa Elena town near the football field when their attention was drawn to a suspicious male person of dark complexion standing near a brown sack in the football field. He was wearing a black shirt and a brown ¾ pants.

By the time the police circled and entered the enclosed facility, the person had disappeared. The brown sack was left at the very spot where it was originally seen. When inspected, the sack was found to contain suspected marijuana. Police also came upon a pair of black and grey slippers near the sack of weed.

The two policemen began searching in nearby bushes and within minutes they came upon a boy of dark complexion on his belly on the ground hiding among four feet tall shrubs. He reportedly told the police that the slippers were his but denied knowledge of the sack of weed shown to him. The boy and the weed were transported to the

Beware Of That Fire Water

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, June 19, 2014:

Those within and outside the police department awaiting the fall, on a domestic violence charge, of a police constable attached to the San Ignacio precinct, might be disappointed to know that a fall there might not be as the complainant has reportedly indicated that she wishes to proceeded no further with the matter against the policeman.

It is reported however, that the police will nevertheless proceed with slapping constable #101 **Fermin Choco** with a common assault charge as soon as he is located which is proving challenging as he is currently on vacation. Police believe that this latest development should prompt PC Choco to pick up the charge from his base station and face the court where the wife will



The Bag Of Weed



police station where the mother was contacted. When she arrived at the station, the weed was weighed in their presence amounting to exactly 18 pounds. The boy was consequently arrested and issued with a drug trafficking charge. He appeared in court on Wednesday, June 18 where he pled not guilty to the drug trafficking charge. Magistrate **Narda Morgan**

take the witness stand and inform the court that she desires to proceed no further with the matter.

This latest saga in PC Choco’s life stems from a report made by the common law wife at around 9:30 pm on Tuesday, June 17, 2014. The 25 year old Belizean housewife of a San Ignacio Town address told the police that the visibly drunk policeman arrived home at around 8:30 that Tuesday night and confronted her about not answering his calls and text messages earlier that day after which he slapped her and spit in her face. She reportedly ran out of the house through the front door as he made his way to the kitchen after which she called the police for help.

Given that there is a prior similar report against Choco, police say that they will not

concurred with the prosecution’s objection to the granting of bail. The youth was consequently remanded to prison. The matter was adjourned to Tuesday, August 19, 2014.

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- Disburse loans ensuring that all required documentation and conditions are met.
- Execute and file all loan and mortgage documentation.
- Assist in the daily execution of office duties relating to the Rural Finance Program.
- Assist in the preparation and submission of all reports under the Rural Finance Program.
- Assist in carrying out field work under the Rural Finance Program.
- Assist in providing IT support to all users, PCs, software and peripherals.
- Provide support in the implementation of all IT duties and requirements.
- Promote and market the credit union's products and services.
- Work in reaching individual and departmental targets/goals.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Associate Degree in Business Administration OR Information Technology with business studies.
- At least three years experience in loan assessment/credit lending practices and processing required.
- At least three years experience in PC maintenance and troubleshooting is required.
- Prior experience working at a credit union or financial institution is required.
- Highly organized, ability to multi-task, good customer service skills and can work with little supervision.
- Thorough understanding of financial analysis/assessment, a very good understanding of lending procedures, limitations, risk assessment and recovery procedures.
- Knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, data entry and basic PC capabilities
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) required.
- Must be in possession of a valid driver's license and be willing to work out in the field.

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Garifuna Communities In Belize Face Major Crisis With Employment, Lots, Housing, Lands and Education



By: Wellington C. Ramos

When the Garifuna people first arrived in Belize in 1801 and subsequently thereafter, from Rotan and Honduras, they went to Belize City first and then settled in Dangriga Town. From there they scattered to other southern parts of the country of Belize in the Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo to establish villages and towns. Today, the Garifuna communities in Belize are; Dangriga Town the largest, Hopkins, Georgetown, Barranco and Punta Gorda Town the second largest. Another village where Garifuna people lived in the past was Bomba which is located in the Belize District in the area of Maskall Village. Most of these Garifuna people have completely lost their culture and all they have left is some of their names like; Eljio, Parchue, Ramirez and Castro. Some of them accept their Garifuna culture but others prefer to be described as Creoles.

Why did the Garifuna people decide to leave Rotan to follow the British in Belize, when they were the ones who waged war against them and removed them from their native land “Yurumein” to Rotan in 1796? This is a question that we the Garifuna people must try to answer because it is puzzling to me up to this day. Common sense dictates that they would have avoided these ruthless people. When they got to Belize, the British were occupying a territory that Spain had claimed due to the landing of Christopher Columbus in this part of the world in 1492. They gave the Garifuna people permission to settle in the southern part of the country only. They were also given strict

orders not to move from the south to other parts of Belize because the British had African slaves cutting mahogany and logwood for them. Also, they did not want these free black people to be seen by the slaves or to have any form of contact for fear of a slave rebellion. Despite this fear, there were slave rebellions that took place in the country of Belize.

The Garifuna people were allowed to manage the affairs of all their communities by themselves. They established councils and appointed their community leaders to make all the decisions for their villages and towns. Farming, fishing, hunting, arts, crafts and other activities were the main economic activities that took place in most of these communities. Since they were isolated from the other cultures in Belize, there was no acculturation with their culture and it remained intact. From time to time the Garifuna people would move throughout all the other villages to meet with relatives, friends and conduct trade among themselves. This practice was extended not only within Belize but also to Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua where they all have relatives.

Some of these people decided to live in these other communities and countries and this led to Garifuna people having relatives in all these countries up to this day. The Garifuna people would still travel from one country to another to visit their relatives in boats that were making weekly trips to these communities and countries. When I was growing up in Dangriga Town there were boats like; **O.C.L. Heron H. Honduran, Ilda, Suyapa Santa Maria, Lonette** and many others whose names I cannot recall. There was Garifuna shipwright who knew how to build boats for themselves and for sale. Others were Captains for these boats and knew the coastline well.

Every Garifuna family I knew in Dangriga Town had a home for all the members of their family and a farm to produce the food for everyone. I am almost certain that this was the way it was in all the

Garifuna villages and towns in Belize. When my family use to cook, it was a tradition that they would leave extra food in their pots just in case a relative was to come by hungry. Nobody in these communities would starve or go homeless on the streets. A house was built on their lots and everybody in the family was allowed to sleep in that house. The farm land was for everyone as well and they would allow the family members to cut out a piece for themselves and plant their own food crops. Some of the lots and lands were leased and others who had money purchased theirs. The lease lots and lands were problematic because some members of the family began thinking that they had a right to them because they grew up there. This is a problem not only for Garifuna people in Belize but other ethnic groups as well.

Employment was not an issue because all the people in the Garifuna communities had to go to their farms. Later on the banana and citrus companies came into the valleys of Stann Creek District in Middlesex and Pomona. Some people left their farms completely to and work full time with these companies. Others decided to work part time with the companies and their farms. Gardening became a way of convenience for some to plant some of their food crops on their lots in town. This allowed some people to steal their crops because they did not want to go all the way to the farms which were located in the outskirts of Dangriga Town.


Education was a must for most Garifuna families because there was a competition to see who would speak perfect English. They would sometimes make fun of one another when they would not pronounce an English word perfectly. In a way this was good because it allowed that person the time to go and sharpen up his or her English skills. The Catholic Church was always the closest church to the Garifuna people from the time they lived in “Yurumein” St Vincent their native homeland. Belize was a British Protestant country but I cannot remember any Garifuna family that were Anglicans in Dangriga Town only Methodist.

Garifuna people excelled in Primary Schools and Junior Colleges and became the majority of School Teachers in the country for many decades. This is what it was like in the past when I was growing up in Dangriga Town, Belize and visited the other Garifuna communities.

Today unemployment is rampant among all the Garifuna people in the village and towns where they live. It is so high that if you were to visit one of these villages and towns, you will see young healthy Garifuna men standing with nothing to do. The farms are now abandoned but they do not want to go to the farms. The sea is there for them to go and fishing but they do not want to go fishing. If you see them in a boat, do not expect them to come back with any fish and don't go and waste your time by the beach side for their return because it will be in vain. Some will tell you that they are looking for something to float in the sea so that they can go and sell it and become rich. Some are lucky but many are not as lucky as them but are still holding out hope that they will find something one day to become rich. For those who found something, after it is sold they only last for a few years with their money and they end up being broke again.

In Belize lots and lands are being sold by many of our people who are desperate for money for cheap. They do not intend to go to the farms but would rather sell their lands for a few dollars and go to the market to buy their food crops from the people who are taking over their lands from Guatemala and El Salvador that are now the farmers in Belize. How long will they be able to afford keeping their monies in their pockets if they have to constantly buy what they need? No individual or nation can survive if it does not have the capacity to feed itself. This is a fact of life that history has proven time and time again in the building of civilizations. China has a large population and is running out of land to grow food to feed their people. This is why they are investing so much money in other countries to get their

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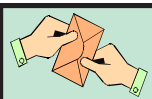
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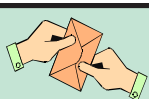
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Readers Write



Public Participation Committee Must Interact With The Public

Last month, Fortis-BECOL (who owns and operates the dams on the Macal River) had an information table at the San Ignacio Visitor's Center.

The stated purpose was to inform people about the Emergency Preparedness Plan and Early Warning System and "interact with the various presenters".

I spoke to representatives of the Department of Environment and NEMO, and was told "yes" when I asked if I could give comments/suggestions. I made suggestions on how to improve people's awareness of the warning system and a way to test it. But no one wrote anything down.

This led to my giving a written statement of my comments and an invitation to present my ideas at the next meeting of the Public Participation Committee (PPC), pending their approval.

The PPC was a requirement of the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) for the Chalillo Dam. Its stated purpose is to provide for a regular exchange of information with various stakeholders, and to monitor community concerns and issues related to the dam project, particularly the tourism industry and riverside residents.

It has not been very effective but I was assured that the PPC

is now being chaired by the Department of Environment, not Fortis-BECOL, and its effectiveness will improve. I hope this is true and hope that I will be allowed to give a presentation to the Committee.

Below are the suggestions I made:

The early warning system could be workable if people were sensitized to the system by sounding the siren daily at an appropriate time when the river is rising due to the release of water from the dams.

Something like that could effectively familiarize, inform and regularly test the sirens to make sure they worked as well as alerting those in the river that the water was rising. Leaflets and public announcements could reinforce the meaning of the sirens.

For instance, a short blast or series of blasts of the siren means the water is rising as it approaches San Ignacio/Santa Elena.

A long, steady blast could mean a major flood or dam break incident is taking place and people need to follow evacuation instructions.

Following the testing of the sirens last month, I asked people if they heard the siren and what they thought it meant.

The comments I heard were: it

indicated a fire; there was a test of the sirens; the siren was malfunctioning again; and those who said they didn't know why the sirens were going off.

What those responses demonstrate is that in the case of a real emergency, most people would not react to the warning. A consistent program, with education, could make all the difference to saving lives.

In addition to presenting ideas on the Emergency Preparedness Plan and Early Warning System, I stated my desire to attend the PPC meeting to find out about the results of the tests on water quality and mercury levels in the fishes.

The last water quality tests I saw, taken in December 2013, showed dangerously high levels of e-coli in the river water from the dam down to the twin towns; the last tests on fish, also taken last year, showed the mercury in certain species of fish to remain above acceptable levels, high enough that alerts should be given.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with the Public Participation Committee.

Dr. Candy Gonzalez

Cayo resident and member of Belize Institute of Environmental Law and Policy (BELPO)

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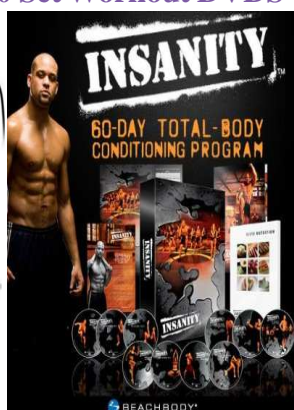
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★ STAR HUMOR

600 Story Hotel

Tom, Dick and Harry went to a party. After the party they returned to the hotel. The hotel was 600 stories high.

Unfortunately for them, the elevator was not working. They made a plan for the first 200 stories, Tom will crack jokes.

The second 200 stories Dick

will tell a happy story and lastly Harry will tell a sad story. They then started up the steps

After 2 hours it was Harry's turn. He turned to the other two and said *"Ok guys, here's my sad story. I forgot the keys downstairs"*.

Garage Sale

Preparing for a garage sale at their house, John and his wife decided to put out a wall mirror they received as a wedding gift. Because of its garish aqua colored metal frame They just couldn't find a room in their house where it looked good.

Shortly after the sale started, a

man looking to decorate his apartment bought it for one dollar.

"This is a great deal," he said excitedly, *"It still has the plastic on it."*

Then he peeled off the aqua colored protective covering to reveal a beautiful gold finished frame.

Tiger's Snack

A tiger was walking through the jungle one day and saw two men relaxing under a tree. One was reading a newspaper, and the other was working feverishly on a manual typewriter.

The tiger leapt on the man with the newspaper, and ate him up. The tiger did not bother the other man at all. That's because any predator knows that readers *digest* but writers *cramp*.

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Knock At The Door

A new pastor was visiting the homes of his parishioners.

At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a card and wrote *"Revelation 3:20"* on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been

returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, **"Genesis 3:10."**

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock."* Genesis 3:10 reads, **"I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked."**

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Lupus

Lupus is an autoimmune disease where the body's immune system becomes hyperactive and attacks normal, healthy tissue. This results in symptoms such as inflammation, swelling, and damage to joints, skin, kidneys, blood, the heart, and lungs.

Under normal function, the immune system makes proteins called antibodies in order to protect and fight against antigens such as viruses and bacteria. Lupus makes the immune system unable to differentiate between antigens and healthy tissue. This leads the immune system to direct antibodies against the healthy tissue - not just antigens - causing swelling, pain, and tissue damage.

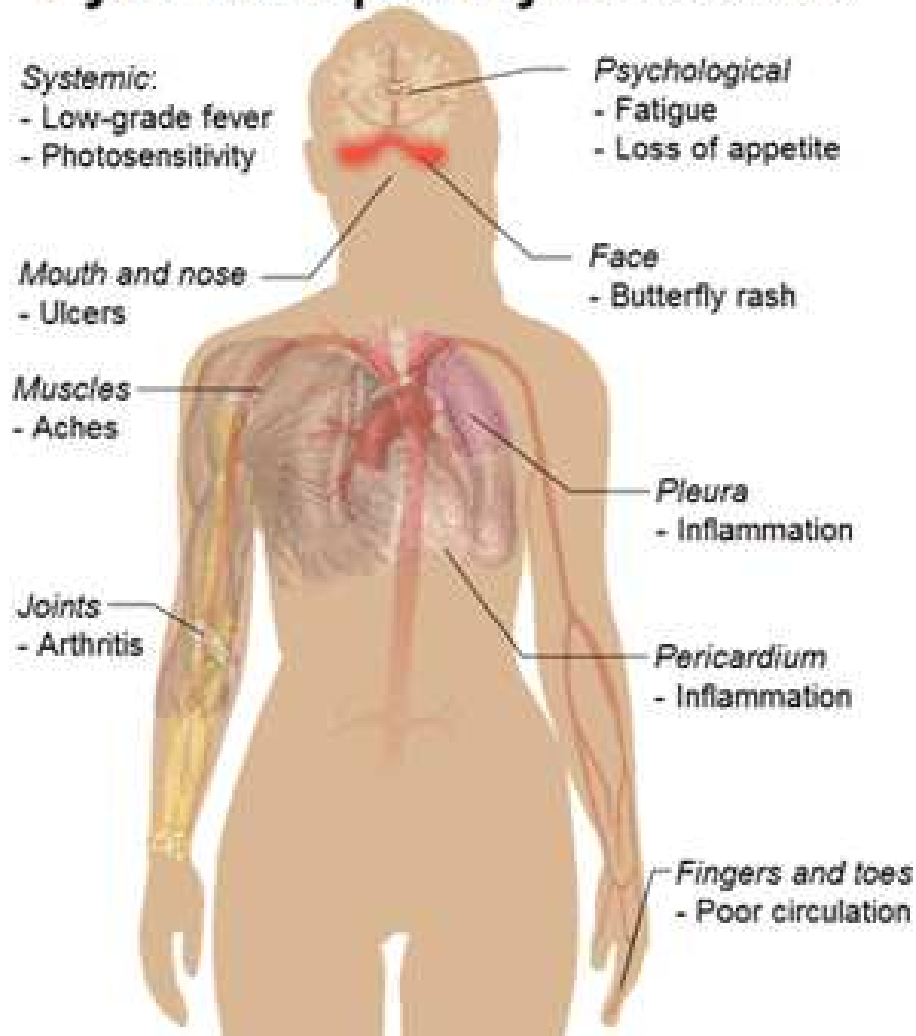
Several different kinds of lupus have been identified, but the type that we refer to simply as lupus is known as systemic lupus erythematosus or SLE. Other types include discoid (cutaneous), drug-induced, and neonatal.

Patients with discoid lupus have a version of the disease that is limited to the skin. It is characterized by a rash that appears on the face, neck, and scalp, and it does not affect internal organs. Less than 10% of patients with discoid lupus progress into the systemic form of the disease, but there is no way to predict or prevent the path of the disease.

SLE is more severe than discoid lupus because it can affect any of the body's organs or organ systems. Some people may present inflammation or other problems with only skin and joints, while other SLE sufferers will see joints, lungs, kidneys, blood, and/or the heart affected. This type of lupus is also often characterized by periods of flare (when the disease is active) and periods of remission (when the disease is dormant).

St Thomas' Lupus Trust
Drug-induced lupus is caused by a reaction with certain prescription drugs and causes symptoms very similar to SLE. The drugs most commonly associated with this form of

Most common symptoms of Systemic lupus erythematosus



lupus are a hypertension medication called hydralazine and a heart arrhythmia medication called procainamide, but there are some 400 other drugs that can also cause the condition. Drug-induced lupus is known to subside after the patient stops taking the triggering medication.

A rare condition, neonatal lupus occurs when a mother passes autoantibodies to a fetus. The unborn and newborn child can have skin rashes and other complications with the heart and blood. Usually a rash appears but eventually fades within the first six months of the child's life.

Environmental Factors that cause lupus symptoms include:

- Extreme stress
- Exposure to ultraviolet light, usually from sunlight
- Smoking
- Some medications and antibiotics, especially those in the sulfa and penicillin groups
- Some infections, such as cytomegalovirus (CMV), parvovirus (such as fifth disease), hepatitis C infections, and the

Epstein-Barr virus (in children)
-Chemical exposure to compounds such as trichloroethylene in well water and dust

What are the symptoms of lupus?

Since no two cases of lupus are exactly alike, there is a wide range of symptoms that are known to affect many parts of the body. Sometimes symptoms develop slowly or appear suddenly; they can be mild, severe, temporary, or permanent. Most people with lupus experience symptoms in only a few organs, but more serious cases can lead to problems with kidneys, the heart, the lungs, blood, or the nervous system.

Lupus episodes, or flares, are usually noted by a worsening of some of the following symptoms:

The symptoms of Lupus

- Achy joints (arthralgia), arthritis, and swollen joints, especially in wrists, small joints of the hands, elbows, knees, and ankles
- Swelling of the hands and feet due to kidney problems
- Fever of more than 100 degrees

F (38 degrees C)

- Prolonged or extreme fatigue
- Skin lesions or rashes, especially on the arms, hands, face, neck, or back
- Butterfly-shaped rash (malar rash) across the cheeks and nose
- Anemia (oxygen carrying deficiency of red blood cells)
- Pain in the chest on deep breathing or shortness of breath
- Sun or light sensitivity (photosensitivity)
- Hair loss or alopecia
- Abnormal blood clotting problems
- Raynaud's phenomenon: fingers turn white and/or blue or red in the cold
- Seizures
- Mouth or nose ulcers
- Weight loss or gain
- Dry eyes
- Easy bruising
- Anxiety, depression, headaches, and memory loss

Lupus can also lead to complications in several areas of the body.

These include:

* *Kidneys* - serious kidney damage is a primary cause of death for lupus sufferers.

* *Central nervous system* - lupus can cause headaches, dizziness, memory problems, seizures, and behavioral changes.

* *Blood and vessels* - lupus causes an increased risk of anemia, bleeding, blood clotting, and vessel inflammation

* *Lungs* - noninfectious pneumonia and difficulty breathing due to inflammation of the chest cavity are more likely with lupus

* *Heart* - heart muscle and artery inflammation are more likely with the disease, and lupus increases the chances of cardiovascular disease and heart attacks.

* *Infection* - lupus treatments tend to depress the immune system making your body more vulnerable to infection.

* *Cancer* - lupus increases the risk of cancer, especially of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, lung cancer, and liver cancer

* *Bone tissue death* - a lower blood supply to bone tissue leads to tiny breaks and eventual death of bone. This is most common in the hip bone.

* *Pregnancy* - lupus increases the risk of miscarriage, hypertension during pregnancy, and preterm birth.



New Sport To Offer New Hope For Youth

BY: Tony Gillings

The disconnect between youth and society at large is a real problem throughout Belize, particularly in densely populated areas where there is little opportunity for employment, and community facilities and services are stretched to breaking point. With unused reserves of energy and a need to be doing something, many young people end up taking the wrong path contributing to high rates of street and gang crime. But a new sport project aims to change all that.

* The fastest growing sport in the world today is coming to Belize - Rugby Union is making its first appearance with the Hattieville United Youth Sports Club

* Belize is the last in the region to join the worldwide rugby family, as plans revealed to launch the sport nationwide under the Belize Rugby Board

* Campaign to sign up players for Belize's first national rugby union and rugby sevens teams - looking ahead to the 2016 Olympics and 2018 Commonwealth Games

Under the catchy logo of 'Community & Country', Rugby Belize, a community-based sports project is being launched nationwide this summer aimed at offering rugby union as an alternative sport for energetic youth looking for something a little more challenging than soccer and basketball.

Rugby Belize Founder, **Tony Gillings**, claims the sport will do more than just be enjoyable "There have been many studies on the beneficial impacts that sport - any sport - has on the physical and psychological development of participants." Says Tony, "However, rugby scores high on a range of issues; it's fun, helps build character and team spirit, encourages a healthy life-style and physical fitness. Rugby Belize is looking for players - men, women, girls and boys of all ages who would like to give it a go, on experienced

necessary as we will have coaches on hand. Training events are planned throughout the country, and anybody interested should go to www.rugbybelize.com and make contact."

Rugby has seen phenomenal growth in recent years, in the part due its attractiveness from a spectators' point of view with competitions around the globe attracting huge audiences, and the efforts of its global governing body (the **International Rugby Board**), who have invested relentlessly in player welfare, facility development and sponsorship. Yet even though it is hugely popular throughout the Caribbean and Central America it has never been formally established in Belize. That is about to change with the launch of 'Rugby Belize'.

Rugby Belize, under the auspices of the Belize Rugby Board, has already established links with rugby federations in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and further afield and plans are afoot to participate in international friendlies "as soon as we can" says Tony.

Ends.

**Further inquires/
information:**

Tony Gillings

Founder

Rugby Belize

T: +353 86 389 3865

E: tonygillings@hotmail.com

www.tonygillings.com

Haddan Garbutt

Hattieville United Youth Sports Club

T: 3425790 / 6234457

E:

hattievilleunitedyouths@yahoo.com

www.rugbybelize.com

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Belize Rugby Board will be affiliated with the National Sports Council and the Belize Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association, and will aim to achieve associate membership of the International Rugby Board (the global governing authority of the rugby union) within two years. This will allow teams to represent Belize in a

professional competitive capacity in rugby union, sevens and other appropriate events, regionally and further afield.

There are rugby authorities throughout Central America, including Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama and El Salvador, and across the Caribbean. There are also two regional authorities: **CONSUR**, which organizes and manages competitions throughout South and Central America and **NACRA**, which looks after competitions in the North. Rugby Belize will seek to apply for membership of NACRA, but will be guided by the IRB.

Rugby Union is just one of a number of variants (codes) of the sport. Others are League, Sevens, Wheelchair and Underwater. Whilst Sevens comes under the auspices of rugby union, each of the other codes has a separate

global governing authority, and the Belize Rugby Board aims to establish links with these to help in future development of the sport.

The founder of the Rugby Belize, Tony Gillings, is a keen rugby enthusiast, writer and works as an HR Consultant. He is currently based in Ireland but plans to relocate to Belize.



*Everything In
The Universe Has
Rhythm,
Everything Dances.*

Maya Angelou



Vacancy Announcement - SENIOR LOAN OFFICER

Main Duties: The Senior Loan Officer will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the loans department; performing direct supervisory duties over all loan officers; ensuring the adherence to the credit union's credit policy and procedures; work along with management and credit committee to achieve the overall lending goals/objectives of the credit union.

Responsibilities & Duties:

- Organize and supervise personnel in the loans department.
- Set and monitor lending goals/objectives for department as well as individual loan officers.
- Review loan applications to ensure compliance with credit policy.
- Assess and make recommendations on loan applications.
- Work along with Management and Credit Committee in managing loan portfolios.
- Work along with other departments to achieve the overall goals/targets of the credit union.
- Organize, schedule and supervise the daily activities of the loans department.
- Organize and manage all loan documentation and filing.
- Organize and manage all mortgage loan documentation and processing.
- Promote and market the credit union's products and services.
- Provide relevant and timely feedback to both internal and external members/clients.
- Prepare and verify all relevant reports to management, credit committee and regulators.
- Assist in supervising or assisting other departments as the need may arise.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- BA in Business Administration or Finance with at least five years experience in loan assessment/credit lending practices and processing at a financial institution OR an Associate Degree with a minimum of eight years experience in loan assessment/credit lending practices and processing.
- Prior experience working at a credit union or financial institution is required.
- Highly organized, ability to multi-task, strong interpersonal, supervisory and customer service skills.
- Thorough understanding of financial analysis/assessment, a very good understanding of lending procedures, limitations, risk assessment and recovery procedures.
- Knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, data entry and basic PC capabilities
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) required.

SALARY: negotiable based on previous experience and qualifications

APPLICATION SUBMISSION/DEADLINE:

- Qualified applicants should submit **letter of application, resume or curriculum vitae, two letters of reference and copy of ID (SSB or passport)** by **Saturday 28 June 2014**.

Submit application package:

- via email to: hr@smcubelize.com OR by
- direct mail to:

Human Resources Manager
Saint Martin's Credit Union
Cor. Eve and Church Street
San Ignacio Town, Cayo Districts

For Additional Information Visit

www.smcubelize.com
www.facebook.com/SMCubz
Telephone:
(501) 824-2093 or 824-2800

Garifuna Communities In Belize Face Major Crisis With Employment, Lots, Housing, Lands and Education

Continued From Page 4

food and other raw materials and possibly will be sending some of their people to live in these countries forever.

Housing is needed in the south for Garifuna families. Yet, I have never heard of any Government initiative in a long time, which is being proposed to construct affordable housing for our people. Garifuna families still own plenty of land in all the towns and villages where they reside. They just need a Housing Development Program to build the houses for them. Plus, there are Garifuna people who live in the United States that have the capital to purchase these homes who are planning to go back home and retire. Even if they chose not to go home and live permanently, they still need a home for them to live when they go there to visit. The constructing of these homes will also provide jobs to our unemployed citizens and boost the economy in these communities. Education is in decline because when I look at the people who are topping their classes nationwide, I very seldom see a Garifuna person. I always look at the results of the examinations given and Stann Creek and Toledo District ranking is the lowest in the country. Economics play a major role in education today due to the

cost of High School and College tuition.

There are many Garifuna families who do not have the money to pay for their children's tuition. Some depend on their relatives in the United States and others are forced to drop out of High School and College to join the unemployment group. The time for our people to raise these important issues is now. I am not seeing much progress and if you have seen significant progress on these issues, please point them out to me. It hurts me when I see the conditions that my people have to endure in Belize today. When I know we did better with less and we should be doing much better with more. Maybe, some of us do not care but I do not think that it is all of us. When I read recently about the situation in the village of Barranco, I was not surprised because I was told years ago by a person who lived there then when it was a vibrant community that this village is worst now than in the 1950's. It is not only Barranco that is having problems but all of our Garifuna communities in Belize.

It is our responsibility to do something about these problems affecting our communities. I hope and pray that this article will ignite our people to act rather than to just sit idly by and do nothing but just wait and others with their outdated promises.

Liquor License Notice

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, YVONNE REQUENA is applying for a RESTAURANT liquor license for the year 2014 to operate **Diner's Inn** located in Esperanza Village in the Cayo District.

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John August & Council**

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VACANCY

**Eden SDA High School
Eden Drive Santa Elena Town, Cayo District
Tel: 824-2966/ Fax: 824-4479**

Applications are invited for suitable qualified individuals to fill the following vacancies:

- 2 Integrated Science Teacher (Temporary)**
- 1 Mathematics (Full Time)**
- 1 Mathematics (Temporary)**
- 1 English (Temporary)**
- 1 Information Technology (Temporary)**

It is preferred that applicants have a Bachelor Degree in Education in the subject area. Nevertheless, persons with an Associate Degree in the subject area can submit application.

Salary is based on qualifications and in accordance with the Government payscale.

Interested persons are asked to submit letter of application, resume, two recommendations, certified copies of transcripts and diplomas, and a certified copy of teaching license to the following address by June 25th, 2014.

**The Chairman
Eden SDA High School
Board
P.O. Box 68
San Ignacio Town**

STAR Newspaper

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**Editor:
Sherlene Dawson**

**Office Tel:
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Cell: 626-8822
starnewspaper@gmail.com**



VACANCY NOTICE

The **BELIZE Natural Energy Charitable Trust** is a public/private partnership between the **Government of Belize** and the **Belize Natural Energy Limited** that serves as a catalyst for people and communities to become the conscious architects of their own future. Established in February of 2008, the primary objective of the Trust is to contribute to the development of Belize through the support of educational and social environmental projects; capacity building programs; student loans and micro-enterprise credit and other investment initiatives.

The **BELIZE Natural Energy Charitable Trust** is seeking the services of a suitably qualified and competent person for the post of **General Manager**.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The General Manager reports to the Board of Trustees and, as the Chief Executive Officer, will be responsible for the growth and sustainability of the Trust, and maintains general executive operational oversight.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful applicant must possess:

- a) The necessary qualifications, competence and experience to fundraise and grow the Trust as well as provide general executive operational oversight;
- b) Demonstrated success in developing and implementing strategies for fund growth and sustainability;
- c) Experience with the use of social media for marketing and fund sourcing;
- d) Minimum of five (5) years' experience at the senior executive management level in a development organization or non-profit entity, AND at least a Bachelor's Degree in either Business Administration/Financial Management;
- e) Ability to lead multiple long-term and short-term projects including prioritizing, planning, implementing and meeting deadlines;
- f) Interpersonal, negotiating & networking skills;
- g) The ability to motivate and interact with staff, government, non-governmental agencies and other external counterparts;
- h) The ability to organize and build consensus.

SALARY:

An attractive salary, commensurate with qualifications and experience, is being offered.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Letters of Application are to be addressed to:

**The Chairman
BELIZE Natural Energy Charitable Trust
P.O. Box 43, Belmopan
Cayo District**

APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

- a) Proof of educational qualification (*copy of certificate of highest educational qualification to be attached to Letter of Application*);
- b) Proof of work experience along with two letters of reference, one of which should be from a most recent employer (*to be attached to the Letter of Application*);
- c) Recent police record where the applicant has continuously resided over the last five years (*with the option to be presented at the time of interview*);
- d) Copy of a valid Belizean driver's license

CLOSING DATE & TIME:

The closing date and time for the receipt of applications is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 30th, 2014.

Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

ARIES:

March 22 to April 20

As Mercury rewinds back into Gemini, a family or property concern may be resolved to your satisfaction. However, you'll need to remain on your toes concerning the purchase of big-ticket items or closing deals. You might find a nice business or financial opportunity on Tuesday, so long as you're willing to negotiate carefully. The Sun moves into Cancer on Saturday, putting the spotlight on home matters, perhaps encouraging you to do some repairs, gardening, or redecorating. **Lucky numbers: 15, 37, 49.**

TAURUS:

April 21 to May 21

You may need your problem-solving skills, especially where a financial or business matter is concerned. However, you can organize things to your satisfaction with a little tweaking. Although the purchase of expensive items should be delayed due to Mercury's retrograde phase, you can go ahead if you keep receipts and paperwork in case of problems later. After Saturday, a trip down memory lane might encourage you to connect with pals for a reunion. Also, you could be a coach or mentor to someone who needs support. **Lucky numbers: 02, 28, 75.**

GEMINI:

May 22 to June 21

Expect some confusion early in the week as Mercury rewinds into your sign. However, you can quickly resolve problems if you're prepared to tweak your plans. If you exercise tact and diplomacy with both business and personal ties, you can sail through the days ahead with few problems. Finances get a boost from Saturday, perhaps encouraging you to take a shrewd look at your expenses or consider adapting your budget. In romance, someone may be keeping a secret from you. **Lucky numbers: 23, 55, 81.**

CANCER

June 21 to July 21

Even though you may feel impatient early on, you'll radiate charm and charisma on Wednesday, enough to impress all the right people. The right folks will

naturally want to cooperate with you, which could lead to a romantic tryst or even a lucrative deal. You may get an energy boost when the Sun glides into your sign on Saturday. Its presence here puts a focus on personal goals and needs in the month ahead, encouraging you to start on any plans you've been considering. **Lucky numbers: 08, 31, 97.**

LEO:

July 24 to August 21

Perhaps it isn't a good idea to gamble or take unnecessary financial risks right now, particularly as Mercury, your financial planet, continues retrograde. While it does a backward dance in Gemini starting Monday, you also need to watch out for mixed messages, especially where socializing and networking are concerned. However, the Sun moves into your spiritual sector on Saturday, and you're entering a natural phase in which you should take time out to relax and recharge. Dreams may gain in importance, too. **Lucky numbers: 40, 67, 79.**

VIRGO:

August 22 to September 21

Your social life continues to sizzle, especially on Tuesday, when a warm and friendly aspect is perfect for a get-together, party, or even a business lunch. However, as Mercury moves back into Gemini and your career zone, take extra care when discussing deals or signing contracts that have an impact on your future and reputation. Read the fine print and ask relevant questions before agreeing. Make copies of paperwork to help guard against problems further down the line. **Lucky numbers: 19, 44, 86.**

LIBRA:

September 22 to October 23

You may want to sign up for a course, lecture, or seminar in the week ahead. This can be an opportunity to improve your skill set or get a qualification that will be helpful in the future. However, at midweek there's a chance you can close a lucrative deal if you play your cards right, and there's the option of romance in a workaday setting. If you're traveling on Thursday, be ready for a potential change of plans or some

delays. **Lucky numbers: 05, 41, 62.**

SCORPIO:

October 24 to November 21

It probably isn't the best time to apply for a loan or mortgage, since Mercury will be moving back into your zone of shared assets. Research your options, but don't put pen to paper unless you're sure you understand what you're getting into. Midweek may be the optimum opportunity for a date night with a special someone. If you're willing to move outside your comfort zone, you might get along even better. Later, a desire for adventure might tempt you to join a pal on an excursion. **Lucky numbers: 26, 59, 93.**

SAGITTARIUS:

November 22 to December 21

Venus in Taurus might cause some of your more indulgent habits to show up. While this may not be the best week for your diet, you might fare better at work, where there is the potential for a pay raise or contract that could help your cash flow. In romance, misunderstandings may arise as Mercury heads back into Gemini, which could be unfortunate in a dating situation. Get clear before you do or say anything that could cause embarrassment. **Lucky numbers: 34, 53, 69.**

CAPRICORN:

December 22 to January 20

You have good intentions, but you might not get around to accomplishing everything. This could come down to Mercury's retrograde phase, which could cause delays at work and ev-

eryday affairs. However, you can also use this opportunity to sort out any issue that has been bothering you for some time, whether it's a computer problem or a relationship matter. Later, the Sun's entrance into Cancer spotlights social opportunities. A reunion may be in the cards if you're up for it. **Lucky numbers: 09, 12, 29.**

AQUARIUS:

January 20 to February 18

A romantic relationship may seem to take a backward step. If so, it's best to let it be. It's possible that your love interest has problems to deal with or other reasons why they can't spend more time with you. Once Mercury forges ahead on July 1, things should return to normal. Venus in your home zone encourages entertainment, especially midweek, when hosting a guest and colleagues or business partners could lead to a lucrative proposition. Starting Saturday, you'll want to get fit and feel fabulous. **Lucky numbers: 47, 78, 96.**

PISCES:

February 20 to March 21

Good news may come regarding a publishing, educational, or legal matter. You might also be invited to visit friends who live at a distance, or be visited by someone you haven't seen in a while. Meanwhile, getting your house in tiptop shape could be a major priority as Mercury eases back into Gemini and your home sector. This could be a golden opportunity to remove clutter and make more space for creative activities. On another note, reorganizing your home could bring greater peace of mind. **Lucky numbers: 03, 64, 99.**

NOTICE

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Employment notice of open positions at Creation Care Study Program

Job Titles: Cross Cultural Engagement Coordinator (CCEC), Program Administrator (PA), Student Life Coordinator (SLC)

Location: Santa Elena, Cayo District

Organizational Description: The Creation Care Study Program (CCSP) is a small non-profit Christian international study abroad program partnered with nearly 30 Christian universities in North America. The focus of the program is to provide students of partnered institutions with an international study experience while engaging with the country, ecology and people of Belize and taking courses in theology, tropical ecology, development, and literature. CCSP's mission is to educate students for Shalom, particularly through understanding and caring for creation. CCSP has campuses in Belize, New Zealand, and the United States. More information available at www.creationcsp.org.

Responsibilities (General for all positions):

- Coordinating with partnered private Christian universities in the United States and Canada for the recruitment and acceptance of students.
- Living and working closely with foreign university students and developing them in the area of Christian discipleship.
- Mentoring and assisting foreign students in adjusting to a cross-cultural context.
- Working with faculty to develop strong academic background for the program activities

Education and Qualifications:

- Strong Christian faith commitment and experience in Christian spiritual development.
- Deep academic understanding of ecology, development, and Christian faith.
- Bachelor's degree in a related field (For all, preferably from one of CCSP's partnered institutions for continued networking purposes. List available on website).
- Significant experience in student's countries of origin (United States, Canada)
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office and Macintosh computers is required
- Significant University level student development experience.
- 2-4 years of experience in or with Christian universities, preferably with study abroad or international education experience while there.
- Preference is given to alumni of one of CCSP's two programs.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THESE POSITIONS IS JUNE 30, 2014
Job Description and Application materials available upon request. Please e-mail the CCSP office with cover letter and complete resume at ccspbelize@creationcsp.org

Luis Suarez Left England On The Brink Of A World Cup Exit As His Double Strike Gave Uruguay Victory In Sao Paulo



England Out Unless Italy Beats Costa Rica

Liverpool striker **Suarez** was making his return after a month out following knee surgery - and it proved to be bad timing for England and manager **Roy Hodgson** as his brilliance was the difference in a fiercely-fought encounter.

Suarez put Uruguay ahead with a first-half header then scored a superb winner six minutes from time after **Wayne Rooney's** first goal at a World Cup gave England hope of avoiding a second successive Group D loss.

But defeat means the odds are now stacked against England escaping this tough group. They will be out unless Italy - who overcame England in Manaus - beat Costa Rica on Friday.

They also need Italy to win their final game against Uruguay, which could then see England conceivably qualify on goal difference by beating Costa Rica next Tuesday, 24 June.

But for all the potential, a record of played two, lost two rarely adds up to anything other than elimination at the World Cup. No side has ever progressed after losing their first two matches.

And what an anti-climax it will be for manager **Hodgson** and his players if England are left playing for nothing other than pride in their final group game in **Belo Horizonte**.

Uruguay coach **Oscar Tabarez** claimed Suarez would not be fully fit after missing their opening defeat against Costa Rica and he did not look it, but

he still possessed too much guile and menace for an England team who never built on the promise they showed even in losing to Italy.

Rooney struck the bar and was England's main threat but Suarez - produced the quality and clinical finishing that decides

games such as this.

As expected, Hodgson played Rooney in a more central role and moved Raheem Sterling wide - but England struggled to find the same energy levels that fuelled such a positive performance against Italy.

Daniel Sturridge and **Sterling** could not pose the same threat as

they had in Manaus and it was Rooney who came closest with a free-kick just inches wide and then a header against the bar at the far post from **Steven Gerrard's** free-kick.

England were looking nervous at the back and were fortunate to survive when **Phil Jagielka's** sliced clearance fell to **Cristian Rodriguez**, whose rising drive from the angle just cleared the bar with goalkeeper **Joe Hart** beaten.

Uruguay were the more ordered side and the goal arrived from the most inevitable source seven minutes before half-time as Suarez marked his return in style.

Gerrard conceded possession in midfield and when Edinson Cavani delivered the perfect cross, Suarez pulled away from Jagielka to head across Hart before running to celebrate with the Uruguayan medical team who have nursed him back to fitness.

England, as they did against Italy, responded strongly and Uruguay keeper Fernando Muslera needed to



Luis Suarez heads Uruguay in front against England

be alert to block Sturridge at his near post.

In a chaotic start to the second half, Suarez was wasteful as England appealed for offside and Cavani was guilty of a bad miss as he ran through on Hart.

Rooney was almost the beneficiary of that escape when he found room in the area only eight yards out, but his shot was straight at Muslera.

Hodgson, knowing what

defeat would mean, made his first change after 64 minutes by sending on Ross Barkley for Sterling, who had struggled to impose himself on Uruguay as he had against the Italians.

England were moving into desperate times as the clock ran down - and it was Rooney who produced the goods with the equaliser 15 minutes from time, tapping in from close range from Johnson's

perfect cross.

Just as the momentum looked to be shifting towards England, Suarez was the tormentor again, latching on to the ball after Gerrard had lost an aerial challenge with Cavani, steadying himself before rifling an unstoppable finish high past Hart.

It was the final word on this game - and probably on England's World Cup hopes.

Mass Grave Found In Eastern Mexico

There is no word on the cause of deaths and officials have warned that the number of corpses could rise.

The region has seen fierce fighting between rival drug gangs.

Thousands of Central American migrants pass through the state each year, heading to the US. Drug related violence in Mexico has left more than 85,000 people dead since 2007.

The grave was found after an anonymous call at a farm near the border with Oaxaca state.

Marines are guarding the area as investigators try to recover more bodies, and start the process of identifying those already unearthed.

In recent years, Mexican authorities have discovered several mass graves with hundreds of corpses of victims of the drug gangs who fight for control of territories useful to their trade.

The Gulf Cartel and the Zetas gang have been battling over the state of Veracruz.

Some mass graves have also been filled with the bodies of migrants killed after refusing to join the gangs.



The authorities in Mexico have found 28 bodies in a mass grave in the eastern state of Veracruz

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Transforming The Tower Hill Airstrip In Orange Walk

CHAN PINE RIDGE VILLAGE, Orange Walk Town, Thursday, June 19, 2014:

As the unprecedented development continues countrywide, ground was broken today in Orange Walk for the rehabilitation of the Tower Hill Airstrip on the outskirts of Chan Pine Ridge Village.

The onsite official ceremony began at 10:00 am with **Dylon Jones** serving as Master of Ceremony.

In delivering the welcome address, UDP Standard Bearer for the Orange Walk East constituency and member of the new Board of Directors of the Belize Airports Authority, **Elodio Aragon Jr.** informed the gathering of invited guests that the rehabilitation project will transform the facility into an all weather airstrip which cannot presently be utilized in raining conditions.

Aragon additionally informed that the project, combined with last week's ground breaking for the asphaltting of the 4.5 miles of the Philip Goldson Highway passing through Orange Walk Town, is a clear testimony of



(L-R) Hon. Manuel Heredia Jr., Hon. Gaspar Vega, Elodio Aragon Jr

a government at work. He promised to pave the 2 miles of road leading into Chan Pine Ridge village.

For his part, **Deputy Prime Minister Gaspar Vega** informed that it is high time for the airstrip to be rehabilitated as

it has been neglected for decades. He spoke about other projects undertaken in the Orange Walk District including the 4 million dollar drainage project recently completed in Trial Farm.

The Keynote Speaker, **Hon. Manuel Heredia Jr.**, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation spoke about the half million dollars invested in hot mixing the airstrip in Ranchito village, Corozal as well as another half million dollars expended for the upgrading of the Pelican airstrip in Dangriga and the one million dollar project resulting in the total transformation of the San Pedro airstrip. These "Quality projects" said Minister Heredia were executed "at least cost". He said that these kinds of projects serve to "raise the nation to a whole new level".

The vote of thanks was delivered by the new General Manager of the Belize Airports Authority, **John Waight**.

The 750 thousand dollar project will begin immediately. It will encompass the paving of the runway with hot mix. The contract was awarded to Imer Hernandez Development Company Limited.



(L-R) Director Gary Grief, Director Nyani August, Contractor Imer Hernandez, General Manager John Waight, Director Elodio Aragon Jr.

Beware Of That Fire Water

Continue from Page 3

automatically withdraw the charge this time based on the complainant's request but instead will take the matter to court where the complainant will be afforded the opportunity to either proceed or request the discontinuance of court

proceedings.

Police say that the other reported incident is alleged to have occurred at around 3:30 am on Sunday, February 2, 2014, when the policeman, in an alleged drunken state, arrived at home, refused the complainant's offer for food. He reportedly sought to

engage in a verbal confrontation. He reportedly followed her to the bedroom where he reportedly slapped her to the left side of the face. She later visited the station and on her request a common assault charge was withdrawn

against PC Choco.

Choco, While we know not what happens in your household your colleagues describe you as a cool policeman. That fire water seems to make you do weird things.



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