The fees, as outlined in the memo, appear under three distinct headings as follows: “Visual Customs Inspection” by which a new $50.00 charge is to be imposed on a) Scrap Iron Operations b) Steel c) Mi Gas (Butane) and d) Other petroleum products.

Under the same heading, the fee for the importation of cement is pegged at $38.00, being $12.00 less than what the other four categories of importation would be taxed.

Under the second heading, “Parking Fees” although not a new charge, will see a 100% increase as follows: a) Small 4 cylinder vehicles previously paying $10.00 per day will now be required to pay $20.00. The fee for the parking of trucks (containers, buses etc.) is slated to be increased from $20.00 to $40.00 per day.

Under the third heading a new fee for “Ramp Use” will be charged at $20.00 for pickups; $30.00 for small trucks and a whopping $100.00 for all containers.

According to Belizean Custom Broker, Edgar Garrido, the man leading the charge for Brokers and Importers, the challenge against these new fees stems from several concerns that importers are expressing.

The primary concern is the arbitrary manner in which the fees are being rammed down the throats of the very people who generate the bulk of revenue payable to the Government of Belize by way of customs duties.

“To just simply sit down and take this licking” said Garrido “will set a dangerous precedence, not only for importers but, for every single Belizean consumer throughout the length and breadth of the entire nation of Belize as all such increases will eventually be passed on to every consumer living within the borders of Belize.

If allowed to slide by easily, these fees, in the months and years ahead will be gradually ratcheted upwards to reach astronomical proportions as an unbridled Border Management Agency will seek to maximize its profits at the expense of every single person living within the natural borders of Belize.

The confrontation therefore is not only for brokers and importers but it must instead be seen as an attempt on the part of importers to keep the cost of living within reach of every single person living in Belize.”

Garrido further contends that, prior to receiving the written notice for the implementation of these burdensome charges, there was no consultation with stakeholders in the industry that he represents.

He further informed that a mere six days notice for the imposition of this major increase in operational costs was not enough and that the lack of consultation and the short notice borders on being utterly disrespectful to all those persons who play a vital role in the economic stability of the nation.

“There is much talk about these new fees being in line with those charged at the Northern Border Station in Corozal. Nothing could further from the truth,” said Edgar Garrido, heading the cause in Benque

The Border Management Agency is facing up to 135 complaints from the Community of Benque Viejo.

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The Border Management Agency is facing up to 135 complaints from the Community of Benque Viejo.
The Good And The Bad

We take this opportunity to commend Sr. Supt. David Henderson for listening to the concerns of the people as it pertains to those liquor establishments opening long after closing time.

The police, especially Corporals Barrow and Grinage, over the past few weeks have been effectively and aggressively taking action against those establishments that are in the habit of violating the conditions of the liquor licenses they hold.

The action on the part of the police has brought a sense of peace and quite to many neighborhoods in proximity with these establishments.

No longer do we see motorist parking in front of these establishments at two or three o’clock in the morning blaring their stereos. Is it possible do we see those bicycle riding boys hanging out in front of these establishment during these early morning hours drinking beer, interferring with those passing by or fighting among themselves as the liquor consumption is taking place?

No longer do we see children out of their beds at two or three o’clock in the morning visiting these establishments to buy food, and sometimes even beers, for adults at home. And for this we MUST commend the police.

There are times however, when we wish that there would hardly be any need for us to critically write about the police, but how can we turn a blind eye or bury our heads in the sand when they openly tell us that they do not give a damn about what we write and that they know what actions to take whenever we slip in our writings.

Notwithstanding, we take this opportunity to call on our policemen to discontinue the illegal practice of arresting people and then conduct investigations. This is a dangerous practice as it opens up the department to lawsuits for unlawful imprisonment.

The regularity of these instances has recently prompted the Ombudsman to write to the Officer In Charge of the Cayo (Police) District, asking him to address this concern.

In his letter to the Commanding Officer, the Ombudsman expressed concern about a lady who was arrested solely on the basis of a “complaint”. In this instance the Ombudsman requested for the policeman in question to apologize to the lady for unlawfully arresting and detaining her for several hours. If left unchecked, this practice, which is increasing in regularity, will reach the point when a simple apology will not be enough as the eyes of the citizenry is opening up to the option of filing lawsuits against the police for unlawfully imprisonment.

Oh how we dream of the day when policemen will use thorough investigation as the basis on which to effect an arrest instead of routinely doing it the other way around in which they arrest, imprison and then investigate.

After going through this dilemma, many are the persons who are so happy to be released from custody, not to do as much as contemplate the options of filing a suit against those who unlawfully imprisoned them. This illegal and intimidating practice should be terminated and never contemplated again.

Take for example the case of the lady from the San Ignacio Town section of the San Ignacio Town Council. Even up to this date, approximately three weeks later, the poor soul is still traumatized. She was arrested on a complaint from a lady who reported to the police that she allegedly lost her cellular telephone while shopping at the farmers’ market in San Ignacio. She told the police that she did not see anyone taking the telephone but that the sanitation worker was around the stall where she her phone might have gone missing.

The sanitation worker was detained and questioned. She denied taking the lady’s phone. The police did not find anything incriminating on the sanitation worker and despite the lack of any physical evidence or corroboration statement from any witness who might have seen her taking the telephone, the police nevertheless proceeded to arrest and charge the lady.

To add insult to injury, the lady was taken to court on the charge of $800.00 bail. Without physical evidence or corroborating statements from witnesses who could say that they saw this lady taking the telephone, it will be next to impossible to convict her. But then who cares, the poor lady will be glad to be freed of the charge and she would be prone to consider that the acquittal was a favor done to her when in reality she should NEVER have been arrested in the first instance, much less charged for any crime.

Any policeman who is worth his or her salt will tell you that the laws of Belize defines the elements of theft as: “The dishonest appropriation of property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it.” Without the telephone, how will the police be able to convince the court that there was even any property for it to have been dishonestly appropriated.

On the basis of the complainant’s statement alone, how can the police prove that the complainant actually had a telephone?

We will not even venture into elaborating much about the case in which the police, for over a month, are illegally holding onto the licensed firearm belonging to Dr. Ricardo Bush.

The police might very well be within their legal rights to hold onto any such property in the course of an investigation. However, by law, such investigation must be conducted within a reasonable time. Over a month can hardly be considered reasonable time for this matter to have been taken to court. And the court is the only entity that can legally order the confiscation of the property belonging to another person.

Oh how we continue to pray for the time to come when there will be no need for us to critically write about the police?...
Dear Editor;

It pains my heart to see the amount of senior female “citizens” from the across the Melchor border religiously making that monthly trek to the Social Security Branch Office in Santa Elena to collect the $75, soon to be $100, non-contributory pension benefit.

I am a single mother, with two sons, usually when we leave home at 7:30 in the morning, we do not return until 5:30 in the evening and this has been the way we have been living for the past several years. When I moved into my new house in 2000, my water bill was around fifteen dollars. It has since increased to double that amount and I know for a fact that we use the same amount of water.

My bill has now gone up even higher and is now fluctuating anywhere between forty and fifty dollars per month. Then the shocker came last month when I received a bill for a whopping SEVENTY FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS ($74.50).

I called the BWSL office with intention to find out what went wrong and they coldly told me that I must pay the bill or else they would disconnect the water and that I will have to wait and see what the next bill will be.

I went home and checked for leaking pipe but everything was OK. I haven’t made any addition to my house lately, I try my best to conserve water when I wash clothes, I use the rinse water to mop my house. I have an outside pipe and it is fitted with a lock.

Without making any changes in the way we consume water, my new bill came and the amount was only $47.86, this just proves that last month I paid for water I did not consume.

As a single mother, my money is limited, but when I have to pay so much for water that I did not use, then I get angry like hell. I am sure there are many persons with similar experience.

We are getting the feeling like maybe BWSL is not being honest with the poor people and I want to know if there is anything we can do about it.

If it is a mistake on reading the meter why don’t they acknowledge it and refund our money.

Quite frankly, we are fed up of all these high utility bills. We are hoping and praying that someday things will get better for us the poor.

S/ Miss Dolly Witz

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Living In Guatemala - Collecting Social Security Money**

Dear Editor;

It pains my heart to see the amount of senior female “citizens” from the across the Melchor border religiously making that monthly trek to the Social Security Branch Office in Santa Elena to collect the $75, soon to be $100, non-contributory pension benefit. It pains my heart because this money goes directly into the Guatemalan economy while there are countless ladies making the programmed monthly trip from Melchor across the border to the Social Security office.

This is an easy situation the monitor as the list of those benefiting from the program can be handed to immigration officers at the border and they will see the trend of those ladies making the programmed monthly trip from Melchor across the border to the Social Security office.

Olivia, Santa Elena, Cayo.

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**Something Is Wrong**

Dear Editor,

Please allow me space in your newspaper to voice a serious concern. My complaint is about the Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL). Let me start off by saying that I am of the opinion that the staff at the San Ignacio branch office of BWSL are not responsible for what is happening as they are merely employees of the company.

I am a single mother, with two sons, usually when we leave home at 7:30 in the morning, we do not return until 5:30 in the evening and this has been the way we have been living for the past several years. When I moved into my new house in 2000, my water bill was around fifteen dollars. It has since increased to double that amount and I know for a fact that we use the same amount of water.

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We are getting the feeling like maybe BWSL is not being honest with the poor people and I want to know if there is anything we can do about it.

If it is a mistake on reading the meter why don’t they acknowledge it and refund our money.

Quite frankly, we are fed up of all these high utility bills. We are hoping and praying that someday things will get better for us the poor.

S/ Miss Dolly Witz

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**ATTENTION SCHOOLS**

BRC will donate, free of cost, any BRC books that schools want to use.

Earlier we made the offer on the condition that the Government would allow BRC’s books to be used as the main text.

BRC will now donate its books, unconditionally. Schools have seen the need.

We can get the books to the District Towns. Just call BRC at 823-2143 and give your order.

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**Christmas Ball**

**Aguada Restaurant & Bar, Santa Elena**

**8th December 2007**

**Dresscode: Formal**

**Admission: $50**

Food and one drink provided for all guests.

Live entertainment, prizes & bar all night!

Tickets sold at the Cornerstone office, 90 Burns Ave, San Ignacio, 678-9999

All proceeds go to The Cornerstone Foundation, help support your community.

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**Montero's Lumber Yard**

**85 Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio, Cayo**

**Tel.:** 824-2959

**Cell:** 610-4391

Jose Marin, Manager

If it's lumber you are looking for then there is no need to go out of town. Visit us today for all your lumber needs

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We also supply: Plywood, Celotex, Maya & Cessa Cement, Cement Blocks in all sizes Roofing, Doors and other construction materials.

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**Ed. Note:** All you might need to do is to check for yourself to find out if you are being charged for water that you have not consumed.

To conduct this check, you will need to look at the reading on your meter to see if the numbers correspond.

The number on your meter should not be much greater than number under “PRESENT READING” on you newest water bill.

If you find a big difference in these numbers then we encourage you to take this information into the BWSL office and request an explanation.

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**The Cornerstone Foundation**

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**Sunday, November 11, 2007 - STAR Tel:- 667-7827 & 626-3788 - Email: starnewspaper@gmail.com - Page 3**
Suggesting For Hillview To Become Independent

We want a community center. Our community want a park for children to play. With the addition of the new half of property taxes near Loma Luz Hospital, farther down the slope toward the Western Highway, the current population estimated at 120 families is expected to be doubled over the next couple of years.

A twenty acre subdivision for an industrial park is also wanted and a decent sized community bus station along the Western Highway.

Included in Hillview boundaries are Eden High School, Loma Luz Hospital, the cabinet shop, a number of tiny grocery shops, a cheese factory, a butane gas service, a Tourist Backpackers Adventure Hostel.

If the petition is successful and an election for Village Council is made over the next year under the new government, the new Village Council will collect business licenses, property taxes and do garbage pickup. Fix the streets, or arrange same. Decorative shade trees will be encouraged along the streets verge, to make Hillview a more pleasant place than is possible under the Twin Town Council system currently in place.

All residents of Hillview are asked to sign the petition and if you are interested on serving on the Village Council, notify Anthony De Leon at telephone 608-0737.

Better Late Than Never - Presenting The Three Latest Police Officers of the Month

BELMOPAN CITY, Thursday, November 8, 2007: A release from the police press office today informed that Commissioner of Police Gerald Westby has bestowed Officer of the Month awards on three six-year veterans of the Department.

The honor is bestowed each month for outstanding matters of higher priority. Officer of the Month for July is PC Kent Martinez who is currently assigned to the Belmopan Police Station.

Officer of the Month for August is WPC #991 Constance Pascascio currently attached to Punta Gorda Police Station.

And the award as Officer of the Month for September was bestowed on newly promoted Corporal #391 Bradord Berry.

Corporal Berry has been with the Community Policing Unit for the past three years and has developed excellent relations with many members of the community.

All three police officers expressed pride in being so honored and challenged their fellow officers to strive harder in regain the public’s respect and cooperation.

All three officers received cash and certificate awards.

Petition To Form Village Council In Hillview

Anthony DeLeon of Hillview, the second resident of the area, when Hillview was formed, as a DFC housing subdivision some sixteen years ago, will be circulating around the residents of the Hillview area, with a PETITION to collect signatures; to apply to forming a legal VILLAGE of the Hillview area. All residents are requested to sign the petition.

Anthony currently is working for Mario Castellanos on his PUP election campaign. In normal times, he is a Jack-Of-All-Trades and does carpentry, masonry, plastering, cutting yards and looking after houses of absentee owners. He lives in Hillview on the slope of Green Parrot Valley.

The concerns of a number of residents in the area, is the lack of services from the current Twin Town, Town Board, run by a UDP dominated council.

While streets in Santa Elena Town, on the north side of the highway known as OLD town get patched and beyond the call of duty in service to the community as it is inundated with religious schools and brainwashing children for various religious sects and cults. Seems like every crackpot under the sun, calls himself, a priest, pastor, minister, or what have you. There are more churches than run shops, not like yesteryears.

By: Ray Arcilion
Halloween At The Aguada

AGUADA HOTEL, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District, Friday, November 2, 2007:

Halloween has come and gone and this year the Santa Elena Jaguar Scouts # 27 mixed work with fun to bring back old traditions.

Several parents of the members of the scout group shared their concern about the dangers of the children being alone at late night hours trick or treating. Other parents suggested that even though trick or treat is a fun custom; it is an American tradition and there is a need to bring back our Belizean Customs and share them with the kids.

The scouts along with their parents organized the First Annual Halloween Thrill and it was a major success with over $700 being raised for the Annual Christmas Food Drive that is held in December.

The event was held at The Aguada Hotel on Friday, November 2, 2007. The festivities began with traditional folklore story telling by Mr. John Mena. The tales of Tata Duende and La Sucia were only a few that captivated the children’s attention.

After the story telling session, the kids entered the Haunted Trail. According to those that took the challenge, the haunted scenes they’ve ever gone through were so scared and it was one of the best thrills and it was a major success with all kids could enjoy themselves. We wanted this to be a fun family event where everyone could have fun in a safe environment,” stated Mrs. Cecilia Neal Flowers, Scout Leader of the Troop.

In keeping with tradition, a table was set with candles and calaberas and delicious food was placed on the table in honor of All Soul’s Day. Party goers were able to enjoy bollos and espehla along with many desserts and snacks throughout the evening.

For those with a brave heart, they were able to buy a 50 cent ticket to enter the Haunted Trail. According to many of those that took the challenge, it was shared that they’ve never been so scared and it was one of the best haunted scenes they’ve ever gone through.

None of this could have been possible without the support of the parents and the hard work of the Scout Troop. It has been mentioned that this may become an annual event for the fundraising efforts of the group.

The Santa Elena Jaguar Scouts would like to take this opportunity to thank all their parents, The Aguada Hotel, Exodus Travel, Cayo Cargo, The Holy Ghost.

Taryn looking deep into the crystal ball

Do you have property to sell?
Introduce your property to buyers - in Belize - and to America - and the world.

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Need sound legal advice on a land transaction? Have you been scammed through a land transaction deal and seek redress?

Want to know the internal legal process of wheeling and dealing land?

Then this is the time to learn. Land is the next big investment business and knowing its in’s and out’s makes you prepared and confident.

"Learn the secrets in the use of legal channels for the sale and purchase of property in Belize" Seminar will commence on November 24th, 2007.

Registration starts on October 22, 2007 until November 21, 2007. Cost of Registration is $300.00 bze.

(Included refreshments and Land Transaction Handbook for Belize)

For early registration and queries contact Cayo Connections at phone 670-3296 or visit our office located at #1 Bullet Tree Rd. San Ignacio, Cayo - Expressions Printing.

Any Registration after November 21, 2007 will cost an additional $50.00 so register early.

Cayo Adventure Tours, Continental Airlines, Federal Express, Art Wagner, and the students of Sacred Heart Junior College, Tourism Management Program that prepared all the cookies, treats and desserts for the fair along with assisting in the party planning.

You Give Us Your All And So We Gave Back To You

An unemployed man woke up one morning and checked his pocket. All he had left was $5.

He decided to use the money to buy food and then wait for death to take him over because as he was too proud to go begging.

He was frustrated as he could not find a job, and nobody was ready to help him.

He went to the nearby Chinese restaurant and bought a $5 chicken as he sat down to eat, an old man with two boys came along and asked him to give them something to eat. They had not eaten for almost a week.

He felt sorry for them and gave them the $5 fried chicken. The old man and children prayed that God would bless him. Before sitting down to eat, he left them eating, they had gone.

He asked the owner of the canteen if he knew them. He said no but they left a note for you. He quickly opened the note thinking it would lead him to find them. This is what the note said: “You gave us your all and we have rewarded you back with the coin” said the man.

The lady soon appeared with a cheque for 3 million dollars which she gave to the man.

After collecting the cheque the man went in search of the old man and two little boys. By the time he got to where he left them eating, they had gone.

He walked to the place on Burns Avenue. He got up, brushed off his pants and walked to the place on Burns Avenue. When he arrived he handed over the coin to the lady behind the counter. When she saw the rare coin she screamed. She brought out a big book and showed the man a picture of the old coin. “Your coin is worth 3 million dollars, would you like to cash it in?” she said.

“Yes” said the man. The lady appeared with a cheque for 3 million dollars which she gave to the man.

He decided to use the money to buy food and then wait for death to take him over because as he was too proud to go begging.

He asked the owner of the canteen if he knew them. He said no but they left a note for you. He quickly opened the note thinking it would lead him to find them. This is what the note said: “You gave us your all and we have rewarded you back with the coin” Signed God the Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost.
Nobody is Measuring The Oil

Press Release from the Belize Landowners Association, Contact: Jim Cavanagh, Coordinator
Phone:804-4432  junglejm@bnt.net
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SAN IGNACIO, Cayo, November 8, 2007:-

Some villages along the Western Highway like Ontario, Blackman Eddy and Buena Vista have been installing new water systems to meet the growing demands. In the past everyone paid a flat fee of $15 or so, but some people used a lot more water than others, especially commercial users like chicken processing plants, and those who use the village system for agricultural irrigation. So the new village water systems now include a water meter, which is fine with most of the villagers, but strongly opposed by the big consumers who have had a free ride. Measuring the water is, of course, the “normal practice of the industry”, thus the protests fall on deaf ears.

Water is relatively cheap at pennies a gallon, but suppose you were dealing with expensive crude oil which is now about BZ$4.50 a gallon? You would surely want to very carefully measure the volume, especially if you own even a small part of it, because a leak or spill or scamming or skimming, can mean losing a lot of money. The discovery well at Spanish Lookout, Mike Usher #1, was completed in May 2005, and now, after more than two years of production, with some BZ$200 million worth of oil sold, the Oil Contractor, BNE, not only has not metering at the wellsites, they were told that there was no need to measure the oil production because the government knew how much oil was being produced! Colonial thinking that the government is not to be held accountable isn’t over after all! But the only way for GOB to know how much oil is produced is for BNE to tell them, because there are no meters for GOB to read and confirm the figures.

The Petroleum Act, Chapter 225, Revised Edition 2000, has a serious omission because there is no clause which specifically requires a contractor to accurately measure petroleum production with a verifiable metering system. Of course this measuring requirement is inherent in the provision where the law does require the contractor:

18 – (1) (e). “to keep current financial and cost accounting records of petroleum operations, with pertinent records and vouchers, during the term of the contract, in accordance with normal practices in the international petroleum industry”

There is obviously no way to keep accurate financial and cost accounting records without accurate and verifiable measurement of the petroleum produced. “Normal practices” in the petroleum industry require careful accurate and verifiable measurement of all petroleum products extracted from a reservoir. Such accurate measurement requirements are fundamentally essential where the production is subject to Landowner Royalty, Overriding Royalty Interest (ORRI), Production Sharing, shared ownership, taxes and where any other divided interest is involved.

The “normal practice” is to install precision metering systems that cannot be reset or bypassed, where the production totals are cumulative, and where the meter readings can be verified at any time by any or all of the parties involved who have an interest in the oil. Even the most sophisticated metering systems for a well will cost only about a day’s production of that well, so it doesn’t make any sense at all to refuse to install meters unless there is some reason that the oil contractor and GOB don’t want people to know how much oil is produced?

Please Turn To Page 7

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

BY ORDER OF THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BELIZE
THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE
AT THE MAGISTRATE’S COURT, BELMOPAN CITY
AT 2:00 P.M. ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007

1. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 1 acre or thereabout situate along the Western Highway in the Franks Eddy Agricultural Layout, Cayo District

2. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 1984.783 square meters situate in the San Jose Succotz Village Extension, Cayo District.

3. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising 500 square feet or thereabouts and situate in the Society Hall Registration Section Parcel 555 of Block 24

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

BY ORDER OF THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF THE BELMOPAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT
THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE
AT THE MAGISTRATE’S COURT, BELMOPAN CITY
AT 2:00 P.M. ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007

1. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 4 acres or thereabouts and situate in the Las Flores Area of Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

BY ORDER OF THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BELIZE
THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE
AT THE ORANGE WALK TOWN MAGISTRATE’S COURT
AT 8:30 A.M. ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007

1. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 2 acres or thereabouts approximately 1 1/4 mile south of Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District

2. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 10 acres or thereabouts in the Ann Guaboural Layout, Orange Walk District

3. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 20 acres or thereabouts and situate in Xaibe Village, Corozal District, Belize

4. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 1.02 acres or thereabouts and situate in the Ten Pound Caye Subdivision, Corozal District

5. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 1 acre of land or thereabouts and situate in the Custo Rey Agricultural Layout, Corozal District
Nobody Is Measuring The Oil
From Page 6
And it even worse! Fueling the
doubts we all have as to why BNE
and GOB would want to hide the true
production figures, huge quantities of
oil seem to have gone missing.
Last April at a meeting with GOB
and BNE at Spanish Lookout, the
Inspector of Oil explained 881,000
barrels of oil were produced by 31
December 2006, of which the GOB
7.5% royalty share was about
BZ$105 million total oil sales, which
was less than 1/3 of what was due,
but he would have to sign a statement
that SLO had been paid all that was
due them. Allen asked for an
accounting of how GOB arrived at
such a low figure and was informed
that he was not entitled to an
accounting. Allen Reimer asked to
see the production figures GOB used
to calculate the royalty due and was
told, “now get this... that these
figures were confidential and
would not be given to landowners!”

When ever there is a divided
interest in the petroleum production,
such as exists in Belize with royalties,
production sharing, and the like, each
and every party holding an interest
must be supplied an accurate and
verifiable measurement report of the
amount of production during any
specified period to support any
payments that are due them. Where
every surface owner should receive a
small royalty percentage of the
total production, such percentage
entitlement demands accurate
measurement to insure that the
payments made to satisfy the
royalty due are correct.

The current method used to
measure production by the oil
contractor is inaccurate, does not
protect the landowner from
“shrinkage” or losses, and cannot
be verified, creating an illusionary
accounting of production based upon
what a contractor “says” was
produced.

This certainly is not a normal
practice of the international petroleum
industry, or any industry for that
matter, and as such is in itself a
violation of the Petroleum Laws, as
well as contracts with and
entitlements due surface owners.

Measuring Petroleum
Production
Every barrel of oil is almost like
handling a $100 bill, so it is important
to know how much you receive and
how much you pass on. Just like a
bank or any business. When oil
arrives at the surface it is in the
custody of the landowner. When it
leaves the landowner’s property, the
custody is being transferred to
someone else.

Keeping track of oil production
means keeping track of the custody
transfers. The landowner needs to
know how much oil was produced
from his land and how much he
transfers to a truck or pipeline.

In nearly every oil producing
country in the world today every
customary transfer of oil is accompanied
by accurate and verifiable metering
when the oil arrives and leaves
custody at every point of transfer.
The process starts as petroleum is
produced at the wellhead, that is
as custody is received from the
reservoir. Accurate meter
measurements at the wellhead
are essential to protect all royalty
interests as well as the GOB share
of ownership. If the oil is transported
by tanker truck or pipeline, the
custody of the oil is being transferred,
and thus must be measured as it
enters the truck or the pipeline.

A private landowner’s royalty
rights, when accurately measured at the
wellsite are therefore not affected by
any corruption, theft or shrinkage
which may and seems to occur after
the oil leaves the landowners
property.

Whenever oil is transferred from
one point to another, the change of
custody of the oil must be carefully
controlled and recorded, just like a
bank transfers money. With Belize oil
there are at least seven custody
transfers of oil which occur between
the wellhead and the point of sale.

1. Wellsite to storage tank or
pipeline
2. Pipeline or truck to central
storage tanks
3. Central storage tanks to tanker
trucks
4. Tanker trucks to coast storage
 tanks
5. Coastal storage tanks to barges
6. Barges to buyers terminal
7. Terminal to refinery

Theft can occur at each transfer of
custody of the oil, thus it is easy to
understand why accurate and
verifiable metering at each custody
transfer site is so important.

To put this in perspective, the
custody of over BZ$130,000 of
oil is transferred from a wellsite
each day. It must be measured
carefully.

Please Turn To Page 10

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BELIZE
THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE
AT THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING, BELIZE CITY
AT 11 A.M. ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007

1. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 501.503 square meters or thereabouts situate in Ladyville Village, Belize District

2. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 832.897 square yards or thereabouts situate south of La Democracia Village along the Western Highway, near Mile 31.5, Belize District

3. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 2 acres or thereabouts situate along the Western Side of the Barrell Boom-Hatton Village Road, approximately 1 mile from Hattonville Village, Belize District

4. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing some 2 acres or thereabouts situate in Ladyville Village, Belize District

5. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 345,806 square meters situate on the southern side of the Western Highway, Mile 8, Belize District

6. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 2 acres or thereabouts situate along the southwestern side of the New Northern Highway, near mile 24.5, Biscayne Village Area, Belize District

7. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 10,116 hectares or thereabouts situate along the western side of New Northern Highway near mile 34 in the Belize District

8. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land containing 4444.44 square yards situate in Caye Caulker Village, Belize District

9. ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land comprising some 2.8 acres or thereabouts situate in Ladyville Village, Belize District
FOR SALE

* 12.64 Acre estate with 4-bedroom home...newly constructed home, 3300 sq. ft. with outdoor patios and picnic pavilion, private yet close to San Ignacio Town, property is kept in a park like appearance....must see! Located on Bullet Tree Road 1.5 miles away from town. This one is IDEAL for a Vacation/Retirement Home.

* 1/2 Acre on Macal River in Santa Elena Town, Cayo, water and electricity on site, with phone and DSL in the area! Many Improvements....ready to build on!

* 1/2 Acre, (4-lots) side by side in the Carlos Habet New Area. Landscaped and well maintained....ready to build on!!

* 1 Acre on Bullet Tree Road, 1.5 miles from town and 100 yards from main road, electricity, cleared and semi-landscaped. A location that's ready to build your dream home.

For more information call: 824-3751 or 605-4495 Email: rallen@btl.net
Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ZHONG XIANG CHEN** is applying for the renewal of his PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate **PING MEI RESTAURANT** located at Joseph Andrews Drive, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ZHAO TING ZHUO** is applying for the renewal of his PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate **MARIPOSA JUNGLE** located at the junction of the San Antonio and Pine Ridge Roads in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SHU QING HUANG** is applying for the renewal of his PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate **CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT & BAR** located on Kennedy Street Belize City.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **CYNTHIA ALWIN** is applying for the renewal of her RESTAURANT & BAR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate **ALWIN’S RESTAURANT** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **SU CAN LIN** is applying for the renewal of a RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate **FU HUA FAST FOOD** located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that **ROSE SANTIAGO** is applying for the renewal of her MALE’ & CIDER LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate **ROSE DELI & SHUGA SHAK** located on Bishop Martin Street, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

Belize Natural Energy Ltd. has repaired the Calla Creek hammock bridge that was destroyed by the recent flooding in the Cayo District. The bridge is a vital lifeline for the area, connecting residents on both sides of the river. While it was down children could not go to school, many villagers could not travel to work and some risked their lives crossing the rapidly moving water in small canoes.

Understanding the urgency of the situation, BNE sent a skilled crew and the necessary building materials to the area where work was carried out to reconstruct the bridge. (The bridge reconstruction was completed to specifications provided by the Ministry of Works, who oversaw the completion of the project.)

In less than a week, the Calla Creek hammock bridge was completely repaired and villagers could go about their daily lives without hindrance.

Belize Natural Energy believes that it is important to support its local communities and takes its responsibility as a corporate citizen seriously. The company hopes that the hammock bridge will serve the community of Calla Creek for many years to come.
Nobody Is Measuring The Oil

From Page 7

The Contractor’s agreement with Spanish Lookout states that: Produced petroleum will be measured by a verifiable industry standard measuring system at the storage tanks at each well site subject to the specification requirements of the Contractor.”

A “verifiable industry standard measuring system at the storage tanks at each well site” is very specific wording of which the key words are measuring system and verifiable.

When production was first established at Spanish Lookout, the oil went straight from the well to on-site storage tanks where it could be measured. Unfortunately the on-site storage tanks where it could be measured indirectly by dip sticking or “gauging,” where the level of oil in a tank is measured and then converted to volume, which was supposed to be reported to GOB and the Landowner as the measure of oil produced.

The problem was the system was not verifiable, and thus the production reported was only what the contractor said it was. Today the production of the wells is not even measured indirectly by dip sticking before the custody of the oil is transferred to a pipeline.

The recommended metering system to be installed on Belize wells is unequivocally a Lease Automatic Custody Transfer Unit or LACT unit, which should be installed and operated at every well according to the American Petroleum Institute (API) Manual of Petroleum Measurement Standards, Chapter 5.1. Regulatory agencies throughout the world are now mandating the use of LACT units because they can meet all the requirements for accurate measurement, the total volumes can not be reset or changed and they are accurate to 0.05% or better. The LACT units also can measure all three phases of produced oil, gas and water.

The readings are recorded and thus easily verifiable and the meters can be equipped with printout capability for periodic totals. The cost of a LACT unit is about the same as ne day’s production of a typical Spanish Lookout well, so they are not economically unreasonable.

There has been a lot of talk about the benefits Belizeans can expect from our oil. After BZ$200 million of our oil has been produced and sold, has any hospital received new equipment, facilities, supplies, equipment? Has any school building been improved? Have the students received improved facilities, supplies, equipment? Has any hospital received new equipment, better labs, improved medical care? Are any teachers getting better benefits? Are the hospital staffs getting better pay? The politicians are scrambling to get their hands on the oil money, but what are Belizeans getting?

Butane On Strike - When It Comes Back, The Price Will Shoot Through The Roof

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, CAYO, Friday, November 9, 2007:

Butane Retailers are going on strike with effect from today as they are closing down their operations in protest of the small return they are getting on their investments.

A letter was sent to Prime Minister Said Musa by Butane Retailers on Wednesday, November 7. The letter advised the Prime Minister that the profit margins for retailers have been cut too thin for them to keep doing business in a sustainable manner.

The letter also warned the Prime Minister that unless he takes drastic corrective actions which accurately reflects the soaring cost of acquisition, they’ll have to shut down.

Prime Minister Musa, during a tour of the Cayo Central Division on Thursday, November 8, told the media that he had not yet seen the letter from Butane Retailers.

He however informed that he was visited on Monday, November 5, by Roque Reyes with whom he met in the presence of the current Acting Financial Secretary Joseph Waight.

Musa informed that it was explained to Reyes that the price of butane fluctuates and that he knows that prices have been going up but that the product has been imported from other sources at a much cheaper price.

Musa said that he believes that the cheaper and better fuel comes from Salvador as compared to the product imported from Mexico.

He said that he explained to Reyes that a review will take place in time for the arrival of the next shipment so that the new landing price can be determined.

Retailers are asking for an $18 increase in the 100 lbs cylinder of butane which is expected to go up from $111 to $129.

Butane retailers inform that the strike will likely continue until a compromise with government is reached.
The Bishop was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with the money that was needed to repair the roof of the church. He prayed on the project for many weeks then late one night the answer came to him. His church was selected for the Annual Police Church Parade and so he placed a book at the entrance with instructions for every policeman and woman to enter their name before venturing into his church. During the service, the Bishop came to the opportune time to make the

Creating His Own Employment

Late one night Mr. & Mrs. Garcia were driving down the road on their way to visit their son in Santa Familia Village. They came to a muddy patch in the road and the car became bogged. After trying unsuccessfully for several minutes to get the car out, they saw a farmer coming down the road in his tractor. He stopped when he saw the couple in trouble and offered to pull the car out of the mud for $50. Mr. Garcia accepted and minutes later the car was out of the mud. The farmer turned to Mr. Garcia and said, "You know, you’re the tenth car I’ve helped out of the mud today.”

Mr. Garcia looked around at the nearby field and asks the farmer, “With pulling so many vehicles out of the mud, when do you have time to plough your land, at night?” “No,” responded the farmer, “Night is when I put the water in the hole.”

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that BENJAMIN MENDEZ is applying for the renewal of his NIGHTCLUB LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate FIVE FLAGS located in the Santa Cruz Area of Santa Elena Town, in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that WEI QIANG HUANG & CHUN HUA HUANG are applying for the renewal of their CONVENIENT STORE LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate ALWIN’S SUPERMARKET located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that DAVID SMITH is applying for the renewal of his PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate THE SPOT located on the Bullet Tree Road, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that SERJIO CHUC is applying for the renewal of his NIGHT CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate COCONUTS located in the Savanah Area, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that ALHENRY & ANDREA WESTBY are applying for the renewal of their PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate CHAMPION SPORTS BAR located in the Savanah Area, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that YIN DI MEI is applying for the renewal of his PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate YAXIANG YUAN RESTAURANT located at #65 Hudson Street, San Ignacio Town, in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that ALI HenRY & ANDREA WESTBY are applying for the renewal of their PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2008 to operate ALWIN’S SUPERMARKET located on the Western Highway, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.

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From Front Page

Garrido, “The facilities at the Northern Border Station are far superior to the almost none-existent facility here in the west.

Furthermore, the unloading services at the Northern Border Station is paid for the Border Management while here in Benque, we have to pay all those persons who unload our trucks for customs inspection.

We also note, that one of the new fees appears under the heading “VISUAL CUSTOMS INSPECTION”. This is exactly what the service is - It’s a visual inspection conducted by CUSTOMS - Why on earth would the Board Chair want to tax us for a service provided by the Customs Department. It is obvious that they want us to collect taxes under false pretenses and obvious that they want to collect for a service provided by the Border Management while here in Benque, we have to pay all those persons who unload our trucks for customs inspection.

We were reliably informed that the Board is going to request the government to pay the relevant fees under the Customs Holding Lot solution to the situation. In commenting on the new fees, Kevin Herrera, General Manager of the Chamber said that “Doing business in Belize is just becoming too costly.” This is precisely the sentiments, in a nutshell, expressed by Edgar Garrido.

For his part Edgar Garrido remains optimistic that sober heads will eventually prevail and that the fees will be rescinded thereby allowing the situation to return to normalcy. And so it did; as shortly after 12 noon on Friday, November 9, Garrido received written information of the suspension of the proposed new fees until further notice.

By 1:30 pm on Friday the situation was back to normal as importers began clearing their goods and paying the relevant fees under the previous structure.

In the meantime a meeting, to iron the difficulties, with all stakeholders in the industry, is tentatively scheduled to be held on Monday, November 12, at the Western Border Station.

From Front Page

Paito Robateau laid to rest

Paito was sent to live with his maternal grandmother in Big Falls village, being the industrious person, he quickly found employment at a log sawmill in the village of Otoch. When that job came to an end he moved back to Big Falls where he worked with a cousin up to the time of his death. “The last time his father and I spoke to him was on that same Saturday evening” said Miss Adriana. “He was so happy when his father told him to come back home. Despite the challenges he faced, Paito was a loving son. He was especially jovial whenever he visited his father because his favorite past time. His sudden death is a shocker us. He was our oldest son and we will never forget him,” concluded Miss Adriana.

The report of Paito’s sudden passing came in the form of a report from the Police Press Office in which the police informed that Punta Gorda Police are investigating what appeared to have been hit and run accident on the Southern Highway which occurred during the early morning hours on Sunday, November 4.

Upon arrival on the scene police encountered the apparent lifeless body of a male person lying on the highway near the southern approach to the Big Falls Bridge. The body, with severe head and body injuries, was removed from the scene and transported to the Punta Gorda Town Hospital where it was official pronounced dead and subsequently released to be that of Raymond Albert Robateau Jr., 30, Belizean laborer from Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Cement and Gas Truck inside the Customs Holding Lot

Increased Police Presence

Two Locks & Chain on Exit Gate - BMA's new upper lock - Customs' lock, lower gate
Bismillah Stores

Coming Soon!!!

Christmas Stock

Our Everyday Low Prices Continue At ALL Bismillah Stores

Blenders, Mixers, Hair Trimmers & Cordless Phones

Local & Imported Furniture

Cellular Phones

Artificial Flowers, Wallclocks, Waffle Makers & Juicers

and many many more items, we invite you to come in and see for yourself!

Be sure to stop in at the new Bismillah Traders located at #3 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio Town, Cayo

Visit ALL Bismillah Stores for quality merchandise at reasonable prices, Customer Satisfaction - Guaranteed!!!