SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Wednesday, February 10, 2010:

San Ignacio police is this week reporting the largest recovery of arms and ammunition and the apprehension, on a remote farm in Esperanza Village, Cayo, of a fugitive who has been on the run for almost 3 ½ years.

While the team of four policemen from San Ignacio’s Crimes Investigation and Special Branches were aware that they were going after Belizean Fugitive, Garry Seawell, 33, little did they realize the firepower that could have confronted them.

It was shortly after 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 when the police team, sneaked up the hill to the makeshift 10X12 wooden structure with corrugated zinc roofing, located about 3 ½ miles south of the Western Highway in Esperanza Village, where they surprised the fugitive in the company of his common law wife, Tanisha Ayuso, 27, and their four children, three sons ranging in ages from 5, 3 and 18 months and a 4-month old daughter.

Garry Seawell was immediately detained and handcuffed. The structure was searched in the presence of the two adults. The search led to the discovery of several high power weapons of war and ammunition in various locations inside the building.

The items found included a bolt action 7.62 rifle with serial number 211359, one M16 A2 Sub Machine Gun with serial number 027907 fitted with a magazine containing 5 live 5.56 bullets; one M4 Carbine with serial number A0221635 with 2 magazines bound together with duct tape, containing a combined 41 live rounds of ammunition; one point 45 (old version) Auto Rifle with serial number B3014564 along with a magazine containing 20 live rounds...
of point 45 ammunition and a dark blue bullet proof vest.

The team also found a brown knapsack and when it was searched it was found to contain an SM 02-3 British made grenade inside the small front pocket along with 21 live rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 35 live 9mm bullets, a single point 32 live round of ammunition and 2 empty magazines along with a transparent zip lock plastic bag containing 2 parcels of suspected marijuana.

Also inside the structure, under a table, the police found a blue plastic container with food items and two other zip lock bags containing suspected marijuana.

Garry Seawell, Tanisha Ayuso and the children were transported to the San Ignacio Town head station where the children were released into the custody of Tanisha’s sister, Tanya who resides in Belmopan.

When weighed, the three parcels of marijuana amounted to 241.6 grams, 61 grams and 13.5 grams.

About an hour later police returned to the scene where they encountered a third person identified as Anthony “Baggies” Garnett, 40, Belizean taxi driver of a New Area, Santa Elena Town address, who, when questioned, told the police that he owns the farm and that upon learning of Seawell’s detention, he came to the property to secure the generator. He was nevertheless detained and likewise transported to the San Ignacio Police Station where he was jointly charged with Garry Seawell and Tanisha Ayuso for 11 crimes including: 4 counts of keeping prohibited firearms, 3 counts of keeping prohibited ammunition, 2 counts of keeping ammunition without a gun license and 2 counts of keeping prohibited material (1 grenade and 1 bullet proof vest).

Seawell and Ayuso are also facing three drug related charges being 2 counts for drug trafficking in connection with the 241.6 and 61 grams of marijuana and one count for possession of controlled drugs for the 13.5 grams.

The trio was arraigned before San Ignacio’s magistrate Anna Rachel Montejo on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 where they pled not guilty to all charges. They were remanded to the Hattieville Central Prison until Monday, May 11, 2010.

Garry Seawell is no stranger to San Ignacio Police. On August 24, 2006 he was arrested and charged along with two other persons for drug trafficking in connection with the discovery of 3,145 grams (3.1 kilos) of crack cocaine which was found inside the house he occupied in Kontiki Area, San Ignacio Town. He was initially remanded on the charge but was later granted bail and has since failed to reappear in court.
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

REPORTS

ON MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY 2009—JANUARY 2010

The Ministry of Health has been seeking assistance from partner countries and organizations and promoting preventive medicine through good nutrition, exercise and healthy lifestyle choices. Belize participated in numerous health-related activities both locally and internationally all focusing on creating awareness as well as promoting information sharing on prevention and control of chronic diseases as well as identifying and promoting strategies for the reduction of social and environmental risk factors for chronic ailments like diabetes, obesity, heart disease and cancer. Partnering in these efforts was Brazil which can be obtained by a Memorandum of Understanding with Belize. Signing on behalf of the Ministry of Health Brazil was Mr. Jose Gomes Temporino, Minister of Health. Belize also participated in the Caribbean Wellness Day, PAN-CAP, and the World Health Assembly. In April of 2009, the Ministry of Health and the country of Belize began its battle against the HINI Pandemic. After years of preparation in anticipation of an influenza pandemic, the Ministry of Health personnel implemented measures to protect the population from HINI with an education campaign geared toward persons of all ages from infants to children at the preschool age. The Ministry in collaboration with other public and private sector stakeholders including the media, kept the country safe from mass injection, with Belize being one of the last countries in the region to have cases of HINI. Thousands of dollars had been spent on activities including ads, human resources, training, and collaboration to prevent the spread of HINI. The Ministry is still in this process as HINI has not gone away and another outbreak of this or any other influenza-like illness may emerge at any time. In July of 2009, the Ministry of Health’s Belize Health Information Surveillance System identified Dengue Fever surveillance and prevention activities are daily activities – however, during the course of an outbreak, the Ministry increases those activities. Upon the declaration of the outbreak, the Secretary of Health of Quintana Roo sent medical and vector control personnel and a fleet of ULY Health System. It also serves as a guide to our health planners, program managers and other social sector partners as we strive to achieve a better health for all Belizeans.

A list of publications is printed annually in the Ministry of Health’s Belize Health Information Surveillance System identified Dengue Fever surveillance and prevention.

- The Isabel Polyclinic opened in San Antonio, Toledo. This innovation has marked the achievement of a major milestone in the provision of health care for the people of the Toledo District.

- Implementation of the FRIENDS pilot programme was successful. The Ministry of Health, under the direction of the Minister of Health, Dahlia Manz, Public Health and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the National Sports Council, initiated a pilot programme entitled FRIENDS – “Focusing Resources in Education and Nutrition Development” to encourage and promote Healthy Lifestyles in primary schools. The programme is a skill-based approach to health and nutrition education which will focus on the development of essential life skills, and attitudes needed to make and carry out positive health decisions through nutrition education and physical education. FRIENDS’ target group is primary school children. Nine Standard 4 classes in Corozal Town are participating in the pilot project. The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Health Metrics Network (HMN), and the National Health Information Systems Committee held a workshop develop a consensus-based national strategy plan for strengthening health information systems in Belize. The goal is to increase the availability of timely and accurate information. In pursuit of this goal, Belize has established a National Health Information Systems Committee to play a leading role in this process which aims to produce a National Health Information System Strategic Plan that incorporates all determinants and outcomes of health, which will provide the framework for strengthening all aspects of national health information in Belize.

The Ministry of Health reminds the general public of its list of publications that are available to the general public. These publications are available on the Ministry of Health website. When available, copies may be obtained from the Ministry of Health, Belmopan. The publications are as follows: HEALTH STATISTICS OF BELIZE - 1999-2003, 2000-2004, 2001-2005, 2002-2006, 2003-2007, and 2004-2008. Purpose: The Health Statistics of Belize presents statistical tables related to health production and surveillance for a five-year period. It includes data on areas including: Major Health Indicators, Population, Health Expenditures, Health Resources, Immunization, Communicable Diseases (Dengue, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis), Non-Communicable Diseases (Cancer, Hypertension, Diabetes), Hospital Production Statistics, Mortality, Morbidity, Transport Trauma, and Domestic Violence in Belize. In general, the information presented in this Publication presents data at national aggregates by region, age, sex and reasons for visiting a health facility (diagnosis). Baseline and trends are calculated for certain variables. The Health Statistics of Belize Publication is used by the Public and Private Sectors and other users in order to formulate policies that will help in the prevention and eradication of health problems in Belize. All health care providers and health care personnel in Belize are encouraged to use this Publication and to look at the health trends in our country at the different administrative levels. The Ministry of Health is committed to provide support for the prevention and eradication of health epidemics and the provision of quality health services in Belize. BASIC HEALTH INDICATOR OF BELIZE - 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009. A new publication is printed annually.

FOODBORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE MANUAL 2009 Purpose: The main purpose of Foodborne Disease Surveillance Manual is to provide a guide to Food Safety Officers, Public Health Inspectors, Medical Doctors, Laboratory Technicians and Surveillance Officers in Belize on how to conduct foodborne disease monitoring and surveillance in order to identify and report foodborne disease morbidity and mortality, and to mitigate any related socioeconomic impact through the collection, analysis and use of data from clinical, laboratory, retailers, restaurants, and food sources.

Previous publications include: Birth and Mortality Recognition Manual which provides a guide to collect and manage vital events in all health care facilities. This manual outlines the methods used for recording, compiling and disseminating birth and death related information. It focuses on steps and standards to ensure high quality data collection and reporting and the timely completeness of periodical information.

Communicable Disease Surveillance Manual which provides a guide to collection and reporting of communicable diseases in all health facilities and in the prevention of morbidity and mortality related to these communicable diseases.

Quarterly HIV, TB, and Perinatal Violence statistical reports and bulletins.
"I Am Not A Crackhead," says Vilensky

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Wednesday, February 10, 2010:

On page 6 of last weekend’s edition of the newspaper we reported the arrest of Gregori Vilensky, 20, Israeli national of a Mile 63 Western Highway address, on a possession of pipe charge.

Vilensky visited our office today and informed that, while he was arrested, charged and plead guilty for possession of pipe charge, he does not use the contraption to smoke crack cocaine.

“I am not a crackhead,” said Vilensky. “I don’t even know what crack looks like. The pipe is called a “BANG” and I use it to smoke marijuana. There is a big difference between the use of crack cocaine and marijuana. I smoke marijuana for medicinal purposes.”

Gregori Vilensky, 20

Vilensky informed that the report, which appeared in at least one other newspaper, has created bad publicity for him.

He said that he has been living in Belize for over one year and that, along with his mother, he manages the Russian Travel Agency Destination Belize located at Mile 63 on the Western Highway about midway between San Ignacio Town and the village of San Jose Succotz.

Tienda Martha, Jacked For the Third Time

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Wednesday, February 10, 2010:

Santa Elena’s Tienda Martha has been robbed for a third time.

Police reports that the latest incident occurred at around 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

Patricia Cordon, 35, Belizean proprietor of Tienda Martha reported that she was inside the shop, located on La Loma Luz Boulevard in Santa Elena, along with her sister, Sandra Orellano, when three persons, with black rags covering their face and wearing dark clothes, rushed into the shop.

One of the intruders was in possession of what Patricia Cordon described as a “home-made gun” while the other two were armed with “kitchen knives”.

The one with the gun reportedly pointed it at Cordon while a second one grabbed her sister and the third one jumped over the counter and removed all the cash, totaling approximately $170, from the cash drawer.

Cordon additionally informed that one of the knife men made an unsuccessful attempt to grab the gold chain she was wearing. She additionally informed that upon hearing the commotion coming from inside the shop, her daughter emerged from inside the adjoining living quarters, she reportedly pulled back and called the police.

By the time the police arrived the three robbers had already disappeared into the darkness.

As the investigation continues Police are looking for a prime suspect whom they believe could assist in the investigation.

Clean Master

We Specialize In:

- Car Detailing
- Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
- Car Polishing

Our Home Services Include:

- Tile Cleaning & Polishing
- Sofa Cleaning

We are located off Joseph Andrews Drive, near the Falcon Field in San Ignacio Town.

Call us at 824-2576 or 670-2329 E-mail: cleanmasterba@yahoo.com

Invitation for the Supply of Insurance Coverage for Belize Water Services

Belize Water Services invites interested firms to submit bids for the supply of Insurance Coverage for the period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 with the option to extend to March 31, 2012.

The document detailing the schedule of services can be picked up at the office of Belize Water Services at #7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City between the hours of 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Details are also available electronically upon request.

For more information please contact Jennifer Schmaer at 222-4757 Ext 233 or email corporate@services@bwsl.com.bz

Deadline for application is Tuesday, 02 March, 2010.

Invitation for the Supply of Security Services for Belize Water Services

Belize Water Services invites interested firms to submit bids for the supply of security services for the period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, with the option to extend to March 31, 2012.

The document detailing the schedule of services can be picked up at the office of Belize Water Services at #7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City between the hours of 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Details are also available electronically upon request. You may choose to tender for any or all components listed.

For more information please contact Jennifer Schmaer at 222-4757 Ext 233 or email corporate@services@bwsl.com.bz

Deadline for application is Tuesday, 02 March, 2010.
SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Friday, February 12, 2010:

An early morning traffic accident near the foot of the Hawksworth Bridge in Santa Elena Town resulted in extensive damages to a vehicle and a building.

It was at around 3:50 this Friday morning when San Ignacio police responded to a reported traffic accident in Santa Elena Town.

Upon arrival the police found a white Toyota Land Cruiser, without license plates, parked inside the A&S Glass Shop located on George Price Avenue at its intersection with the Western Highway.

At the scene police found the driver, Roger Bowen, 23, Belizean labourer, of #2 Victoria Street, San Ignacio Town.

Bowen, who works with Pro Belize, informed that he was driving over the bridge from San Ignacio into Santa Elena to drop off some friends who were along with him when he lost control of the vehicle and ran into the building.

The other “friends” fled the scene leaving Bowen alone. While no one was reported injured, the vehicle, the building and its contents were severely damaged.

The vehicle has valid license and insurance. It could not be ascertained if the building and its contents are insured.

Bowen informed that the vehicle was rented, a few hours earlier, from Jeans Pañaguas.

In determining his blood/alcohol content, a urine sample was obtained from the driver as investigation continues.

Senior Citizens’ Home Receives Donation

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Saturday, February 6, 2010:

The Board of Governors of the Octavia Waight Centre – A Home for the elderly in San Ignacio, wishes to recognize and express appreciation to WORD AT WORK and the Belize Natural Energy Charitable Trust for donating seven boxes of diapers, 4 Wheel Chairs and Oxygen Concentrators.

These items are essential for daily use at the center.

A sincere Thank You is therefore extended to WORD AT WORK and the BNE Charitable Trust for their kind assistance.

From the Board of Governors, Octavia Waight Centre, An affiliate of HelpAge Belize.
Current crisis could ripple citrus, 
- Canton warns CGA, Citrus Farmers and Strategic Investors

In a nationally televised statement aired on Channels Five and Seven, Dr. Henry Canton, the embattled Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director of Citrus Products of Belize Limited, warned that the current controversy in the industry could cause the collapse of the citrus industry in Belize.

“The citrus industry is today experiencing high growth, excellent prices, expanded markets and a bright future”, Canton said. “In the fragile economic circumstances of this day and age, prudence and wisdom should dictate that petty differences be set aside for the survival of the one industry that can provide a lifeline to allow Belize to get through these difficult times.”

Canton spoke about earlier controversies among stakeholders of the industry since the turn of the twentieth century. Instead of crippling the industry, however, the controversies and rivalries of the past made it stronger: “Perhaps those practical and in some ways philosophical differences of opinion all had a common purpose. The sincerely opinionated who had their way and their say, also saved the industry and paved the way to secure a future for the industry.”

The citrus industry, primarily located in the Stann Creek District encountered new challenges over the past years, Canton stated: “From a home grown, struggling agricultural enterprise, we have had to face the competing realities of a global economy.” This meant, among other things, “diversifying the end product – not only producing concentrate, but manufacturing juices and other by-products to meet the growing demands of an increasingly thirsty domestic and external market; and attracting investment capital to grow the industry and create a buffer to protect us from the vulnerabilities of uncertain climatic conditions, changing prices, and a fickle market over which we have no control.”

To meet these challenges, the Belize Citrus Growers’ Association (BCGA) formed an investment company (BCGA/ICL) “to generate finances for the improvement of the industry, and ultimately to acquire ownership and therefore strategic leverage over the processing facilities”.

The CGA and its investment arm now hold 51% controlling interest in the processing facilities, Citrus Products of Belize Limited (CPBL). The other strategic investors are Banks Holdings of Barbados and Blue Waters of Trinidad and Tobago.

The CGA, being aware of its own management limitations and entering into unknown corporate waters, had the foresight to retain Dr. Henry Canton as Managing Director of CPBL, who with the support of the Chairman of the Board and their co-Directors, made some bold and dramatic decisions to diversify and consolidate, and within a short period of time “raised the profile and the operations of the company to international standards”.

Canton contended that “our efforts were lauded by the leaders of the CGA and the citrus growers themselves, with antagonists who at the eleventh hour took exception to the share purchase agreement with the strategic investors (Banks and Blue Waters). At the time they were both described as ‘paper companies’ by the few who were opposed to this new capital investment” – an investment, Canton argues, “which pumped new capital into a revitalized company which was struggling for survival, and heavily debt ridden”.

Canton reminded all shareholders and citrus farmers that they had inherited accumulated losses of $33 million dollars, mostly from Belize Food Products, under the management of Mr. Denzil Jenkins.

He pointed out that in a few short years, and given the challenges the CGA had assigned to him and his team, “we created the most modernized processing facilities that Belize had ever seen; practically bailed out CPBL from much of its financial difficulties; attracted equity investments of more than $27 million dollars from abroad; and injected $70 million dollars in capital projects”.

The CGA is now unhappy with Canton and his team, as well as with Banks and Blue Waters. The main contention of CGA is that they want more dividends. But Canton pointed out that the CGA had already received over $4 million dollars in dividends, “but that it fails to grasp that finances must also be provided to service debt obligations on loans that were used to pump capital investment in revitalizing CPBL”, and that the company also inherited a huge debt when it assumed responsibility for a heavily indebted company left behind with the sudden pullout from Belize of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC).

In the face of calls from the CGA that he should resign as a Director of CPBL, Dr. Canton responds that he and his team are fulfilling the mandate given to them by the CGA and that the strategic investors have confirmed their support for the way he had managed the company. He has invited the CGA to be consistent and honour his legal employment contract that they themselves approved.

Canton believes that the current controversy within the citrus industry, which has spawned no less than six lawsuits filed and counter-filed in the nation’s courts, is unlike all the previous ones that have fortunately ended up infusing new life into the industry.

“The grounds for this latest locking of horns,” he concludes, “are not practical and not philosophical; not even political (although there are some political nuances).” He conceded that the government had made a good faith effort to intervene and he applauded them for this action. But he insists that the controversy is purely personal. “It is based on greed, envy, bitterness and control.” It could jeopardize the financial commitment of the strategic investors and reduce the viability of the industry. And these were the ingredients that could ultimately lead to the demise of the citrus industry in Belize. February 11, 2010

Juan Chuc & Sons
Bullet Tree Road, San Ignacio Town
Telephone: 824-2160
We are your #1 Stop Shop
Visit us today for all your Grocery, Hardware & Electrical needs.
Juan Chuc & Sons
Where Your $$$$$$$ Make more sense!!!!!!
BEL Responds to Guardian Article

February 11, 2010

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) provides the below responses to a Guardian cover article, dated February 7, 2010 and titled “PUC Charges BEL Criminallly”.

In the article, the PUC claims that **BEL owes consumers some 35 million dollars.**

**BEL’S RESPONSE:**
- In the article, Mr. Avery does not explain that, whether or not BEL owes consumers, depends on the outcome of the challenge that BEL filed in Court against the PUC’s 2008 Final Decision.
- In the 2008 Final Decision, the PUC retroactively charged BEL with “corrections” amounting to approximately $36.5 million relating to items that had been approved in previous years by the PUC.
- BEL contends that the decision by the PUC is wrong and therefore filed its appeal to the Supreme Court.

In the article, the PUC claims that **BEL is using the court case to not submit an application under the Full Tariff Review Proceeding.**

**BEL’S RESPONSE:**
- This is grossly untrue.
- The Court had set October 7-9, 2009, to hear the case. On the scheduled date of the hearing, BEL was ready to proceed. Its “Skeleton Arguments” had already been filed.
- The PUC had not filed any arguments and on the morning that the case was to be heard, the PUC suddenly came up with technical arguments (with no prior notice to BEL) which the Court had to address.
- These issues caused an adjournment of the case and BEL is now seeking to take steps to have the case put back on track.
- In early 2009, the PUC sought to amend the same Final Decision which was being challenged in Court.
- BEL’s contention was that any amendment to a challenged decision should await the outcome of the challenge and in late February 2009 the Court granted a stay of the PUC’s proposed amendment.

BEL notes further, with deep concern, the following extract from the Channel 7 News of February 4, 2010:

“Yesterday in court, BEL’S Manager of Financial Reports and Records, Jason Rivers, appeared for the company, pleaded not guilty and the matter was adjourned for April 8. The bad news for the PUC is that the offence carries a maximum fine of five thousand dollars which for a company that grossed $185 million last year – is less than a drop in the bucket. In lieu of a fine, the court can also order six months imprisonment”. Avery told us he knows that is unlikely, but he would prefer that penalty”

This statement clearly reflects that Mr. Avery would wish to see a prison sentence or sentences imposed in relation to officers of the Company.

The statement has grave implications, not only for BEL but its CEO Mr. Lynn Young and all its directors, which includes Belizeans as well as representatives of Fortis, who attend Board Meetings in Belize.

Even in these difficult circumstances, BEL continues to focus on improving the reliability of its power supply to customers by upgrading its transmission and distribution systems across the country.

END
I Am Now A Permanent Resident In Belize - Thank You

Dear STAR,

I was recently granted the privilege of permanent residency in Belize and wish to express my appreciation to the nation for accepting me as a member of the community.

I especially want to thank the overworked officials at the Immigration Headquarters in Belmopan for their professional, courteous and patient assistance in processing the thongs of applicants that crowd into the office every day.

Mis respetos,
Steven Dannucci
San Ignacio

Think Global - Act Local

Dear STAR:

Before I left Canada for our 10th annual vacation in Belize, I sent a letter to the editor of my local newspaper. In it, I congratulated Canadians for their generous support of the Haitian people who are in such dire straits after the cataclysmic earthquake that took so many lives and brought such devastation to their country.

At the same time, I asked my fellow Canadians not to forget the needs of the less fortunate in Canada. Are we doing enough, I asked, to ensure that our aged are living above a subsistence level, that our aboriginal people are living above a subsistence level, that our aged are living above a subsistence

As we watched and listened, we learned that Rotarians have a double-barreled approach to helping others.

One barrel has an international scope and the other barrel a community focus. For example, after the earthquake shook Haiti, Rotarians around the world rallied and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in aid.

The San Ignacio Rotary itself contributed 5 Shelterboxes at $1,500 a piece to the Haitian cause. At the same time, we learned that the San Ignacio Rotary club has initiated programs, supported others and

In Times Of Need Every Help Counts

Dear Editor,

We collected $400 from many of our friends and acquaintances, which we have sent to the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund (HERF) a group that was founded in March 2004 by Harry Belafonte and Danny Glover and headed by Oakland, California lawyer Walter Riley, along with our own donation.

Though a few people were able to give a little more than others, the bulk of the funds came from $5 donations of Belizeans struggling themselves.

The Haiti Emergency Relief Fund has given concrete aid to Haiti’s grassroots democratic movement who is fighting to survive since the brutal coup that ended in the kidnapping of Jean Bertrand Aristide, the democratically elected president of Haiti, in collaboration with the U.S. HERF has been working not only for this immediate crisis, but in order to support the long-run development of human rights, sustainable agriculture and economic justice in Haiti.

After almost one month, the conditions for the poor of Haiti

have not changed; the US has 20 thousand troops that came with no water, no food, only guns. And now they are living off the aid that is being sent for the people of Haiti.

We ask the United States not to stop President Aristide de from returning to his country. He is the leader of Lavalas Party, the people’s choice and should be allowed to lead his people through this natural disaster before it becomes another US disaster.

George and Candy Gonzalez
San Ignacio

Dear Editor,

I was recently granted permanent residency in Belize and wish to express my appreciation to the nation for accepting me as a member of the community.

I especially want to thank the overworked officials at the Immigration Headquarters in Belmopan for their professional, courteous and patient assistance in processing the thongs of applicants that crowd into the office every day.

As we watched and listened, we learned that Rotarians have a double-barreled approach to helping others.

One barrel has an international scope and the other barrel a community focus. For example, after the earthquake shook Haiti, Rotarians around the world rallied and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in aid.

The San Ignacio Rotary itself contributed 5 Shelterboxes at $1,500 a piece to the Haitian cause. At the same time, we learned that the San Ignacio Rotary club has initiated programs, supported others and

In Times Of Need Every Help Counts

We collected $400 from many of our friends and acquaintances, which we have sent to the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund (HERF) a group that was founded in March 2004 by Harry Belafonte and Danny Glover and headed by Oakland, California lawyer Walter Riley, along with our own donation.

Though a few people were able to give a little more than others, the bulk of the funds came from $5 donations of Belizeans struggling themselves.

The Haiti Emergency Relief Fund has given concrete aid to Haiti’s grassroots democratic movement who is fighting to survive since the brutal coup that ended in the kidnapping of Jean Bertrand Aristide, the democratically elected president of Haiti, in collaboration with the U.S. HERF has been working not only for this immediate crisis, but in order to support the long-run development of human rights, sustainable agriculture and economic justice in Haiti.

After almost one month, the conditions for the poor of Haiti

have not changed; the US has 20 thousand troops that came with no water, no food, only guns. And now they are living off the aid that is being sent for the people of Haiti.

We ask the United States not to stop President Aristide de from returning to his country. He is the leader of Lavalas Party, the people’s choice and should be allowed to lead his people through this natural disaster before it becomes another US disaster.

George and Candy Gonzalez
San Ignacio

Sirrom Butane Gas

TEL: 604-1440

A NEW Butane Gas Company has arrived and is now providing service from the Kontiki Gas Station.

“Butane Gas you can rely on - Service you can depend on.”

Onsite Service - 7am to 6pm Everyday. On Holidays, call us for service.

Konitki Layout:
Beside Konitki Gas Station
Western Highway

Butane Gas & Carbonation

NOW OPEN!!!!
**STAR HUMOR**

**Hearing The Real Thing**

Grampa James had serious hearing problems for a number of years.

He went to Doctor Lopez who fitted him with a set of state of the art hearing aids that allowed him to hear like he was eighteen years of age.

One month later Grampa James went back to thank Dr. Lopez.

“Grampa, the hearing aid is perfect,” said Dr. Lopez.

“Thank you so very much Doc,” replied Grampa James.

**A Stupid Answer For A Stupid Question**

A truck driver was driving along on the freeway. He passed a sign that said “low bridge ahead.”

Before he knew it, the bridge was right ahead of him and he could not avoid getting stuck under the bridge.

Cars were backed up for miles.

**Ten Tell Tale Signs of Being A Mother**

1) Your feet stick to ketchup on the kitchen floor--and you don't care.

2) You can't find your cellular phone, so you ask a friend to call you, and you run around the house madly, following the sound until you locate the phone downstairs in the laundry basket.

3) Your favorite television show is a cartoon.

4) You're so desperate for adult conversation that you spill your guts out to the next person that calls and that person hangs up on YOU!

5) You are buying cereal with marshmallows in it.

6) You count the sprinkles on each kid's cupcake to make sure they're equal.

7) You have time to shave only one leg at a time.

8) You hide in the bathroom to be alone.

9) Your kid throws up and you catch it.

10) You get up at 5:30 a.m. and you have no time to eat, sleep, drink or go to the bathroom, and yet... you still managed to gain 10 pounds.

---

**44 New Justices Of The Peace In Cayo Central**

**SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, February 11, 2010:**

The office of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries today informed of the appointment of 44 new Justices of the Peace and the elevation of 4 Justices of the Peace to Senior Justices of the Peace in the Cayo Central Division.

Official ceremonies, which is slated to commence at 10:00 a.m on Friday, February 12, will be held at the Cayo Central Constituency Office in Santa Elena Town.

The appointments will be made on the recommendation of Cayo Central’s Area Representative/Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Rene Montero, who will be present for the occasion.

The list includes 25 from Santa Elena Town, 6 from San Antonio Village, 5 from the village of Georgeville and 4 each from the villages of Cristo Rey and Buena Vista.

The 4 Justices of the Peace to be elevated to the senior ranks are: Christine Hyde, Bernabel Salazar and Steve Tillett (Chairman) all from the village of Georgeville and Town Councillor, Desol Neal from Santa Elena Town.

---

**BELIZE TOURISM BOARD NEWS**

**OAS and BTB continue Tourism Product Development Partnership**

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) continue their commitment to the upgrading of the tourism product in Belize. Under the three year OAS/BTB Capacity Building: Tourism Training and Certification Project, 10 Belizeans are now one step closer to becoming the first home-grown professional Chefs. The 10 graduates have successfully completed the course work and are awaiting the designations of Certified Culinarians from the prestigious Culinary Institute of America (CIA).

The program, which is geared towards enhancing the quality of service within the Tourism and Hospitality Industry, has zeroed in on the culinary sector for special attention. The goal is to build the critical link between the agricultural and tourism sectors, while infusing the different elements of Belize's culture into its culinary offerings.

A certification ceremony to present the 10 graduates with their credentials was held on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010 at the Institute for Technical and Vocational Educational Training (ITVET) on Freetown Road in Belize City. As a part of the ceremony, a special lunch was prepared to showcase the talents of the graduates. Guests of honor included the Prime Minister of Belize Hon. Dean Barrow and Mrs. Barrow, as well as the Minister of Tourism Hon. Manuel Heredia Jr.

The graduates are now enrolled in the Certified Chef de Cuisine Program for the next nine months, after which they will travel to the Culinary Institute in New York to seek final certification as Chefs. The certification program is the first of its kind in Belize.
ARIES: March 22 to April 20
You will be on a lookout for better investment opportunities and collaborations that will boost your earnings. You success will be determined by how adept you are in dealing with people. Family’s support and understanding will be vital. So, let them know of your work pressures and paucity of leisure time. Lucky Numbers: 03, 27, 54.

TAURUS: April 21 to May 21
You will pursue greater knowledge and skill enhancement. You will also focus on interpersonal relationships. It will help you to listen and empathize rather than being impulsive. Prioritize but do not be too clinical in your approach as it will prove counterproductive to your own interests. Lucky Numbers: 07, 31, 67.

GEMINI: May 22 to June 21
You feel more grounded to reality in the coming week. There are no unrealistic expectations; no deflated dreams either. You will be content with what you have. Interest in meditation and spirituality is indicated. Don’t get into any disagreements with neighbors or colleagues. Lucky Numbers: 05, 45, 78.

CANCER: June 22 to July 23
The coming week is likely to usher in a phase where you are more drawn towards the finer things in life. There will be an increased interest in art, music, literature, purchase of objects of aesthetic value. You will also make an effort towards personal grooming. Lucky Numbers: 02, 16, 82.

LEO: July 24 to August 21
No matter how many resentments and grudges make your heart bitter, you will need to redirect your energies towards positive pursuits. The rewards may not match up to your expectations but the purpose is to keep emotions from running amok. Legal wrangles continuing from last week remain unresolved. Lucky Numbers: 12, 38, 95.

VIRGO: August 22 to September 21
This week is all about charting new heights of personal progress. You are likely to explore better paying avenues which also promise intellectual growth. You may also interact with new people in relation to work. Be careful about trusting any one person. Also, do not intervene if anyone else is having an argument. Lucky Numbers: 09, 28, 64.

LIBRA: September 22 to October 23
Individuals born under this sign of the zodiac are likely to have a good time socially. This week will bring lots of relief from ongoing problems. You might take a small break to unwind. Communicating in the right way should be your focus to avoid any misunderstanding with others. Lucky Numbers: 08, 33, 76.

SCORPIO: October 24 to November 21
‘Gaining through giving’ could well be your mantra this week. You will reach out to people and help them. At work, do not keep expectations too high from subordinates. If you feel dissatisfied, try your best to identify the cause and refrain from venting anger on dependents. Lucky Numbers: 15, 48, 86.

SAGITTARIUS: November 22 to December 21
You do exceptionally well at work and your past efforts pay off handsomely. Involve some bright minds for contributing ideas at work as it will definitely bring out better results. However, you may experience unhappiness in personal equations. Lucky Numbers: 24, 62, 84.

CAPRICORN: December 22 to January 20
There is increased participation in community work and your professional work might take a backseat. However, be careful about expressing your views or being judgmental, especially if someone confides in you. You may have to deal with a temperamental individual. Lucky Numbers: 18, 35, 90.

AQUARIUS: January 21 to February 19
Now is the time to distinguish between hard work and smart work. You have certain objectives in mind and there are people you want to keep happy. It only makes sense that you choose carefully. There will be increased clarity around an ambiguous financial quandary towards mid-week. Lucky Numbers: 10, 26, 65.

PISCES: February 20 to March 21
You will have to take many investment or budget related decisions. Also, you might have to arrange some money at short notice. There will be inner issues to be dealt with. Adopt a positive approach to deal with them. Even if you withdraw, it will not lead to a resolution of problems. So don’t shy away. Lucky Numbers: 14, 36, 72.
STATEMENT BY DR. HENRY CANTON, CEO/MANAGING DIRECTOR
CITRUS PRODUCTS OF BELIZE LTD

February 2, 1998

The citrus industry in Belize is not stranger to controversy, strife and bitter rivalry.

During this time, the industry has faced numerous challenges, such as plant diseases, low yields, climatic changes, and fluctuating prices. These challenges have affected the industry's output and profitability.

The industry has also faced competition from imported citrus products, which has led to price competition and increased pressure on the local producers.

In order to address these challenges, the industry must focus on improving productivity, ensuring quality, and developing new markets.

The government and private sector must work together to provide support and resources to the industry. This includes investment in research and development, infrastructure, and marketing.

The development of new markets, such as exports, can also help to stabilize the industry and provide additional revenue streams.

Overall, the citrus industry in Belize has the potential to be a significant contributor to the country's economy. With the right support and strategies, it can overcome its current challenges and thrive in the future.

- END -
Mexican President Visits Deadliest Mexican City

By Tracy Wilkinson, Reporting from Mexico City for the Los Angeles Times:
Friday, February 12, 2010:

Facing intense political pressure and demands that he resign, President Felipe Calderon traveled Thursday to Mexico’s deadliest city to defend his troubled fight against drug cartels, which critics charge has only intensified the violence.

Angry crowds greeted Calderon as he arrived in a heavily guarded Ciudad Juarez. The president said it was time to launch a much-discussed expansion of the drug war to include efforts aimed at tackling social issues, such as unemployment and addiction.

“I am convinced we have to review what we are doing,” Calderon said. “We need a much more integrated approach . . . of a social nature. Police and military action alone is not enough.”

To underscore the point, Calderon took with him an unusually large contingent of Cabinet members, including the ministers of health, education and public security. However, he was short on details and, in initial remarks, did not earmark money for new programs.

Calderon’s visit to Ciudad Juarez was prompted by the Jan. 31 massacre of at least 15 people, many of them youths, at a high school party, the latest in a spiral of increasingly gruesome bloodshed that has made the city across the border from El Paso a living hell.

Calderon met with relatives of the victims, but many family members refused to see him. They joined large groups of protesters who lined streets and waved signs saying “Apologize, then resign!” Police broke up some of the demonstrations, witnesses said.

In his remarks, Calderon did apologize to families for statements he made in Japan, shortly after the killings, that suggested some of the victims could have been involved in drug gangs.

Later in the president’s speech, a woman rose and shouted that she had lost two children in the killings and that he was not welcome in Ciudad Juarez. “Enough with your war!” she cried.

The expanded program promising jobs and education represented an admission that a guns-only approach has not stopped drug gangs nor reduced killings, especially in Ciudad Juarez. But Calderon has also said he does not plan to withdraw the nearly 10,000 army troops and federal police officers that have been dispatched to the city.

The Calderon administration has long grappled with what to do about Juarez and proposed a new strategy last summer, when government officials acknowledged they were being forced to review procedures that weren’t working.

But they’ve groped for a solution. Even as more troops were poured into the city, the death rate soared, as did accusations of human rights abuses by soldiers.

An experimental deployment putting troops into less-visible positions did not improve security markedly.

The new plan was devised in July of last year, Juarez Mayor Jose Reyes Ferriz said, and takes many cues from the strategy used to pacify the once-deadly Colombian city of Medellin.

Juarez is a long-neglected city plagued by poverty, corruption and an influx of unskilled workers desperate for jobs. Always saddled with a high homicide rate, especially so for women, the city has seen an exponential increase in killings as drug gangs have battled for turf and innocents have been drawn into the conflict.

Citizens trapped by daily gun battles in the streets and rampant extortion and kidnappings have become so desperate that they recently demanded United Nations peacekeepers, an unheard of thing in nationalistic Mexico, and there have been reports of vigilantism.

Leftist federal senators said this week that they would ask Calderon to consider instituting a curfew in Ciudad Juarez and suspending civil liberties as a way to restore order “in the face of such an extraordinary situation.”

In an editorial titled “Real solutions, Mr. President,” Juarez newspaper El Diario questioned whether the visit was motivated by the looming election season and said blame for the city’s plight rested not only with the presidency but also with state and local officials.

---

Card Of Thanks

Desol, Cecilio & the Neal Family extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported us during the time of our recent bereavement.

While this continues to be a difficult experience for us, we nevertheless realize how fortunate we are to have friends like you.

May the Good Lord continue to shower you with his richest blessings.

We thank you with all our hearts.

---

FOR SALE

1 - Acre Homesites
Bullet Tree Road
501-824-2060
rallen@btl.net
In accordance with Section 8.24 of the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) of April 5, 2002, the Belize Electric Company Limited (BECOL) advises that it will host Public Information Sessions on the Macal River Upstream Storage Facility, also known as the Chalillo Hydro Project.

The first session will take place on February 25, 2010 in Cristo Rey Village at the Village Community Center, at 7:00 p.m. On February 26, 2010, the session will take place in San Ignacio Town at the Cultural Center at 7:00 p.m.

The sessions will focus on the project description; the critical issues identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the assessment of their impacts and the mitigation measures outlined in the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP).

For more information please contact BECOL at 824-3016.

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Wednesday, February 10, 2010:

Two men from the village of Santa Familia were sent to the central prison in Hattieville after being unable to meet bail on a series of charges stemming from an incident in which a policeman was allegedly beaten by two of his “home boys”.

Police Constable #1035 Lionel Waight, currently attached to the San Ignacio head station, reported that he was off duty in his home village, Santa Familia, when shortly after 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 7, he was riding his bicycle on the way home after socializing at Guadalupe Bar in the village. The policeman alleges that upon passing in front of a bus stop, he was approached by two men whom he identified as Windell Humes and Abib Landero.

PC Waight informed that Humes and Landero began shouting a series of indecent words to him. He reportedly advised them to “cool it down”.

He informed that while speaking with Humes, Landero reportedly came from behind and knocked him with a stone in the back of the head, the policemen reportedly fell to the pavement on the street whereby the two men began to punch and kick him. He said that in the hail of kicks and punches he managed to get to his feet and began to run from the attackers as they stoned him with empty beer pints and rocks.

They reportedly pursued and eventually caught up with him and continued the beating.

PC Waight additionally informed that he was eventually rescued by two villagers who reportedly asked Humes and Landero to discontinue disrespecting the policeman.

He was issued with a pair of medico-legal forms on which the injuries he sustained were noted as 3 cut wounds behind the head, injuries to the left side of the head, nose, forehead and left knee.

The incident led to the arrest of Abib Landero, 28, and Windell Humes, 18, both Belizean labourers residing in Santa Familia village. They were jointly charged for:

a) Aggravated Assault,
b) Assaulting a Policeman,
c) Throwing missile and

and d) Indecent words.

They both pleaded not guilty to all four charges.

Humes and Landero were offered bail in the sums of $5,000 and $1,000 respectively and ordered to return to court on Monday, February 22, 2010. They were unable to meet bail and were transported to the central prison in Hattieville.

The injured policeman is currently off duty on sick leave recuperating from the injuries.

MONTERO’S LUMBER YARD

Now Offering 6” Cement Blocks For Only $1.00 each
Also providing top quality Dressed & Rough Hardwood and Mahogany Lumber, Sand, Cement, Steel, Plywood, Celotex, Roofing, Doors And A Whole Lot More. Efficient Service and Low Prices Everyday!
Call Us At: 824-2959
Jose Marin, Manager

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SESSIONS

In accordance with Section 8.24 of the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) of April 5, 2002, the Belize Electric Company Limited (BECOL) advises that it will host Public Information Sessions on the Macal River Upstream Storage Facility, also known as the Chalillo Hydro Project.

The first session will take place on February 25, 2010 in Cristo Rey Village at the Village Community Center, at 7:00 p.m. On February 26, 2010, the session will take place in San Ignacio Town at the Cultural Center at 7:00 p.m.

The sessions will focus on the project description; the critical issues identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the assessment of their impacts and the mitigation measures outlined in the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP).

For more information please contact BECOL at 824-3016.
SAN PEDRO TOWN, Belize, February 10, 2010:

Three of San Pedro’s most popular restaurants, Blue Water Grill, Caliente and Red Ginger, are now giving back to Belize in an innovative way. The restaurants recently partnered with Liberty Children’s Home, a shelter and school for abandoned and abused children in Ladyville, to help raise money and awareness for the non-profit organization.

At the end of their meals customers are offered information about Liberty Children’s Home and if they’d like to make a donation they can do so at the restaurants. In addition the three restaurants will match every dollar donated. If a customer donates 5 dollars, Liberty will get an additional 5 dollars from the restaurants. If he or she donates one hundred dollars, Liberty will get an additional one hundred dollars from the restaurants.

Restaurant owners Kelly McDermott Kanabar and Mukul Kanabar thought this approach would be a good way to support Liberty while also encouraging other people to give.

“The opportunity to help Liberty Children’s Home is something we’re extremely excited about, and we’d like to encourage other businesses and individuals to get involved,” said McDermott Kanabar. “Belize’s future depends on the health and education of its children, and Liberty Children’s Home is a great organization that we believe can help make a difference in the lives of children who need help the most.”

Donations are accepted from anyone or any business interested in helping Liberty Children’s Home, regardless of whether people dine at one of the restaurants. The money raised will help pay for medical care for the children, maintenance of the shelter, as well as employee salaries.

Liberty Children’s Home depends almost entirely on donations and relies on the generosity of the community and local businesses to keep the shelter and its school open.

“With the support of the community, the money these businesses can raise for Liberty Children’s Home can make a real difference in the lives of these children,” said Delfena Mitchell, Director of Liberty Children’s Home. “No donation is too small and we greatly appreciate any donation that is made.”

Liberty Children’s Home was established in 2004 as a sanctuary for children in need, providing a natural environment with love, nurturing, and a high standard of education. The home’s philosophy has been influenced by the Pikler method of childcare, a well-researched approach to prevent damaging effects of institutionalization on children. Liberty Children’s Home also draws from the Reggio Emilia and Montessori methods that aim for the fullest possible development of the whole child.

For more information about Liberty Children’s Home please visit their website: http://libertychildrenbelize.org

To make a donation to Liberty Children’s Home that will be matched by the three restaurants please visit Blue Water Grill, Caliente, or Red Ginger in San Pedro, or contact Kelly McDermott Kanabar via Blue Water Grill’s website: www.bluewatergrillbelize.com
Rotary Club's Two Newest Members

BY: John Acott

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Friday, February 12, 2010:

The Rotary Club of San Ignacio announces the induction of two new members, Mr. Richard Zul and Mrs. Carrie Jennings. They become the club’s 24th and 25th members.

Richard, a Belizean. He is married with two children, lives in San Ignacio and is a welder/building contractor.

Richard and his wife, Lucille, have many years of charity and volunteer work behind them and this experience will be put to good use within the club.

Carrie, is a British, living in Floral Park. She is married to Paul Jennings. She is an experienced fundraiser and her talents will certainly be put to good use within the club.

BY: John Acott

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Friday, February 12, 2010:

The Rotary Club of San Ignacio announces the induction of two new members, Mr. Richard Zul and Mrs. Carrie Jennings. They become the club’s 24th and 25th members.

Richard, a Belizean. He is married with two children, lives in San Ignacio and is a welder/building contractor.

Richard and his wife, Lucille, have many years of charity and volunteer work behind them and this experience will be put to good use within the club.

Carrie, is a British, living in Floral Park. She is married to Paul Jennings. She is an experienced fundraiser and her talents will certainly be put to good use within the club.

Most people living in the Twin-Towns area are familiar with the work that Rotary does in making this a better place to live and its recent support for the Haiti victims but few are aware that each Rotarian here is also actively involved in supporting Rotary International’s main project of eradicating the crippling disease called polio from the world.

Thanks, in the main, to Rotary’s efforts, there are only three countries left in the world that still have a handful of polio cases and this very expensive and time-consuming project will continue for as long as it takes to rid the world completely of this terrible disease that cripples children.

Some of the older inhabitants of Belize will remember polio and its effects although Belize has been polio-free for a long time now – thanks in part to Rotary and its members’ dedication.

The Rotary family warmly welcomes Richard and Lucille and Carrie and Paul into their midst.
FEB. 13th, 2010

with DigiCell’s

DOUBLE & TRIPLE DAY

Recharges of $50 and more = TRIPLE CREDIT
$10 to $49.99 = DOUBLE CREDIT

Applies to all forms of Fone TopUp, Telemedia PrePaid Cards and e-PINs.

Some conditions apply
Only for DigiCell PrePaid customers
Any recharge under $10 receives no bonus

Make it a DigiCell Valentine’s Day

0-800-DIGICEL

www.digicell.bz