TRAFFIC ACCIDENT CLAIMS THE LIFE OF A UNITEDVILLE MOTHER

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 29, 2010:
A 22 year old Belizean farmer from Bullet Tree Falls Village is today out on bail after appearing in San Ignacio’s Magistrate Court where he was formally arraigned on five charges in connection with a fatal road traffic accident which claimed the life of a mother of two boys.

It was shortly after 7:30 pm on Friday, March 26 when San Ignacio Police responded to a reported traffic accident between miles 64 and 65 on the Western Highway — entering Esperanza Village. On the scene of the accident police encountered a gold color Ford Escort car, a grey Isuzu pickup truck and a silver in color Freight Liner towhead with a lowbed trailer attached.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the Isuzu pickup was travelling behind the Freight Liner as they were entering Esperanza Village heading in a westward direction while the Ford Escort was travelling in the opposite direction, exiting Esperanza Village and heading eastward. Reports indicates that in the process of overtaking the Freight Liner, the Isuzu pickup suddenly appeared in the pathway of the oncoming Ford Escort car resulting in a head on collision between both vehicles.

The hit reportedly caused the car to spin out of control, slamming into the driver’s side of the truck and eventually landing in an overturned position on the right side of the road when traveling eastward.

Investigation revealed that the Freight Liner, heading to Benque Viejo Town, was driven by...
SPANISH LOOKOUT, Cayo District, Tuesday, March 30, 2010:

Just as we were preparing to go to press this Tuesday morning, reports surfaced of a bank robbery/murder in the usually peaceful and quiet Mennonite Community of Spanish Lookout.

Sketchy reports reaching us indicate that around 8:30 a.m. this Thursday morning, a group of five male persons, four of dark complexion wearing masks and the fifth unmasked assailant is reported to be of Hispanic descent.

The armed assailants entered the Scotiabank Spanish Lookout Branch where the manager, Michael Menen, and a teller where held up and forced into the vault. In complying with the robbers demand an undisclosed amount of cash was handed over to them.

Just as they were exiting the bank, a customer who had arrived in a brown Ford Ranger was relieved of a bag containing over $10,000 which the customer had reportedly intended to deposit.

Two other persons in a black Geo Prism car where entering the compound when they were shot at by one of the robbers.

The driver of the car identified as Clifford “Guana” Swasey of a Santa Elena Town address reportedly sustained a gunshot wound to the head while the passenger emerged with a gunshot wound to the shoulder. They were subsequently transported by BERT ambulance to the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan where Swasey is said to be in critical condition.

Another customer rode into the compound on a motorcycle and upon hearing the gunshots he reportedly jumped off the motorcycle resulting in him fracturing a leg, he too was transported to the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan.

The unarmed bank KBH security guard reportedly exited the bank and ventured to the side of the road only to be confronted by a bullet in the chest from a 16 gauge shotgun one of the robbers carried. The security guard was identified as Steven Lopez a resident from the village of Unitedville. He reportedly died on the spot.

The Scotiabank Spanish Lookout Branch is located next door to the Spanish Lookout police sub station. The lone constable on duty, reportedly intervened in the action by firing several shots at the departing white Suzuki Sidekick in which the robbers departed the scene.

Information reaching us indicates that this vehicle is on rental from Matus Auto Rental located on Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio.

BANK ROBBERY/MURDER IN SPANISH LOOKOUT

Five Defenseless Females Robbed

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 29, 2010:

The search continues for two robbers reported to have made a clean sweep in the Friday, March 19, robbery at Vivian’s Café located near Sacred Heart College on Joseph Andrews Drive in San Ignacio Town.

Proprietor of the establishment, Piola Lorenzo, 46, Belizian business woman of an Eduardo Juan Street address in Santa Elena Town, reported that at about 10:50 pm on Friday, March 19, she left her residence in Santa Elena along with her 13 year old daughter and an adult female person. She drove her Toyota Hilux to Vivian’s Café.

The armed assailants entered the establishment and turned their attention to the female child and the female adult who were seated inside the vehicle parked in front of the café. They reportedly made off with the pair of gold earrings that the child was wearing; valued at $250 as well as the $150 gold earring the female adult was wearing and $125 from the female adult who was sitting inside the parked vehicle.

They then ran off and disappeared into the darkness of the night with the ill-gotten loot.

San Ignacio police is asking anyone with information that could assist in apprehending the two bandits responsible for preying upon these five defenseless females, to kindly inform the Commanding Officer or the Sergeant in charge of the Crime Investigation Branch at the San Ignacio Police Station.

While reminding everyone that it is a criminal offence to be handling and dealing in stolen goods, local crimes investigators are enlisting assistance from the business community and the general public to be on the lookout for these stolen items. The police further advise that all information will be kept in the strictest of confidence.
Ready Call Center is a unique type of business in Belize. What do we do at RCC? We offer customer service through the phone to customers located in the United States. These customers usually call because they need assistance on how to properly setup their cellular service or they are experiencing any inconvenience with it. Ready Call Center is one of six call centers located around the world offering this kind of service for a well-known cellular company called TracFone that has 14 million customers within the United States. With more than 800 employees, RCC has been constantly growing since 2005, when its operations started with about 60 employees in Belize City. The expansion of the business during the last five years as well as the introduction of new concepts, such as: career development based on continuous performance evaluations, the usage of proper English and the development of customer service skills according to international standards by the daily interaction with American customers have been huge challenges for our company. If you come to RCC you will find a place full of different Belizean cultures, races, ages and beliefs. Come and discover a new and exciting world of possibilities. Grow in a customer service oriented company and develop skills that you never thought you had. Build a new future for yourself and your family.

**NOW HIRING!**

We are looking for customer service representatives

**OUR REQUIREMENTS**

* Full command of the English Language
* Basic Computer Skills (free training available)
* People Skills
* Flexibility to work different shifts
* Work Ethics
* Associates degree and previous work experience are a plus

**OUR OFFER**

* Nice Work Environment.
* Shift Flexibility.
* Salary Upgrades every six months based on performance.
* Transportation available from Cayo for only $5.00 roundtrip.
* Cafeteria service.
* Hourly rate starting $4.12 to $6.00 depending on qualifications.
* Overtime available.
* Continuous training.

**Interested personnel**

* Pick up an application at the San Ignacio Town Board
* Or contact:
  * In San Ignacio, Mr. Daniel Waight
  * In Belmopan, Mr. Ramon Witz
  * In Santa Elena, Mr. Eulogio Cano

Ready Call Center Bus will be leaving from the San Ignacio Town Board daily at 5:00 AM for persons interested in an interview.
Contrary to what was

In a particular village in Belize, it is a norm for adult males to molest little girls. It’s not written on any wall, in any book or any slab of stone, it just is.

It would seem that in addition to the sun shining, the rain falling, or the waves of the Caribbean Sea washing the shores, it is also natural for a man, usually a relative, to engage in sexual acts with little girls.

At the same time, girls are taught not to question these things, not to say anything, to ‘ride along with the program.’ Mothers hold the view that since it happened to them, it will inevitably happen to their daughters. They believe they can do nothing about it.

When a health worker began educating the children and brought several cases to the attention of the Human Services Department, men in the village attacked her and threatened her life. Women in the community, including elders, told her that what she met in the village should be left in the village. She was criticized for daring to speak out.

Some girls were able to assert themselves after receiving the necessary information about ‘good touch, bad touch’ but for many, their cries for help fell on deaf ears and they remain victimized by men they trust – fathers, cousins, uncles, neighbours, teachers, friends of the family.

In this village, many of these girls have become teenage mothers, high school drop-outs, victims of domestic violence, and mothers of children who also become victims of child sexual molestation. The vicious cycle whirls in this village.

It does not stand out from other villages around this country. Any survey done in communities of Belize will reveal that an alarming percentage of Belizean females have been molested in some way as a child, whether it was before they reached puberty or before they reached 18.

Some men hold the twisted notion that as long as the girl weighs 90 pounds, she is ready to be had. Others believe that as fathers, they should be the first to sample their daughters. Even more men believe that little girls want to be sexually molested, assaulted or violated. They claim that girls enjoy the experience. Some men even believe that having sex with a virgin will cure them of diseases. Some men use their culture to justify the violation of girls.

The potential of our girls is undermined when they are forced into sexual activities before they are mentally and physically mature to make such a choice.

Like force ripe mangos, many Belizean girls are introduced to sex before they are mentally prepared for it. They become promiscuous, confusing sex with love. They have low self-esteem and often do not achieve their life goals. They are deprived of the opportunity to finish school and they are blamed by the society for their circumstances. Many girls suffer in silence.

The time is long passed for this silence to be broken. The time has come for girls’ stories to be told.

Social Security Belize City Branch Office Robbed $1,500 Stolen

BELIZE SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD HEADQUARTERS, Belmopan, Friday, March 19, 2010:

The Social Security Board (SSB) is now in a position to publicly release more specific information on the March 15th robbery of the Belize City Branch Office. SSB confirms that two persons with guns entered the premises at Princess Margaret Drive in Belize City and made away with just over $1,500 in cash.

Contrary to what was expressed in certain segments of the media, at no time whatsoever do we have substantial amounts of cash at any Social Security Office. Even on the busiest days, as it was on the day of the robbery, our transactions are done primarily by cheques and on-line banking. The value of the cash on that day was typically minimal, as very few of our clients pay by cash.

Social Security Board is moving towards on-line and non-cash transactions, which is much more convenient for the customers, and safer for the staff and the institution. This is why we recently launched the Non-contributory Pension payments through the Atlantic Bank, it ensures that our customers do not have to line up on peak days at the office. Instead, they can go straight to the bank or conduct business transactions from their offices or homes.

SSB would like to assure contributors that we have continuously been engaged in measures to increase security at the offices, which included the installation, last year, of the security cameras that provided critical evidence to the Police. These safety measures continue.

We would like to refute statements in the media that a member of staff was threatened, or before they reached puberty or before they reached 18.

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BELIZE TOURISM BOARD

TOURISM NEWS

The BTB Announces Tour Guide Certificate Course

The Belize Tourism Board wishes to inform all interested Belizeans of the commencement of enrollment for Tour Guide Training. The course, being offered by the University of Belize, is designed to train participants in both theoretical and practical techniques of the profession. Classes will now include basic swimming, snorkeling and boating skills.

Upon completion of the course, the Belize Tourism Board will certify each successful participant, making you eligible to apply for a tour guide license.

PRICE: $600.00
VENUE: University of Belize
DURATION: 10 Weeks
STARTING DATE: April 19th, 2010
FINISHING DATE: June 25th, 2010
APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 12th, 2010
REGISTER AT: Faculty of Arts and Education, former Teachers’ College Campus. (Ask for Mayra Pech)

Land For Sale

1 - Acre Homesites
Bullet Tree Road
501-824-2060
rallen@btl.net
It's The Grand Annual
San Ignacio/Santa Elena
Municipal Fair 2010

Victor Galvez Stadium, San Ignacio

Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday
April 3rd & April 4th 2010

Jump up all day long under the
BIG TENT with Gilharry 7
along with DJ DIAMOND in the mix!

Wide Variety of Food & Drinks

Mechanical Rides Games

Performance by the Best Marching Bands in Belize

Sports:
Football & Basketball Marathons
Darts, Pool & Dominoes Tournaments

Contests:
Beer Drinking, Watermelon Eating
Strongman & Greasy Pole

Bring out your family, invite your friends as
this year promises to be bigger and better!

Book your stalls by visiting the Town Council in San Ignacio
Or by calling 804-2035.
SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 22, 2010:

While an arrest is yet to be made in the March 5-9 burglary at Running W Brand Meats resulting in the loss to the company of over 25 thousand dollars, San Ignacio police are reporting the arrest of three male minors and a male adult in the March 17 robbery at Bing’s Supermarket in Santa Elena Town.

The investigation revealed that the plan to “jack” the shop began during the daytime hours on Sunday, March 14, as the gang made regular visits to the supermarket, each time reportedly to purchase a cigarette requiring change just to check if the cash drawer was “fat”.

It was just before closing time on Wednesday, March 17, when word came back that the drawer was “fat” and so the move was executed resulting in the robbers making off with over $700.

The three minors, one of whom was reportedly the sawed off shot gun man, along with the adult male, identified as Ervin Enfield Martinez, 20, Belizean laborer of an Eve Street address in Santa Elena Town, appeared in San Ignacio’s Magistrate Court on Monday March 22, where they pleaded not guilty to the charge and were remanded to the Central Prison in Hattieville until Tuesday, April 27 when they should return to court.

While it is alleged that the robbery was actually committed by only two persons, the prosecution informed that the investigation revealed that the other two co-defendants were actually involved in the conspiracy and were therefore jointly charged in accordance with section 20 (2) of the Criminal Code, Chapter 101 of the laws of Belize which, under the heading of “Abetment and Conspiracy” states that “Every person who abets a crime shall, if the crime is actually committed in pursuance or during the continuance of the abetment, shall be deemed guilty of the crime.”
MINISTRY OF HEALTH REPORTS
ON ITS ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2010

FOCUSING ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization launched a workshop on "Dietary Quality of Care Project" for the Institute of Technical & Vocational Education and Trainings (INTECHO) on Monday, October 20, 2010.

The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the Chronic Care Model to address the quality of care for patients in the hospital and develop interventions based on the Chronic Care Model to address areas of care associated with health tristess.

Topics discussed included: The Chronic Care Model

- The role of nutrition in the Chronic Care Model
- Strategies for improving patient care
- Commission for the Improvement of the Health System

The workshop was facilitated by international and local health experts and policymakers.

- The Minister of Health, Dr. Ernesto Raúl, thanked the Doctoral Commission for its support and coordination of the National Program on NCDs.

- The Commission for the Improvement of the Health System will continue to work on improving patient care and quality of care.

ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTH

Health Fair on 19th February 2010 at General Council Park. The fair included participation from the following departments and institutions:

- Health
- Human Services
- UNICEF
- Police

- Agricultural
- Youth groups
- Religion groups
- Social Security
- Interior Department
- RTVA

On 26th February, an awareness campaign against diabetes and obesity was held at the General Council Park. The campaign included free health check-ups and information about diabetes and obesity.

BELIZE TO BE A PART OF REGIONAL HIV/AIDS RESPONSE

The Ministry of Health has signed on to a partnership framework document to support the implementation of the Central American Regional HIV/AIDS response with the OAS. This initiative is part of a regional collaboration, established by the seven Central American countries, to address the need for funding, support for regional integration, and to strengthen policies to prevent HIV/AIDS.

The signing of the document took place on 5th March, 2010 in Guatemala City, where representatives of the Central American countries signed the agreement.
Your Horoscope & Lucky Numbers

ARIES:  
March 22 – April 20  
The coming week is not just about work and finances but also about personal relationships. You could have a wonderful time with loved ones and even sort out some old relationships that had gone sour. The success of your efforts depends on how well you handle sensitive issues. Lucky Numbers: 03, 18, 88.

TAURUS:  
April 21 to May 21  
You are poised to make some radical decisions especially at work. To others it may seem that you are making some really doubtful choices but even as you take on initial trouble, the move may work in your favour. Travel is likely and so are some legal wrangles. Lucky Numbers: 07, 35, 67.

GEMINI:  
May 22 to June 21  
Make sure that you keep your health in good shape as you’ll be required to pay equal attention to work as well as family. Handle young people, especially children with sensitivity. You could seek out additional sources of income or may start taking your hobby more seriously. Lucky Numbers: 09, 24, 48.

CANCER:  
June 22 to July 23  
The pressure at work builds up. There are targets, expectations of superiors and you have from yourself that need to be met. You could get tensed, which will drain you out and spoil your relationship with loved ones, as you fail to make time for them. Lucky Numbers: 05, 51, 73.

LEO:  
July 24 to August 21  
This week, you are bubbling with excitement and energy. You draw up plans to be executed in the near future. It could have you exploring possibilities of higher education and deeper research into your areas of interest. Your sincerity is likely to earn you a favour with higher authorities. Lucky Numbers: 04, 33, 96.

VIRGO:  
August 22 to September 21  
The coming week brings greater closeness and camaraderie between loved ones. Successful travel is also indicated. It’s a good week for you as it engages you in constructive work. The only word of caution is not to lose your head with all the joy or else you might just make an mistake somewhere. Lucky Numbers: 14, 62, 95.

LIBRA:  
September 22 to October 23  
Matters related to finance and interpersonal relationships come to fore. You will have to work out ways to resolve a legal matter or negotiate terms of a deal. This involves a lot of work. Therefore, keep a balanced head on your shoulders to tackle it all. Be cautious while driving. Lucky Numbers: 28, 64, 80.

SCORPIO:  
October 24 to November 21  
Be ready to deal with lots of challenges. To add to it, legal matters and short distance travel. This phase requires you to handle the mess you are in with dignity. Close family and relatives will also try your patience. Just find time to relax your nerves and handle it all well. Lucky Numbers: 22, 47, 78.

SAGITTARIUS:  
November 22 to December 21  
You keep your focus on strengthening bonds with people. You may even sit back and reconsider interactions with family members. There are indications of romance or a pleasant social interaction. Some of you may even consider marriage. Avoid an impulsive decision. Lucky Numbers: 02, 40, 54.

CAPRICORN:  
December 22 to January 20  
Now that harmony has been restored at home and your extended family has been given enough attention, you channel all your resources towards additional revenue generating sources. Health will need to be taken care of as money matters may have a negative effect on you. Lucky Numbers: 08, 27, 84.

AQUARIUS:  
January 21 to February 19  
You will strive towards becoming a more balanced individual in the eyes of people around you rather than coming across as headstrong. This will reflect in your decisions, as you opt for the softer and ‘less stern’ options. Celebrations at home are indicated. Lucky Numbers: 10, 42, 86.

PISCES:  
February 20 to March 21  
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# ELECTIONS & BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT

Public Notice


In all villages nomination opens at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 10:00 a.m.  
* Denotes Poll closes at 5:00 p.m.  
** Denotes Poll closes at 3:00 p.m.  
In all other villages poll closes at 1:00

## COROZAL DISTRICT

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Continued On Page 10
SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 29, 2010:

The life of a 33 year old security guard/former policeman was radically changed at around 11:30 pm on Friday, March 26, 2010, when he was hauled into the San Ignacio police station and later slapped with a carnal knowledge charge allegedly committed against his 8 year old step daughter.

The mother and child visited the police station where the mother reported to police that shortly after 11:00 pm that night she returned home from work. She told the police that she knocked on the door and whilst waiting for it to be opened, she reportedly peeped through a crack in the door and saw some suspicious movements. She said that when questioned, the child allegedly told her that the accused was fondling her private parts. The child further informed that on at least two previous occasions the man had sexual intercourse with her.

The mother and child were escorted to the San Ignacio Community Hospital where the Medical Officer on duty certified no evidence of actual recent sexual intercourse. The examination revealed however that the hymen was not intact thereby indicating prior sexual activity.

The accused appeared before San Ignacio’s Magistrate Anna Rachel Montejo on Monday, March 29, 2010, where a single carnal knowledge charge was read to him. No plea was taken as the matter is slated for trial in the Supreme Court. The accused was remanded to the Central Prison in Hattieville until Tuesday, June 29, 2010.

In an effort to protect the child’s identity we are publishing neither the name nor the photograph of the accused.
BELIZE TOURISM BOARD
TOURISM NEWS

Belize Hosts Sports Author and Writer

Sport journalist and author Michael Sandrock is currently in Belize. Mr. Sandrock is the sports editor for the Colorado Daily Newspaper and a freelance writer for the Daily Camera Newspaper and the Running Times magazine among others. As a serious, long-time runner he is also the founder of the “Shoes for Africa” project where runners donate new and used running shoes and clothes for underprivileged athletes in several countries worldwide.

With a circulation of 115,626, the Running Times magazine looks to inform, entertain and inspire serious runners with its insightful content. The Daily Camera is a daily newspaper published for the residents of Boulder County and holds a circulation of 20,151.

After his arrival to Belize City Mr. Sandrock’s itinerary will whisk him off to the Cayo district where he will visit the archeological site of Xunantunich and then stop by the Lodge at Chaa Creek for lunch and a tour of the Butterfly Farm and Natural History Center. The last stop on his itinerary will take him to San Pedro for an afternoon snorkeling tour.

Apart from his destination place, Mr. Sandrock is covering a story about volunteers traveling to Belize to donate running shoes to local athletes and facilitate a run for the Special Olympics through his “Shoes for Africa” project.

The Belize Tourism Board announces winner for the “Clean Schools Competition”

Last year, as part of the BTB’s local public awareness campaign entitled "I am Belize" the "Clean Schools Competition" was launched. The campaign is an initiative of the BTB and has the participation of representatives from BITA, BHA and other interested private sector partners.

Last November a total of thirteen schools from across the country registered to compete in the "Clean Schools Competition" and the BTB invited all the participating schools for judging. The judging criteria were general cleanliness, individual classrooms, bathroom facilities, before and after pictures to show the progress of the school and general beautification efforts among others.

Yesterday the BTB presented the Barracuda Methodist School with a plaque and a cheque for $7,600 in school equipment and as recognizing them as the winners of the "I am Belize, Clean School Competition". The school community’s work paid off as they all worked towards the betterment of their buildings and campuses in an effort to make it a nicer environment to learn in. The school’s effort is an example to all about how individuals come together as a group and can make a difference.

The "I am Belize" campaign seeks to sensitize and educate Belizeans on how their individual actions impact the country’s image.

Apart from the "Clean Schools Competition", the "I am Belize” Campaign also carried out other activities such as the “I am Belize” logo competition and the “Singing of the National Anthem Competition”.

Belize showcased as a Wedding and Honeymoon Destination in Puerto Rico

For the very first time Belize was able to say “present” at the Caribbean Bridal Expo and Marketplace. From Saturday March 27th to Sunday the 28th San Juan Puerto Rico was the place to be as over 12,000 visitors and 460 wedding professionals came together for this magnificent event. Representing the Belize Tourism Board were Marketing Officers Veronica Baskins and Michelle Bowers.

With over ten years of experience the Caribbean Bridal Expo has managed to place itself as the greatest and most influential bridal market in the Caribbean. The CBE seeks to connect an audience of serious buyers and sellers of wedding planning and services. The Bridal Expo's aim is to get under one roof, all the information, tips, services and advice couples, event planners and industry suppliers in the United States and the Caribbean islands need to put together that big day. With that in mind, thousands of soon-to-be wed couples made their way to the Puerto Rico Convention Center to access over 150 exhibitors showcasing wedding services and destinations with everything they would need for their wedding, and honeymoons.

While at the Caribbean Bridal Expo the BTB hosted innumerable couples seeking information on the destination and honeymoon opportunities, locales and packages. In addition, the BTB had the opportunity to meet with a few wedding planners who specialize in destination weddings and sought Belize as an ideal destination. Belize has the opportunity to develop new markets as a versatile, year-round destination that can cater to different expectations especially for those seeking a unique experience for that big day or that perfect romantic honeymoon.

Belize Showcased as a premier dive destination in New Jersey

Belize was highlighted in Seacorse, New Jersey this weekend, as one of North America's largest consumer, scuba diving, and travel exposition, the New Jersey Travel Show.

This year, the New Jersey Travel Show attracted approximately 400 exhibitors from all corners of the world as well as 70 plus seminars and workshops by specialists and experts. The show also saw diving demonstration dives, exotic destination presentations, social events, an International Film Festival on Saturday evening, product demonstrations, and workshops designed to entertain, inform and incite all dive enthusiasts from the experienced diver to the new comer and even the non diver.

The show opened with a special session for the Trade allowing for an intimate meeting with exhibitors before the Saturday and Sunday rush that saw thousands of dive enthusiasts from New York, New Jersey and neighboring states clamoring to the Meadowlands Exposition Center for information on the dive industry.

Research indicates Belize’s marine attractions rank as the highest motivational factor for travel to Belize. With the second largest barrier reef in the world and three of the four coral reefs in the Caribbean, this was an important show to showcase Belize’s niche dive market.

Beneath the Sea is a “not-for-profit” public service, membership organisation dedicated to educating the public about the oceans of the world and the preservation of the marine environment. It also offers all the public the opportunity to meet the destinations and explore the travel and tourism opportunities as they consider their vacation options.

Representing the Belize Tourism Board were Mr. Neil Bradley, Board Member and Mr. Alvaro Ramirez, Hotel Inspector.

For more information on events taking place in Belize’s tourism industry, please contact the Belize Tourism Board at 277-3420, via email: btbb@btbb.net or visit our website www.belizetourism.org.
The Tell-Tale Clock

Anthony was invited out for a night with the guys.
He told his wife that he would be home by midnight. “I promise!” he said before walking out the door.
Well, the hours passed quickly and the beers were tasting so good.
At a few minutes to 3 am, drunk as a skunk, Anthony headed for home.
Just as he got inside the door, the cuckoo clock in the hall started up and cuckooed three times.
Quickly, he realized his wife would probably wake up, so he cuckooed another 9 times.

The Best Guard Dog

Sam and George owned a store in San Ignacio.
The store has been burglarized several times in recent months and Sam decided to buy a guard dog.
Shopping for one, Sam found a man selling dogs at the market last Saturday morning. The sign boasted, The Best Guard Dogs That Money Will Buy.
He approached the man and to his disappointment, all the dogs were Pot Lickers’
"Excuse me", Sam said to the man, "Your sign says you sell guard dogs. Where are they?"
The man, an elderly Chinese, replied, "Oh, but these are highly trained guard dogs. They all know karate."
"Yeah Right!" exclaimed Sam.
"I’ll show you", said the man.
He took one of the dogs out and put it in front of a cement brick.
The dog stood absolutely still.
The man gave a command, "Karate! Brick!"
In complete astonishment, Sam saw the dog perform a perfect karate chop, splitting the brick in half. Totally amazed, he bought the dog and took it to the shop.
He showed the guard dog to George, who thought he was completely mad and told him to return it immediately.
"But, he is a trained guard dog," protested Sam.
"Yeah, sure!" responded George.

Sam put the dog on the floor and said, "He knows karate!!"
With a sneer George shouted, "Karate! My Foot!"
George will be released from the hospital in a few week’s time.

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El Hon. Erwin Contreras
Y El Comité Divisional
de Cayo Oeste

Les desea a todo residentes de
Benque Viejo del Carmen, San Jose Succotz,
Arenal y Calla Creek

Una Feliz y Bendecida celebración
de Semana Santa!
SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 22, 2010:

We are, on a third occasion, reporting another robbery committed against boledo/lottery vendor Godfrey Tillett, 65, father of the Police Officer, 2nd in command of the Orange Walk (Police) District, Inspector Selvin Tillett.

Police reports that shortly after 9:00 am on Sunday, March 21, 2010, Godfrey Tillett, of a New Area address in Santa Elena Town, was standing in the yard of Cecil Myvett in Esperanza Village, Cayo, attending to a customer when he was reportedly approached by a male person with a short gun in his hand. The assailant was reportedly wearing matching brown shirt and pants. He reportedly had a black cap on his head and a pair of black sunglasses on his face. The man grabbed the bag, ran a short distance away and boarded a waiting blue/grey pickup truck with San Ignacio/Santa Elena license plates number C-01163.

Rapid response on the part of San Ignacio Police resulted in the spotting of the vehicle near the ferry leading into the Mennonite community of Spanish Lookout. Before the police could approach the pickup truck, the passenger, suspected to be the robber, jumped out of the vehicle and escaped into nearby bushes.

The driver, identified as Joseph Gentle, 23, Belizian laborer residing in Esperanza was detained and transported to the San Ignacio Police station. Sources close to the investigation informed that Gentle is not cooperating with the police. He was formally arrested and charged for conspiracy to commit robbery.

He appeared in San Ignacio Magistrate Court on Monday, March 22, 2010, where he pleaded not guilty of the crime and was remanded to prison until Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

A few days later, the victim’s black bag, containing personal documents and the few pieces of tools he carries to repair the motorcycle he rides, was found, by a farm worker, in a nearby orange orchard in Esperanza Village. Police strongly suspect that the assailant might have taken the cash and lottery books out of the bag, hurled it over the fence into the orange orchard before proceeding to the area near the ferry where the driver was apprehended.
El Alcalde Nicholas Ruiz y El Concilio de la municipalidad de Benque Viejo del Carmen

Extende sus mejores deseos para una agradable y bendicida celebracion de Semana Santa 2010.

A todo residentes de la Bella Municipalidad de Benque Viejo del Carmen
Cock Fighting In The Municipal Fair

Dear Editor,

I heard that they will be having a cock fight at the Easter Fair.

Unfortunately I don't have very much more information, but maybe you can research a bit more, if you are interested.

The organizing committee obviously have permission from to do it.

I cannot understand how they could give permission to something so awful.

I am not sure how to proceed from here, but I think it is very inhumane and it sends out a wrong message to the people who do dog fights (which is even more horrible).

All in all I think it gives a very bad impression for the town itself to allow this.

Most of all I am concerned about the roosters getting themselves killed so people can have "fun" is just wrong.

Please, can you write something on this topic? I don't have enough background information to make a statement, but maybe you already know more.

Thanks a lot,

Author's Name Withheld as we were not sure if she wanted her name published

ED NOTE:

Yes we heard the announced "Cock Fight" on the radio ad for the fair.

We sought guidance on this matter from the police and Inspector Dinsdale Thompson, the officer 2nd in Command of San Ignacio Police, confirmed having likewise heard the announcement on the radio.

He said that the act is illegal and that he will accordingly advise the Mayor and the Fair’s Organizing Committee.

Rob Is Coming To Town And Hopefully To The Pages Of The STAR

Dear Editor;

My name is Robert Wheeler. I am a psychotherapist and educator who will be moving to your lovely Cayo in May.

I wonder if your paper would be interested in an occasional articles involving psychology, parenting, substance abuse, etc. Perhaps a regular column with same?

I look forward to hearing whether this idea interests you.

Best regards,

Rob Wheeler

ED RESPONSE:

Robert,

Welcome to Cayo. Sounds like you are coming with some positive contributions. We certainly look forward to accommodating your column. Regards

STAR

The Belize Bank Limited hereby informs the general public that its branches countrywide will be closing at 1pm on Thursday, April 1st, 2010. Branches countrywide will also be closed for business from Friday, April 2nd through Monday April 5th, 2010.

We will reopen for business on Tuesday, April 6th, 2010 at 8 am.

For everyday banking transactions, please use our ATMs located countrywide, your Belize Bank VISA Debit card or credit cards, or visit our website at www.belizebank.com.

The Belize Bank Limited takes this opportunity wish its customers and all Belizeans a Safe & Happy Easter.
The Management of Prosser Fertilizer informs the General Public that with effect from Thursday, April 1, 2010 our outlet will be relocated from West Street in San Ignacio Town to Rod Allen’s Hardware Building on the Western Highway in Santa Elena Town, Cayo.

We look forward to continue providing you with the same high quality of oods and Services from our new location.

We take this opportunity to wish All our many faithful Customers & Friends A Happy and Safe Easter Holiday.

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<td>Belmopan</td>
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<td>Orange Walk</td>
<td>3 George St. 322-2915</td>
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<td>Santa Elena Town</td>
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<td>7th Ave. South End 422-3584</td>
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P.O. Box 566, Belize City, Belize C.A., 7 1/2 Miles Western Highway
Phone: (501) 223-5410, 223-5392, 223-5384
Fax: (501) 222-5548, 223-0653
Email: prosserfertilizer@gmail.com - prosser@btl.net
SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, March 29, 2010:

He was arrested and charged for the November 3, 2007 burglary of a church in San Ignacio. He was accused of making off with a musical keyboard and a sound mixer. A few days later he walked out of court, on bail, never again to return to face the music.

It was shortly after 8:00 am, almost 29 months ago, on the morning of Saturday November 3, 2007 when Lionel Fuentes, Pastor of Life Ministries Church on Joseph Andrews Drive in San Ignacio visited the police station and reported that his church was broken into and that a grey, Yamaha brand, electronic keyboard, valued at $2,000 along with a 16 channel, grey and black, PV brand, sound mixer, valued at $1,800 were missing.

Police visited the scene and observed that entry was gained by the removal of four wooden louvers from one of the windows on the side of the building. One of the louvers was found leaning against the wall just below the window while the remaining 3 were found around the corner of the building, also leaning against the wall.

The louvers were found with clear finger print impressions and they were brought to the police station for further examination by the Scenes of Crime Technician. The prints were lifted and were found with characteristics similar to those on file belonging to one Ryan Coleman.

Investigators obtained a search warrant and proceeded to Coleman’s residence at #17 Minerva Lane in San Ignacio Town where they found the Yamaha keyboard and the PV brand sound mixer. The recovery of the items led to the arrest of Ryan Coleman - 23 at the time, now 25 years of age - on a single burglary charge. He pleaded not guilty to the charge. He was offered and met bail and has since failed to show up in court.

Despite his absence, the trial proceeded in absentia. The prosecution closed its case before Magistrate Anna Rachel Montejo on Monday, March 29, Magistrate Montejo ruled that the accused was guilty as charged. She ordered the payment of $1,000 court fine. In default of making the payment by April 30, the convicted burglar would spend one year in jail.

The keyboard and the sound mixer have since been returned to the church.
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT CLAIMS THE LIFE OF A UNITEDVILLE MOTHER

Hector Jevannli Pech, 29, Belizean driver of a Benque Viejo Town address.

The driver of the Isuzu pickup truck was identified as Rafael Caranza, 22, Belizean farmer of a Bullet Tree Falls Village address. He was reportedly traveling in the company of two passengers.

The Ford Escort car was driven by Victor Moreno, 50, Belizean, Air Traffic Control Officer working at the Phillip Goldson International Airport with the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of Belize. Moreno, residing with his family in the village of Unitedville, was driving in the company of his common-law-wife of 20 years, Leticia Marva Garcia, 46, Belizean domestic, seated in the front passenger seat and the couple’s 12 year old son seated in the back seat of the car.

Within minutes of the accident, two ambulances from the Spanish Lookout Branch of the Belize Emergency Rescue Team (BERT) arrived on the scene. Leticia is reported to have died almost on impact from severe head and body injuries while Victor Moreno and his son were placed in one ambulance and rushed to the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan where Moreno was treated and released while the son, suffering from a broken right leg, was transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where he is slated to undergo surgery.

Rafael Caranza was placed inside the other ambulance and also transported to the Western Regional Hospital where he was treated and released into the hands of the police.

The body of the Leticia Marva Garcia was removed from the scene and transported to the morgue at the San Ignacio Community Hospital where it was officially pronounced dead. While, they await the results of a urine sample from Rafael Caranza, San Ignacio Police nonetheless proceeded to lay five charges against him as follows: i) Manslaughter by negligence, ii) Causing death by careless conduct, iii) Drove motor vehicle without due care and attention and iv) Negligent grievous harm upon Victor Moreno and v) Negligent grievous harm upon Moreno’s 12 year old son.

Caranza appeared before San Ignacio’s Magistrate, Anna Rachel Montejo, on Monday, March 29, 2010, where the charges were read to him. No plea was taken as the matter will be heard on indictment at the Supreme Court level.

The accused was offered and met bail, just at the close of the business day, in the sum of $8,000 plus 1 surety of the same amount. He was released on the condition that he surrenders all travel documents to the Clerk of Court until the date of the Preliminary Inquiry (PI). He will be returning to court on Tuesday, June 29, 2010 when the PI is slated to commence.

While there is no report of injuries caused to the other two persons reportedly traveling with Caranza, the driver of the Freight Liner is said to have emerged somewhat shaken but with no apparent injuries.

The body of Leticia Marva Garcia was transported to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital on Monday, March 29, 2010, where the post mortem examination was conducted.

Reports reaching us indicate that Leticia’s brother Balbino, who lives next door, worked most of the day on repairing the car and when he was finished, Victor drove into San Ignacio Town to update the insurance and at the same time the family did some grocery shopping. They were returning home when tragedy struck.

Leticia Marva Garcia is predeceased by father Balbino Garcia and one brother Reynaldo Garcia. She is survived by her mother, Gloria Perez, brother, Balbino Garcia Jr.; Sisters, Martha Lemus, Brinette Garcia and Odette Robateau. She is also survived by Victor Moreno, her common-law-husband of 20 years as well as two sons Joshua and Dishon Moreno.

She will be laid to rest on Wednesday, March 31 in Unitedville, the place where she was born, grew up and lived all her life. The funeral service will be held at 3:00 pm at the Pentecostal Church in Unitedville Village. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

At the request of the brother, Balbino Garcia Jr., the Moreno and Garcia families express heartfelt appreciation to the Unitedville community for their expression of sympathy especially to Area Representative, Hon. Ramon Witz and Village Chairman, Michael Juan for all the support provided during these difficult times.

Belize Water Services Ltd. takes this opportunity to advise the general public that our offices throughout the country will close at 1:00pm on Holy Thursday, April 1st 2010 and resume normal working hours on Tuesday April 6th 2010.

May the Joys of Easter Day be very bright upon your way!
DigiCell introduces...

DIGI Dalla

YOUR AUTOMATIC CREDIT HOOKUP!

Starting TODAY!

Get up to a $1 Credit Advance whenever you are out of funds

It automatically tops you up at the last minute so you could stay on your call, send a text or surf the internet.

IT'S ANOTHER SERVICE TO Make life easy!

- Some conditions apply.
- Service available to only DigiCell Prepaid customers.
- A fee incidence, you are accessing your $1 credit advance.
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www.digicell.bz