TRAFFIC ACCIDENT CLAIMS THE LIFE OF A YOUNG MALE CYCLIST FROM SAN IGNACIO

CENTRAL FARM, Cayo, Thursday, September 23, 2010: A traffic accident near Central Farm in the Cayo district today claimed the life of Chris Chuc, 17, Belizean cyclist of a Quarry Hill Street address in San Ignacio Town.

At around 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, a team of traffic officers from the San Ignacio police station responded to the scene of the accident.

Upon arrival, police found a black Geo Prism four-door car with private San Ignacio/Santa Elena license plates #C-00036 off the highway on the right side of the highway when travelling toward Belmopan from San Ignacio.

The car was found with the driver’s side of the windshield smashed. Also on the scene was a black bicycle with the back wheel and back portion of the frame damaged.

Investigation revealed that Chuc and two of his cycling friends were on the daily practice ride on the Western Highway when the tragic incident occurred. They were reportedly riding in single file, with Chuc bringing up the rear, when they heard a bang behind them. With no
vehicle coming in the opposite direction, the two friends reportedly took to the middle of the highway just in time to see the car passing them on the right side, in the grass, off the shoulder of the highway with their friend momentarily on the hood before being flung over the top of the car.

Before police arrived, the critically injured cyclist was picked up and rushed to the San Ignacio Community Hospital by one of the first persons to arrive on the scene. He reportedly passed away about an hour later from severe injuries he received to the back portion of his body with the x-ray showing at least three broken ribs.

The deceased, only a month ago captured second place in the Junior Road Championship Race. He also excelled in a recent cycling event in Guatemala.

He is survived by his mother, Lilibeth Chuc; one brother, Michael Escobar and three sisters Thaisis, Damelin and Evian Escobar as well as several other relatives and countless friends. Our sympathies go out the bereaved family as they begin to make arrangements to lay their loved one to rest.

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**A Special And Fun Event In Santa Familia**

**BY: Jana**

The Santa Familia Equine Racing Club held its first racing event on September 19 at 1 pm, as an intro for the Independence Celebrations 2010 in the village.

The races were organized by Guy Stables, Paws Vet Clinic, the Santa Familia Village Council, David Carrillo and The Santa Familia Advancement Committee.

Approximately 250 persons came to see this first-time event, which took place at Dan Silva’s property in Carmelita, at the far end of Santa Familia village.

A total of 24 horses were brought in from the surrounding areas in Cayo, as far as from Benque Road and most of them participated in the four races on the half mile stretch.

After the race activities continued with games, a parade, music and fireworks.

**Eden SDA High School VACANCY NOTICE**

A vacancy exist at Eden SDA High School in Santa Elena, Cayo for a Music Teacher for the school year 2010 -2011

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION:**

(a) A Bachelor’s Degree in the subject area, preferably with teacher training

(b) Three years teaching experience

Applicant should be willing to follow the Christian principles practiced at the school

**APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST INCLUDE:**

(a) A letter of application;

(b) Resume;

(c) Certified copies of all certificates and diplomas;

(d) Transcripts from tertiary institutions attended in sealed envelopes

(e) Two recent testimonials in sealed envelopes

Deadline for the submission of application package is Tuesday, October 12, 2010 and should be addressed to:

The Chairman
Eden SDA High School Board
P.O. Box 68
San Ignacio Town
Cayo District
Belize, C.A.

**Eden SDA High School VACANCY NOTICE**

BY: Larry Waight

September 21 is Belize’s Independence Day, and the entire country comes alive with the exhilarating celebrations one would expect from a young nation with such a rich history and culture.

Belizeans have always been enthusiastic about exercising free speech and their right to independence, so it is no wonder they so vigorously pursued, embraced and now celebrate nationhood.

This makes September a great month to enjoy the multi cultural party that really kicks in September 10, the Battle of St George Caye Day, and peaks on September 21 when, at midnight 1981, the blue, white and red flag of the independent nation of Belize was first raised throughout the country.

The story of Belizean Independence is as colourful as the country itself.

The former colony of British Honduras officially changed its name to Belize in 1973, and the drive towards statehood continued, however, for many years was a passionate struggle for freedom continued, however, for ‘people power’ momentum, despite obstacles such as a long standing sovereignty dispute with neighbouring Guatemala. The push for freedom continued, however, and on September 21, 1981, Belize’s Independence was finally declared.

Belize is now a thriving democracy, with high voter turnout and lively participation in the electoral process. Creole, Mestizo, Garifuna, Maya, Asian, European and the many other ethnic groups of Belize continue to unite under the banner of statehood and take pride in the ongoing development of their small robust country.

The theme for this year’s celebrations is, “United and Proud – Moving Forward – I Am Belize”, and this perfectly sums up the national feeling.

Belizean Independence has been celebrated at Chaa Creek since that historic midnight in 1981, and this year the party continues as we encourage visitors to join in celebrating the fulfilment of what for many years was a passionate dream – the birth of the sovereign and independent nation of Belize.

Happy Birthday and Viva Belize!
BELIZE TOURISM BOARD
CAREER OPPORTUNITY

MARKETING DIRECTOR
Belize Tourism Board

Terms of Reference:

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:
The Director of Marketing will be responsible for managing the global marketing team and agencies with a focus on growing visitor numbers through online, offline, trade and public relations.

This Director will also be responsible for implementing the proposed fundamental shift in marketing strategy to focus on online and trade relations. As such he/she needs to demonstrate a solid understanding of marketing planning and strategy in relation to destination marketing and budget and performance management. He/She should demonstrate clear expertise in both new media and trade marketing.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

> Achieve marketing objectives as outlined in Marketing & Industry relations section of BTB Action Plan 2010-12
> Develop, implement and manage marketing strategy including value proposition, positioning statement and marketing mix tactics.
> Develop annual marketing plan to include budgets, goals and objectives, tracking measurements and reporting.
> Manage and develop the Marketing personnel to build a cohesive team dedicated to ensuring the successful implementation of marketing strategy.
> Provide quarterly and annual business reviews for BTB Senior Executive Team.
> Ensure integrity of the brand and value proposition is fully embraced at all consumer, partner and employee contact points.
> Financial & performance management.

QUALIFICATIONS:
The Director of Marketing must have a minimum of 10 years travel industry with proven experience in managing marketing strategy and planning. They must have the ability to develop and manage marketing strategy, implement marketing plans that are equally focused offline and online, and establish brand propositions.

> 10+ years experience in marketing management career stream, preferably 3+ of those years spent in destination marketing.
> Graduate degree, with course work or experience in marketing and/or management.
> Proven experience developing integrated marketing plans, budget management and performance evaluation involving a range of key marketing tactics with a particular focus on online and trade marketing.
> 5+ years experience leading a team of diverse professionals in the fields of online & offline marketing, PR and media relations.
> 5+ years dealing directly with media buying, advertising, creative and PR agencies.
> Solid understanding of regional and global sustainability issues and experience in developing sustainability marketing initiatives.
> Demonstrated experience in building, presenting, negotiating business/strategic proposals.
> Understanding of CRM Principles including customer acquisition, retention and database management.
> Goal oriented with strong leadership skills.
> Experience working in an international setting and proficiency in Spanish preferred.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications along with two letters of references are to be submitted to the Belize Tourism Board no later than Friday, October 8th, 2010. Applications should be directed to:

DIRECTOR OF TOURISM
Belize Tourism Board
P.O. Box 325
Belize City, Belize
ARIES: March 22 to April 20
The key to handling this excessively demanding week is to keep your focus and take action, instead of worrying and thinking. Even in face of intense work pressure, you will have to attend to several personal and family demands as well. Try to do justice to all without worrying about the outcome. Lucky Numbers: 03, 28, 63.

TAURUS: April 21 to May 21
There will be quite a few developments on the professional front. It is also a phase where the negative, gloomy feelings of the past few days are overtaken by a sense of exuberance and positivity. There will efforts to revamp your personal and public image. Lucky Numbers: 21, 44, 96.

CANCER: June 22 to July 23
You may have to travel to honour your professional commitments. Make sure that all details have been taken care of. You may take up a cause, which may lead you to dedicate a great amount of time to it. Do not ignore loved ones and their reasonable demands owing to this. Lucky Numbers: 18, 84, 92.

SCORPIO: October 24 to November 21
Although there will be some complexities or tough challenges arising at work, you will have reprieve in the form of effective solutions and adequate time to iron out issues. Your work will be appreciated but you will have to sustain the tempo of your work. Lucky Numbers: 24, 33, 65.

LEO: July 24 to August 21
Some grand plan is on the anvil, something like a pet project. You may start a new course or begin lessons and pursue a hobby seriously. You may even put in a lot of effort in order to entertain guests. However, you are cautioned against getting overly critical about your own self or analysing situations too much. Lucky Numbers: 06, 32, 69.

LIBRA: September 22 to October 23
You may suddenly feel that you are turning into a more sensitive individual with your feelings taking a more intense form. There is serious work in store professionally, so it will be best to keep your equilibrium. You might come up with some new insights at work. Lucky Numbers: 48, 57, 81.

SAGITTARIUS: November 22 to December 21
The coming week is likely to be rewarding for you in the form of a promotion or increased income. Also, you must remember that you’ll be able to make strides in your work only if you are quick to read the call of the times and adapt to the requirement. Lucky Numbers: 01, 25, 53.

GEMINI: May 22 to June 21
The coming week will be better in terms of personal issues. There is a lot of happiness and satisfaction stemming from your family interactions. There is increase in your charm and people are drawn to you, in awe of what you can accomplish and also to seek your opinion. Lucky Numbers: 36, 58, 72.

VIRGO: August 22 to September 21
Get prepared and all set for a busy week ahead. The professional scene will be happening and will require quite a bit of input from you. Just be sure that you do not ignore finer details as you go about the business. Do not enter into arguments or confrontation. Lucky Numbers: 27, 50, 62.

CAPRICORN: December 22 to January 20
The big thing that is likely to keep you occupied this week is finances. Do not lend or borrow money. Also, it will be in your best interests to keep your plans to yourself and function quietly for some time. There will some reason to celebrate. Lucky Numbers: 05, 47, 78.

AQUARIUS: January 21 to February 19
It’s more like a fun filled week ahead for you. There are great opportunities to let your hair down. You may try to gain the most out of your adventurous experience but don’t miss out on the fun in trying to do so. Those in the field of research and academics may be rewarded for good work. Lucky Numbers: 75, 87, 95.

LIBRA: September 22 to October 23
You may suddenly feel that you are turning into a more sensitive individual with your feelings taking a more intense form. There is serious work in store professionally, so it will be best to keep your equilibrium. You might come up with some new insights at work. Lucky Numbers: 48, 57, 81.

PISCES: February 20 to March 21
The coming week is more likely to draw you into some serious introspection and subsequent hard work to make your efforts count. There will be some worry about money which you can handle if you rein in your impulsive buying. Your interactions with family members will also be in focus. Lucky Numbers: 15, 42, 80.

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Hermanos Benqueños, hoy en este importante día, quisiera antes que nada expresar una gran felicitación a todos y cada uno de nosotros, por este feliz acontecimiento, felicidades por estos 29 años de arduo esfuerzo, de unidad y de trabajo, pero sobre todo de sobriedad positiva.

Hoy 29 años después, miramos hacia atrás y descubrimos que el camino es largo, pero que lo estamos recorriendo juntos, buscando un beneficio común para las familias de este país.

Ayer fue el camino hacia la independencia, buscando respeto, dignidad, soberanía y una autonomía, que estamos fortaleciendo cada vez mas, frente a los demás países de la cuenca centroamericana.

El cambio lo estamos viendo cada día, en Benque Viejo del Carmen, estamos trabajando para ser un pueblo fuerte y diferente, la paz y la amistad que distinguen a los benqueños, se ve fortalecida cada día, hemos logrado en solo 2 años y medio, regresar las oficinas de registro de votantes, las oficinas de teléfonos. El Ministro de Recursos Naturales Hon. Gaspar Vega, estará próximamente abriendo sus oficinas de terrenos en Benque Viejo, esto es un logro para el beneficio de todos.

En la zona libre ya se pavimentaron las calles con servicios de agua potable y electricidad, y en 2 semanas aproximadamente, se estará empezando la construcción de las primeras empresas, lo que conlleva a el ofrecimiento de trabajo para nuestra área.

El próximo mes de octubre, estaremos inaugurando nuestra biblioteca publica, con todos los adelantos tecnológicos que exigen nuestros jóvenes, estamos trabajando también, con gente Benqueña para abrir un “Call Center” inmediatamente, esto nos ayudara también, para mejorar las demandas de trabajo tan necesarias en nuestra área.

Durante muchos años hemos trabajado para conseguir nuestro propio banco, quisiera compartir hoy en medio de esta alegría, que en breve se estará construyendo el Banco Heritage en Benque Viejo del Carmen. Con estas muestras de apoyo solidario a nuestro pueblo, nos estamos fortaleciendo con una autonomía que satisface a los Benqueños, con servicios que aporten el crecimiento de nuestro pueblo. Pero algo que a sido un objetivo en mi administración, a sido la educación para todos los jóvenes de Cayo Oeste, seguiremos manteniendo ese afán de mejorar las ayudas en el sistema escolar.

A fin de este año como lo prometimos, se estará desarrollando un mega-proyecto de construcción de calles y drenajes en Benque Viejo del Carmen, esto es como respuesta de las iniciativas que hemos gestionado, ante el gobierno central, el embellecimiento de nuestra municipalidad, con calles y drenajes será una realidad a fin de este año.

En solo 2 años y medio de administración, el gobierno que represento construyo decenas de sistemas de agua potable en todo el país, a través de mi ministerio desarrollaremos un puente, que unirá a Santa Elena con San Ignacio, de primer nivel a la altura de las grandes urbes, en breve también se estará inaugurando la nueva frontera sur, que conectara el área de Jáltique Belice con Peten y el área de Izabal Guatemala, se estará construyendo la carretera denominada “Coastal Highway”, que unirá la democracia con el Hummingbird Highway, esta era una prioridad durante más de 30 años, ahora será una realidad.

Estaremos recibiendo 30 millones de dólares, para continuar los trabajos de agua potable y electrificación, para mas familias necesitadas, por eso hablare de alegría de independencia, es hablar del crecimiento como pueblo y país, que estamos recibiendo. 29 años de independencia solo se puede celebrar con trabajo para nuestra gente, por ello cada día, estamos buscando nuevas fuentes de empleo, poco a poco nos estamos independizando como pueblo, ahora buscaremos que este beneficio común, abarque a todos los habitantes de Cayo Oeste, hemos encontrado obstáculos en el camino, pero la fuerza de entereza nos a sacado a flote, hemos cimentado el éxito en el trabajo arduo de cada día, ayer nuestros próceres que lucharon por ver un Belice libre, encuentran hoy una libertad de paz y de justicia, sabiendo que mañana con la Unidad Y el Orgullo de esta nación, caminaremos rápidamente para ser cada día mejores.

Felicidades a todos, porque todos somos Belice, I’m Belize, Viva Belice, Happy Independence Day.
Sacred Heart College Students Comment On Crime

Dear Editor,

Crime is present in every society, but sometimes it escalates to a level that members of the society begin to demand that something be done to minimize or eliminate it.

The crimes committed stem from changes over the years. Every new generation seeks different ways to make life easier for the next generation. However, crime continues to plague our society because of abandonment of basic family values, financial problems, insufficient parental role models and peer pressure.

Financial problems is one of the main causes of crime in society. Security of financial resources may lead to stealing and even murder which affects the society in a negative way.

Those who commit crime resort to it because they are unable to meet their needs. Criminal activity is a fast way of making easy money. We are of the opinion that the crime rate could be lowered if the children have higher levels of education because that will give them a better chance at well paying jobs. A high level of education, better jobs and salaries will minimize the need for committing crimes.

Money is not the only thing a child needs when growing up; they also need a good role model to look up to. Due to the high rate of unemployment some parents resort to travel abroad and leave children behind, without the parental role model children tend to take wrong turns. Children that are abandoned at a young age are more likely grow up without anyone telling them right from wrong.

Young parents also contribute to the causes of crime. They do not know how to properly raise a child.

Social organizations, the schools, the churches, and the homes have to teach children and young teens good values and how to live a life or working hard for what they need.

The children that grow without a good role model tend to be the ones committing crimes in the society and something must be done to lower the crime rate but it will not happen overnight.

Peer pressure is something that most teens go through and this is one of the main reasons for crime. Teens experiencing peer pressure might commit crimes to fit into a group like gangs and friends. In gangs an individual might be pressured to take drugs or commit an illegal act to be able to join or continue to show commitment to the group.

There are some children and teens who, for the need of friendship, are drawn away from school and other friends who are doing the right thing.

If the individual has good advice from parents as to how to choose a good friend and walk away from things like drugs and crime, the crime rate, we believe, will be lower.

With proper intervention programs, better education, better paid jobs and good family values and unbroken homes, the crime rate could subside.

Each of us must become the change we want to see in our community.

Yesica Bautista, Luby Pech, Liani Tzib and Annie Estrada
Third Form Students, Sacred Heart College

Dear Editor,

Crime is a social problem in every part of the world. It has become a major and serious problem in our Belizean society.

Over the past years, Belize has experienced a crime wave due to poverty, unemployment, and many other causes. All these factors have helped in contributing from petty to serious criminal activities such as theft, murder, manslaughter, carnal knowledge, rape, incest and human trafficking.

Firstly, poverty is said to be one of the leading causes of crime. Those who are living in poverty do not have the means to provide for themselves and their families. When the sole provider or breadwinner of a household has lost his/her job, it poses a serious consequences to the family. Therefore, some may get engaged in various criminal activities in order to cope with their situation. This may include robbery and theft. Hence, the reason why some innocent Belizeans including store owners are continuous victims of hold up and other criminal acts committed by those in need.

Secondly, unemployment has been an enormous predicament in Belize. The lack of employment has amplified our crime rate; it has crippled the growth of our tourism industry, causing robbery and other crimes to increase. Tourists are now afraid to walk the streets of Belize City and come out of their cruise ships to buy our products and see what Belize has to offer. The lack of education has caused many youngsters to engage in gang activities.

Some other problems that may arise are that innocent people are being hurt, killed, raped and deprived of their freedom. The destruction of the tourism industry is a very dreadful situation due to the fact that tourism is an essential part of Belize’s economy and tourists are now afraid to come to Belize because of the crime rate. The prospective investors will no longer be interested and want to invest in our country if he/she sees our nation in a deplorable situation. Whatever this he/she is not, because it would remain concealed because of terrible crimes that are occurring today.

This problem will definitely create greater poverty. The lack of employment and the high rate of crime definitely has to be addressed in our country.

Thirdly, the misuse of drugs is one of leading social problems in our communities. It has influenced many illegal activities in Belize. Gangs at constant war to protect their source of income and gains from the illegal trading in marijuana and cocaine.

In the drug dealer’s mind, it is their job to sell without worrying about the serious consequences it can cause on our neighborhood, society or country. Making money becomes priority rather than the welfare of the society.

Lastly, another reason for the escalating crime in Belize has been caused by corruption in the government system. Corruption happens mainly because of the lack of transparency within the daily legal financial transactions, the mishandling of other monies by the government and dishonesty to the citizens of our country. When a government is elected, it mostly helps a chosen few, and most of the people they assist are financially capable of providing for themselves and their families. They generally do not help people who need the most assistance. Most of these poor are suffering today because of politics being played within the government departments. Hence, the reason why a corrupt government contributes to crime in our country of Belize.

In conclusion, crime in Belize is increasing on a daily basis. The crime rate in Belize is caused by poverty, lack of employment, drug trafficking and corruption caused by some of the government officials. A solution to this problem could be by reducing the rate of unemployment, by helping to create/providing jobs, hosting more educational/sports camps for the youths, establishing safe recreational facilities for both children and adults.

Other solutions to crime could be implementing stricter punishments for grave crimes committed. We need to work hand in hand to make our country safer and more peaceful for all Belizeans and visitors to our shores.

Jamila Alvarez, Renice Palace, Clarence Trapp, Gian Guerra, Jamila Avilez
Third form students, Sacred Heart College
A Nicaraguan Official Is Found Slain In The Bronx, NY

Katie Orlinsky for The New York Times
By AL BAKER

Published: September 23, 2010

A Nicaraguan official was found dead on Thursday, his throat slashed, in his Bronx apartment, the police said.

The police identified the dead man as César Mercado, 34, a senior consular officer who had been working in New York for eight years and had been performing the duties of consul general.

Mr. Mercado’s body was discovered at 10:35 a.m. by his driver, who, detectives said, had arrived to pick him up.

He was lying just inside the entrance to his sixth-floor apartment, at 2070 Grand Concourse, near East 180th Street, in the Mount Hope neighborhood, said Deputy Commissioner Paul J. Browne, the Police Department’s chief spokesman.

“The door was unlocked” but was shut when the driver arrived, Mr. Browne said.

The driver, who was not identified, left the apartment and called the police, Mr. Browne said.

Detectives from the 46th Precinct found several knives in the apartment, he said.

A 12-inch kitchen knife and a paring knife were found in the bathroom sink, along with a lot of blood, possibly indicating that the stabbing happened there and that Mr. Mercado collapsed as he approached his door.

The body had deep cuts to the neck and stab wounds in the abdomen, Mr. Browne said.

The police, along with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, were seeking a motive for the killing, and no suspects had been identified.

Mr. Browne said that the apartment did not appear to have been ransacked, and that Mr. Mercado’s body was clothed.

Mr. Browne said Mr. Mercado had been seen by neighbors on Wednesday.

Some neighbors in the six-story tan-brick building, known as August Arms, said they recalled Mr. Mercado as being a nice person. No one, however, seemed familiar with his job.

One woman, Daisy Valle, 40, who has lived on the fifth floor for 16 years, said she was surprised that someone of Mr. Mercado’s stature was living there.

Nicaragua’s foreign minister, Samuel Santos López, who was in New York for meetings of the United Nations General Assembly this week, was looking into the death and was communicating with Mr. Mercado’s relatives, according to his spokesman.

C. J. Hughes, Ray Rivera and Karen Zraick contributed reporting.
Belize's Opposition Leader John Briceno Offered No Real Alternative On Independence Day

By: Wellington C. Ramos

On the 21st day of September this year many Belizeans who live in the United States of America and elsewhere around the world, including myself, tuned in to Love FM and other radio stations to listen to the Independence Day Celebrations speeches broadcast live over the internet.

Most of us are concerned about the increase in violent crimes especially murders that are taking place on the streets of Belize City and the economic situation our country is facing today.

The current government has already outlined several new initiatives that they have put in place to curb the crime rate and is waiting for more assistance from overseas to receive technical and other support to deal with this on-going dilemma.

The recent economic report released by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) indicated that the economy is rebounding slowly but not as fast as the government would like it to rebound.

The Prime Minister of Belize Hon. Dean Barrow, in his independence day address, spoke about Belizean Nationalism and the pride and love most Belizeans have for their country. He stressed on the accomplishments his government has made since assuming power two and a half years ago. He cautioned that the journey ahead is long but his government will do everything to make sure that in the end they prevail. He pointed out that Belize today is a lot different from the Belize they inherited back in 2008 when they came to office. At that time, the country was plagued with: corruption, poor credit rating, divisive government, family rule and unequal distribution of wealth. Belize looked as if it was the personal estate of a few wealthy families and one ethnic group monopolized all the wealth that was available to the general public.

Most of the money that was available at the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the Belize Bank went to the same wealthy families who have plenty and still wanted more. This greed on their part deprived students from borrowing to further their education, farmers from doing farming and poor families from improving and buying homes. Their borrowing eventually bankrupted the DFC and some of them have not repaid their loan to this day. This is Taxpayers money and the government should utilize all legal options to recover these outstanding debts and bring those funds to the Government’s Treasury where they belong.

That administration just gone was so brazen and cold boded that many of them went into new business ventures with these funds, as if nothing went wrong while still refusing to pay their debts to the financial institutions.

When it was time for the Honorable John Briceno, Leader of the Opposition People’s United Party to speak, he started off like a raging bull in attack mode. Little did he realize, that his party was in power for ten years and the state of Belize today is based on the foundation they laid in those ten years while he was in office as a Deputy Prime Minister in that previous government.

Had he forgotten that he was a part of the break away G-7 group protesting the dictatorial behavior of his Prime Minister Said Musa, those same dictatorial behavior when it came to spending and disbursing public funds especially when it came to the general public’s health spending.

Does he not realize that he is the head of a party that is divided and all the other five elected members of his party are against him and are not satisfied with his leadership and want him to be replaced as their party leader.

These five members are very powerful because they can choose another leader from among themselves to represent them in the House of Representatives today if they please. Yet, he is going around doing many party unconstitutional maneuvering to maintain his fragile leadership of the party where they would much prefer to seem him go.

The speech was full of criticisms lacking any real substance and constructive proposals to deal with the problems Belize face today.

A solution to the crime situation requires a joint effort by all political parties and all stakeholders in Belize.

In the beginning, Briceno supported the government’s “Restore Belize” crime initiatives and that was a good gesture on his part. However, amidst the pressure from some members of his party he later withdrew his support. From the time he withdrew, I have not heard any major policy initiatives coming from him as to what he would do to solve crime in our country.

Crime and the current state of the national economy are the two major problems Belize face today and with the economy showing signs of improving, the United Democratic Party must now focus all its resources on solving crime to win the next general election.
Independence Day Address Delivered by Hon. Rene Montero, Area Representative Cayo Central Minister of Agriculture And Fisheries

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, September 21, 2010:

A pleasant good afternoon to one and all. It is indeed a great honor and pleasure for me to address you on this momentous day you on this momentous day.

Geographically Belize is a bridge between Central America and Caricom and centrally located between our neighbors to the North Mexico and on the South west with Guatemala.

Our team for this years September celebration “United and Proud, Moving Forward, I am Belize” Depicts the struggle and aspirations of a young nation moving forward to achieve social and economic independence.

As Belizeans we need to be united because in unity there is strength. It also encompasses pooling both our human and financial resources to obtain sustainable development, with policies and strategies that embraces the respect for our biodiversity and the environment. As Belizeans we have a lot to be proud of, First and foremost we should all be proud of being Belizeans, Proud of our National Anthem, Proud of our National Flag, Proud of all our National Symbols and most of all proud of our democracy, as we continue to struggle for peace, peace with ourselves, peace with our neighbors and most of all peace with our creator.

Also, we should be proud of our barrier reef, proud of our natural beauty, our ruins and most of all proud of our people. As Belizeans we need to show loyalty and patriotism to our systems of government and our way of life. United and Proud Moving Forward ... I am Belize.

It is sad to say that crime is rapidly escalating but as a nation we must find a solution to crime. Our present Government is putting in place policies that will have long term effect in reducing crime so that we can live in peace and tranquility.

At this point, I would like to take this opportunity, to welcome our new commanding officer of the Police Formation here in San Ignacio. Mr. Chester Williams; He is known to be a dedicated officer and a person that takes his job very seriously, we are seeing a change, a change in attitude towards the police that of respect and trust. We are also seeing an increase in street patrols in the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena and in the surrounding villages.

Mr. Williams I must publicly commend you for the good work that you are doing and I am looking forward to working with you.

As the area representative for Cayo Central I am aware of the economic challenges facing our people and I feel for you. But I must tell you that we have a caring and visionary government that’s working for you that gives us hope, hope in tomorrow and hope for the future of our children and children’s children.

As a nation we will continue to develop and prosper, as your area representative for Cayo Central and as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries I have the commitment and the political will to make the necessary change that will improve the standard of living for all Belizeans.

Early next year we will start the construction of the Hawks Bridge and paving of the Loma Luz Boulevard.

The uplifting of the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena through a $5 Million project with the World Bank which will address the problem we are now facing with drainage and also some key streets will be paved. However, it is important to point out that it is only through a strong central government working closely with the municipalities that makes projects like these possible.

Other projects in the pipe line include the construction of a new primary school in the Santa Cruz area and the paving of the Cristo Rey/San Antonio road from Santa Elena to San Antonio and from Georgeville to Caracol.

The construction of a bridge at central farm to replace the ferry, a 10 Million dollars from IDB to strengthen the core public Agricultural services, 4 million dollars from Alba funds for rural development, focusing on poverty alleviation through an integrated farming system targeting the “Farm Family” which will provide year round employment for the farmer and his family thus minimizing the migration of our youths to the urban areas and the list goes on and on.

As a government we are cognizant of the crime situation, but the crime situation did not creep on us over night, it has been taking root over the past ten years of the PUP mismanagement of our resources and policies which only helped to fill the pockets of a few selected cronies.

We can never forget the legacy of the PUP government, the Super Bond. The Super Bond is our cross and indeed a heavy cross which involves paying some 60 million dollars on interest rates alone on an annual basis and there is nothing to show for this criminal act that will continue to affect real growth for years to come.

In closing, I would like to challenge all the youths to stay in school, as a good education offers a window of opportunities and is one of the best weapons to combat crime and poverty alleviation.

Now, I invite each and everyone of you to join in the parade, enjoy yourself, have fun, but please don’t over do it. Let us Celebrate, United and Proud..... Moving forward.... I am Belize!

Thank you and God bless us all.
Virginia Set To Execute First Woman In Nearly A Century

Teresa Lewis will die by lethal injection on Thursday unless an appeal to the supreme court can save her.

The state of Virginia this week plans to carry out its first execution of a woman in nearly a century, despite claims that Teresa Lewis has severe learning difficulties.

Lewis’s last hope is an appeal to the supreme court. After Robert McDonnell, the state governor, said he will not spare the life of the 41-year-old who was convicted of arranging for two men to murder her husband and stepson.

“The governor said that she has such a low IQ her execution would be unconstitutional,” said Shallenberger for the same crime.

But he sent Lewis to the death chamber after describing her as the “head of this serpent”.

Prosecutors portrayed her as scheming, saying she lured the two men into carrying out the murders with sex and the promise of a share of the insurance claim. Shallenberger has since killed himself.

The defence says that a psychologist tested Lewis and found she had an IQ of 72 which put her in the “borderline mental retardation” range.

The supreme court has ruled that the execution of “mentally retarded” people – interpreted by the courts as those with an IQ of less than 70 – is unconstitutional. Lewis has also been diagnosed with a dependency disorder and addiction to painkillers.

Defence lawyers also say Shallenberger told a former girlfriend that he “manipulated” Lewis in order to try and collect the insurance money.

Julian Lewis and his son Charles were shot in 2002 after an earlier attempt by Lewis to organise their deaths failed.

McDonnell, a strong advocate of the death penalty, said that an appeal for clemency before an execution is one of “the toughest decisions” a governor faces.

He said he had read court transcripts and documents submitted by Lewis’s lawyers but could see no reason why she should be spared.

McDonnell said Lewis admitted to committing the so-called “heinous crimes” for which she was convicted and dismissed claims by her lawyer that she is not mentally fit to be held responsible.

The governor said that no medical professional has concluded that she is “mentally retarded” under Virginia law.

“Every crime she has been convicted for is there anything that would be a miscarriage of justice in letting the execution go forward?” he said.

Lewis’s lover, Matthew Shallenberger, and another man, Rodney Fuller, shot the victims in their beds at a trailer home. Fuller confessed to the crime in order to save himself from the death penalty.

Lewis’s execution would be one of three scheduled to take place in Virginia on Thursday.

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Discurso De Independencia
Por El Alcalde De Benque Viejo Del Carmen
Sr. Nicholas Ruiz

"UNIDOS Y ORGULLOSOS. HACIA ADELANTE. SOY BELIZE!"

Como alcalde de Benque Viejo Del Carmen, me siento muy honrado de estar ante ustedes una vez mas celebrando el aniversario de nuestra Independencia – ya son 29 años y podríamos decir que Belice emerge de ser un país joven, a ser un país ya con su propia identidad y características de nación.

Pienso que podemos celebrar hoy a causa de lo esfuerzos valientes de nuestros antepasados: los de hace mas de 200 años que lucharon en aquella Batalla del Cayo de San Jorge; los de hace mas de setenta años que lucharon a través de la Depresión Global para exigir salarios mas dignos; los de hace mas 29 años como George Price y Phillip Goldson que lograron nuestra independencia política de la Gran Bretaña. Estos son algunos de nuestros héroes pero hay muchos más: Leigh Richardson, Nicholas Pollard, Gwen Lizarraga, Cleopatra White, Simon Lamb y muchos más, tantos que no podríamos mencionar en este discurso.

¿Por qué es necesario recordar a los héroes? Porque es necesario recordar que tan sólo hace 29 años, todos acudieron a la lucha, para exigir nuestra libertad, nuestro derecho a la vida digna. Es importante también recordar que todos los héroes eran comunes, eran como nosotros, eran como también ustedes.

¿Por qué quizás es importante recordar a esos héroes? Podemos empezar diciendo que no seríamos lo que somos hoy si no fuera por los héroes de la independencia. ¿Por qué es importante recordar a esos héroes, si no igualamos con ellos? De lo que se distingue a un héroe, es que el recibe el premio por el hacha que dio, la risa que dio, por las largas horas que trabajó. Un héroe no se puede definir por lo que tiene, sino por lo que hace...

Y fue así como acudimos a ese proceso de la lucha por la independencia. ¿Qué podemos decir de nosotros? ¿Qué podemos decir de nosotros, en términos de quién es un héroe? ¿Qué podemos decir de todos nosotros, como hemos trabajado y luchado por nuestra libertad?

¿Pero porque mencionar esto? Ustedes ya lo sabían; estoy seguro. Pero les ofrezco una razón: como esos héroes, nuestros antecesores, que luchaban por algo deseado (entonces no había Belice, por ejemplo), nosotros tenemos ante nosotros nuestros propios retos y la oportunidad de ser héroes. Si Belice es ahora políticamente independiente, a nosotros, ahora, nos toca impulsarla hacia adelante, en unidad. El sueño Beliceño no se terminó con la Independencia: comenzó. Ahora nos toca hacerlo mejor: mas prospero, mas unido, mas justo y equitativo, más atento a los principios y fundamentos expuestos en nuestra constitución.

Hoy es necesario recordar, como los héroes de antaño, hoy debemos luchar sin temor y con valentía, por Belice. Y Belice tiene muchos enemigos que no pueden enfrentar a un pueblo que lucha por su libertad. Pero si lo que significa ser un héroe, es luchar por algo deseado, entonces Belice es un país de héroes. Pero más importante que ser un héroe, es ser un héroe que lucha por algo importante.

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The International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) warns against unacceptable levels of urban risk. **GENEVA, 21 SEPTEMBER:**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) today launched the World Disasters Report with a warning that 2.57 billion urban dwellers living in low and middle income nations are exposed to unacceptable levels of risk fuelled by rapid urbanization, poor local governance, population growth, poor health services and, in many instances, the rising tide of urban violence.

Much of this urban population is at particularly exposed to climate change. A key finding of the report is that between one-third and one-half of the population of most cities in low- and middle-income nations live in informal settlements and it is common in such cities for the local authorities to refuse to extend to them all the infrastructure and essential services that do so much to reduce disaster risk.

Existing measures of risk and vulnerability are criticized for undervaluing the impact of disaster losses on slum dwellers in favour of the impact of disasters on large economies and major infrastructure where loss of life may be minimal but economic damage is considerable.

The report urges governments and NGOs to address the urban risk divide which exists between cities that are well-governed and well-resourced compared to those that struggle with a lack of resources, knowledge and will to ensure a well-functioning urban environment. Bekele Geleta, IFRC Secretary General, said: “For the first time in human history more people live in towns and cities than in the countryside, but the world has not kept pace with this change. This is why more people live in slums or informal settlements than ever before and this will lead to more people being affected by urban disasters like the terrible earthquake which struck Haiti earlier this year.”

The report states that the root cause of why so many people are affected by urban disasters is that a billion people live in poor-quality homes on dangerous sites with no hazard-reducing infrastructure and no services. In any given year, over 50,000 people can die as a result of earthquakes and 100 million can be affected by floods and the worst-affected are most often vulnerable city dwellers.

“A very large deficit exists in the infrastructure and services that reduce disaster risk for much of the population in Latin America, Africa and Asia,” says Geleta. “We must bridge this urban risk divide or it will be further exposed in a very cruel way by climate change in the coming years.”

A recurring theme of this year’s report is that good urban governance is essential to ensuring people are empowered and engaged in the development of their urban environment and not marginalized and left exposed to disasters and climate change, violence and ill health. David Satterthwaite, World Disasters Report lead writer and Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), said: “People living in well governed cities are among those who benefit from the world’s best quality of life and highest life expectancies. Generally, the more urbanized a nation, the stronger its economy, the higher the average life expectancy and the literacy rate, and the stronger the democracy, especially at local level.”

“The crisis of urban poverty, rapidly growing informal settlements and growing numbers of urban disasters arises from the failure of governments to adapt their institutions to urbanization. It stems also in part from the failure of aid agencies to help bring to do so – most aid agencies have inadequate or no urban policies and have long been reluctant to support urban development at a sufficient scale.”

The report finds that forcible eviction is a constant threat to the urban poor. Large-scale evictions by public authorities displace millions every year, sometimes for re-development or beautification projects, or simply to target and remove what they consider undesirable groups. The World Disasters Report points out that zoning and planning controls often exclude a large part of the urban population from legal land markets and advocates that building standards should be applied in a way that is appropriate to the local context including affordability and resistance to extreme weather. The location of cities will affect the types of climate hazards to which urban communities are exposed. Over half of 37 cities in Africa with more than 1 million residents are in the low-elevation coastal zone. A sea level rise of just 50 cm would lead to over 2 million people in Alexandria, Egypt, needing to abandon their homes. In the vulnerable east coast of Africa, potential costs of 10 per cent of GDP have been calculated to help vulnerable communities adapt to the consequences of climate change and the growing incidences of weather-related disasters.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**EIA LODGEMENT AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby advised that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE) by the Ministry of Works for the San Ignacio / Santa Elena By-Pass. This EIA is for the proposed construction of a new high-level bridge across the Macal River, between Santa Elena and San Ignacio, Cayo District. The EIA will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before a final decision is taken by the DOE.

The General Public is hereby informed that the EIA will be available for public review at the following locations: Santa Elena Library, San Ignacio Town Hall, Sacred Heart College Library, Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town Hall, and the Department of the Environment in Belmopan and at the DOE’s website: www.doe.gov.bz.

Kindly be informed that a Public Consultation for the EIA will be held on Tuesday 28th September, 2010, at 6:30 pm at the San Ignacio Resort Hotel (Bedran Hall) in San Ignacio Town.

The General Public is invited to attend the Public Consultation.

Comments can be submitted on or before 4th October, 2010, to the Department of Environment (DOE) at 10/12 Ambergris Avenue, Belmopan; Fax: 822-2862; Tel: 822-2542 or E-mail: envirodept@btl.net.
two male persons one of whom hit him in the forehead with a stone. He reportedly fell to the ground after which they proceeded to relieve him of the $25 he had in the pocket of his pants. After robbing him, one of the attackers reportedly took out a knife and inflicted the wounds after which they reportedly dragged him down the hill and dumped him into the Macal River. He floated under the bridge, made it to the other side where he reportedly held on to the shrub on the banks of the river for several hours until a pedestrian passing on the bridge shortly after 4 o’clock on that Independence Day morning heard his cry for help. The pedestrian immediately contacted the police who arrived on the scene shortly thereafter and transported him to the San Ignacio Town Hospital. He was later transferred to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in Belize City in a critical condition. His condition has since been stabilized as he recuperates from the injuries.

San Ignacio are following several leads but to date an arrest is yet to be made.

Cayo District, Belize – July 5th 2010:

The Lodge at Chaa Creek, Belize’s award winning eco resort is delighted to announce the winners of its Eco Kids Summer Camp Essay Competition.

Chaa Creek’s Eco Kids essay competition offered contestants a one week summer camp program inclusive of lodging at the Macal River Camp, all meals plus snacks three times a day, daily scheduling of educational events, arts & crafts materials and t-shirt, camp counselors 24/7, and guided nature tours with licensed naturalist guides.

Many interesting essays were received but only those participants, who wrote the most captivating essays, explaining why they wanted to be an Eco Kid, were chosen as winners.

The essays were divided in two winning categories – Eco-greenies (7-11 years), and Eco-Saplings (12-15 years). Essays were judged on creative subject content, structure and grammar.

The essays were posted on the Chaa Creek Travel Blog and a special Chaa Creek committee selected the winning essays.

The lucky winners are:

- Hannah William Age 10
- Alice Koltchev Age 12
- Nino Moreno Age 11
- Magdalena Gray Age 9
- Angel Castillo Age 13
- Janel Rodgriguez Age 14
- Alyssa Coleman Age 12

About the Eco Kids Summer Camp

The Chaa Creek Eco Kids Summer Camp is a week long program to educate children about biodiversity, natural resource conservation, the ancient Maya, traditional healing, and the three “R’s” Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

The Program aims to instill memorable values that will have an impact on the way children conduct their lives, their relationship with our fragile earth and the sustainable development of our future.

Continued From Front Page

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