INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED INTO HOSTEL FIRE
- CAYO LOST ONE OF ITS OWN - ANNA CARLOS

Former Magistrate and Director of the Belize Family Court, Margaret Nicholas, is in the early stages of what is expected to be a thorough and independent investigation into a weekend fire that resulted in the deaths of three teenage girls at the Princess Royal Youth Hostel. It is expected that her investigation will reveal if there was any breach in protocol as it relates to disciplinary procedures, lock down policy, dealing with runaways as individual and groups, supervision of residents and safety of residents among others. It is expected that the investigation will provide answers to the many questions from relatives of the victims and members of the public.

There will also be recommendations put forward to improve a system that all agree has been long due for reform.

What we know thus far from reports is that four girls ran away from the Youth Hostel facility at mile 21 on the George Price Highway on Friday night, November 27. The girls were tracked down and returned by Hattieville police.

After they were taken back to the hostel, they were ordered to be confined to the dorm for a mandatory 24 hour period, during which all privileges were taken away. Therefore, while the other residents were on the compound engaging in sport and other recreational activities, the girls on discipline were still on lock down. Special measures were taken to lock down Elizabeth McKoy, 14, Shadisha Arnold, 16, and Anna Carlos, 16, because supervisors of the facility were concerned that they were planning to escape again. They were placed in a specific room, that is most difficult to escape from, and a padlock was placed on the door. There were two guards to supervise 30 girls on Saturday when tragedy struck.

Just before 2:20 p.m., guards were alerted by one of the girls on lock down that a pillow was lit on fire in the room and it was getting out of control.

Starla Bradley, Director of the Community Rehabilitation Department, gave an account of what followed: “The officer then proceeded to try to open the padlock which was on the door, but had difficulty opening the lock. The girls inside started to panic and in an effort to try to out the fire, the girl who it is said had started the fire, threw a blanket control.

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Western Bus Blaze On Western Highway

Commuters are concerned over an image that has gone viral on Facebook of a Westline bus completely engulfed in flame. The image comes at a very sensitive time in the country, just after a tragic fire at the Belize Youth Hostel. Fortunately, this case did not result in any fatalities.

According to reports, the Westline bus operated as chartered transportation for employees of Santander. It runs from Benque to Santander’s compound in Valley of Peace. The bus left from Benque at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, enroute to the facility. By the time it had reached mile 60 on the George Price Highway, there were 45 passengers on board.

According to representatives from Westline, the bus driver started to smell smoke around mile 60. Passengers on board back this story of a distinct burning scent. The driver stopped the bus to check what was wrong. During this time many of the passengers also came off the bus. Outside they saw dark smoke coming from under the engine of the bus and it was clear that the situation was escalating. The driver and passengers who had already gotten off the bus proceeded to warn those that remained seated. In a very short time the bus was completely empty.

As expected, the smoke was warning for a much larger fire that erupted shortly after the bus was cleared. Despite attempts by the bus driver and a couple assistants to out the fire, it developed into an uncontrollable blaze. The only thing they could all do was watch, and some took pictures.

Westline representatives say that the bus had been out of commission recently and was only released from the garage on Monday night, November 30. During this time a new transmission was installed, the bus was taken for a test drive and deemed to be road worthy. The 40 men and 5 women on board the bus on Tuesday would disagree with that assessment. Investigations into this incident continues.

December Is Here!!!

Christmas SALE!!! For this entire Month of December only at Shopper’s Choice! Also remember to follow us on Facebook.
After being re-elected for a third consecutive term in Cayo Central, Hon. Rene Montero pledged to “continue the transformation” and assured residents that “the best is yet to come”. So far he has honoured those commitments as infrastructure works has not only continued at the pre-election pace, but it seem to have even escalated. There are several projects going on simultaneously in Cayo Central: street upgrades, drainage development, public and sporting facility upgrades and of course, that majestic new bridge.

Immediately following the recent rains, heavy machinery was deployed from the Ministry of Works to clear and expand drainage in the Santa Elena area. Several drains were cleared and new ones dug. One of the most recent to be completed was St. Andrews Street. One resident says, “I really appreciate how quick the graders came. They really serious bout helping.” That resident is one of several who expressed their appreciation for the quick response by Hon. Rene Montero. This is the same on many other streets in the area. Some also pledged to do their part in cleaning the drain immediately in front of their own property to prevent clogging.

Speaking of preventing clogging, the San Ignacio-Santa Elena Bridge continues to progress. This bridge will significantly reduce traffic congestion in the municipalities and open the area to new opportunities. This project is funded by the Government of Belize and the Caribbean Development Bank at a total cost of $19,961,575.16.

In his thank you message to Cayo Central residents, Hon. Montero said, “Our beautiful constituency will continue to be transformed during the next five years that you have entrusted me with. I look forward to continuing to work for you as your Area Representative to continue providing jobs and prosperity to Cayo Central and to making it once again a place where people of all ages can count on a future.”

NOTICE

Dear Readers & Contributors:
Kindly forward all Ads, Letters, Articles, Comments and Humor to starnewspaper@gmail.com or Call 626-8822 for further information.
Suspected Drug Plane Lands And Burns In Spanish Lookout

Police and Civil Aviation Authorities are trying to determine the origins and cargo of a torched mystery plane that was found in the Spanish Lookout area early Tuesday morning, December 1, in an area known as Green Hills.

Police have confirmed that the plane, believed to be a Cessna 210 single engine landed on an abandoned road about two miles from the Guatemalan border. Investigators do not believe that the plane crashed or that anyone was hurt during the landing. Instead, it is believed that the plane made a successful landing and was intentionally set on fire to obstruct any investigation that would take place.

Authorities have little to work with.

There is no evidence of human or illicit cargo. All that remains is a torched aircraft. Only speculation can start the investigation. People in the surrounding area reported that they heard the aircraft flying overhead but it operated without lights. Because of the fact that it was attempting to land in the pre-dawn hours, it is believed to have landed on the abandoned road and whatever passenger and cargo onboard was transported across the Guatemalan border not too far away.

The Civil Aviation Department has deployed a team to investigate. They are responsible to salvage as much information as they can from the torched aircraft and turn the investigation over to police.

This incident strikes investigators as a case of déjà vu. On March 25, 2014 a similar modeled plane landed about a mile from where this one was found torched. Investigators believed that plane crash landed and was set on fire to destroy evidence. That was never proven and they may rethink that now that this plane is believed to have had a successful landing and later similarly burnt. The common belief in both incidents is that the planes were carrying illicit cargo, not people, because of the size.

Investigations into this incident continues.

VACANCY

A vacancy exists at ERA PLAZA in Santa Elena, Cayo for a Sales Person

Suitably qualified persons must be male, in possession of a valid drivers license, must be between ages 20 - 40 years and must be able to speak Cantonese and English fluently.

For more information please call: 824-2515 (No. 2)

Everything In The Universe Has Rhythm, Everything Dances.

Belize Botanic Gardens

April Calendar

As of April 13 – All Inclusive Tours
Shuttle NOW available, twice daily on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or reserve your group in advance. Shuttle leaves BBG Garden Shop at 7:00 a.m. and again at 11:00 a.m. Do Breakfast and a Walk in the Garden or the Lunch Tour, $50 per person, includes tour, shuttle and “Garden Tour” meal with juice, coffee or tea

RESERVE - Maya Traditional Tours & Tamales
Let Mr. William Mesh, a knowledgeable guide, take you on an educational visit back in time as he tells and shows a little about traditional healing with common medicinal plants that we have in our backyards. Observe how a traditional meal of tamales is prepared and then savour that meal along with juice, for lunch $50. Per person, includes shuttle, tour and tamales making; 8 person minimum, begins at 9 a.m. ends at 2 p.m. Shuttle leaves BBG Garden Shop at 8:30 a.m.

APRIL 18 – Saturday, “Flower Shop”
It’s April and flowers are a bloomin’ at BBG! Join us for the “Flower Shop” at the BBG garden shop on 37 West Street. Open House begins at 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Prices vary between $10 and $20. Pots are extra. Simple refreshments provided! Come in and make arrangements or make orders ahead of time at: Tel: 671-3322/ shayla@belizebotanic.org

RESERVE
Organize a Nature Hike at BBG with our expert guides! Call ahead of time: EZ4-2101. Morning, evening and Night Hikes available. $50. Per person, 2 person minimum.

BEGINNING MAY 9 – Horticulture Classes - REGISTER NOW!

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May 16: 23 Landscape Maintenance
May 30 Composting
*“Intern for Hotel Landscaping”*
Ask about room and board!
Russell Hyde Jr. Out on Bail

Eighteen-year-old Russell Hyde Jr. of Roaring Creek Village is out on Supreme Court bail for the offense of possession of unlicensed ammunition.

Allegations are that on November 14, police busted Hyde and Justin Banner, 18, at Sunview Hotel in Belmopan City with two live rounds of Aguila brand 9 mm ammunition and one GLF brand 9 mm round. They were both arrested and charged for possession of ammunition without a gun license.

Both men were ordered to be remanded at the Belize Central Prison by Chief Magistrate Anne Marie Smith. They later applied to the Supreme Court of Belize for bail.

Hyde’s bail application was heard by Supreme Court Judge Denis S. Hanomansingh on Friday, November 27. He was represented by Senior Counsel Ellis Arnold.

His attorney was successful in getting him bail in the sum of $5,000 plus one surety of the same amount with conditions. Hyde was ordered to report to the Belmopan Police Station every Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. until the case is completed. He must surrender all his travelling documents and not miss a single arraignment date.

His next appearance is scheduled for December 18.

Justin Banner, who was charged jointly with Hyde for the ammunition offense, was successful in getting Supreme Court bail a week earlier, November 20. However, after he was able to post bail he was rearrested and charged for the murder of Ivan Choc.

Choc was at home eating fried chicken with his family when they heard noise coming from the yard. Two masked men with firearms, one carrying a 9 millimeter pistol and the other held a 16 gauge shotgun, then charged onto the verandah where Ivan Choc was.

As soon as Ivan saw the men he attempted to hide under the table where he was having his meal but was unable to elude a gunshot which one of the masked men fired at him with the shotgun.

The first shot hit him on the right hand. Even while being injured Ivan continued to beg for his life but the man bearing the shotgun, cranked it and fired a second shot, hitting him to the right side of the head. He died minutes after being shot.

Russell Hyde Jr. has not been charged with murder.

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and motivated candidates in respect of the following employment opportunity:

**Director – Electricity Sector**

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

The Director – Electricity Sector is responsible for assisting the PUC in the regulation of the electricity sector in respect of the services provided by licensees and public utility providers. Specific duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Direct supervision of assigned staff
- Assist in the development and implementation of Byelaws, Regulations and Orders in respect of service quality and reliability standards
- Assist in the development and implementation of Byelaws, Regulations and Orders in respect of electrical installation construction standards
- Assist in the development, review and implementation of relevant codes of practice of licensees in respect of the services they are authorized to provide
- Assist in the processing of applications for licenses, consents and authorizations
- Monitoring of licensees for compliance to licence conditions and relevant Acts, Byelaws, Regulations, Orders, Decisions, codes of practice, and standards
- Supervise or conduct relevant studies in relation to current and forecast trends in demand and supply of electricity
- Supervise the invitation, evaluation and award of competitive bids for the provision of electricity services where appropriate
- Assist in the conducting of rate review proceedings and filings
- Assist in the Preparation of annual budgets and reports
- Represent the PUC in international organizations, forums, conferences, workshops and working groups from time to time
- Other relevant duties and responsibilities that may be assigned from time to time

**Qualifications:**

The successful candidate shall possess:

- Minimum of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering or related field
- At least five (5) years’ experience in a relevant position
- Outstanding interpersonal, planning, motivational and organizational skills
- Unwavering interest and commitment to the purpose, duties and responsibilities of the PUC

**Benefits:**

The base salary for this positions will be based on personal qualifications and experience, within the salary scale of BZ$50,000.00 to BZ$100,000.00 per annum.

Successful candidates will be entitled to an annual gratuity of 20% of base salary and to twenty (20) working days vacation annually.

Successful candidates will also be entitled to participate in all benefit plans, if any, provided by the PUC to its employees generally, including its ongoing training program.

**Applications**

The deadline for applications is 5:00 PM on December 11, 2015. Completed applications along with two letters of reference should be sent to:

**Employment Opportunity**
Director – Electricity Sector
Public Utilities Commission
41 Gabourel Lane
Belize City, Belize
Dear Editor:

As much as I applaud the Government of Belize for the huge investment they have made in sporting facilities and infrastructure in the country, via Belize Infrastructure Limited (BIL), I am disheartened by the quality of basketball facilities that are being constructed. I am writing as a basketball enthusiast, who has been involved with basketball at all levels in the country of Belize. Given that I live in San Ignacio, I will speak solely about the basketball court that was built at Falcon Field. I cannot question the aesthetics of the structure, but can surely question the purpose of the building. Any basketball court that has an overhead covering should be built as a weatherproof facility that is accessible when it rains. At Falcon Field, everyone refers to our building as a “dry-weather court”; because just a small drizzle gets the playing court wet, not to mention a rain. It is frustrating that the engineering and architectural designers could not factor in that very elementary component. We are presently having our annual BECOL tournament, and every time it rains we need to sweep and dry the court, if not, postpone the games. I am disappointed that no one was consulted from the basketball community, and when informal consultations were made, none of the suggestions were implemented. The facility only has 2 rows of bleachers, only 5 lights and no electrical outlets. The direction of the court was placed East-West instead of North-South, not factoring the rising and setting of the sun, and its effects on the players when shooting. The basketball rims are not flexible rims and the backboards are poorly mounted. Our biggest frustration is that the structure we had before had better lighting, better bleachers, better rims, better team benches, better backboards and it had two basketball courts. After investing almost $1 million in this structure, I am sure that we could have received a more suitable and equipped facility to serve our basketball community.

With all that being said, the basketball community in San Ignacio Town is still hopeful that the short comings of the basketball facility at Falcon Field can be rectified. We humbly ask that awnings be placed on the four sides of the structure to keep the court dry when it rains. We humbly ask that additional bleachers be installed for basketball fans, and that better lighting be available. We are also requesting that the backboards and the rims be replaced with fiber-glass, transparent backboards, with a pair of flexible basketball rims. After so much money has been invested at Falcon Field, it is prudent that BIL rectifies the short comings of the facility to better serve our basketball community.

Karim Juan

Pickup Truck Stolen
In Santa Elena

Police are asking the public’s assistance in locating a green 2005 Four Door Nissan Frontier pickup truck that was stolen from the garage of Philip Emilio Sosa on Friday, November 20.

Sosa reported to police that he left home for work at 5:30 a.m. Friday morning and left his pickup truck with license plate BMP C-04811 parked under the garage in his yard on Eve Street, Santa Elena Town. Sosa says he returned home at 8:00 p.m. later that day and noticed immediately that his vehicle was missing.

Police are asking anyone with information on this latest vehicular theft in the Cayo District to call or visit the nearest police station.

The Vin Number for the pickup truck is 1N6A07W15C436037.

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- Strawbery Margaritas: $7.95
- Blue Margaritas: $8.95

Monday:
- Draft Beer $3.00
- Local Rum $3.00

Tuesday:
- Local Rum $3.00

Wednesday:
- Panty Ripper $3.95

Monday thru Friday Mexican and Belizean Menu

Visit us for breakfast on Sundays!!!

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Reader Write

Fix Falcon Field Folly

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Karim Juan
The visit of President-elect of the Republic of Guatemala, His Excellency Jimmy Morales, to Belize was overshadowed by the actions of five protesters on Saturday, November 28.

According to Government Press Office, President-elect Jimmy Morales had indicated from as early as November 6, 2015 to Belize’s Ambassador, H.E. Alexis Rosado to Guatemala, that he intended to pay a courtesy call on the Prime Minister as part of a visit he is making to all Heads of State and Government of SICA member countries and Mexico.

The protest and police’s response diverted attention from one of the most important meetings in the countries’ history. The Government leaders with the most real chance to solve the Guatemalan Claim. Therefore, it is important to know what was discussed at this first encounter.

The Press Office reports that it was more of a cordial visit than a bilateral meeting. “They both congratulated each other for their respective recent victories at the polls,” a release reads. The release continues: “Prime Minister Barrow and President-elect Morales discussed the bilateral relations between Belize and Guatemala, including a way forward in respect of resolving our historical differences. They agreed to continue along the path set out in the Framework Agreement and Confidence Building Measures of 2005 for expanding functional cooperation between the two countries, and each committed to strengthen the processes that already exist for good neighbourly relations so that the two countries may continue to live in peace and as friends pending a legal resolution of the territorial dispute. Both sides agreed to make a greater effort to enhance cooperation and understanding at various levels, especially in areas of security, business, trade and investment.”

President-elect Morales extended a special and personal invitation to Prime Minister Barrow to the presidential inauguration in January 2016 and Prime Minister Barrow expressed that he has every intention of attending.

When Prime Minister Barrow was asked about Moralez’s pre-election tough talk on Belize, he said, “He already walked back from those comments. He walked back from those comments before arriving in Belize and this morning I was quite clear as was he, that we are talking about proceeding on the basis of mutual respect - two sovereign countries operating a set of mechanisms because there is a dispute. But operating both on the basis on individual sovereignty and commitment based on that sovereignty.”

Moralez’s toning down of the rhetoric is what Prime Minister Barrow predicted at the end of October.

Barrow said to the Belizean press, “He will learn that type of talk is unacceptable and Belize will not be bullied.”
**STAR HUMOR**

When The Fight Started

Me and the wife were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, when she kept staring at a drunken man swigging a beer as he sat at a nearby table.

I asked her “do you know him?” “yes” she sighed, “he’s my old boyfriend, i understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago and i hear he hasn’t been sober since” “wow” i said “who would think a person could go on celebrating for so long!” and that was when the fight started.

**Fat Cow**

Teacher: “Kids, what does the chicken give you?”

Students: “Meat!”

Teacher: “Very good! Now what does the pig give you?”

Students: “Bacon!”

Teacher: “Great! And what does the fat cow give you?”

Students: “Homework! Homework!”

**Angry Bird**

Wife checks Husband’s phone and find all girls numbers saved like “New Bird, Neighbour Bird, Old Bird, Upstairs Bird, Downstairs Bird, College Bird and Supermarket Bird.” Finally she checks her name and it was saved as “Angry Bird”.

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**Bleachers For Cayo North**

The Belize Natural Energy Charitable Trust has partnered with the Bullet Tree Village Council and the Cayo North Sports Committee to fund the construction of two bleachers and two canopies. In May 2015, the Trust approved grant funding in the amount of $49,000 for this project. Construction started in June 2015 and took four months for completion. Inauguration of the facility was held on Friday morning at the football field in the village of Bullet Tree. Hon. Dr. Omar Figueroa, Area Representative for Cayo North, delivered the keynote address on Friday, November 27, 2015. In his speech, he stressed the importance of sports in the development of youths and the wider community. Hon. Dr. Figueroa also said that this new partnership will only provide employment and development opportunities for the residents of Cayo North. In addition, it will also provide an opportunity for visitors to the area to come, enjoy, and imbibe in the sporting events staged at the upgraded facility. He is hopeful that other initiatives in the pipeline will also be considered under the partnership with the BNE Charitable Trust.

It is expected that the facilities will provide sporting options for the youths and children of Bullet Tree Village. This initiative will directly address the need for minimizing crimes within the community by providing positive activities to young people. It will also provide an economic opportunity for vendors through increasing sporting activities and other related activities that will benefit from an improved infrastructure that will comfortably host approximately 400 people. Entrepreneurship is being promoted in the overall development of the sporting complex where booths are expected to be constructed for sales during sporting events and activities. The management and staff of Louisiana Government School, as part of this initiative, showed their dedication and commitment in working for the welfare of the students entrusted in their care as well as to improving the social environment at their school and facilitating the development of our youth. The Trust says that it is committed to continue working closely with our partners to unlock the potential of the Belizean people and is proud to engage in meaningful partnerships such as this that seeks to advance the development of our Country.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The business of Unitedville Storage Unit wishes the state of Omar Shabauzz to contact them at telephone # 668-6253 or 602-8418 no later than December 6th, 2015.
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Celebrating Andy Palacio!

Andy Vivian Palacio (2 December 1960 – 19 January 2008) was a Belizean Punta musician and government official. He was also a leading activist for the Garifuna people and their culture.

Biography
Palacio was born and raised in the coastal village of Barranco and worked briefly as a teacher before turning to music. He received the award for “Best New Artist” at the Caribbean Music Awards in 1991, and was posthumously awarded the BBC3 Awards for World Music award in the Americas Category, in 2008.

Contributions to Belizean music and media
In addition to the traditional Garifuna music that he played, Palacio absorbed the diverse sounds disseminated by radio from neighboring Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Cuba, Jamaica and the United States. Palacio pursued his musical ambitions in a series of high school bands, covering a diversity of popular music from abroad. Attracted by the ideals of the Nicaraguan revolution, he joined the literacy campaign in that nation’s African-Amerindian Caribbean coast region, and developed a deeper appreciation for his own threatened cultural and linguistic traditions. Those insights made their way into his own creativity, influencing him to delve more deeply into the roots of Garifuna music.

Palacio returned from Nicaragua to discover the emergence of new Garifuna pride in their culture and identity, a development dramatically expressed in the sudden popularity of punta rock, a fusion of traditional Garifuna music with electric guitar and the influences of R&B, jazz and rock and roll. The Original Turtle Shell Band, led by Belizean Garifuna musician and painter Delvin “Pen” Cayetano, burst into national consciousness in the early 1980s just as Belize gained independence. The following year Palacio’s career took off, buoyed by widely circulated cassette recordings released by Sunrise, and a string of invitations to represent Belize musically at the Festival Internacional de Cultura del Caribe (Cancun), Carifesta VI (Trinidad and Tobago), Carifesta VII (St. Kitts-Nevis), the Rainforest World Music Festival (Malaysia), the Antillean Feesten (Belgium), the World Traditional Performing Arts Festival (Japan) and countless performances in the United States, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany and Great Britain.

Two critically acclaimed recordings on the Stonetree label, Belize’s only record company, cemented Palacio’s fame at home, while reinforcing his stature as the country’s foremost overseas cultural ambassador. Recorded in Havana and Belize, Keimoun (1995) showcased Palacio’s vocal and composition talents, eliciting first-rate Cuban and Belizean studio artists. The first CD to be produced in Belize, Keimoun put the country on the world music map, and is listed by The Rough Guide as one of 100 essential recordings from Latin America and the Caribbean. Two years later Palacio returned with Til Da Mawnin, an energetic mix of dance tunes backed by Belize’s top instrumentalists and singers.

Appointed Belizean Cultural Ambassador and Deputy Administrator of the National Institute of Culture and History in 2004, Palacio devoted himself to the preservation of Garifuna music and culture. In 2007, Palacio’s years of work with the Stonetree’s Garifuna All-Stars project came to fruition with the release of the acclaimed Wátina album. Wátina featured a multigenerational crew of Garifuna musicians from Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras (including octogenarian singer Paul Nabor) that delved deeply into traditional Garifuna rhythms and songs. The album was a critical success that garnered worldwide attention for the Garifuna people, culture and language. Thanks to Wátina, Palacio was named a UNESCO Artist for Peace and won the prestigious WOMEX Award in 2007.

Palacio later served as a head of Belize's top instrumentalists and singers. His family requested he return so he could die in his home country. According to a press release from his record label, Belizean studio artists. The first CD to be produced in Belize, Keimoun put the country on the world music map, and is listed by The Rough Guide as one of 100 essential recordings from Latin America and the Caribbean. Two years later Palacio returned with Til Da Mawnin, an energetic mix of dance tunes backed by Belize’s top instrumentalists and singers.

Appointed Belizean Cultural Ambassador and Deputy Administrator of the National Institute of Culture and History in 2004, Palacio devoted himself to the preservation of Garifuna music and culture. In 2007, Palacio’s years of work with the Stonetree’s Garifuna All-Stars project came to fruition with the release of the acclaimed Wátina album. Wátina featured a multigenerational crew of Garifuna musicians from Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras (including octogenarian singer Paul Nabor) that delved deeply into traditional Garifuna rhythms and songs. The album was a critical success that garnered worldwide attention for the Garifuna people, culture and language. Thanks to Wátina, Palacio was named a UNESCO Artist for Peace and won the prestigious WOMEX Award in 2007.

Palacio later served as a head of the National Institute of Culture and History and was named a cultural ambassador. He released over five original albums beginning with Nabi in 1990. He also traveled widely promoting and performing his music. Palacio briefly hosted a television program on Channel 5 named after him and featuring works from Belizens. He also wrote the theme music for Channel 5’s newscast.

On 14 March 2007, Palacio released his last studio album, Wátina, which he considered his masterpiece. The album features guest appearances from other prominent Garifuna artists including Paul Nabor and was produced by Ivan Duran at Stonetree Records.

On 16 January 2008, Palacio suddenly fell ill with two apparent “stroke-like seizures” at his home in San Ignacio and hospitalized in Cumbancha, Palacio died in Belize City at 21:00 local time on 19 January of “a massive and extensive stroke to the brain, a heart attack and respiratory failure.” Fellow Belizean musician Oral Fuentes, a friend was reported as saying in response to his death: “I am indeed very sad to hear the news of Andy passing. I’ve known Andy for years... as a fellow Belizean I feel the pain. Belize has indeed lost a hero.”
Liquor License Notices

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, YONG QUAN JIANG is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Quan Ji Shop located on Santa Maria Street, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, WEN LI is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Quan Ji Shop located on Santa Maria Street, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, RUIE ZHEN is applying for a RESTAURANT liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Pin Mei Restaurant located on Joseph Andrews Drive, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, LI QIN CHEN is applying for a PUBLICSPECIAL liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Pin Mei Restaurant located on Joseph Andrews Drive, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, WEN HUA LIN is applying for a PUBLICSPECIAL liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Roses Chinese Restaurant located on Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, LIAN CHANG LI is applying for a PUBLICSPECIAL liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Wing Sing Supermarket located on Buena Vista Street, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, YUAN HAI ZHENG is applying for a PUBLICSPECIAL liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Summer's Restaurant located on Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, SHAO BIAO LI is applying for a PUBLICSPECIAL liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Jacky's Restaurant located on Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, HUNA LIANG is applying for a PUBLICSPECIAL liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Maxims Store located on Bullet Tree Road, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, DE PEI ZHANG is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate New PK Shop located on Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, HUANG WU is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate David's Super Store located on Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, BING HAO LIU is applying for a RESTAURANT liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Kenny's Store located on Flamingo Avenue, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.
ARIES: March 22 to April 20
Right now, three planets make you want to run away and join the circus. Yes, you need a change of scenery and you want to blow town. Obviously, if you can travel - perfect! But at least, you can be a tourist in your own city. Believe me, after saying this for years I have tried it and I am shocked at how delightful it can be. But it does take concentration.
Forget you live there. Truly be a tourist. Meanwhile, this month fair Venus will stimulate your sexual nature making romantic relationships intense. New love that begins now will be worthy diary fodder, indeed! The good news is, this placement of Venus will also attract money and goodies to you via your spouse, partner or a friend. Lucky numbers: 38, 42, 55.

TAURUS: April 21 to May 21
Yes, life is intense because the Sun, Mercury and Saturn now force you to focus on shared property, inheritances and insurance issues. Basically, you have to face the fact that someone close to you does not share your values! Grrr. And yet, somehow, you have to agree. Or at least, agreed to disagree. Fortunately, until the end of December, fair Venus will be opposite your sign, which is the best position for all relationships. No, this has nothing to do with the Kama Sutra, although it could. Relations with coworkers, friends, partners, spouses, and even your enemies, will improve. Naturally, if you are in conflict with anyone, the next several weeks are the perfect time to make peace with your enemy. Lucky numbers: 05, 11, 28.

GEMINI: May 22 to June 21
Remember to get more sleep because the Sun is now as far away from you as it gets all year and the Sun is your source of energy. Mercury is opposite your sign as well, which will help you to clarify and explain issues with others. Plus it will stimulate intellectual conversation and spirited debate. However, until the end of December, fair Venus will help you at work. It will promote relations with coworkers and help you to resolve difficulties with others. In all your relationships with others, you will focus on the practical aspects of the relationship. You might get a raise, or at least, praise at work. That’s something. In addition, your health will improve. Lucky numbers: 14, 33, 46.

CANCER: June 21 to July 21
Because you’re so keen to get better organized now - you’re busy! Mercury will help you do all kinds of mental work because it helps you to be attentive to details. It will also help you to develop the best technique for whatever you choose to do. You might discuss health issues more than usual, even if your health is fine. Meanwhile, until the end of December, Venus is sitting in the part of your chart that symbolizes romance, romance, romance! This means December will be full of fun, entertaining times. Many of you will seek out amusing diversions, including love affairs as well as playful activities with children and sports events. In fact, relations with children will improve! It’s a happy time for you because you are completely comfortable in your own skin. Lucky numbers: 61, 78, 84.

LEO: July 24 to August 21
December will be a lovely, exciting, fun-filled time for Leos! You will enjoy time spent with children because you feel free to be a kid yourself again. In fact, your theme for December is to be free to express yourself and just be who you are. Naturally, you want to have a good time! Meanwhile, fair Venus will move into the part of your chart that symbolizes home and family, which means that December will also offer you time to enjoy peaceful, quiet hours at home. Relations with family members, especially parents, will be warm. In anticipation of the holidays, you will tweak your digs and redecorate with zeal. Lucky numbers: 29, 36, 44.

VIRGO: August 22 to September 21
Good fortune will continue to come your way for months ahead because lucky Jupiter is in your sign; and in December, family, home, and your private world will be your top priority. In fact, many of you will have family gatherings and tackle home repairs. The movement of fair Venus this week brings grace, tolerance and ease to your speech and dealings with others. It will make your private life busier. It will also make you more fun to be with! And at a subtle level, you will begin to discover just how much love there is all around you; plus you will encounter and appreciate beauty in your daily surroundings. Yes, Venus does put a new spin on things! Lucky numbers: 73, 87, 96.

LIBRA: September 22 to October 23
Like Leo, you have a social December to look forward to. The pace will be accelerated because you will be busy juggling short trips, errands, discussions with everyone, shopping and appointments. However, this energy will promote your communication skills and your eagerness to talk to everyone. Meanwhile, fair Venus will sit in the part of your chart for the month of December that helps your finances. Well, that is a qualified “help” because Venus will also tempt you to spend money on beautiful things! Nevertheless, investments made at this time will prove profitable. Lucky numbers: 65, 71, 92.

SCORPIO: October 24 to November 21
Well, hello! Fair Venus enters your sign this week to stay until the end of December. This is a lovely benefit to you because Venus is everything to do with beauty, balance, charm and money. For starters, it will make you charming and diplomatic with everyone. Oh yes. Not only that, you will be perceived by others as more beautiful, more handsome and more attractive. Oh yes. You will easily create a favourable impression on everyone. Oh yes. And because Venus ranks pleasure above all, you will make every effort to enjoy fun times with others. Lucky numbers: 02, 19, 30.

SAGITTARIUS: November 22 to December 21
You are still front and centre in the limelight with the Sun, Mercury and Saturn all in your sign, which makes this an empowering month for you. Expect a miracle because all kinds of favourable situations and important people will be attracted to you in December. In turn, you will hold forth and convince others to agree with you on various topics while Mercury is in your sign. This will be a busy time, especially mentally, because your mind will be jumping from subject to subject. Meanwhile, Venus will hide in your chart promising secret love affairs and clandestine interests, hopefully in distant lands with shimmering turquoise waters, white sands and a good hotel rate. Lucky numbers: 23, 41, 69.

CAPRICORN: December 22 to January 20
It will be a month before the Sun enters your sign, to enter your sign (December 21), which means you have all this time to think about what you want your New Year to be about. By nature, you like to plan because all Capricorns want to “be” something in this world; furthermore, they want to have what might be termed a well-planned ending. This is why security is important to you. Knowing this, you also know that clearly-defined goals with deadlines are a marvellous method for achieving accomplishments- versus living willy-nilly, trial by error, management by crisis. In the next few weeks, someone who is creative and artistic will come into your life. In fact all your activities with friends, especially groups, will bring good times. A lover will become a friend and a friend might become a lover. Lucky numbers: 57, 75, 89.

AQUARIUS: January 20 to February 18
Until the end of December, fair Venus will be at the top of your chart creating all kinds of pleasant circumstances for your career and your professional life. Venus has a quality of attracting good things, which means you will easily attract favours to you and important people, especially people who will help you do things. Even bosses and authority figures will favour you more, perhaps to the extent that a romantic relationship might develop. In fact, this is the classic time to fall in love with your boss. Meanwhile, others will ask for your artistic, creative input on anything - office layout, redecorating, public relations and design. Enjoy! Lucky numbers: 17, 22, 37.

PISCES: February 20 to March 21
Because the Sun is at the top of your chart until late December, you’re getting great press. The light that the Sun shines down on you is flattering, which is why everyone thinks you’re the cat’s meow. Meanwhile, your thoughts will be about travel and wonderful, foreign places for the month of December because that’s exactly what Venus wants you to do - travel for pleasure! You will also have an increased appreciation of the arts and all things beautiful. Your relationship with a loved one might expand your world by showing you new things. Conversely, you might meet someone who is strange and different and fall in love. Lucky numbers: 08, 66, 91.

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The Newspaper that cares and dares to bring out the truth

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Liquor License Notices

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, HUI MING TING is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Hui Ming’s Store located on Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, JIAN JIU LIN is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate J and J Super Store located on George Price Avenue, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, JINGYI LIU is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Wai Yi Restaurant located on Liberty Street, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, DA HUAN CHEN is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Highway Supermarket located on George Price Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, WEI QIANG is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Alwin’s Supermarket located on George Price Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, XU SHANG LIANG is applying for a PUBLICAN SPECIAL liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Liang’s Welcome Superstore located on George Price Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, CAN LIN SU is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Yummy Chinese Restaurant located on George Price Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, JIN FU LIANG is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Liang’s Welcome Superstore located on George Price Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, GUO XIN WU is applying for a CONVENIENCE STORE liquor license for the year 2016 to operate China Town Store located on George Price Highway, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, AZUCENA GALLEZ is applying for a RESTAURANT & BAR liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Clarissa Falls Resort located at Mile 70, George Price Highway, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, GILBERTO RAHIEL GUERRA is applying for a PUBLICAN SPECIAL liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Piccadilly Lounge and Bar located on Churchill Street, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, LI JIA RONG is applying for a MALTB & CIDER liquor license for the year 2016 to operate Wing Lee Restaurant located on Mabel Pitts Street, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District.

Thanks For Choosing The STAR Newspaper!
Works To Begin On Belize City Center

Work is moving ahead with the nation’s largest sporting facility, the Belize City Center. Known as the Civic Center in Belize City, the upgraded facility will be able to house major sporting and entertainment events as it did in glory days. Belize Infrastructure Limited (BIL), a public sector agency of the Government of Belize (GOB), has undertaken the design, construction and management of The Belize City Center Arena and Cultural Complex. The contract has been awarded to the local JVCA (Medina’s Construction Ltd. / International Environments Ltd.), at a cost of $32.9 million. This will include the civil works of the grounds and all FIBA certified equipment. Construction period is twenty-four (24) months.

BIL’s General Manager Christy Mastry said that the facility, when completed will be used for everyday use for various sporting disciplines. Mastry also explained that the facility will be properly managed to allow for the equipment to be maintained for a long period time. She also emphasized that, “The exterior and the aesthetics on the outside is only one additional feature. We have spent a lot of time and bulk of the budget to really retrofitting the interior.” Mastry also said that a FIBA (The International Basketball Federation) Consultant has outlined Government with a checklist of 15 things, which includes seats that will be molded and numbered. When a person buys a ticket for an event at the facility, it guarantees them a seat, and not just bleacher space. “The comfort of the viewer is absolutely critical if you’re going to ask them to say a certain price point. The line of sight, the angle of the bleachers, the court area, the offset, and the media boxes which are absolutely important to place platforms for camera angles.

Brazil Rousseff: Impeachment Process Opens Against President

The speaker of Brazil’s lower house of Congress has opened impeachment proceedings against President Dilma Rousseff.

The process is based on allegations Ms Rousseff broke the law in managing last year's budget, Eduardo Cunha said.

Despite re-election last year, her popularity has slumped amid a corruption scandal involving the state-owned oil giant, Petrobras.

“I was outraged by the decision,” said Ms Rousseff in a televised speech.

“I haven’t committed any wrongful act,” she added.

Rousseff, who earlier called an emergency cabinet meeting, said she was confident that the impeachment motion would be rejected.

Two-thirds of the lower house must approve the process for it to proceed.

The governing coalition has a majority in the lower house of Congress.

The defeated opposition candidate in last year's presidential election, Senator Aecio Neves, has tweeted that he supports the impeachment request.

“Everyone in the country must obey the law, especially the president,” he wrote.

Mr Cunha is himself facing corruption allegations, which he denies.

He has been accused of lying about a secret bank account in Switzerland.

An ethics committee is voting on whether to authorise action to eject him from his post of speaker.

Mr Cunha had been threatening to open impeachment proceedings if the governing party did not offer him backing, says the BBC’s Julia Carneiro in Rio de Janeiro.

His decision was “purely technical”, he said.

“It was a difficult decision. I did not become speaker of the Chamber of Deputies aiming to approve impeachment proceedings against the president,” said Mr Cunha.

The impeachment request had been filed by a distinguished jurist, Helio Bicudo, and some opposition members.

The document blames the government for the corruption scandal at Petrobras and says Ms Rousseff violated Brazil's fiscal responsibility laws.

In October an audit court ruled that Ms Rousseff had borrowed money illegally from state banks to make up for budget shortfalls.

On Tuesday, the economy minister announced that Brazil’s economy shrank by 1.7% in the third quarter of the year compared with the second quarter, deepening the country’s worst recession in 25 years.
INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED INTO HOSTEL FIRE
- CAYO LOST ONE OF ITS OWN - ANNA CARLOS

The fire spread very quickly and since the room is small, the smoke soon engulfed the entire room making it difficult to see. The second officer was called from the basketball court, took the keys from the other officer and also attempted to open the door. She stated that she could not because the smoke was too heavy. The fire department was called meanwhile. The smoke was too heavy. The fire officers and male residents used buckets of water and the fire extinguishers on hand to try to calm the blaze. Some persons attempted to break through the wooden wall at the back of the building. By the time they had broken through, the fire had already engulfed the building and children could not be saved.

There are unofficial reports from eyewitnesses who claim the guards could not find the keys to the padlock. This differs from the official account and is one of the inconsistencies that must be ironed out in Nicholas’s investigation.

Based on police investigation thus far, we know that Hattieville police received notice of a fire in progress at the youth hostel at 2:29 p.m. The fire reportedly got there at 2:39 p.m. and the wooden structure was already engulfed in flames. Firefighters did not arrive until 3 p.m. since they traveled all the way from Belize City.

During the wait for fire trucks, guards and residents tried desperately to break into the building to provide an exit for the girls whose screams could be heard from the road side. The girls could not be saved. Too many things had already gone wrong, terribly wrong.

Police investigations continue, separately from the independent investigation of Margaret Nicholas. Three officials from the institution have been placed on administrative leave, pending the outcome of the investigation.

(Ed Note: We’ve known Anna Carlos for a couple years, a very sweet natured and very quite child.

We met her while she was attending St. Andrew’s Anglican School in San Ignacio, where she went about her business very rarely saying more than was necessary.

It is with a heavy heart that we write this article and we take this opportunity to pass on condolences to her family and friends. May Anna rest in eternal peace.)

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by the Public Utilities Commission Act, Chapter 223 of the Laws of Belize, the Electricity Act, Chapter 221 of the Laws of Belize, and all other powers thereunto enabling, the Public Utilities Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) hereby notifies the general public that it intends to issue an Electricity License to Generate, Transmit and Supply Electricity (hereinafter referred to as “the Electricity Licence”) to Santander Sugar Energy Limited.

Purpose of the proposed Electricity Licence:

a) To generate, transmit and supply electricity for a total capacity of 16 Megawatts and associated energy for the purpose of supplying electricity to its premises containing the sugar production operations of Santander Sugar Limited located in the Cayo District at Mile 42 on the George Price Highway.

b) To generate, transmit and supply electricity for a total capacity of 16 Megawatts and associated energy for the purpose of enabling the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) to provide electricity services to the public, subject to any Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) approved by the Commission.

Reasons for Proposal to Grant the Electricity Licence:

a) The Commission proposes to grant the Electricity Licence for the purpose stated in a) above as the sugar production operations of Santander Sugar Limited shall produce such waste by-products in quantities that will enable it to generate renewable electricity sufficient to satisfy its own demands in a sustainable and environmentally acceptable manner, while providing a solution for the disposal of such waste by-products without creating any undue economic burden on the Government or people of Belize.

b) The Commission proposes to grant the Electricity Licence for the purpose stated in b) above as the sugar production operations of Santander Sugar Limited shall produce such waste by-products in quantities that will enable it to generate renewable electricity sufficient to satisfy its own demands and to additionally provide capacity and associated energy to BEL in a sustainable and environmentally acceptable manner during the period of the year when local capacity and associated energy available to BEL typically do not satisfy public demand for electricity services, while providing a solution for the disposal of such waste by-products. Additionally, Santander Sugar Energy Limited was identified as a bidder whose project is to be negotiated with BEL under the Request for Proposals for Electricity Generation Belize 2013 (RFPEG Belize 2013) that was conducted by the Commission, BEL and the Ministry responsible for Public Utilities.

Representations and Objections:

Members of the public and all other interested parties may submit written representations and/or objections to the proposal to grant the Electricity Licence by email to info@puc.bz or at its offices at 41 Gabourel Lane, Belize City, until 5:00PM on Monday, December 28, 2015.

Public Hearing:

Where any member of the public or any other interested person request a public hearing, and in the opinion of the Commission the request does not appear to be frivolous and vexatious, such public hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 30, 2015.

Viewing of Application for the Electricity Licence:

Members of the public and all other interested parties may view the application along with associated information at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission or at the offices of Santander Sugar Energy Limited at 21 St. Vincent Street, Belmopan City.
19th Birthday

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