Dangriga - March 23, 2009
On Monday, March 23 at 4:00 a.m. police conducted a search at the residence of eighteen year-old FREDRICK FLORES,

Five year old receives injuries in Cedar Street traffic accident

Dangriga Town - March 22
Paula Cain’s trip to Dangriga didn’t go as she had planned. First off she was involved in a traffic accident in which a little boy received some abrasions and then to make matters worse, while waiting for the police to come to the scene of the accident she was approached by one Noble who requested to see her driver’s license. She refused to show Noble (Basil Flores) her license because he is not a policeman. Mr. Flores reacted by pulling Ms. Cain’s hair causing pain. Police searched for Mr. Flores but their search proved fruitless.

Ms. Cain a twenty-four year old bank teller of 10 Master Street, Belmopan reported to police that about 6:10 pm. on Sunday, March 22, 2009 she was driving on Cedar Street in front of Down’s Cool Spot when a very young boy riding a bicycle came into view without obeying traffic regulations and so, to avoid colliding into the minor, Ms. Cain swerved away to the far right and collided into

Billy Jean Young

Billy Jean in Dangriga

Dangriga Town - March 21
Frederick Flores and Sixteen year-old charged with burglary

Dangriga Town - March 19
Frederick Flores and a sixteen year-old minor both of Dangriga Town have been arrested and charged with the crime of burglary. Devon Castillo a twenty-four year-old businessman of Trucking Boulevard New Site Area, Dangriga Town reported to police that between 4:00 p.m. on 18th March, 2009 and 3:00 p.m. on 19 March, 2009 his home was burglarized and stolen there from were (1) empty iron chest valued $600.00, (1) 9 MM Smith and Wesson brand pistol valued $4,000 with one magazine; (1) 12 gauge pump action shotgun Maverick Brand valued $2,000

POWA members escort Billy Jean to Pelican Beach Resort

POWA members escort Billy Jean to the Pelican Beach Resort

Frederick Flores on Firearm and Ammunition Charges

Belizean of #29 Polack Street, Dangriga Town which led to the discovery of (1) 12 gauge pump action shot gun, Maverick brand, Serial Number MV16471, (6) 12 gauge cartridge which was found under a mattress of a bed in his room. FLORES was escorted to the Dangriga Police Station and arrested and charged with Kept Firearm without a License and Kept Ammunition without a License.

Man given Bogus $100 USD for Chain Saw

Dangriga Town - March 19
69 years Ramon Ramos of Bishop Martin Street, Dangriga Town reported to police that between 12 midday and 1:00 p.m. on 19 March, 2009 a male person arrived at his house to buy a Poland Chain Saw for $200. Unfortunately for Mr. Ramos, the said person paid him with a counterfeit $100 US currency with serial number AE 81266473B.

Police have retained the bogus money for exhibit. So far no one has been arrested.

Thieves break into home on Hummingbird Highway

Keith Wright Jr., a 25 year-old Driver/ Mechanic of Mile 21 Hummingbird Hwy, Stann Creek District, reported to police that between the hours 10:30 a.m. on 20 March, 2009 and 2:00 a.m. on 21 March 24, his situated at the above address was broken into and stolen there from were $560 in cash, (2) school bags valued $60.00, $200 Belizean Currency worth of assorted groceries, (1) silver Casio watch valued $250, (1) Perfume valued $50. (1) DVD Player Sony Brand valued $400 all giving a total of $1,420 Belizean Currency.

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(Turn to pg. 3)
Government defends Sovereignty and Independence

There are events and decisions in our lives both as individuals and as a nation that imply profound changes in the way we look at life and in the way we conduct ourselves. I believe that we are at such a juncture in the history of our country, Belize. And we can point to a press release from GOB March 20, 2009 as the beginning of a new era.

The evidence that things will change in a radical way for us in Belize is reflected in the Government of Belize statement on the ruling by the International Arbitration Court on the Telemedia Secret Accommodation Agreement.

In rejecting the decision of the London Court of International Arbitration and fully embracing the Caribbean Court of Justice the government of Belize has indicated that Belize is ready in a radical way to shed more remnants of its colonial past and reinvent itself based on genuine national interests.

The timing of this move is brilliant given the world financial crisis that has engulfed the world. With surviving the crisis (which means saving the capitalist system of exploitation) paramount on their minds, the upstart behavior of a tiny country somewhere in Central America is of no immediate significance to the big capitalist powers-right now.

At some point though, the big bully will try to teach the people of Belize a lesson in servility. When this time arrives it will be very important for the masses of Belizean people to stand as a united front on the issues taken by Belize’s superior courts.” In the last paragraph of the release the government says that it will push back against any unjust claims on the assets of the people… “Government reiterates its commitment to the continued protection always of the interests of Belize. Arrangements that are immoral made in secret and that defies our very democracy will continue to be resisted at all costs.”

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On Friday the 20th of March 2009, many Belizeans turned out in large numbers to pay their respect to their National softball legend pitcher Isolene Heath who died on March 14th, 2009 in New York City. The viewing and Memorial Service was held at Ortiz Funeral Home in the Bronx and it was followed by a repast at her residence which lasted until about 12:00 midnight. Reverend Dyer one of the officiating pastors at the service also gave the Prayer of Comfort.

Isolene “Isol” Heath was born in Belize City on September the 3rd, 1950 to the late Florence Palacio and Joslyn Heath. Iso attended Ebenezer Methodist Primary School in Belize City. After leaving school, she worked at Brodies Store for many years. At an early age, Iso fell in love with the sport of softball and played it during her early school years up to adulthood. She later became a star pitcher for the Dunright Softball Team under the management of the Late Calbert Coffin better known as “Cally” who also died recently in New York City from Parkinson disease. Dunright Softball Team was one of the best softball team in Belize City and the country. It defeated teams like Falcons from Dangriga Town with Liza Bud Gamboa, Emogene Dawson, her sister and others. Through softball, she got to travel the world.

She played softball with the Belize National Team competing against national teams from countries such as: Jamaica, Bermuda, Bahamas, United States, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Australia and the Cayman Islands. She was the first Belizean female softball pitcher to pitch a no hitter game and she also was among the few from Belize who won a Gold Medal in the Central American Games when Belize defeated the Dominican Republic’s National team in the year 1974. Shortly after winning the championship, Iso migrated to New York City in the United States, where she had been living until her death. While living in New York City, she was a Home Health Aide for many years caring for the elderly in Elderly Homes. In 1986, Iso gave birth to a son whom she named Khalil which was her only child and the love of her life. Isolene Heath was always with a smile on her face and she was a happy go lucky person with an outstanding personality. During the late 70s and 80s, Isolene could be found at the City Park at 161st Street in front of Yankee Stadium watching the football tournaments when DJ Braves Meighan used to host them with teams like: Braves, Bombers, Bellway, Starwars and Ubafu. This is now the spot where the new Yankee Stadium is being constructed.

The type of softball that Isolene Heath played for the Belize National Team is not being played today just like football in Belize today is not of the standard of previous years. In those days, athletes in Belize used to treat the sport and played with pride and gave it their all. Isolene Heath is a Hall of Famer second to none and it will be years before Belize will ever see a player like that pitch for the Belize National Team the way Isolene Heath did. Belizeans in Belize and the rest of the world will always remember this great Belizean Legend and she will remain in their thoughts forever.

Her records and accomplishments as a softball pitcher can be found in Belize at the Belize Sports Council Archives. We intend to remember her accomplishments by naming some things in her honor to leave an everlasting imprint on our youths and athletes for future Belizean generations to come. May her soul rest in peace!!!
When this columnist initially attempted to express his thoughts and feelings on the behaviour of the investors at Hopkins Harbor Development Limited and to denounce on paper the dredging of our wetlands and the atrocious invasion of our sacred site, I thought about the level of support I would get from the residents of Hopkins, especially from those who are supportive of Hopkins Harbor’s disrespectful actions.

The truth of the matter is that a number of people in Hopkins are against tampering with our wetlands and the defacing of our sacred site. A number of these people are afraid to speak out because they fear that if they express their views that are not in agreement with development they will be victimized not only by government but also by some of the people in the community.

After listening to the opinions of a number of prominent residents of Hopkins, I realized that I shared their concern and decided to hold my fort. It is time for the leaders and some residentsof Hopkins who seem to be hoodwinked by Hopkins Harbor and the politicians, to stop playing politics with their lives and the lives of their children. We need to come together as one strong Black Garinagu to fight against the incursion of foreigners who are amongst us only to safeguard their wealth. Hopkinites, always remember that in the eyes of those investors and even a number of elected officials that we are Black Garinagu, will remain as Black Garinagu and will die as Black Garinagu.

We need to get our act together and fight to save our community before it is too late. We should not allow greedy investors to use the name of Hopkins to promote their investments. Why will we as our children and your grandchildren be laid to rest later if we allow Hopkins Harbor to invade our sacred site?

This columnist is equally surprised when the public relation officer for Stann Creek Area Representative went on national radio to express his satisfaction on the destruction of our wetlands that protect Hopkins against serious flooding. It must be emphasized that the public relation officer needs to understand that the dredging of our wetlands and the invasion of our cemetery is done to satisfy Hopkins Harbor Limited. He needs to gather his facts before he goes on national radio to mention about any project around Hopkins that he has no knowledge of.

It is equally disgraceful that our leaders prefer the love of money over the well being of the residents of Hopkins. Of recent, Hopkins Harbor has grabbed thousands of acres of land around Hopkins area and they seem to want more. In their land grabbing moreover, they have destroyed our infrastructure and natural resources for their personal gains and our leaders seem not to care. Of course, we accept investors to come into our community but we do not need greedy land grabbing investors.

I made a research on the activities of Hopkins Harbor Development Limited in our community. I discovered that since I was fortunate to be a part of the negotiation team along with the Village Council, I was aware of the compulsory acquisition order that the Solicitor General sent to the proprietor of Hopkins Harbor Development to cease activities within the sacred site and the area be transferred to Hopkins Village Council to be used as our cemetery. It was when a new village council was elected that the matter of acquiring our cemetery got out of control. Moreover, the company violated section 5 of the Public Health Act, which makes it an offence for any person to disinter the body of any person buried within Belize. I strongly believe that criminal charges should be brought against Hopkins Harbor Development for willfully disintering the bodies of our ancestors in our sacred site. This is just one of the violations this company has committed within our environment and many more are yet to be addressed. With the grace of the Grand Supreme above, I will support the voice of the Hopkins Group of Concerned Citizens on the fight against the advantages taken on our people and the irregularities that occur within our community by insatiable investors. Hopkins Harbor Development Limited, the message is clear we need our sacred site returned to us.

Five year-old receives injuries in Cedar Street Traffic Accident

(Cont’d from pg. 1)
Dangriga was the first to enjoy actor, activist, poet and educator Billie Jean Young in her one woman show titled “Three Women Talking.” She arrived in Dangriga on Saturday to drumming and singing as the Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA) greeted her at the airstrip and escorted her to the Pelican Beach Resort. Young shed tears of joy as she expressed happiness for being back in Dangriga and thanked POWA for their warm welcome.

The show “Three Women Talking” features three different women characters – a rural African-American woman, a Caribbean woman and Billie Jean Young herself engaged in simple conversation about their lives.

“If one looks at the piece, one begins to see even through the costuming that they are part and parcel of each other. They’re all a part of the saying ‘All ah we is one.’ When I lived here, I looked at the connectedness between women, especially black people all over the diaspora. All over the world, rural people have a lot in common,” Young said.

Young gave her performance to an audience of over a hundred at the Pelican Beach conference room where residents from Dangriga and from out of town gathered to see the show. The event included performances by the Wageirale Drummers, Joshua Arana, poets River of Fire and Felene Swaso, and Betty Jean Tate’s “Respectable Lady.”

Young’s visit is part of the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH)’s Women in Art exhibit for the celebration of Women’s Month. She is scheduled to perform in Belize City at the Bliss Center for the Performing Arts on Friday and in Belmopan at the George Price Center on Saturday. She will return to Dangriga to perform in Culture Sunday, March 29, at Mayen’s Lumber Yard on the riverside.

Billie Jean Young’s “Three Women Talking” in Dangriga
By Ifasina Efunyaemi

Drugs
By: Olivett Ramos

Drugs here
Drugs there
And Drugs everywhere.
Mestizo, Garifuna, Creole and Maya using drugs
Black, white and yellow using drugs.
Drugs is just a user and an abuser
Giving you a high
And after make you die.
It’s no lie
Drugs makes you suffer
And it just gets tougher and tougher.
What a serious matter
It doesn’t even make you fatter.
Drugs is just destruction
Upon our little nation
We should all say Abomination?

drugs can be purchased at the following places:
Integrated Business Systems
Roxy Club
Valley Road Texaco Service Station
Oscar Ramirez Bookstore
Styno’s Pharmacy
SiahNet Cyber Café
Tania’s Guest House
(Hopkins Village)
Georgetown Village (Arlette Lee)
Sittee River Village (Ava Kelly)
Barbados Prime Minister
David Thompson

Published on March 26, 2009
BRIDGETOWN, Barbados
(BGIS):

“In the present economic climate we have to pull together or [we will] be picked off individually.”

This advice was given today by Prime Minister David Thompson, as he delivered the feature address at the tenth annual conference of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. He was speaking on the theme “Navigating Risks and Building Resilience in Small States”.

Although advocating the deepening and widening of the integration movement, Thompson warned that the creation of a single space with free movement of labour had to be carefully planned. “This movement of skills is vitally important to countries such as ours which have ageing populations,” he noted.

The Prime Minister also pointed out that the immense competition for jobs during this time of economic challenges would create considerable tension in the more developed states, such as Barbados. “This trend must be addressed by CARICOM frontally, to safeguard the welfare of all citizens.

“We believe it is imperative that we ensure provision is made to enable this county to absorb [the] increasing, but finite numbers of immigrants, while maintaining the level of services and extending to them a standard of living at a level to which we have become accustomed,” Thompson opined.

He further stated that the free movement of labour was not only a problem for receiving countries, but could cost some states more than others, in terms of attracting and retaining skilled workers.

“The CARICOM Development Fund and other provisions of the Treaty of Chaguaramas to support the disadvantaged regions, sectors and countries must be activated and managed efficiently and effectively,” the Prime Minister told the conference participants.

He also expressed the view that the biggest challenge faced by the region in moving towards a single economy was harmonization. He, therefore, recommended that each country’s fiscal, monetary and other macro-economic programmes should be examined and brought to an agreed level.

“As in all negotiations, this will be challenging, but doing business in CARICOM must be simplified in order for skills, services, goods and capital to move freely and with minimal cost. These initiatives need to be joined together with integration and convergence indicators to work towards full macro-economic coordination,” Thompson observed.

He also suggested that the creation of the Single Economy would require deeper social partnerships between the governments, the private sectors, the trade unions and the civil society organizations of the region.

CARICOM 'concerned' over developments in Turks in and Caicos

Published on March 26, 2009
By Tess Hennigan
Caribbean Net News Staff

Email:tess@caribbeannetnews.com

GEORGETOWN, Guyana: According to a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) press statement released on Tuesday, the organization is following, with growing concern, recent political and constitutional developments in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), a British Overseas Territory and Associate Member of CARICOM.

On March 16, 2009, a Commission of Inquiry in the TCI made public its Interim report on their findings of possible corruption, or other dishonesty, in relation to past and present elected members of the Legislature in recent years. The Interim report had previously been released to TCI Governor Wetherell on February 28, with the final report scheduled to be delivered to the Governor on or before April 30, 2009.

The CARICOM statement noted that the Sole Commissioner recommended, inter alia, in the Interim report, “the suspension of the entire Constitution for an indeterminate period, to replace the democratic process presently provided by the Cabinet and the House of Assembly, with direct rule from Westminster, acting through the Governor, with, but not bound by, the advice of an Advisory Executive Council”.

“An Order in Council was subsequently made on 18 March, 2009 and will be laid before the British Parliament on Wednesday 25 March, 2009,” stated CARICOM Secretariat, going on to explain that the Order will continue in force for a period of two years from the date of its commencement, unless it is revoked earlier, or continued in force, by a further Order in Council.

The CARICOM statement explained that, once the Order in Council is given effect, it will suspend certain provisions of the Constitution of the TCI relating to ministerial government and the House of Assembly, further explaining that it will also remove trial by jury and enlarge the franchise to the disadvantage of the TCI people.

“Indeed, these provisions threaten the democratic process in the TCI by terminating the existence of the Cabinet and dissolving the elected Legislature,” said CARICOM, going on to say that this would in effect be thwarting the will of the people of the TCI.

The statement went on to say that, furthermore, the power, duty, or function of the Cabinet and the House of Assembly would now be completely exercised or performed by the Governor in his, or her, discretion without any effective checks and balances, or general oversight by the TCI people.

According to CARICOM, whose members strongly uphold the exercise of democracy, they do not believe that good governance, the rule of law and representative democracy, can be ensured or strengthened by constitutional suspension in the TCI and a return to direct rule by the colonial power through its governor.

“On the contrary,” noted CARICOM, “suspending the functioning of the democratic, representative and constitutional institutions of the TCI can only weaken the efforts to ensure good governance in the TCI, the ultimate objective of the Commission of Inquiry.”

The CARICOM statement reported that the regional organization is fully aware of the scathing nature of the Interim Report. Report, with regard to the present governance in the TCI and is conscious of the seriousness of the situation. Finally, the press release stated that it believes that the time has come for parties to come together in the national interest, as well as for deeper reflection by all involved, in order to come up with a solution that will minimize constitutional disruption.

CARICOM believes that this could be done “even while providing some immediate safeguards against the abuses related in the Interim Report.”
What's On The Mind:
Sexual Abuse: What are the warning signs?

Jenean Adderley Castillo, Ph.D.
whatsonthemind@hotmail.com

A child may not disclose or make a direct disclosure that they are being sexually abused. The child may have been threatened and is too fearful to talk, the child may have been felt to feel responsible for the attacks and/or the child may want to protect the person, who is likely someone close to them, like a parent or relative. Some children may simply be too young to comprehend what is happening and talk about it. Sometimes children do tell but in a roundabout or indirect way. For example, a child may say, "I don’t want my teacher to help me after school," or "I don’t like to go to Uncle’s house." As such, it’s important to recognize this and other telltale signs that a child is being sexually abused.

There are often physical signs of sexual abuse. In addition, a child who is being sexually abused often demonstrates Behavioral and emotional changes as a result. Some of the physical signs of sexual abuse include: irritated or swollen genitals, genital itching or redness, pain or injury to genitals or mouth, difficulty walking or sitting, difficulty with bowel movements, painful urination or bowel movement, vaginal or perineal discharge, urinary infection or STD, pregnancy. Does your child’s laundry include torn, stained or bloody underwear or clothing?

Changes in the child's behavior may include increased aggressiveness, withdrawn behavior, or clinginess. The child may constantly get into fights with other children.

I would have used this column to express my views on another topic but I have decided to use this week’s space to reflect on the very exciting football match that was played at the Carl Ramos Stadium this past Sunday. U see my friends, sports is big business today however it takes the will power of the few devoted ones to stick it out when the going gets tough.

For some time now the attendance at our football venues have been very slow. Fans for some reason or the other have been finding it very difficult to spend their hard earned money to watch a game which to them is meaningless and of very low standards. For those of you who did not attend, I must tell you that you have missed out of an opportunity to watch a football game that was full of strength, talent, skills, agility and you name it.

I visited the ticket booth very early that evening, left for home and by the time I returned some twenty minutes later, you had to be on a line that would take you some fifteen or more minutes to enter. The fireworks on the field began immediately with the heavily favored “Texmar Boys” trying to draw first blood. However, despite all the speed, body size etc. that they had on their side, the Renaissance boys managed to hold them off well. Despite all the excitement, neither team was able to get to the scoreboard nor despite overtime, no one was able to seal the deal for their team. The big question was answered in penalty shoot out when the Valley Renaissance won by a score of 4-2.

This game forced a game three which will be played this Sunday at the MCC Grounds. I could be wrong but I believe that this game will be decided once again by penalty kickoff and that Valley Renaissance will win. I am finding it real hard to figure out whether any regulation goal will be scored but I believe that this will not be more than one a piece. You see, both teams will be bringing out their best to ensure that they come out of this war victorious. From what I saw last week, the Texmar Boys pay a very offensive game but Renaissance abides by the old cliché “the best offense is a good defense.” The veteran “Sugar” must be commended for playing a very good game as he was able to hold the fort for the valley boys. What I was able to notice about the valley though was that they are very weak in the midfield. This has happened because they are playing too defensively which is not very bad or because the middle is failing to fall back into their area after helping out in the defense or the forward. To be successful in their next game, I believe that the valley boys must be able to get the ball to share and spread out. This will tire the opponent and create an avenue for them to get the ball to the goal. There were too many cluster balls last Sunday and this created lots of turn over. On the other hand, there is a need for a faster and more effective forward player who is hungry for the goal. This individual will bring on the pain and will be able to score for your team.

For those who think that Valley Renaissance won by flukes, forget that notion or idea because for sure they defeated the best and should be commended for this. They are not as well financed as Texmar yet this have not deterred them from the goal which is “to take home all the marbles.” For their determination I will say that they played a darn good game and therefore deserved to win.

Concluding I will state that it was a pleasure to once again see some life inside Carl Ramos Stadium and hope that we will see more such game very soon. Congratulations to both teams and may the best team win. For sure you have made the south very proud to boast of being the home of the soccer in Belize.

Out-a-Wageira

Email: Chamor2547@yahoo.com or wageireal_2547@yahoo.com

Valley renaissance, fluke or might?
Football is in a declining mode in Belize every since the turn of the century. This was brought about by the split between the F F B (Football Federation of Belize and the B P F L (Belize Premier Football League). In Belize, football is administrated by the F F B but the highest level of football is controlled by the B P F L. It is at the league level that the business activities of the game are conducted and in other countries it is this level that fuels the funding for the development of football.

The separation of the B P F L from the F F B caused the F F B to function without a local financial source and thereby limiting F F B to only the commitments of FIFA. It is not clear if the government makes any direct contribution to the F F B as does FIFA but the active football stadiums are the property of the State.

The recent return of the B P F L to the F F B did not bring with it the funding it took and so the F F B continued to operate without the benefit of the major business activities of the game. Football in Belize needs the two to function together for Belizian football to make an upturn.

FIFA will only recognize the F F B in Belize and only sanction international matches that are approved by the F F B. So leagues that operate outside the F F B have only the financial satisfaction of the game but cannot be tested against world competition. This is the situation that is prolonging the decline of Belizian Football abroad.

F F B needs the funding from league play to put into place the structure that will accommodate the movement of grade school players up a ladder into league play. Such a structure will assist in providing the best talents for our national teams and some improvement on the national stage.

FIFA now recognizes the problems of league play in Central America and the Caribbean and has set aside funding for league and youth football development. Only the F F B can access this funding which will assist football on a large scale in Belize. The F F B now has the funding source to establish a league, to assist the struggling BPFL and to compete with the renegade league financially.

Both the F F B and the business society are in the game for the love of the sport. So it must be for the same love that both parties must come together for; the love of the sport and country. There is enough to do in Belizean football that we can all get along together. Lets make this one work for Belize.

SHUSH!!!!! SHUSH!!!!!

1. More gun incidents in Griga? Two playboys of millionaire parents were involved in gun play. Did it go under the carpet?
2. Another gun play but with political ties? Cache of arms revealed? Only teenager pays for one gun recovered. Justice was swift because?
3. Does the U D P think they are strong enough to recall one of their own?
4. The contract for the school building for G T was taken from one Dangriga contractor to give to another Dangriga contractor. Is this the work of politics?
6. There is a lynch mob out for the chairman who secretly resigned then had a change of heart.
7. Is there a slight crack of dissatisfaction at the council over personnel appointments?
8. Is the water pond at the school to rear wiggle waggle and the flies? NO! That is the municipal election tilapia project. Does it need another election for work to advance?
9. The World Bank project for Griga will affect the creeks. Will citizens be able to paddle from Benguche to Lakeland?
Mr. Wellington C. Ramos

In an article I wrote in the Caribbean Net News that was published on Friday July the 25th 2008, titled "Belize and The Commonwealth Countries Must Decide Which Court Should Have The Final Say". I pointed to the consequences that could occur to Belize and these governments for failing to act swiftly on deciding on a final court of appeals. I also outlined that failure to make a decision soon, could lead to these countries having decisions made by the Privy Council in London against the best interest of these countries and their people in the British Commonwealth nations. Well, last week The London Court of International Arbitration (L.C.I.A.) awarded Belize Telemedia Ltd., One of the companies in Belize that is owned by a British millionaire Michael Ashcroft, $77 Million dollars in damages against the people and Government of Belize. This case arose over a contract that was signed with the previous People’s United Party Government in secret by the then Prime Minister Said Musa and Belize Telemedia Ltd. In the contract the previous Belize Government made several tax holiday concessions for assuming certain commitments for a previous failed media company Intelo.

This agreement was unknown to the people of Belize until when there was a change of Government that occurred in February. Not only is this court granting an award but they also ruled that the agreement singed by the government of Belize with this company is valid and binding. The Prime Minister of Belize, The Right Honorable Dean Barrow has vouched that he and his government will do everything in their power to make sure that this money is never paid by the Belize government. His position is that the contract was done without the previous government making use of the legal instruments that were required by law to make the contract valid. Also, the order of the court of arbitration has not to be executed will have to be brought back to the Belize’s Supreme Court for enforcement against the government. If at the time the Belize Telemedia Company Ltd. Seek enforcement and the Privy Council is still the last and final court for Belize’s appeals, then more cases will be sent to London. However, if Belize amend their constitution and have final passage of the amendment, then the case will probably have to be presented to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) for the enforcement of the ruling.

The Prime Minister of Belize has announced that his government will be submitting a constitutional amendment soon to the House of Representatives to make the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) the last appellate court to replace the Privy Council in London. The United Democratic Party have enough members in the House of Representatives to propose and pass any constitutional amendment they want because they have twenty-five seats out of a total of thirty-one. There are a lot more cases pending before the courts of major significance dealing with contracts that the previous government issued before this government came to power.

Time spent in courts to review the validity of these contracts, is having a major impact on the government and is causing delays for this new government to implement new policies and programs in many areas. One of the area is dealing with the port facilities such as Commerce Bight Pier in Dangriga Town, which is the deepest port in the country, and has historically lost its vital role in providing jobs for many of their residents. Currently, they are using the port in Big Creek which is about forty miles south away from the town and is costing the companies too much money to transport their goods to the port. This port and other facilities was contracted to a PUP supporter Luke Espat some years ago who wants to retain control over the ports and facilities. The oil and citrus industries in Belize, have indicated that they would prefer to ship their goods out of Commerce Bight Pier to save costs. This case against Espat is in court and the government is awaiting a ruling from the courts to honor their request. While this is taking place many Dangriga residents are sitting down idly by waiting for jobs at the port.

I have had several discussions with many Belizens in the United States and at home in Belize and they are concerned about the amount of power Michael Ashcroft possess in their country. The American people come for Belizens to decide if his presence in Belize is to the benefit of the people and government of Belize. It has been reported that Michael Ashcroft has been financing the People’s United Party over the years and as a result of his financing the government gave him all those concessions that has led to millions lost in revenues to the people and government of Belize. This is money that could have been used to provide jobs, homes and other human development projects. Recently, in a London newspaper it was also reported that one of his subsidiary company was used to finance the Conservative Party in Great Britain through Belize and the Turks and Caicos Islands. This type of arrangement is not to the benefit of the Belizen citizens but rather to the benefit of the people in the higher echelons of the People’s United Party at the time to maintain political power indefinitely. I support the Belize’s government move to amend our constitution to discontinue using the Privy Council in London as Belize’s last court of appeals. This will also help to alleviate the burden of the court in Belize and the Caribbean when it comes to dealing with other crimes like murder. This is a major concern. Belize and the Caribbean countries, are experiencing a much higher murder rate that did not exist when they all had capital punishment and was enforcing it. The time for all these countries to adopt the Caribbean Court of Justice is now and not tomorrow.

Pastor’s Corner

Looking to God’s Wondrous Works in Times of Doubt and Trouble

Have you ever experienced a time in your life when God seemed absent? Maybe there was a time when prayer seemed empty and reading the words of Scripture seemed empty and reading the words of Scripture did little to encourage your heart. I was reminded this morning from Psalm 77 that there are times when Christians experience doubt that God is present and that He loves us and is with us. And sometimes this doubt happens during times of trouble, heartache, or pain. Asaph experienced this. He cries out, Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? Has He in anger shut up His face against us forever, and never again be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His face against us forever, and never again be favorable? (Ps. 77:7-8; ESV)

How does Asaph fight unbelief? He looks to God’s past works. He says, I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds (vv.11-12). Asaph knows that God has been faithful. He knows that the works of God in the past are proof that God will not forsake Him. The God who redeemed the children of Israel and brought them out of the land of Egypt is the God of today who sustains and upholds us by His omnipotent and loving hand.

Do you fight unbelief by looking at the past works of God? Do you look to the cross and consider the suffering of Jesus Christ endured for you?

Do you consider all the spiritual and material blessings that He has granted to you? I encourage you to remember the works of the LORD and consider how faithful He has been to you, even at times when you were unfaithful. God is near and He is sovereignly directing your paths. He knows your suffering and your pain. He has not forsaken you.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rick
Calvary Community Church
www.ccctn.org
(Turn to pg. 9)
Frederick Flores and Sixteen-year-old charged with burglary

Published on March 26

GEORGETOWN, Guyana: As the Caribbean Community gears up for the impending 15th Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Denmark, it is expected to come away with an Agreement that helps to expand the Caribbean's capacity to reduce its emissions and to adapt to the elements. C l i m a t e  C h a n g e.

Dr. Kenneth Leslie, Executive Director of Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) told the Second CARICOM Conference on Climate Change on Tuesday that any agreement coming out of the Copenhagen conference slated for December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark should have "environmental integrity" and respond to the special challenges of the most vulnerable, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In preparation for negotiations at this conference at which Heads of State and Government will try to reach an agreement on a new global climate strategy, CARICOM is working assiduously to refine its position going into the conference, in the hope that the new climate change treaty to be signed will favour the Caribbean in its mitigation and adaptation policies and strategies for Climate Change.

Dr. Leslie, who was addressing the opening ceremony of the Second Climate Change Conference in Castries, Saint Lucia on Tuesday, stated that he was anticipating an agreement that would provide a framework of support for adaptation that would prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable countries including SIDS. That framework, he asserted, should provide support for global and regional coordination mechanisms, adequate financial support and assistance to developing countries to adapt, based on national priorities. He added that risk management should also be provided for through the multi-window insurance mechanism that was proposed by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). In the area of finance, Dr. Leslie hoped that the agreement reached should provide financial flows that would be sufficient for the scale of adaptation efforts that the Region has to take on. This is estimated to be in excess of US$80B per year.

In addition, he anticipates that the agreement would provide for mechanisms to access environmentally sound technology, both for adaptation and mitigation, and should also discourage dependency on carbon intensive technology. While the Caribbean continues to fine-tune its position, the UN climate chief Yvo de Boer is expressing hope that the Conference will reach agreements on "four political essentials," which is the financing of developing countries in their bid to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and adapting to the impacts of climate change. For CARICOM countries, this would settle the perplexing questions of what should be the global target for greenhouse emissions reductions after 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol expires; and, who should bear the burden for these reductions.

If a new climate treaty is signed it will be replacing the Kyoto Protocol which was adopted in December 1997 at the third Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Kyoto, Japan and entered into force on 16 February 2005. The Kyoto Protocol which sets binding targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has been signed and ratified by 184 parties of the UN Climate Convention.

Groundbreaking for the headquarters of the Belize National Coast Guard

Belmopan - 26 March, 2009

The Belize National Coast Guard held groundbreaking ceremonies at the Belizean Beach, Mile 4 ½ Western highway for the construction of their headquarters yesterday afternoon. Rear Admiral Cedric Borland, Commandant, Belize National Coast Guard presented opening remarks where he described the event as one of the main projects that will develop the capabilities of the Coast Guard ‘‘...to be self contained with its own operational and logistical facilities, trained and equip ready to respond to any form of threat at sea’’.

Chief Executive Officer, Ret'd. Gen. Lloyd Gillett spoke on behalf of the Ministry of National Security. He praised the Coast Guard’s positive impact in the community during their short three years. He mentioned the developments in equipment acquisition, personnel and infrastructure, from the assistance and contribution of both the Belize and United States Governments. He challenged the guardsmen to use the facility appropriately in order to yield the maximum benefits for the people and country of Belize.

Mr. Jack Difily, Charge de Affairs, US Embassy, spoke on behalf of the US Government. He pledged the continued support of the United States Government to the development of the National Coast Guard as they work to strengthen the enforcement and response to combat drug trafficking which he described as the greatest threat at sea.

The new facility will provide the centralized command and control for all administration, operational and logistical functions for the Coast Guard. It will include a workshop, living quarters, kitchen and a dining facility for duty personnel. The headquarters will also have a backup diesel generator in addition to two 300 gals fuel tank for gasoline and diesel, a 300 ft reinforced pier and a ramp for launching and recovering vessels.

The headquarters facility was designed by the Ministry of Works and is valued at US $1.5 Million. The building is expected to be completed in the next eighteen months.

Frederick Flores and Sixteen-year-old charged with burglary

and (1) Crystal gallon containing $600 in coins.

Property recovered - Police have recovered one of the weapons stolen from businessman Devon Castillo. Based on information received, police conducted search in an open lot on Ecumenical Drive, Dangriga Town which led to the discovery of a silver and black 9MM Pistol Smith and Wesson Brand bearing serial number V06178 valued $4000 along with 1 empty 9MM magazine.

Romans 1:16 - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

O soul, consider this deeply: it is the life of a Christian that carries more conviction and persuasion than his words. Even if you, like an angel, talk of Christ, of the gospel, of the doctrines of grace, of the ways of holiness; otherwise, all is but windy profession and airy talk. O, how much harm is done to God and prevent their setting out to harden others against the things of Lusts and passions, you will hereby be the devilish tempers, and live under the gospel, of the doctrines of grace, of an angel, talk of Christ, of the more conviction and persuasion that any agreement coming out of the Copenhagen conference slated for December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark should have "environmental integrity” and respond to the special challenges of the most vulnerable, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In preparation for negotiations at this conference at which Heads of State and Government will try to reach an agreement on a new global climate strategy, CARICOM is working assiduously to refine its position going into the conference, in the hope that the new climate change treaty to be signed will favour the Caribbean.  CARICOM is working assiduously to refine its position going into the conference, in the hope that the new climate change treaty to be signed will favour the Caribbean.
It's a super-great day for you to dive into the grunt work of your job or home life -- you can have a great time doing almost anything! You're far out there on the edge of thought today -- so much so that others may have a hard time understanding you. That's cool, as long as you don't just sit back and relax -- so why don't you?

You're feeling too relaxed to really get behind the mad rush you can see going on all around you -- so see if you can get your friends or coworkers to support you as you slow down.

A certain person is intrigued by you -- why not give them some one-on-one time?

Today you step into a leadership position, and will get everyone inspired to enjoy the time they spend with you.

Take charge and let your people see that the next big thing isn't so bad after all. It's a good time for you to make sure that you're not just stuck in the past or dealing with old issues.

You might say things you regret today, but that just means you're living and breathing. It's not so bad that you need to stay home, but you should be prepared to backpedal a bit.

Your hopes and wishes are your own -- do not change them to make others happy.

Other people's fiery tempers are cooling off and you're almost certain to surprise yourself and others.

You are at a point in life when you can sit back and relax -- so see if you can get your friends or coworkers to support you as you slow down.

You're a little confused still, but can tell that there's just not quite enough information for you to understand the situation. It's a good time to look for more clues up close. Things should resolve soon.

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Kids Are Quick

Recipe prepared by: Michele Irving
powa2grow@yahoo.com

Wangla (sesame) Chicken

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 large boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 2 tablespoons raw sesame seeds
- 2 green onions (sliced)

Marinade:
- 1 teaspoon chicken base
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon raspberry wine (or any fruity flavored wine)
- 1 egg (beaten)

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons sugar (to taste)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon white distilled vinegar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon raspberry wine
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1: Cut chicken breasts into 1” chunks and in a glass bowl combine all of the marinade ingredients and mix well. Add the chicken and coat evenly. Cover and marinade for 30 minutes in the refrigerator.

Step 2: Meanwhile, in a separate bowl combine all of the batter ingredients and mix thoroughly. The batter should be thick enough to coat the chicken but thin enough to flow around the pieces. Set aside.

Step 3: Using a fork or tongs remove the pieces of chicken from the marinade and dip them into the batter one at a time (one by one). Deep fry the chicken in batches in your deep fryer for about 10 minutes or until golden brown. Drain on paper towels.

Step 4: In your wok combine the sauce ingredients and warm over medium heat. Bring to a boil while stirring and simmer until sauce slightly thickens.

Step 5: In the wok or in a serving dish coat chicken with the sauce and garnish with sliced scallions and sesame seeds.

Agriculture Vibes

In a developing Nation every person has a role to play. Find a place to play a role in the world of Farming. There are opportunities in:

1) Seed engineering
2) Agronomy
3) Soil and Water Conservation & Management
4) Entomology
5) Animal Husbandry where you could specialize in Vet Science Pasture Management
6) Irrigation
7) Farm Accounting
8) Extension
9) Farm Mechanics
10) Aquaculture

There is space for everyone to get on board.

Tips for the Growing Season

Days to mature from planting:
- Corn: 56 - 63 days
- Sweet pepper: 90 days
- Cucumber: 56 - 70 days
- Radish: 28 - 35 days
- Beans: 42 - 56 days

STEPPING UP TO MATURITY

Pumpkin: 120 days
Faced with all the adversities confronting farming activities like rising costs of production there is only one way out. Cooperation, Cooperative, Pooling resources, utilizing the power of one.

All praise on to All to whom all praises are due.
I feel blessed and in order to share that feeling with you the readers I must say thanks.

Thanks to the management of this newspaper, Wabagari Post, who have given me the space to share my thoughts.

Now is the time to set Vegetable seeds that will need transplanting.

E.g. cabbage, broccoli, sweet pepper, habanero, tomatoes
Build a seed box and put down your seeds. If you are looking at what to grow try grains or tubers.

Free up yourself. Jah bless and feel free to contribute to the betterment of our article and presentation by participation.

Even a small way goes a long way. Don’t let them fool you. Your job is in jeopardy. The labour force is in trouble. Robotics and machinery are taking over.
To give you an example 10 years ago, it took one tractor and trail with 100 bags of fruit to haul to the factory. Today 5 driver jobs have been eliminated because 1 driver in a tow truck is doing the job. You be the judge.

Unity - Power of One
Presentation: John Antonio

First Quarter will be on April 2

Planting Dates

Planting Dates for above the ground:
- April 1, 10, 11

Planting Dates for below the ground:
- April 12, 13, 14

Planting Dates for Flowers:
- April 1, 8, 9

Best Days to Destroy Weeds:
- March 20, 31 April 3, 4

Best Days to wean babies:
- March 27 April 12, 13

Best Fishing Days:
- April 1, 10, 11

From Ground to Table Mother Earth is Able
Little Red Riding Hood basket in hand.
The Wolf's in the woods,
he's made his own plans.
Your going to Grandma's with a basket of treats
and you don't see his shadow
as it slithers and creeps.
Now, he's cut through the forest to get there ahead.
He's outrun and out-foxed you,
and soon he'll be fed.
For he's lean and he's mean.
He's fierce and he's keen.
He's a hunter, a stalker,
a killing machine.

Little Red Riding Hood basket in hand
You've reached Granny's cottage,
it's just as he's planned.

"See, Granny I've brought you a basket of treats."
"Come closer, Granddaughter if you'd like me to eat."
"Oh! Granny, I say, what big eyes you have!"
"The better to see you with
and the sweet treats you have."
"Oh! Granny you've such a big, nose oh, my.
"The better to smell you with and that sweet apple pie."
"Oh! Granny what big, shiny, teeth you've got!"
"The better to eat you with and all the sweet treats you've brought!"

Now, I hear the scream, the howl and the cry,
Am I a hunter or just passing bye?
By Linda A. Copp ©