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Price of Sugar Doubles

Party Leader Leads Municipal Ground Campaign!



Hon. Dr. Shyne Barrow is on the ground with councilor candidates



UDP teams are deployed countrywide

With less than fifty (50) days to go before the March 6th Municipal Elections, the Leader of the United Democratic Party, Hon. Dr. Shyne Barrow, is hitting the campaign trail with aspirants and campaigners across the country.

Ground campaigns are expected to intensify in February but Barrow is urging teams in all nine municipalities to put pedal to the metal and is leading by

example. He has visited each municipality at least twice since December. In December he joined Standard Bearers in over twenty (20) constituencies as they held Christmas activities and delivered cheer packages. In January he is now participating in the ground campaigns with municipal candidates as they visit residents door to door.

Barrow says it is the part of leadership he enjoys the most,

the house visits. He is pleased to see Area Representatives and Standard Bearers already on the ground with municipal teams across the country. Though the people are generally frustrated with the PUP who have failed on all their promises, he knows that residents will not vote in the UDP by default. The Party has to work for it and a big part of that work is earning the trust of voters.

Majority of the candidates

representing the United Democratic Party are new and familiarizing themselves to voters is a top priority. While the Party's national and local messages are key, voters want to know who they are voting for personally. They want to ask question and test the pulse of aspirants. For this, accessibility is stressed by Barrow – perhaps the most accessible Party Leader in recent history.

As the campaign ramps up, Barrow plans to be on the ground daily in the different municipalities. Every step on the ground taken is one step closer to getting the UDP back to Belmopan and resuming the development of Belize.

Gang War Flares Up Again: Two Shot

The People's United Party has been actively throwing millions of dollars at gang members in Belize City in the hopes that money could buy peace among feuding young men. Even with the paying of gang members to keep the peace, there is still the ugly sore that is covered by money that continues to fester in Belize City.

That putrid sore showed itself again on Thursday, January 11 when two young men were shot in Belize City. Luckily they survived but it is testament that no matter how much money is thrown at the problem, if there are no real intervention mechanisms put in place, the gang war in Belize City will continue.

The first shooting took place at about 7:50 p.m. when police responded to the Karl Heusner

Memorial Hospital (KMH) where they found 18-year-old Shemar Smith, with gunshot wounds to his body. Earlier that night, Smith was walking on Iguana Street towards Curassow Street when he was approached by a male person who fired shots at him.

Just two hours later at around 9:39 p.m., police were once again called to the KMH where they

found 19-year-old Joseph Leslie, with gunshot wounds to his body. Leslie was walking on Laura Dunn Street towards Antelope Street Extension when he was approached by a male person on a bicycle, who pointed a firearm at him and fired several shots, causing his injuries.

Police have made no arrests in these shootings but have labeled them as gang related.



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Andre Perez Resurfaces- With No Shame



Andre Perez

Disgraced PUP politician, Andre Perez is slowly and surely making his way back to the spotlight as if the Belizean people have forgotten what he is accused of. Ever since accusations of possible rape were made against him by an attorney, Perez sunk

into the background of the Belizean political landscape. But sure as night follows day and to prove that he is as shameless as they come, he has begun to make public appearances.

Ever since his fall from grace back in August of last

year, he has dodged the spotlight, hiding from public scrutiny. But being Tru-Blu and proving he has no shame he's slowly been crawling out of the dark space he relegated himself to. He's been present at a number of official functions including being at the head table as the Belize Tourism Board discussed the industry on the island of San Pedro.

Possibly emboldened by the lack of attention which that gathered, Perez has now opted to make public appearances and actually speaks at official functions. It was disturbing to most who watched as Perez was freely interviewed about the acquiring of a new radar for the country of Belize on Wednesday, January 17. It was as if nothing had happened, as if he did not have to face an accusation of rape or moral misconduct while being a Minister of Government.

What I worse is that the Prime Minister is encouraging him, this

is after he was put on a leave of absence in mid August. Even with that there is no level of certainty to determine exactly what that means. Especially since now he has Prime Ministerial approval to make public appearances. When he was place on leave, it was with an explanation that the Attorney General would do an investigation into the accusations 5 months later, it would appear that there has been no investigation and there never will be. It looks like what the PUP is doing is biding time. They are hoping that the accusations simply make it to the distant past and at some point Andre Perez will once again begin to be referred to has Minister and all will be forgotten.

From our end, we will not simply forget and we will keep reminding the public that these PUP Ministers feel that they can simply do as they please and get away with anything. We will not forget!

Cordel Blames Businessmen For Government Failures



Cordel Hyde

Cordel Hyde, once referred to as the Paladin of Poverty, has woken and after 3 years of engorging, has remembered that there are poor and suffering people in Belize. He is the second most powerful man in the country, wearing the title Deputy Prime Minister, but for all that it is worth, he has done nothing for the poor people, not in his constituency, and most definitely not for the country.

Still, the hero, the champion of the poor, has realized that it is campaign time and he has his role to play- the trough must be kept full for the PUP feast to continue, and as he is always wont to do, he has crafted the message to the people. It is a simple and brilliant one- blame the shop keepers.

Over the George Price weekend he took to delivering his bedeviled message to the people of Dangriga- the wicked

shop owners and shopkeepers are to blame for the oppressive cost of living. He says that they have been knifing the Belizean consumers in the back and the poor old Government has done oh so much. The minimum wage was raised he says, and taxes have not been raised he says. But what he did not say is that the PUP administration is actually surviving off taxation, specifically, taxation on fuel.

If we were to listen to Hyde it would appear that the Government and its Ministers are saint-like doing all they can to help the people and that is the business community that is to blame. The truth is that the high cost of products are as a direct result of the high cost of transportation driven by the highest cost of fuel this country has ever seen, still it is the wicked shopkeepers who are to blame.

It is all so neat that if the Belizean people were non-the-wiser they would actually believe Hyde. But the people of this country know better. They know that even if indeed the shopkeepers were to blame, the Government, very much like

the UDP administration, could have been making life a lot more bearable for the citizenry by implementing social programs. There is need to only point to the pantry program and how the PUP did away with it to prove that better could be done by way of the people. Cordel himself was the chief crier about feeding the poor and about the people not being able to eat streets and roundabouts. Now his tune has changed. It appears that the Government bears no responsibility to feed the poor, they need to do that themselves. That is why he does not even mention the pantry program any more. Has the champion of the poor forgotten that they have to eat too, or is it only the fat cats in Belmopan who have that right?

Cordel is the biggest hypocrite in the PUP Government! Why does he not tell his Prime Minister that the people are starving and that the Government has a responsibility to them? We imagine that the feast must be so good that he would dare not upset the apple cart for fear of himself becoming one of the indigent at the hands of Johnny Briceno.

An Attempt To Buy Votes With Food



Food distributino has become significantly scaled down

In a surprising turn of events, after three years of eliminating the Food Subsidy Program and reducing the budget for food assistance, Dolores has been instructed to reinstate and expand the provision of food packages

(Grocery Bags) leading up to the March 6 Municipal Elections.

The decision comes in response to mounting public dissatisfaction and the need to address the grievances expressed by citizens encountered by

campaigners on the ground. Dolores, often criticized for the previous cuts, is now compelled to take immediate action to assuage public discontent.

Unlike the past administration, the distribution of these grocery bags will be handled by PUP municipal aspirants, a departure from the conventional involvement of public servants from the Human Development Department. This move is a blatant demonstration that the PUP administration is aligning the initiative with PUP election campaigning efforts.

While the PUP may want to deny the maneuver as politically motivated, skeptics point out that this sudden surge in food assistance is politically motivated, coinciding with the upcoming municipal elections. The groceries are expected to reach citizens in need but may raise questions about the sustainability and motives behind such a temporary reinstatement.

The food assistance program is anticipated to be scaled back shortly after the municipal elections, coinciding with the unveiling of the new fiscal budget on March 14/15. The decision to reevaluate the program's continuation post-elections is likely to be a topic of scrutiny, with citizens questioning the longevity and authenticity of the reinstated food pantry.

As the political landscape intertwines with social welfare programs, the public remains vigilant, emphasizing the importance of sustained efforts to address community needs beyond election cycles.

What this PUP administration is failing to realize is that no amount of grocery bags, pantry bags, food assistance, food subsidy or whichever other name it is called will help them come March 6th, because their days are numbered, but the voters will still take whatever they are giving away.

UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY



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Hubert "A" Lucas
Mayoral Candidate

Dwayne Sampson | Anthony Garbutt | Frank Caliz



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No Hospital For San Pedro; No Hospital For Belmopan; No Solar Energy Grid

On April 3, 2023, the PUP administration signed on to a 33 million dollar grant from the

Republic of China- Taiwan for the construction of a Hospital in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. Then

Recall Petition Against Gilroy Usher Delivered



Petition was delivered by Antony 'Boots' Martinez

Over 1,700 signatures requesting that area representative for Port Loyola, Gilroy Usher, be recalled was delivered to the Governor General, Froyla Tzalam, on Tuesday, January 16 by former area representative, Anthony 'Boots' Martinez.

The petition for a recall of a sitting area representative requires 30% of voters of the constituency to sign a petition after which a by-election is called. In this instance 1,480 signatures were required and Martinez was able to secure well over that number.

on May 30, 2023 they signed on to a 90 million dollar loan from the Saudi's for a hospital to be built in Belmopan. Yet again, on August 5, 2023, another loan for 154 million dollars was signed with the Saudi's for a solar power grid. Those are finances that date back 9 months, 8 months and 5 months respectively. The question is, what do all these projects have in common? Well, ever since the financing agreements were signed, there has not been a single grain of sand that has been moved to advance any of the projects any further from the financing agreement.

This is typical People's United Party games. What is concerning is that, with the exception of the Taiwanese Grant, the interest will begin to accrue on the loans and the People of Belize would be bound to pay without even beginning to reap the benefits.

The signatures will now have to be verified by the Elections and Boundaries Department after which, if enough of them meet the threshold a recall vote will have to take place in which 65% of the voters in the division

In all of the projects there is not even land that has been identified for the projects to take place. It is amazing how a sovereign can take on debt without even having a clue on where the infrastructure that the debt was taken for will be placed. For the Hospital in Belmopan and the solar grid, the Saudi's have already called in the Government to inquiry what the status of the investment will be. The only response that the Government could have given them was that there was no status.

There are observers who wonder whether the finances have already been disbursed and are already being spent with nothing to show for it. If this is the case, the PUP administration is once again ushering in another Superbond era which similar to their last one we have nothing to show for.

will have to make a decision on whether or not Usher stays or he goes.

If the decision is the latter, a bi-election will be scheduled in which the sitting representative will not be eligible to contest.

Vacancy Notice

Genius Trading Ltd invites qualified individuals to join a leading international investment firm as the market in Securities Trading keeps growing in Belize.

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For Mayor



Victor Orellana



Beverley Hope



Jose Linarez



Paul Casey



Cristina Chacon



Leslie Zelaya

What would George Price Do?



A concrete street has deteriorated to a gravel road



Overgrown grass on Thomas Vincent Ramos Street

We have all heard this old phrase that has become both popular and over used, WWJD – What Would Jesus Do? In fact, it has been used so much that for some it has really just become a worn-out cliché. A simple Google search will reveal that the phrase “What would Jesus do?”, often abbreviated to WWJD, became popular particularly in the United States in the early 1900s after the widely read book *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* by Charles Sheldon.

The phrase also had a resurgence in the 1990s as a personal motto for adherents of Christianity, who used it as a reminder of their belief in a moral imperative to act in a manner demonstrating the love of Jesus through all their actions. The resurgence of the motto during the 1990s stems from the W.W.J.D. abbreviation on wristbands that became popular among Christian youth groups.

Not at all to be disrespectful to Christians and their use of this phrase, perhaps we can borrow it and adopt it a bit to pose the question “What would George Price Do?” and more importantly what would he have to say about George Price Day in Belize and all the activities that the supposedly true BLU PUP believers and adherents are hosting?

While as a member and leader of the opposing party for so long, the UDP and the late Rt. Hon. George Price disagreed on many different things. In fact, it is safe to say that there are very few things that we saw eye-to-eye with him on. However, one thing that we can say and agree with is that Mr. Price was a humble man,

down-to-earth and unpretentious, who loved his country and did what he thought was best for Belize and Belizeans. We can all recall how our very own Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, memorialized him in a touching and moving eulogy and described him so clearly and passionately as a man of the people at his funeral in September 2011.

With that in mind, we really have to ask the question of what would Mr. Price think of all that has been organized and done in his honor over the past few years and in particular this year. In all honesty, Belizeans were a bit taken aback and the business community was somewhat disgruntled when the 15th January was first declared as an additional holiday by the newly elected BLU PUP government in 2021 without any type of consultation, especially considering that he was already highly honored on the 9th March, Heroes and Benefactors Day. Nevertheless, most people were willing to bite their tongues and accept the separate and special holiday for Mr. Price so as not to offend the newly and popularly elected true BLUs but also since, regardless of one’s political perspective and views, Mr. Price had truly dedicated his whole life to the service of Belize. Some would even venture to say that he was married to Belize.

We could definitely understand and appreciate the serious and somber ceremonies and the efforts at doing community service and volunteerism on the day to commemorate the way the humble Mr. Price lived his

life and encouraged others to do likewise. However, it seems as though this current fake bunch of true BLU PUPs have lost touch with the real Mr. Price and their PUP roots, as they have with everything else. Mr. Price was not just a man of the people but always encouraged hard work and promoted serious endeavors so what would he think of the barbecue and fun day that we heard was organized by Minister Francis Fonseca and others to commemorate the national hero on the holiday this past Monday?

We don’t know what all frivolous activities were planned for this “fun day” but we can be sure that Mr. Price would have preferred something more serious and constructive. For example, if Francis and the other BLU PUPs are so untalented and devoid of ideas, he had to look no further than right in the heart of his constituency on TV Ramos Street, right alongside the Design Depot in Belama Phase III where a perfectly good concrete street has literally fractured in the middle due to the lack of properly maintained drains which made it become water logged and thereby undermine the foundation of the road. The middle of that road, inherited in good condition by this useless PUP City Council and the untalented BLU PUP Central Government, has now again become a gravel road under their watch with drains clogged on either side with grass and who knows what else is clogging the drains under the grass.

The height of the grass on

what was once this major road and thoroughfare in and out of Belama Phase III, is anywhere from as low as a couple of feet at some points to as high as 8 feet in some other areas. It is amazing how irresponsible this PUP government is that it has allowed perfectly good infrastructure to become compromised and broken by their laziness and lack of any sort of maintenance. One would have at least imagined better from Francis Fonseca since, after all, isn’t he the one who claims as part of his political credentials to have walked around Belize City as a young boy handing out Belize Times newspapers with Mr. Price?

We would have expected him to be more serious and more responsible to choose to do something more useful and more constructive in his abandoned constituency on George Price Day instead of organizing a free, fun and wasteful event. That would be more in line with the man and legacy that is the Rt. Hon. George Price. Perhaps the backdrop falling on Henry Charles at the official ceremony earlier in the day was just an omen of their total failure.

Belizeans expected far better from this government but we have been constantly disappointed and so now, we have become totally convinced that this bunch of untalented, irresponsible, true BLU, PUPs is nothing more than a waste of time as they continue to squander and destroy the resources of this beautiful jewel of ours.

Sense Of Security Shattered: Six People Shot, A Murder And A Drug Plane Land In Less Than 15 Hours!



Kareem Musa

While Minister Kareem Musa and Commissioner Chester Williams were busy taking victory laps for their inconsequential roles in the sugar industry’s private sector agreement, the police department remains encumbered by scandals as our brave officers do their best to police a heavily armed and dangerous society. In just fifteen (15) hours between Thursday night, January 11, and Friday afternoon, January 12, police responded to four shooting incidents on the streets of Belize City in which six people were shot, one killed, while their special units were busy tracking a drug plane that landed in the middle of Barranco Road.

Two of the shooting victims on Thursday night were teenagers, Shemar Smith, 18, and Joseph Leslie, 19, and two of the victims on Friday were women pedestrians caught by stray bullets. Fortunately, none of these individuals suffered fatal injuries and will end up only as afterthoughts when Musa later tries to convince residents that the streets are safer than ever by pointing to misleading and manipulated crime statistics.

The issuance of a record number of licenses for firearms and assault rifles like the one used to kill Jose Matus and injure

multiple pedestrians on Friday could never result in a safer society. While officers already have a daunting assignment to intercept and combat illegal weapons on the streets, questionably approved weapons to irresponsible and dangerous individuals are proving to be equally challenging to police and even more concerning to residents.

The last person killed in 2023 was Trevor Brown who got into an altercation after bumping into a “Mr. Pascassio’s” truck in the parking lot of Thirsty Thursday night club. The hard talk resulted in Pascassio pulling out his licensed firearm and Brown doing the same with an unlicensed weapon. A shootout ensued in the parking lot with many innocent bystanders around. Brown was shot dead and Pascassio survived multiple shots. Though Pascassio did little to deescalate the altercation, obviously emboldened by his possession of a licensed weapon and was the first to fire, the Commissioner of Police says it was self-defense and will not appear on his tightly guarded murder stats. The first person murdered in 2024 was Christon Logan who got into an altercation with Ernesto Martinez inside a



Chester Williams

bar on Disco Street in Mango Creek. The fight ended up outside the bar where Ernesto’s brother Cornelio Martinez pulled out his licensed firearm and shot Logan dead in a most ruthless manner. Martinez’s shady character and reputation as a bully was already widely known before a gun license was approved for him by the Commissioner of Police. He became a ticking time bomb after being granted a hand gun license, which he used to kill, and was even granted an assault rifle license. In both homicide cases, the licensed firearm holders were at night clubs allegedly under the influence of alcohol.

There were also reports from Barranco Village that an alleged drug Plane landed in the middle of its main road early Friday

morning but no police report has come forth to verify this.

The streets of Belize City are sparse these nights as residents fear retaliation and random acts of violence in the wake of Matus’ execution. The mood at social events is tense as simple clumsy mishaps and misunderstandings turn into gun drawing confrontations by licensed firearm carriers on a weekly basis. One’s sense of security has never been this shot.

Better can’t be expected when the department responsible for citizen security is making the public less safe by flooding the nation with guns. Belize desperately needs change in the leadership of the Ministry of Police and the Belize Police Department.

NOTICE

SAGICOR LIFE INC.

Elbert Flowers of Leopoldo Street, Santa Elena, Cayo District, Belize has made sworn deposition that Policy No. **F01159311** issued by Sagicor Life Inc. has been declared lost.

Dated January 17th, 2024

By Order
Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary

UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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Gabriel Zetina

Ana Lilla Rodriguez

WILFREDO ALAMILLA
Mayoral Candidate

Yakarells Hernandez

Abner Diaz

Byron Duarte



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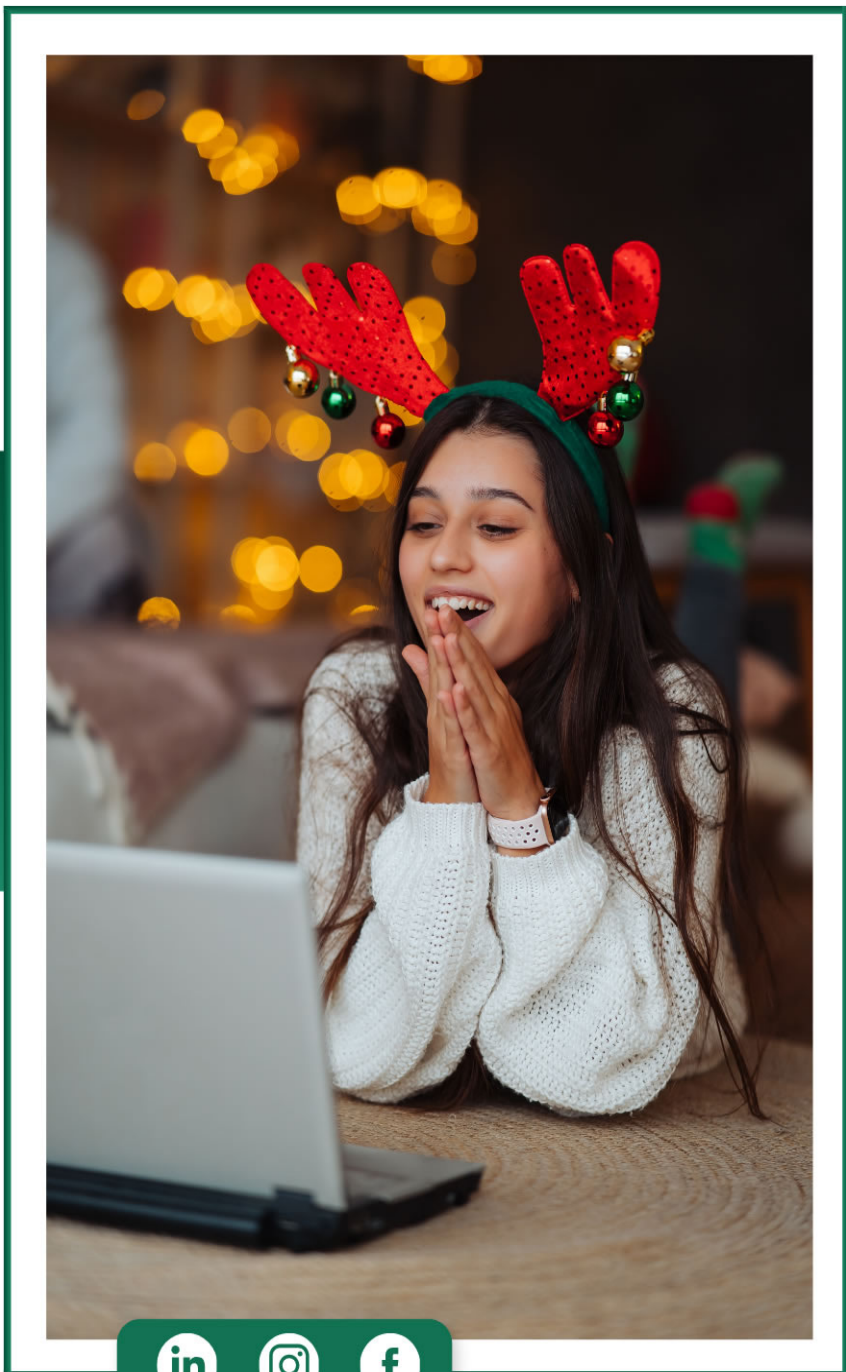
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BEL Signs Consent Agreement For Mini-Grid Electrification With San Benito Poite



Village alcalde signs Consent Agreement

On Saturday, January 13, 2024, the village of San Benito Poite, in the Toledo District, along with the Government of Belize, officially signed a consent agreement, greenlighting the commencement of a Mini-Grid Electrification project.

In 2022 the European Union (EU) signed an agreement with Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) for a grant of 4.5 million Euros

and a BEL contribution of 0.5 million Euros equivalent to 11 million Belize Dollars to fund a Rural Electrification Project for five remote villages in Belize.

San Benito Poite is the first of three villages in the Toledo District, that are considered under this project, to sign the consent agreement. This milestone marks a significant step towards ensuring that every household



The agreement is a first of its kind

in San Benito Poite is electrified with safe, reliable and sustainable energy solutions.

The signing ceremony, which was organized by the Government of Belize, was attended by representatives from BEL, village leaders, Government officials, and LAIT UP Belize. Once commissioned, BEL will operate and maintain the mini-grid schemes that will be supplied

with electricity that is generated and stored using hybrid solar, diesel, and battery technologies.

BEL, Government of Belize representatives and other stakeholders continue consultations with residents and leaders of other remote and unserved communities in Toledo District that have been identified as beneficiaries under this Rural Electrification Project.

ANGELIE PEREZ **JASON STAINE** **VICTOR MIGUEL** **HORACE ALFORD**

LEON GUILD **ALISHA CRAIG** **BRIAN AUDINETT**

TYRONE LOURIANO **SAMSON JACOBS** **TATTIYANNA YOUNG**

NELMA MORTIS
MAYORAL
CANDIDATE

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Mayoral Candidate | Yara Villeda | Vanessa Urbina | Carlos Diaz

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ORANGE WALK TOWN COUNCIL / 2024-2027

UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY



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COUNCILLOR | COUNCILLOR | COUNCILLOR | **MAYOR**
CANDIDATE | CANDIDATE | CANDIDATE | **CANDIDATE** | SELENI CUS | VICTOR JACOBS | KEVIN CHOC
COUNCILLOR | COUNCILLOR | COUNCILLOR | COUNCILLOR | COUNCILLOR | COUNCILLOR
CANDIDATE | CANDIDATE | CANDIDATE | CANDIDATE | CANDIDATE | CANDIDATE

"MEK WI TEK BAK PG FI WE"

NEW VISION - NEW ENERGY - NEW HOPE

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#Better for Belize

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2024

UDP
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Your Horoscope

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 19

When it comes to love, can you handle the truth? This week, the answer might not be what you think. As flirtatious Venus in your 9th House of Beliefs squares hazy Neptune, it's quite possible that you'll prefer to get through your week and your current romantic situation by focusing on the bright side or closing your eyes to a glaring problem. Recognize that there is a fine line between romanticizing a situation and deluding yourself about something. When it comes to deciphering the truth, a better question might be: Will you open your eyes at last?

Taurus Apr 20 – May 20

You might be crushed when you discover that you and your lover no longer share the same vision of the future. In fact, you might need to consider whether or not you ever did. It's possible that you have only been fooling yourself the entire time you've been together because you couldn't bear to consider the alternative: that maybe you're not quite as compatible as you thought. There might be a hard pill for you to swallow this week in love. When the time comes, do it gently. If you're single, you'll want to steer clear of taking a friend's advice about your love life. Their suggestions, if followed, won't work out well.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 20

This could be a discouraging week in matters of the heart, and whether major or minor, it seems you'll experience some level of disappointment. You might face a moment of "ick" when your lover or love interest is all too human and falls from grace. If that's the case, you'll recover, but it'll take a moment to get over the negative impression. Worst case scenario is that you find out your lover no longer wants to be in your relationship. Single? Avoid getting caught up in someone who is paying too much attention to you. They only want to use you to get ahead in their own selfish pursuits.

Cancer Jun 21 – Jul 22

After many years of experiencing deep transformation in your relationships, intensity in this area is about to calm down. Pluto has been in your partnership sector since 2008, creating experiences that have to do with significant crisis as well as depth of love in your romantic relationship. You may have lost a partner during this period in a way that's causing ripple effects to this day, or you might have gone through a symbolic death in your love connection and now are renewed and stronger than ever. Either way, the intensity is about to end after Saturday as Pluto leaves this part of your chart. You've survived -- and thrived!

Leo Jul 23 – Aug 22

Get ready for your love life as you know it to irrevocably change! Your drive to create an

intense, transformational bond with someone is likely to ramp up. That's because Pluto, the planet of rebirth and regeneration, is moving into your partnership sector on Saturday, creating the energy for you to experience a symbolic death and rebirth of everything you ever knew about love and relationships. You might soon enter a fated new relationship if you're single. If you're already in a commitment, there could be a crisis or deepening of your bond. Either way, you don't want superficial love -- you're ready to explore the depths with another person.

Virgo Aug 23 – Sep 22

Your family life might be getting in the way of your love life. If you're single, it's possible that a domestic crisis you're trying to handle is preventing you from meeting new people. Perhaps you even have a crush on someone, but because you're not able to invest any time into getting better acquainted, the potential seems to be slowly slipping through your fingers. If you're in a relationship, you and your partner might be going through a rough patch this week because of a family situation that you aren't handling realistically. Hang in there -- it's temporary!

Libra Sep 23 – Oct 22

Expect profound changes in the direction of your love life, Libra. Pluto, the planet of death, rebirth, and transformation, will enter your true love sector this week. Since Pluto will now (for the most part) be in this area of your chart for twenty years, you can anticipate the deepest, most enriching experiences of your entire life to come your way through your romantic and sexual connections. With Pluto in this zone, you're not interested in shallow hookups. No way. You want substance from here on out. You want a level of connection with another person that is deeper than anything you've ever encountered. Guess what? You'll get it.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 21

Your love life is blurry at best, delusional at worst. This week, Venus will make a harsh square to foggy Neptune, which is currently traveling through your romance sector. You've likely found yourself in a romantic situation that is taking its toll on your self-worth and possibly even your finances. Perhaps you're settling for breadcrumbs in a situationship with someone who is keeping you at arm's length and refuses to go all in. Perhaps you are in love with someone who doesn't reciprocate your feelings, but you're struggling to admit the truth and let them go. Either way, you deserve better. You just have to see it for yourself.

Sagittarius Nov 22 – Dec 21

You might spend a lot of your energy romanticizing a relationship you see in your familial surroundings -- to the

detriment of your own love life. If there is a couple in your family who seems to have a dream relationship, consider that it might all be an illusion. Even if it's real and the two people involved have this enchanting connection, why are you trying to have the exact same thing? Instead, you can focus on developing or nurturing your own romance based on your values, needs, and desires -- not what looks good on paper or what works for someone else. It's your life ... and it's your heart. Be true to it.

Capricorn Dec 22 – Jan 19

You might be hiding your feelings for someone out of fear that they won't be on the same page. Although it's understandable that you're shy about opening your heart, at the same time, you really never know how the other person feels unless you're willing to take a risk. If you keep these thoughts to yourself, you'll never find the satisfaction you desire. Is this really what you want? If you're in a relationship, it's possible that you and your sweetheart need to have a conversation you're both trying to dodge. You can't avoid it forever.

Aquarius Jan 20 – Feb 18

There's a great change brewing, and it's likely to transform you, making you more committed to authenticity than you've ever

been. Pluto, the planet of depth, is moving into your sign on Saturday, creating a profound shift in your identity and personality. As a result, you're likely to find yourself also experiencing a different type of craving when it comes to your relationship needs. You might start to become unhappy with someone if the two of you aren't growing at the same level -- or in the same direction. If single, you'll search for someone who truly sees you and can meet you where you are. If someone encourages you to settle for anything else, you'd rather be alone.

Pisces Feb 19 – Mar 20

If you're in a relationship just to maintain your status or keep up a certain appearance, then you've got a problem. Clearly, any connection that isn't based on mutual love and respect is nothing but a sham. Now's a good time to consider whether this is your situation -- you might not be fully aware of how inauthentic your partnership has become. If this is going on and you're with someone for all the wrong reasons, the bubble might burst this week. If, however, you're not in a smoke and mirrors relationship, it's possible that you'll just hit a disappointing rough patch. You'll get through it. Single? Be careful what you wish for... you just might get it.

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Physician Heal Thyself

Following a leak from the Belize Police Department regarding a report against a former UDP Candidate, the PUP, through various Facebook channels, has engaged in mudslinging and political maneuvers. This behavior is particularly ironic given the history of sexual misconduct complaints against high-ranking PUP officials, including the expulsion of former MINISTER Andre "Chicken Sausage" Perez. Questions arise about the status of the Attorney General's investigation into Perez, and whether the PUP is handling the matter discreetly. Additionally, Minister Rodwell Ferguson

faces a similar complaint with accompanying video evidence.

In contrast to the PUP's approach, the UDP has been unequivocal in taking rape allegations seriously, condemning violence against women, and expressing empathy for all victims. The party emphasizes adherence to the rule of law, respecting the rights of accusers and the due process rights of the accused. The UDP trusts that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), rather than a political office, will conduct a thorough and impartial investigation to determine the outcome of the matter.

Price of Sugar Doubles



White sugar now sells for \$1.60 per pound

Sugar stocks in supermarkets are back to normal after Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSIL) imported 250 metric tons of plantation white sugar on January 10. With the importation of the sugar came with a more than doubling of the price for sugar from 75 cents per pound to \$1.60 per pound.

In making the announcement that it would be importing sugar, BSIL stated that the stocks are to last for two week. While that was the expectation, one week after the product was brought in and based on reports by grocers who are selling the sugar, the commodity is moving slower than usual. By all appearances, customers are finding it more and more difficult to be able to afford the doubling of yet another commodity. The slow pace of movement of sugar will see stocks remain in place for longer than two weeks and there

are concerns that when locally produced sugar makes its way into the market, that too will be sold for \$1.60 once again having consumers suffer the brunt of excessive pricing when it is not necessary.

BSIL resorted to importing sugar after unscrupulous businessmen opted to informally export sugar out of the country. They presumably bought the sugar from the Belize Marketing and Development Corporation which has an unlimited and unrestricted purchasing capacity for sugar from BSIL. The businessmen then exported the sugar informally, causing a shortage of local sugar in the latter moths of last year. In response to this BSIL proposed to increase the cost of sugar which is sold locally in order to dissuade the informal exportation. Sugar is smuggled out of the country since it sells for twice the price than what it is sold in country.

Liquor License Notice

Notice is hereby given that under the **Intoxicating Liquor License Act** Chapter 150 Revised Edition 2011, that **Brysy Mabel Bautista** is applying for a renewal of a **Restaurant License** for 2024-25, to be operated as **Restaurante La Copaneca** at #1 Lirio Street, Las Flores, Belmopan, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating **Liquor License Ordinance** Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Catherine August** is applying for a **Restaurant License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Cenaidas Belizean Food**" located on Far West Street, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating **Liquor License Ordinance** Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that is applying for a **Restaurant License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**La Finca**" located in Spanish Lookout, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating **Liquor License Ordinance** Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Darren Metzger** is applying for a **Publican Special License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Caracol Bar**" located at mile 63 George Price Highway, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating **Liquor License Ordinance** Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Theo Cocchiis** applying for a **Malt and Cider License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Parrot Nest Lodge**" located in Bullet Tree Falls Village, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating **Liquor License Ordinance** Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Enmanuel De Jesus Torres Duarte** is applying for a **Beer License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Triple K & J Store**" located in Selena Village, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating **Liquor License Ordinance** Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Karina Farias** is applying for a **Restaurant License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Boca's Restaurant**" located at #4 Eleven Street, San Ignacio.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating **Liquor License Ordinance** Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Maria Estela Recinos** is applying for a **Restaurant License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Good Stays**" located on Bullet Tree Road, San Ignacio.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating **Liquor License Ordinance** Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **David Molina** is applying for a **Restaurant License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Western Restaurant**" located on the Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating **Liquor License Ordinance** Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Cohune Palms River Cabanas** is applying for a **Restaurant License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Cohune Palms**" located on Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the **Intoxicating Liquor License Act** Chapter 150 Revised Edition 2023, that **Bradley Paumen** is applying for the renewal of a "**Restaurant Liquor License**" for 2024-25, to be operated at "**Dark Night & Hells Gate Tour Ltd.**" located in Franks Eddy Village, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the **Intoxicating Liquor License Act** Chapter 150 Revised Edition 2011, that **Giselle Espat** is applying for a renewal of a "**Publican Special Liquor License**" for 2024-25, to be operated as "**The Ceviche Stop**" at 13 Star Apple St. Santa Elena Cayo District.

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