

# From the Editor Tamara Sniffin



Enjoying a Lizard Juice at the infamous Caye Caulker Split

Life in Belize is nothing short of amazing. Chances are, no matter how much time you've allotted for your visit to our Caribbean home it's just not going to be long enough. And why is that? Between experiencing all that we have to offer you still have to allow for doing nothing but spending quality time in a beachside hammock, napping the day away. And when you aren't napping you can daydream about attending (or maybe even participating?) in the 17th annual Ruta Maya Canoe Race!

For me, this incredible race is solely a spectator sport, and what a spectacle it is! Not only does the race land each day at a different river-bank party, but folks from all around the area turn out to join in the festivity of it all. It is a quintessential Belizean experience, with

impressive athletes, food, fun and a great time had by all!

And, speaking of food...in this issue we dive into deliciousness, exploring the sweet treats that can be found in San Pedro Town. From getting to know one of our favorite Carnaval Comparsas, Cholo's Barbies, to coming across impressive birds while on a golf cart adventure, to a declaration of love for Caye Caulker, we've got it covered!

We sincerely hope you have a most excellent visit to our tropical home, and we welcome you to My Beautiful Belize.

# Weh Di Go Ahn Eena January & February?!

## February 6th:

National Elite Basketball League (NEBL) season opener, San Ignacio. Cayo Western Ballaz vs. Belize Hurricanes, Sacred Heart College Auditorium, 8PM.

## February 7th:

- \* 2015 Reina del Carnaval Pageant Five ladies will vie for the title of Reina to preside over the 2015 Carnaval. \$5-\$15 for seating at the SPHS Auditorium.
- \* NEBL reigning champions San Pedro Tigersharks Basketball Team kicks off 2015 season with their first game versus Belmopan Red Taigaz at the San Pedro Roman Catholic School 5-a-side court. 8PM

### February 14th:

Kymani Marley Concert in Belize City - Riverside Tavern. Doors open 8PM; admission: \$60 (\$70 at Door) February 14th-15th:

12th Annual Placencia Sidewalk Arts & Music Festival. Enjoy local artists' rainbow creations, ranging from hand carved woodwork, jewelry, sculptures, photographs, tailored clothing and of course lots of glorious, colorful paintings.

### February 15th-17th:

The annual Carnaval de San Pedro! From 3PM onwards, enjoy one of the most vibrant and fun cultural events of the island town of San Pedro. Painting and comparsas will keep you entertained!

## March 6th - 9th:

The annual La Ruta Maya River Challenge. The biggest kayak/canoe race of its kind. (More details in our story on Page 3).

## March 8th:

Damian Marley Concert, Hour Bar Field (Princess Margaret Drive) in Belize City. Admission: \$80/\$150/300 (Prices go up the day of the concert/at door).

# Wolfe's Woofers By: Dennis Wolfe

# **Wedding Prize**

"This yard is starting to look terrible," Sherry said. "We need to get it cut and raked."

"I like the way Mario takes care of it," I said, "but he never answers his phone."

"Why don't you go pick him up at home?

O.K." I said. "I'll go over to see him after lunch."

When I reached Mario's house he was on the porch with a small suitcase.

"Hey, Mr. Dennis," he said. "What's up?"

"Can you come chop the yard and rake it for me?"

"Sure," he said. "I just can't do it today."

"How about tomorrow?" I asked.

"I have to go to a wedding in my little village on the mainland," he said. "How about day after tomorrow on Tuesday?"

"All right. I'll pick you up at eight a.m."

On Tuesday Sherry said, "I thought you were picking up Mario this morning.

"I drove by his house," I said. "He's still not back from the wedding."

The next day was the same. On Thursday I went to Mario's house and he was just returning home.

"I'm sorry I didn't make it back when I told you I would," Mario said. "I got caught up in some wedding stuff and I had to stay longer."

"Wedding stuff?"

"In my little village we have a traditional wedding raffle with three prizes."

"And you won?"

"Yes, I got second prize. The prize was to spend three nights with the bride."

What?!" I exclaimed. "Second place? What was first place?'

"A quart of rum and a dozen tamales."

## SuDoku Time! Answers on Page 10 3 2 3 1 4 8 3 1 6 7 4 6 9 3 7 2 4 8 2 9 5 9











By Janelle Cowo

The most grueling canoe race in Belize is right around the corner, and paddlers are preparing to take on the 17th Annual La Ruta Maya River Challenge. The four-day race is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year, and sees racers traveling the 180-mile river route from the Macal River in the Cayo District to the Belize River in the Belize District. This year's race will take place from Friday, March 6th to Monday, March 9th and will test participants' endurance and survival skills. In other words: BEAST MODE ACTIVATED!!

La Ruta Maya River Challenge was founded by Richard Harrison of Big-H Enterprises for the purpose of launching Vida brand purified water. It made its official debut on March 9, 1998, and was seen

**Continued on Page 4** 







as an opportunity to bring many partners with similar interests together to build an event that could allow for promotional themes of 'natural products' identified with sports, endurance, nutrition, and well-being. The underlying concept is one of a team of businesses and organizations interested in the environment/ecology, history/culture and the tourism potential which the Belize Old River offers as one of the great natural resources of the country.



The race kicks off at the foot of the Hawksworth Bridge in the Twin Towns of Santa Elena/Cayo and makes its way to Banana Bank Lodge outside of Belmopan. On the second day, the paddlers continue from Banana Bank Lodge to Double Head Cabbage Village on the Belize River. On day three, racers make their way along the Belize River ending in Burrell Boom Village. On the last day paddlers push through the final stretch from Burrell Boom to the Belchina Bridge in Belize City.

The race has become an iconic event for Belize that now attracts both participants and visitors

**Continued on Page 6** 











Belize
Sotheby's





TEL 011 501 226 5010

RESERVATION 011 501 223 0002

INFO@MATACHICA.COM

RESORT & SPA



TEL 011 501 834 4024 RESERVATION 011 501 226 5014 INFO®GAIARIVERLODGE.COM Ruta Maya Challenge



from across the Caribbean and Central America. On each race day, hundreds of spectators gather at the banks of the river route to cheer on their favorite team. Others make it an incredible extra-fun experience by camping out at the different spots, taking in the village life while cheering the paddlers!

Mark your calendars, as this is definitely a can't-miss event! With so many stops along the way over four days, you'll know you can catch culture, exploration and sports in one!







# Getting candy-wasted on La Isla Bonita!

By Mary Gonzalez

With our cart from J & H Rentals secured for the afternoon and tummies full of anticipation (and not much else) we began our great adventure to candy land! Cupcakes, doughnuts, ice cream, frozen custard, homemade sweets (AKA nostalgia), fancy desserts, thick frozen shakes... need we go on? We were well on our way to being passed out in an orgy of sugary, treacly goodness, slumbering into a blissfully sweet coma.

Janelle and I had the perfect plan, a route that would take us all along the beach and downtown middle street. I intended to enjoy every bite of sugary goodness, but then as the list grew, I was apprehensive. Time to call in reinforcements, and who better than our expecting buddy Monique. With mommy-to-be on board with us, it was decided: to dessert...and beyond!!



D Ice Cream Bar on the beach OH EM GEE...Marguesitas and ice cream, among other goodies! Marquesitas are like a super crispy crepe: thin batter spread on a waffle-like apparatus, cooked to crispy perfection, then quickly rolled up and stuffed with grated Dutch (Edam) cheese. Then there are the optional additions: Nutella, caramel, cream cheese... mmm! I always choose caramel with my Dutch cheese - it is weird but the PERFECT blend of sweet and sharply salty. Monique was hankering for ice cream, so she went with Bailey's ice cream. I'm shocked she even shared, but the taste we had sure made us glad she did. The sugar was starting to kick in, so time to find some more!

Down from the beach to Middle Street we drove, where some of our favorite ladies prepared homemade goodies at Antojitos Lety. There nestled amongst cups of stewed papaya and craboo, were little bags of tamarind balls.



The pulp of the tamarind had been mixed with lots of sugar, and then rolled into little balls, sold at \$2 a bag of 3. I opted to finish my cheese and caramel orgy, letting the girls enjoy the little

**Continued on Page 11** 



# North Ambergris Caye ©2014, Map not to scale

Resort & Restaurant

Portofino





Mambo Restaurant

\*TIPS FOR TRAVELLING

IN NORTH AC

during this process, which is expected to last through Bridge. Drive with caution down to the Sir Barry Bowen rently being paved, start-~Three miles of road is curing from Belizean Shores

and during the rainy season, stations north of the bridge. of gas - there are no service lenging puddles. Drive Safe! water taxi. beach or dock-hopping via ~Other great ways of explor-~Be sure to have a full tank can bring about some chalstruction remain unpaved ing include biking along the The roads beyond con-

Whatever mode of transport your north adventure! you choose, you will enjoy

O Restaurant @

Terratas Resolt

Rendezvous Restaurant

> Grand Caribe. World cuisine, two dining atmospheres return 9pm by Tuff E Nuff tours, Rubies' dock. 226-4746, ext. 314 or email info@rainbelize.com. Free dining. Wine dinners every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month indoor semi-formal dining and outdoor rooftop casua boat transfer with reservations: pick-up at 6:15pm RAIN RESTAURANT - Two miles north at

a fresh 3-course Belizean meal over a coconut-husk reservations. Noon to 11PM. 668-2156. vibes. Regular Menu always available without fire while you enjoy refreshing cocktails and island with their Chef's Table. Watch as Chef Mar prepares PIRATE'S TREASURE - A unique dining experience

to the infinity pool. 226-4249. Lunch, & Dinner. Casual chic, or dine alfresco next Caribbean flair, at Las Terrazas Resort. Breakfast, O RESTAURANT - Central American cuisine with

RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT & WINERY

our new beach bar for lunch. Closed Monday & Tuesday. Reservations recommended. Telephone Chardonnays to Cabernet and Merlot and try Enjoy the signature wines we produce, from specializing in Thai and French fusion cuisine Charming and exotic setting on the beach

Also offering a full VEGETARIAN and spectacular Caribbean views our Euro-Caribbean inspired menu Menu. For Reservations & Free PORTOFINO RESTAURANT - Enjoy

and meals that will excite even the most seasoned experience at this award-winning restaurant at Transportation, please call 226-5096 or 678-5096 palate. Complimentary transportation with island ambience, offering locally inspired flavors Matachica Resort. Romantic atmosphere with MAMBO RESTAURANT - Enjoy a unique dining reservations - call 226-5010/226-5011

on the beach. Thatched Cabanas. Budget rooms the end of pier + Massage + Tours. Restaurant/ Bar with shared bath. 7 night yoga retreats. 626-6296 9PM. Drop in daily yoga classes at North of Bridge. Open Daily 7AM AK'BOL - Yoga & Resort. 1 Mile

and 2 dart boards, a great selection of super fast WiFi. We have 4 x 46" HDTV's destination for sports and darts and FELIZ BAR & GRILL: Your north side

rum and cocktails and a nice cool breeze. pizzas, wings and much more, ice cold beers, local fresh food including; burgers, paninis,

6am. 1/4 mile north of the bridge. LEGEND'S ROAD HOUSE - Home of Tuesday JAM musicians welcome. Now serving nights- live music starting at 7pm all down southern breakfast starting at Texas style smoked meats and a sit

KAMA LOUNGE:

& RESTAURANT JUNDE Kama Lounge is under new ownership. We

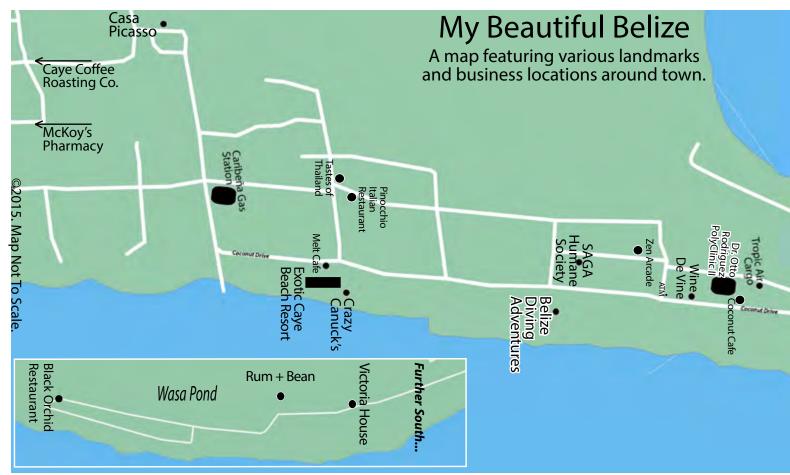
snacks & dinner all day. Pool open. Daily happy hour are located 1 minute across the bridge on the beach from 4-7. Closed on Wednesdays. in front of Reef Village. We serve breakfast, lunch,

astonishing view! cheeseburgers, seafood and tropical drinks and an to you. Outdoor seating, awesome smoked food and have your bucket of ice cold beers lowered Bridge. Daily 10am – 9pm. Relax on the inner-tubes PALAPA BAR AND GRILL - 1.5 Miles north of

sharks! Book your tour today at 501-226-4831 or with No Worries Tours. Experience the best of the the ancient Maya, or snorkel the waters with nurse Caves. Discover the best that Belize has to offer NO WORRIES TOURS - Dive. Snorkel. Jungle. Ruins visit us at www.noworriestours.com Jungle and Sea, when you visit the mystic ruins of

and Multiple Rentals. Pick-Up and Delivery Upon Request or Reservation. JandHgolfcarts@gmail.com Monthly Rentals Available. Huge Discounts on Group 226-2351/600-1151/602-9992. **RANSPORTATION** JEH Cart Rentals Daily, Weekly and

at http://crystal-belize.com reservations@crystal-belize.com or visit our website U.S.A.) Toll Free in Belize: 0-800-777-7777 Email: 223-1600 Fax: 011-501-223-1900 (direct dialing from City office to anywhere in Belize City. Tel: 011-501-Highway. Free shuttle service to and from our Belize Goldson International Airport and 5 Miles Northern CRYSTAL AUTO RENTALS - 2 BZ locations: Philip S.W.



# & REATS



**BLACK ORCHID RESTAURANT & LOUNGE:** Come visit us; just a quick Golf Cart Ride 2 1/2 miles South of Town after the Croc Pond Lagoon and well before the Marco Gonzales Maya Site. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am-9pm. www.blackorchidrestaurant.com. Reservations

Recommended (501) 206-2441.

CASA PICASSO RESTAURANT: Tapas dining in an artful setting. Global flavors from local ingredients...martinis, wines, cocktails. Vegetarian & gluten-free options. Open Tuesday-Saturday at 5:30pm. Last reservations 9pm...226-4443 or reservations@ casapicassobelize.com. Located south of town past Caribena Gas Station & Belikin Distributor. Ask about complimentary

taxi pick-up/drop-off service within San Pedro Town. Check out our specials & "Tasting Thursday" menu at facebook.com/CasaPicassoBelize & casapicassobelize.com.



ELVI'S KITCHEN: The #1 "MUST VISIT" Restaurant in San Pedro for almost 40 Years! Open for lunch and dinner, Monday – Saturday, 11AM-10PM. Wednesdays: Caribbean Night with Music by Any and Pupo. Thursdays: Seafood medley & Cuban Solo Guitarist "Amaurys". Fridays: Mayan

Buffet. Variety of specials every day, 226-2176.

THE COFFEE BAR: Bringing the Starbucks culture to Ambergris Caye, The Coffee Bar offers the best atmosphere, fastest wifi, cafe music, and a comfortable setting. They serve a wide assortment of hot and iced coffee drinks, tea, smoothies, soft drinks as well as a light breakfast and lunch menu. 226-2233.



MELT CAFE at Exotic Caye Resort: Artisan Grilled Cheese and Specialty Sandwiches. Vegetarian and Healthy Options. Fresh Fruit Smoothies, Beer, Wine, Bloody Mary's, Watermelon and Orange Juice Mimosa's. Serving Break-

fast and Lunch all day from 7am – 4pm. Free WiFi, closed Wednesdays. See map for location.



THE COCONUT CAFÉ: The ONLY Build-Your-Own Pizza, Panini and Wrap restaurant on the Caye. Choose from over 20 fresh ingredients. Open for breakfast and lunch from 7am to 3pm (closed Sundays), on

Coconut Drive across from Ramon's Village. 226-4311.



SPICE IT UP RESTAURANT: Boca del Rio Area, Beach Front. Open Sunday - Tuesday; 7AM - 10PM. Serving local and international cuisine. Weekend Specials Thursday through Sunday. Huge variety of scrumptious Ceviche. \$1 Wings. Happy Hour: 2PM-6PM. Call: 206-2870.



RAY'S BIG DOG: San Pedro's only Fast Casual palapa dining experience offers artisanal All Beef and Chicken hot dogs loaded with gourmand toppings, peel & eat shrimp growlers, and old school Ice cream floats hand made BIG DOG in three flavors. At the entrance of the Tacklebox dock.

THE PALMILLA RESTAURANT AT VICTORIA HOUSE: A casual experience with a unique mix of island seafood and continental cuisine. Relaxed and informal yet romantic. Admiral Nelson Bar is the place to be casual and relax in your swimsuit, enjoying breakfast, lunch and dinner with magnificent views. Reservations recommended: 226-2067.

PINOCCHIO ITALIAN RESTAURANT & Pizzeria. The only authentic Italian restaurant on the island. A San Pedro favourite! Real Italian pizza, thin crust, baked in wood-fire oven. Come enjoy our daily specials, including homemade fettuccini and lasagne. 632-8975.

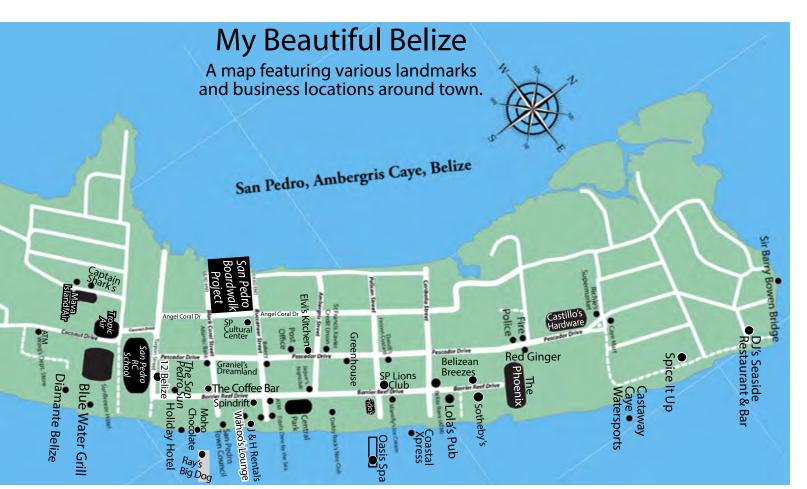




TASTES OF THAILAND: Authentic Thai Food cooked and prepared by Thai Chef. Available for Small parties and private booking on Mondays. Regular Hours:Tuesdays - Saturdays 5:30-9PM. Corner Seagrape Drive and Hurricane Street. Reservations

Preferred: 226-4778 / 629-0527. Check us out on TripAdvisor and FaceBook.

Page 8 My Beautiful Belize, A Visitor's Guide - San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize



## Unique Offerings

**BELIZEAN BREEZES SOAP** CO.: Home to over 160

scents of All Natural, Hand Poured soaps! From Bars to guest soaps, cupcake soaps and a ton of fun! A full line of affordable and unique jewelry and gift items.



CAYE COFFEE ROASTING COMPANY: Local fresh roasted coffee manufactured in San Pedro Town. Available throughout

Ambergris Cave and at select locations in mainland Belize. For more information visit http://www.cayecoffee.bz.

MCKOY'S PHARMACY: Your Pharmacy that cares. Last pharmacy south of town. Best price for Viagra/Cialis. We do special order medications and prescriptions. Services include: Checking of Pressure,

Sugar/glucose, and Nebulizer treatments. Open Mon-Sat 8:30AM-8PM, 9AM-midday Sundays. 626-1240/621-1648/226-4606 bzherbalist@yahoo.com.

**GRANIEL'S DREAMLAND:** Exotic Hard Woods and Mahogany Products made locally on the island. Gift Items, indoor and

outdoor furniture, carvings, and custom-made orders. Worldwide Shipping. Free Delivery to Hotel, Airport or Boat within town limits. 226- 2938, Pescador Drive. granielsdreamland2@yahoo.com, www. granielsdreamlandbelize.com Facebook: Graniels Dreamland

MOHO CHOCOLATE COMPANY: From bean to bar: handmade chocolate with Organic Maya Cacao. Milk & dark chocolate, truffles, skin care products and souvenirs. Black Coral Drive. 625-1980.

OASIS SPA - Relax, Refresh, Renew with our variety of treatments, including pre-natal massages, deep tissue, aromatherapy and more. On the pier at Fido's Courtyard. 206-2600, oasisspabelize@gmail.com.

ZEN ARCADE - Y O G A, Pilates, Dance, Body Work, Paddle Board Yoga, meditation, fitness for all levels and interest. Plus massage, hair & nails, healthy cafe/juice bar, Rx cosmetics, childcare, serenity pool and playground all in one location! www.zenarcadebelize.com, 226-3177.

CASTAWAY CAYE WATERSPORTS: Enjoy a fun day out on the water

with family and friends on our Seadoo Jetskis and Banana Boats. Or get a bird's eye view as you Parasail over paradise with our professional staff. Located on Wet Willy's Dock. 671-3000.



"12" is the only shop in Belize that features only Belizean made luxury products & gifts suitable for both locals and tourists. Featuring exclusive items from around the country from soaps & scrubs to handbags & sauces, we ship same day throughout

Belize. www.12belize.com 670-5272.

**SPINDRIFT HOTEL**: Conveniently located near the banks, supermarkets and restaurants, our hotel offers an array of affordable rooms; offering patio view, beach front apartments, economic rooms, studio apartments and beach front rooms. Email: spinhotel@btl.net or (501)-226-2174 / 2018.

CRAZY CANUCKS BEACH BAR: Beach bar located at Exotic Caye Beach Resort. Daily:

11-midnight. Bar food and daily drink specials. Mondays: Live reggae at 8pm. Thursdays: Splash 'n Paint at 2pm. Fridays: Trivia at 7pm followed by karaoke. Saturdays: Live music with Dennis Wolfe at 7pm. Sunday Funday: Live music and horseshoes at 3pm. Follow us on Facebook. Phone: 670-8001

LOLA'S PUB - The best stocked bar on the island! Martinis, Single Malt, Bourbon, Pickleback Shots, Tequila Shot Chillers. KARAOKE FREE ZONE. Across from Belize Bank on Front Street. 206-2120.

DJ'S SEASIDE RESTAURANT AND BAR- Come enjoy our signature

burgers and ocean views while the kids play at the Boca del Rio park. Now featuring pool tables and dart boards. Daily food and drink specials. Live punta and reggae music on Saturday and Sundays.

WAHOO'S LOUNGE - We are home to the WORLD FAMOUS CHICKEN DROP! Thursday nights starting at 6PM. Drink specials, games and an amazing view of the reef. Located on the beach at the Spindrift Hotel. 226-2002.



THE SAN PEDRO LIONS CLUB Join us on Fridays for fun bingo (7PM) and delicious chicken BBQ (from noon). All proceeds go back to assisting the community in times of need.



226-2207 for reservations. center, grocery store, spa and fun casino are the service beach resort 3.5 miles north Ambergris pertect combination for the ultimate getaway! Call luxury condos, 3 pools, restaurant, bar, tour Caye. Cozy thatched casitas, spacious villas, and CAPTAIN MORGAN'S RETREAT & CASINO - Full

Belizean touch. Call 236-5111 Offering a variety of International food with a the secret flavors of Miss Miguela's kitchen! most beautiful setting on the island and discover secluded just miles north of San Pedro. Dine at the **EL SECRETO** is a barefoot luxury resort comfortably

> office to anywhere in Belize City. Tel: 011-501-223-1600 Fax: com or visit our website at http://crystal-belize.com Highway. Free shuttle service to and from our Belize City CRYSTAL AUTO RENTALS - 2 BZ locations: Philip S.W. Belize: 0-800-777-7777 Email: reservations@crystal-belize. 011-501-223-1900 (direct dialing from U.S.A.) Toll Free in Goldson International Airport and 5 Miles Northern

water taxi for Ambergris Caye. Phone 226-3007 COASTAL XPRESS WATER TAXI — Scheduled ferry service &

email: into@gettransfers.com. anywhere in Belize: Chetumal, Cancun, Quintana Roo & even **GET TRANSFERS** - Executive transfer and tour services Merida and Guatemala. Phone: 422-2485 (Fx: 422-3511) or

**RAINBOW TAXI** – Caye Caulker golf cart; guided island tours; reliable service. 226-0123. Minerva: 661-6254 or Champ 602-8136.

AA Meetings: Tel: 627-1585. English Meetings: diamantebelize.com to learn more! ourist Information

end finishes throughout. Full strata beachfront buildings of 2- and 3-bedroom condos with highthe luxurious Diamante will feature 5 standalone

**DIAMANTE BELIZE:** Now under construction

condominiums in the heart of town! Visit

Parish Hall. 'Clean & Serene': Tues & Fri, noon, Catholic Church 'Boca Del Rio': Mon - Sat: 6PM - 7PM (#5 Boca Del Rio Dr).

Pablo Church. UltraMar Group (Spanish): T/W/F/Sun: 7:30PM, San

Belize Tourism Board - 227-2419

San Pedro Tourist Guide Association 226-2391. Belize Hotel Association - 223-0669, bha@btl.net Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) - 227-5717.

BELIZE SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY is a

oriented and will ensure that our clients' needs are met and exceeded. Belizesir.com property management in Belize. We are service full-service firm offering sales, vacation rentals, and

South Police Sub-Station - 610-4911 **Police** - 206-2022 / **Fire** - 206-2372

Emergency - 911 Crimestoppers - 800 922-TIPS

Dr. Otto Rodriguez San Pedro Polyclinic

**II -** 226-2536.

**US Embassy** - 822-4011 Emergency: 660-287

British High Commissioner – 822-2146 Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

Contact us for advertising & story opportunities Be sure to visit our website for detailed stories ar My Beautiful Belize: hello@mybeautifulbelize.com many more beautiful photos www.mybeautifulbelize.com G U I D

Published by *The San Pedro Sun LTD* 

9 6

α ω 9

1 S

<u>ი</u> 2 α 5

# Sudoku Answers Puzzle on Page 2

a m in								
	5	6	4	∞	_	9	2	
	4	7	-	2	3	œ	5	
	2	9	ω	5	6	4	7	
	7	1	5	9	4	2	8	
	6	8	9	ω	7	ç,	_	
	8	2	7	4	9	6	သ	
	1	5	2	6	8	З	9	
	З	4	ω	_	5	7	9	
	9	3	6	7	2	_	4	

# Getting candy-wasted continued from Page 6

homemade nuggets. Through my Marquesita and caramel sugar haze, I watched them crunch on the treats as we drove down to Annie's just a couple blocks away. With its window full of caprichos, sesame seed rolls stuffed with cream cheese, tarts, buns as big as my head, jam rolls... choir angels welcomed us with

song. Inside, the cooler held tiny cakes, cheesecakes, cupcakes and more. But what did the girls go for? Maja Blanca. I was still feeling the marquesita, and once again waved my white flag. Made with rice, the maja blanca is a thick custard, sweetened then sprinkled with cinnamon and best served warm. I watched as they downed the cup of creamy white custard, shaking my head when they offer to share with me. Nope; I was done for.





Down the street we drove, looking for more sugar to keep our pregnant friend happy, and to fuel Janelle. Oh, there it was, like a beacon in the dark: DandE's Frozen Custard! I felt a surge of energy and suddenly I was ready for some more sugar. Ha – like I was going to miss out on frozen custard! Owner Eileen claims to have invented the Bull's Eye, and that was the one I wanted. Vanilla custard, a hole in the center that's filled with hot fudge – it sounds so simple, yet so perfect. Joy and happiness abounded (sugar rush is back)!





Thirsty Thursday
For every \$50 play on slot,
get \$5 promo
% price pizza

Diva Fridays
Dress up & play with us
Free Local Drinks:
8PM – 9:30PM for the Divas
Every 10th diva gets free
raffle & promo ticket
DI & Dance:
9PM – 12midnight

Blackjack Poolside Tue/Thurs/Sun, 1PM – 5PM

Free Transportation:
From Fido's Dock:
7 - 9 - 11PM
From Captain Morgan's Dock:
8 - 10 - 12PM & 2AM



Pleased with ourselves, we drove back to the office...where the happygo-lucky Celi's Deli girls had a slice of fluffy Key Lime pie waiting for us! Across the street, Holiday Hotel's Caprice Bar tempted us with sweet Panti Rippas. We were not to deny the call of such goodness, so in a last gasp effort, we went for both. Looks like we have to end the day with a drink. The Panti Rippa, with its coconut rum, pineapple juice and splash of grenadine - shaken, not stirred – certainly hit the right sweet spot for all!



I for one, decided that the idea of a cleanse or a detox, anything non-sugary, was a great idea. I know for sure that when Monique's baby girl is born, she'll be EXTRA sweet. As for Janelle – she carried on as if nothing, and probably went on to have some candy after work. Ahh, youth! This adventure taught us that San Pedro can definitely take care of your sweet tooth. Try any of the places we mentioned? Let us know what your favorites are, and let us know what we missed. I know a few people who would be up to the task!



#### Tuesdays: Belizean Buffet Local dishes, live band & local artisans

Thursdays: Mexican Night Pork & Chicken Burritos, Fish Tacos, Salbutes, Fajitas, Tostadas & more

Game Day Sunday: Bucket Beers & Snacks

Happy Hour Daily: 3PM - 6PM

Reservations Recommended: 226-2207 3 1/2 miles North AC



By Mary Gonzalez

When Carnaval hits the island, it's a three-day fun-fest of color, loud music, paints and dancing. Groups form months in advance, planning their strategy and costumes, focusing on the music, lyrics to their song, and themes for each day of the festivities. Notable amongst the groups are the hilarious Cholo's Barbies.

Yes; manly men run to their wives' closets, pulling on dresses, skirts, stuffing their shirts with balloons, slapping on the warpaint and pulling on wigs in an effort to take on a new look. These are men who spend the majority of their time out fishing, tour-guiding, in construction – you know, male-dominated fields. But come Carnaval time, it is all about TRADITION and friendship. The group also spends an inordinate amount of time drinking beers or rum and cokes at Cholo's Sports Bar - the unofficial clubhouse for the Cholo's Barbies. This is where the magic happens.

Nestor Rivero and David Aguilar are the unofficial songwriters, and we've heard from reliable sources that the drunker the gathering, the funnier the lyrics become. And of course, the themes usually revolve around social issues - especially poking fun at those in charge. This year, we have Municipal Elections coming up, so we're thinking there will be some interesting themes to say the least!

Jeanette Salfeety sent us a vintage (1992) photograph of young boys dressed up for Carnaval (shown at right). Would you believe that some of those same boys are carrying on that tradition 23 years later? That's what the Barbies are about: children who grew up with the tradition, embracing it and keeping it a part of their lives for three days out of the year.



The next time you see these finely dressed gents out in their revelry, keep in mind that they have ensured that tradition holds true. Watch the youngsters growing up – they'll soon graduate from their school comparsas and take that next step to Barbie-dom! Catch the festivities this month through the downtown (middle & front) streets of San Pedro Town from Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday February 17th.















an entourage of females, paddling around like they owned the place. It hardly seems fair that the male is the prettiest one out of the bunch! I also see White Ibis young and old, Snowy Egrets, Tri-Colored and Green Herons, a Reddish Egret which I mistake for a Little Blue Heron at first, and long-legged shore birds like Killdeer and Wilson's Plover.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about this is the fact that we never left our golf cart! From the side of the road we spent a good hour marveling at this avian spectacle while the birds went about their business of feeding. It is days like these that confirm how fortunate I am to share this island with such amazing wildlife. So often my recreating takes me below the tropical waters to swim with the fishes, but on this day my close encounters with Caribbean creatures was well above the surface of the cool waters surrounding La Isla Bonita, and what a rare treat it was! For more photos, please visit www.mybeautifulbelize.com.

Another treat? Spotting a gor-

geous male Blue-winged Teal with

Ambergris Caye is never short on surprises, and an afternoon golf cart ride can be one you may never forget. From breathtaking panoramas of the Caribbean Sea to lush and blooming flora, this is one of the best ways to explore and discover La Isla Bonita.

A recent Sunday afternoon drive took us to the southern end of the island, where the less inhabited area lends lovely beachside views and its share of properties posted for sale which we fantasize about buying...SOMEDAY, sigh. While driving I'm always on the lookout for birds (who says you have to keep your eyes on the road?) and along the way we spot an enormous Osprev nest with a majestic parent standing sentinel nearby. Bonus! But the real birding bonus lies just around the corner, where in a cleared area near Tarpon Bay the wetlands have attracted a crowd of grazing birds of all sizes and colors.

The largest of them all are the impressive Wood Storks which stand more than three feet high. According to my handy dandy Birds of Belize Checklist issued by the Belize Audubon Society, they are considered not only uncommon for this area (I have seen them once before in roughly the same area) but are listed as a species of conservation concern. I especially love these big birds because they are the signature "baby delivery storks" fabled from years ago. I can just envision one soaring through the sky, dangling a little bundle of joy from his massive beak!

Much to my delight I also spot another favorite bird of mine, a bright pink Roseate Spoonbill methodically sieving the water in search of a tasty meal. Like the American flamingo, their pink color is diet-derived, which primarily consists of organisms such as shrimp and algae that are high in pigments called carotenoids. These carotenoids are the same pigments that cause shrimp to turn from gray to pink when we boil them! Cool, huh?



The legend of storks delivering babies has roots in Greek and Egyptian mythology. The northern European lore originated because storks arrive on their breeding grounds in Poland and Germany nine months after midsummer. They were encouraged to nest on people's homes and properties in the hope that they would bring fertility and prosperity.









Reservations recommended 226-4249 www.orestaurantbelize.com







It doesn't matter how long it's been, docking along the shores of Caye Caulker still has that calming, soothing effect. She's got brilliantly colored homes along her beaches juxtaposed next to a few less gaudy ones, the trees still line her shores, and more often than not, a hammock is strung between them for a quick nap.

You could walk her streets at the most leisurely pace, not once coming across a vehicle. In fact, you have to walk around sleeping dogs more often than stepping aside for a golf cart! Caye Caulker is not pretentious. She is tiny and unique, from her pretty sandy beaches and funky boats tied up to mooring spots - to the darker, yet just-as-enticing, west side where older

homes, fishermen's spots, and mangroves have Caribbean Colors Art Cafe Art, Beats and Eats in Paradise

The San Pedro San for a

10% discount on art and gift items.

Breakfast, Sushi, Salads,

6 a.m. - 3 p.m. (closed Thursdays)

os, Awesome Coffee & Espresso Drinks



taken root and made their home. Caye Caulker is really a fun date - casual if you're up to it, and for her formal means slip-

ping on flip flops instead of being barefoot. Her restaurants are homey, but the food within is often out-of-this-world. Her beaches shaded from her many coconut trees, the drinks icy cold and unique.

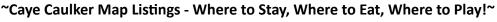
She embraces people of all cultures, offering something fun to do for all each and every day. We have had plenty of fun escapades on Caye Caulker: snacking on some fresh fruit from the little stand down a ways...walking in the hot sun until we stumbled into a restaurant with cooling shade, rough-hewn tables and chairs that have been polished over the years, eager to consume some delicious local food. We've been rained out, and discovered the kindness of people along the way, and the best place to get a nice hot coffee to ward off the chill. Families can picnic; youngsters can frolic in her waters and at her iconic Split. And those who have seen it all can say that, despite a few changes here and there, Caye Caulker is still that girl you talk about years later.



DINING: all-you-can-eat buffet: Breakfast/Lunch/ Ice-Cream Enjoy our famous Pork Asada!

OUR HOSTEL: New trends in hostel stays

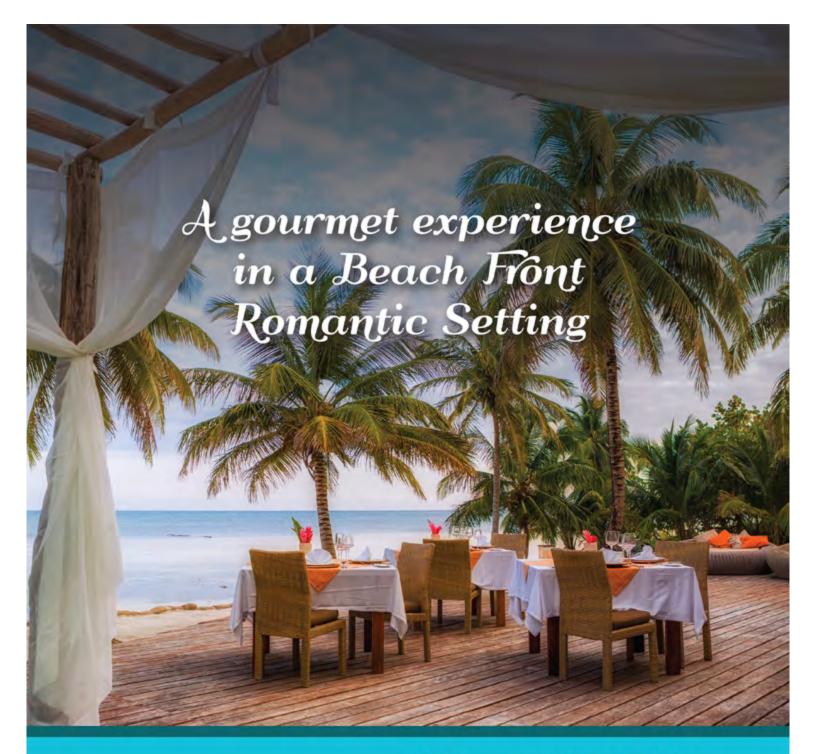




CARIBBEAN COLORS ART CAFÉ CAYE CAULKER: Voted "Best Breakfast on Caye Caulker" Open 6 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed on Thursdays. Featuring art and gifts from local artists. Everything is homemade and fresh, whole wheat bagels, espresso drinks, amazing coffee, smoothies, banana pancakes, omelets, lunch options include sushi, salads, chilled soups, with a nice vegan selection available, caribbeancolors1@hotmail.com (501)668-7205.

LA CUBANA RESTAURANT: Traditional Cuban food with original ingredients. Buffet style breakfast, lunch or dinner from 8:00 am to 9:30pm - Six types of meats and the whole roasted pig served with an amazing garlic sauce! Ice Creams Buffet. Home of the famous Cuban sandwich and the Sugar Cane "mojito"! For the Budget traveller – Our upstairs water front Sleep Boxes offer privacy, kitchen facilities, hot water and Wi-Fi. dianepe@gmail.com, 226-0546.







N. 18° 05' W .87° 88'

# The Coastal Express Now Takes You to Heaven

## **LUNCH & DINNER RESERVATIONS**

Complimentary Transfers Available On Select Hours dinning@elsecretobelize.com + (501) 236-5111, +(501) 670-5111

## **COASTAL EXPRESS RUNS:**

Departs from ADM: 8:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:30 PM
Departs from El Secreto: 9:10 AM, 1:10 PM, 6:10 PM, 9:10 PM