

Belize Bird Rescue

A rehabilitation center and sanctuary for our feathered friends!

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*** The International Costa Maya Festival® celebrates culture, music and beauty**

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From the Editor *Tamara Sniffin*

I always marvel at how life's paths can take us places we never would have dreamed of. How many times have you heard people say (or maybe even told yourself for that matter), "If someone told me ten years ago I would be doing 'this' with my life I would never had believed them." In this issue, we share with you an intriguing story of how injured birds serendipitously changed a couple's plans from retirement into a life-changing devotion to protecting avian wildlife in Belize, thus establishing the Belize Bird Rescue. It's a life they wouldn't change for anything now!

If you asked Celi McCorkle of the San Pedro Holiday Hotel, she'd probably agree that what she's done over the last 50 years of business was surprising too. Now she's known as a tourism pioneer on Ambergris Caye, a title she holds proudly. The Holiday, its matriarch and staff continue to provide wonderful service on La Isla Bonita, and we look forward to another 50 years of good times ahead!

In this July/August publication we also explore some other life-changing experiences, like Happy Hour in San Pedro (ok, that MIGHT be a stretch), but no exaggeration when it comes to celebrating the Costa Maya® Festival in August!

This festival honors the cultures of Latin America, and Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama will all be represented this year! From the signature Reina de La Costa Maya® Pageant, to the night shows full of music and entertainment, the three-day event is Latin merriment at its best.

As always, we are certain that your visit to our country will be one full of adventure and unforgettable fun! We welcome you, one and all to My Beautiful Belize.



Due to his crippled feet from improper care, this un-releasable parrot at BBR is a likely candidate for a proposed adoption program later this year.

Wolfe's Woofers

By: Dennis Wolfe

Blind Date

"Do you know who would make a great couple?" Sherry asked.

"No; I don't," I replied, "but I'll bet you're going to tell me."

She ignored my remark and said, "I just found out that Vince and Linda have never met even though both of them have lived on Ambergris Caye for several years."

"That's not my problem," I said.

"I'm going to set up a blind date for them," Sherry told me.

Linda came over to our house half an hour before we were supposed to meet for dinner.

"I'm really nervous about this," she said.

I asked, "What is there to be nervous about?"

"What if I don't like him? What if I know immediately that he and I are never going to hit it off? I don't want to sit through an uncomfortable two-hour dinner with a stranger."

"We'll be with you," Sherry said. "It's not like you're going to be alone."

"I have a great idea," I said. "Set it up with a friend to call you half an hour after we arrive at the restaurant. Then, if you don't like Vince you can use the phone call as an excuse to leave."

"That would work," Linda said.

She immediately called a friend and set it up.

Half an hour into dinner Linda's phone rang.

"Hello," she said. "Oh, no! I'll be right there."

She turned off her phone and said, "Vince, my grandmother is very ill and I need to get home. I'm so sorry."

"Oh, no problem," Vince said. "In about fifteen minutes my house was going to catch fire."



Weh Di Go Ahn Eena July & August?!



Belize Fashion Week: July 9th-12th San Pedro Town- Showcasing lines from local and international designers modeled by our very own Belizean models.

Belize International Film Festival: July 17th-19th Placencia Village, Stann Creek. 10th annual Belize National Film Festival provides a space for the exhibition of films from Belize and its neighboring regions of the Caribbean, Central America and Southern Mexico so that these audiences can see their images onscreen and be motivated to create more.

Benque Viejo Fiesta: July 16th-19th Benue Viejo del Carmen Town, Cayo. A celebration of their patron saint with cultural shows, marimba bands, food and games, mechanical rides, cultural presentations, sports marathons and



dances with bands from Belize, Guatemala and Mexico.

San Pedro Sailing Regatta: July 31st- August 2nd San Pedro Town: International ranking Optimist race.

Fiestarama: July 31st- August 2nd Orange Walk Town: The biggest annual event with entertainment for all ages.

National Tourism Awards: August 1st San Pedro Town: The 13th annual award ceremony hosted by the Belize Tourism Boards honors outstanding partners and stakeholders in tourism.

International Costa Maya Festival: August 6th-8th San Pedro Town. Details, P. 11

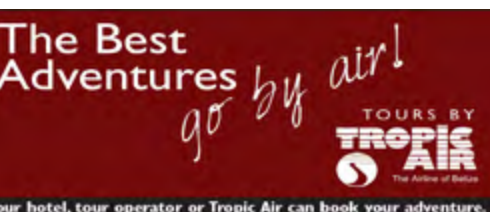
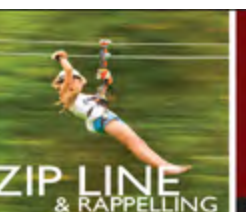
Tres Pescados Slam Tournament: August 6th-8th San Pedro Town- Belize's largest fly-fishing tournament.

Battle of St. George's Caye Regatta: August 29th-30th St. George's Caye, Belize- Third National Sailing regatta of the Belize Sailing Association season.



SuDoku Time! Answers on Page 10

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Belize Bird Rescue Avian Rehabilitation Centre & Bird Sanctuary

Caring for our feathered friends

By Tamara Sniffin



The country of Belize is blessed with a bounty of beautiful animals. Some may be rare and exotic, some may be as common as an iguana, but regardless of what the creature may be, it is safe to say that in a time of need there is most likely an organization in the country ready to come to its rescue. Working under permits issued by, and in partnership with the Belize Forest Department (BFD), these non-governmental organizations are powered by dedicated professionals and volunteers who selflessly come to the aid of everything from manatees to monkeys to turtles, sharks, tapirs, crocodiles, anteaters and yes, even iguanas! Often working together within the Belize Wildlife Conservation Network, these groups readily assist one another when getting an animal in-need to the right organization.

Many of these non-profit organizations originated from a series of serendipitous circumstances that changed the lives of their founders forever, and more often than not it was the animals who found them...not the other way around! Such is the story behind the Belize Bird Rescue (BBR) Avian Rehabilitation Centre & Bird Sanctuary.

Founded in 2004 by Nikki Buxton and Jerry Larder, the British couple originally moved to Belize from Trinidad with the goal of retiring. They purchased several acres in the Roaring Creek area just outside of Belmopan and were ready to relax and enjoy the good life of country living when fate slowly redirected their plans. As chance would have it, locals were bringing Nikki injured animals in hopes that she could treat them. Over time, and with a lot of research, she became quite good at fixing up injured birds, housing surrendered parrots and rehabilitating proper candidates for wild release. It wasn't long before her lovely countryside property started sprouting habitats and aviaries for these wayward birds.

My Beautiful Belize (MBB) recently had the privilege of touring the

Belize Bird Rescue, which is only open to the public by appointment. Buxton personally introduced us to the beautiful birds in her care and shared with us the amazing program BBR has evolved into. From education, to conservation and rehabilitation, BBR staff, interns and volunteers are responsible for countless success stories. Of course we had 101 questions for the very busy Buxton, and we thank the Patron Saint of Feathered Friends for taking the time to answer our queries!

Continued on Page 4

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Belize

Sotheby's
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Belize Bird Rescue

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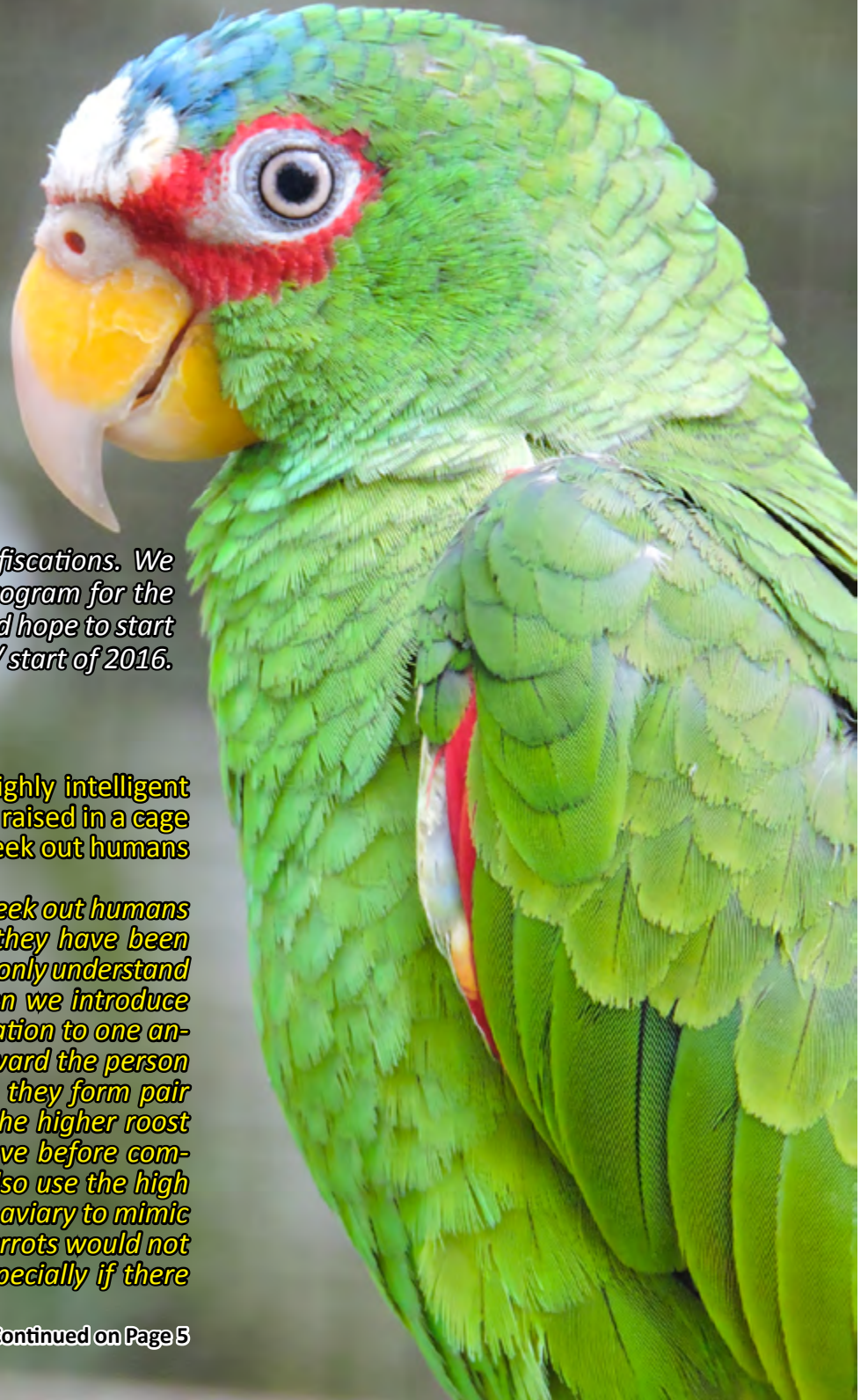
MBB: We know that it is illegal to keep wildlife as pets in Belize and parrots seem to be very popular pets, often pulled from the nest when they are just blind, naked babies. The ones that survive the ordeal (many do not) can grow up in less than ideal conditions. Would you say the majority of your long-term parrots are BFD confiscations and rescues, or are they surrendered from owners who cannot properly care for them? Is it possible for someone to adopt one of these parrots if they were equipped to care for one?

Buxton: *I would say the long-term birds are 75% surrenders, 25% confiscations. We are currently working on a foster program for the 'special needs' birds with the BFD and hope to start that program by the end of the year/start of 2016.*

MBB: Is it true that parrots are highly intelligent and impressionable? When they are raised in a cage do they lack survival skills and will seek out humans as well?

Buxton: *This is correct – they will seek out humans as a food source – however badly they have been treated or neglected in captivity, they only understand that humans bring them food. When we introduce former captive parrots raised in isolation to one another, they will initially gravitate toward the person bringing food, but as time goes on, they form pair bonds or groups, and they wait in the higher roost spots of the enclosures until we leave before coming down to the plates to eat. We also use the high feeding platforms in the rehab flight aviary to mimic a more natural feeding position – parrots would not usually come down low for food especially if there are humans around.*

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Belize Bird Rescue

Continued from Page 4



MBB: So you can't just let them go?

Buxton: When a bird is taken from the nest, usually their wings are clipped (and have been since they were babies) which means they are incapable of surviving in the wild: they won't know how to fly maneuver, land, take off well enough to avoid predators and keep up with a flock. In addition, their muscles would be weak and under-developed. It's rather like preventing a human toddler from walking until he is 6 and then expecting him to run a mile. The parrots must have the time to grow a full set of flight feathers and learn to use them – hence our flight aviaries.

MBB: How do you determine which ones are good candidates for wild release and which ones are hopeless?

Buxton: The only hopeless birds are those with physical deformities that prevent safe flight. Many 'crippled' birds

can survive on soft release around the center – we have several right now doing exactly that. It's the best life they can hope for and it's way better than life in a cage. If a bird is fit and healthy, there is always hope for release: even the most habituated birds can revert to wild state.

MBB: What is the success rate for your wild releases?

Buxton: We can end up recalling 1 or 2 in a group of 20, sometimes none. We band all of our birds so we get a head-count periodically. We know of one or two that have been predated over the years, and several have stopped coming around the release site, but for the most part they have formed a nice cohesive flock and remain in the area. We have seen wild babies from our releases three years running now. We also have to be careful of introducing disease into the already-critical

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Belize Bird Rescue

Continued from Page 5

wild populations, so other than the hand-raised at-risk babies, we need to do extensive tests on the potential releases.

MBB: What types of parrots do you get the most? Are they all native to Belize?

Buxton: Most of the birds we get in are red loreds or white-fronts - and the majority of these are fit for release. The yellow heads are the ones that we find hardest to rehab for release as they do habituate so well. (*Amazona oratrix* 'amazon who talks' so they are the most sought after for the pet trade). We have seven of the nine species that live in Belize, and they are all IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) listed in one way or another. We also have two non-natives.

MBB: How long do they live?

Buxton: The lifespans vary with species – the tiny parakeet is around 15-20 years, the medium white-front size is 45-50 years and the bigger ones 70-80yrs with the mealy blue-heads topping at 100 years.

MBB: Approximately how many parrots are in your care right now?

Buxton: There's 176 parrots here right now – 75% are releasable, hopefully within the next 12 months. There's 195 birds in total at the center, which include raptors, owls, waterfowl and passerines (perching birds).

MBB: WOW! Caring for all these critters must be expensive! Do you have a rough estimate of what it costs to feed them each month?

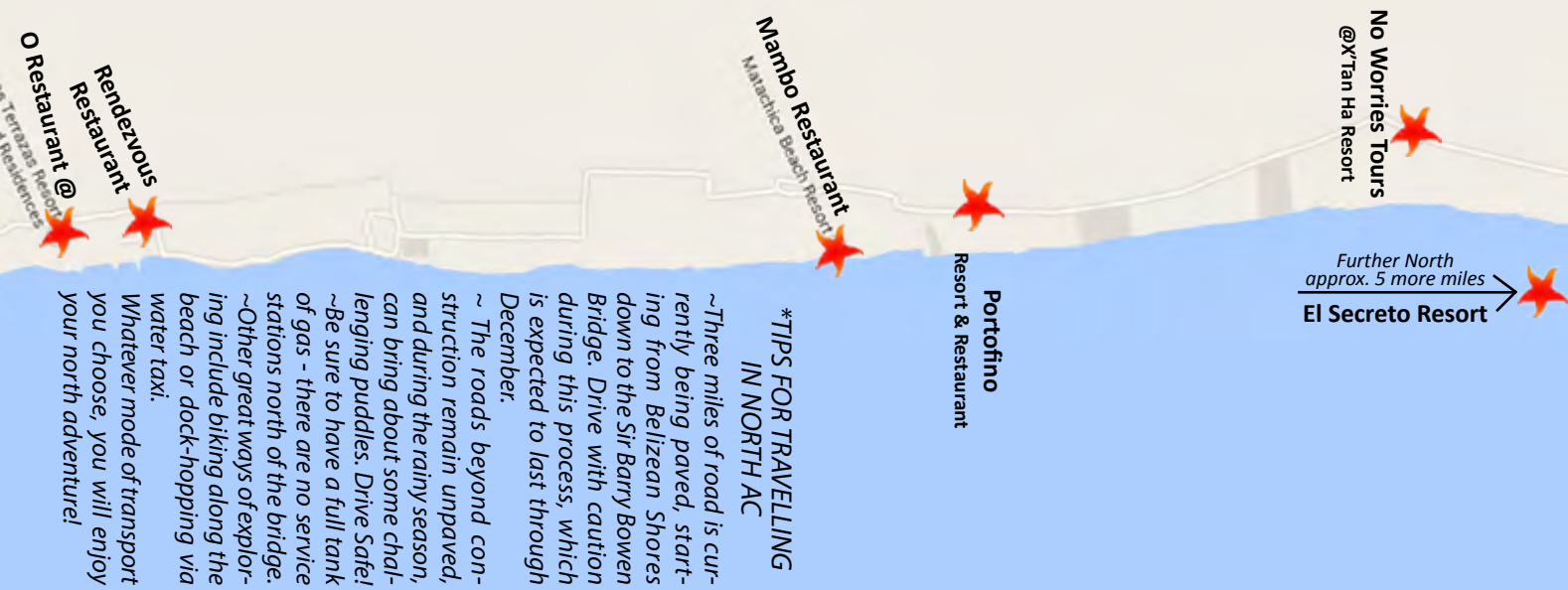
Buxton: Fruit and vegetables is \$1,400 a month, dry feed (pellets, seed etc.) is around \$2,200 a month, the cake, beans and eggs we cook for them is around \$400 – that's \$4,000 a month or around \$130 a day!!!

Needless to say by the end of our tour, and making some new feathered friends, we were more than impressed. How fortunate Belize is to have an organization so dedicated to protecting our avian wildlife, and with only the funds of grants and donations! To learn more about Belize Bird Rescue (and how you can support this more than worthy organization) please visit their website at <http://www.belizebirdrescue.com>.

Squirrel's Nest
Beachfront Palapa Bar
HAPPY HOUR 5PM TO 7PM DAILY
1 mile south of town
@ Mata Rocks Resort

North Ambergris Caye

©2014, Map not to scale



***TIPS FOR TRAVELLING IN NORTH AC**

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

~ The roads beyond construction remain unpaved, and during the rainy season, can bring about some challenging puddles. Drive Safe!

~Be sure to have a full tank of gas - there are no service stations north of the bridge.

~Other great ways of exploring include biking along the beach or dock-hopping via water taxi.

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

EAT RAIN RESTAURANT

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

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

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

RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT & WINERY - Charming and exotic setting on the beach, specializing in Thai and French fusion cuisine. Enjoy the signature wines we produce, from Chardonnays to Cabernet and Merlot and try our new beach bar for lunch. Closed Monday & Tuesday. Reservations recommended. Telephone 226-3426.



PORTOFINO RESTAURANT - Enjoy our Euro-Caribbean inspired menu and spectacular Caribbean views. Also offering a full VEGETARIAN Menu. For Reservations & Free Transportation, please call 226-5096 or 678-5096.

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

STAY



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

PLAY



FELIZ BAR & GRILL: Your north side destination for sports and darts and super fast WiFi. We have 4 x 46" HDTV's and 2 dart boards, a great selection of fresh food including: burgers, paninis, pizzas, wings and much more, ice cold beers, local rum and cocktails and a nice cool breeze.



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



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

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

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

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EATS & TREATS



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.

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.



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 Hurrucane Street. Reservations Preferred: 226-4778 / 629-0527. Check us out on TripAdvisor and Facebook.



HURRICANE'S CEVICHE BAR & GRILL: The ceviche house! A whirlwind of delicacies! Fine outdoor dining and delicious tropical drinks. Full lunch and dinner menu, seafood specials and pastas. Restaurant open 10am - 9:30pm. Bar open until 10pm Monday to Saturday, closed on Sundays.



JAMBEL'S JERK PIT: Specializing in Jamaican-Belizean Cuisine. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner: 7AM – 9PM Daily. Wednesdays: 6-9PM - ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFETT with Live Reggae Music! Saturday Nights – Live Music! Swing by for that IRIE DINING EXPERIENCE! 226-3515. Located off the Beach at the Sun Breeze Suites. Like us on Facebook.



HIDDEN TREASURE RESTAURANT: Serving Latin American & Caribbean cuisine in an enchanting atmosphere. Serving dinner only from 5:00pm - 9:00pm, closed on Tuesdays, located in the Escalante neighborhood. Live music on Thursdays! Free shuttle service to customers in town. Contact us 226-4111/4236, www.hiddentreasurebelize.com



ELY'S POOL BAR: Newest cool spot in San Pablo. Lunch & Dinner Served. Full Bar Service. Daily Happy Hour 5-8PM - \$1 Wings, \$4 Beers & Rum Drinks. Pool Access. Open Wednesday – Monday 10AM – 12 Midnight. Like us on Facebook. 615-4712.

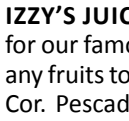


ISLAND TIME BEACH BAR: South eastern corner of Royal Caribbean Resort; offers a fun time to all. Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. Local & International Cuisine. Hours Mon - Sun: 7:00 am - 9:00 pm. Visa, Mastercard and Cash accepted. Parking Provided. 629 2551

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.



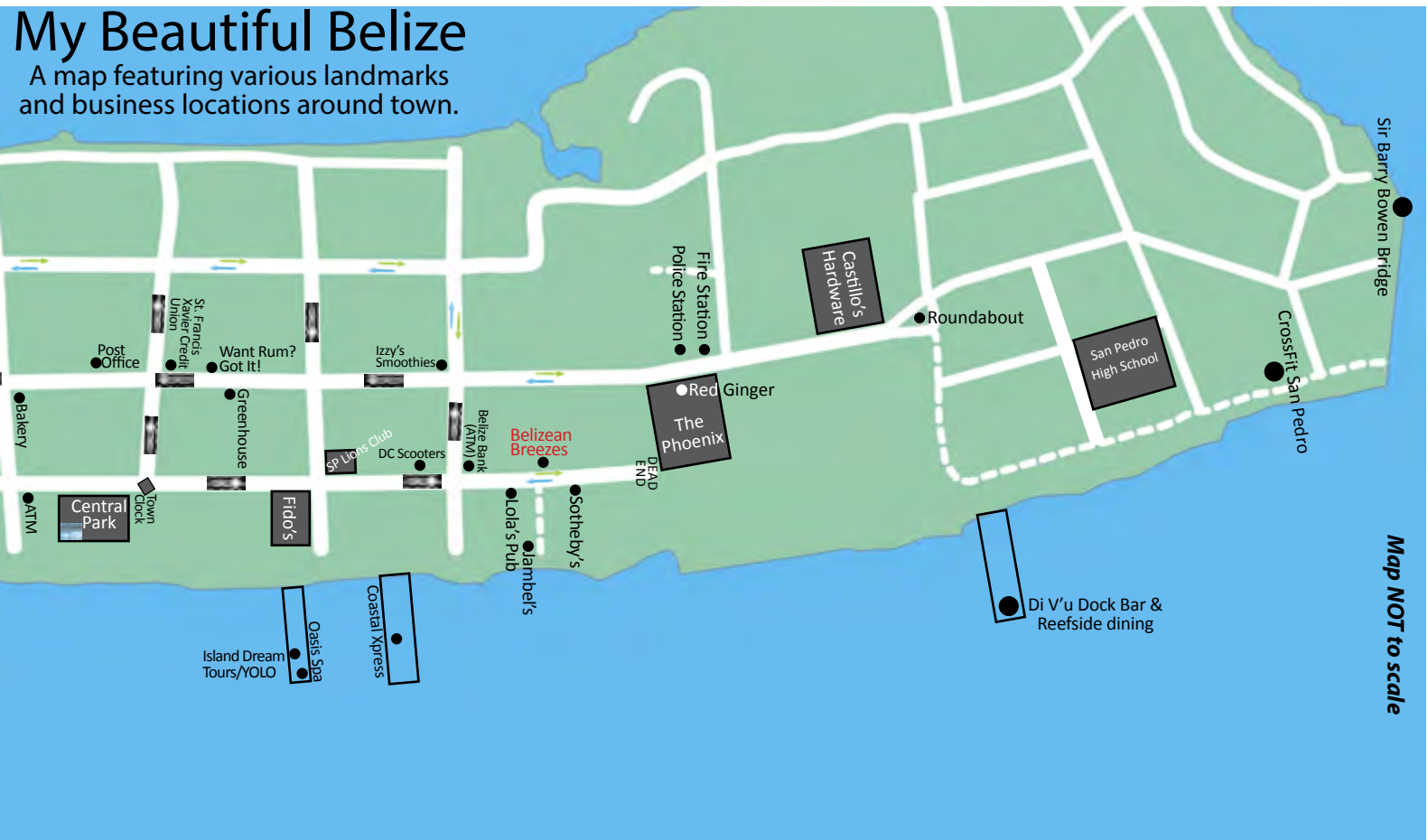
IZZY'S JUICE BAR: Delicious Smoothies & Shakes, Natural Juices. Ask for our famous Green Smoothie!! Wide menu to select from; combine any fruits to build your own with homemade ingredients & fresh fruits. Cor. Pescador Drive/Caribeña St. Hours: Weekdays: 7:30AM – 6PM. Weekends: 7:30am - 8PM. 664-0233.



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.

My Beautiful Belize

A map featuring various landmarks and business locations around town.



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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. A MUST see. 9AM-8PM, 671-2025.



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BLACK & WHITE GARIFUNA Restaurant and Cultural Center: Garifuna Cultural Presentations with traditional food, music and dance! Learn about the vibrant culture every Thursday and Sunday at 6:30PM. For reservations call 605-2895/ 625-5204 or email gariculenter@gmail.com. Restaurant opens daily for great local Belizean food. Oh! What a Belizean Experience!

"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.

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. 226-4252, oasisspabelize@gmail.com.

July/August 2015



DC ISLAND SCOOTER: We are located on Barrier Reef Dr (Front Street), right across from the Thomas Hotel and Island Movie. We offer scooter rentals by the hour, day, and week. There are no restrictions on where the scooter can go (except the water). Stop by, ride the breeze and explore Isla Bonita. 652-0307.

ISLAND DREAM TOURS: Specializing in Sunset Dinner Cruises (Gourmet, Buffet) Booze Cruise and Private Charters – you design your own dream on-the-water tour! Cruise includes wine, fresh fruits and hand-crafted cocktails! Join the Fun!! 615-9656! Like us on facebook. com/islanddreamtours

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CRAZY CANUCKS BEACH BAR: Beach bar located at Exotic Caye Beach Resort. Open daily, 11am-midnight. Bar food & daily drink specials. **Mondays:** Live reggae @8pm **Tuesdays:** DJ Debbie @8pm **Every other Thursday:** Splash n Paint @2pm **Fridays:** Trivia @7pm Karaoke @8:30pm **Sundays:** Live music/horseshoes @3pm **Phone: 670-8001** Find us on Facebook.



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WAAHOO'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.

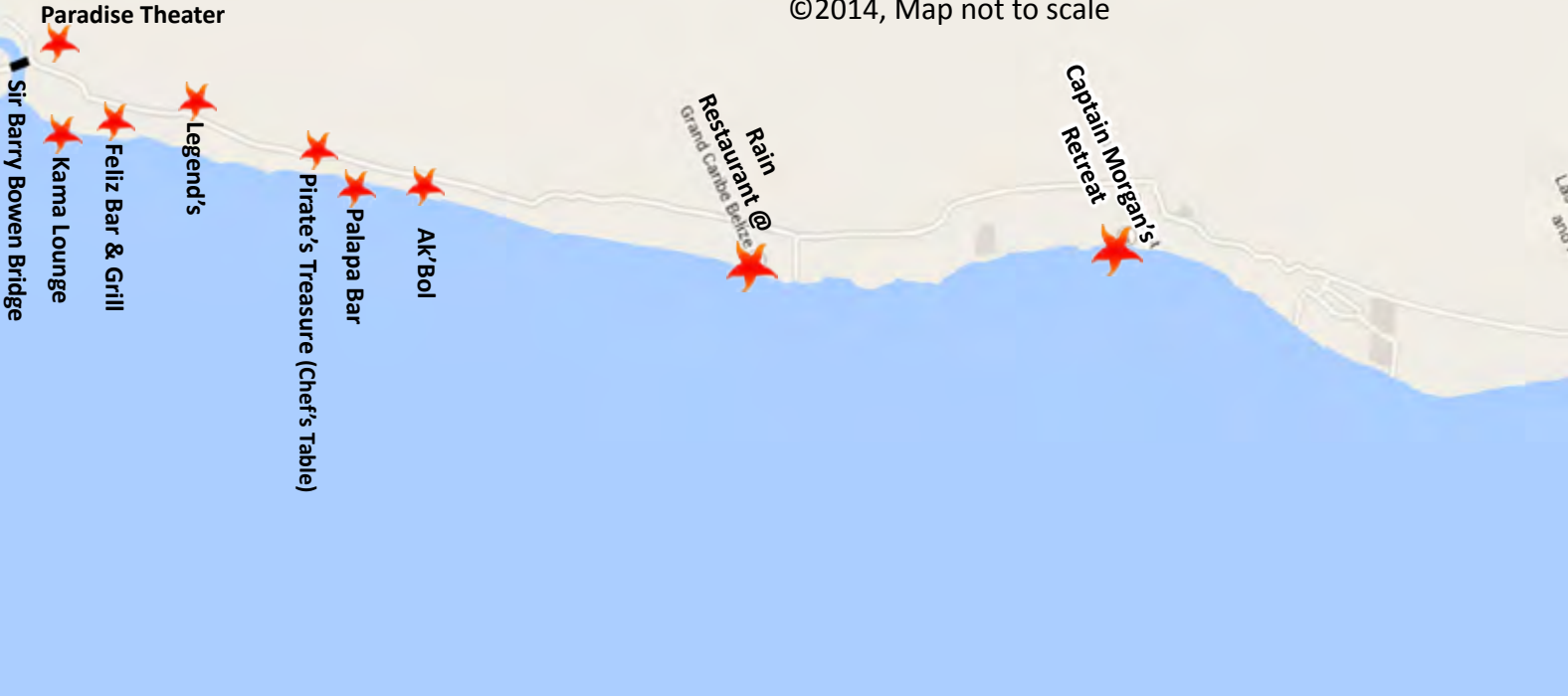
SQUIRREL'S NEST BAR: The islands 'hidden treasure on the beach' at Mata Rocks Resort. Beach Front Palapa Bar located 1 mile South of San Pedro. Happy Hour 5PM to 7PM daily. Stop by and see "Where The Nuts Gather".



WANT RUM? GOT IT! 100% Belizean Rums. Travellers Liquors FACTORY OUTLET and showroom! Home of world class and award winning rums. Wholesale and retail. Daily complementary rum tastings of over 25 products! #15 Pescador Drive 226-4690. www.facebook.com/wantrum

North Ambergris Caye

©2014, Map not to scale



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

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

REAL ESTATE

DIAMANTE BELIZE: Now under construction, the luxurious Diamante will feature 5 standalone buildings of 2- and 3-bedroom condos with high-end finishes throughout. Full strata beachfront condominiums in the heart of town! Visit diamantebelize.com to learn more!

Tourist Information

AA Meetings: Tel: 627-1585. English Meetings:
'Boca Del Rio': Mon - Sat: 6PM - 7PM (#5 Boca Del Rio Dr).
'Clean & Serene': Tues & Fri, noon, Catholic Church Parish Hall.
UltraMar Group (Spanish): T/W/F/Sun: 7:30PM, San Pablo Church.
Belize Tourism Board - 227-2419.
Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) - 227-5717.
Belize Hotel Association - 223-0669, bha@btl.net
San Pedro Tourist Guide Association 226-2391.

CRYSTAL AUTO RENTALS - 2 BZ locations: Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport and 5 Miles Northern Highway. Free shuttle service to and from our Belize City office to anywhere in Belize City. Tel: 011-501-223-1600 Fax: 011-501-223-1900 (direct dialing from U.S.A.) Toll Free in Belize: 0-800-777-7777 Email: reservations@crystal-belize.com or visit our website at <http://crystal-belize.com>
COASTAL XPRESS WATER TAXI - Scheduled ferry service & water taxi for Ambergris Caye. Phone 226-3007.
GET TRANSFERS - Executive transfer and tour services anywhere in Belize: Chetumal, Cancun, Quintana Roo & even Merida and Guatemala. Phone: 422-2485 (Fx: 422-3511) or email: info@gettransfers.com.
RAINBOW TAXI - Caye Caulker golf cart; guided island tours; reliable service. 226-0123. Minerva: 661-6254 or Champ 602-8136.

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IMPORTANT #S

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Emergency - 911
Crimestoppers - 800 922-TIPS
Dr. Otto Rodriguez San Pedro Polyclinic
IL - 226-2536.
Emergency: 660-2871
US Embassy - 822-4011
Canadian Consulate - 223-1060
British High Commissioner - 822-2146



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Sudoku Answers Puzzle on Page 2

2	5	7	8	1	3	6	9	4
9	8	4	2	5	6	3	7	1
1	3	6	4	7	9	8	5	2
8	2	5	6	3	4	9	1	7
4	1	3	5	9	7	2	8	6
6	7	9	1	8	2	5	4	3
5	4	2	7	6	8	1	3	9
7	9	8	3	2	1	4	6	5
3	6	1	9	4	5	7	2	8

Costa Maya Festival: a celebration of beauty and culture!



Every year without fail, San Pedro Town welcomes hundreds of visitors to the island – many from our mainland – to the International Costa Maya Festival®! What started in 1992 as the Sea and Air Festival, the celebration has evolved into a musical and cultural festival that also brings a touch of beauty to the three-night extravaganza. This year's event will take place from Thursday, August 6th to Sunday, August 9th.

Local and international musicians, deejays, performers, artisans and even carnival fair-style rides fill the venue (Hon. Louis Sylvestre Stadium), with throngs of festival-goers enjoying different events each night. Organizers of the festival try and spread the entertainment to incorporate the entire family.

Always held on the first weekend of August, Costa Maya® begins on a Thursday night. This is now officially kicked off with the selection of a Costa Maya beauty ambassador. Representatives from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama grace the stage in hopes of capturing the crown. Exotic costumes, elegant gowns and stunning swimwear are paraded to the delight of the audience. Intermissions are peppered with fabulous cultural entertainment by dance troupes. This year will see the performance of Mexico's Dance Troupe Alma Caribeña, and they have promised to bring an air of Carnival, with costumes to match! The Belize Dance Company will also be lending their unique movements to the affair. At the end of the night, a panel of judges will choose the representative

Continued on Page 12



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of The Costa Maya®. The current title-holder is Miss Mexico's Elisa Espinosa.

Once the winner has been chosen, there will be a celebratory after-party hosted by the winner, and everyone is invited to dance the night away to the sounds of an international deejay.



Friday night is the official opening night, and the traditional Flag Dance honors the participating countries of the festival to much pomp and circumstance. The night then takes on the title of FEST-ival seriously, providing fabulous entertainment onstage late into the night and right on to the wee hours of the morning. Headlining this night is the mighty Gilharry 7 Band, bringing fabulous Belizean flavor to the stage. Bring your dancing shoes (or lose those shoes and have even MORE fun!)



After resting up properly from the Friday night fun, plan on a romantic evening to the tunes of Grupo Ladron. The group was formed in 1991 in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and is a top choice for ballads and the "gruper" genre. Of course, there will be local artists and performances leading up to the big event, which usually

starts at the romantic witching hour of midnight!

To cap off the weekend, Sunday is a fun family day on the beach, for those festival attendees who need to recover before heading back home! We hope everyone who attends enjoys each aspect of the festival, and we look forward to welcoming you all to La Isla Bonita and the International Costa Maya Festival 2015®.

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It's Happy Hour on La Isla Bonita!

Face it; you're on the island and on holiday. Your sole responsibility is to have fun and relax, enjoy doing nothing, and get exhausted doing so if necessary. This little guide is for those of us who enjoy partaking in some fine alcoholic adventures – and if you can save some extra cash to get Uncle Joe that Belikin t-shirt, well, why not?! This here is your guide to happy hour – and in some cases, happy hours!



Why not start directly across from our esteemed offices, where the bartenders at Caprice Bar & Grill will whip up some amazing deals for you during their week-day happy hour of 3PM and 6PM. We've been thoroughly spoiled by their two-for-one deal on margaritas and local rums. The saddest days of our lives were during the Great Lime Shortage of 2014...but thankfully, limes are plentiful and squeezed for that yummy \$6BZ margarita. Another favorite is the panti rippa (a coconut rum and pineapple juice concoction), and at happy hour, they are only \$2.50BZ. Heck, they're cheaper than beer, and some may say, tastier too!



Now if you want to get away from the center of town, and sidle up to a beachfront bar, maybe hang with some nuts, then the Squirrel's Nest is your destination. Your wallet is happy and fat still, and you can totally afford a couple local rum drinks! Catch their happy hour between 6pm-7pm every day, and have Sherylin or Creselda serve you up something refreshing! A staff favorite is the dark rum and ginger, with a twist of lime.

Now, if you really want to get away, can we suggest the really yummy bargains at Rain Rooftop Restaurant and Terrace? Talk about sweetening the deal and making the drive past the bridge totally worth it! Most Happy Hours entail specific

items (which are nonetheless delicious) but Rain has made the offer so sweet, you get to taste some delicious appetizers at special prices AND enjoy 50% off their cocktails! Between 3PM and 5PM, you can hang out with your friends enjoying delicious libations and some yummy food, while chilling at a truly spectacular spot. And if weekends are more your thing, well, Rain has made happy hour even SWEETER! You can be there from 1PM till 5PM enjoying a coconut margarita, or a mai tai, perhaps a straight up mojito...or the crocodile?! Most people have weekends off, and what better way to enjoy some R&R than by lounging and imbibing?!

Like we always say, your wallet will thank you for checking out the Happy Hours around town. You never know what deals you'll get!

The San Pedro Holiday Hotel



50 Years of Tourism Service in Belize!

By: Monique Smith

June 16th marked the 50th anniversary of The Holiday Hotel. Established in 1965, the hotel has since contributed its fair share in service to Ambergris Caye, and Belize's hospitality industry.

Nestled in the heart of San Pedro Town, Holiday Hotel is renowned for greeting its guests with that warm Belizean welcome. Today the establishment is also known for its great service, accommodations and rocking parties. But there is so much more to this iconic hotel!

The story starts off in 1965, with Celi Nunez McCorkle. Celi is a born and raised San Pedrana, she was actually the first young lady on the island to complete a secondary level education at that time. She would later on meet John Grief, founder of Belize's Tropic Air. While exploring the country's airways, John had found a way to land on this beautiful, rather untouched island in his seaplane aircraft. Little did he know he would meet and fall in love with an island girl. John's dream was to build an airstrip to pioneer the way for domestic flights from mainland Belize to San Pedro. While Celi, well she wanted to take her island a step further by creating a lodge for travelers to the island. Together the two would go on to set the foundation for what would become Belize's tourism mecca.

Before the installation of electricity, running water, streets, airstrips, or motorized boats; back when La Isla Bonita boasted only sandy roads and sailboat transportation to and from the island, Celi envisioned creating an industry for the island by providing a resting place for these travelers that visited by boat. She believed in the beauty of Ambergris Caye, and wanted to share it with the world. It was with that vision that the Holiday Hotel was born. What started off as a humble five-room establishment with modest amenities, is now a 16 room hotel providing a tranquil, intimate beachside getaway to wanderers from around the world.

Today, the hotel is home to the very popular Caprice Bar and Grill, and has a wide variety of rooms catering to singles, couples and even family casitas. Located right on the beach is a bamboo thatch-style spa draped in white flowing fabric, the perfect place to unwind and rejuvenate the body after a day of snorkeling, diving and exploring the town.

The Holiday Hotel is as much a part of this island as the people itself, its history is rooted deep into the fabric of the community and we can only look forward to having our neighbors with us for many, many more years to come! Happy 50th Anniversary to the management and staff of The Holiday Hotel!



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Revitalizing culture and arts!

By: Janelle Cowo



When searching for a cultural or artful experience, the San Pedro House of Culture is the place to go! Located on Angel Coral Street, the House of Culture is designed to inspire the community to keep culture and arts alive. Each month a different exhibit is opened to the public, showcasing various aspects of life in San Pedro.

During the months of July and August, residents and visitors are invited to view the Fishing in San Pedro Exhibition. This exhibit incorporates the soul of La Isla Bonita, depicting how San Pedro shifted from a tiny fishing village to a bustling tourism mecca. The exhibit will also incorporate the Lobster Industry, which is an indispensable economic asset. This is an exhibit you don't want to miss!



Visit the San Pedro House of Culture on Angel Coral Street, adjacent to the Honorable Louis Sylvester Sporting Complex. The House of Culture is open from Monday to Friday from 8AM to 5PM. Contact them at phone number 226-5100/ 663-2865 or email guillermo.paz@nichbelize.org



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