

## BELZE... celebrating all her 8867 square miles!

### From the Editor Tamara Sniffin



Most of our visitors to Belize come from countries that celebrate centuries of independence and sovereignty, so the idea of exploring a country as young as ours can be a novel idea. As Belizeans, some of us clearly remember the days when the Queen Mum was the ruler of our land, and have witnessed the last three plus decades of our trials, tribulations and growth as an independent nation. What an amazing process it has been, and a rare opportunity to be a part of the growing pains and

accomplishments of a budding new country. We are tremendously patriotic and proud of our Caribbean jewel, and as we celebrate our 37<sup>th</sup> year of independence on September 21<sup>st</sup> we invite you to embrace our passion and enthusiasm. There are no better words written to define the struggles and tenacity of our forefathers than within the verses of our national anthem, and when we sing it, the chords swell from the bottom of our hearts. We encourage you to join us in the festivities of our independence and chime in with us when we sing praise to our Beautiful Belize.

O, Land of the Free by the Carib Sea, Our manhood we pledge to thy liberty! No tyrants here linger, despots must flee This tranguil haven of democracy The blood of our sires which hallows the sod, Brought freedom from slavery, oppression's rod By the might of truth, and the grace of God, No longer shall we be hewers of wood.

#### Chorus: Arise! ye sons of the Baymen's clan, Put on your armour, clear the land! Drive back the tyrants, let despots flee -Land of the Free by the Carib Sea!

Nature has blessed thee with wealth untold, O'er mountains and valleys where prairies roll; Our fathers, the Baymen, valiant and bold Drove back the invader; this heritage hold From proud Rio Hondo to old Sarstoon, Through coral isle, over blue lagoon; Keep watch with the angels, the stars and moon; For freedom comes tomorrow's noon.

#### www.mybeautifulbelize.com

#### **ABOUT THE FRONT COVER**



My name is Francis Canto. I'm a birder. nature photographer and citizen scientist from the wonderful country of Belize.

I captured our vibrant national bird the Keelbilled Toucan one day when I was birding one of my favorite places, the Salt Creek Estate road. This road, located in the village of Sandhill, is quite "birdy" hence the reason it's one of my favorites. I was looking at a pair of Collared Aracaris, the Toucan's smaller, less vibrant cousin, when I heard some commotion and saw a flash of yellow behind me. It turns out some Kingbirds were chasing the Toucan, luckily for me, they chased him into the Cecropia tree right in front

of me, framed perfectly. I had a short window to take the shots I did, he hopped from branch to branch, then flew off into the forest, all happening in a matter of 30 seconds or so. When I reviewed my photos, I was extremely happy to see that my shots had turned out good. To be able to photograph the national bird of Belize beautifully and to have it placed on the cover of My Beautiful Belize is truly an honor, I hope this photo will encourage others to show how beautiful nature is and to appreciate and protect the little we have left.

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Bella Vista Village Toledo District. Next to the Southern Highway, this small settlement inhabited by mostly Central American migrants/families, is just a quick 15 minutes drive from Independence Village and a half an hour from Belize's southern most town of Punta Gorda.

To join our guessing game, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @mybeautifulbelize, using the hashtag #whereinbelize.

You can also send us your images of mystery locations to add to our guessing game! Send them to hello@mybeautifulbelize.com and join the fun!







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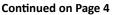
## Belize by the numbers

September is Belize's most patriotic month, heralding our Independence Day from Great Britain. September 21, 1981 is the official date of our independence - yes, we are quite a young nation! In the weeks leading up to the big day, Belizeans are bombarded with a variety of activities that culminate with massive fireworks, parades and joyful celebration. One such activity is the announcement of the annual Celebration Theme. 2018 marks our 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence, and it will be celebrated under the theme: "Belize Da Fi Wi - Now & Forever, 8867."

A brief history of Belize, and some of its pressing issues: We're bordered by Guatemala on the west and south, and for years, our neighbor has insisted on ownership of quite a large portion of our territory. In 2019, Belize is expected to cast a vote in a referendum to decide whether we take the territorial dispute to the International Court of Justice. Guatemala has already voted yes to heading there, and Belizeans have been debating whether or not to vote the same. As fiercely patriotic as we are, it is no surprise that our theme would pick on the current issues and run with a bold declaration. Translated from the Creole/Kriol version, our theme says: "Belize is for us, now and forever, 8867."

This number is significant, and the more we thought about it, the more we realized that numbers are a huge part of our country.





Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo.



## Belize by the numbers

Continued from Page 3

\* Located within its 8867-mile confines are approximately 400,000 people.



\* Within that population is a mixture of seven ethnic groups: Creole, Mestizo, Garifuna, Maya, Chinese, East Indian and Mennonite.

\* 26.2 is the percentage of Belizean territory is under legal protection by the government

\* We are both a Caribbean and Central American Nation, located at 17.1899° N, 88.4976° W

\* We have claimed 501 as our country code, and this year at the September Celebrations activities, we'll be boasting the best number of all: #1.

After all, there is only ONE Belize!



The number six also applies to our national symbols: The

Flag, our Coat of Arms, National Flower: Black Orchid,

National Bird: Toucan, National Tree: Mahogany, National

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# Selize af 57: Our Top Four Events

By Janelle Cowo

Although still young, having celebrated only 36 years of independence so far, Belize takes its September Celebrations VERY seriously! While many other countries honor their independence with a full day of activities, Belize's celebrations take it to the next level, honoring our sovereignty for an entire month! This year Belize turns 37, and the lineup of events is nothing short of exhilarating. We can't hold back our enthusiasm, ready to jump up behind the "big truck" during our festive parades, and everyone anticipates gazing up at the night sky as electrifying fireworks usher in Belize's most patriotic holiday. While there are many events to look forward to (visit the My Beautiful Belize website for a full calendar of events), these are four you won't want to miss!



Celebra ing

1. The Carnival Road March is chaotic and sheer revelry, with colorful costumes, festive music and extremely energetic people in the largest parade in Belize. We love carnival so much, we prepare from early in the morning, during the 4AM Jouvert which sees Carnival participants dancing across the streets of the old capital. The main event kicks off at 1PM on Saturday, September 8th starting from Central American Boulevard in Belize City. Hundreds upon hundreds of locals and visitors line the streets to witness the largest show of culture, pride, and patriotism. So if you enjoy Soca music and dancing, this is one you don't want to miss!

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## Belize's Top Celebration Events Continued from Page 5



2. One of the best musical events in Belize has to be the **Pan Yaad Steel Band Concert**. A staple event in the September Celebrations calendar, Pan Yaad is hosted by none other than our Governor General himself – Sir Colville Young a huge music aficionado. On **Sunday, September 16**<sup>th</sup>, **starting at 8PM**, this concert brings to life the sounds of the Caribbean inside the Marion Jones Sports Complex in Belize City. I highly recommend the Pan Yaad concert to anyone who loves music and wants to dance the night away to the unique sounds of the pan.



3. If you are looking to attend the largest Independence Day celebration, then you must head north to Orange Walk Town. For years, Orange Walk is the place to be for Independence Day. They boast the largest block party, and longest fireworks display held on Independence Day Eve (Thursday, September 20th). Their Independence Day parade is simply spectacular: the official ceremonies, parade and after party on Independence Day (Friday, September 21st) go on from 2PM to 1AM the next day! The parade has everything from marching bands, men and women in uniform, horses trotting proudly, and of course dancers dressed in some of the most elaborate costumes. Suga City's Independence Day Celebrations are bar-none!



4. San Pedro Town is not far behind in celebrating Belize. As an island with a fine reputation for excellent parties, we sure throw down during Independence Day. Starting with the Independence Eve Celebrations, entertainment contains a lineup of fabulous live performances. Independence Day is then ushered in with a vibrant fireworks display, and on Independence Day, a morning carnival styled parade! Festivities go on all day, and well into the wee hours of the night, with beach parties and revelry across town. Sun, sand, and sea during Independence Day? We can't think of anything more fun!

September looks jam-packed with activity, so plan your celebratory strategy to take in the best of it all!



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**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. 4PM to 10PM. 668-2156.



CROCS SUNSET SPORTS BAR: The newest bar north of the bridge, with refreshing cocktails, bar food, killer sunset views and all the

games on large-screen TVs. Book upstairs bar for private events. Open from 11am everyday.



THE TRUCK STOP: Belize's first shipping container food park. Come try the different exciting options from our food trucks, play

backyard games, or cool off with a sundae from our ice cream shop. Closed through October 17<sup>th</sup> for vacations!



- Belizean Comfort Foods and Gourmet Seafood. One Mile North of the Bridge, at the island's

only Yoga Center. Fresh, is the order of the day! Gourmet Dishes by Master Chef JoVannie Rowland, menu changes daily. Imported Wines, Seafood and Pasta. 7 days. AJI TAPA BAR RESTAURANT: Beachfront dining in a romantic setting. One of a kind 5-Star Tapa Bar and Restaurant situated

on the enchanting island of Ambergris Caye. Open all week, 5PM-10PM, except on Tuesdays. Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday for lunch. Call +501-226-4047 for reservations.



**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.



**PIRATE'S NOT SO SECRET** BEACH BAR & GRILL: The island's trending destination; adventure to SECRET BEACH! Soak up the sun or take a dip in

crystal clear shallow waters accompanied with island music, refreshing cocktails, gourmet lunch menu by AWARD WINNING CHEF. Credit Cards Accepted. Open daily 10am to SUNSET! 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. Closed for the month of September.

#### Ριαγ





& cold; fresh fruit smoothies and baked goods. Join us for Thursday Wine Fun, 4PM-7PM and our delicious Sunday brunch (with mimosas!).

Located just off the main road in Tres Cocos, before the Truck Stop. Like us on Facebook and keep up with the fun!



THE GREEN PARROT - Eats and treats. Relax on the patio, sip your favorite island drink gaze out at the azure Caribbean Sea,

take a dip in the pool and enjoy our great beach bar. Friendly staff always on hand 6 miles north of town. Open daily from 9AM-9PM. For complimentary boat transportation please call 226-5096/678-5096.

WHITE SANDS DIVE SHOP: A PADI 5 star Dive shop in San Pedro Town on Ambergris Caye teaching scuba diving and certifying divers, as well as providing daily Diving and Snorkeling adventures to the beautiful Belize Barrier Reef. Scheduled (local) departures are at 9:00AM, and they pick you up at the hotel dock. 226-2405.



MARUBA BEACH KLUB @ Secret Beach - The ultimate SOLAR / OFF the GRID beach experience! Stylish, sleek lounge chairs & bean bag floats. EAT • DRINK • SPA • SWIM •

SUNSETS. Open 11-5PM 4 miles from main road. BOAT TRANSFERS available by reservation, 9am - 4pm. Call 610-3775/9

#### SHOP

MATA GRANDE GROCERY The biggest

**DOBREM** little grocery store on Ambergris Caye, located 4.5 miles North of San Pedro Town, it's a must see! Open Monday-Saturday 8AM-5PM; Sunday 10AM-5PM. You can also order online at www. matagrandegrocery.com or call us at 226-4290....we DELIVER!

#### SuDoku Time! Answers on Page 15

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

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#### EATS & TREATS

EL FOGON: Authentic Belizean Cuisine prepared on a fire hearth. Featuring dishes that represent the diversity of our Belizean culture. Lunch menu and daily dinner specials. Open Mon. – Sat. 11AM – 9PM 206-2121/610-1277 See map for our location!





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.

SANDBAR: BEST PIZZAS ON THE ISLAND! Sandbar hosts an



amazing happy hour special: \$10BZD woodfired pizzas and 2-for-1 rums on weekdays (3-6PM) and beer and wing specials on the weekend (11am-4pm). Enjoy your afternoon or evening at the bar, tables, or chaise lounges on the beach!

JUICE DIVE: Belize's first cold press juicery, we offer juice cleanses, daily specials, fresh organic salads and wraps, VEGAN options and so much more healthy, delicious cuisine. Pescador Drive. 615-7395. CLOSED September - Re-opening October 1st



IGUANA JUAN'S: Serving thoughtful burgers, killer vegetarian



GI INNA and creative cocktails in an eclectic top floor space overlooking Back Street. Professional stand-up comedy, Saturday reggae brunch and other unique events. Open 11 -10 Tue. - Sun. Come Find Us!

POCO LOCO'S: Fabulous food court located in the heart of San

Pedro Town on Barrier Reef Drive. Choose from delicious crepes and desserts, salad bar and soups, creative burgers and vegan options, mission style burritos and tasty libations. Charming décor in a relaxed atmosphere.



#### TRANSPORTATION

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.

#### Important Information

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. Dr. Otto Rodriguez San Pedro PolyClinic II: 226-2536 AA Meetings: Monday – Saturday, 6PM, #5 Boca Del Rio. 226-2020. Every Tuesday & Friday, 12 noon at the Catholic parish hall. Front street, 630-0752. Al-Anon Meetings: Wednesdays, 5:30PM, SP Catholic Church Hall. 608-3924 / islabonitaalanon@yahoo.com Narcotics Anonymous: By request at 623-0316. Emergency veterinarian care: 610-3647 American Crocodile Education Sanctuary/ACES – Don't take matters into your own hands. Call 623-7920 for crocodile problems. Saga Society A non-profit "humane society" to address the stray cat and dog population in San Pedro. Phone 226-3266. SP Town Library - 206-2028. SP Post Office - 206-2260. National Aids Commission Island Committee (NACIC) - HIV Testing/ Treatment/Stigma and Discrimination and Pre and Post Test Counseling. 650-7021.



#### BELIZEAN BREEZES

SOAP CO.: We have two (2) new locations! You asked for more all natural products so we needed the space to add them all. From bars to guest soaps, cupcake soaps and ton of fun! A full line of affordable and unique jewelry and gift items.



full line of affordable and unique jewelry and gift items. 9AM-9PM; Mon –Sat; 226-4322. Pescador Drive & Barrier Reef Drive.



UNIQUE OFFERINGS

**BELIZE CHOCOLATE COMPANY:** The first ever chocolate boutique in Belize, makes bean to bar chocolate on Ambergris Caye, together with delicious truffles, tasty hot and cold chocolate drinks and unique chocolate gifts. Located on Front Street. Call 226 3015.

**GRANIEL'S DREAMLAND:** Exotic Hard Woods and Mahogany Products made locally. 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



**"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.



HAVANA CIGARS BELIZE: Our walk-in humidor stocks an ever changing selection of some of the finest hand-made cigars from Cuba, Central America, and the Caribbean. We also offer an air-conditioned smoking lounge with a full bar and café. On Front Street, across from Holiday Hotel. 226-4576 Find us on TripAdvisor!

**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

BELIZEAN ARTS GALLERY - Largest collection of paintings in Belize. Featuring contemporary, native and realistic works by leading and on the rise artists. Gold and silver artisan jewelry, ceramics, fabrics and more. Open daily 9am to 10pm. Deep inside Fido's Courtyard. 226-3019. September/October 2018

**SAN PEDRO ARTISANS MARKET:** Over 20 booths featuring local arts and crafts. Wood carvings, jewelry, paintings, sculptures, souvenirs and much more. Open daily from 8AM until 9PM. Located on Angel Coral Street across from the Hon. Louis Sylvestre Stadium.

**SANDY POINT REAL ESTATE:** Making Your Dreams of Owning Real Estate in Belize a Reality! Exclusively listing Wyndham Grand Venezia del Caribe properties. We are located on Barrier Reef Drive. For more info visit www.sandypointrealestate.com

**BELIZE SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY** is a full-service firm offering sales, vacation rentals, and property management in Belize (Ambergris Caye & Placencia Peninsula). We are service oriented and will ensure that our clients' needs are met and exceeded. www.belize-sothebysrealty.com

#### PARTY PARTY



**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.



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! www.facebook.com/wantrum #15 Pescador Drive

226-4690.

**PALAPA BAR AND GRILL:** On the Wet Willy's Dock. Daily 11am – 11pm. 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!





**SANDY TOES BEACH BAR:** Enjoy our sandy Boca del Rio beachfront and swimming area, or sit inside the bar with our 40" Flat Screen TVs. Live music Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Beach BBQ. Kitchen open daily 10AM – 11PM. Best island vibe in San Pedro!



#### EATS & TREATS



**ISLAND BUZZ CAFÉ:** A cozy friendly café serving Breakfast and Lunch all day, at least until 1:00ish Monday-Friday. Sometimes Saturday. Hardly ever on Sunday. Coffee, Bacon & Eggs, Biscuits & Gravy, Breakfast Burritos, Subs, Paninis, Smoothies. Call ahead or delivery 668-1322.

**PEPPERONI'S PIZZA:** The island's most delectable combination of traditional Italian crafted pizzas with Belizean influences. Handmade, local, and fresh ingredients made daily along with good vibes, music, and service. Dine-in, carry-out, & delivery offered. Open 7 days a week at 4:30pm-10:00pm and Friday-Sunday from 10:30am-2:30pm. 501-226-4515





**CASA PICASSO RESTAURANT:** Tapas dining in an artful setting. Global flavors from local ingredients...martinis, wines, cocktails. Vegetarian & gluten-free options. Open Tuesday-Sunday at 5:30pm. Last reservations 9:00pm. 226-4443 or reservations@ casapicassobelize.com. Located south of town past Caribeña Gas Station & Belikin Distributor. Find us on Facebook or casapicassobelize.com.

**EI DIVINO** CARIBBEAN STEAKHOUSE & MARTINI BAR: Banana Beach's signature restaurant, featuring indoor and outdoor dining and sports lounge. Serving USDA meats, wood fired pizza, fresh seafood,



pastas...locals LOVE our ceviche! Daily dinner and drink specials, Happy Hour from 3-7pm. 226-2444.



**HIDDEN TREASURE RESTAURANT:** Serving Latin American & Caribbean cuisine in an enchanting atmosphere. Serving dinner Wednesday-Monday from 5pm - 90pm, closed on Tuesdays. Located in the Escalante neighborhood. Live music on Thursdays! Free shuttle service to customers in town. Contact us 226-4111/4236 and

#### www.hiddentreasurebelize.com

**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.



**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 Gonzalez Maya Site. Reservations Recommended (501) 206-2441. www.blackorchidrestaurant.com. ON VACATION...will re-open **October 17**<sup>th</sup>!

**PARTY PARTY! CRAZY CANUCKS BEACH BAR:** Beach bar located at Exotic Caye Beach Resort. Open daily11am-midnight. Bar food and daily drink specials. Mondays: Live reggae @8pm Tuesdays: Live Music & Hermit Crab Racing @6:30pm Thursdays: Paint n Splash @2pm Fridays: Trivia @7pm Karaoke @8:30pm Sundays: Live music/horseshoes @3pm Follow us on Facebook. Phone: 670-8001

#### Unique Offerings



**CAYE COFFEE ROASTING COMPANY:** Local fresh roasted coffee manufactured in San Pedro Town. Available throughout Ambergris Caye and countrywide. M-F: 8:30-4:30, Sat: 8:30-noon. ONLINE WEB STORE, NOW OPEN!!! For more information visit http://www.cayecoffee.bz.



Breakfast & Lunch served or delivered Mon - Fri, 7am - 1-ish, sometimes on Saturdays & almost never on Sundays. For delivery or pre-orders, call 668-1322

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#### Citizen input through Primate-Watch Belize helps monitor monkey populations submitted by Zoe Walker – Wildtracks Belize

However we look at it, primates - the Yucatan black howler monkey and the Central American spider monkey, are coming under increasing pressure in Belize. Both considered globally endangered, their main threat is from agricultural expansion - with hundreds of acres disappearing under bulldozers each year. In 1980, 74.4% of Belize's land territory had forest cover... in 2015, this had fallen to 59.9%, and the rate of decline continues. The 14.5% that has been lost used to be full of wildlife - toucans, parrots, tapir, peccary and, of course, monkeys. So

where does this wildlife go? Often, it dies as the trees come down – it has nowhere to go.

Are we in danger of losing our monkeys? Belize is in the enviable position of being wildlife-rich. We are used to hearing howler monkeys calling, and seeing toucans and parrots flying overhead - and it makes us complacent. Looking at the level of forest clearance, we know that this is having an impact on our monkey populations. We know that there have been media reports in Mexico that spider monkey populations have declined by 90% as a result of forest clearance, pushing the global status of this species closer to critically endangered. We know that both howler and spider monkeys are being taken for the pet trade, and for each that is sold, other members of the troop are shot and killed. We know that more



howler monkeys are straying into communities in areas of high forest clearance as they have no forest left to go to. We also know, however, that howler monkey populations are recovering after Hurricane Iris, and spreading across the southern coastal plain in Toledo, and that a new population has been successfully established from rescued illegal pets in the Fireburn area of the newly established North East Corridor that links the protected area of Shipstern with Freshwater Creek Forest Reserve.

Belize's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, approved by Government in 2016, has as one of its targets (Target C3) that between 206 and 2030, no species will become functionally extinct in Belize. We are working to ensure that we meet this target. Using citizen science, we are starting to map primate distributions across Belize, asking people how populations are doing in their area, and to send reports and photos in to the Primate Watch Belize Facebook Group, linked to the Wildtracks page, to build a picture of what is happening in Belize. This will be combined with community surveys and protected area data to provide a much better picture of how our monkeys are doing in Belize, and what steps we can take to ensure that they continue to live in Belize's forests in the future.

Join us! Make a difference for the conservation of these species in the long term! Add your sightings (species, location number in troop, adults / young), photos and comments at https://m.facebook.com/ groups/1703215366468316.

#### Enthusiasts are flocking to the first ever Belize Birding Festival

Birdwatching tourism is a fast-growing industry with an increasing number of birders traveling to destinations far from home just to spot new birds that cannot be seen in their own country or region. With close to 600 bird species identified in Belize, with 20% of them winter migrants from North America, it is no wonder that bird enthusiasts are flocking to Belize from around the world!

In celebration of our beautiful feather friends the Belize Tourism Industry in partnership with the Belize Audubon Society, the Belize Hotel Association and the Belize Tourism Board are organizing the first-ever Belize Birding Festival. Held in the capital city of Belmopan the one-day event will be held on Saturday, October 27th. The festival not only welcomes local birders and wildlife aficionados but invites international birders to experience an amazing array of birding tours within the spectacular natural of habitat of resident and migrant birds while engaging with local tourism service providers who are promoting Belize as a prime birding destination.



The Belize Birding Festival starts with a 6AM Urban Bird Watch through Belmopan. The exhibition run from 9AM till 3PM and the day includes vendor and exhibit booths, birding and photography talks, a variety of presentations, video documentaries, and key-note speaker Dr. Oliver Komar, co-author of the Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Northern Central America. There will be an afternoon guided bird walk at 3:30PM and the event wraps up with an evening cocktail hour starting at 5:30PM.

For more information please visit their website at: http://www.belizebirdingfestival.bz/



## Belizean Folktales: El Cadejo

By Mary Gonzalez Ask most Belizeans their memories of story time, and you'll be surprised at the kinds of stories we were raised with. No fairytales or knights in shining armors for us, no sir! We're talking stories of the Tata Duende, Xtabai, La Llorona, Sisimito, and so much more. Rooted in history and culture, peppered with life lessons and more than a touch of horror, those tales taught children valuable life lessons while sat at their grandparents' feet.

With the Tata Duende, we learned not to follow strangers into the woods, to truly listen to sweet words/music and determine the source before falling for lies disguised as truths. With the Xtabai, well, grownups needed to learn to control their drinking (ha!). One story that stands out to us is the story of the Cadejo. We share this with our traveling friends, because, as we learn in the end, every choice has a consequence. Whether it's good or bad depends on the choice.



"...sometimes you can hear it, like someone is hauling a long, long chain along the streets."

Belizean villagers, describe the Cadejo as a hairy, goat-like animal or a large, shaggy dog, hence its name, which translates from the Spanish as "tangled hair". The Cadejo is said to have the hooves of a goat, the horns of a bull, and the tail of a puma or lion, and its flaming eyes and foaming mouth give it an aura of evil. The stories vary, some claiming it is dragging around a long chain behind it, while some say the rattle is actually that of the bones of its victims.

In classic good versus evil, the white cadejo is often declared protective of drunken revelers – perhaps an unexpected night out with friends leading to more than one extra Belikin. The black cadejo on the other hand, is believed to be intent on causing repeat drunkards (alcoholics) to fall terribly ill. The black Cadejo is said to hungrily lick their mouths and follows them for nine days until there is no longer a chance that they will get well. (There seems to be a theme against drinking in our tales...hmmmm)

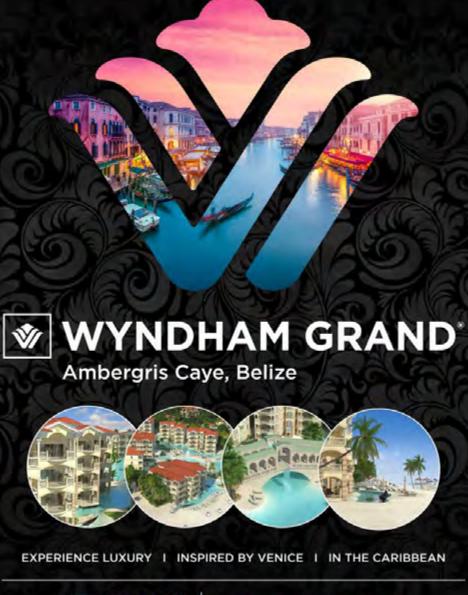
In relation to travel, many variations of the story tell that there is both a good and bad Cadejo that appear at night and only show up to travelers. The white Cadejo appears to protect them from harm during their journey, whereas the evil black Cadejo is more malevolent, intent on causing harm.

As we expand in the tourism industry, we take the stories of the Cadejo and apply its parallels to choices during travel. It's as simple as choosing licensed, certified operators with which to take tours with, as opposed to the cheap, off-the-beaten-path guy with a boat or vehicle willing to take you on an adventure that sounds way too good (and cheap) to be true. Common sense would indicate that if you're with the unlicensed, cheap tour, if something were to happen, there may be no way to salvage a trip. Licensed operators will have emergency contacts and backups in line, insurance and more. So, when in a different country, try and stick to the straight and narrow, and listen to your instinct. The Cadejo may not be a real boogeyman, but safety should never be compromised.

For a less-spooky real-life version, try the adorably dressed up pets during Saga's annual Pet-Costume contest at their Saga Halloween Spooktacular in October (tentatively set for Sunday, October 28th).



Any doggie resembling the Cadejo is pure coincidence!





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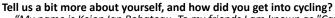
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While Belize's top sport seems to be football, there are a number of other sporting disciplines that athletes enjoy training for. One such sport is cycling. Growing up, I knew that every Holy Saturday, my grandmother would tune up her little battery operated radio, playing loudly as it can as commentators talked about the big 'Cross Country Cycling Classic". Without fail, after that day, if a Belizean won the 'garland', little boys would jump on their bicycles and start 'training' to be like 'Charlie' Lewis (a repeat Belizean champion in the glory days).

With the advance in technology, we now turn on our televisions if we cannot be at the finish line in the city, watching the grand finale and hoping for a Belizean to cross that line with his arms in the air. It's not the only race in the country, as throughout the year, various associations and celebratory locales will host small races, keeping cyclists hungry for more.

One such race introduced My Beautiful Belize to an inspiring young man, Keion Robateau. He participated in the first-ever Elijio Panti Cycling Race held in San Antonio, blazing through the winding hills of the course, taking the majority of the station prizes and of course, the title of champion. All that, with a big smile on his face. We had to find out more about the impressive 22-year-old.



"My name is Keion Ian Robateau. To my friends I am known as "Cavendish" – it's a cycling thing. I grew up in Santa Elena Cayo on the George Price Highway. Growing up was fun and filled with bikes, as my grandfather used to sell bicycles in his store. That is where I found my love of bikes.

If that wasn't enough to get me riding, my uncle also watched the biggest race in the world every year: Le Tour De France. I just admired how those guys on TV could ride for so long and so fast, and I wanted so much to be like them.

It wasn't until I was 16 though, that I got my first road bike. I wanted to start right away, and so I began hanging out with the Choto brothers and bought jerseys from them. (Giovanni Choto was the 2012 Cross Country Champion). They also helped me partake in my first race, which began in Belmopan towards the Belize Zoo, returned to the Blue Hole, and finished in Belmopan in front of the Belmopan Comprehensive High school.

At that time I was nowhere close to being a cyclist. Since then though, I have improved tremendously and have achieved a lot in the past six years. I have participated in over 70 local races and about 20 international ones. I honestly

have not really kept track - it's always been for the love of the sport really.

I am now riding for the Westrac Alliance Cycling Team. It is such a great team and I am very close with all my teammates - it's like a second family when we are out on the roads together. Cycling is a beautiful sport and for us in Belize, we take it very seriously.

When you're not practicing and training, do you do any other fun activities?

Other than riding a bike I do enjoy other sports of course. I play a little basketball and even volleyball when I can get the chance to play.

If someone wanted to start training and participate in racing like this, what would you suggest?

If anyone out there has ever wanted to take part in a race or even just jump on a bike for the fun of it; my advice to you is that there is no better time than the present. I do it every day because I love it, and I have learned so much over the years. It's also a very disciplined sport, so being responsible is key.

#### Keion has some pretty clear goals in sight, and his ambition and passion only makes us root for him harder!

My goals are pretty clear: Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic. This is my ultimate goal going into the new season here in the country. My other top goal is to try and make a podium position at the Mz Tour in Merida next year as well. I have only done the Tour twice but it's such a beautiful race. The cycling environment is just amazing.

With that being said, I look forward to bring home the Garland next year in Easter. See you for Cross Country! We wish you all the best, and cannot wait to see you on the podium Keion!



## Conservation Tidbits around Belize

#### **Rescuing turtles of Belize!**



\* 12-year-old Jeffrey McPherson was out for a family ride in the Rocky Point area on Ambergris Cave when he and his stepfather Ezekiel saw what appeared to be a large mass in the water. Eagle-eyed Jeffrey swore he saw a fin

or flipper move, so he insisted they look closer. It's a good thing they did, because that lump turned out to be an Olive Ridley turtle trapped within a loose net that weighed close to 15 pounds!

After disentangling the net from around the turtle, Jeffrey and his family set the marine creature free. Interestingly enough, Olive Ridleys are not common in Belize. They are mostly found in the tropical regions of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans. In the Pacific, it prefers beaches of Mexico south to Colombia. Jeffrey's rescued turtle is apparently only the second one registered in Belize!

\* Oceana in Belize was alerted that a sea turtle had been removed from a ghost fishing net in the Corozal Bay Area on August 22, 2018. Ryan Rivera, Oceana's field rep for the northern district took the call and housed the turtle overnight before transporting it for release in the Hol Chan Marine **Reserve on Ambergris** Caye. Thanks to Tropic Air, "Flipping" the turtle, as he was dubbed, was flown



over to San Pedro Town, where he was assessed, tagged and declared safe for release by Hol Chan biologists and rangers. Another day, another rescue for our precious Marine resources!

#### Fish Right, Eat Right – Restaurants step up to the 'plate'

#### and serve sustainable seafood

The first restaurants to sign up to the Fish Right Eat Right initiative are Blue Water Grill, Elvi's Kitchen and Wild Mango's Restaurant in San Pedro. These restaurants have been officially certified by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Oceana Belize. The establishments promote sustainable fishing by adhering to certain rules and regulations and use the OurFish App to track seafood purchases.

Besides being in full legal compliance with the Fisheries Act of Belize, certified restaurants must also subscribe to cer-

tain best practices that promote sustainable fisheries in Belize. Essentially, these restaurants, and those to come after, are ensuring that the fish they serve have been caught in a sustainable manner, while supporting the fishermen who take the initiative to fish right, and educating customers on the value of eating properly sourced food.

Learn more about the Fish Right Eat Right Program (including the criteria for certification) at https://www.fishrighteatright.com/



Remembering Dr. Alan Rabinowitz and his contributions to the Cockscomb Jaguar Reserve

(Excerpted from Washington Times)

Time Magazine once

called him "the Indiana

at the Wildlife Conser-

gaining international

renown for his research

on jaguars, tigers, rhi-

nos, bears, raccoons,

leopards, leopard cats

and civets. He worked

for nearly three decades

at WCS before moving

conservation organiza-

tion that he co-founded

illness, led as chief ex-

In Belize, his work

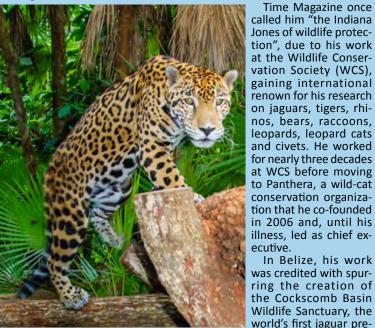
was credited with spurring the creation of

the Cockscomb Basin

ecutive.



Every once in a generation, you discover someone whose impact on humanity is so great that wrapping your mind around their contributions takes your breath away. One such man who Belizeans honor is visionary scientist Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, who after a battle with cancer, passed away on August 5, 2018.



Wildlife Sanctuary, the world's first jaguar preserve. But Dr. Rabinowitz also "went beyond the science," as he also worked to convince foreign governments and local populations of the importance of protecting animals, especially those that are seen as a nuisance, threat or a lucrative source of fur. Conservationist George Schaller, who serves as vice chair of Panthera's science council said of Rabinowitz, "It takes passionate people like Alan to be on the ground in these countries, sometimes for several years, to reach the trust of the government and convince them to protect something. And that's not what you train for as a scientist.'

Dr. Rabinowitz wrote more than 100 scientific articles and several books

for a popular audience, including "Jaguar: Struggle and Triumph in the Jungles of Belize" (1986) published the same year he succeeded in establishing the jaguar preserve in that country - and "A Boy and a Jaguar" (2014), an autobiographical children's book. The jaguars of Belize roar in mourning their champion, joining those of us who felt and continue to feel the impact of his works throughout the country.



Belize

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Page 14 My Beautiful Belize, A Visitor's Guide - San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize

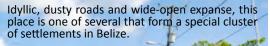
September/October 2018

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## Where in Belize.

M Despite its relatively small square mileage, a lot of Belize remains a mystery. There are so many hidden nooks that may never be discovered by all. We can't tell you how often it is we take the wrong turn down a dirt road, only to find ourselves feeling like we're in a whole new world. It's the beauty of exploring a place that remains relatively undeveloped, and if you're up for the adventure, who knows where you'll end up!



Join our guessing game by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @mybeautifulbelize, using the hashtag #whereinbelize. You can also send us your images of mystery locations to add to our guessing game! Send them to hello@mybeautifulbelize.com and join the fun!

#### Wolfe's Woofers Inventor

"8-Ball in the corner pocket," Vernon said.

He took a nice, easy shot and won another five dollars from me.

"I'm here on time for a change," Linsford said, when he walked in. "Where's Mario and Juan?

Juan finally showed up and Mario came in soon after, which meant that all of the members of the Nosénada Club were ready for our Wednesday Night 8-Ball tournament. The club is made up of Mario, me, Juan, Vernon and Linsford, when his wife lets him out of the house.

Mario named our club because when a wife calls to ask about her husband, each member has to answer, "No sé nada," or, in English, "I don't know anything."

"Mario, why you so late tonight?" Vernon asked. "You usually the first one here." "We had a special dinner for my nephew, Ricky, who's visiting from the U.S."

"He's the one supposed to be a genius or something, isn't he?" Juan asked.

"Yeah. He's the one supposed to make the family rich with one of his great inventions. He came up with a new video camera but it was just when everybody quit using them and got phones with video cameras."

"Didn't he invent diet water?" Vernon asked.

"Yes, but that didn't go over very big. This thing he just invented won't make any money, either. It's the world's most powerful solvent. He made a rust remover that won't dissolve just rust—it dissolves anything.'

"Wow!" I said. "That sounds like a very handy thing to have. Why won't it make money?"

"Because he can't figure out anything to keep it in."

#### \*\*\*\*\*Waterfront Dining Romantic setting. Friendly staff.

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## Sudoku Answers Puzzle on Page 7

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

### Things to do in September/October

September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> – National Champi onship Regatta to be held at Caye Caulker village, starting at 8AM each day September 10<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Bruk Down Bram to be held at the Belize Civic Center, Belize City starting at 8PM

September 13<sup>th</sup> – All Aboard Exhibition to be held at the Corozal House of Culture, Corozal Town starting at 9:30AM

 Tribute to Belizean Patriots to be held at the Bliss Center of Performing Arts starting at 7PM September 14<sup>th</sup> – Belize International Film Festival to be held at the Bliss Center of Performing Arts starting at 7:30PM

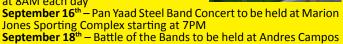
September 15<sup>th</sup> – Central America and Mexico Independence Night to be held at the Hon. Louis Sylvestre Sports Complex, San Pedro Town starting at 7PM

 Rock Concert to be held at Central Park, Orange Walk Town starting at 7PM

- Little Jr. Miss Belize to be held at the Bliss Center of Performing Arts starting at 6PM

- West Fest to be held at the Macal River Park, San Ignacio Town starting at 9AM

September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> – Expo Belize Market Place to be held at ITVET Campus, Freetown Road, Belize City starting at 8AM each day



Civic Center, Corozal Town starting at 6PM

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Banquitas House of Culture Anniversary to be held at Banquitas House of Culture, Orange Walk Town starting at 9AM

#### September 20<sup>th</sup>



- Annual Independence Celebration Eve Concert with Belizean Artists to be held at Sacred Heart College Auditorium, San Ignacio Town starting at 9PM

- Orange Walk Torch Run and Flag Raising Ceremony to be held at Town Hall, Orange Walk Town starting 7PM

- San Pedro Independence Eve Celebrations Block Party to be held at the Hon. Louis Sylvestre Sports

Complex, San Pedro Town starting at 7PM – 5th Annual Soca and Culture Festival to be held at Marion Jones Sporting Complex starting at 9PM

#### September 21<sup>st</sup>

 Öfficial Independence day Ceremonies to be held at Independence Plaza, Belmopan City starting at 10:30AM

- Orange Walk J'oevert to be held at Town Hall, Orange Walk Town starting 4AM, followed by Citizens Parade and Block Party at 2PM - Independence Beach Bash to be held at Rainbow Beach, Corozal



Town starting at 1PM - San Pedro Independence Day Parade starting at Central Park at 10AM

October 27<sup>th</sup> – 1st Ever Belize Birding Festival - Belmopan City (more info at belizebirdingfestival.com)



October 27<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Hotel Halloween Bash to at San Pedro Holiday Hotel, Barrier Reef Drive starting at 8PM (tentative) October 28<sup>th</sup> – Saga Halloween Spook-

tacular to be held at Palapa Bar, San Pedro Town starting at 1PM (tentative)



September/October 2018

**By Dennis Wolfe** 

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