

THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE

The Island Newspaper
Ambergris Caye, Belize
Central America

April 7, 2005



FREE



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More foreign subscribers than any newspaper in Belize!

Greetings to my visiting friends

On behalf of the people of San Pedro Town, I extend a warm welcome to all visitors arriving to our shores. I assure you that your trip to "La Isla Bonita" will be no ordinary vacation. Our island is famous for its rich cultural diversity, where Mestizos, Creole and Garifuna blend to form a unique encounter. While here, I encourage you to explore the Caribbean Sea and find Belize's abundant treasures. Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark-Ray Alley are just two of the many spots where you can enjoy our coral reef formation and abundant and breathtaking sea life. San Pedro is also home to world-class fishing and scuba diving.

For the more adventurous, "La Isla Bonita" offers a wide array of water sports and for those looking to get a glimpse of the mystical world of the Maya, these historical ruins are just a short expedition away. You will also be able to discover Belize's vast cave systems and many natural sanctuar-



ies that are home to our country's unique flora and fauna.

Whether you are spending your honeymoon at an exclusive resort or looking for an adventurous, yet romantic escape, San Pedro is surely the place to be. I invite you to explore our home and see the many wonders it has to offer.

We welcome you with open arms. *Bienvenidos a San Pedro!*

Elsa Paz, Mayor,
San Pedro Town





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Casa De David Condominiums - \$76,000/\$86,000 US - 1/1 layout condos located on Sea Grape St. Great rental income potential! One 2/2 unit available for \$160,000.00 US.

Perla Escondida Condominiums - \$169,000/\$220,000 US - 2/2 condos, fully furnished, brand new! Only one beachfront left!

Multi Unit Apartment Building - \$525,000 US - This large apartment building is located in the Escalante Subdivision of San Pedro, very near the medical school. Great income potential and a beautiful 3rd floor owner's suite!

Reef Village Condominiums - \$99,500/\$149,900 US - Comfortable new one and two bedroom condos with both ocean and lagoon access. Just north of town!

Casa Cayo Estates - \$240,000 US - 60 acres in Cayo District, water & electricity available. Buy all or a portion.

Canal Front Condominiums - \$119,000/each - Brand new complex on the Western side of San Pedro. 2/2 layouts with great views! Pre-construction pricing will end soon so act fast!!

Pelican Reef Villas - \$310,000 - \$429,000 US - These extra large beachfront condos are located South of San Pedro and offer tremendous pre-construction pricing. A magnificent pier, beautiful pool, bar and restaurant will compliment your purchase!

Captain Morgan's Condominiums - \$150,000/each

We currently have four separate one bedroom / one bathroom units available for sale at this prestigious resort. Each unit is 740 square feet in size and has wonderful income potential! Seller will accept a minimum of 30% down and finance the rest.

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Twin Dolphin Home Sites - \$269,000 - \$289,000 US - These beachfront home sites are located South of San Pedro Town. Some of the very best estate sites on the island. Seawall, filled with electric. Average size 75'-80' x 220'.

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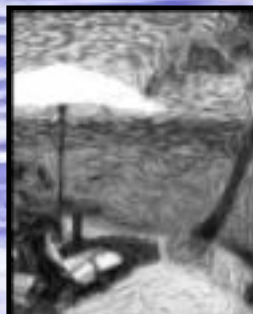
Brightwaters Beach Resort is located on 1-1/4 acres with 200-plus feet of white sandy beach on north Ambergris Caye. The four two-bedroom two-bath units have open living/dining and full kitchens housed in two buildings with private verandas throughout.

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Discover Lamanai

Imagine you are on a boat, slowly cruising a narrow river surrounded by tangled mangrove trees teeming with exotic jungle creatures. As you narrow a curve in the river, you spot the top of an ancient Maya ruin, breaking free from the embrace of the canopied rainforest. Are you dreaming that you are in an Indiana Jones movie? No, you are on an adventure that even “Indi” would admire. You are on a jungle journey to Lamanai set in tropical forest and providing spectacular views from several of its large temples. Lamanai provides a unique experience in the culture of the Maya and the biological diversity of a tropical forest.

The ruins of Lamanai, one of Belize’s largest ceremonial centers, are located along the west bank of the New River Lagoon at a point where the New River flows from the lagoon on its 80-mile journey — about 40 miles as the crow flies — north to Chetumal Bay and the Caribbean. The New River, known to the Mayas as Dzuluinicob (“foreign men”) was one of the arteries used by the conquering Spaniards and missionizing friars as they attempted to penetrate the forests of the Maya lowlands. The name “Lamanai,” in fact, appears in 16th and 17th century documents as a Spanish rendering of a Maya name, which was originally Laman’ayin (“submerged crocodile”). Lamanai is one of only a few sites whose original Maya name is known. Lamanai’s remoteness contributed to its continuous occupation beyond most other Maya sites, until at least 1,650 AD.

For those vacationing on “La Isla Bonita,” a day trip to Lamanai offers an unparalleled view of the natural history of North Central Belize. During your journey, you will discover Belize’s diverse landscapes, from farmlands to broad-leaf forests, to the variety of native cultures and communities. There are many excellent tour businesses in San Pedro that offer guided tours to Lamanai, and SEArrious Adventures is one of them.

SEArrious Adventures is owned and operated by Willie and Sandy Leslie. Willie is a licensed local guide who was born and raised in San Pedro. His wife Sandy is from Vancouver, Canada. Together they are committed to providing the most professional tour possible and they work hard to make sure that their guests return from an adventure completely satisfied. They take pride in providing their guests with a fun and exciting adventure but also a knowledgeable one too.

This full day adventure usually starts at 7:00 a.m. with a 45-minute boat trip to the mainland, where you then enter the old Northern River. The boat slows to an easy pace and a delicious Belizean breakfast of fresh tropical fruit, jour-

Continued from Page 7



Lamanai tour guide Amir Reyes provides visitors with in-depth knowledge of the ancient Mayan site.

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www.ambergris caye.com/birdsbelize by Elbert Greer

Unlike what the title might imply, this isn't an article about a clash of titans. www.Birdzilla.com is a new and wonderful discovery of Bubba's: a monster web site for birders that obviously want to promote the sport of bird watching and is providing free information services for birders. It has a place for searches, sightings, announcements,

discoveries and more.

What won my affection was its accounts of backyard bird watching, not barstool, I said "backyard". I learned bird watching from my mother while washing dishes and looking out her kitchen window. She would say, "Look! A cardinal" or "a spring robin", even a sparrow got attention.



A Cinnamon Hummingbird on a rare rest stop.

Bubba meets Birdzilla and the Cinnamon Hummingbird

It became contagious; however, I washed a lot of dishes before I discovered her joy. Forty years later I find myself a bird watching tour guide, taking birders up Jungle Rivers to show them birds they will not see in their backyard. A little point of irony is that some of my best sightings are still out the window washing my dishes.

Yesterday, in my boxers with soapy hands and no binoculars, I got a close look at a rarity, a perching Cinnamon Hummingbird in the coconut tree only a few feet away. It seems to use my hibiscus as a territory, returning to its supervisory perch outside my window to wait for intruders.

Continued on Page 17



Luna Ambergris Caye's latest trendy restaurant, is now open.

Serving Palm Tree Cuisine, a fusion of Central American and Caribbean delicacies, **Luna** offers a selection of fresh local seafood, tender meats and exotic vegetables prepared by our renowned chef.

Menu selections include: Jerk Seared Sea Scallop Crouton, Smoked Oyster Bruschetta, Spinach Pesto Goat Cheese Salad, Rib-Eye Steak Argentino, Almond Nut Crusted Grouper, White Chocolate Pudding laced with a cardamom anglaise sauce, Strawberry & Mango Ice Parfait.

Luna boasts an atmosphere of relaxed elegance and style, with inventive cuisine in an enchanting setting.

Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner...

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The Adventure of Lamainai

Continued from Page 5

ney cakes and pineapple juice is served. Willie narrates as you pass the dense jungle, spotting colorful blooming orchids, winding green “snake” cactus and huge, brown termite nests. The river water is clear, allowing a view of passing fish and other water creatures. After a short, 25 minute cruise you arrive at the riverside village of Bomba.

Bomba is a modest village, consisting of small, wooden homes situated on a green grassy riverbank. Many of the homes have makeshift craft shops in front where handmade wooden crafts are sold. These sales are the main source of revenue for the village, and the people are warm and friendly. As

you browse their wares, they will often engage in conversation and explain to you the types of woods they use. Everything from sculptures to beautiful bowls are handcrafted, using rich, dark Zericote and marbled red and blonde Rosewood. Often the villagers are working on a rough piece of wood, giving you a look at how these masterpieces begin. Should you fancy a piece that is not quite finished, most of the artisans will offer to have it ready for you when you go through Bomba on your return trip. At Ms. Bernice’s shop, not only will you admire their fine craftwork, but you also can get a look at their pet paca. A paca is a large brown rodent with white spots.

Paca’s are considered agricultural pests, sometimes causing damage to yam, cassava, sugar cane, corn and other crops. At times they are killed for their meat, which has an excellent flavor and commands the highest prices of all meats—domestic or wild—at market. After a short time in Bomba it is

time to board an old school bus (painted green), and head for Tower Hill, which is near Orange Walk.

The view from the bus window offers a slide-show snap shot of the Belizean world as it passes by. Glimpses of manicured ranchitos with White

Continued on Page 9



The journey to Lamanai by boat offers great views of jungle and wildlife.



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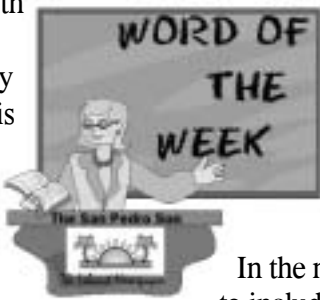
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Language can link us with other cultures, no matter how foreign the tongue may be. In an effort to share this form of communication with our audience, *The San Pedro Sun* proudly presents its newest addition to the weekly paper – Words of the Week.



In Words of the Week, we will present a few words in English and give you their Spanish and Creole translations.

In the near future we hope to include other languages that may interest our valued readers! Enjoy!!!

ENGLISH	SPANISH	CREOLE
Church	Iglesia	Choch
Town Council	Concejo municipal	
Noisy	Ruidoso	Naizy
Nightmare	Pesadilla	Nitemeah
Seafood	Mariscos	
Parachute	Paracaídas	

Be Sure Not To Miss...

Cuisine

It's as varied and rich as the many cultures that together make up Belize. Belizean food can be as peppery and fiery as the heat of the tropical sun, or as cool and refreshing as the crystal clear Caribbean waters that wash the Belizean shores. There are many restaurants specializing in fresh seafood (lobster and conch are plentiful and inexpensive when in season) and the Belizean national dish (spicy stewed chicken, served with a delicious rice and bean combination cooked with coconut milk.) Mexican, Italian, and Chinese food are also available, as well as pizza. The best bargains in town are the freshly made tacos, rice and beans sold by the street vendors in the evenings, and the Lions Club steak and chicken barbecue held every Friday and Saturday night. Customary tipping is no less than 10% of your bill.



Water Sports

The clear turquoise waters (which average 79-84 degrees) and the proximity of the barrier reef make Ambergris Caye a favorite destination for divers and snorkelers. The most popular destination is Hol Chan Marine Reserve, located four miles southeast of San Pedro. The ocean floor ranges from five to thirty five feet, so both divers and snorkelers have the opportunity to swim in what seems like an underwater aquarium, teeming with colorful tropical fish of all sizes and types and beautiful coral formations. The "cut" (channel) leading out to sea functions as a "fish freeway" for many of the larger fish, including giant groupers, barracuda, sea turtles and nurse sharks, a timid and unaggressive shark species.



Other nearby dive/snorkel locations include Mexico Rocks, Palmetto Reef, Sandy Point Reef, San Pedro Cut and Coral Gardens.

A favorite of both scuba divers and snorkelers is the Sand Bar, more often referred to as Shark and Ray Alley. Hundreds of stingrays of all sizes meet here, often accompanied by families of nurse sharks. Shark Ray Alley is not far from Hol Chan, and only a few minutes by boat from San Pedro.

There are many fishing guides on the island who can provide you with a rewarding day on the water, and each month offers a unique fishing opportunity. Other water sports available are wind surfing, parasailing, sailing and jet skiing.

Day Trips

Local tour guides offer a wide variety of day trips. Often half the fun is the adventure of just getting to your destination point! Some favorite trips include manatee watching, bird watching, exploring Mayan ruins, trips to the Mainland, snorkeling and beach barbecues. Your hotel should be able to help you arrange a day trip or you can check with the many tour shops downtown.

Night life

The town has several bars and two full-fledged discos for dancing. San Pedro is a laid-back town, and most of the activity happens near the waterfront.

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PEWTER - SINKS TO SLIPPERS - MIRRORS TO MARIONETTES - CANDLES TO

New Shipment Just Arrived!

Lamanai Adventure

Continued from Page 7

Egrets grazing with Brahma bulls, wooden houses on wobbly stilts with busy chickens and children in the yard, make-shift villages with sleepy corner stores and picturesque communities all dot the landscape. Willie points out areas of interest, as well as the diverse flora and fauna as you travel on the sometimes-bumpy Pan-American Highway. Colorful Toucans can be spotted from your window, as well as Black-headed Trogon birds. The hour ride passes quickly as you absorb the sights beyond the window. The next stop is Tower Hill, where you board another boat.

Local tour guide Amir Reyes greets you at the dock and invites you to make yourself comfortable on his boat. Taking the scenic boat ride 26 miles up the New River is the easiest way to get to Lamanai. Amir, whose family owns the Reyes & Sons tour business, has been a guide for seven years. He knows every twist and turn of the New River, and often slows down to offer a look at this unexplored wonderland of bird life, crocodiles, turtles, bats, orchids and the "Jesus Christ Bird" that "walks on water." Along the river, he points out a Mennonite community, tidy with white farm homes and livestock. Amir tells us that the Mennonites were invited to homestead in Belize in 1958, and that they produce over 70% of the agriculture in the country. Arriving on the

shores of the New River Lagoon, we reach our destination, the ancient Capital of Lamanai, which is surrounded by pristine rainforest.

We disembark and stretch our legs. The grounds around the docking area are well groomed and a stone path leads to our first stop, the new on-site museum, which houses an amazing collection of impressive artifacts depicting Mayan gods and animals. The facilities include restrooms and a covered picnic area for visitors. After a short tour of the museum, Amir leads us on a walking tour of the grounds. The path is groomed, but is hilly in places and uneven. Good walking shoes, like tennis shoes or Teva-like sandals are recommended. Deep inside the tropical jungle, the temperature can be hot and very humid. The nature paths lead to various temples, where Amir explains in detail the history behind each one. There are at least seven families of howler monkeys that make Lamanai their home and you will most likely see a couple of them peering down through the branches as you wander the trails. They are a treat to see, and when they vocalize their guttural growl/howl the jungle experience, surrounded by ancient ruins, could not be more perfect. Indiana Jones, eat your heart out!

Excavated by David M. Pendergast of the Royal Ontario Museum during a

series of field seasons beginning in 1974, Lamanai's 718 mapped structures spread across 950 acres. About a hundred buildings have been uncovered. Much of Lamanai's importance is reflected in the large, imposing Late Pre-Classic temple-pyramids, which usually underlie Early Classic constructions. Lamanai features the second largest Pre-Classic structure, and in front of one temple stands a 13-foot stone temple mask of a Maya king. With one of the longest occupation spans in the Maya World, Lamanai has been continuously occupied for over 3000 years. The Lamanai Archaeological Reserve also contains a colonial sugar mill that was established in 1860. Remains of two 16th century Catholic missions are nearby. Maya natives rebelled and burned the churches to the ground as part of a regional uprising. A makeshift Maya stela standing in front of what remains of one church, is widely interpreted as renouncing all allegiance to Christianity. The sites protected status provides for an abundance of wildlife inside the park. In addition, the marshlands around the lagoon support many species of water birds and wildlife, including crocodiles.

During the tour, Willie offers us bottles of cold water and fresh baked coconut tarts. The water is readily consumed, and the tarts are a welcome treat. After an hour of exploring the amazing ruins, and literally walking in the footsteps of the ancient Maya, we

return to the covered picnic area for lunch.

An impressive spread awaits us, prepared by Amir's mother. We feast on stew chicken, rice and beans, fried plantain, coleslaw and potato salad. Cold beverages are served and the group enjoys dining together while excitedly talking about the day's adventures. After lunch, some take the opportunity to explore the small gift shops located on the grounds. One shop sells hand crafted copper, silver and brass jewelry, hand crafted by artisans from the Indian Church Village, which is located adjacent to Lamanai. Sales from the jewelry, inspired by imagery from Lamanai and other Mayan sites in Central America, help to fund for the village. Another store sells colorful Guatemalan clothing and crafts; while another store carries stone Mayan sculpture replicas. After a little shopping, the group gathers back at the boat for the journey home.

For part of the trip home the group is quiet and subdued, as tired travelers are lost in thought, reflecting on the day's events. While on the final boat ride home Willie serves up glasses of rum punch, and the group comes alive again, chatting over the sound of the boat motor and restless ocean waters. It is a day that exceeds all expectations, and some may even be surprised to find that they too have a little "Indiana Jones" in them.



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NEW LISTINGS!!!

Mayan Princess (D15) Unit 14-beachfront, second level condo. \$135,000US.

Mayan Princess (Z01) Unit 15-second level, corner unit, studio condo with an additional small bedroom. Great price at only \$127,500US.

Belizean Shores (S50) Condo 1A is located right on the beach! This lower level condo is fully furnished and ready for occupancy. Excellent investment in this popular resort. **Priced at \$220,000US.**

Paradise Coves (W23) Located 3 miles north and only 150' from the sea, this property has a septic system, 20,000gallon cistern and a concrete foundation awaiting completion. An excellent investment in this desired area. \$120,000US.

Robles (W22) Lot #22 measuring 100' of beachfront x 360' & 22A measuring 100' x 290'. Asking price for both lots only \$120,000US.

San Juan House & Restaurant (N17) Enter onto this property and you'll feel like you're in your own private nature reserve. Located in the San Juan area, this large parcel, 1680 sq. yards, has over 200' of lagoon frontage encased in mature mangroves with a natural underwater cave that goes out to the sea. The wildlife is incredible and the area is quiet and peaceful, yet close to town. There is a restaurant and bar, separate kitchen and storage building and living quarters on the well, manicured property. Please inquire for further details. Serious inquiries please.

Raw Land

Club Caribbean - off the beach lots starting at \$15,000US.

Holiday Lands (M53) Parcel 2615 - measures approximately 78' x 72', only two rows off the beach. Asking price \$60,000US.

Holiday Lands (M54) Parcel 2622 - measures approximately 54' x 100', only one row off the beach. Asking price \$60,000US.

Spanish Reef - lots off the beach starting at \$13,000US.

Palm Bay Club (M49) Lot #94 - 3rd row lot, 100' x 90'. \$16,000US.

Robles - 3 side by side off the beach lots each 92' x 190' for \$60,000US each.

Punta Bajo (J24) 2.5 acres with 280' of beachfront, western coast of Ambergris Caye. Price \$150,000US.



THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR'S GUIDE

Tourist Information

Belize Tourism Board - 223-1910.

Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) - 227-5717.

San Pedro Tourist Guide Association 226-2391.

Church Services

San Pedro Roman Catholic Church Sun. Mass: 9 a.m. English; 11 a.m. Children's; 7:30 p.m. Spanish; Sat.: Confessions 5-7 p.m; Mass or Communion Service every night at 7:30 p.m.

Living Word Church Service Sun. 10:45 a.m. Bible study Mon. 7:30 p.m. We do Christian charity work. 226-2950.

Assembly of God Church on Angel Coral St. T-W-Sat.-Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Christian Radio FM 101.3.

IMPORTANT #s

Emergency 911

Crimestoppers 800 922-TIPS

Police 226-2022

Fire 226-2372

Wings of Hope - Medical emergency air ambulance. Phone: 223-3292.

Lions Health Clinic - 226-4052; emergencies 603-1755 or Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8am to 8pm; Sat., 8am - noon.

Los Pinos Clinic 602-6383 and 226-2686.

San Pedro Chiropractic Clinic: 226-4695

Hyperbaric Chamber - 226-2851, Dr. Otto Rodriguez - 600-0287 or 226-2854. Antonia Guerrero - 600-5475 or 206-2152. Eleazar Portillo - 610-4560 or 226-3195.

San Pedro Health Center - 226-2536. 8-12 and 2-5, Mon. to Fri. Emergencies 226-2555/2918 or 606-3864.

US Embassy - 227-7161

Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

Mexican Embassy - 223-0193

Guatemalan Embassy - 223-3150

Honduran Embassy - 224-5889

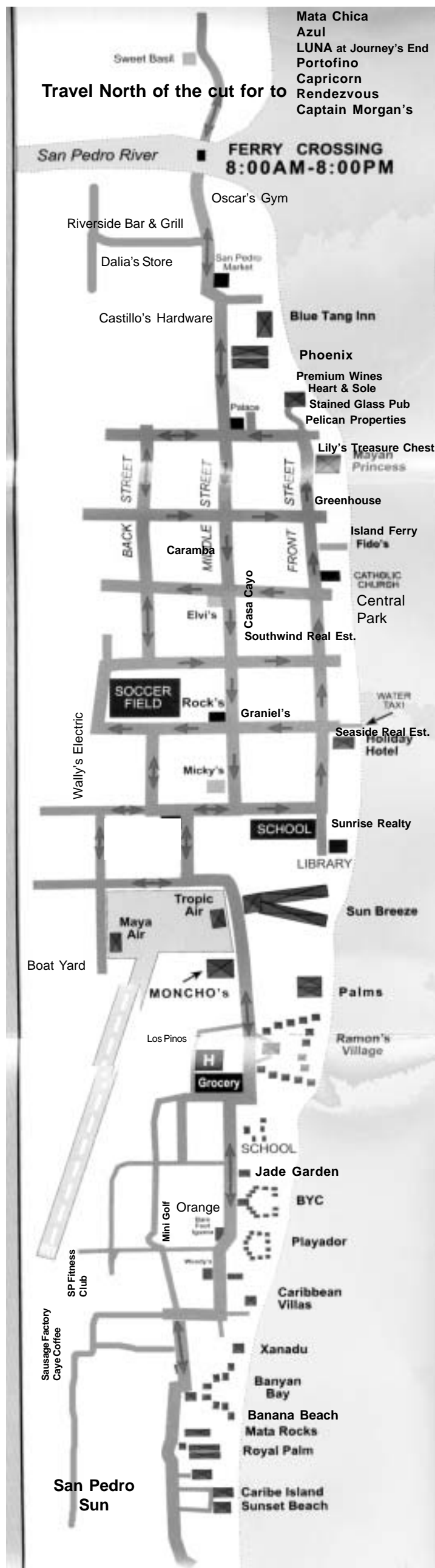
Miscellaneous

The Lions Club of San Pedro relies on income from its Friday and Saturday Night BBQ to support the needy community. Help a great cause -have dinner with us!

Green Reef A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of Belize's marine and coastal resources. greenreef@btl.net

San Pedro AA - 226-4464, 2660

Saga Society A non-profit "humane society" to address the stray cat and dog population in San Pedro. Phone 226-3266.



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SAILSPORTS BELIZE - Windsurfing, kite sailing and sailing. The latest equipment and expert instruction makes it easy to learn. 226-4488 info@sailsportsbelize.com.

SEADUCED - River cave tubing, manatee watch, Robles Beach BBQ, Mayan ruins and more adventures. 226-2254.

SEADUCTION SAILING - First class Day Cruises to Caye Caulker or Mexico Rocks. Beach BBQ or Sunset Cruise. Charters also available. Phone Seaduced at 226-2254.

Realtors...

SEASIDE REAL ESTATE - Many listings, from raw land to beautiful beachfront homes. We can help you own a piece of paradise. Call 226-4545 or E-mail ambergris@btl.net

SUNRISE REALTY - Land, homes, businesses, condos and investment properties. Call 226-3737, fax 226-3379 or E-mail: info@SunriseBelize.com

CASA CAYO REAL ESTATE - Serving Belize from the mountains to the reef. Phone 226-2791. www.casacayo real estate.net

SOUTHWIND PROPERTIES - For all your Real Estate needs. Call 226-2005 or 226-2060 for information or E-mail: southwind@btl.net for current listings.

PELICAN PROPERTIES LTD. - Fine properties on Ambergris Caye. E-mail: info@pelicanbelize.com or phone 226-3234.

Transportation...

ISLAND FERRY SERVICE & WATER TAXI - Scheduled ferry service & water taxi for Ambergris Caye. Phone 226-3231.

MONCHO'S GOLF CART RENTALS - Four & Six seater golf carts available. Open daily 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. We deliver to your room. 226-3262 or 226-4490.

Services...

KRYSTAL SHIPPING CO./MASH CO. - We deliver construction supplies all the way to Robles Point! Phone 226-2089 or E-mail: mashco@btl.net

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WALLY'S ELECTRICAL SERVICE AND SUPPLY - Air conditioning, electrical and plumbing, parts and service. Phone 226-2408.

VARELA CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES & MATERIALS - Quality construction materials and supplies. We stock what we sell! 226-2215 or 226-2808.

THE SAN PEDRO SUN & VISITOR GUIDE - Specializing in marketing and promotion of San Pedro and Belize businesses. The island's oldest and largest newspaper with the largest circulation. Ambergris Caye's number one newspaper. 226-2070, spsun@sanpedrosun.net.

Party...Party...Party

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THE HAMMOCK HOUSE - is the perfect "hangout." Live music, barbeques and more. Just north of the cut. 226-2940

PIER LOUNGE - Home of the "World Famous Chicken Drop" every Wednesday and Friday night. Daily drink specials and two-for-one happy hour. Located beachfront in the Spindrift Hotel. Phone 226-2002.

THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR'S GUIDE



Dining Out...



MATA CHICA - Mambo Cuisine - for food lovers. Homemade pasta, shrimp paté, bruschetta, char-broiled seafood and much more! Call 220-5010/5011.

ROJO LOUNGE - Enjoy tropical lounge cuisine in one of the most beautiful beachfront settings in all of Belize - Azul Resort. 226-4012.

ELVI'S KITCHEN - serving the finest food since 1977. Located in the heart of San Pedro Town on Pescador Drive. Daily Lunch and Dinner Specials. Terrific Key Lime Pie. Caribbean Night on Thursday with Wil & Dale. Mayan Fiesta every Friday-come try our Maya Buffet while listening to Mayan music. Open Monday - Saturday. Lunch: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Dinner: 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Call us for group reservations. Ph 226-2404/2176 "Where something good is always cooking!"

CELI'S RESTAURANT ON THE BEACH - At the San Pedro Holiday Hotel, open 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Beach BBQ every Wednesday night.

LILY'S TREASURE CHEST RESTAURANT - On the beach behind Lily's Hotel. Join us for a cool breeze and the best seafood or USDA beef on our veranda

by the sea. 226-2650.

JADE GARDEN RESTAURANT - Delicious Cantonese cuisine, steaks, seafood and vegetarian dishes. 226-2506. Coconut Drive. Take-out available. Closed Tuesday.

SWEET BASIL GOURMET CAFÉ - Fabulous salads & sandwiches, imported wines & cheeses, fresh baked breads. Just across the river cut. Phone 226-3870.

RAMON'S VILLAGE - Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner in a Mayan atmosphere or on the veranda overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Coconut Drive. Phone 226-2071.

LUNA at Journey's End Resort - Experience fine dining on the beach north of San Pedro. Visit our tropical bar featuring karaoke, dance and fun music. Phone 226-2173.

STAINED GLASS PUB - Only British-American Pub in Belize! Home-cooked and gourmet specials. Serving lunch and dinner Mon. - Sat. starting at 11 a.m. Friday and Saturday are Italian Nights. Closed on Sundays. Phone 226-4147.

RICO'S SURFSIDE RESTAURANT - A truly unique

dining experience on the beach at Banyan Bay. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Phone 226-3739 ext. 135.

PAPI'S DINER - The place for fine food at diner prices. Taste the Caribbean. Call 226-2047.

MICKEY'S PLACE - Open daily 6:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. for breakfast, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for lunch and 6 - 10 p.m. for dinner. Burritos on Wednesdays. Pescador Drive. Call 226-2223.

BLUE WATER GRILL - Island cuisine with a twist! Wood-fired Oven Pizzas, Sushi & more! Open daily. Happy Hour 4 to 6 p.m. 226-3347.

EL DIVINO RESTAURANT at BANANA BEACH - Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. Book your party or banquet today! Phone 226-2444.

PORTOFINO'S own "LE BISTRO" - One of the newest & most talked about restaurants on the island. Meet our boat at 6:30 p.m. at Fido's Dock for a complimentary ride to one of the best culinary experiences you will have while in paradise. For reservations, call 220-5096.

CARAMBA RESTAURANT - Local Mexican & Caribbean dishes. Located on Pescador Dr. Phone 226-4321. Closed Wednesdays.

CAPRICORN RESTAURANT & BAR - Enjoy our magical menu by sun or starlight. Brunch & lunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. dinner 6-9 p.m. Reservations suggested. 226-2809. Closed Wednesdays.

GEORGE'S KITCHEN - Breakfast Served Anytime! Scrumptious Steaks & Seafood. Open 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Coconut Drive. Call 226-2974.

RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT AND BAR - Thai and French fusion cuisine on the beach. Try our Rendezvous Estate house wine and extraordinary homemade bread. Phone 226-3426.

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VICTORIA HOUSE - International and Island-Style cuisine by Executive Chef Amy Knox. Open for breakfast, lunch & dinner. Reservations recommended, call 226-2067.

RIVERSIDE - Daily drink specials, Sunset Happy Hour everyday 4:30-6:30 pm, Power Hour everyday 8:00-9:00 pm. Full service restaurant serving spicy chicken wings, grilled burgers and more. 226-2271.

Unique Offerings...

ISLAND MINI GOLF & ICE CREAM - Sea Grape Drive (1 block W of Barefoot Iguana). Open Mon.-Thurs. 12 - 9 p.m.; Fri. - Sun. 12 - 10 p.m.

SAN PEDRO FAMILY FITNESS CLUB - Offering air conditioned gym, tennis courts, lap and family pool, aqua, toning and pilates classes. Open daily 6:00 am - 8:00 pm. Daily and contract rates. 226-2683

CAYE COFFEE - Take a taste of our locally roasted fresh coffee back home. A wonderful cup of coffee makes such a great difference in your day. Try it and ask for more. 226-3568.

DALIA'S STORE - Fresh meats, and vegetables, groceries, liquors, and hardware items. Boca del Rio Area. Phone: 226-3286 Fax: 226-4074

WINE de VINE - Fine imported wines and cheeses. Olive oils, vinegars and specialty items. Located in the Vilma Linda Plaza on Tarpon St. Phone 226-3430.

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BIG TREE PRODUCE - Fresh Local & Imported Fruits & Vegetables. Seafood, meats, juices & milk shakes. Pescador Dr. 226-2322.

JUBILAND GIFTS & PARTY SHOP - Party Favors, Invitations, Piñatas, Holiday Decorations & More! Barrier Reef Drive - Phone 226-3400.

THE GREENHOUSE - Fresh Produce & Seafood. Belizean and imported speciality. Fresh herbs, cold cuts, chilled goods plus an exciting selection of groceries. A/C local on Barrier Reef Dr. 226-2084.

THE SAUSAGE FACTORY - Largest selection of smoked meats and sausage on the island. One mile south of town. 226-2655.

CAYE INTERNATIONAL BANK - Offering Demand Deposit Accounts, Loans, Savings Accounts, etc. cibl@btl.net or phone 226-2388.

ISLAND INTERNET CAFE - Write home, browse the web, or simply call your friends and relatives. Visit us. 226-3777.

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SAN PEDRO CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC - Pain relief and massage specialist. USA educated. Please make appointment. 226-4695

GRANIEL'S DREAMLAND - Custom designed furniture. Choose our design or bring your own. On Pescador Drive, opposite Rock's, open seven days a week. Call 226-2632 or 226-2707, ext. 18



The San Pedro Sun Visitor Guide

EVERY WEEK we print a new edition covering the "good news" about San Pedro and Belize!

Contact the San Pedro Sun for more information.
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www.sanpedrosun.net



A real horse story

Contributed by Ron Mudd
Although horses have been around for a long time and have served man for thousands of years, horses are relatively new to the island of San Pedro. In fact, there have been probably more hurricanes to hit the island in recent years than horses. However, there are two horses fortunate to have the pleasure of living on paradise. Rojo the stud and Estrella the mare have brought a lot of happiness to children and some adults on North Ambergris Caye. The person behind this entrepreneurial venture is Gerald Jacob Stohl or 'Jerry' to those familiar with him on the island.

Jerry Stohl was born in Mexico to a Mennonite family in 1953 and moved to Belize with his parents six years later. His father was a part owner of a sawmill in Barton Creek in the Cayo District, in the neighborhood of Georgeville. He attended primary school in the area and eventually wound up in high school in Arizona where he graduated and later attended Glasboro College in New Jersey where he studied art and mechanical drawing for two years. Jerry received a grant to study electrical engineering at Cal Tech in California but, due to a violation, the grant was suspended a year later. The violation had to do with something Jerry has known his entire life: his working while on the grant. Jerry explained that he does not know anything else but hard work and that he would go "stir" crazy if he could not work – an attitude that more people should adopt.

Jerry is no stranger to horses, and having been around them most of his life, he decided that they might bring him some prosperity on the island. Although he is not looking to make a fortune, he just thought that they would give him some kind of living. Jerry not only provides a small delivery service that is environmentally friendly, he also supplies fertilizer for those who want it and gives lifts to tired local travelers after a hard day's work. But, it is the children who he really enjoys giving rides to. On Sundays, Jerry saddles up one of the horses with his version of a homemade "Mexican" saddle and for a dollar, he lets the children ride (if a child doesn't have a dollar he still gives them rides). This all takes place just on the other side of the cut right behind the Hammock House.

Although, some people on the island have accused Jerry of being abusive to the horses, he handles them just the opposite. He treats the horses with lots of love, and makes sure they get enough grazing in the grass and enough water. Jerry is of a different breed; he explained that it was the poor people that he tries to reach with his service, such as, people who need to take a five-gallon jug of water home from town or a

Continued on Page 14



Jerry Stohl leads his horse Estrella up the road on the North end of "La Isla Bonita" to make a delivery.

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Tip of the week



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Horse Story

Continued from Page 12

gas cylinder that has been filled. And when a bicycle would prove awkward, there is Jerry with cart and horse to provide an inexpensive service. Not often do business people have poor people in mind when planning their business venture especially when

prices are considered.

Jerry is thinking about saying good-bye to Rojo and Estrella because of some problems but is also considering bringing more horses on the island for people to rent. He says that he has visited other Caribbean islands where horses are part of the mainstay. However, some people on San Pedro do not like the idea since they say that the

horses leave behind too much manure. Jerry explained that horse's manure could be a valuable commodity to the island.

But, the smiles on the children's faces when they encounter the horses, is what keeps Jerry going. And, it is not only the children who smile when they see the horses, like the mother of the child in the picture, as she sees her son (Connor) ride around and around, she screamed to Jerry, "I want to ride, too!"



Conner enjoys sharing a snack with one of Jerry Stohl's horses, then is given a ride on the north end of the island aboard Estrella.

*The San Pedro Sun
Virtual Taste Trip*

Sweet Potato Poun' (Pudding)

*3 lb sweet potatoes *1/4 cup
butter *2 lbs sugar *2 (14oz) can
coconut milk *1 (14oz) can evapo-
rated milk *1 tbsp vanilla *1/4 cup
raisins *2 tbsp grated ginger

Grate sweet potatoes. Add sugar
and coconut milk. Stir until sugar
dissolves, then add evaporated
milk, butter, vanilla and raisins. Stir
until properly mixed and pour into a
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Reef Brief

by Green Reef Peace Corp
Volunteer, Kristen Stelljes



Lagoon-Reef Eco-Challenge

Everyone has a competitive streak and we all love our caye. What a better way to combine the two than the 1st Annual Ambergris Caye Lagoon-Reef Eco-Challenge! The race will be Saturday, April 23rd - Sunday, April 24th with an overnight at Basil Jones. The staff of Green Reef, Fashico and Elito Arceo went out yesterday to test the course. Tammy Summers and I paddled part of the course and discovered what a beautiful course it will be.

The course will start at the Old Football field and wind its way up the coast through mangrove creeks and lagoons. The creeks provide shade and a welcome break from the northern headwinds and choppy waters in the lagoons. The course then will go through Laguna de Cayo Frances and pass by the Bacalar Chico Ranger Station in San Juan, go through the Mayan Canal into Laguna Canteña. There will be a short portage and then they will paddle to Basil Jones to rest for the night. The course will be well marked so no one will get lost and there will be plenty of support people along the way to ensure that participants are safe, have enough water, and are enjoying the race. Tammy and I definitely worked our muscles, but we also enjoyed seeing all the fish and birds along the way. "The waters of the lagoons and mangrove channels are crystal clear with seagrass beds and fish that dart between mangrove roots while Snowy Egrets, Ospreys, and Great Blue Herons fly overhead," said Tammy Summers, Peace Corps Volunteer with Green Reef and Bacalar Chico, about the beauty of the course. The race will definitely be a challenge, but the pride that comes with finishing will be well worth the effort. In a race like this,

strength is important, but heart and a desire to finish matter most. Even if you are not an expert paddler or think you are a bit out of shape, we encourage everyone who is interested to find a partner and enter, because it will be the experience of a lifetime. If you would like to register for the race or have any questions, please call Green Reef at 226-2833.

The purpose of the race is to promote awareness and conservation of mangroves and reefs. "This is one more activity that will promote sustainable use of the lagoon and wetlands ecosystems. We hope that these ecosystems will not be developed, but will be kept pristine for ecotourism and recreation," said Mito Paz, Executive Director of Green. Mangroves are very special trees that have adapted to live in harsh conditions. Mangroves cover 3.4% of Belize. It is estimated that 50% of mangroves worldwide have already been cleared or altered, but they provide many benefits to us and other species. Small marine animals, such as shrimp, fish, lobsters, and crabs, hide in the roots when they are young. The roots also trap sediments and build up land. This process can make islands shift, because as the waves erode the beach, mangroves on the leeward side build up land and expand the island to the back. This process also prevents erosion, filters pollution, and protects us from storm waves. Without this help, our reefs would be covered with sediment. Mangroves also provide protection for boats and marine creatures during a hurricane.

Mangroves are threatened throughout the world.

The biggest threat to mangroves is clearance. We hope that when people are paddling in the race they take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the mangroves and see all of the life that is in the area. It takes everyone to make sure our mangroves and reefs are protected. We'll see you at the start of the race!



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Pearl Creations

Saga Humane Society

Preventing Cruelty and Promoting Kindness to Animals

The Saga Humane Society was founded in 1999, and was established to address the challenges associated with stray cats and dogs on Ambergris Caye. Saga operates as a non-profit humane society, and is one of several non-governmental organizations in the country of Belize.

Saga's primary mission is to control and monitor the cat and dog populations on the island, and is accomplished through ongoing spay/neuter, humane euthanasia, humane education and adoption programs. In addition, Saga maintains a temporary animal shelter for the many animals awaiting loving homes.

The clinic also stocks a wide variety of pet products and medications for local pet owners. For those in need of gifts or souvenirs, Saga Humane Society T-shirts and tank tops are also available for a small donation of \$20BZ.

Saga Humane Society is funded solely by generous donations from the community and the many kind-hearted tourists who visit Ambergris Caye. Saga directors are currently investigating the pur-

chase of land with a goal to build the first animal shelter education center in the country and provide a long-term solution to the island's stray animal challenges. The Saga board of directors consists of Executive Director/Chairperson Eileen Jamison, Vice Chairperson Mary Hawthorne, and Directors Kathy Marin, Simon Backley, Alberto Villanueva Jr., and Ramon Nuñez Sr.

Items currently on the wish list include (but are not limited to): dog houses, dog and cat food, hand towels, wash cloths and bedding, dog and cat collars (all sizes), leashes, dog and cat toys, chews and treats, Frontline Plus (all sizes), Heartgard (all sizes), Preventic collars, Stainless steel food and water bowls, a digital camera and educational materials.

Recently, new arrivals of animals have been added to the Saga family; these include ten adorable kittens, 3 four-month-old cuddly puppies and 10 loyal dogs all waiting for a new home. Animal lovers, come adopt a pet at Saga, you can do so by calling Ingrid or Eileen at 226-3266.



Donate to these worthy San Pedro organizations!

San Pedro Roman Catholic School – Brightening the minds of San Pedro's youth. Contact Principal Roxanni Kay – 226-2550, roxanicruz@yahoo.com

Green Reef – A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of Belize's marine and coastal resources. Contact greenreef@btl.net

Lions Club of San Pedro – Relies on income from its Friday and Saturday Night BBQ to support the needy community. Help a great cause. Contact President Nita Marin – 226-2064.

Saga Society – A non-profit "humane society" to address the stray cat and dog population in San Pedro. Contact 226-3266.

Alcanzando a los inalcanzables – Helping the youth of San Pedro against the battle with drug addiction. Contact Virgina Wallace at 226-3018.

San Pedro High School – Helping students "Anchor in Success." Contact Principal Angel Nuñez or Chairperson Mrs. Martha Guerrero at 226-2045/2010/2043.



resort ★ restaurant ★ beach bar ★ boutique

tranquil *best describes this cozy, intimate resort nestled in its own private, beautiful cove just 3 miles north from the charming town of San Pedro.*



★ restaurant ★

Guests will find a variety of selections, including such features as local giant stone crab claws, fresh fish from local fisherman, filet mignon with red wine and portabella mushroom reduction, and *The Stuffed Grouper*, homemade baked breads, and desserts such as key lime pie. So come, relax, and enjoy yourselves as the table, under that stars, is yours for the entire evening.

★ cabanas ★

While the focus at Capricorn is its fine food and good spirits Capricorn also features *only* 3 cozy, private, air-conditioned cabanas right on the beach. Each cabana is complete with high ceilings, large private bath, shower made for 2, and a porch with its own hammock for relaxing! Any and all tours can be arranged!

Breakfast is included. Beach bar is open all day everyday!

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Birds of Belize - *Cinnamon Hummingbird*

Continued from Page 6

Birdzilla puts them in order of Apodiformes; there are two families, the swifts and hummingbirds. The hummingbird's family name is *Trochilidae*, and it has 365 or more members. Depending on whose book you're reading, the figure goes from 330 to 365. I suspected some of my books were just old and more species have been discovered since 1937. My 1979 edition of *Reader's Digest Birds* seem to be the most complete, and agrees with Birdzilla, 365.

Through Birdzilla links I found that hummingbirds are in general the smallest and fastest birds on the planet. The largest being the Giant Patagona gigas at eight inches, and smallest the Bumble

Bee Hummingbird of Cuba at 2.5 centimeters (about the size of a bumble bee).

It's true that hummingbirds are attracted by red nectar flowers and get a lot of their tremendous energy from its sweet, sugary juice, but their diet's protein comes from eating insects.

My cabaña is circled with red blossoming hibiscus but it's still just luck that I'm getting this rare, close look at a Cinnamon perching. I've avoided writing about hummingbirds because it's so difficult to identify one. They almost never quit moving long enough to see and are so fast, all you see is a blur. Trying to identify it while it's hovering is your best hope; I saw a long

slender orange to red bill, with a black tip. Most of its body was an iridescent green, its entire body seemed only about three inches long, and its throat and under-parts were, of course, cinnamon. Its eyes were black. This was the first time I had seen hummingbird wings not moving. They looked surprisingly normal for things that can move that fast. I guess I expected to see wings like an insect, but they were feathered and had a gray color. The feet were too small for me to even describe. Those flying around the hibiscus seem to fight. The fight always seems to be the same; one will be hovering and darting from flower to flower. My guy charges at it and chases it off into the distance. Afterwards, it returns to its perch outside the kitchen window where it waits for the next intruder.

Several weeks ago, I was chopping coconut fronds with my machete from a bushy tree close to the back of my house, when I saw on the underside of a frond I was about to cut, an intricately woven nest firmly attached. Not knowing what kind of bird could make such a sturdy hanging nest and because it was so unique, I went straight away to the book shelf in the house. It looked like a hanging basket, but glued, as it was woven to the palm. I read they usually lay two leathery, buff eggs and Birdzilla.com said hummingbirds steal spider web and use it for the bonding material.

I'm sure Ambergris has more than one kind of hummingbird, but they're so damn hard to identify while moving. The Cinnamon outside my window seems to be a lucky find but even greater is Birdzilla.



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If you are looking for a cozy bar to enjoy refreshing drinks, then Coco Loco's is the place to be. This new bar is located just past the ferry (five minute walk) at the Villas at Del Rio, a new condo complex on the beach.

Owned and operated by Louis Cappello and Eduardo Vasquez, Coco Loco's offers great mixed drinks and cocktails in a relaxed atmosphere, away from the hustle and bustle of town. You can either lounge on stools at the bar or take a refreshing dip in the pool. Whenever ready for a fresh drink, just swim up to the "pool stools" and order up! (Just don't expect either of the guys to don their Speedos and serve you!)

Be sure to make some time to try the newest bar in San Pedro. Relax during their opening hours from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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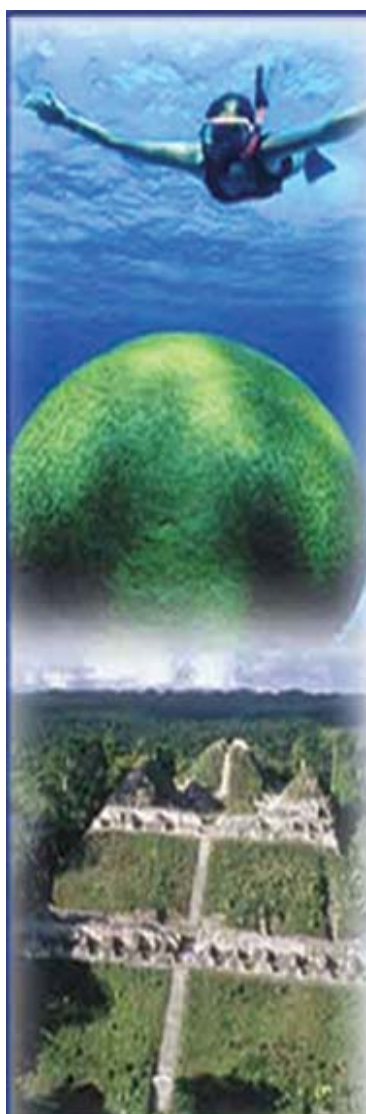
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SAME Picture

Wolfe's Woofers by Dennis Wolfe

Cuckoo

"Dennis, do you know the answer to this question?" Dulce called from the living room.

I left my comfortable bedroom and went to look at the TV where Regis Philbin was asking questions to a lady contestant on "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?"

"If you answer this question correctly you will be a millionaire," Regis said. "So far, you have used up all of your Lifelines. You are strictly on your own with this question."

"Please repeat the question," the lady said.

"Which of the following birds does not build its own nest, but instead lays its eggs in the nests of other birds? Is it A) the condor B) the buzzard C) the cuckoo, or D) the vulture."

"I've heard of this," I told Dulce. "It's either the cuckoo or the vulture but I'm not sure which."

"I think it is either the condor or the vulture," Dulce said.

"What are ya'll watching?"

I hadn't even noticed Jo Castleberry walk in from the back stairway.

"We're watching "'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?'" Dulce told her. "If this lady answers this question right she wins a million dollars."

Jo read the question from the TV screen and said, "That's easy. The answer is the cuckoo."

On TV, the contestant said to Regis, "I think the answer is the cuckoo."

"Is that your final answer?" Regis asked.

"Yes."

After about a minute of suspense, Regis Philbin said, "Congratulations! Your answer is correct and you are now a millionaire."

"Look at that," Jo said. "If I was on that show I would be a millionaire right now."

"Well, you fooled me, Jo Castleberry," I said. "I certainly didn't know the answer for sure and I didn't think you would either."

"How did you know that answer?" Dulce asked.

"Oh, come on," Jo said. "Everybody knows that cuckoos don't build nests. They live in clocks."



Trivia Tidbits

*The male seahorse, not the female, carries the embryo of the species. The female fills the male's brooch pouch with eggs, which remain in the swollen sac for a gestation period of eight to ten days.

*It takes about 50 hours for a snake to digest one frog.

*The marquees of the fifty largest casinos and hotels in Las Vegas use enough electricity to run more than one thousand average US homes.

*The birthstone for May, the emerald, is perceived as a symbol of success. Even more than the diamond, this jewel has been a favorite of emperors and kings.

*Kittens are born both blind and deaf, but the vibration of their mother's purring is a physical signal that the kittens can feel – it acts like a homing device, signaling them to nurse.

*The world's fastest reptile (measured on land) is the spiny-tailed iguana of Costa Rica. It has been clocked at 21.7 miles per hour.

*There are more than 200 satellites orbiting earth solely for the purpose of private communications services, including pagers, telephones, and computers.

*Valentine's Day means chocolate, and lots of it. According to US candy manufacturers, Americans spend \$1.1 billion each Valentine's Day on candy, making it the fourth biggest holiday of the year for confectionery purchases. In order, the top three holidays for candy sales are Halloween, Christmas, and Easter.



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