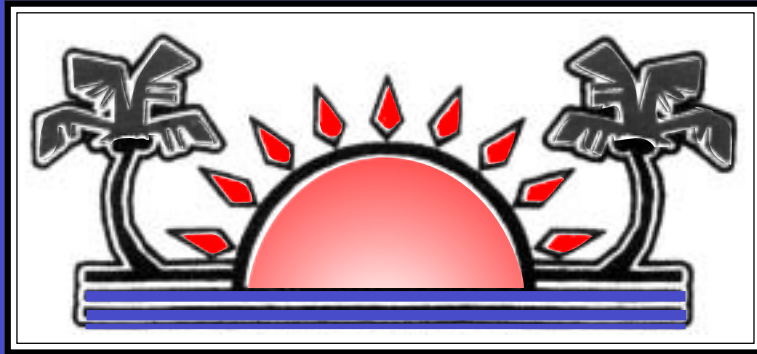


THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE

The Island Newspaper
Ambergris Caye, Belize
Central America

April 14, 2005

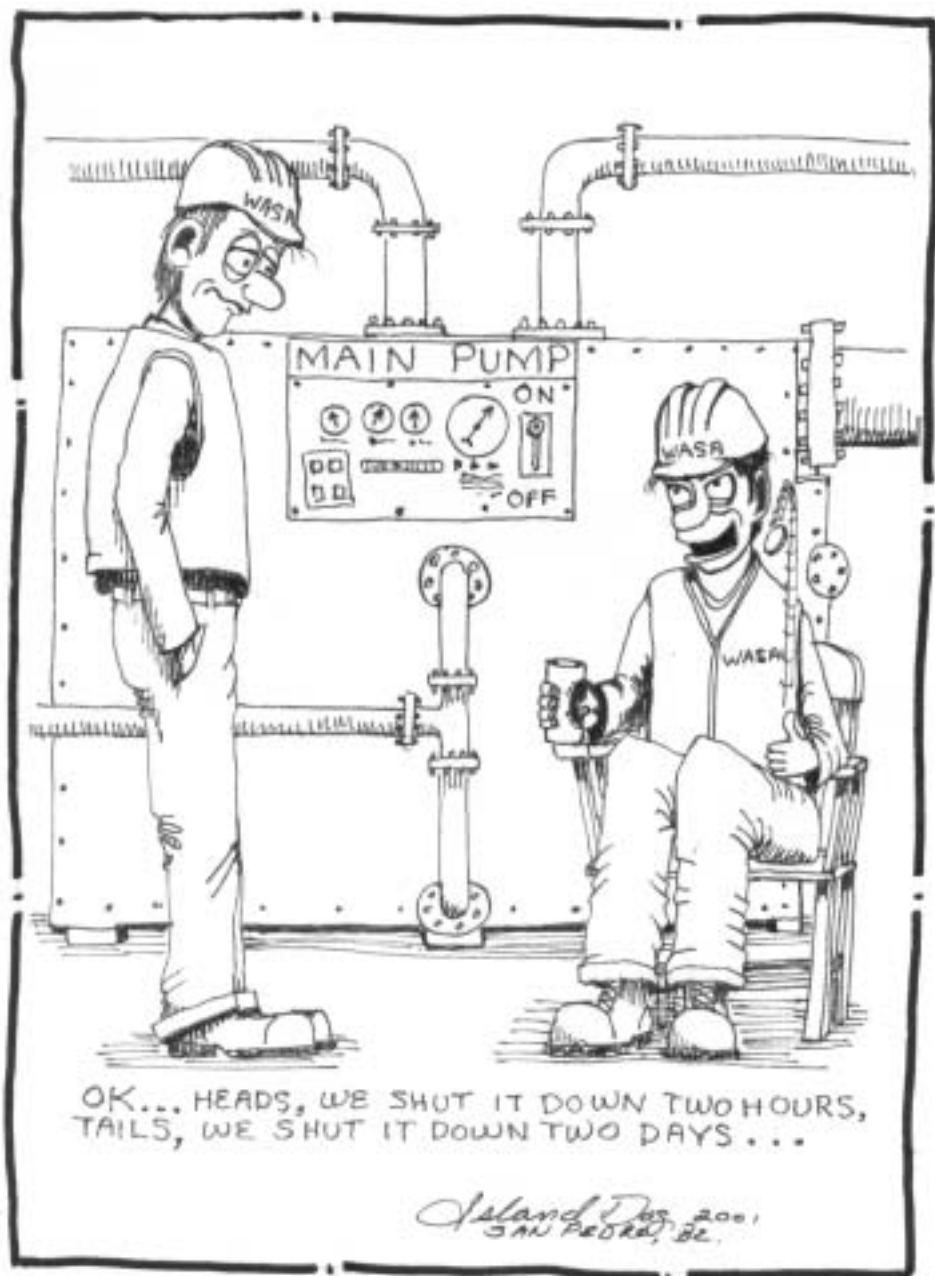
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Take a photo of you and the paper and send it to us at:
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Bockfest in Minnesota



Niagara Falls



Pennsylvania



Netherlands Antilles

Photos taken in unique and unusual places are preferred. Be sure to identify who is in the photo and where the photo was taken. Include your names and what you were doing.

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 Garinagu 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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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

Gossip
Deer
Culture
Chair
Cart
Horse

SPANISH

Chismes
Venado
Cultura
Silla
Caretilla
Caballo

CREOLE

Yeriso/Shush
Dyaa
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CORN

Maize (English)

Maíz (Spanish)

Ix-im (Maya)

Scientific Name: *Zea mays* (Latin)

Plant Family: Poaceae

Description: An annual, cultivated plant growing as much as two meters tall; leaves to one meter long and drooping; flowers on terminal panicles, whitish; seeds formed in spikelets on a woody axis commonly known as “ears”; plant and spikelets extremely variable in size, habit and color.

Habitat: A cultivated plant.

Traditional Uses: An excellent remedy for urinary conditions such as *retained urine*, *burning urine*, *kidney stones*, *bladder infections*, *gonorrhea* and as a *lymphatic system cleanser*—boil corn silk (the fine hairs) from three ears of corn in three cups water for five minutes and drink in sips all day long. Boil dry corn in water for 20 minutes and drink for treatment of *measles*. Many indigenous people of Central America believe that maize is the “food of the Gods,” given to human-kind as a benediction. Another belief is that people were created from corn by the Gods.

Research Results: The silk is known to contain monoterpenes, a small amount of alkaloids, saponins, polyphenols, salicylic acid, tannins, allantoin and salts of potassium (Hegnauer 1963; Flath et al. 1978; Paris & Moyse 1981; Ayensu 1982—cited in Robineau 1991).

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Ambergris Caye is an ideal place to learn to windsurf

The warm, turquoise and blue waters that caress the shores of San Pedro, offer visitors and locals an abundance of recreational opportunities. The steady winds invite water lovers to enjoy the surface sports that rival the underwater alternative.



Joel Meza describes the proper technique to windsurf. Instruction is provided on land using a simulator before you even enter the water.

Windsurfing has become a very popular pastime for men and women of all ages and athletic abilities. This is partially due to technological advances in the boards, as well as the sails. Gone are the long skinny boards that you couldn't stand on for more than a couple of seconds. Gone are the huge sails that you could hardly pull out of the water. Now the boards are very wide; so wide you could almost mistake them for a dining table. In are small sails that even an eight-year-old can pull out of the water. All this makes the art of windsurfing much easier and exciting.

Wouldn't you love to feel the wind in sail and glide? Well you can and it's easy. In one hour, you can learn the basics of windsurfing, you can be up on the board sailing along, steering and turning. After that it's up to you, most people feel the urge to get out on the water and practice. It's addictive – using the wind to power you.

The most consistently windy time is February through June. In November, December and January the wind is often frontal with cold fronts sweeping down from the States that bring 15-25 knot breezes for three to four days at a time. February through July they get the trades and thermals. They tend to get morning and afternoon breezes with a lunchtime lull.

Sailsports Belize, which is located on the beach across from Celi's Restaurant, caters to beginner and veteran windsurfers. They offer a variety of water sports beyond just windsurfing; including kite

Continued on page 16



Windsurfing boards are now wider and sails are smaller so that almost anyone can learn to windsurf.



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Boat builders of San Pedro

Contributed by Ron Mudd

Boats have been around for a long time and people have been building boats for thousands of years. All types of materials have been used for the construction of seafaring vessels. For example, the Norwegian ethnologist and explorer, Thor Heyerdahl, proved people of the ancient world may have had access to this part of the world by sailing in boats made of reeds. In today's modern world, boats are constructed of materials that are much more durable and safer than those of our ancestors.

Historically, the process for building boats in Belize was similar to other parts of the world. In Belize, mahogany and cedar woods were used because of their availability and durability. And, today, there are still a few people who build or carve a dory out of a tree trunk. But, as time sailed on, marine plywood was imported and utilized because of its strength, light weight and the speed with which a boat could be built. Marine plywood came in large sheets, which was easier and faster than the plank-ing of regular wood.

In the early 1980's, a new emerging process started to take place by using the fiberglass or polyester cloth with epoxy resin known as gluvit. By the mid 1980's an even more dramatic process took place when fiberglass structures revolutionized the boat building industry in Belize and throughout the world. Now, practically all small vessels from about fifty foot or less are made of fiberglass. Although in Belize, you can still find boats that have been constructed strictly out of wood.

Many years ago when roads in Belize were practically non-existent, boats were the main mode of transport to all the districts and the boat building industry was thriving. The boat was the only way to transport goods and people. One of those thriving boat

builders was Maurice Bladen, now deceased, who built boats for over fifty years. His sons Wayne and Mike have carried on the family trade of boat building.

In recent years the boat building business has sunk since people can buy boats already manufactured at a price less than it takes to build one. The fiberglass and other materials that it takes to build a boat now can cost a great deal because of the rising prices and the duty that has to be paid because most of the material has to be imported.

But building boats is not the only aspect the two bothers deal with. Another major part of their business is in the repairing of boats, which is vitally necessary on an island like San Pedro where so many people depend on their boats for their everyday livelihood. Having a boat yard where your boat can be repaired is about as vital as a mechanic shop is to an automobile owner. And, like the mechanic shop to the car owner a boat owner depends on a good boat repairman. And there is no doubt that the Bladen bothers can deliver.



Wayne and Mike Bladen carry on the family business of building boats. They no longer use wood, like mahogany and cedar, like their father did, but instead use fiberglass and molds to construct their vessels.



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Our National Bird: The Keel-Billed Toucan

Bubba has been excited about government giving him a tour guide license for bird watching, and all week he's been acting like the world's greatest authority on birds. His excitement has influenced me to have this week's "Bird of The Week" be the National Bird of Belize. The Right Honorable George Price adopted the Keel-Billed Toucan on September 21st, 1981 when Belize became an independent nation.

They live in the forests of Belize; traveling in flocks and eating the fruits of the jungle as they go. Toucans are among the few tropical birds that are widely known to non-ornithologists. The bill's color and great size is most probably the reason for this notoriety. The bill is composed of thin plates and is surprisingly light for its size.

Most oddities in nature can be explained by specialization, but the toucan's need for a bill four times the size of its head is a mystery. One book I read suggested its use was picking fruits and berries from a perching position with little effort.

Its colors are startling, from its rainbow bill to its iridescent blue legs, few birds display such a variety of color. Its face, throat and chest are yellow with a narrow border of red on the



The Regal Keel-Billed Toucan

chest; its body is black with red under tail converts and white upper tail converts. The plumage is soft and lax. The Keel-Billed has a patch of bare green skin around the eye and 'lores' (the area between the eye and bill). The feet

are arranged in the 'zygodactyl' pattern like a woodpecker (two toes forward and two toes back).

The Keel-Billed, as most toucans, are gregarious, occurring in small flocks that roam together through the tree tops in search of a varied diet of fruit. Toucans are known to be frugivorous; however, the Keel-Bill's diet also includes insects, bird eggs and tree frogs. Flight for this bird is labored with bursts of flapping followed by a glide.

The call of the toucan could hardly be called song but rather a croaking noise similar to a frog, my book describes it as RRRK - RRRK - RRRK....or RRUK - RRUK - RRUK..etc., try that aloud a few times....in private!

Toucans roost throughout the year in holes of trees, often old woodpecker holes. Each flock has a number of dormitories in which several adults crowd with their tails folded over their backs to save space.

Clutches are of two or four white eggs which are incubated by both parents. Bubba got himself a little hat with an embroidered toucan on the front that says 'Tour Guide' and has been hustling tourists as they get off the plane for excursions into the jungle. He looks ridiculous but is getting a lot of attention.



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.

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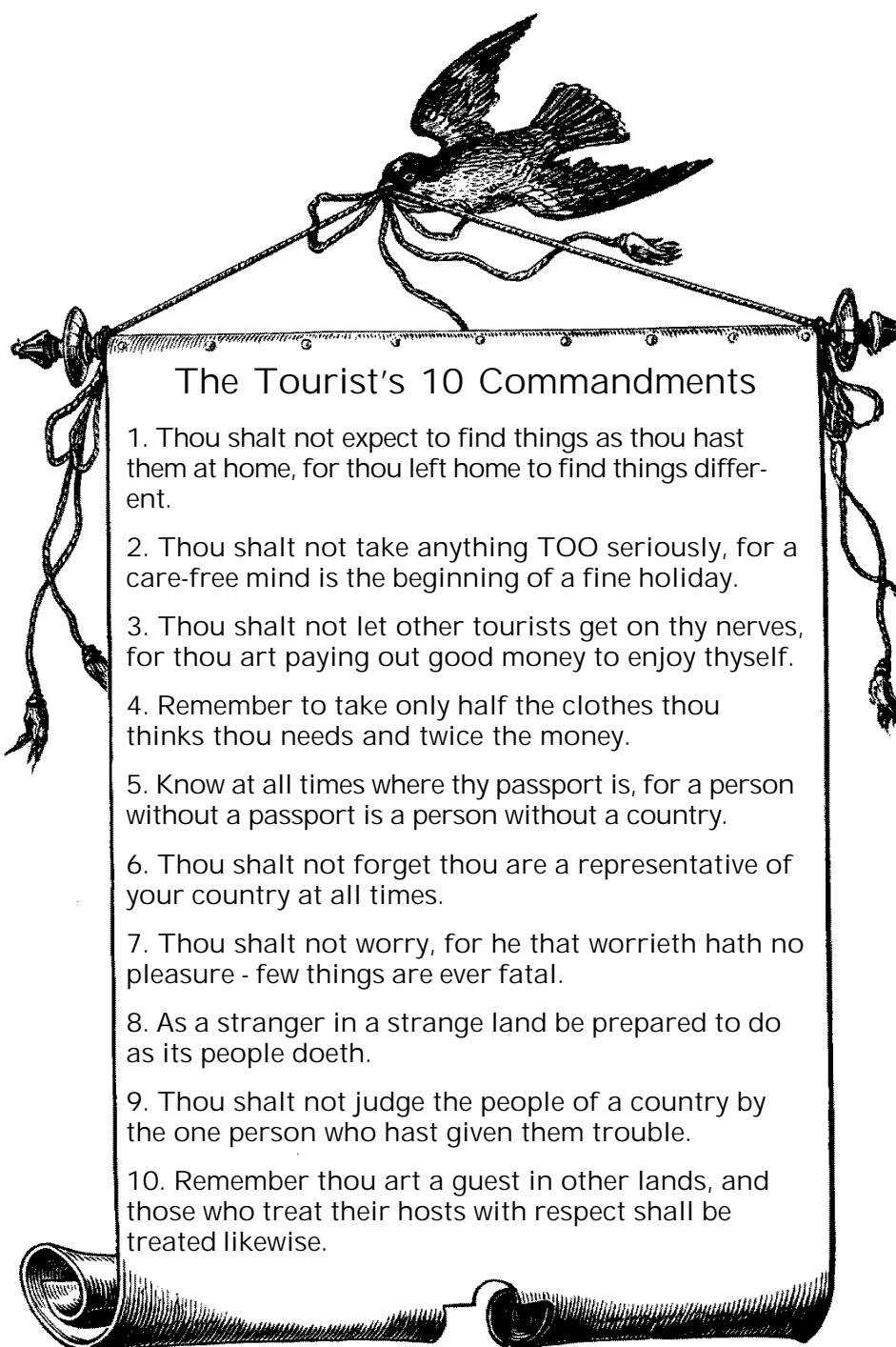
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The Tourist's 10 Commandments

1. Thou shalt not expect to find things as thou hast them at home, for thou left home to find things different.
2. Thou shalt not take anything TOO seriously, for a care-free mind is the beginning of a fine holiday.
3. Thou shalt not let other tourists get on thy nerves, for thou art paying out good money to enjoy thyself.
4. Remember to take only half the clothes thou thinks thou needs and twice the money.
5. Know at all times where thy passport is, for a person without a passport is a person without a country.
6. Thou shalt not forget thou are a representative of your country at all times.
7. Thou shalt not worry, for he that worrieth hath no pleasure - few things are ever fatal.
8. As a stranger in a strange land be prepared to do as its people doeth.
9. Thou shalt not judge the people of a country by the one person who hast given them trouble.
10. Remember thou art a guest in other lands, and those who treat their hosts with respect shall be treated likewise.

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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 \$150,000.00 US.

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!!

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Coconut Beach - \$120,000 US– Home sites available north on Ambergris Caye. These 100'x200' sites are on some of the prettiest beach on the island. Sites available are 2A, 3A, and 8A. Call or stop by for a map. Price is per site.

Club Caribbean Home Sites - \$14,950/\$85,000 US– Beachfront and interior home sites located south of San Pedro on Ambergris Caye. These sites are some of the most affordable on the island of Ambergris Caye! **NEW**–Backfilled sites with seawall coming soon \$130,000 US each. Reserve Yours Today! Selling fast!

Santa Matilda Subdivision Home Sites - \$35,000/\$65,000 US – Affordable interior home sites available North on Ambergris Caye.

Punta Azul Home Sites - \$7950/\$15,900 US – 75' x 115' interior home sites with ocean views located North on Ambergris Caye.

Island Park Estates Home Sites - \$115,000/\$285,000 US – 80' beachfront home sites with bulkhead, native vegetation, high ground. Interior sites also available.



Questions answered about buying property in Belize

Contributed by local real estate brokers. The San Pedro Sun strongly encourages interested parties to consult a local professional real estate agent before purchasing any property.

Question: Can a foreigner own property in Belize?

Answer: Absolutely! Belize is part of the British Commonwealth and the legal system is based on British common law. A foreigner has the same rights as a Belizean citizen to freehold property ownership.

Question: How are Ambergris Caye properties titled?

Answer: Presently, you can take title to freehold property on Ambergris Caye in one of three ways, depending on the location. The oldest form of title is taken via a Deed of Conveyance (or Deed of Encumbrance), which originates from the British colonial days. Ownership by Conveyance can be subsequently converted to a Certificate of Title via an application for first registration. A Certificate of Title is a physical title, whereas ownership via Conveyance is a registered right to ownership of a property. Either form of ownership is equally secure with the ability to be mortgaged.

In 1977, the Government passed the Registered Land Act and certain areas of Belize were subsequently declared compulsory registration areas. On Ambergris Caye, this area starts at the southern tip of the island and extends approximately five miles north of town. All properties, which fall under this section, can now be issued a modern physical Land Certificate Title with a parcel number designation, which replaces the older meets and bounds references of the original conveyed properties. The Government is in the process of systematically re-registering all freehold lands under the Registered Land Act so as to eventually have a uniform nationwide system of land ownership.

Question: How do I ensure the property that I want to buy has clear title?

Answer: By having your legal representative research the title and issue a title opinion. The title is researched in the Lands Registry, the Courts of Belize, and in the Companies Registry if the land is held under a company. Liens, judgments and other encumbrances are valid only if properly lodged for record.

Question: What is the process for purchasing a property in Belize?

Answer:

1. The first step is to submit a binding offer to the seller. Offers are normally submitted with a 2% earnest money deposit to the broker's escrow account.
2. Upon acceptance by the seller, the purchaser will then retain a local attorney to perform the necessary due diligence. Once satisfactory title research is completed, a recordable Purchase Agreement, or original title transfer instrument will then be drawn up based on the particulars of the original purchase offer.
3. Upon closing, the executed documents will subsequently be processed at the Lands Registry and an original title or certified copy of the Purchase Agreement will then be delivered to the purchaser by his attorney in due course.



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The San Pedro Sun Virtual Taste Trip

Grilled Fish Tacos

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Total Time: 36 minutes

Makes: 6 servings, 1 taco each

1/4 cup A.1. Original Steak Sauce

1 seedless orange, peeled, white membrane removed and sectioned

1 jalapeño pepper, seeded, deveined and chopped

1-1/2 lb. firm white fish filets, such as grouper, halibut or red snapper

1/2 cup chopped green onions

1/4 cup orange juice

2 Tbsp. finely chopped cilantro

6 Flour Tortillas, warmed

*PLACE steak sauce, oranges and jalapeno pepper in blender container; cover. Blend on high speed two minutes or until well blended. Reserve 1/4 cup of the steak sauce mixture. Pour remaining steak sauce mixture over fish in re-sealable plastic bag; seal bag. Refrigerate 20 minutes to marinate.

*PREHEAT grill to medium-high heat. Remove fish from marinade; discard marinade. Grill fish four minutes; turn over. Grill an additional two minutes or until fish flakes easily with fork. Remove fish from grill; let stand five minutes.

*MEANWHILE, mix 1/4 cup reserved steak sauce mixture, onions, orange juice and cilantro. Spoon onto half of each tortilla. Top tortillas evenly with fish; fold in half.

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Condos/Homes & Commercial Property

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Exclusive Property on Calabash Caye (J29) 14 acres with 2,000 feet of beach frontage on Calabash Caye at Turneffe Islands. Fully and luxuriously furnished 4,250 sq. ft. house. All utilities and permits are in place for a resort with 10 cabañas. Asking price 4.75 million US. Terms Possible.

Commercial Building (P38) – Commercial property in the heart of San Pedro Town on Angel Coral Street with a 2 story concrete/wooden structure with 4 rental spaces on lower level and a 1 bed/1 bath apt on upper level! Corner lot approx. 95' x 45'. Excellent investment for commercial property in this location at only \$225,000US. **Price has been reduced to \$200,000US – bring an offer!**

Back Street Home (R35) 2 story, wooden home. Lower level - 2bdms, 1 bath, open living, kitchen & dining area. Upper level - 3brms, 2 baths & 2 kitchens. \$250,000US.

Raw Land

Ambergris Bay (G26) 60' of beachfront and 80' of lagoon front on the west coast of Ambergris Caye. Price \$60,000US.

Palmero Point (N10) Off the beach Lot #22 – 95' x 105' – \$40,000US Cash.

El Tesoro (O8) One beautiful lot available in El Tesoro. 12B is only one row off the lagoon and three rows off the beach. The lot is 75' x 75'. \$50,000US.

Santa Fe – 5.5 miles north – 3 side-by-side second row lots accessible by boat and golf cart and within electricity. Each lot approximately 70' x 180'. \$55,000US each.

Palm Bay Club (C41) Lot #111 – 4th row lot, 100' x 100'. Only \$18,000US.

Corozal Town Center (R31) 7½ Acres of prime real estate, road accessible on 3 sides, beautiful mature trees, cleared & ready to develop all amenities available. \$100,000US.

San Marcos (R29) 50 X 90 – Price is Right at \$38,000US.

Eden Isle (R27) Caye Caulker Lot #407 – 75' x 90' – 4th row lot, but only 285' off.

Boca Del Rio (P42) 3 connecting lots located on the waterway just before you cross the river cut. \$210,000US.

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

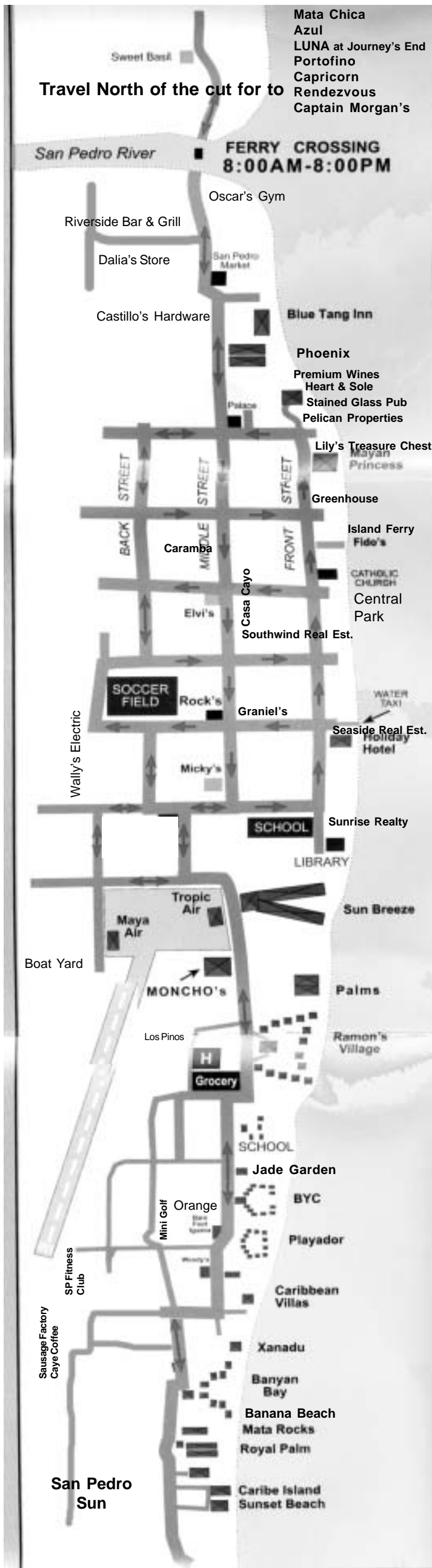
Miscellaneous

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.



Map Sponsored by
Monchos
Golf Cart Rental
226-3262 or 226-4490



Water, Sports & Tours

SEARIOUS ADVENTURES - Up for some adventure? Mayan ruins, manatee watching and more tours available. Make your reservations today. 226-4127.

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.com

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

CASTILLO'S HARDWARE - Storm supplies, electronics, household appliances, tools, home repair items and a wide variety of paints, stains and varnishes. Pescador Drive. Phone 226-2302.

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

THE HOLIDAY HOTEL - Every Wednesday, live music and a fabulous Beach Barbeque 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Barrier Reef Dr. 226-2014.

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.

CAPTAIN MORGAN'S RETREAT - Savor a taste of *Temptation Island*. Underneath a starry night enjoy the exquisite meals prepared by our expert chefs. A small boat ride takes you to one of San Pedro's guilty pleasures.

PAULY'S PIZZA - The best pizzas in town. Also great subs, calzones, chicken wings, cinnamon and garlic sticks. Seven days a week. 226-2651.

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.

HEART & SOLE - next to Aqua Marina Suites & Island Ice Cream, Too! Unique tops & bottoms, all sizes. Seaglass Jewelry. Open everyday 9-6pm. 226-3380

SARIS: CUSTOM-MADE. Choose from our beautiful Silks fabrics and blends. Call for information or appointment. 226-4258

TIE-IT-ON ISLAND CLOTHING is made on the premises in 24 hours or less. Choose fabrics of silk, rayon or blends. ISLA BONITA DESIGNS, N. Barrier Reef Dr., at Aqua Marina Shoppes. 9-6, M-Fri. 226-4258

OSCAR'S GYM - Free-weights, Pilates, basic Yoga, Balance Ball, Tae Bo and more. Affordable daily, weekly and monthly fees. Located in Boca del Rio 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily 226-2239.

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.

TROPICAL TOUCH DAY MASSAGE - Relax and let the vacation begin. For appointments call us at 226-4666.

PROVIDENT BANK & TRUST - Offering a full range of International Banking Services. phone 223-5698 services@providentbank.bz

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.
spsun@sanpedrosun.net
(501) 226-2070
www.sanpedrosun.net



San Pedro Public Library-

Promoting Literacy for Adults & Youths Alike

Since being re-established in May, 2003 and spearheaded by then Senior Library Assistant, Dennis Craft, the San Pedro Library Committee has tried to bring awareness to the community on the importance of literacy, and the library's role in expanding the minds of both our youth and adults alike. With a new and dynamic team, now headed by librarian Iracela Acosta, the committee remains ever persistent in informing our community.

The library is first and foremost for the community, and improved facilities can only improve the learning ex-

perience obtained from it. Gathering from notes of the first meeting held that May of 2003, a few of the much needed things included **improved computer services** for schoolchildren to have access to the Internet for research on assignments, and the acquisition of a **copy machine** and **fax machine** to increase efficiency of facilities provided. **Up-graded air conditioning units** to help in the preservation of the books also topped the original wish list.

Through book sales and bake sales, as well as through monetary and material donations, the committee has managed to finance a lot of these upgrades for the library. Thanks to a generous donation of six computers and one printer from **Captain Morgan's Retreat**, computer literacy classes will soon begin on

April 13th, 2005 with Stephanie Dalton. Using the monetary donations, the much-needed copy machine was bought and adding a fax machine donated by the **Atlantic Bank**, it would seem the initial needs have been met. However, with the amount of schoolchildren visiting the library on the rise, the needs of the library have increased **waypast** the tentative goals of that first meeting.

For those whose first impression of the library is that it needs a lot of work, you should have seen it in 2003! So far, the committee has managed to set up a **creative children's corner** and work on the air conditioning is being done as well. Future plans include expanding the library to include an indoor staircase leading to the upper adult-section area -this means better security.

Adding public bathrooms and tile floors are also in the plans. To fulfill these great dreams however, the San Pedro Town Library needs your help. Donations, whether monetary or material, can be made directly to the library or with either of the committee members **San Pedro Library Committee:** Iracela Acosta - Senior Library Assistant, Evan Vernon - Chairman of the Library Committee, Inga Brereton - Secretary, Emma Carter - Treasurer, Kathy Mantello and Pam Killen - Committee members, Stephanie Dalton - Peace Corps Volunteer.

*Cash, Cheques (U.S. & Bze), Traveller's Cheques and Wire transfers are all accepted. If you are looking to make a charitable contribution

Continued on page 13

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.

SPAIDS Commission - A non-profit organization that helps educate and inform the society in ways to help AIDS victims and their families.

San Pedro Public Library - A public service that helps promote the importance of literacy and education for the betterment of lives and the community. 226-3564.



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!

★ boutique ★

Capricorn has expanded to include a uniquely distinctive boutique, featuring original designed one of a kind jewelry made with stones from all over the world as well as local artists' jewelry and unique gifts.

Lunch served daily 11-2pm ★ Dinner 6-9pm

'Anytime' bar snacks served all day everyday ★ Closed Wednesday Nights Only
Reservations suggested 226-2809



Public Library-Continued from page 12

to the library, check out their **wish list** below. Note: The Matching Funds offer is still being made, and so far, \$3,010.55 has been collected. Only \$1,989.45 to go! Be sure to make your donations by calling 226-3465 or by visiting the library by Esmeralda Park by the R.C. School.

San Pedro Library Wish List

Children/Juvenile Books

Easy-to-read
Reference
Encyclopedia
Spanish Books
Magazines

Adult Books

Fiction
Reference
Encyclopedia
Magazines

Stationery/Office Supplies

Copy Paper (color/white)
Printing Paper (color/white)
Brochure & Flyer paper
Post-it page markers
Post-it notes & dispensers
Rubber bands
Fasteners
Paper trimmer/cutter

Envelopes: White &
Manilla (all sizes)
Rolodex w/cover
Cleaning Supplies
Large trash bags

Hardware/Electronics Supplies

Ink & toner for Canon MF5550
Copier
Toner cartridge for Brother
IntelliFax 775
Black & Color catridges for
Printers:
Hewlett Packard Deskjet 952C
EPSON STYLUS C44UX
Television Set & VCR
2 Arm/Task Chairs
Book Cases/Shelves
Filing Cabinets
Storage Cabinet



The Kiddie Corner promotes the "Reading is Fun" idea from a young age.

Graniel's Dreamland

Furniture made from Exotic Hardwoods & Mahogany

Telephone: 226-2632 or 226-2707 Email: sunset@bcl.net

Located on Pescador Drive - Opposite Rock's

Open Monday to Saturday

8:30am to 12:00 midday

1:00pm to 6:00pm

& 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Sunday 10:00am to 12:00 midday

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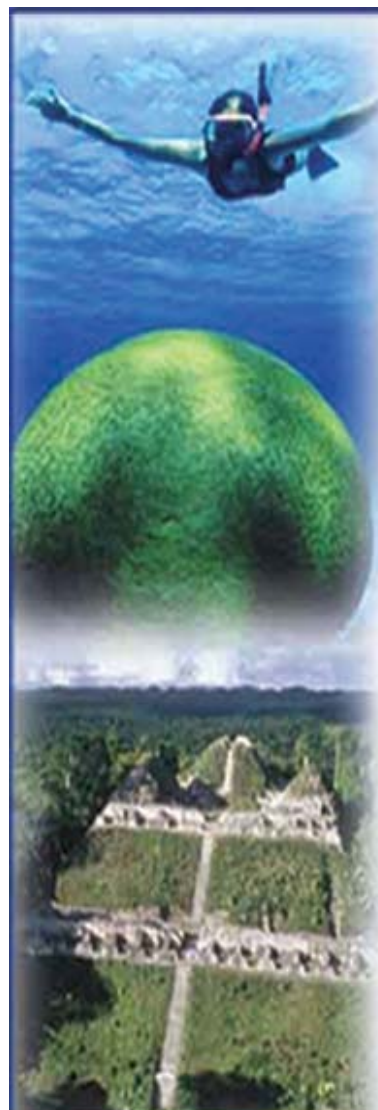
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Great Seafood

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Full Service Espresso Bar**



Come in and try our
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Open 7 am- 9:30 pm

On the Beach across from the airstrip

At the Sunbreeze Hotel

Phone: 226-3347

Reef Brief

by Green Reef Peace Corp
Volunteer, Kristen Stelljes



It is every reef conservationist's favorite time of year – Reef Week! From April 18th – 24th, San Pedro celebrates our reef and conservation efforts to make sure it stays healthy for many generations. Hol Chan Marine Reserve has many fun events planned during the week to both teach people about the reef and to have fun.

On Monday, April 18th there will be a competition between Standard Five students who will test their knowledge of Hol Chan, coral reefs, and mangrove forests in a quiz game. To support the students, be at the Lion's Den at 9:00 a.m. On Tuesday and Thursday there will be clean-ups in the San Pedrito area.

Come see "El Cofre de Piratilla" on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. at the Lion's Den. It's a puppet show in Spanish that will focus on the importance of coral reefs and ways we can help protect them.

April 22nd is Earth Day. This is a special day around the world where people come together to show their appreciation for the earth and everything it gives us. To celebrate, Hol Chan is having a display day at the Lion's Den from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Stop by to learn more about Hol Chan and play some coral reef games.

No ecosystem can exist without the help of other ecosystems, so without our mangrove and sea grass ecosystems, our reef would not be able to survive. It would end up covered in sediment and many of the reef fishes

Are you ready for Reef Week?

would lose their nurseries. These ecosystems are under threat from development even as you read these words. To learn more about these ecosystems, participate in the 1st Annual Ambergris Caye Lagoon-Reef Eco-Challenge. This two-day kayak race will take participants through all the ecosystems that make Ambergris Caye unique. If you aren't going to paddle, come out to send off the participants at 7:00 a.m. at the Old Football Field on Saturday, April 23rd. The primary sponsors of the race are: Green Reef, SEAduced, Tranquility Bay Resort, Fido's Restaurant and Bar, and *The San Pedro Sun*. Thank you to the rest of our many sponsors, as well!

The race will end at the 9th Annual Reef Festival at Mar de Tumbo (Banyan Bay) on Sunday, April 24th from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Come over to see who wins the grand prize! The theme for this year is "Saving the Fishes Grants the Earth's Wishes." There are many exciting events throughout the day including games for kids, displays from Hol Chan and Bacalar Chico Marine Reserves, and music from DJ Habo. The primary schools will be showing off their creativity and reef knowledge in the display contest. The winners will be announced

at 4:00 p.m. If you want to get out and see the reef, make sure you are at the Festival from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. so you can take a ride on the glass bottom boat. Hercules, the Manatee will also be making an appearance.

See you at all the Reef Week events!



TACKLE BOX

SAN PEDRO AMBERGRIS CAYE BELIZE CENTRAL AMERICA

!LIVE MUSIC at 'THE BOX'!

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...is always 'IN ACTION'!

WEDNESDAYS

RED REEF

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THURSDAYS

the Super Latinos 3

FRIDAYS

SUPER FURIA

SATURDAYS

...! new show ! ...

"Reggae Jammin' Session"

* bands start by 8:30pm *

* never a cover charge or drink price increase for the shows *

TACKLE BOX

...is located over the water in the heart of San Pedro off of the San Pedro water taxi pier at the end of black coral street...

!!! the Tackle Box is alive !!!

...is San Pedro... fight injustice & selfish individual interest!

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Enjoy Spectacular Views of The Surf & Sea Life
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Specializing in Romantic Steak & Lobster Dinners
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Pearl Creations

FANTASTIC CARIBBEAN FOLKLORE

Lizard Tales

The Old Heg

Fifty or sixty years ago – imagine Belize in those days. Though there is still devilry in the world, you can imagine what it was like in a small country where people practiced it. The women used to turn themselves into Hogs. If one was jealous of a neighbor, she would turn herself into a Hog, take the form of a vampire and would go to the home of this person and suck the blood from the person's child until it died from anemia. Well, again, fifty or sixty years ago, with no public health care and few doctors, they wouldn't have known what was wrong with the child.

This particular story is about a woman who was jealous of a neighbor because the neighbor had a child and she didn't have any. She took the form of the Hog and went to suck blood from

the neighbor's child. At the time, the mother was sewing clothes for the child and seeing a long tentacle-like thing coming through the window, she just clipped it with her scissors. The following day, when they saw a neighbor without an upper lip, they realized that she was the Hog.

There was another instance in which a neighbor came across a human skin. In assuming or adopting the new form, the Hog would have to get out of her skin, set it aside, and then go for a period of time and return. Well, a neighbor came across the skin and salted it down, corned it. When the Hog returned, the skin had shrunk and she couldn't get it on because, besides being shrunk, the salt burned her body. After the period of time passed when

she could change back into her normal self, she died of exposure.

The belief was, back then, the wanga or sesame seed was an antidote. When somebody was being bothered by a Hog, or an old witch vampire, people would get sesame seeds to put around their baby's crib. Whenever the vampire or Hog came, it would have to stop and eat all the seeds before she could attack the child. Very often, the amount was so much that morning would catch the vampire, and it would have to return home and assume its natural form or sometimes perish from exposure.

This is something you don't hear about now-a-days, but think back fifty-five or sixty years in Belize. Telling stories like this was the popular thing. It was a pastime. There were a lot of

stories and weird tales about people spiting their neighbors because one was childless and the other had delivered a handsome bouncing baby.

*From the Beck collection, Vol. II.
Narrated by Oswald Southerland on July 9th, 1978.*

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Windsurfing

Continued from page 5

surfing, and sailing. Ambergris Caye is dominated by the reef 2/3 mile off-shore. This creates a large protected bay for sailing. The predominantly on-shore/cross onshore winds make this a reaching paradise. With an onshore wind, five mile reaches are no problem. Just hook in close the gap and go... Their sailing area has three distinct sections:

- 1) Close in to the shore and piers where the water is choppy and ideal for the jump kings.
- 2) Close to the reef where the water is glassy and smooth, perfect for the speedsters and those wanting to sail in peace.
- 3) In the channels through the reef they get the waves, which are high in windy season.

Beginners are kept in the shallows

to start with, that way an eye can be kept out on them and help can be rendered whenever needed. Chris, owner, is always around to give advice and Junior, instructor, is always on hand to pull you back if you stray too far. Joel and Troy, both instructors, are also available to set you up with whatever you need. For intermediates fighting with those pivot gybes, Sailsports Belize can always give you a lift upwind in the rescue boat so you have a good down winder to get speed.

Windsurfing equipment rentals start at around \$20 US, lessons start at \$45 US an hour.

Due to the flat warm water and steady breeze, Ambergris Caye is an ideal place to learn to windsurf and enjoy the sport. Come and try it- you'll love it!



The water and wind that surround Ambergris Caye provide perfect conditions to learn to windsurf. Beginners of all ages can be sailing in about an hour.

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BTB Hosts Seventh Annual Industry Presentation

Press Release – BTB – April 6th, 2005
– The Belize Tourism Board, today held its Seventh Annual Industry Presentation in the Queen's Room at the Princess Hotel & Casino at 10:00 a.m.

Over 300 industry stakeholders were present to hear the details of the Belize Tourism Boards' 11.4 million dollar investment portfolio in Marketing & Public Relations, Product Development and other administrative costs for the new fiscal year, which runs from April 1st, 2005 through March 31st, 2006.

Among other objectives, the Industry Presentation affords an opportunity for both governmental agencies to offer stakeholders a solid report of related efforts and achievements on a given year. The BTB takes pride in demonstrating public sector accountability to private sector stakeholders

and in providing a forum for both sectors to keep the tourism dialogue active.

The BTB also shared via a dynamic video presentation, the industry's solid record of accomplishments over the previous financial year. As an additional highlight, there was the official launching of the ToucanTrail.com Internet Marketing Pilot Program designed primarily to address the promotional needs of smaller hotels - approximately 160 Belizean owned properties that offers accommodations at US\$60.00 or less. This project is a \$500,000.00 marketing investment targeting the needs of the budget traveler. The Toucan Trail website is now online at www.toucantrail.com.

"We are always enthusiastic about this annual event, notes Director of Tourism, Tracy Taegar-Panton. "It

gives us a chance to meet with the private sector and share our goals, and gives us the opportunity to solidify our commitment to the people we serve."

The keynote address was delivered by Minister of Foreign Affairs & Tourism, Hon. Godfrey Smith. His address highlighted his vision for the growth and expansion of the tourism industry in Belize within the global arena. Opening Remarks were made by Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism,

Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Welcome Address by the Director of Tourism, Tracy Taegar-Panton and the Vote of Thanks was given by the Chairman of the Board, Mrs. Therese Rath.

For more information on the developments and events in Belize Tourism Industry, please contact the Marketing department at the Belize Tourism Board at (501)-223-1913, via email: info@travelbelize.org or visit us at our website www.travelbelize.org.



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The Hammock House swings



High (Belizean standards) above the Boca del Rio where north meets south and away from the hustle and bustle of the center of town sits the Hammock House. The place, owned by seasoned musician Tim Budd alias Barefoot Skinny and Cajun cookin' Libby Vidrine, offers good food along with good music. On Sunday's, Hammock House swings with a hot menu off the grill of Mexican ribs, Bourbon glazed ribs and a special Cajun injected chicken with spices. And, the music is equally hot but you never know who is going to show up at the every Sunday afternoon jam session, which has become very popular with time.

Recently, a sixteen member acapella group showed up and turned the place out and according to Tim, over seven hundred musicians have jammed since the Hammock House set up shop which is a good idea because it gives local musicians a chance to strut their stuff. Anybody is always welcome to sit on stage and play. This past Sunday, the well-known local group, Punta Boys joined in on the fun. Speaking of fun, Barefoot Skinny says, "And if you are not careful you can have too much fun."

So, remember, especially if you are not a late night person, you can visit the Hammock House every Sunday for the jam session. The Bar-B-Q starts at 1:00 p.m. and usually around 2:00 or 3:00 music starts and they play until....

But, if you are lucky enough to be a night person you can check out Barefoot Skinny go solo on Friday nights. Or, you can just go to the Hammock House have a drink and kick back in one of the hammocks and enjoy the view, the cool breeze and the music.



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Good Things To Know About San Pedro Town & Belize

☉ Government

Belize has been an independent nation since 1981. It is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

☉ Ambergris Caye

Ambergris Caye is twenty-five miles long; its width ranges from a few hundred feet to over four miles. Northern Ambergris Caye is separated from the southernmost tip of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula by a small channel. After arriving in Belize City, a short fifteen minute airplane ride gets you to San Pedro, or if you would rather take the scenic route, an hour's boat ride will get you there as well.

☉ Language

English is the official language and is widely spoken, as is Spanish. Other languages include Creole, Garifuna, Mayan and German.

☉ Climate

Belize weather is characterized by two seasons: a rainy and a dry season. Most of the year's rainfall occurs during the period of June to November, that is, the rainy season. The average temperature varies from 81°F/ 27°C along the coast to 69°F/21°C in the hills. The coldest month is January while the highest temperatures are experienced during the month of May.

☉ Cash & Currency

U.S. dollars are accepted as currency countrywide. The common exchange ratio is \$2BZ/\$1 U.S. Licensed moneychangers offer a slightly higher exchange rate, ranging from \$2.05BZ to \$2.12BZ, depending on the current market.

Nearly all hotels, restaurants and shops accept Visa, Master Card and travelers' checks. Street vendors and smaller establishments in remote areas may accept only cash or travelers' checks.

☉ Sales Taxes

Belize's sales tax is set at 9% and it is applied to all goods and services, except for telecommunications. There is a 7% hotel tax. Some hotels also add a 10-15% "service charge" to the bill; inquire about this when checking hotel prices.

☉ Transportation

The streets are sand, which is great for walking or bike riding. There are few cars; instead, the vehicles of choice are electric golf carts, which are available for rent. Please remember that all golf cart drivers MUST have a valid drivers license. Drive with caution, there are many speed bumps around the downtown area that are not marked and always be on the lookout for potholes. Taxi service is available everywhere south of Boca del Rio. Around town the average fee is \$7BZ. Some local business, as well as resorts, rent bicycles.

☉ Telecommunications

All telecommunications services (direct dial phones, fax, telex, cable) are available. There are several "Internet Cafe's" on the island where you can access the internet through high-speed internet or satellite connections.

SAME Picture

Wolfe's Woofers by Dennis Wolfe

That bikini in the window

"Dulce, I'm going to go to the bank."

"Are you saying you want to use my golf cart?"

"Well, since mine is broken down again, it would be nice," I said.

"Besides, you look comfortable here at BC's. I'll only be gone half an hour or so."

"I was going to give Pam a ride to the bank," Dulce said. "Norm is using her golf cart to drive up north this morning."

"Come on Pam," I said. "You can ride with me."

On Barrier Reef Drive I pulled up in front of the Sea Gal Boutique at the Holiday Hotel.

"I'm going to run over to the deli and get a cup of coffee and a meat pie," I told Pam. "Do you want anything?"

"The only thing I want is that red bikini Celi Jean has in the window of the Sea Gal," Pam said. "I'll wait here in the golf cart for you."

When I got back from the deli, Pam said, "Can you wait for me to go into Celi Jean's shop? I think I'm going to try on that bathing suit."

"Sure," I said. "I'll go in with you."

Inside the boutique, Pam told the clerk, "I think I would like to try on one of the bathing suits in your front window. Do you think that would be all right?"

"Of course, miss," the clerk said, "if you want to. Most people though, they go to the bathroom to try them on."



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Trivia Tidbits

*The youngest person to take the position of US President was Theodore Roosevelt. He was 42 at his inauguration. Next youngest was John F. Kennedy, who was 43.

*While reading a page of print, the eyes do not move continually across the page. They move in a series of jumps, called "fixations", from one clump of words to the next.

*About 24 percent of alcoholics die in accidents, falls, fires, and suicides.

*The chicken can travel up to nine miles per hour.

*Many corals receive nourishment from algae which grow inside their tissue.

*More than three billion Christmas cards are sent annually in the United States.

*The world's rarest coffee comes from Indonesia. At approximately \$300 US dollars per pound, Kopi Luwak is the end product of a cat-like marsupial, called the Paradoxurus that loves eating coffee berries. The enzymes in the animal's stomach add a unique flavor during the fermentation process.



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 - Imperial \$595,000.
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- ❖ **The Villa Turquesa at Mata Grande** designer 3 bedroom beach home with pier and optional adjoining beach lot \$975,000.
- ❖ **Caye Villas** - Beach villas with pool.
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 - 2 bed 3 bath fully furnished \$395,000.
- ❖ **Mi Casa** Rental suites with spacious top floor owner's quarters and loft apt. \$650,000.
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- ❖ **Holiday Lands** beach lot 100ft x 150ft \$300,000 - under contract
- ❖ **Near Mexico Rocks** 178ft beach front 2.4 acres \$534,000 - Sold.
- ❖ **Mata Grande** 100ft x 200ft beach front \$225,000 - under contract.
- ❖ **Boca Ciega** beach lot 75ft x 130ft \$150,000 - Sold.
- ❖ **Punta Arenas** 200ft beach front 3 acres \$425,000 - Sold.
- ❖ **Playa Blanca** beach lot 60ft x 106ft \$140,000.- under contract.
- ❖ **Rocky Point** 2 x1250ft 15 acre beach front parcels - \$1,100 per foot!
- ❖ **Boca Ciega 4.5 acres** 170ft beach front. \$350,000.
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All prices are in US dollars and subject to change without notice. For further details on these properties and much more call your
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The main upper house consists of a large open living, dining and kitchen area, 4 spacious bedrooms including a master suite with walk in closet and 3 full bathrooms.

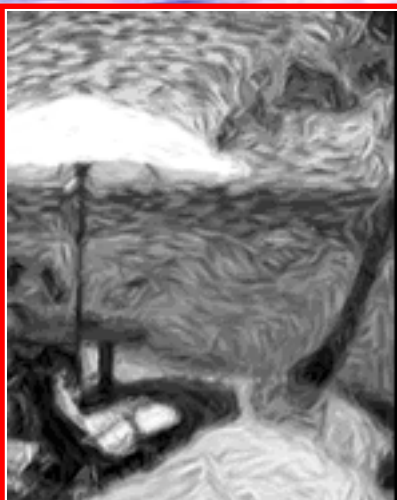
O'Farrell House

This is one of the finest residences in San Pedro Town! Located on the southeastern edge of San Pedro Town on 150 feet of beach frontage, this beautiful and unique home features 3 separate living areas plus an oceanfront cabaña that total an approximate 5000 square feet of covered living space.



All rooms feature Mexican tiled floors and are each uniquely decorated. Large glass sliding doors along the front of the home showcase the beautiful Caribbean view from almost every room and from the large 60 foot long covered verandah.

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