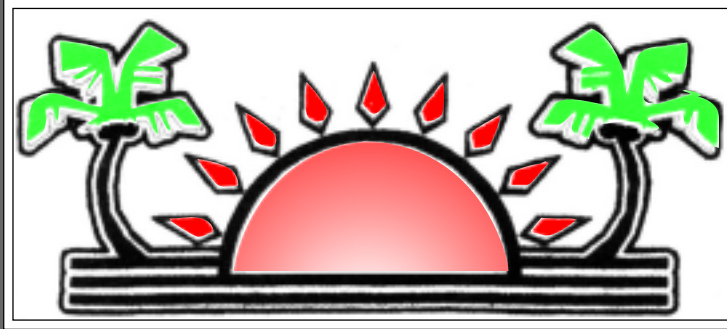
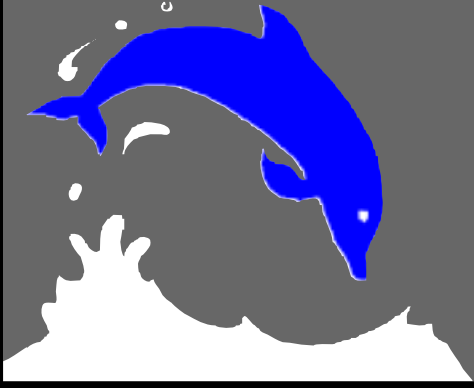


THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE



Vol. 17 #24

June 21, 2007

FREE

The Island Newspaper
Ambergris Caye, Belize
Central America

Lobster Season is OPEN!

San Pedro joins Caye Caulker and Placencia in celebrating the wonders of the Spiny Caribbean Lobster with an annual Lobster Fest!!



(Left and Above)
For Lobster fest, establishments and residents set up booths and fire up the grills for some succulent grilled lobster tails, available fresh and all day long. This year, San Pedro joined in the festivities with their own Lobster Fest, complete with competitions for best lobster dish, best cocktails and best decorated booths.
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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 for-

mation 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 sanctuaries 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

Where did you read your San Pedro Sun?

Where did you take your San Pedro Sun & Visitor Guide? Take a photo of you and the paper and send it to us at: spsun@sanpedrosun.net



Ryan and Janet Puckett, in front of the world famous St. Louis Arch in Missouri.

Sharon Metcalfe (AKA Sharon Stone/Blondie) with the Ogopogo, a legendary lake monster that lives in the Okanagan Lake, Kelowna British Columbia, Canada.



Photos taken in unique and unusual places are preferred. Be sure to identify who is in the photo and where the photo was taken. Don't forget to include your names and what you were doing.

Language can link us no matter how foreign the an effort to share this form with our audience, The proudly presents - This week, we will phrases in English and and Spanish translations. Sylvana Woods for her help with the Creole translations. Enjoy!!!



with other cultures, tongue may be. In of communication San Pedro Sun Words of the Week. present a few give you their Creole Special thanks to

English
Creole
Spanish

The lock doesn't work.
Dis lak ya noh di werk.
El candado ya no funciona.

English
Creole
Spanish

Would you bring me ice water, please?
Yu ku pleez bring sohn koal waata fi mi?
¿Me puedes traer un vaso de agua, por favor?

English
Creole
Spanish

I've already had too much to eat.
Ah don eet tu moch aredi.
Ya he comido demasiado.

The San Pedro Sun is mailed everywhere.

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More foreign subscribers than any newspaper in Belize!

Lobster Mania hits San Pedro!



The grills are hot, the lobster kabobs are sizzling, and lobster season is open!

It is that time of the year again, the time when seafood lovers bow down to the crusty crustacean – the lobster. Enjoyed in a wide variety of dishes and served with endless side orders, the lobster is a Belizean delicacy. Grilled, broiled, in kabobs, stews, soups or ceviches, lobster is enjoyed by many.

June 15th marks the open season of lobster and fisherman high tail it to the seas even before the sun casts its first rays on the Caribbean Sea. Traps have been set and tended for months in advance in anticipation of a great catch. Throughout the country there are several festivals held in honor of the spiny

lobster but this year marks the first time that San Pedro enjoyed one on their sandy shores.

The San Pedro Lobsterfest began the night before the official open season. A grand reception/cocktail was held at Banana Beach's El Divino where delicious non-lobster hors d'oeuvres were served. Opening speeches and welcome remarks were given by the organizers and Mayor Elsa Paz. The Fat Cats did not disappoint and performed live for those in attendance.

On the first official lobster season day – Friday, the grill was warmed up

Continued on Page 11

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Reef Brief

Belize's gold, the Caribbean Spiny Lobster



To many San Pedranos, June 15th is not just any other day. This day marks the beginning of lobster season, when the harvesting of one of the country's most valuable seafood exports is again allowed. The livelihood of many fisherman, as well as restaurant and hotel owners is dependent on this crustacean. Although there has been a decrease in lobster fishing over the past twenty years due to an overall decrease in catch resulting from over-exploitation, lobster exportation is still a major con-

tributor to the Belizean economy. For this reason, the importance of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*), the primary lobster caught in Belize, cannot be overlooked.

When the Spiny lobster hatches, it faces an uphill battle; of the 10,000 eggs that a female might release, only about one percent will survive past the first four weeks of life. The young lobster must go through four stages in the first month with the goal of becoming a competent swimmer. At this time, the young

lobster begins the mission of finding a safe place on the bottom of the ocean on which to settle. While it matures, the features of the lobster become more distinct, including, a spine-studded shell, long antennae, and the absence of claws. To avoid the abundance of predators in this environment, the lobster spends the first year of its life hidden in some sort of crevice, while the next few years are spent hiding in seaweed or behind small rocks. These lobsters are particularly social, known to share their dens in coral reefs with other lobsters, even warning other lobsters of predators with loud sounds.

During its lifetime, the Spiny lobster will eat a wide variety of foods consisting of clams, mussels, crabs, and worms, and occasionally plants. There is evidence that lobsters have cannibalistic tendencies, feeding on other lobsters if given the chance. Just as the lobster will eat up to 100 different kinds of animals, there are at least as many animals that feed on lobster. Humans, naturally, are the primary consumers of lobster, followed by cod, flounder, eels, crabs, and seals.

An interesting physical characteristic that the Spiny lobster shares with all species of lobsters is that it sheds (molts) its shell up to 25 times in the first five years of life. Once the lobster becomes an adult, the molting event decreases to once a year. Molting the old shell and creating a new shell accommodates the growing lob-

ster for at least another year.

After the shell is shed the lobster proceeds to eat its own shell and then find hiding for at least two weeks to allow its new shell to harden. It is during this short period following the molting that the female lobster is receptive to mating. Because the female's shell has not yet hardened, the male has to be particularly gentle in the mating process.

After mating is completed, the female stores the sperm for several months until she finally fertilizes and lays her 10,000 to 20,000 eggs. After an additional nine to 11 months, the eggs will hatch. The entire life process of the lobster is relatively fragile; thus they are easily threatened by a number of impacts. For one, despite the open season restriction of June 15th - February 15th, "undersized" and "out of season" lobster are still taken illegally. Moreover, habitat destruction, such as mangrove clearance, threatens critical nursery habitat of lobsters. As a mainstay of Belize's economy (bringing in over Bz\$18 million annually), it is critical that we protect and conserve the Spiny lobster by respecting and preserving our environment.



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Placencia Lobster Fest set for June 22nd to 24th



Fresh from the sea, hot off the grill and right to your plate, accompanied by Belizean rice and beans and slaw, the lobster [kabobs] reign supreme at Placencia's annual lobster fest.

June marks the opening of the lobster season, so you know what that means – lobster mania! That's right, during the month of June several tourist destination spots in Belize commemorate this occasion by throwing massive lobster parties for guests and locals to enjoy. And Placencia Village is no stranger to this event as this year marks the seventh year that the village will host one of its biggest events of the year – the Placencia



Lobsterfest. This three day festival honors the delectable crustaceans that were once the primary means of livelihood for this one time sleepy fishing village.

Traditionally held on the last full week-end in June, the Placencia Lobsterfest is a fun-filled family affair with a wide range of activities and entertainment, and of course delicious lobster dishes that will be held the weekend of Friday, June 22nd to Sunday June 23rd.

This year's activities include the 9th

annual Placencia Fishermen's Day Salt-water Fishing Tournament where captains and their crew vie for the Best Boat position and over \$8,000 in prizes and surprises. On Friday, June 22nd, apart from a cornucopia of lobster dishes, dance the night away with the Griga Boys along with their Punta beats that will have you on the dance floor all thru the night. On Saturday, the party continues with the All Star Steel Band taking over the spot light with several fantastic steel performances. Next, a prize-filled Placencia

Continued on Page 10

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New Listings

Beach Front Home at Spanish Reef: (W29) Attractive beach house located only 4 miles north of San Pedro. Home consists of 2 bdms, 1 bath, wide porch & large storage room. Lot - 50' x 100'. \$450,000.00 US.
San Mateo Waterfront (R52) 3 side by side water front lots facing the San Pedro lagoon, selling separately or together. Each lot measures approximately 50' x 100'. Price: \$37,500.00 US each or buy all three! Make an offer!
Palmero Point (G43) Nice lot located several rows off the beach in the beautiful Palmero Point Beach Club subdivision, located 9 miles north of town. Measuring approximately 107' x 164'. Only \$30,000.00 US.
Aguilar Subdivision (H38) Nice lot with lush and mature trees, solid grounds; measuring 50' x 90'. Great buy at only \$40,000.00 US.
Santa Rita beach front property (K19) Breathtaking view, high elevation, electricity and road access. 130' x 425' only 700,000 USD

Raw Land

Holiday Lands (M53) Approx 78' x 72', 2 rows off the beach. \$70,000.00 US.
Ambergris Bay (P55) Gorgeous beach front parcel on the west coast of Ambergris Caye. Measuring approximately 75' x 100'. \$100,000.00 US.
Beach front lot at Palm Bay Club, 60' x 130'. Price only \$70,000.00 US
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San Pedrito (A24) Nice lot measuring approx. 50' x 75'. Great location to build your home & enjoy the gorgeous sunsets. Asking price \$30,000.00 US.
Mata Grande Lot (P52) Ocean view lot-80' x 150'- 2 rows off the beach within electricity, telephone & road access. \$50,000.00US
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Page 6 Visitor Guide

June 21, 2007

Caye Caulker Lobster Festival June 29th – July 1st

Yes, it is here again, the big mama that started it all – the Caye Caulker LobsterFest 2007.

Filled with lobster and music, games

and surprises, this year's festival is sure to be a blast. But, when has it not? Caye Caulker reigns supreme as the Lobster Festival King of Belize, with San Pedro

and Placencia closing in on its throne, Caye Caulker will pull out all the stops this year.

The usual party will be happening at Caye Caulker. Don't forget to check out beauty and poise at the Lobster Queen competition slated for Friday. Contestants have lined up and are ready to vie for this year's crown.

The dance scheduled for Saturday is a sure fire party – can't afford to miss out. Get beach ready for Sunday's beach party. Yes, it is one big beach

During lobster season, lobster traps adorn the beaches of Caye Caulker.



party with establishments having booths teeming with lobster tails and the most

delicious drinks quenching your thirst. You don't want to miss it. Visit Caye Caulker and say hello to the lovely crustaceans on your plate.



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Belize Tourism Board - 223-1910.

Belize Tourism Industry

Association (BTIA) - 227-5717.

San Pedro Tourist Guide

Association 226-2391.

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Medical Emergency: 226-3231

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 600-9071 or Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8am to 8pm; Sat., 8am - noon.

Los Pinos Clinic 602-6383 and 226-2686.

Dr. Lerida Rodriguez: 226-2197 or cell 620-1974.

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 Polyclinic II - 226-2536. 8-12 and 2-5, Mon. to Fri. Emergencies 226-2555/2918 or 606-3864.

Ambergris Hopes Clinic - 226-2660, Emergencies: 606-2316

US Embassy - 822-4011

Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

Mexican Embassy - 223-0193

Guatemalan Embassy - 223-3150

Honduran Embassy - 224-5889

San Carlos Medical (MD & Dentist Services) - 7:30am - 9:00pm, 226-2918

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-St.-Sn. at 7:30 p.m.

Lighthouse Christian Radio - 101.3 FM. 226-4673, Cor. Buccaneer & Pescador Drive.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Sunday Service: 9:30 am, Wednesday Scripture Study 7:00 pm. 17 Lagoon St. (between the bakery and the bridge).

San Pedro Community Church - meets Sundays at 10a.m. at the Ambergris Elementary School. Sunday school available for children. All Are Welcome.

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 /226-2833

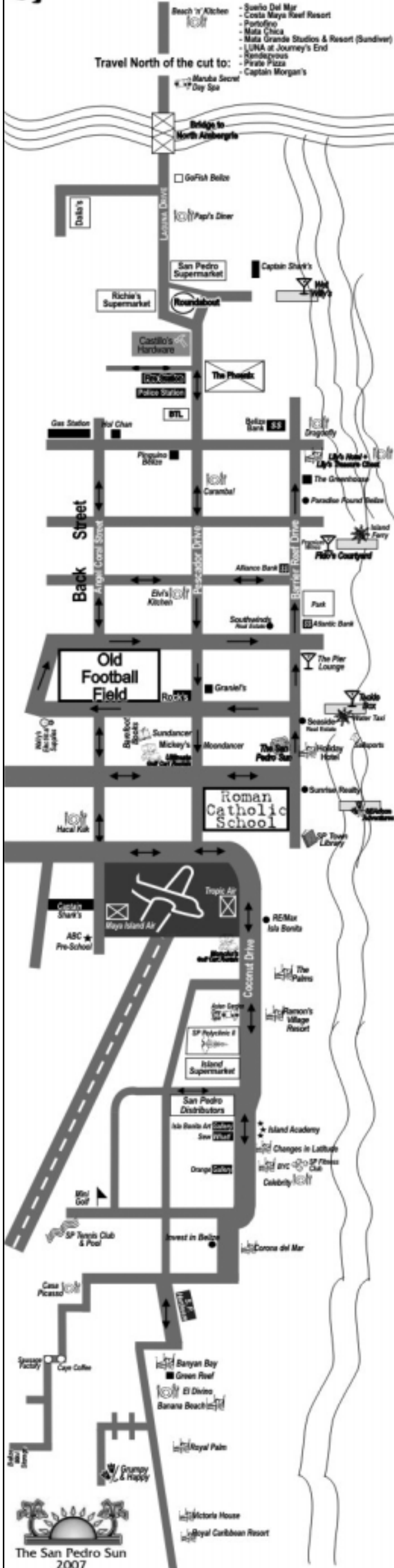
San Pedro AA - 226-4464, 600-9061

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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Guide to Isla Bonita



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THE TACKLE BOX - come rock da box out over the water! Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday (starting @ 9:00PM) we have amazing live bands ranging from Reggae to Punta to old school Rock-n-Roll. We'll have prizes, specials and always that breath-taking Tackle Box ocean view! Located off the San Pedro Water Taxi Pier at the end of Black Coral St. 226-4313.

THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR'S GUIDE



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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.

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Contact the San Pedro Sun for more information.
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Whether you come to Placencia for the lobster (see Page 6), the beaches and colorful and lively culture will blow you away as well.

BTIA raffle takes place on Sunday June 24th in the evening, along with other beach events such as beach football, water volleyball, kayak challenge, and tug o war which will take place during the day. Lobster treats include plenty of ceviche, salad, fritters and barbecued lobster to feast on. Placencia comes alive to celebrate the onset of lobster season with Punta and reggae music, dancing, pageantry, colorful local culture, handicrafts and amazing food. You can bet your bot-

Continued on Page 12

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San Pedro's Lobster Fest

Continued from Page 3



Casa Picasso blew the crowd away at the block party with their great Lobster Cowboy theme, complete with Lobster Piñata! On the menu: delicious lobster rolls, ceviche and refreshing mint mojitos.

by noon and revelers flocked to the centrally located hot spot. Throughout the morning, fishermen brought in their delicious and at times heavy catch of fresh crustaceans, while others brought in the biggest tail which they'd plucked out from the sea. The heaviest catch and biggest lobster took home great prizes. Aside from that, everyone was wondering when they could have their first bite, their first taste of the season. The great chefs at Fido's did not disappoint, either barbecued, Belizean style or in tacos, lobster was enjoyed by the gathered crowd.

The sun was shining and the water was tempting, it was a beautiful day for all to enjoy a great day at the beach. The volleyball net was up and sports enthusiasts played a round or two while spectators cheered on the sidelines. The horseshoe competition was another favorite of the crowd. Trying to get the horseshoe in the right spot were not as easy a task as they looked. It was a great way to kick off lobster season and to get your tasty fill of the delicious delicacy. The folks at Fido's did not let Lobsterfest slide by and it was a hopping party from morning to night when the Fat Cats performed once more. Drinks were flowing and the lobsters

were cooking, and Fido's was great.

On Saturday, everyone enjoyed the long awaited and much anticipated block party. Booths lined the streets as people walked from booth to booth trying out their lobster specialties. Lobster ceviche, rolls, stews and soups as well

as lobster pasta were in high demand. Grills were a-cooking and the smells permeated the air. Performances by the San Pedro Dance Company kept everyone in good spirits, the drinks kept everyone happy, the inflatable bouncy tents kept children overjoyed and the food kept everyone around. What more could you need from a block party?

Sunday went on with an all you can eat lobster pizza while on Monday was the romantic rendezvous at Portofino's Le Bistro. Armed with soft, sultry music, starlit sky and gorgeous moon, Le Bistro's chefs prepared a three-course meal that was truly satisfying and delectable. Lucky diners could not ask for more.



A great treat on Friday was the Lobster lunch at Fido's Courtyard. A delicious grilled lobster tail was accompanied by fresh flour tortillas and baked beans for the ultimate beach eats.

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SHARKS

Placencia Lobster Fest

Continued from Page 10



tom dollar that their will be plenty of Lobster platters prepared every way imaginable – steamed, boiled, broiled, grilled, added to stews and soups and, as a topping for pizza and pasta, you name it, you'll get it!

The streets of Placencia will burst into life during this annual event to celebrate the start of the lobster season. How to get there? Getting to Placencia is easy and there are several options. **By air** – Both Tropic Air and Maya Island Air fly into the Placencia Airstrip five to six times a day. **By road/car** – The trip from Belmopan takes approximately 3 hours. Dangriga to Placencia is only 1.5 to 2 hours. The roads up until the Placencia Peninsula are great and it is only the Peninsula roads itself where you will find rough roads. You can save yourself the bad road and about a half an hour's time by traveling straight into Independence Village and taking a water taxi across to Placencia. From Punta Gorda follow the Southern highway and either turn off at the Independence junction or continue on to the Placencia Peninsula road and follow it to Placencia which is approximately three and a half hours. **By Bus** – Buses coming to Placencia leave from Dangriga after making connections with buses from the North at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:00 noon, 5:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. Buses from Punta Gorda heading north stop in at Independence and connect with the water taxi to Placencia.

The once sleepy village of Placencia will come alive with its 7th Annual LobsterFest on Friday, June 22nd to

Sunday June 24th, so all roads lead to Placencia this weekend.

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The San Pedro Sun's Virtual Taste Trip

Curried Coconut Caribbean Lobster

From The Inn at Robert's Grove, Placencia



Ingredients

4 Medium Sized Lobsters
4 Teaspoons Curry Powder
1 Red Pepper, thinly sliced
1 Orange Pepper, thinly sliced
1 Green Pepper, thinly sliced
2 Sm Habanero Peppers, thinly sliced
1 Leek Thinly Sliced
1 Teaspoon Italian Seasoning
3 Cups Coconut Milk
1 Cup Fresh Chopped Tomato
6 Tablespoons Olive Oil

Directions

-Remove lobster meat from shells. Reserve shells.
-In large sauce pan heat 4 table-
spoons olive oil, add curry and
let cook, stirring for one minute.
-Add leeks, peppers, Italian sea-
soning and stir for three minutes
-Add coconut milk, fresh tomato
and simmer for 3 minutes.
-In separate pan sauté lobster in
remaining olive oil for one
minute, then add to curry mixture,

simmer five minutes.

-Boil shells to bring out red color.
-Serve curried lobster mixture in
shells or over white rice.

Lobster and Avocado Salad

Ingredients:

1 cup cooked, flaked lobster,
(1 small lobster)
Lime juice to taste
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/3 cup mayonnaise, or to
moisten
1/4 teaspoon salt
dash pepper
mixed salad greens
1 avocado, peeled, quartered

Preparation:

Sprinkle lobster with lime
juice. Add celery, salt and pep-
per. Gently stir in mayonnaise; chill thoroughly. Brush avocados
with lime juice. Arrange lobster salad on mixed greens with a wedge
of avocado.



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You Look Familiar

"Excuse me for interrupting you while you're reading," the man said, "but..." I was sitting out on the deck of the Holiday Hotel engaged in four of my favorite pastimes; reading my book, drinking coffee, having a cigarette and watching the ladies go by.

"Yes?" I said.

"You just look very familiar," the tourist said. "I've been looking for a certain person for seven years now and something about your face seems so familiar."

"I think I just have one of those familiar-looking faces," I said.

"Were you in Las Vegas in the year 2000?" he asked.

"Why, yes," I said. "I spent three months there. Why do you ask?"

"I was gambling at the Bellagio Hotel," he said. "I hit a streak of bad luck and lost everything I owned. I even sold my watch and lost the money for that. I went to the bathroom and all they had were pay toilets. I didn't even have a quarter for the toilet but a kind-hearted stranger in the washroom lent me a quarter."

I looked at him more closely. He did look familiar.

"Anyway," he continued, "I found that someone had left one of the bathroom stall doors open and I went in and used it. When I came out, I took the quarter to the slot machine and hit a jackpot for two thousand dollars. I took that money to the roulette wheel and ran it to a million and a half dollars. I swore that if I ever found the man who gave me my lucky break I would split the money with him, fifty-fifty."

"My God, man," I said. "I remember you clearly now. You hadn't shaved for about two days and you were wearing a T-shirt that said, 'The Mustang Ranch.' Am I right?"

"You certainly are," he said. "That was me."

"Well you don't have to look any further," I told him. "I'm the guy who lent you the quarter."

"Oh, you're not the one I'm looking for," he said. "I'm looking for the guy who left the bathroom stall door unlocked."

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Trivia Tidbits

*In web site addresses on the Internet, "http" stands for "hypertext transfer protocol."

*The most valuable nutrients of the potato are in the skin.

*Birds played a role in aerial warfare during World War I. Because of their acute hearing, parrots were kept on the Eiffel Tower to warn of approaching aircraft long before the planes were heard or seen by human spotters.

*The human eyes can perceive more than 1 million simultaneous visual impressions and are able to discriminate among nearly 8 million gradations of color.

*Flamingos are not naturally pink. They get their color from their food, tiny green algae that turn pink during digestion.

*Someone with an irrational fear of meat is "carnophobic."

*If the number 111,111,111 is multiplied by itself, the result is all of the digits in ascending to descending order, or 12,345,678,987,654,321.

*Peanut oil is used for underwater cooking in submarines. Undersea fleets like it because it does not smoke unless heated above 450 degrees F.



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