

VOICE

Bay Islands

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

JUNE 2013

La Voz de las Islas de la Bahía

WELCOME TO THE LAKE

LADY OF THE LAKE

BEAUTIFYING ISLAND NEIGHBORHOODS

PAGES 12-13



SUMMER FASHION WEEK
PAGE 16



REAL ESTATE: WHY THE SMILE?
PAGE 11



BOOK MOBILE READY TO ROLL
PAGE 23



STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS
PAGE 10

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Blessings:

Great article. Love it.

En nuestro país el Anglicanismo tiene presencia desde Ca. 1636-1639, cuando aventureros y piratas ingleses hacían de las Islas de la Bahía su refugio para sus incursiones contra la Corona Española, así como exploradores ingleses de madera tomaron control de la costa caribe del país. Los reyes moscos era coronados y enterrados en la Catedral Anglicana de San Bautista en Belize, antes Honduras Británica.

Segun datos se dice que había un templo construido alrededor de estos tiempos en Old Port Royal lugar el cual era utilizado por ingleses, si existiera algo de esto serían ruinas en este lugar, talves algo por investigar entre ustedes y nosotros como Iglesia (Iglesia Episcopal ahora). Se supone que este templo en Port Royal se llamó Emmanuel Anglican Church, como tambien se dice que hubo otro templo en Puerto Trujillo llamado: Saint George Anglican Church, ambos alrededor de estos años, 1636-39, lo que nos convierte en los primeros en traer el evangelio a estas islas, sin embargo abandonandolo para luego los Metodistas continuaran o llegaran con sus primeros misioneros a la Isla.

Creemos que Ca. en 1700 tuvimos en la Isla un misionero llamado Nathan Price, un Inglés que a la ves fue sepultado en algunos de los cementerios aquí.

Nuestra Iglesia solo regreza a las islas hasta en 1986, construyendose un templo en Brick Bay, llamado Saint Peter by the Sea, y ahora estamos en proceso de construcción una nueva iglesia en Coxen Hole que se llama Emanuel Episcopal Church, en memoria de lo que fue este templo en Port Royal. Nuestra Iglesia solo se extendió a lo largo de la costa norte del país e interior, hoy contamos con mas de 156 iglesias en todo el país bajo el nombre de la Iglesia Episcopal Hondureña.

Nelson Yovany Mejia
San Pedro Sula



A section of the new cruise ship port at Trujillo, on the Honduran coast, built by Roatan construction firms. Cruise ships will begin docking there later this year. See related articles on on pages 10 and 11. (photo courtesy Island Concrete)

The Bay Islands Voice welcomes letters on any subject of interest to readers. We reserve the right to edit for length and to remove offensive language or potentially libelous statements. Please keep letters to no more than 250 words and include your name and where you live. Tambien aceptamos cartas en español.

Correction: In last month's review of Chas Watkins's book to *Hold the Sun (Culture)*, we wrote that Watkins was born and raised in Australia. He was in fact born in England and moved to Australia after graduating from university.

Cover Photo: Raydene Abbott-Nixon standing in front of one of her landscape designs at the entrance to *the Lake* in French Harbour.

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COME ONE, COME ALL! SHOW US HOW YOU WRITE

Voice Sponsors Essay Competition for Bay Islands Heritage Month

August is Bay Islands Heritage Month. Schools on the islands will organize activities to showcase and promote the cultural diversity and traditions of the people of the Bay Islands and challenge students to learn, explore and understand their rich history and culture.

In keeping with the spirit of the Month, the *Bay Islands Voice* is organizing an essay competition for students of English on the islands. The winner will be selected in August, and the winning essay will appear in this space in September, together with the author's photo.

The purpose of the competition is both to encourage Bay Islands students to maintain excellence in written English - the heritage language of most islanders - and to give *voice* to a new generation of island thinkers and leaders with new ideas about how to improve the quality of life of island residents.

Bay Islands Heritage Month commemorates the abolition of slavery in the British Caribbean through the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833, which went into effect in August 1834. The Act freed all slaves in the British Empire, although many were still indentured to their former owners until 1838.

The Abolition Act was a major impetus for the migration of British subjects, both former slaves and former slave masters (or in some cases neither), to the Bay Islands beginning in the 1830s, mostly from the Cayman Islands. These English-speakers soon outnumbered the Garifuna, who had settled on Roatan in 1797 after being expelled from St. Vincent following a failed revolt against the British. By about 1850, historical records indicate most of the approximately 2,000 people living on the Bay Islands were British subjects, and most of them were former slaves.

Although Queen Victoria's government formally relinquished all claims to the Bay Islands in 1860, making them indisputably part of Spanish-speaking Honduras, most Bay Islanders retained their English-speaking identity into modern times.

In the 20th century, Honduras implemented a policy of *castellanización*, which required that only Spanish be taught in the public schools. Generations of Bay Islands students were obliged to study after hours in private homes from the *Royal Reader* to retain their English-speaking heritage. The current Honduran Constitution, adopted in 1982, commits the government to promote the use of Spanish.

**Robert Armstrong,
Publisher**

But in the 1990s, prompted by the adoption of the 1989

Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO 169), the Honduran Government began to officially acknowledge and appreciate the linguistic and cultural heritage of its indigenous and afro-descended minorities. English-speaking Bay Islanders were officially recognized as an indigenous group for purposes of the convention, and a 1997 law stated they were entitled to instruction in their native language.

However, 16 years later, making that "entitlement" a reality remains a challenge. Although there are bilingual programs now in Bay Islands public schools, most public school teachers come from the mainland and speak only Spanish.

More importantly, there is little indication that the powers

that be on the mainland appreciate the potential value in today's global economy of having an English-speaking enclave 30 miles off their coast. Other countries are investing heavily to teach English to their students so they can participate in the burgeoning global information and services economy, where English is paramount. Honduras already has a group of English speakers. It just doesn't want to acknowledge them.

The *Voice Essay Competition* is an inducement for English-speaking island students to persevere despite those impediments to maintain high standards in the language of their forebears.

Essays, to be submitted in English, should be 750 to 1,000 words and address the topic: "What I would do to improve the quality of life for the people of the Bay Islands." Essays will be judged on the basis of proper

English grammar and style, structure, persuasive power, logic, originality, the compellingness of the ideas presented, the passion with which they are argued and their relevance to the current reality of the Bay Islands.

A panel of three judges, chaired by the Publisher of the *Voice*, will evaluate the submissions and select the winner.

To be eligible, essay writers must be enrolled in a public or private school on the Bay Islands in grade six or higher or have graduated within the past year and must have studied at least five years in Bay Islands schools. Essays must be the original work of the entrants. Entrants may seek advice and comment from friends, family, teachers or mentors, but any substantial reworking of the essay must be the work of the entrant. Essays found to be in whole or in substantial part not the original work of the entrant will be disqualified.

Essays should be submitted by email to info@bayislandsvoice.com on or before August 9. The winner will be notified by August 21.

Good luck! And may the most articulate *voice* win.

Essay Contest Rules

ESSAY LENGTH: 750-1,000 words

LANGUAGE: English

TOPIC: What I would do to improve the quality of life for the people of the Bay Islands

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GUNTER
KORDOVSKY


THE WRECKS OF UTILA FOR FUN IF NOT PROFIT

The *Rock*, as this Jewel in the Carribean is called by the locals, has turned into a diving mecca in the last two decades. Utila is a volcanic island with dropoffs a stone's throw from the beach, making for excellent wall diving and beach entrance (if it's not too rough). Its famous "Big Wall" at Turtle Harbour drops off into the abyss where the continental shelf comes in.

The same features that make Utila a diver's paradise make the island hazardous for ships, especially in the old days when there was no electronic gear or weather forecasts. It is a veritable maritime graveyard, and a playground for wreck-divers.

In 1970 I sailed to Utila on the *Fathom II*, an underwater archaeological salvage operation. Our mission was to search for vessels that fell victim to some sharp reef, hurricane or engagement with pirates. We searched for a galleon named the *Santiago*, which was supposedly off the north coast of Honduras, near a small island with two hills. Utila seemed to fit that description. But after a six-month search, we learned the "phantom galleon" was never even near Utila!

However, in June 1971, Chris Talberd, another *Fathom* diver, and I discovered the *Oliver* wreck in 70 feet of water near the ship channel. The *Oliver* had a cargo of logwood when she sank. We excavated the wreck and found two 12-foot anchors and a cannon, plus lots of interesting artifacts. From a financial point of view it was a complete farce. But as an experience it was great!

The *Fathom*, contrary to popular belief, eventually went the way of many treasure hunts - it's more profitable to write about treasure than to look for it. Only a few, like Mel Fisher, who found the *Atocha* motherlode after 10 years and four tragic deaths, have struck it rich.

On the north side of Utila is an unidentified wreck site where ballast and artifacts have been found, including the top of a 200-300 year old Noel Gin bottle. There are several other areas where ballast rocks have been found.

More recently, the *Aguilar* beached itself on the west end carrying 25,000 sacks of cement. She was eventually pulled/towed to Utila. Hurricane Mitch broke the wreck in half in 1998.

The *Rojen*, a 38-foot sailing vessel built in Germany and commissioned in 1977, had been traveling around the US and Central America for years when on Christmas Eve 2000 she broke her moor-



The author in the wheelhouse of the *Halliburton*, one of Utila's many wreck-diving sites.

ing at Utila and hit the dock, making a big hole. After much deliberation she was sunk at Ted's point, a popular dive site near the airport caves.

Then there is the infamous *Olympia*, which was sunk in deep water in 1905 after Robert McField slaughtered all the people on board. She never has been found.

Another small boat disappeared outside the lighthouse with crew in a storm. There is also a Cessna fuselage in the ship channel near the *Oliver* site.

Last but not least there is the *Nirvana*, another sleek sailing boat, which was bought by a local for the engine. Gunter's Ecomarine dive shop spent two days cleaning the vessel, which then was sunk at 30 meters depth in a sandspot near the Pretty Bush Bank, three-quarters of a mile out, in 2011.

That about covers our wrecks around Utila. Of course one never knows what lurks in the deep recesses of the continental shelf. And for the dreamers who are looking for *the wreck*, as many wannabes have learned the hard way, it takes millions to make millions. Yes, they are out there somewhere. But until you find them, dream on, and happy searching!

"It's more profitable to write about treasure than to look for it."

Jade Seahorse

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A DAGGER IN THE HEART IGNORANCE CAN BE BLISS

Sometime after 1996 the US Immigration and Naturalization Service imposed a new requirement for people claiming citizenship or permanent residence through their relatives: DNA testing. This relatively new science, perfected in the last few decades, can verify a blood relationship. Unfortunately, it also has the potential to destroy families over a mere technicality.

Imagine that after 10 or 15 years of rearing a child and loving, caring and sacrificing for that child, some bureaucrat obliges you to take a test to determine whether the child is really yours. In my opinion this is insensitive and cruel. Nobody should be put through this kind of torture.

According to the website of the US Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS), which succeeded the INS, "Submitting to DNA testing does not guarantee passport/CRBA (Consular Report of Birth Abroad) issuance." What that means is that if the DNA test shows your child is not really yours, USCIS will not inform you of that, they will simply deny the requested services. You must contact the laboratory to get a copy of the test results.

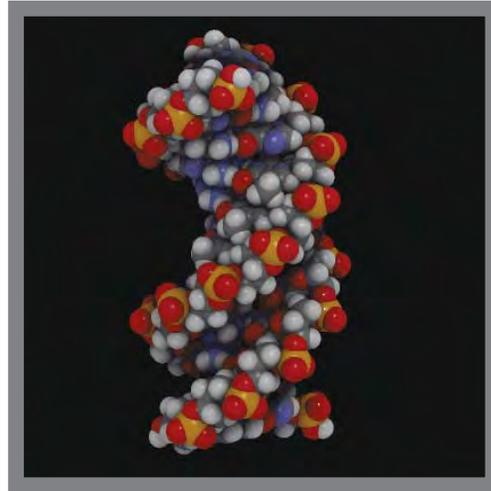
Logically, if someone applies for a passport or CRBA for a child and is rejected, they're going to assume the reason was the DNA test. Why else would the service be denied? And what if the father or the child or both were unaware before submitting the passport or CRBA application that they were not biologically related? Such a revelation could ruin the life of the father and the child, to say nothing of the mother.

There are never any good reasons for anyone or any entity to disrupt a functional family, even if that family, unbeknownst to some of them, were living a lie. This is not a rare phenomenon. Scientists estimate 4 percent or more of all births are purposefully listed as the child of someone other than the true biological father.

Let's do the math. As I write these words, the population clock calculates there are 315,821,650 persons living in the United States. Four percent of that would be 12,632,866 people who are using the wrong last name. Many of those people are probably living happily in their ignorance of that fact.

Now think about it, that's enough people to replace the entire population of the state of Ohio. They could replace that of Honduras with more than 4 million to spare. Can you imagine what would

*"There
are never any
good reasons to
disrupt a functional
family."*



Model of a DNA molecule. DNA testing can verify a blood relationship, but it can also destroy a family, and it is not 100 percent reliable. (Spiffistan)

happen if all these people were handed a slip of yellow paper telling them the man they thought was their father was not their father? It would be like a dagger through the heart.

Furthermore, contrary to popular belief, DNA testing is not 100 percent reliable.

In 2002 Lydia Fairchild was denied public assistance in the state of Washington when DNA evidence showed she was not related to her children. She was being prosecuted for fraud when a lawyer for the prosecution came across an article in a medical journal about a woman in Boston named Karen Keegan who was a *chimera* - someone possessing two sets of DNA. Fairchild was re-examined and it was determined that she too was a *chimera* and that the children were in fact hers.

Individuals with *mosaicism* also have cells with two different genotypes. These conditions may be rare, but they *do* occur.

Does USCIS rule out the possibility of *chimerism* or *mosaicism* before denying a passport or CRBA application on the basis of a negative DNA test? I highly doubt it. There would be no second testing as with the case of Lydia Fairchild. There would be only the ashes of a completely ruined family, thanks to USCIS.

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IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

I don't often tune in to talk radio, but recently I listened to a conversation that really caught my interest.

The discussion centered around education and its importance in helping people reach their goals and improve their lot in life in general. The host of the show emphasized how education not only teaches you how to make a living but also how to live.

The host asked a caller her age. She responded that she was 51 and that if she were to enroll in college, she would be 55 by the time she graduated. The host then asked her how old she would be in four years if she didn't attend college. She answered the same: 55. Well, said the host, since in four years you'll be 55 whether you attend college or not, wouldn't you be better off having a college degree?

That's when the real reason for the caller's reluctance to enroll in college became apparent. She feared she was past her prime and no longer had the mental capacity to achieve academic success.

This is a debate that has endured for centuries. Do creativity, intelligence and ingenuity belong exclusively to the young? Or, on the contrary, is youth "wasted on the young," and is it acquired knowledge and experience that matter most?

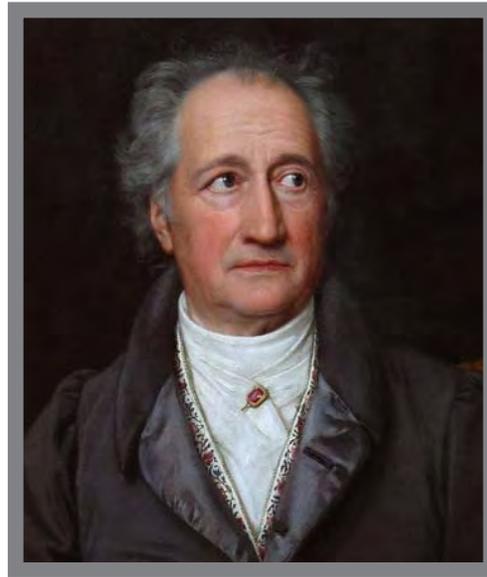
We are not talking here about occupations that require physical strength and agility, such as professional sports. There is no denying that athletic prowess deteriorates with age. However, even in sports experience goes a long way toward achieving success.

The question is: when do people reach their maximum potential intellectually? Is there really a "magic age" for achieving success.

How many times have we said, or heard others say, "Mañana - I'll do it tomorrow?" Sometimes people put things off because they are chronic procrastinators or just plain lazy. But some avoid doing things because they don't think they know enough or can perform well enough.

Almost everybody knows of Isaac Newton's legendary encounter with a falling apple and how he explained the laws of gravity and revolutionized physics and astronomy. But how many can tell you he was only 24 at the time? Thomas Jefferson was only 33 when he drafted the US Declaration of Independence. Benjamin Franklin was only 26 when he wrote *Poor Richard's Almanac*. Charles Dickens was 24 when he began work on his *Pickwick Papers* and 25 when he wrote *Oliver Twist*.

So there is a certain danger to denying that creativity and invention belong to the young. But not so fast. The great philosopher Emmanuel Kant wrote his finest philosophical works at age 74. World-renowned composer Verdi produced *Falstaff* at age 80 and



German writer, artist and politician Johann Wolfgang von Goethe finished his epic work *Faust* in his 80s, and it was not published in full until after he died in 1832 at 82. (Portrait by Joseph Karl Stieler)

the great yuletide classic *Ave Maria* at 85? Goethe was over 80 when he finished *Faust*. Tennyson was 80 when he wrote *Crossing the Bar*, and Michelangelo completed his greatest work at age 87. At 90, US Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes was still writing brilliant opinions.

The fact is, there is no "magic age" at which excellence emerges (or disappears) or when quality surfaces.

My fellow Bay Islanders, let's seize the day! Redeem the *now* moments of your lives. The moment you wait for may never arrive. The moment once past will never return.

Allow me to close on a personal note. In January, I wrote an editorial critical of the Roatan Electric Company (RECO), and RECO responded with a letter in the February issue. Many of you have asked for my reaction to their rebuttal. Let me just say: I consider their indictment a badge of honor, which I wear with pride.

Sometimes it's necessary to take the wrath in order to expose the poison. Behold the turtle, he makes progress only when he sticks his neck out. I have always admired the ability to bite off more than I can chew, and then chew it.

As for Chapter II, in due time.

"There is no 'magic age' at which excellence emerges (or disappears) or when quality surfaces."

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COXEN HOLE TO SEE MORE SHIPS IN 2014

BUT UPCOMING WINTER HIGH SEASON BUSINESS EXPECTED TO DECLINE 10 PERCENT

The Port of Roatan expects cruise ship calls in 2014 to be nearly 70 percent higher than this year, mostly because of new summer cruises. But ship calls in the upcoming winter high season are expected to be down.



Cruise ship calls at the Port of Roatan are expected to increase sharply in 2014, although the upcoming November-April high season will actually be a bit slower than last season, according to port officials.

"While 2013 will be a year with low passenger counts, things start looking considerable better in 2014, when Royal Caribbean has committed two ships - the *Navigator of the Seas* and the *Vision of the Seas* - for the summer months, and Norwegian Cruise Lines will up their weekly calls in winter from two to three a

week," said Alvaro Durón, the port's administrator.

Harbor Master Fabian Reyes said he expected 106 ships to call at Port of Roatan in 2014, carrying 275,000 passengers. That compares with just 63 ships and 154,900 passengers expected for 2013.

However, all the increase will take place in the second half of the year. For the upcoming high season, the port expects 60 ship visits and 153,200 passengers, down from 67 ships and 162,300 passengers in the 2012-13 high season.

Reyes said the port would receive 30 cruise ship visits in the 2014 off-season, with each of the two RCI ships calling twice a month. It will be the first time since 2011 that Port of Roatan has received cruise ships in the summer, he said.

Durón said he did not expect competition from the newly opened Banana Coast cruise ship port at Trujillo to affect Roatan.

"While they have a couple of calls, there really isn't any line that calls at Port of Roatan currently considering Banana Coast," said Durón. "The project being considered in Nicaragua and renewed efforts from Guatemala to recover lost passengers are a bigger challenge than Trujillo in the short term."

Edward Ake of Island Concrete, which helped build the Trujillo facility (see page 11), said 20 NCL ships were expected to call there in the upcoming high season. But he said they would not be the same ships that call at Roatan.

"I think there's a chance that it will increase the traffic (into Roatan)," said Ake, arguing that more port call options would "make it easier for the cruise companies to cruise in the Western Caribbean."

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR RIGHTS ARE?

GRAVEL BAY WORKSHOP AIMS TO MAKE HUMAN RIGHTS CONCEPTS LIVING REALITY

Community leaders and activists from throughout the Bay Islands learned about the bases for internationally recognized human rights at a May 10 workshop in Gravel Bay, Roatan, sponsored by the Native Bay Islanders Professionals and Labourers Association (NABIPLA).

Natelee Forbes of NABIPLA put the workshop together with materials from the Organization of American States and the US-based United for Human Rights. Forbes received training in the US from United for Human Rights. "I am now able to pass it on to others," she said.

Sixteen people attended the May 10 workshop, the first of five Forbes planned to conduct during May and June. Participants included teachers, church leaders, *patronato* representatives and other community leaders from Utila and Guanaja as well as Roatan.

Toinette Woods, an educator from Utila who has been working with the education department on Roatan since February, said she had attended NABIPLA workshops before but this was her first training on human rights.

"I travel to Utila periodically, so I am

Bay Islands community activists viewed instructional videos on human rights at a May 10 workshop in Gravel Bay, Roatan, organized by the Native Bay Islanders Professionals and Labourers Association.



planning on passing the information on whenever I go back to Utila," she said.

The first workshop focussed on the basics, emphasizing the development of human rights concepts as enshrined in such historic documents as the *Magna Carta*, the US Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen from the French Revolution and the 20th century UN instruments. Participants then divided into groups to discuss strategies for dis-

seminating those concepts within their communities.

"We need to educate our people," said Woods. "We need to let them know that some things are not okay. You're not supposed to swallow every pill people give up. We're supposed to let our voice be heard, especially when we talk about human rights. You know it's not just take a back seat all the time. It's stand up and make your voices heard. That's what this is all about."

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

ROATAN REAL ESTATE BROKERS SEE PROPERTY MARKET STARTING TO TURN AROUND



Steve Hasz of Roatan Life tracks island real estate trends from his new office in Lawson Rock. Hasz has observed a significant upturn in property sales on the island since March.

Roatan real estate agents report an increase in property turnover in recent months that may signal the beginning of the end of a five-year down market.

"I think we've bottomed out," said Larry Schlessler, who owns the RE/MAX franchise for the island. "We just recently sold our first real development piece in a while." But Schlessler said the uptick so far had been "nothing dramatic."

However, Steve Hasz of Roatan Life sees "the beginning stages of a resurgence."

Both analysts said the Roatan real estate market headed south about a year after the housing bubble burst in the US in 2007-08. On Roatan the downturn was aggravated by the political turmoil on the mainland in 2009, when the Honduran military expelled President Zelaya. Property sales nosedived from 209 in 2007 to just 59 in 2009 and have hovered below 100 since.

"In 2006 people were selling real estate out of bars, because people would come by

with bags of money wanting to buy property," said Hasz. Then, said Schlessler, "the overall market kind of plummeted."

Since March, though, Hasz said sales picked up and inventories have dropped.

"You're currently seeing 37 properties

pending (with contracts signed and earnest money deposited)," Hasz said. "Last year I was seeing as low as nine."

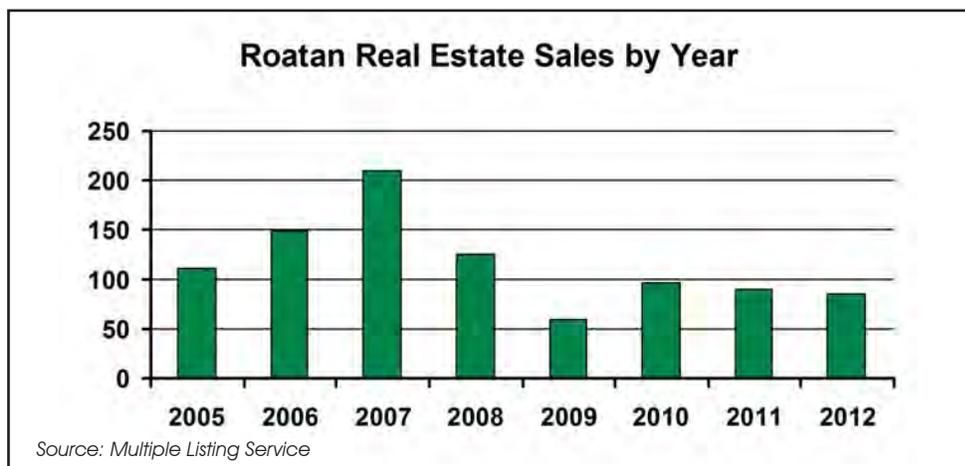
Excluding seven or eight properties that have been "pending" for years, Hasz said, this represents a rough tripling.

Neither analyst is seeing any upturn in prices yet. But Hasz expects prices may start to recover in the first half of 2014.

"I think over the next year we're going to see the market start to make the transition from a buyer's market to a market where we can sell lots again," said Hasz. "People will start building again."

Hasz said Americans and Canadians continued to be the primary purchasers of Roatan properties. But he said he was selling more properties now to mainland Hondurans, as well as Guatemalans and Salvadorans.

"Mainland Hondurans are taking a role right now," he said.



ISLAND FIRMS BUILD PORT FOR TRUJILLO

CRUISE SHIP DOCK IS FIRST MAJOR MAINLAND CONTRACT AWARDED TO ISLANDERS

Trujillo, Central America's oldest port, became the first cruise destination on the Honduran mainland with the completion of the Banana Coast cruise ship dock in April. Much of the construction was done by Roatan-based companies.

Island Concrete Construction & Development (ICCD) won a \$2.4 million contract to build three of the five segments of the cruise ship facility in late 2011.

"This is the first time, to my knowledge, that a company from the island has undertaken a substantial contract on the mainland," said Edward Ake of Island Concrete. "Our big selling point was the fact that we're used to difficult logistics.

Working on the island is very similar to working in Trujillo."

ICCD subcontracted two other Roatan firms, ACME Environmental Solutions and Green Hill Energy Solutions, to do the wastewater, storm drainage and electrical work. Ake said about a dozen Roatan-based technicians and managers from the three firms took part in the project. Island Concrete also used a Roatan carpenter, Jorge Bustillo, and about eight of his crew on the project. But most of the labor came from Trujillo.

"We used as much labor from there as we could," said Ake. "That's something that people don't do here that they should

do. They bring everybody with them and all their equipment. And the local companies that are here paying their taxes don't get a chance to work on the project."

Ake said 20 Norwegian Cruise Line ships were expected to call at the new facility in the 2013-14 cruise season. He did not expect that business to come at Roatan's expense (see related story page 10).

Despite the challenges presented by working on the mainland for island firms, Ake said he was not deterred from seeking future mainland contracts.

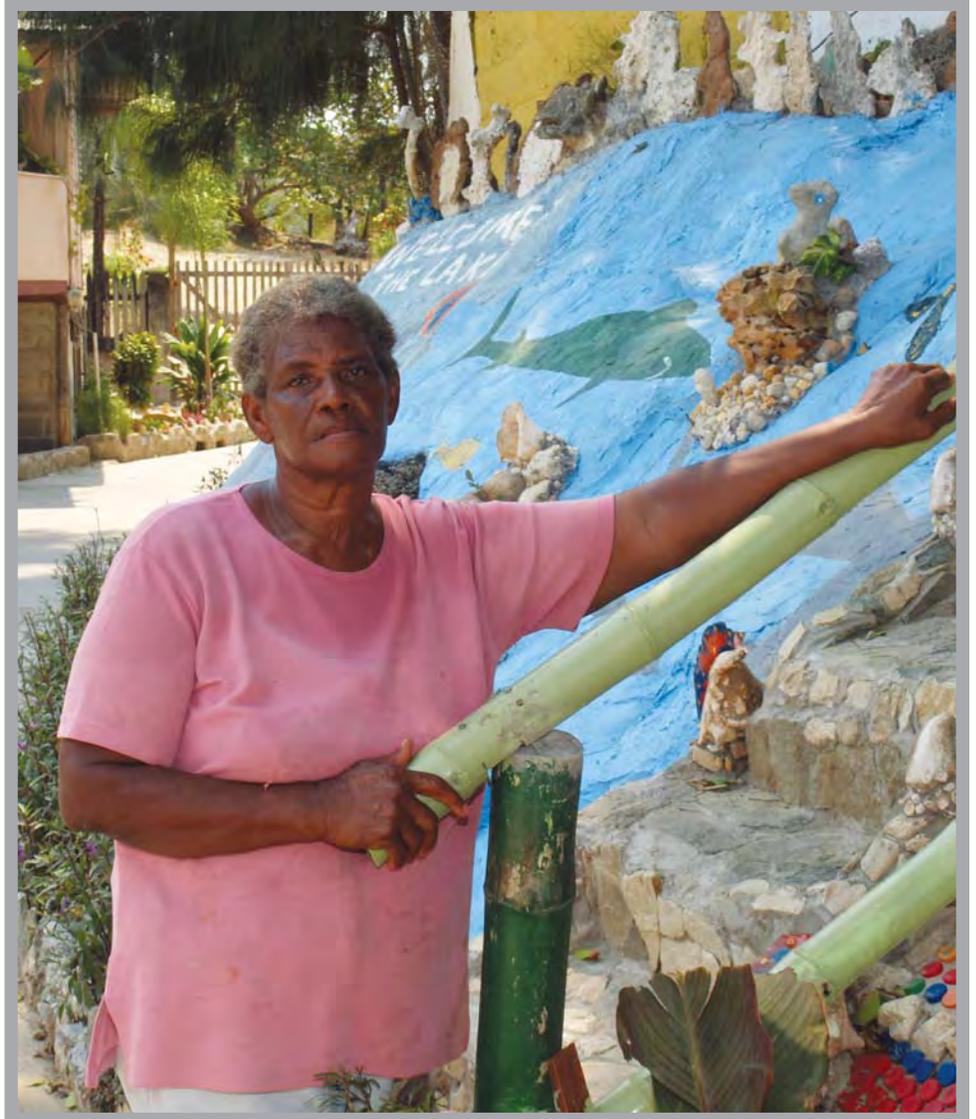
"We learned a lot during the experience," said Ake. "We're now open to actively looking for work over there."

THE LANDSCAPER OF 'THE LAKE'

FRENCH HARBOUR WOMAN BEAUTIFIES AREA WITH WHAT SHE FINDS

BY ROBERT ARMSTRONG

RAYDENE ABBOTT-NIXON, A LIFETIME RESIDENT OF FRENCH HARBOUR'S "LAKE" DISTRICT, BEGAN CREATING LANDSCAPE ART OUT OF SHELLS, CORAL AND OTHER NATURAL ELEMENTS 13 YEARS AGO, WHEN HER GRANDSON INSISTED SHE CARRY SOME SHELLS BACK FROM A BEACH WALK ON A NEARBY CAY. WHEN THE ROAD LEADING INTO HER NEIGHBORHOOD WAS PAVED LAST YEAR, PROMISING TO BRING MORE TRAFFIC, SHE DECIDED TO APPLY HER ART TO BEAUTIFY THE AREA AND "ENTICE PEOPLE TO COME DOWN." THE RESULTS OF HER WORK IN PROGRESS CAN BE ADMIRERD ON A LAZY AFTERNOON STROLL, A SHORT DRIVE FROM FRENCH HARBOUR'S COMMERCIAL HUB.



Raydene Abbott-Nixon created a mosaic of seashells, coral stone, bottle caps, bamboo, concrete and local plants to welcome visitors to the Lake district of French Harbour.

For the past year, since the road leading into the low-lying area around French Harbour known locally as *the Lake* was paved, Raydene Abbott-Nixon, who has lived in the neighborhood all her life, has been volunteering her unique landscaping and stonework talents to make the area "a little different" and "bring it up some."

"All the time they used to say down in here was so dirty and down in here was so dark," Raydene explained. "So then I decided to put a little 'different' in it. That would entice people to come down."

What she has created - "Me, myself, with no help" - is a collection of flower

beds, decorated embankments, planters and wall art incorporating mosaics of concrete and locally obtained items such as conch shells, dead coral, bamboo and colored softdrink bottle caps that words cannot adequately describe. It must be seen.

Raydene began developing her art about a dozen years ago. The initial inspiration came from one of her grandsons, then two.

"One Good Friday me and my grandson, we was on the beach, and he said to me, 'Grammy carry some shell,' and I said to him, 'What am I gonna do with shells?' He said, 'Carry 'em.' So, I went to sleep at

night, and something said to me, 'You could build out of them.' And that what make me start then."

The first three baskets of shells went into the fence around her yard, inlaid in concrete. She gradually incorporated more and more elements into her designs. Neighbors began to take notice.

"After she started her rock work then I get her to do all the rock in here for me," said Claudia Allen, Raydene's next-door neighbor. "Sometimes she do it for free," she said, but she adds, "I wouldn't let her do that."

Claudia said her family was the first

Raydene Abbott-Nixon points to one of her completed flower beds, in front of a house near the entrance to the Lake neighborhood.



One of Raydene Abbott-Nixon's handmade planters, fashioned out of concrete in the form of a half shell, sits atop a concrete post in front of neighbor Claudia Allen's fence.

to move into *the Lake*, in 1941. Raydene's parents moved in a few years later, she said. It is now one of the most densely built-up areas on the island, with somewhat turbid water and no small amount of floating garbage.

"When my mom moved this way, all of this here was pure mangrove. Pure water, deep water," said Claudia.

Raydene adds, "You see the water like this now? Before time, in my coming up time, that water there was so clear ... clear, clear clear. That's where we used to be swim from over there to over here, when we was kids."

When the entrance road to the Lake was paved, Raydene knew more people

would be driving into the area, including parents dropping off their children at school and picking them up. So she began landscaping some of the open areas and street corners, including the lot where her mother's house once stood and the curb in front of her sister's house.

"When I start buildin' out here, different people, they say that they like it, and, well I just keep going, you know. So that is how it started."

The centerpiece of Raydene's project at this point is a sort of "welcome" sign at the intersection leading into the Lake, featuring murals (painted by someone else), a concrete staircase with bamboo railings, painted conch shells and Raydene's signa-

ture inlaid mosaics. There are also some painted gords (called "nuts" locally) and a small tower of brain corals.

Raydene assures that all the shell and coral elements incorporated into her art have been collected washed up on the beach, as taking them from the reef is prohibited.

Raydene is now thinking of building a small memorial in the neighborhood for residents who have died. But she's not sure where she will build her next garden when she runs out of street corners to decorate in *the Lake*.

"A lady down in Sandy Bay want me to come do hers," she said. So will she be branching out? She won't say.

ROATAN HOSTS FIRST FREEDIVE CUP

COMPETITION DRAWS WORLD CLASS ATHLETES FROM ALL CONTINENTS



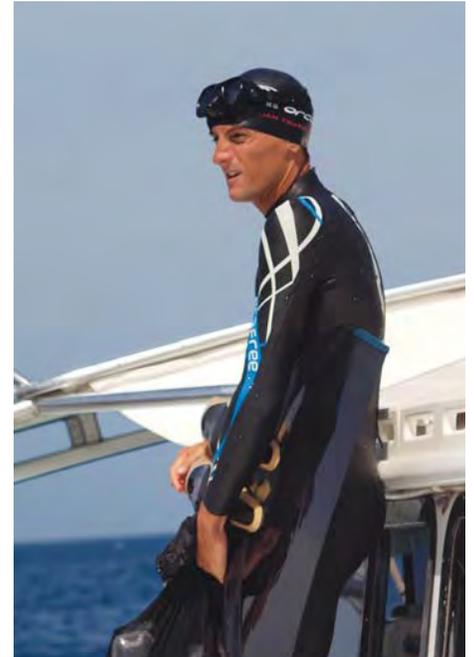
Sofia Gómez of Colombia and Iru Balic of Venezuela wave their national flags after setting national records in, respectively, free immersion and constant weight-no fins May 25. (photo by Judita Berndorff)

San Simon Beach Club and Mayan Princess in May hosted the first annual Caribbean Cup Freediving Competition, which aspires to be the premier deep-water freediving event in the Hemisphere.

Eighteen divers participated from throughout the world, including Japan, the US, Canada, Mexico, South America, Europe, Africa and New Zealand. Six national records - three for men and three for women - were set on the first day of

competition May 23. Final results from the six days of competitive diving were not available at press time.

Freediving, in which athletes compete to go the deepest or stay down the longest without air tanks, dates to the 1960s but attained worldwide popularity only in the late '80s. Major tournaments still concentrate around the Mediterranean region and Hawaii. But the Caribbean Cup hopes to exploit and encourage the growing follow-



New Zealander William Trubridge plunged 120 meters on his first dive but was disqualified for a problem on the ascent.

ing of the sport in the Americas.

Carlos Coste, the Venezuelan national champion, who has been competing at the international level for 16 years and has participated in events in Cyprus and Egypt with more than 150 divers, said the Caribbean Cup was off to a good start.

"There are competitors here from all over the world," he said. "All the freediving community are waiting for the photos, for the commentary, and next year I'm sure everyone will want to come."

Coste noted that the *Vertical Blue* event in the Blue Hole of the Bahamas started off equally small, but now athletes fight for space at that competition, even though the capacity of the site is limited.

Coste said Roatan was ideally located for freedivers from Latin America and North America and offered "crystalline" water, little current and deep zones just a few hundred meters from the beach, which greatly simplifies logistics. In other locations, he said, divers have to ride a boat half an hour to get to the dive site.

In addition, he said, Roatan is an "international island" where people come from all over the world.

"Europe has a monopoly now on freediving events," said Coste, "but we're starting to do big events here."

The competition was scheduled to end May 30.



Event officials, competitors and safety divers wait on the platform for a diver to resurface.

Roatan Baseball Standings (through games of May 19)

Team	Community	Won	Lost
Kool & Gang	Gravel Bay	12	10
Marlins	Gravel Bay	11	10
Pirates	Sandy Bay	10	11
Giants	Sandy Bay	10	12

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Player	Team	Total
Home Runs		
Edison Bodden	Giants	10
Joseph James	Pirates	7
Sporgian Williams	Giants	6
Jed James	Pirates	5
Berry Mann	Kool	5
Homer Brooks	Pirates	5
Earnie James	Pirates	5
Pitching (wins)		
Grover Webster	Marlins	10-4
Cuny Miller	Pirates	10-5
Kurt Stewart	Marlins	7-5
Ben Walker	Kool	6-2
Luther Stewart	Kool	6-4

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SUMMER FASHION WEEK HONDURAS 2013



PHOTOS BY ROBERT ARMSTRONG AND JUDITA BERNDORFF

A dozen lanky models, including locals Marisela Welcome and Monica Elwin (Miss Honduras), paraded works of six designers down the catwalk at *Beach Club San Simon* May 25 at the second annual Summer Fashion Week Honduras.

This year proceeds went to *Clínica Esperanza*, which provides medical care to needy people on Roatan. Last year the event benefited the *Fundación Ruth Paz*, based in San Pedro Sula.

"People on the island respond a little better if it's something for the island," said Juan Gómez de la Torre, Manager of the *Mayan Princess*, which organized the event. The Ruth Paz Foundation is "really important," he said, "but it's not on the island."

The event was also moved under the roof this year to give it a slightly different look, he said, and it was cut back to one day.

"Last year it was a two-day event," said

Gómez. "It was a little bit too long. People don't usually come to the same place twice." But he said he expected a better turnout despite the shorter show.

Clínica Esperanza staff said about 50 spectators had shown up, paying \$30 each, with half going to the clinic and the rest to cover the cost of putting on the show. But Gómez estimated that when no-shows were taken into account, the event would yield close to \$3,000 for the clinic.

CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME



Sufferers of chronic fatigue syndrome experience tiredness and unrefreshing sleep. (Shanghai Killer Whale, Wikimedia Commons)

BY MARY IRIAS SCHMITT

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) has become widespread. Symptoms include aching muscles and joints, anxiety, depression, irritability, jaundice, loss of appetite, mood swings, muscle spasms, recurrent upper respiratory infections, sensitivity to light and heat, sleep disturbances, sore throat, swollen glands, temporary memory loss and, most all, extreme and disabling fatigue.

Sound familiar? It does to me. The symptoms resemble those of other flu or viral infections, so it's often misdiagnosed as hypochondria, psychosomatic illness or depression. It's most often found in women and more often between the ages of 20 and 40, although it hit me in my 50s.

This disease is not life-threatening, but as you can infer from the symptoms, it can significantly impair one's quality of life. It

is sorely misunderstood by those not suffering from it and by many healthcare professionals.

The cause or causes of CFS are not understood. Some suspect it has something to do with an as yet unidentified immune system problem or a defect of the blood pressure. However, I believe it has more to do with anemia, mercury poisoning from amalgam dental fillings, hypoglycemia, hypothyroidism, the infection *Candida albicans* and sleep problems.

Fibromyalgia, a muscle disorder, has been found in many people with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Intestinal parasites are also comparatively common with people in this condition. It's likely there are different combinations of factors that make certain people more susceptible to CFS.

If you think you may be suffering

from CFS, there are several nutritional supplements that you should add to your diet:

Acidophilus, Coenzyme Q10, Lecithin, Magnesium, Vitamin A, Vitamin E, Ginkgo Biloba, and a good multivitamin and mineral complex.

It is also important to make sure you eat a well balanced diet, including 50 percent raw foods and "live" fresh juices. Add some acidophilus to your diet, consume plenty of water, do not eat processed or fried foods, make sure your bowels move daily, take chlorophyll and drink lots of green leafy drinks like spinach, wheat grass and green apple smoothies.

Get plenty of rest and do not over exert yourself. Melatonin, a natural regulating hormone, can help you sleep.

Other considerations:

Take cold showers to improve circulation.

Check your blood pressure.

Check for food sensitivities and chemical over exposure.

Parasites are common in people with CFS.

Family members, friends and coworkers must understand the nature of the disorder and realize that the person is not exaggerating or faking these symptoms.

Check with the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases to get current information on CFS.

Mary Irias Schmitt is a Master Neuro Linguistic Practitioner and specialist in weight-control, nutrition, personal training and emotional disorders.

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(See Article in November VOICE)

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Sundowners Hangs Ten

An overflow crowd descended on *Sundowners* in West End May 15 to celebrate the iconic beach bar's 10th anniversary. Ten-lempira beers and rum and cokes provided the draw, and Brion James and friends provided musical entertainment until well past the bar's usual weekday closing hour ... and well after the beer ran out. But there was still enough of the evening left for those so inclined to migrate down the road to *Nova* to keep the party going. Christine Etches, part of the extended Etches clan that owns the establishment, said it was the largest crowd she had ever seen at *Sundowners*. Other long-time regulars said it reminded them of old times.



¿Porqué No? Bistro Brings Brats to West End

No, not over-indulged children, but authentic German sausages, as well as espresso drinks, beer and wine, salads, sandwiches, pastries, breakfasts and other light European fare. Proprietors Peter Hiltner and Conny Jakob moved to Roatan seven months ago after leaving Germany, where Peter was a machinist in the auto industry and Conny made pottery and sold pharmaceuticals, and spending a year kicking around Central America. They took over the spot formerly occupied by the *Hungry Shark*, next to the *West End Cigar Bar*, and spent three months remodeling it, adding new woodwork and an exhibition kitchen. The *¿Porqué No?* (Why Not?) is open 8-8 Monday-Friday and is looking to exhibit works of local artists.



Long Live the Orange King

Most of Roatan's resident Dutch community gathered at the *Blue Marlin* in West End, owned and operated by Dutch couple Robert and Linda Hin, to raise a toast in honor of King Willem-Alexander of Orange, who ascended the throne of the Netherlands April 30 after his mother, Queen Beatrix, abdicated in his favor after a 33-year reign. There was unfortunately no Heineken on hand, but shot glasses filled with Orange Fanta and vodka made a fitting tribute. "Orange" is not only the name of the royal family of the Netherlands, it is the color worn by the country's national soccer team, nicknamed "Clockwork Orange" in the '70s and runner-up in the 2010 World Cup.



WAITING FOUR YEARS FOR JUSTICE

LOS FUERTES COUPLE REFUSE TO GIVE UP ON CASE OF MURDERED SON



Luz Marina López and Jonathan Nuñez have been imploring authorities on Roatan and the mainland for nearly four years to investigate the murder of their son, Esly Naún Nuñez, who was killed in September 2009. In April a prosecutor's brother was arrested in the case.

Luz Marina López, a Coxen Hole shopkeeper, and her husband Jonathan Nuñez, a bus/taxi driver, beat their heads against the bureaucracy for three and a half years seeking justice for their son, who was shot and killed in September 2009. Their persistence may have finally begun to pay-off with the April arrest of a suspect in the killing - the brother of a Roatan prosecutor.

Court documents show Walter Alfonso Vallecillo Rosales was charged April 7 for the robbery and murder of Esly Nahún Nuñez. Nuñez's parents and another source said Vallecillo was the brother of Zayda Vallecillo Rosales, a Public Ministry prosecutor assigned to Roatan.

López and Nuñez said that following an April 12 hearing on Roatan, Vallecillo was put in detention in La Ceiba to await trial. They expect more arrests to follow.

According to the parents, Esly Nuñez, known to friends as "Toby," left home about 9 p.m. Friday, September 12, 2009, to go out with a group of friends. It was the last night of the Roatan International Fishing Tournament, with its carnival in West End.

His companions that night said they went first to Jerry Hynds Stadium in Los Fuertes, then to French Harbour to pick up friends, then to West End. A female companion said they were dancing at the *Rocket Burger* in West End later that night when someone got angry with Esly and threatened to kill him ("*Te voy a matar.*").

Early the next morning, López, who had traveled to La Ceiba the day before to buy merchandise for her shop, received a phone call from an employee informing

her that a woman had come to the shop to report that one of her sons had been found dead near the Methodist church in Mango Bight, near Flowers Bay. López, who had four sons, screamed, "*Quien?! Quien?! Quien?!*" (Who?). She was told it was her youngest son, Esly.

López immediately phoned her husband, who said he arrived at the scene of the crime about 8 a.m. to find Esly's body still lying on the ground, his car nearby with the motor still running and music blaring from the stereo. Detectives were at the scene collecting evidence.

Esly had been shot twice in the head at close range. There were signs of struggle. His cell phone, jewelry, cash and merchandise he had been carrying in his car were gone. Nuñez said the chief detective at the scene, Alex Ordoñez, told him he expected arrests to be made within hours.

Nuñez paid to fly Esly's body to La Ceiba for an autopsy, which placed the time of death at 4 a.m. He had received a blow to the back of the head before being shot through the left temple.

After burying Esly in their hometown of Puerto Cortés, the parents returned to Roatan and visited the police detectives to learn the status of the case. Ordoñez told them he had identified a suspect.

López said the case was then "put in a drawer" for three years.

Ordoñez was transferred off the island that week. The parents paid to bring investigators from La Ceiba to collect evidence - evidence that they say subsequently "went missing." They appealed first to Mayor Dale Jackson then to his successor, Julio Galindo, for help, to no avail.

After two years of frustration, they visited the Public Ministry in Tegucigalpa to plea for action. Detectives dispatched from the capital checked phone records and found that calls had been placed from Esly's stolen cell phone. More time passed.

Meanwhile, Nuñez read in the newspaper about an organization concerned about the large number of unsolved murders of homosexuals in Honduras (Esly, who ran a fashion boutique, was openly gay). He did not think Esly was killed because he was gay, but he urged them to take an interest. Finally the special prosecutor for hate crimes got involved, and a detective was brought in from Chicago.

"We have faith in God that everything will be cleared up," said Nuñez.

"After four years, we're victorious," said López, although she says it's not over.

But neither parent gives any credit to authorities on Roatan.

"What bothers us," said Nuñez, "is that the police are obstructing (*perjudicando*) the investigation."

Esly Nuñez in a self-portrait taken on a shopping trip to Miami about a year before his tragic death on Roatan. (family photo)



POLICE FASHION

Who & Where From: Linda Hin, co-proprietor of the *Blue Marlin* in West End, and a random tourist who happened into the establishment that night.

What & Why: Orange, in Linda's case because the Roatan Dutch community were celebrating the ascension to the Netherlands throne of Willem-Alexander of Orange (see page 19). In her companion's case because, well, she must have just felt like wearing orange that night (or something close to it). And she *does* look good in it.



In Conclusion: The *Voice* has a soft spot for Dutch ovens (from our Boy Scout days), Dutch apple pie (the progenitor of American apple pie, we think), Dutch treats (because we're cheap), flying Dutchmen (just like the sound of it) and beautiful Dutch women (as well as non-Dutch women) wearing orange.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Solar power on the Bay Islands makes more sense than up north, because energy costs are high and we get lots of sun.

When business owners ask me how they can best use solar, I tell them to look to the needs of their customers. If your lights, fans and cash register are solar, your customers will be content, and you will still make money when the power goes off. Anyone who has spent the night in a hot room with bugs buzzing around them will appreciate fans that always work.

You have to change some of your thinking when you choose solar. Some appliances, like air conditioners, water heaters and toasters, use huge amounts of power, so it is not economical to run them with solar. But you can easily replace your gas or electric water heater with a roof-mounted solar one that can be as simple as a coil of black plastic pipe. Also, replacing old refrigerators and air conditioning units with more efficient modern models can reduce your energy use.

Components and installation of a solar energy system can be expensive on the islands. But you can buy all of what you need online and have it shipped here, your electrician can do most of the work, and there are many solar homes and businesses here whose owners would be proud to show you their systems and offer advice.

If you use the internet, ask a lot of questions and do your research, you will get a fundamental understanding of just what solar energy can do for you.

- William Engel, Lost Moose Lodge, Roatan -

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CRIME WATCH

Incidents recorded by National Police for the Bay Islands:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May 1-23
Homicide	3	2	2	3	2
Attempted homicide	0	0	0	0	1
Wounding	1	5	2	3	2
Rape/sexual assault	2	3	2	1	1
Breaking/Entering	2	0	4	0	3
Theft	6	6	3	2	2
Robbery of a person	3	3	0	4	3
Robbery of a residence	3	6	3	2	2
Robbery of a business	1	2	1	4	0
Other robbery	0	0	3	0	1
Attempted robbery	2	2	1	1	1
Traffic accidents	1	3	1	1	0
injuries	1	4	1	0	0
deaths	0	1	0	1	0
Drowning	1	2	1	0	0

Notes: A 20-year-old taxi driver was shot and killed and a passenger wounded in Corozal May 3 when two passengers opened fire on them from the back seat, hitting the driver with nine shots and the passenger with three. The assailants then exited the taxi and fled, police said. The driver managed to drive first to a private clinic, where he was refused treatment, then to Roatan Hospital, where he expired. The passenger, 22, was treated and released. Police do not suspect robbery was involved.

In the first four months of 2013 there were 10 homicides reported on the Bay Islands, compared with six during the same period of 2012.

ROATAN HUMANE SOCIETY

Heading into the hottest months of the year on Roatan, it is important to remember that extreme temperatures can put our furry friends at risk for heat exhaustion, heat stroke or even death. There are some simple ways to make your pets more comfortable and to show them that you care and love them...

1. Provide your pet a constant supply of fresh water.
2. Schedule exercise sessions for the coolest part of the day.
3. Do not over-exercise your pet in extreme heat. Pets sometimes push themselves to the point of exhaustion and don't take the down time that they need. Schedule rest time in the day for them to get rejuvenated.
4. Never leave your pet in a parked car on a hot day. If you see an animal in a hot car, please get help to have them removed from the vehicle.
5. Make sure pets can swim before they go into the water. It is hard to believe, but some animals do not swim.

6. Make sure pets have a way to cool off if they remain outside. Plenty of shade and a pool, beach or hose can go a long way to keep them comfortable.
7. Protect their little paws. Keep your dogs and cats off hot concrete, stone or decking materials.



Changing "Hungry and Hurting" to "Healthy and Happy"

APOSTASY BY FALSE TEACHERS

By Pastor Rudolph Abbott
Oak Ridge Baptist Church

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2 Peter 2:1)

The days that Peter is talking about in this chapter have now come upon us.

We have seen the force of the light of Jesus Christ that draws men and women away from the world and toward God. Now let's talk about the force that draws people toward the world. It is a gravitational force, the pull of the world away from the Word of God.

Peter was writing to Jewish Christians, and "the people" he refers to are the people of Israel. There were false prophets among the people of Israel, Peter says, "even as there shall be false teachers among you," that is, among believers, the church.

There were false *prophets* in the Old Testament, but there are false *teachers* today.

We do not need to beware of false prophets at all---that is not our problem. Anyone who attempts to prophesy today will soon be proven a liar --- there is no question about that. When false prophets are found to be false (as they will be), we do not need to pay attention to them.

You need to check your teachers, including the one who is writing these words. I urge you to check what I say by the Word of God. Don't believe it just because Rudolph Abbott says it.

I am amazed today how easily people are deceived by all kinds of teachers. People will fall for anything. If you do not believe that, look at the elaborate operations and headquarters of some of the cults that are located on these islands. There are a great many people who have not heeded Peter's warning about false teachers. They listen to them and give them financial backing.

*Little Drops of water,
Little grains of sand
Make the mighty oceans
So the daily pressures,
Subtle though they be,
Serve to shape the oddballs
We call you and me.*

---Author unknown

We oddballs down here can really be taken in. Peter says, "Beware of false

teachers."

There were prophets of God in the Old Testament, and they prophesied 100 percent accurately. Peter tells us that there were not only true prophets but also false prophets among the people of Israel. (see 1 Kings 22)

False teachers are the danger to the Church today. And believe me, they are dangerous.

A false teacher is one who knows the truth but deliberately lies for some purpose. It is either for some selfish reason, or they want to please people, or they do it for money. There are many teachers like that today. They preach and say what people want them to say, although they know what the truth is - *that* is a false teacher.

There are others who teach error *ignorantly*. Some of the great reformers of the past and some of the great post-apostolic church fathers believed and thought some things that we do not hold today. We believe they were entirely in error on certain things. Those were not false teachers. They believed they were teaching the truth. A false teacher falsifies deliberately.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. (2Pe 2:2)

To me, as a child of God and as a Pastor of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, these teachers, by not teaching the true Word of God, will lead many people who will naturally follow their pernicious ways. Some may want Christ in their lives, but by the way they live they show to the world that they have not really given to Christ everything in their lives. They show that Jesus Christ is not the center of their life. And if you do not let Christ reign in your life as your Lord and Savior, then you have no part of Him.

In John 14:6, Jesus said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."**

Peter, for his part, is saying that these teachers are selling the Gospel of Christ.

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a

long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

2Pe 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

2Pe 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

2Pe 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

2Pe 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

2Pe 2:11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

2Pe 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

2Pe 2:13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

2Pe 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

2Pe 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.

Diamonds Chips in to Help Roatan Schools

Diamonds International employees Dianne Miller (front) and Anjalee Zuñiga scrape worn paint off the outside of the Juan Brooks School in Coxen Hole as part of a community service project May 9. Diamonds staff also repaired the school's bleachers, cleaned up the play area, rehung bathroom stall doors, cleaned the windows and cleared brush from behind the school. This is the second year that Diamonds has put its staff from the cruise ship ports, underemployed during the off season, to work serving the Roatan community, primarily in the schools. Juan Brooks School Director Sonia Bonilla said the Diamonds visit was the most pleasant surprise she had received so far this school year. Diamonds is accepting donations of funds and materials to support its off-season school renovation efforts.



Sand Castle Library Book Mobile Ready to Roll

Baylor Estes of Austin, Texas, puts the finishing touches on the *Book Mobile* at Sand Castle Library in Sandy Bay, Roatan, May 13. The traveling library, a converted yellow school bus, will circulate among 14 schools on Roatan with two teachers on board, allowing children to check out up to four books each for up to two weeks. Estes won a design competition to decorate the bus and accompanied six volunteers to Roatan to paint it, with help from local talent, including Sandy Bay artist Britteny Bennett. The volunteers also brought 8,000 donated books and CDs to stock the library. The book mobile was conceived by the Nobility Project, an Austin-based non-profit, with support from RECO and the Warren Foundation. Teachers will be encouraged to use the donated story books in their lesson plans under the *Voices for Education* project (see May Voice).



Mayan Lion Wins Cook off for Reef Conservation

Magenta Stewart, executive chef at the *Mayan Princess*, serves up a plate of her *Mayan Lion* at the lionfish cook off May 22 at the *San Simon Beach Club* in West Bay. Five Roatan restaurants competed for the most crowd-pleasing recipe for serving the invasive predator, which threatens the ecology of regional reefs. Tasters paid \$12 each to sample and judge the recipes, with proceeds going to the Roatan Marine Park. Stewart's concoction took top honors. The first runner-up was *the Landing* for Thai rice noodles topped with lionfish. Third place went to *Lionfish Louie's* for spicy breaded lionfish balls. Also competing were *Buena Vida* and the *Rendezvous Sushi Bar*, both of which prepared sushi rolls using lionfish. About 100 people bought tickets for the event.



EAT THAT FISH!

BY JACK MITCHELL

Roatan Marine Park organized a lionfish cook off at the Beach Club San Simon in West Bay May 22 to encourage consumption of the invasive species and to raise money for marine conservation (see page 23). Five Roatan restaurants competed to see who could come up with the tastiest and most creative way to prepare the destructive pest. People paid \$12 a head to sample the recipes and score them based on four criteria.

Mayan Princess took first place. *The Landing* was second. *Lionfish Louie's* took third with the recipe below.

I have competed in so many cook offs that I cannot remember all of them; only the ones I won or placed. My biggest claim to fame was also taking third place in an International Rib Championship with 350 competitors. I thought I was daydreaming when my name was called.

Oddly enough, I would win or place in an event that I thought I had no chance in the world of winning. The biggest challenge of a chef is in determining what dish to prepare, as it is not himself he is out to please. Many of us in the profession have grasped a good sense of what great food tastes like, although much of the time we produce the flavor profiles we like best. Those that can routinely produce what the customer desires usually wind up with their own show or famous restaurant.

The main ingredient for the cookoff was Lionfish. Yes, you read correctly. That cute little aquarium fish that has all grown up now and may eventually destroy the second largest reef system in the world. Many around Roatan are weighing in at 40 ounces, and in some reef sites, Lionfish are all you see.

Lionfish were first noticed in Atlantic waters at Biscayne Bay, Florida, in 1985. Since then, they have invaded the Atlantic and Caribbean from New York to Venezuela. We are living in the midst of the greatest ecological threat to marine life in history.

Native to the South Pacific and Red Sea, these fish are voracious eaters and spawn once a month, with one female capable of producing 2 million eggs in a year. This is how they have propagated so quickly.

Remember the old math question: "If you take a penny today and double it each day for a month, how much would you have?" The Lionfish exponentially multiply.

Perhaps the only good news is the lionfish is the tastiest fish in the sea. In fact it does not have a fishy flavor at all. Many who claim they do not normally like fish love the Lionfish.

For a chef, lionfish is a joy to work



with. There is no end to how it can be manipulated and served. Sushi, ceviche, broiled, grilled, blackened and endless combinations of sauces and spices that marry well with this delicacy.

You can also pound this fish flat to wafer thin without breaching, making it perfect for any filling you can create. It has a bright white flesh, similar in texture or mouth feel to cod or flounder.

If you have not yet tasted lionfish, I encourage you to give it a try. If you reside in the islands it is your civic duty to help save our reefs. Eating lionfish is the best suggestion the conservationists have come up with to date to control their numbers. So come on and help get this lionfish party started. If you are not hungry now, chances are you will be within a few hours.

Here are two recipes you will want to keep, especially if you attend social functions where you are asked to bring a dish. I guarantee this to be a hit.

Lionfish Louie's Coconut Sesame Lionfish Delights

Ingredients:

1 pound lionfish fillets

1/2 cup sliced water chestnuts
1 green onion chopped fine green end
1 tsp grated ginger
2 tsp soy sauce
1 tsp Mirin
1 tsp granulated sugar
1/2 tsp sesame oil
1 large egg white
2 teaspoons corn starch
Fine grind black pepper to taste
1 Fresh shredded coconut
1-2 Tbs black sesame seeds

Place fish fillets and water chestnuts in food processor and pulse until combined and smooth. Add remaining ingredients except coconut and sesame seeds. Place in fridge for thirty minutes then form into balls approximately 1 inch in diameter or 1 ounce in weight. Spread coconut in oven pan, on cutting board or clean counter. Sprinkle in a few sesame seeds and roll balls into coconut sesame mixture until well coated. Be careful not to overdo it with sesame seeds. You can tell.

Heat cooking oil to 350° F and fry balls 3-4 minutes each until they float. Drain on paper towels and cool slightly before serving with Louie's Old Number 6 Sauce (recipe follows).

Louie's Old Number 6 Dipping Sauce

Ingredients:

1 small onion chopped
2/3 cup vegetable oil
1/3 cup red wine vinegar
2 Tbs ketchup
1 1/2 tsp worchestershire sauce
1 tsp prepared mustard
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp paprika
1 1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp celery salt
1 tsp celery seed
1/2 tsp garlic powder

Combine all ingredients and process in blender until smooth. Cover and refrigerate. Shake well before serving. Old Number 6 Sauce was originally designed for a salad dressing and you will find it is most delicious with anything you add it to.

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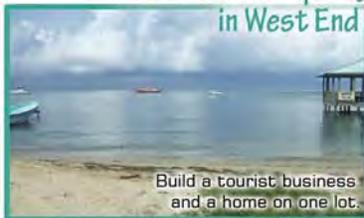
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Capricorn (12/22 - 1/19)

Jupiter begins its new transit. For a year this lucky planet will help widen that circle of friends. Some will bring you luck and lead you to the pot of gold (or at least buy you a beer). Lots of wonderful time with people and new friends. The June 12 full moon in your sign is a great time to look inward. How do you perceive the world? Stay outside the box. This energy can be used for optimistic enthusiasm starting with the June 8 new moon. High productivity is the word, but be cautious as Mercury turns retrograde. June is a great month. Enjoy!



Aquarius (1/20 - 2/18)

Jupiter advances into Cancer June 25. It will beam down on your work life for the next 12 months and give you a big thumbs up. Opportunities and praise are there, but at times you'll feel overloaded. At the same time, Mercury turns retrograde, but this is a good time to slow down and just plan. Do some reviewing. The June 8 new moon is great for socializing, so gather up those lizards and plot out a new fly trap. The June 23 full moon encourages you to listen to your sixth sense. Maybe a bit of alone time. Sit on the dock and send out gratitude.



Pisces (2/19 - 3/20)

Expect lots of fun for the next 12 months as Jupiter enters Cancer June 26. Lots of romance and socializing, happy family time too! Use the June 23 full moon lunar energy to get out and do lots of networking. Spend some time focusing on goals and setting a positive path for the rest of 2013. Stay in budget and protect your financial security, no matter how much that shark needs a loan for new ventures. Mercury turns retrograde June 26. You don't have all the information, so hold off on life decisions until July 20. Just take it slow and have fun in the sun.



Aries (3/21 - 4/19)

Jupiter enters Cancer June 25, and the theme it brings is home and family. For the next 12 months you are just going to be craving home time like a hummingbird craves nectar. Take advantage of this nesting time to tidy up that place. Light some candles and organize those sea shells! The June 8 new moon brings opportunities to meet new people. When you are out and about watch for those fellow adventurers to buddy up with. You'll be noticed at work, too, so step up! Mercury is retrograde June 26 to July 20. Get repairs done now. Here's to you, Aries!



Taurus (4/20 - 5/20)

Jupiter advances into Cancer and the moon turns full June 23. Both events trigger your bigger picture of the world! Travel, learning, your community and just about everything under the sun sparks your interest. That horizon is just not big enough! Relationships are good, but watch for ego to escalate around June 12. Avoid controlling people. The June 8 new moon is all about money. Go wish on all those stars in the big Caribbean sky. Mercury turns retrograde June 26, so back up that computer and slow down your brain. Is that possible? Cheers.



Gemini (5/21 - 6/21)

June is all about you, baby! The new moon June 8 is the symbolic new solar year. Reflect on the past year and then look to the future. Anything is possible with that Gemini charm! Mars in Gemini is a wonderful energy. Go walk around town and meet new people. This planet can trigger misunderstandings, though, so show caution with your words and jokes. A lucky Jupiter influence for finances begins June 25. Your income could increase, but be sure to expand your savings too. With Mercury retrograde, check your bank account. Have a wonderful month.



Cancer (6/22 - 7/22)

Jupiter, on June 25, begins a year-long transit in your sign. This is especially lucky for Cancer and ushers in good fortune and opportunities. Make use of this planetary influence! Time to go looking for that pirate's gold. There will be so many great opportunities the challenge will be which to pick. The June 23 full moon shines on relationships. Hold hands under this bright moon. There could be drama at work, though, so keep a low profile while Mercury is retrograde (June 26). Use this time of back-up to plot out your brilliant year. Then go for it.



Leo (7/23 - 8/22)

What is that sixth sense telling you? Does your intuition keep elbowing you in regard to finances and friends? On June 26, Mercury goes retrograde in Cancer. It will help boost your inner knowing. This is a positive influence, as well as a good slowing-down time. The June 8 new moon has you seeking out buddies. Avoid loaning money to the octopus again, though. They have their hands (arms) into too many shifty things. Several planets clash this month, so be careful of your health and be wary of controlling people. Enjoy this special month.



Virgo (8/23 - 9/22)

Pay it forward! There are beautiful planets in nice alignment for you to shine. Someone will inspire you, and you'll be moved to do and be your best. Be that inspiration for someone else. Put a hibiscus flower on every windshield. Be an example of love. This month's full moon may bring the tingle of romance or the nudge to end a relationship. Groups, clubs or organizations will be welcome too. Career gains are out there, but slow your pace when Mercury goes retrograde. Be careful of your words; maybe just sing with joy for a great month.



Libra (9/23 - 10/22)

Lucky Jupiter enters Cancer June 25 and is in your 10th house. This means great potential for Leos. Your visibility and success potential are shining like the sun on that Caribbean water. Watch for opportunities to show off your stuff and act when the universe shows you the path to good fortune. This month you could see your bank account expand with Saturn and Neptune in favorable alignment. Time to watch for those money-making opportunities. With Mercury retrograde, though, just slow down and plan for all those fun times to come.



Scorpio (10/23 - 11/21)

Jupiter has you set to do some wandering for the next year. Knowledge and spirituality are big aspects of this journey too. School, studying, vacationing and exploring will speak to your spirit. Your World is going to expand. The June 23 full moon will see you connecting with people and communicating to your heart's content (which you love). Finances are in positive territory with the new moon in Gemini. Be cautious with investments, but you are on the right track. Avoid travel after June 25 with Mercury retrograde. This is such a great month!



Sagittarius (11/22 - 12/21)

Everything is going your way! With lucky Jupiter in your eighth house of joint resources for a year, odds are in your favor for financial gain. Manage it wisely! Don't expand your spending. The June 8 new moon is all about close relationships; love the one you're with! On the June 23 full moon, review your finances, get out the calculator and figure out where to shore it up. Buy one less latte (beer) a day. Listen closely if the wise owls give you financial advice. Mercury turns retrograde June 26, so slow down, go walk on the beach. Be happy!

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THE DAY AUGUSTA 'BURNED'

ARCHAEOLOGISTS SHED NEW LIGHT ON 1782 BATTLE



Matías de Gálvez y Gallardo, Spanish governor of Guatemala, led the invasion force history tells us expelled the British from Roatan in 1782. But recent archaeological evidence calls contemporary accounts of those events into question.

This month in 1779 Spain declared war on Great Britain in support of the English North American colonists' quest for independence. Britain responded by going on the offensive in the Western Caribbean, including by reoccupying the fortifications at New Port Royal on Roatan it had abandoned per a 1748 treaty ending a previous Anglo-Spanish war.

History tells us that three years later a Spanish force from Guatemala invaded Roatan, defeated the British garrison, destroyed the fortifications and expelled the British from the island.

But what if it didn't happen that way?

Christian Wells, an archaeologist from the University of South Florida who has been digging around New Port Royal since 2009, says his team has "yet to find any evidence that the Spanish burned and sacked the community, as they had originally reported."

Wells and his team have made four field trips to the Port Royal area, concentrating on the ruins of Augusta, a military garrison and settlement established by the British and their Miskito allies in 1742. Their research has focused primarily on the social and cultural interactions between the English and Miskito settlers and the process of *royalization* of the Miskito - engendering them to self-identify as British subjects. But along the way they have encountered evidence, or the lack thereof, that calls into question some commonly accepted elements of the historical record.

In particular, in an article published last year in *American Archaeology*, Wells noted an "absence of evidence of flight" from Augusta, such as hurriedly leaving behind valuables, leading him to suspect the Spanish troops

may have embellished the battle reports to their superiors to make it appear they "did everything they could to squeeze the British."

Now, in retrospect, Wells tells the *Voice*, "I would not say that Gálvez (the Spanish commander) embellished his reports, but simply that what we have found archaeologically does not match the substance of those reports ... the specific places where we excavated fail to support the claim that the settlement was destroyed."

Under the terms of the 1783 Treaty of Paris that ended the war, the British were given 18 months to vacate all settlements in Central America outside present-day Belize. Wells said evidence from his digs confirmed the British left Augusta around that time, just not necessarily in a rush.

The Spanish reports also said they removed 300 slaves from Roatan after the battle and sold them at auction in Havana. But Wells said his team had not found "any material evidence of slaves" at Augusta.

Wells also told the *Voice* the team had been unable to find "any physical evidence" of the colony that archival records indicate William Claiborne's Providence Company established in the vicinity of Port Royal between 1638 and 1642.

"We feel pretty confident that the Providence Company was located in the environs of Port Royal on the far east end of the island," he said. "We just have yet to find it."

Wells acknowledged that the archaeological record is "coarse" and that the team might not be looking in the "right" places. But his team has definitely dug up some new dirt on some old questions.

Christian Wells and Lorena Mihok of the University of South Florida will publish some of the findings of their field research on Roatan in an upcoming issue of the International Journal of Historical Archaeology.

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DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	TIME
ROATAN	LA CEIBA	7:00AM
LA CEIBA	ROATAN	9:30AM
ROATAN	LA CEIBA	2:00PM
LA CEIBA	ROATAN	4:30PM

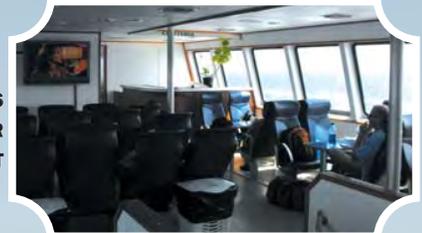
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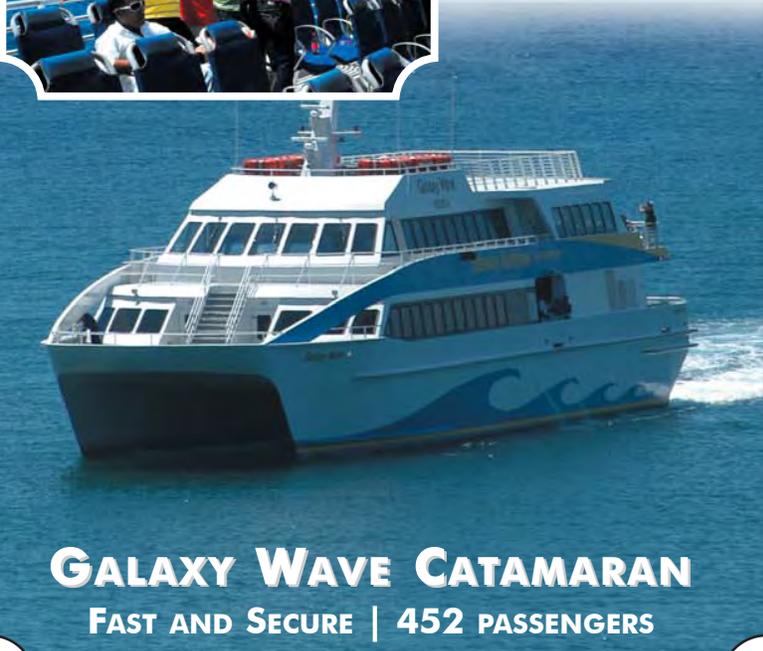
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EVENTS

June 1: Hurricane Season Begins
 June 9: José Trinidad Cabañas Birthday
 June 11: José Trinidad Reyes Birthday
 June 11: Student Day
 June 20: Fathers Day
 June (date TBD): Bay Islands Coastal Cleanup
 June (various): High School graduations

July 4: Independence Day (US)
 July 4-6: Utila Fishing Tournament

VISITING Cruise Ships

June 5: Carnival Liberty at Mahogany Bay
 June 12: Carnival Dream at Mahogany Bay
 Carnival Conquest at Mahogany Bay
 June 19: Carnival Liberty at Mahogany Bay
 Carnival Magic at Mahogany Bay
 June 26: Carnival Conquest at Mahogany Bay
 Carnival Dream at Mahogany Bay

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Infinity Bay : 10am- Christian worship service Infinity Bay : noon-6pm live entertainment. Behind Sueño del Mar: 6:15pm - Volleyball Bare Feet Bar: Live music with Jimmy and the Boys, 6-10pm Bananarama: 5-9pm crab races, fire dancers, bonfire on the beach, live music by Kris and the Kultura Band. Palapa Bar, Parrot Tree: Family Fun Sunday Lighthouse Restaurant: 10am-2pm champagne brunch Foster's West Bay: (5pm on) BBQ on the beach Sundowners: 4-7pm live music by Scott Chamberlain Earth Mamas: Sunday brunch</p>	<p>AA Meeting: 12pm at Sonrise Mission in Sandy Bay. AA Meeting: 6:30pm at Re/Max in Plaza Jackson Behind Sueño del Mar: 6:15pm Volleyball Anthony's Key Resort: 5:30-7:30pm live music with Kristofer and Kultura Band Lands End: live music Wet Spot: music trivia night 7:30pm Lands End: Sunset yoga 5pm Blue Channel: Live unplugged music with Scott Chamberlain Earth Mamas: Yoga classes 8:30am and 5:30pm Bananarama: Movie Night</p>	<p>Island Friends Meeting: 6:30 at Plaza Mar Sunken Fish at Tranquil Seas: 7-9pm- Live music by 2 can doo and authentic Spanish tapas. Flamingo Bar&Restaurant: Garifuna culture show 9 and 11 a.m., Punta Gorda Herby's Sports Bar: Major League baseball games Pineapple Grill: Roatan Poker Club Tournament Blue Marlin: 8pm-midnight DJ John with his vast selection of music. Fantasy Island: 8:30pm, Paul's Fire Show Bananarama: Quiz night. \$2.50 or Lps. 50 to enter. Earth Mamas: Yoga classes 8:30am and 5:30pm</p>	<p>AA Meeting: noon at Sonrise Mission in Sandy Bay Turquoise Bay Resort: 7pm Karaoke AKR: 5-9pm live music with Walter and the Band. 7pm Paul's Fire show Flamingo Bar&Restaurant: Garifuna culture show 9 and 11 a.m., Punta Gorda Island Saloon: DJ Sambula, 9pm- Vintage Pearl: Live music with Patty McCulla, 7pm Blue Marlin: 8pm live music by Scott Chamberlain. Infinity Bay: Live music with Cynthia and Adi 6-8pm Frenchy's 44: Karaoke night 7pm Lands End: Sunset Yoga, 5pm Herby's Sports Bar: karaoke night Earth Mamas: Yoga classes 8:30am and 5:30 pm Bananarama: 7-9pm Karaoke Night</p>	<p>AA Meeting: 6:30 pm at the Sonrise Mission in Sandy Bay Henry Morgan: 10pm-Paul's Fire show Paya Bay: 7pm Garinago Nights Blue Marlin: 8pm-midnight John B hosts Karaoke night. Flamingo Bar&Restaurant: Garifuna culture show 9 and 11 a.m., Punta Gorda FH Yacht Club: 7-9pm, karaoke night Island Saloon: DJ Galan, 9pm- Bananarama: Spin the wheel Night Herby's Sports Bar: Ladies night with 50s/60s music Palapa Bar, Parrot Tree: Island Music Day Earth Mamas: Yoga classes 8:30am and 5:30 pm</p>	<p>Infinity Bay : Live entertainment 6-11pm. AKR: Live music with Walter and the Band 5-9pm . Parrot Tree: Karaoke 7-11pm Blue Marlin: DJ Yasinia hosts Disco night 9pm-until. Flamingo Bar&Restaurant: Garifuna culture show 9 and 11 a.m., Punta Gorda AA Meeting: noon at Sonrise Mission in Sandy Bay FH Yacht Club: Karaoke 8pm Coco View: 8pm, Paul's Fire Show Lands End: Sunset Yoga 5pm Herby's Sports Bar: Muddy and the Island Boys live Pineapple Grill: Movie night Blue Channel: Live music with Brion James and the West Enders. Earth Mamas: Yoga classes 8:30am Bananarama: Live music by Scott Chamberlain 7-9pm</p>	<p>Catholic youth group: 6pm-meetings at local churches Catholic Mass in English: 7pm West End Bamboo Chapel Herby's Sports Bar: UFC heavyweight action night Blue Marlin: 9pm-until DJ Yasinia hosts Disco night. Linga Longa: 6pm live music Roa Disco: DJ 10pm Blue Channel: Movie night Bananarama: 7-9pm Live music by Jensen</p>

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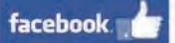
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