

THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE

July 14, 2005

FREE

The Island Newspaper
Ambergris Caye, Belize
Central America



Friends enjoying Thirsty Thursday at the Azul Resort & Rojo Lounge.



During a dive, this is one of the many creatures you will have the honor of meeting.



One of the several companions you might see during a boat ride in San Pedro.



The flawless fiber-glass replica of the Mayan Jade Head found in Altun Ha.

**Read all about Bottlenose Dolphins, Diving,
Archaeology and Thirsty Thursdays**



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

The San Pedro Sun is mailed everywhere.

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More foreign subscribers than any newspaper in Belize!

The Tourist's 10 Commandments

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

Greetings to my visiting friends

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

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

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

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

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

*Elsa Paz, Mayor,
San Pedro Town*



Susie Quist, 'GoVikes' Entrepreneur, "After about 15 trips I made the permanent move here April 3rd this year. I fell in love with the island and the people."

QUESTION: Why are you here in San Pedro?



Jim & Donna Couckuyt, Fairbanks, Alaska. Staying at Costa Maya - 3rd trip here: "We like the sun and the fun and it is easy to get here."



Carlos & Chantal Tidwell, Electrical Contractor - Surgery Nurse, Clayton, California, First trip here stayed with a friend north of the cut: "The tickets were wedding gifts. We are here on our honeymoon. We will be back!"



Pat Stiley, Spokane, Washington - USA & On the beach in El Tesoro area, Lawyer: "From the 2nd grade on every picture I drew was blue/green sea, blue sky, island palm trees and a sail boat. I had never seen any of these except in a book. It took me 50 years to find it."



Sherry Boone, Opera Singer and Actress, Brooklyn, New York, 1st trip here - staying at Banana Beach Resort: "I was exhausted and needed a vacation."

WOMAN ON THE BEACH

by Harriette Fisher

Watch for Harriette walking the beach with her camera. What question will she ask you?



Evening Dinner

Our Award-Winning Restaurant invites you to Enjoy a Masterful Blend of European, Mediterranean & Caribbean Cuisine
RSVP 220-5010

Some of our Specialties: Caramelized Char-Grilled Shrimp, Fish Carpaccio, Bruschetta, Shrimp Paté and Fried Calamari, Jerk-Seared Scallops served in a citrus beurre-blanc
Mambo Combo - Snapper Fillet topped with Shrimp and a Papaya Salsa
Mesquite Grilled Seafood Plate - Lobster, Snap Grouper, Calamari, Shrimp and Scallops with Fresh Vegetables

Try our "Decadent" Chocolate Soufflé

Take a short ride under the stars

Pick-up by Island Ferry on Fido's Dock at 7:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. \$20 BZ roundtrip per person



New Intermartini Lounge!

Designed for the Age of Technology with a "chic twist." Catch up with the "real world" with High Speed Internet, while sipping your favorite martini. Or challenge yourself during a game of pool in our Twilight Billiards Room!



SPA

A Blissful Getaway...

Relax in our beachside Jacuzzi, followed by an Aromatherapy Massage & Detoxifying Mask & Facial!

Package Includes:

Lunch a la carte, Complimentary Cocktail, Spa Treatment & Roundtrip Transportation Via our Mambo Boat - US\$130

Fido's Dock 10:45 a.m. - Returns 3 p.m. or 5 p.m.

Also Available:

*Sea Salt & Clay Body Mask Massage
Energy Work*

RSVP 220-5011

Liberty Children's Home Wish List

Last week, we featured the opening of the Liberty Children's home in Ladyville. This great organization is attempting to provide services to the needy and unfortunate children of Belize. Their good works can be achieved with some help from the society as well. Therefore, a wish list has been provided with specific items that can be donated to the home. Any donations or contributions would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to call the Liberty Foundation and place your pledge to help at 225-2158 or e-mail them at info@libertyfoundation.org.uk.

Kitchen Supplies	Paper Napkins	Kid's Activities	Swing Set/Bins
Eating Utensils	Toilet Paper	Crayons/Paper/Chalk	Play Equipment
Cooking Utensils	Zip Lock Bags	Basketball Hoop	Rugs and Mats
Pots & Pans	Plastic Wrap	Story Books	General Supplies
Mixing Bowls	Personal Hygiene	Any and all toys	Blankets/Pillows
Serving Dishes	Shampoo	Kid's Music CD	Clothing/Shoes
Plates and Bowls	Bath Soap	Facility Needs	First Aid Kit
Paper Products	Hand Soap	Brooms/Hose	Radio/Clocks
Disposal Diapers	Toothpaste	Sponges/Washer	Tape Players/TV
Diaper Wipes	Combs/Brushes	Dryer/Generator	Kid's Vitamins

Amazing dive sites and adventures

Hol Chan was established as a marine reserve by the Government of Belize on May 2nd, 1987. Hol Chan consists of four zones – Zone A, B, C, D. Zone D of the reserve, Shark Ray Alley was officially declared on August 31st, 1999. Due to its protected status, what was once a depleted fishing area has now been allowed to re-generate, providing an unparalleled diving and snorkeling experience for visitors and an important refuge for marine life along the northern section of the Belize Barrier Reef.

Snorklers enjoy visiting the reserve, since they can see a huge variety of marine life unavailable in other snorkel sites; however, divers can view a little more!

Divers need to be cautious though, of the strong out-
Continued on page 5

Donate to these worthy San Pedro organizations!

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

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

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

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

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

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

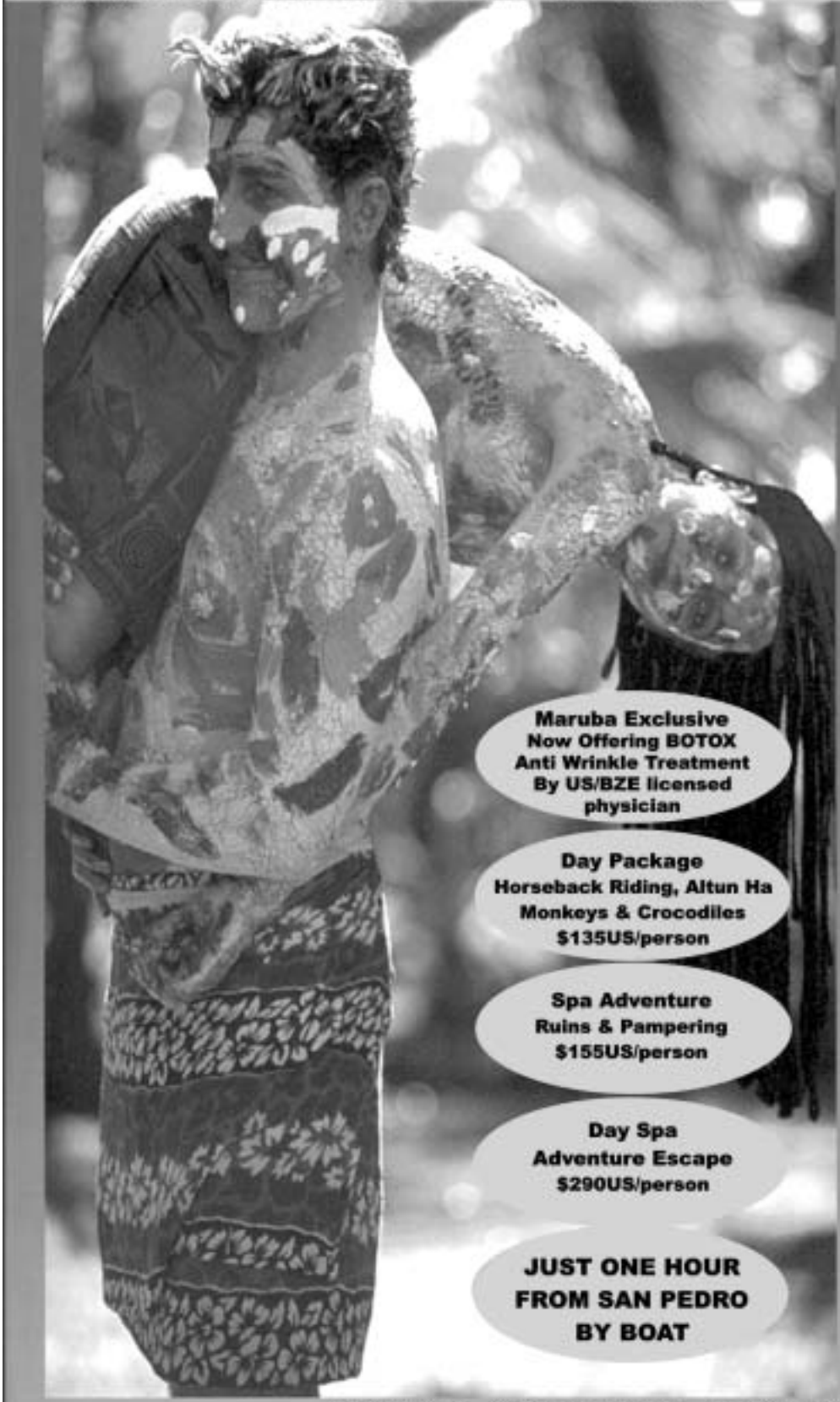
SPAIDS Commission - A non-profit organization that helps educate and inform the society in ways to help AIDS victims and their families.






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

As seen on Temptation Island

JUNGLE

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\$155US/person

Day Spa
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\$290US/person

JUST ONE HOUR
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BY BOAT

JEWEL OF THE JUNGLE

One of the many hidden treasures in the world. In the heart of the Mayan jungles, its charm arises from its neo-primitive style, decorated with an eclectic flair for tribal chic.

* A/C rooms * suites * restaurant * bar * swimming pool * Japanese mineral bath * spa treatments * weight room * medicinal hikes * horseback riding *
* Mayan ruins * wildlife tours * diving * fishing * snorkelling * honeymoon & wedding packages * day trips from Ambergris Caye * golf day trips *

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Amazing dive sites and adventures

Continued from page 4

going currents that can be found at times at Hol Chan. Because it is such a narrow deep channel, tremendous volumes of water are tunneled through it from the outer reef lagoon during outgoing tides. This hydraulic effect can produce strong currents and snorkelers and divers should pay attention to these currents.

Under the cave overhangs in Hol Chan, divers should look out for the very pretty Royal Fairy Basslets - *Gramma loreto* (these are two to three inches long, the front half of its body and head are a bright purple to violet, while the back half is a striking and vibrant yellow). Hol Chan is also the habitat of a large moray eel population. With five different morays, the Green Moray (*Gymnothorax funebris*) is the largest, up to six feet long. Note: OBSERVE BUT DO NOT PROVOKE, THEIR BITE IS A NASTY ONE.

Diving can be enjoyed not only inside the reef, but outside as well. Bottom composition of the outside of the reef is mainly of coral canyons extending out like long fingers from the barrier reef. This canyon phenomenon is caused by the motion of the water against the reef. On both dives one can note an abundance of huge fish. The Hol Chan dive is teeming with many of the fish overflowing from the inside park and is colorful and highly interesting. It is not unusual in this area to spot schools of rays floating in the distance, or even schools of barracudas. The fish are pretty friendly and "hang



The Royal Fairy Basslets, commonly seen at the Hol Chan Marine Reserve.

around" out of curiosity. In fact, some are extroverts and may come right up to your mask to view you. Some of the fish are so friendly, they will stay around to be petted or may even come up and "kiss" your mask.

Surface interval between dives is usually done in the "inside" area of the park where calmer waters prevail. You can have something to eat (or drink) or plunge into the shallow water and snorkel off for a bit and explore the awesome wonders of the shallow waters before the next dive.

The highlight of the second dive trip is the Wreck dive. The "wreck" is really a sunken barge about 30 feet long located in approximately 80 feet of water. The main feature of this dive, though, is not necessarily the "wreck" but the fact that on this dive you are GUARANTEED to see sharks. A colony of curious nurse

sharks make this wreck their home, as well as a friendly green moray that lives in the front part of the barge. Pet the eel if you dare, but remember that these are still creatures of the wild. Enjoy them. There are not many places in the world

where this will happen.

Please respect the wildlife. You are on their territory. Enjoy and bask in the pleasure and enjoyment of being on the same level with these awesome creatures. Enjoy your dive!!



A diver capturing a beautifully colored fish on film, thus creating lasting memories

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CURRENT LISTINGS

Beautiful Home With Two Apartments--\$325,000 US - This 2 story home built in 2002 has a wonderful 2/2 layout upstairs and 2 income producing 1/1 apartments downstairs! Buy fully furnished for \$50,000 US more! Owner has recently added new fence and exterior paint!

Perla Escondida Condominiums - \$169,000/\$220,000 - Beachfront Condominiums located just south of San Pedro Town. 2/2 fully furnished units. Great income potential. Manicured Beach, Pool, and rooftop sundeck are only a few of the amenities.

Casa De David Condominiums - \$76,000/\$86,000 US - 1/1 layout condos located on San Grape St. Great rental income potential! One 2/2 unit available for \$150,000.00 US.

Kitty's Beach House - \$1,250,000 US - Located in the Santa Fe area of Ambergris Caye 6 miles north of San Pedro Town. Property is 238'x229' in size and has plenty of room for development of a beachfront resort.

Two Canal Homes - \$99,500 US / each- These 3/1 homes are both located south of San Pedro Town. Each have canal access and have very nice upgrades. Fenced yard and come furnished and ready occupy!

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

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

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

Isla Bonita Design - \$125,000
An exceptional opportunity to acquire a unique and profitable business with a proven track record. The business is located in a newly completed shopping center with a five year lease and additional five year option.

Casa Cayo Real Estate cooperates with all Licensed Real Estate Agencies. Your listing could be here! We are always searching for properties in Belize to sell. Contact us today for assistance!

FEATURED PROPERTY

Captain Morgans Condominiums

\$150,000.00 - \$389,000.00 US

We currently have four separate one bedroom / one bathroom units available for sale at this prestigious resort. Each unit is 740 square feet in size and has wonderful income potential! Terms available on 1/1 units. One 3/2 unit is now also available!




RECENTLY REDUCED PRICING ON THESE GREAT HOME SITES !!!

Tres Cocos Home Sites - \$250,000 US Each - These beachfront home sites are located immediately north of San Pedro Town. Some of the very best estate sites on the island. Four sites available totaling 200' of beachfront.

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

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

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

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

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

A deeper look into the mystery of the Jade Head

Belize is often referred to as the "Heart of the Maya" and boasts the highest concentration of Maya sites among all Central American countries. To truly appreciate the beauty of the Maya sites, tools, and artifacts, you must appreciate the beauty of the Maya people, for it is within their past that Belize's ancient history unfolds. One area that has been the center of attention lately, has been the discovery of many Mayan objects. One in particular is the discovery of the Jade Head.

The Jade Head, is now one of the most prized artifacts of Belize. It is

a true iconic object, that appears on our currency, countless postcards, products and posters promoting Belize, and it comes to mind almost reflexively when we think of the grandeur of the Maya civilization that once spread across Belize. Indeed, the Jade Head is all this and more, but is it even ours? For decades, the widely held belief has been that like many Maya antiquities discovered in Belize, the jade head has been buried out of Belize and is being hoarded somewhere else. But where in Belize can you safely preserve an object that is 1,400 years old and the only one of



The original jade head, symbolic of the Mayan Sun God, Kinich Ahau, is one of most prized artifacts of Belize.

its kind in the world? Lets take a look back and figure out the mystery behind this discovery.

The history of the Jade Head dates

back from years ago, but why has it been kept a secret all the time? Dr. David Pendergast has been given

Continued on page 12

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4 Minimum for Snorkeling.

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New Listings

Belize Yacht Club (K14) Upper & lower beachfront units! Each condo is 1 bdrm/1 bath and fully furnished. Priced at \$350,000US.

Royal Palm (R44) Unit 6B-1 bdrm condo on the upper level. Ocean & pool view. Fully Furnished. \$169,500US. **DRASTICALLY REDUCED TO \$149,500US.**

Exclusive Property on Calabash Caye (J29) 14 acres with 2000 feet of beach frontage on Calabash Caye at Turneffe Islands. Fully and luxuriously furnished 4250 sq. ft. house. All utilities and permits are in place for a resort with 10 cabanas. Asking price 4.75 million US. Terms Possible.

Stained Glass Pub (M57) Stained Glass Pub - a profitable restaurant with an excellent opportunity of becoming a San Pedro landmark. Priced to sell at \$196,000US. **Drastically Reduced to \$165,000US.**

Vista Del Mar Apartments (C44) Vista del Mar - Located south of town, this is an excellent investment property with (4) 1 bdrm/1 bath apts. and an owners 2 bdrm/2 bath apt, all fully furnished. Not many properties built to the standard of this one. Call Agents for full details of this excellent opportunity. Excellent investment at \$665,000US.

Raw Land

Caribbean Coves (G29) located 3 miles up the west side of Ambergris Caye. Watch the beautiful sunset from this beachfront property. 68' x 200' - only \$79,900US - terms available.

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

Holiday Lands (M53) Parcel 2615 - measures approximately 78' x 72', only two rows off the beach. Asking price \$60,000.00 US.

Flying Fisherman (D16) lot 300' off the beach, measures 50' x 78'. Only \$19,000US

REDUCE FOR QUICK SALE -\$11,000US

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

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

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



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The bottlenose dolphin

Nothing is more delightful than spotting bottlenose dolphins as they accompany your fast moving vessel, maneuvering with astounding speed and poetic grace, they seem to escort you into the deep blue sea. At times, these "bow riders" like to hitch a ride on the bow wave in front of the boat, surfing the pressure created in front of the moving ship. Or, you may have the fortune of watching these incredible creatures of the Caribbean from the beach as they frolic in the shallow waters. Regardless of the occasion, when you witness these animals in the wild, you feel as if you have been given a gift from King Neptune himself.

The bottlenose dolphin, (*tursiops truncatus*), belongs to the cetacean order (group) of mammals made up of whales, dolphins and porpoises. Cetaceans bear their young alive, and the babies nurse on the mother's milk. Cetaceans live entirely in water and breathe air through lungs. Their fish-

like bodies have a thick layer of fat called blubber that keeps them warm. Cetaceans have flippers for front limbs. They have no hind limbs and almost no hair. The bottlenose dolphin is perhaps one of the most well known cetaceans because of its widespread use in marine parks, research facilities and as "Flipper" in the popular television series.

The bottlenose dolphin grows to be at most 12 feet (3.7 meters) long, sometimes weighing more than 1,400 pounds (635 kg). Most are smaller than this, and males are significantly larger than females. Bottlenose dolphins have streamlined bodies and a rounded head with a distinctive beak. They have a

tall, falcate (sickle-shaped) dorsal fin and broad, slightly pointed flippers. Some sharks (including tiger sharks, dusky sharks and bull sharks) and Orcas will prey upon dolphins.

Bottlenose dolphins are hunters that fish mostly at the surface of the water, eating mostly fish and squid. Feeding behaviors are diverse, primarily involving individual prey capture, but sometimes involving coordinated efforts to catch food, feeding in association with human fishing and chasing fish into mud banks. An adult bottlenose dolphin may consume 15-30 pounds (8-15 kilograms) of food each day. They have many pairs of

Continued on page 11



A bottlenose dolphin spotted in the waters offshore of San Pedro. It was quite a sight to behold.

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\$20
72oz. pitchers of cold Belikin
draft!
\$1 off all local rum drinks
(3pm to 7pm, Monday thru Friday)

TACKLE BOX... is located
over the water in the heart of san pedro
off of the san pedro water taxi pier
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!!! the Tackle Box is alive !!!

ESTABLISHED 1977...REBORN 2005

LUNA

PALM TREE CUISINE

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

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

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

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

Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner...

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Reservations: 226-2173

THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR'S GUIDE

Tourist Information

Belize Tourism Board - 223-1910.

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

San Pedro Tourist Guide Association 226-2391.

Church Services

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

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

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

IMPORTANT #s

Emergency 911

Crimestoppers 800 922-TIPS

Police 226-2022

Fire 226-2372

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

Lions Health Clinic - 226-4052; emergencies 600-9071 or Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8am to 8pm; Sat., 8am - noon.

Los Pinos Clinic 602-6383 and 226-2686.

San Pedro Chiropractic Clinic: 226-4695

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

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

US Embassy - 227-7161

Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

Mexican Embassy - 223-0193

Guatemalan Embassy - 223-3150

Honduran Embassy - 224-5889

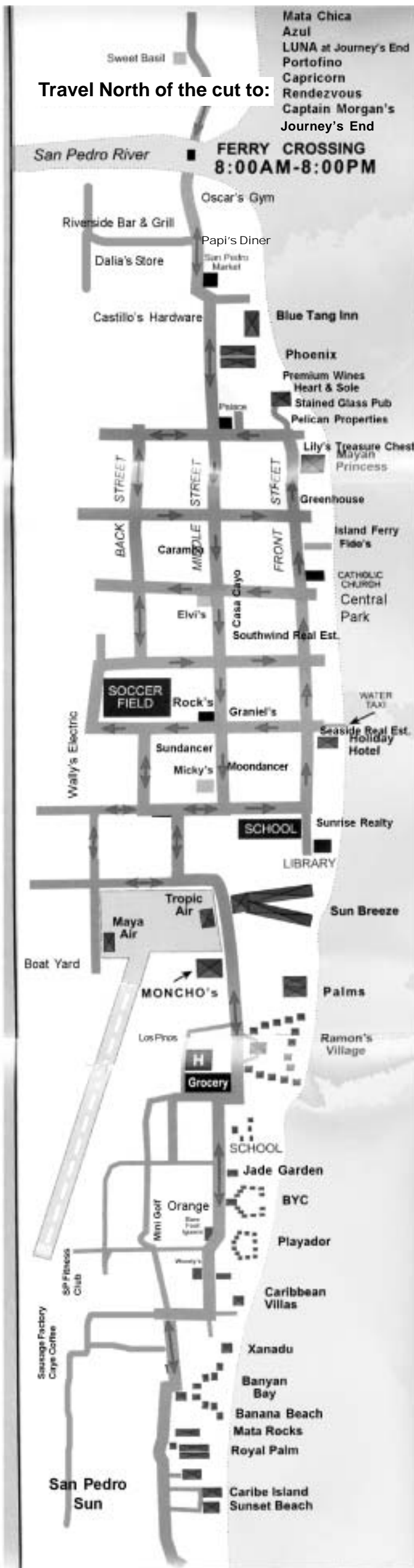
Miscellaneous

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

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

San Pedro AA - 226-4464, 2660

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



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Onlookers aboard the *Lady Sharon* were enthralled with the sight of a mother and baby dolphin.

sharp, pointed teeth distributed in both the upper and lower jaws.

Bottlenose dolphins are found worldwide in temperate and tropical waters, absent only from 45 degrees poleward in either hemisphere. They are frequently seen in harbors, bays, lagoons, estuaries, and river mouths. There appear to be two ecotypes: a coastal form and an offshore form. Population density appears to be higher nearshore. Biochemical studies now are providing more information about the relationship within and between the ecotypes. In some areas, dolphins have limited home ranges; in others, they are migratory.

Based on a number of studies of nearshore populations, bottlenose dolphins seem to live in relatively open

societies. Mother and calf bonds and some other associations may be strong, but individuals may be seen from day-to-day with a variety of different associates. Group size is often less than 20 nearshore; offshore groups of several hundred have been seen. Much of what we know of the general biology of dolphins comes from studies of bottlenose dolphins, both in captivity and in the wild.

The bottlenose dolphin is protected in U.S. waters by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Bottlenose dolphins are still generally plentiful in numbers, but are near depletion in some areas. Both incidental and direct exploitation of bottlenose dolphins are known to occur, generally at low to moderate levels. The largest direct

kills have traditionally been in the Black Sea, where Russian and Turkish hunters apparently have reduced local populations. Bottlenose dolphins are accidentally caught in a variety of fishing gear, including gillnets, purse seiners used to catch tuna, and shrimp trawls. These dolphins also are occasional victims of harpoon and drive fisheries. Live captures of bottlenose dolphins for captivity have

had effects on some local dolphin populations in the Gulf of Mexico and southeastern United States, but no commercial live captures have occurred in the U.S. since the 1980's.

Bottlenose dolphins are vulnerable to pollution, habitat alteration, boat collisions, human feeding of and swimming with wild animals, and human disturbance (such as boating). Several die-offs of bottlenose dolphins have occurred.

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Thirsty Thursdays at the Azul Resort & Rojo Lounge!

Thirsty Thursdays at the Azul/Rojo Lounge have long been overdue. Imagine getting on a boat especially designed for partying, then sailing off into the night to a beautiful resort and lounge to properly continue the party you've started! Well, thanks to the geniuses at the Azul and Rojo Lounge, you no longer have to wonder what to do on Thursday nights. They've made all the planning just for you. Just climb aboard a party boat ready to enjoy yourself shamelessly.

The fun begins onboard the Lady Sharon, a fully equipped Catamaran with a great little bar and gracious

waiter/waitress. For a small fee of \$5.00 upon boarding, you get a drink ticket to start the night off right. You have a choice of a refreshing rum punch, a delicious party ripper or an ice-cold beer. You can either sit inside at the bar during the ride with friends, or you can join fellow partygoers at the deck of the boat, enjoying a nice cocktail and view of the island from the sea. In less than twenty minutes, the boat docks at the Azul/Rojo Lounge pier and the crowd moves on to the beautifully set Rojo Lounge and the bar within.

This past Thursday night, with a

crowd of about 60 people, the party at the Rojo Lounge was just about bursting at the seams. Owners Vivian and Jeff, alongside their capable and amiable staff, were kept busy bartending and serving drinks. Co-manager Findley was mingling and dancing as well, ensuring that all was running smoothly. The deejay was quite essential to the wild night, as many of the party revelers needed an outlet for all their energy. With music ranging from Reggaeton, Dancehall, Dance, Hip-Hop to Punta, there was something for everyone. The dance floor was soon packed to

capacity.

To add some spice to the night, there was also a limbo competition. Nearly everyone was eager to participate and show off how limber they were! Both guys and girls were happy to compete and the night air was filled with laughter as one by one, participants gave up or fell. Afterwards, with some light snacks and full of delicious libations, everyone prepared for an exciting dance competition.

First up were the females dancing to some great Punta music. There

Continued on page 13

The Mayan Jade Head Continued from page 6

credit for its findings, the discovery was made at the Altun Ha Ruin, where at the time Pendergast led an excavation project. Altun Ha which means "Water of the Rock" consists of two main plazas surrounded by thirteen temples and residential structures. Once functioning as a coastal trade center, the ruins of Altun Ha are quite famous. It was here the Jade Head representing the Sun God, Kinich Ahau, was found. Almost 6 inches tall and weighing nearly 10 pounds, the Jade Head is both the largest carved jade object in the entire Maya area, as well as, the national symbol of Belize. Although there have been different stories of who discovered such artifact, the historical and academic glory go to Dr. Pendergast. Now, Upon its return to the country of Belize, the jade head was put on display in an upper room of what is now the Belize Bank building in Belize City. The Jade Head has been an ambassador of Belize, being shipped through courier to countries like Trinidad and Tobago and the United States throughout the seventies. At an unpublicized date, however, it followed the course of previous government workers and retired from public office to a secured and undisclosed location.

Many stories have been published on the importance and significance of the objects and research concludes that the object represents a Maya god. It depicts the Sun God which is known as Kunich A'hau in Maya. Kunich is day, so the passing of a sun is like the passing of a day and A'hau is lord. This is known because there are some carvings that one can find on every depiction of the sun god: on the forehead, one can see the little eyes and

a smiley face right on top. Another point that makes it out to be the Sun God, is that it has a little serpent right around his mouth. Archeologist Dr. Jaime Awe stated, "It is an incredible piece of art because it was carved out of one piece of solid jade, it is still the largest three dimensional carved jade object found in the Maya world." There are other things that are unique about it, jade is one of the hardest stones to carve and these people used stone tools to carve this, and it did not take them days, weeks or months, the artist who made this was not only gifted, but took them years to finish it. Dr. Jaime further

Continued on page 13



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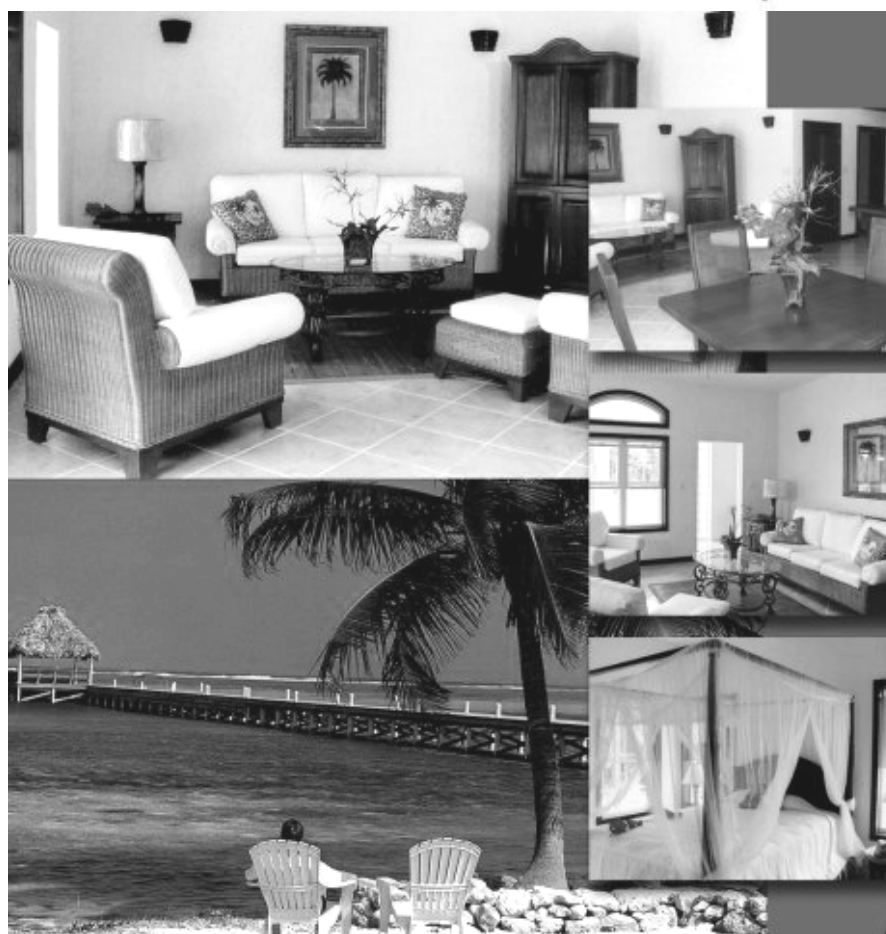
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One of the more flexible dancers during the Limbo Dancing competition.

were only three girls willing to dance, but they certainly knew how to strut their stuff, and everyone was appreciative and cheering loudly. Up next was the male dancing competition. Obviously the males in attendance were not shy about their moves, as six of them were willing to show off their Hip-Hop dancing skills. With their

amazing agility and smooth moves, the boys definitely revved up the competition and the standard for the night and perhaps the next event at Azul.

So, for a night out with friends, away from the usual nightspots in town, try the Azul & Rojo Lounge "Up North". Be on the lookout for their next promotion. Do not miss it!

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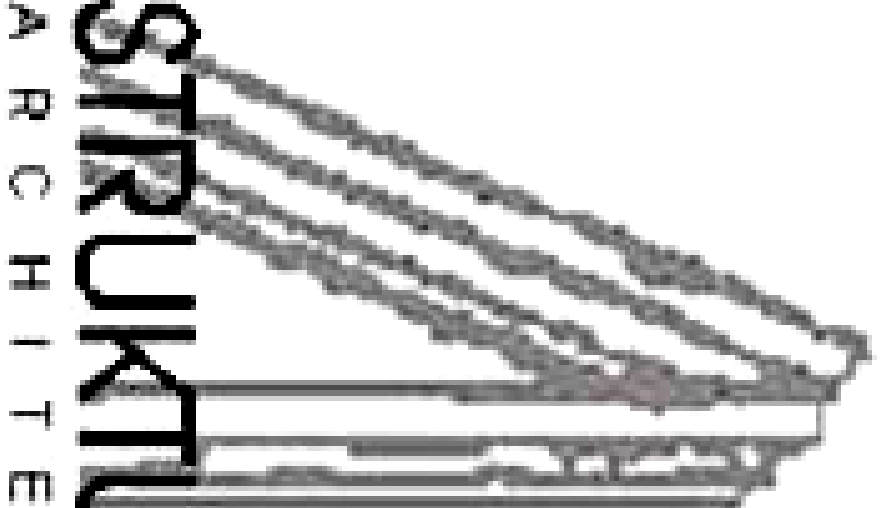
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stated "this object is one of these symbols of the past, this is one of the objects that reflect our national identity as a people and as a country and it is important that people know it is here in Belize and that we continue to make every effort to ensure that it will be

here a hundred generations from now. Belize can now boast and say that it is the only country that holds a rare piece of Maya treasure that was buried deep beneath us. No other discoveries have been recorded or made in any other countries. A flawless double of the Jade Head that is made out of fiberglass can be seen in a glass shelf at the Belize Museum.

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Reef Brief

by Green Reef Peace Corp
Volunteer, Kristen Stelljes



Plenty of adventure available with Coral Ed-Ventures!

Summer is often a time when students are bored and wish they had a little more adventure in their lives. Well, Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Smith College have come together for the 6th year to help bring adventure to the lives of 7-11 year olds through the Coral Ed-Ventures program. Ashley, Elizabeth, Emily, Katie, Maria and Nora have come from Smith College in Massachusetts, USA to work with the Hol Chan Community Outreach Coordinator Cordelia Shal to present two weeks full of fun and educational activities relating to the coral reef and conservation.

The students participate in activities around a theme and rotate through the different activities with students their same age. On July 5, the classroom was packed with around 90 students. The theme for the day was water. There was one activity that taught the students about the water cycle and they read a story about how the water cycle works. Another group learned about waves and currents and got to pretend they were waves themselves. Another group learned about the differences between salt and fresh water. These activities not only teach students about science, but they also include lessons

about what we can do to help protect the coral reefs and why it is important to do so.

During the two weeks, the students got to go on some glass-bottom boat adventures with Mr. Valdez from Reef Runner. They took trips to the mangroves and the coral reefs to see first hand what they learned about through the many activities. There were also several guest speakers who visited the students. Tammy Summers from Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve talked about turtles, the Guardians of the Reef talked about manatees, and Kristen Stelljes from Green Reef talked about spawning aggregations. Other speakers also came, including a dive master.

Coral Ed-Ventures would like to invite the San Pedro community to their graduation on Friday, 15 July at the Lion's Den at 7:00pm. It will be a fun filled event featuring a skit performed by the students.

Bacalar Chico Turtle Nesting Update

To date there have been 11 loggerhead and 2 green turtle nests found in Bacalar Chico. This is great news and we wish all of the eggs well as they begin their journey in life.

I am sad to say that this is my last Reef Brief. My time as a Peace Corps volunteer has come to an end and it is time for me to return to the States. If I took the time to thank everyone who has made my time in Belize special, I would take up the whole paper and still forget people. So, I just want to say thank you to everyone in San Pedro for allowing me to be a part of your community for two years. It is going to be very hard to leave, but I will take many wonderful memories with me and hope to return soon. Don't worry about not being able to read Reef Briefs after I'm gone- a new Peace Corps Volunteer is coming to Green Reef in August and she will continue the column. Best wishes!

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Thursday. Burrito grande- oversized burrito with choice of chicken or beef.

Friday. Fish and chips, English style. A Friday treat.



Nightly specials

Monday is Martini night, 2 for 1 on all martinis.
Tuesday is margarita night, 2 for 1 margaritas.
Wednesday is Wine night, free glass with every entrée.
Come treat yourself, you know you deserve it.



Trivia Tidbits - All about dolphins

- *The scientific family name for dolphins is Delphinidae. The largest dolphins are Orcas, also called killer whales.
- *Bottlenose dolphins look like they might be grinning. Their "smiles" are formed by the way their mouths curve.
- *Having little or no sense of smell, bottlenose dolphins make up for it with a sharp sense of hearing.
- *Bottlenose dolphins have excellent vision both in and out of water.
- *The brain of a bottlenose dolphin is larger than a human brain, however, the part concerned with intelligence is not.
- *Females give birth every two to three years, normally to one calf after a pregnancy of one year. The calves are often born tail first so they don't drown.
- *When born, a bottlenose calf is approximately 3 to 4 feet (.9 to 1 meter) long and weighs about 44 pounds (20 kilograms).
- *A calf nurses while underwater and continues nursing for up to 18 months.
- *Bottlenose dolphins swim in groups called pods. A pod usually has a dozen or so animals.
- *Dolphins will eat almost any kind of fish. Their diets also include squid and small crustaceans such as shrimps. They don't chew their food—they swallow it whole.
- *They have been known to approach boats and people in the water in a seemingly friendly fashion, letting themselves be touched.
- *Their skin is smooth and feels sort of like an inner tube.
- *Males are larger than females and can be as long as 13 feet (4 meters) and weigh more than a thousand pounds (454 kilograms).



Wolfe's Woofers by Dennis Wolfe

I Speak Good English

"What can we get for you today, Dennis?" Denise asked.

"I want a pound of those all beef hot dogs."

"You like those dogs, huh?" Jim said, from his place at the Sausage Factory's meat slicing machine. "I see you manage to buy them fairly often."

"They're for me and Dennisito," I told him. "I swear, the reason he's already three inches taller than me is the direct responsibility of the Sausage Factory and Pepper Oni's Pizza. The two companies should provide him with a college scholarship just because of the money we've invested over their counters trying to feed him."

"Right," Jim laughed.

The door opened and a short little guy entered and called for Jim.

"You Mister Jeem?" he asked. "I see one sign in you door say you want one worker that speak English. That is me. Pedro from Guatemala. I speak good English."

"I don't know, Pedro," Jim said. "I need someone who can talk to the customers and I'm not sure if your English is good enough."

"Try the counting test," Denise said.

"Count to ten for me," Jim said.

"One, two, tree, four, cinco, six, siete, ocho, nine, ten."

"H.m.m." Jim said. "I don't know."

"Jim, we're going to use a color coding system," Denise said. "Try him on colors."

"Pedro, make a sentence for me using the words green, pink and yellow," Jim said.

"Pink, green and yellow? I need one minute for think."

After a minute of deep thought he said, "O.K. I got it, Mr. Jeem. The phone go green, green, green and I pink it up and say, Yellow."

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- ❖ **Villa del Mar** - new custom built beachfront home, 1 ac, pier, 3 bedroom \$975,000.
- ❖ **The Villa Turquesa at Mata Grande** designer 3 bedroom beach home with pier and optional adjoining beach lot \$ 975,000.
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2 bed 3 bath fully furnished \$ 395,000.
- ❖ **Mi Casa.** Rental suites with spacious top floor owner's quarters and loft apt. \$650,000.
- ❖ **Casa Flores** income producing triplex on double lot. \$350,000.
- ❖ **The Castle** 10 apt complex \$525,000.
- ❖ **Popular Front Street Bar & Grill!!** Inquire.

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- ❖ **Holiday Lands** beach lot 100ft x 150 ft \$ 300,000 - under contract
- ❖ **Near Mexico Rocks** 178ft beach front 2.4 acres \$ 534,000 - Sold
- ❖ **Mata Grande** 100ft x 200ft beach front \$ 225,000 - under contract.
- ❖ **Punta Arenas** 200ft beach front 3 acres \$ 425,000 - Sold
- ❖ **Rocky Point** 2 x 1250ft 30 acre beach front parcels - \$1100 per foot!
- ❖ **Buena Vista Point** Ocean view 75ft x 150ft \$ 79,000.
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- ❖ **Laguna Estates** commercial tracts & islands Inquire!
- ❖ **Caribbean Coves** 200ft ocean front \$ 150,000 - under contract
- ❖ **2 adjoining Alta Mar** 100ft x 100ft lots \$65,000 each.

All prices are in US dollars and subject to change without notice. For further details on these properties and much more call your AMBERGRIS CAYE SPECIALISTS

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Tropical Lounge Cuisine served in one of the most BEAUTIFUL settings on Ambergris!

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For more information, please contact us at 226 4012 or e-mail info@azulbelize.com



BERMUDA LANDING Just North of the River Cut with convenient access to town. All amenities available including: telephone, internet, electricity and cable. Located on 100 feet of beachfront. This small complex also features a unique swimming pool and lots of tropical landscaping.

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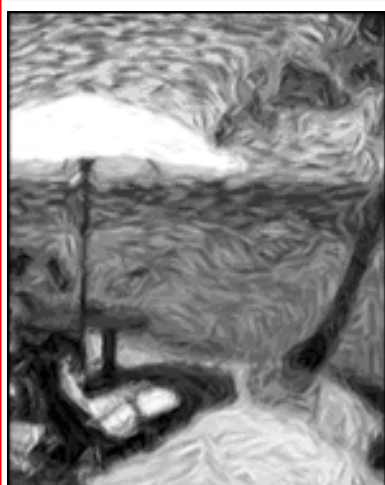
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