

NEWS IN BRIEF

Carnival Cash



So far the Utila Carnival 2005 has raised a grand total of Lps. 43,000. The committee is still awaiting money from Caribbean Sea Foods to bump up the total. The funds this year will provide a much needed bodega for staff at the new Health Centre.

Carnival logo designed by Fernando Bodden

Road Accident

An American tourist, 56, sustained serious head injuries when his bike collided with a motorcycle on August 30th.

The accident happened on the road to the new airport where the patient was rushed immediately to the new Health Centre for emergency care.

Within hours he was flown to La Ceiba for further treatment accompanied by his wife.

Dr. John attended to the patient who had already lost a lot of blood through the large, open wound on his forehead as well as dislocating his right middle finger.

Sing for Scuba

Armed with guitars and interesting voices, two tourist boys took up position outside the new building at the dock and set about earning themselves enough money for a diving course. The duo, strapped for cash and eager to get their open water certificates, strummed away merrily to bewildered passers by.

With a sign that read "Help us get a scuba course, Please donate. Thank 'two hope not to be struggling artists".



Utilians Shine at Miss Honduras

Congratulations to Utilian beauty, Flor Gabourel, for making it through to the finals of Miss Honduras 2005.

Crowned Miss Utila at this year's carnival celebrations, Ms. Gabourel will compete alongside contestants from all over the country in a ceremony held in La Ceiba on October 3rd.

Joining her will be part-Utilian stunner Lissa Saenz, daughter of Utilian Alan Viera and current Miss Cacao.

New Door for Community Clinic



The wall at Utila community Clinic has been knocked through to create a new door.

The new door provides easy access from the street and is large enough for stretchers to fit in.

"It's much easier now in an emergency. The patients can come straight in on a stretcher saving valuable time." Said Dr. John McVay.

Get Fit for Christmas

Fitness fanatics on the island can look forward to the opening of a brand new Gym, offering a full range of exercise machines and free weights. Ocean Fitness, the brainchild of Barbara Kempt and Andy Philips, will be housed in a purpose built centre under construction in Sandy Bay. There will also be a health bar serving juices and salads and a retail shop selling vitamins and supplements.

Thomas Wilkinson Found

For those of you who were aware of the disappearance of Thomas Wilkinson, 19, his worried mother has been in contact from the UK to say that she has finally located her son, safe and sound and on his way to Copan.

Mrs. Wilkinson raised the alarm when she failed to hear from her son for several days after he left a message saying that he was out of funds. She would like to thank all of the kind Utilians for their support and the young American who gave him some money. "He was stranded on Utila for two days, he wished it was longer!" she said

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fieran sus votos de Utila.

Ellos alegaban que pasajes gratis hacia la isla y comida y estadia iban a hacer proveidos el dia antes de la eleccion a cambio de su voto por el Sr. Del Olmo.

"Se nos acercaron y ofrecieron un viaje gratis a Utila por comida y estadia en la isla a cambio de votar por ellos", dijo un hombre de La Ceiba.

"No se cuantos documentos fueron transferidos, yo no lo haria, es ilegal", dijo Sonia Tosta de Mumoz, del registro local de votantes, quien reclama haber sido indicada de hacer las transferencias por el Sr. Del Olmo.

Richard Del Olmo, candidato para alcalde, niega toda las acusaciones de transferencias de votos.

El alega, "Las transferencias se han hecho, pero bajo toda la restricciones de la ley".

La transferencia de votos no es ilegal pero a pesar de esto tienen que haber residido en donde queran votar por lo menos seis meses.

"Previamente, los votantes necesitaban una tarjeta de la municipalidad para hacer las transferencias. Algunas personas tuvieron problemas al obtener la tarjeta so yo reclame y ellos pararon el sistema" el dijo.

"No hay voto que puede parar

un Hondureno para votar".

El video ha recibido respuestas encontradas por la comunidad, con muchas llamadas hechas para expresar sus puntos de vista.

"La situacion es, esta bien que los residents de La Ceiba decidan quien es nuestro alcalden no por que partido estoy votando" dijo el Sr. McNab durante estas discusiones controvertidas.

La siguiente noche el alcalde Alton Cooper invito a reporteros de la prensa nacional a discutir la situacion.

Algunos estaban escandalizados mientras los otros pensaban que el video habia sido fabricaba el cual tambien reclamaba que el Sr. McNab se inclinaba hace el partido Liberal.

"No es acerca de los partidos, es acerca de la manera correcta de hacer las cosas", dijo el alcalde Cooper.

"El pueblo necesita una gran explicacion" dijo Sr. Cesar Augusto.

En respuesta a la acusaciones Richard Del Olmo aparecio en HQ la noche del trienta de agosto para hablar acerca de estas.

"Cualquier persona que esta en esta lista de votantes tiene que ser permitido votar."

Esperen un aumento de actividad conforme se acerca el dia de

UPCO Update

Utila East Wind Staff

Utilians were left frustrated at the beginning of August when UPCO's payment software came to a standstill.

A malfunctioning switch meant that islanders were unable to purchase prepaid electricity at the BGA bank from 10th to the 13th of August.

"We are in the process of having TTI manage the computers, back-ups and maintenance so this doesn't happen again." Said Ricardo De Flores, UPCO General Manager.

This is not the only problem facing the company, worldwide fuel prices are soaring, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and they are feeling increasing pressure to raise prices.

The rates were frozen in April in response to community anger at the escalating cost of electricity since UPCO took control of the islands power generation in May 2003.

"We are having a meeting with the bank and shareholders on September 10th to discuss the problem. We just cannot afford to maintain the price freeze." Said Mr. De Flores.

Nosotros Utileños fuimos frustrados al principio de Agosto cuando el pago de "UPCO" fue a un cierto precio.

Era imposible comprar electricidad en el banco BGA del 10 a 13 de Agosto.

"Estamos en proceso de tener Tropic Telephone a Internet (TTI) para el mantenimiento de las computadoras para que esto no vuelva apasar," dijo Ricardo De Flores, Gerente de UPCO.

Este no es el unico problema la compania tiene que enfrentar, el mundo entero el precio del diesel va subiendo especialmente despues del huracan Katrina.

Los precios fueron congeladas en Abril para ver si la comunidad podian ver el costo de la luz podia tomar control de las islas en Mayo 2003.

"Estamos teniendo una reunion el 10 de Septiembre del presente año con los contrapartes dueños de la compania y el banco para discutir el problema. No podemos pagar el costo de mantenimiento", dijo Sr. De Flores. ■

utila East Wind

Founded 1st April 2005

Issue no. 5

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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
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Katja, Edith, Rahul, Sharon, Remi,
Gunter, Guillermo

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
FOR THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT
Dr. John, Barbara, Glynn Peterson,
Mark Smith, Monica, Ronnie Ramon,
Steve Dankerwich

PRINTED BY
La Prensa
San Pedro Sula

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