



# BYRON BROOKS PROUD OF HIS HERITAGE ISLANDER

Byron Brooks a family man, who believes in the institution of the family as the solution to all problems social.

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## Roatan Today

Executive Direction: Janeth Grandez

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Social Media: Kevin Paredes

**W**e are a digital magazine where we highlight the positive notes of our beautiful Bay Islands and the rest of Honduras. Our focus is on topics of interest such as tourist sites, entrepreneurship, social note, events, investment, and technological advances. It is time to appreciate the

efforts of our people with the vision of achieving progressive development and continue to grow continuously to exploit the potential of natural beauty and especially the island of Roatan to achieve the investment that the community needs and create an excellent business climate. We have versions in English and Spanish, our publication is monthly, follow us on our social networks.



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# EDITORIAL

## The month of August and its great significance

The family is the basis of society, it is the engine of the economy.

The month of August is an important month for the department of Islas de la Bahia because it commemorates one more anniversary of the presence of English speaking blacks on the island of Roatan. Also in this month is celebrated the month of the family, where in cities like San Pedro Sula the weddings of Cana take place, and 1000 people are expected to get married in the facilities of the Ebenezer church.

The family is the basis of society, it is the engine of the economy. The large English-speaking black island family, this community arrived in the Insular department. The English-speaking black people arrived in the Bay Islands for the first time as slaves in 1638 and occupied what is now the community of Port Royal. Some escaped and there are many studies that point to their arrival in what is now the community of Flowers Bay. This community has always been characterized by its

cultural distinction in terms of their accent as they speak the English language. Subsequently and massively most of the native English-speaking black islanders arrived in the Bay Islands starting August 1, 1834. That is why every year we celebrate Black English Heritage Month in Honduras.

From Roatan we congratulate our black English speaking brothers and sisters who contribute to the cultural and social development of tourism in the Bay Islands.



Members of the Black English community of the Bay Islands.



# HILSY VILLALOBOS

ATTORNEY AT LAW



📞 (Cel):+504 3190-2047

🌐 [www.kwroatan.com](http://www.kwroatan.com)

✉ [hilsvillalobosflores@gmail.com](mailto:hilsvillalobosflores@gmail.com)

📍 Lawson Rock, Administrative Building  
second level, Sandy Bay, Roatan,  
Bay Islands, Honduras





## PUBLIC FIGURE

# His passion for culture began at the age of 14, a legacy he now passes on to his children

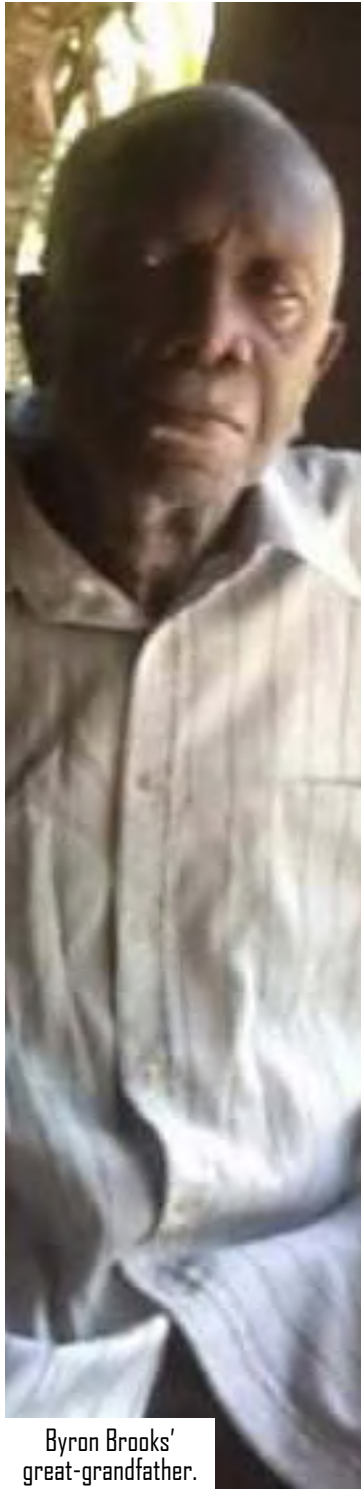
Byron Brooks, a man passionate about island history and culture.

**B**yron Brooks is a family man. He believes in the institution of the family as the solution to all social problems. He is a Honduran descendant of English-speaking black people, a specialist in intercultural education and a bilingual elementary school teacher with a focus on intercultural education.

Brooks is recognized for being a lover of island culture and historian, which is why he is currently a tour guide and is the creator of the movement for the preservation of native culture called "Bay Islands Native Culture and History Newsletter".

Since the age of 14, Brooks has promoted history and culture because he comes from a family that pioneered education in the Bay Islands department. The legacy began with his great-great-grandfather, Juan Brooks, who was a renowned teacher in the town and was famous for his ability to write with both hands at the same time, both Spanish and English, which is why the oldest school in Coxen Hole is named in his honor.

His great-grandfather, Peter Emerson Brooks, was a professional secretary and was responsible for organizing all the documentation for Santos Guardiola to become a municipality, which is why he is credited with being the intellectual creator of the municipality. His grandfather, Basil Emile Brooks, was a renowned sailor who later became a teacher in New York, United States and finally his father, Artly Emile Brooks Smith, excelled in teaching and is considered the island's greatest writer, due to the fact that he has more than 26 books. In addition, he is the only Black English-speaking islander who is a member of the literary society of Honduras and winner of the country-wide culture award. Brooks argues, "Our cultural identity is based on everything our ancestors



Byron Brooks' great-grandfather.



Byron Brooks and his sons.



Brooks ancestors.



did, what they did, what they believed in. If we forget our ancestors, we lose focus of who we are and where we are going."

In that sense, he tells the story of how the English-speaking black people arrived in the Bay Islands as slaves in 1638 and subsequently occupied what is now the community of Port Royal. According to Books, many of them escaped and he states that studies indicate that they moved to the community of Flowers Bay, which is characterized by its strong cultural distinction in terms of its English-speaking accent.

La historia señala que posteriormente la mayoría de los isleños nativos de habla inglesa llegaron a la isla a partir del 1 de agosto de 1834.

History notes that later most of the

native English-speaking islanders arrived on the island beginning August 1, 1834.

It is worth noting that the English-speaking black people today are present in Islas de la Bahía, La Lima, El Progreso, La Ceiba, Tela and Puerto Cortés. "It is a blessing to be part of such a great culture, with a worldview of progress, advancement, love and brotherhood," said Brooks.

He also made an invitation to all Hondurans to learn more about our culture and not to try to change it, but to respect it and integrate. "The people who forget their past have no future". If you would like to know more about it, you can follow their Facebook account: Bay Islands Native Culture and History Newsletter.



# Bay Islands Afro English Heritage Celebration August 2023

*In memory of Jane Velma Webster*

DECRETO No.130-2022.-  
Del 24 de Noviembre de 2022.



**Come celebrate with us!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Emancipation Day Flowers Bay	2	3	4 Utila Culture Day	5 Utila Culture Day Acropora 2023
6	7	8 Health Fair	9 Guanaja Heritage and Culture Civic Parade	10 Pandy Town: Culture Day	11 Artisan Fair Pandy Town: Culture Day	12 International Youth Day Chattah Talk Camp Bay
13	14	15 Pensacola History Day	16 Politilly Bight Culture Day	17 Conference Zolitur Seamen dinner	18 Prof Martel Watler Culture Day	19 Seniors Luncheon Family Fun Day ZOLITUR
20	21	22 Guanaja Heritage and Culture Day.	23 Spelling Bee	24 Conference Zolitur	25 Lovelene Leslie Caria Bennett Culture Day Fruit Festival Guanaja: Heritage/Civic Parade and Acts	26 Miss Heritage Crawfish Rock Culture Day
27 Ms. Sugar Mango	28	29 Abundant life foundation day	30 English Town Talent and Culture Night	31 Conference Zolitur Guanaja: Cultural and Heritage Day Celebrations.	Organizadores 	



If you need legal advice on the issue of birth registration by omission contact the Villela Villela International law firm at [www.roatanlegal.com](http://www.roatanlegal.com) and [www.villelavillela.com](http://www.villelavillela.com) or call them at 504- 96669535.

# The importance of registering a child at birth

Did you know the importance of registering a child at birth? As parents, it is very important to do so, because if you do not register your child in a timely manner, it could cause you legal problems in the long run. We are referring to the school and college stage of your child.



**H**ave you ever wondered why it is important to register a child at birth?

The registration of the birth of a child is of vital importance because from this moment on he/she is registered as a Honduran citizen and this is an obligation of law in which all parents are subject to comply with. Besides being one of the rights of the child, the right to a name.

The term to register the birth is 6

months, if the registration has not been done within this term, it must be done through a replacement due to omission. At the National Registry of Persons, where a series of requirements must be fulfilled in order to register the birth.

The law that regulates the inscription of a birth is the "Law of the National Registry of Persons" which was established under decree number 62-2004 and specifically indicates all the parameters on this subject in chapter III, section I in articles 53 to 63, as expressed by attorney Skarleth Castellanos of the law firm Villela Villela.

In order to make the registration, one of the parents or their legal representatives must go to the office of the National Registry of Persons either in the place of birth of the minor or in any of the offices of the National Registry of Persons located in the different cities of the departments of the Republic. If the parents are minors, they can register their children accompanied by their parents. The documents to be presented are the following:

1. National Identification Document or birth certificate of the parents of the minor to be registered.
2. Proof of the birth record issued by the hospital where the birth occurred or, failing that, fill out the form provided by the National Registry of Persons.

At the time of birth registration, the father or mother of the minor, the legal representatives of the parents of the minor to be registered or the relatives of the parents who live at the same address of the minor to be registered may be present.



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# Carmen García, an entrepreneurial woman who stands out with her Lenca Maya restaurant and La Tiendita de la Abuela

**F**or 12 years, García has been a member of the Chamber of Tourism of the municipality and currently serves as its president. She is also dedicated to other activities such as volunteer projects, the School of Arts and Crafts; recently, she participated as a member of the National Tourism Council, where she represents private enterprise within the institute, which decides the different processes and budgets for the direction of tourism in Honduras.

Her skills and perseverance have allowed her to consolidate herself as a successful woman, however, it was not always so, because although she ventured into the world of entrepreneurship with only 22 years, her first business was not successful, so she went bankrupt and was left with a considerable debt, reason why she was forced to work to pay it, but you learn from everything, as she said, "are the stumbles of life that help you to improve when you are already taking a larger enterprise and that of course helped to not make the same mistakes."

That is why García stands out in the world of entrepreneurship with his restaurant Lenca Maya and La Tiendita de la Abuela, which were born after participating in a business plan training that lasted 6 months. During that time, every Monday he had to send a document and if he did not send it, it was one less training and therefore, one less point. Initially, there were 172 competitors from 17 departments of the country, a number that was decreasing as the training developed, to the point that only 22 participants remained.

It is worth mentioning that, by then, García was pregnant with her fourth child, who was born while the process was taking place. Because of this, working hours began after 10 p.m., when everything was calm, but fatigue was not long in coming, so García would fall asleep at her computer, a sacrifice that was worth it, as she never lost a point.

"They called me and told me that I had to be at the awards ceremony in Tegucigalpa, I was sure I was not going to win because there were mountain hotels and big and nice restaurants, I said I was not going to win, besides, I had not entered to win, what I wanted was only to educate myself and that is where my mom told me how come you are not going to go, if you made it this far you can't not go", she said.

To her surprise, García was awarded \$10,000 in the area of tourism for her

Lenca Maya restaurant, the astonishment and happiness was noticeable in that woman of sacrifice, but fear and doubt accompanied that emotional moment.

Next, García was called to sign a 6-month contract so that the restaurant project could become a reality. "I said 6 months no, with a 4 month old child, it was not possible, I said I was not going to be able to. Then they told me, well, leave it or take it, if not the prize is given to the other one."

The biggest problem was that García had no money, no place and no staff to open her business, so she decided to take a chance and look for a house; luckily she found one that was over 100 years old, which turned out to be perfect for the project, however, the repairs it required were valued at half a million lempiras. The only option for that dreamy woman was to go to a bank to request a loan, which was immediately approved. "I couldn't believe it, everything was coming to me on a silver platter," she said with a laugh.

"That's how it all started, we invested some money that my husband and I had. The project's goal was to have 10 employees and since we started we haven't stopped having them and that was a success because we met and will continue to meet the goal," said García.

This is how the history of this renowned restaurant began, which already has 15 years since it opened its doors to the public.

Currently, in Lenca Maya you will find different dishes from all the ethnic groups of Honduras, such as: Indian chicken soup and roasts, which are the ones that people consume the most, also in the native part you will find fish fillet served in juñiapa leaf, ticucos, tamales, and much more. What makes this restaurant different and unique is that it tries to include all the products that come from the mountains such as izote flower, pacaya and the traditional beef and tortilla soups.

"The idea is to rescue the recipes that identify us as Hondurans, but that are in rural or urban areas where they are not transferred to a dish, that is our goal both in the Lenca Maya and in the Tiendita de la Abuela, because the latter produces bakery: quesadilla made with butter drained from sack, sweets with butter, cheeses based on panela de dulce, etc., we try to help a lot to artisans who are starting, I like and support everything Honduran," she said.

Finally, García advises all people who want to venture into the world of entrepreneurship to 1. Be persevering and not give up at the first time. "If someone wants to start a hotel, first work in a hotel for 3 years and learn, because it is difficult when one already carries the burdens and does not know what to do, it is better to have the previous learning in a company where one can get all that benefit". 2. To work on her credit record from a very early age. 3. To get advice and 4.



Carmen García is a 48 year old woman from Santa Rosa de Copán and a marketer by profession. She is married and mother of four beautiful children.



Carmen García, owner of Lenca Maya and La Tiendita de la Abuela.



15 men participated in the conference that aimed to provide the secrets to being successful in life.



Licenciado Elmer Flores during the conference.

# The second conference for men was held on the theme "How to be successful in life".

With a good number of participants, the second conference for men organized by the Casa de la Cultura and the local Agape Men's Network was held last August 9 at the offices of Mall Megaplaza.

**T**he speaker on this occasion was Mr. Elmer Flores, who shared with those present his experience and advice on how to be successful in life.

It is important to mention that these conferences are important for all those men who daily seek to achieve success and face a series of obstacles.

Here are some tips that may be useful to you: Create feasible goals, establish a commitment, evaluate your daily habits, strengthen your positive thoughts, develop social interactions and take failures as lessons learned.

Finally, if you are a man and would like to participate in the next conferences, we invite you to keep an eye on the dates when they will be held.





# Emilio Rovelo continues to promote culture on Roatan Island

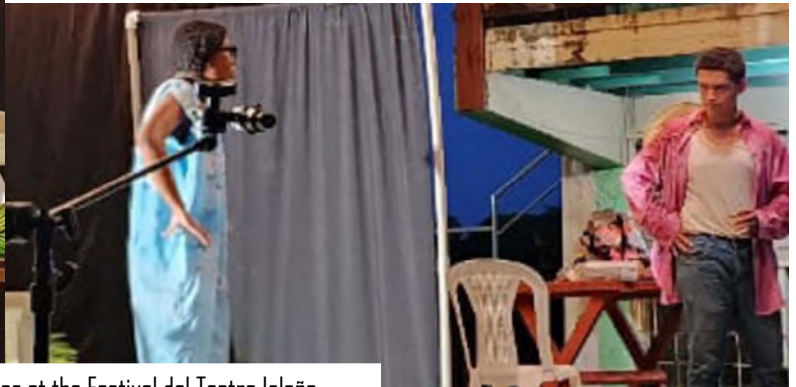
XVI Island Student Theater Festival 2023 is a great success.



Students during their performances at the Festival del Teatro Isleño.

The students of Roatan shined with their performances in the XVI Student Theater Festival 2023, which was a complete success thanks to the coordination of the national actor, Jose Emilio Rovelo, who with the support of teachers and sponsors was able to carry out this event that is important because it highlights the artistic abilities of the students. During the event, awards were given to the three first place winners, which were as follows: First place: the play "El suicida" from the Honduras Institute, with Salma Fernández and Edwin Joan Lamberri Colón winning best direction. Best actress: Sophia Pastrana and best actor Erick Mara-

diaga. Second place: "I am right" by the Theater of the Santos Guardiola Institute. Third place: "La Iglesia dormida" from the Theater of the Adventist School of Utila. Also, the best supporting actress was awarded to Sandra Nicol Alvarado, from the Santos Guardiola Institute and the best supporting actor: Abner Isai Murillo Hernández from the Adventist School of Utila. It is important to mention that the first place winner will participate in the National Theater Festival organized by the National Academy of Dramatic Art, to be held in September in the Honduran capital.



The students were attended by a good number of spectators.



# Expohoreca is an important event to strengthen tourism development

Expohoreca was recently held in the city of Tegucigalpa, a showcase for suppliers of the tourism sector which helps to establish valuable contacts, the event was organized by the international company Bronte Connetion.

Our directors Alfredo Funez, Janeth Grandez accompanied by Carmen García and her husband.



“ Investing in Honduras is the best contribution we can make to our country. This action generates employment, attracts foreign investment, promotes competitiveness and stimulates the growth of the sector. “

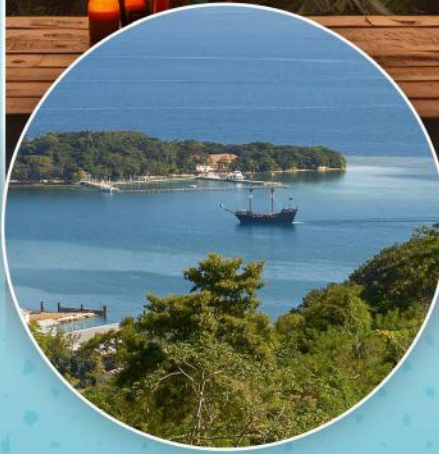
The National Investment Council plays a crucial role in the development of tourism and is positioned as a key ally in events such as Expo Horeca Honduras, said Jackeline Foglia. At the inauguration of the event, the Minister of the Honduran Institute of Tourism, Yadirá Gomez, was present and provided institutional support, strengthening the relationship with the sector and showing her commitment to the development and promotion of tourism in our country. The presence and support of the municipal government of the central district in expo horeca Honduras highlights its commitment to the growth of the tourism sector and strengthens the collaboration between private enterprise and local government to boost the industry in the country. The support and advice of the financial sector is fundamental to strengthen the stability and sustainability of the industry.



One of the speakers during the conferences.







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# Carlos Guerra, an entrepreneur with a passion for agriculture



Carlos Guerra showing one of the products.

The farm is dedicated to dairy cattle and coffee cultivation is called San Rafael, and is located in the village of San Rafael, Copan Ruinas.

Carlos Guerra was looking to make his dreams come true in 2010, the word “entrepreneurship” was still unheard of, there were no tools for entrepreneurs, much less in a small town like Copán Ruinas, nor was it expected that someone 23 years old would start a high-risk business, without a market.

“At that time, I always loved food technology, and processing a raw material into a value-added product. So I set out to make fine cheeses, mature cheeses, from foreign recipes, with milk from the cows on my father’s farm,” said Carlos Guerra.

The farm is dedicated to dairy cattle and coffee cultivation is called San Rafael, and is located in the village of San Rafael, Copan Ruinas.

Guerra decided to undertake because for a long time he saw his parents, both have worked all their lives in the coffee industry, and have passed him the spirit to continue, the farms are a complete and productive ecosystem,

always called his attention to preserve this.

He expresses that agriculture is a difficult profession, not the most profitable, but the most dignified for a free man.

The challenges that entrepreneurs face are diverse every year is different, sometimes political stability, unfair competition, and certainly the offers that are abroad to leave the country, and work elsewhere.

In particular there are many anecdotes from the most wonderful that has been the Honduran public to accept my products, to the times I have cried frustrated with red accounts, learning to manage and solve problems and challenges faced by all entrepreneurs.

His message to entrepreneurs in the coffee industry is the following

- Let’s invest in Honduras, it’s the only way to get ahead, let’s improve the coffee field, let’s not abandon the farms to go to the USA or Spain.



*Let’s invest in Honduras, it’s the only way to get ahead, let’s improve the coffee growing field, let’s not abandon the farms to go to the USA or Spain.*

Carlos Guerra



# Desideria Perez

## preserving traditions with passion and love

A Lenca pride at the service of the community.



Caption Desideria Perez, a Lenca woman passionate about her culture.

### CONTACT

If you wish to visit the workshop or buy one of these handicrafts you can call her at 504- 9979-8772.

Of Lenca origin, full of culture and tradition, this is Doña Desideria Perez, recognized as one of the best potters in the department of Lempira; resident of the municipality of La Campa, Desideria has stolen the hearts of thousands of tourists by opening the doors of her home, allowing them to know her story.

At the age of 12 she learned from her mother this beautiful and noble trade, which allowed her to raise her 10 children, one of them being the mayor of La Campa, Roberto Santos; today at 67 years old Desideria continues to decorate the homes of nationals and foreigners, noting that the key to success is to do everything with love.

Perez shared that in the beginning she gave away her works, because she did not know what the real value of them was, over the years she learned to calculate the price of her hard work, offering pieces that do not exceed 100 lempiras and charging up to 4,500 lempiras depending on the size and design.

Her products range from a traditional cup or ornament to vases that exceed 30 inches in height, it is worth mentioning that the elaboration process is 100% handmade since Desideria does not even use a potter's wheel, her hands being her main tool. Desideria has been in charge of keeping her culture alive, passing her knowledge from generation to generation, teaching locals and visitors how to work this raw material; currently one of her sons makes clay pieces and is in charge of restoring antique objects, following in his mother's footsteps.

Clinging to her roots, Desideria has given herself the task of preserving the art of pottery, so if you visit La Campa, Lempira, you can not miss the opportunity to talk with her and take her love home through her works. If you wish to visit the workshop or buy one of these handicrafts you can call her at 504-9979-8772.





Hedwin Eva Maria Kiesler, better known in the artistic world as Hedy Lamarr, was born on November 9, 1914 and was a prominent actress and inventor.



Lamarr was a lover of technology, theater and cinema, because of this she was the inventor who developed among many other things, the wifi.

During her time of study she stood out for her intelligence, since she was gifted, but after beginning her engineering studies she abandoned them to fulfill her dream of being an actress, which is why she is considered one of the most beautiful actresses in Hollywood.

During World War II, Hedy offered his services to the United States Government because he had important information about the German army's armament. While working in the technology department, Hedy discovered that the radio signals that guided the torpedoes of the U.S. Navy were very easy to intercept; therefore, he decided to develop a protection system inspired by a musical principle, which worked on 88 frequencies and was able to jump transmission signals between the frequencies of the magnetic spectrum.

However, the U.S. government did not appreciate the invention until many years later, in 1962, when the Cuban missile crisis occurred. Lamarr's technology was used to intercept communications and torpedo control. Today, this method is used for satellite positioning systems such as GPS. In short, today we can connect wirelessly with cell phones, computers and tablets to networks, it is thanks to Hedy Lamarr, a diamond in beauty and brains.

# HEDY LAMARR

the actress who invented wifi



Hedy Lamarr, actress and inventor.



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# San Pedro Sula the capital of **BUSINESS TOURISM**

**A**bout 6 decades ago the city of San Pedro Sula was called the industrial capital of Honduras. With the growth and development that this city has had in recent years, it has become one of the most important business centers in Central America and a meeting point because its location allows it to have connection with the center, west and Atlantic of the country.

There are three convention centers in the city, in addition to meeting rooms for more than 1000 people in several hotels.

Guillermo Orellana, president of the Convention Bureau, told us that the city is a suitable destination for business tourism because it has three

high level convention centers, Copantl Convention Center, Honduran Arab Club and Expocentro.

Expocentro is also the largest exhibition and trade fair center in the country.

The best shopping malls and department stores in Honduras, one of the best theaters in Central America, El Jose Francisco Saybe. The best movie theaters, golf courses, the best social club in Honduras is in San Pedro Sula and foreigners only need their passport to enter this magnificent private club we are referring to the Honduran Arab Club.

The city has several Olympic swimming pools and the Central American champion swimming team Delfines sampedranos.

We have the youth symphony orchestra of the Victoriano Lopez school, several quartets and musical groups of former students of the school.

The best medical services in Honduras with private hospitals, state of the art technology and first class professionals.

It has more than 3000 rooms to accommodate domestic and foreign tourists visiting the city.

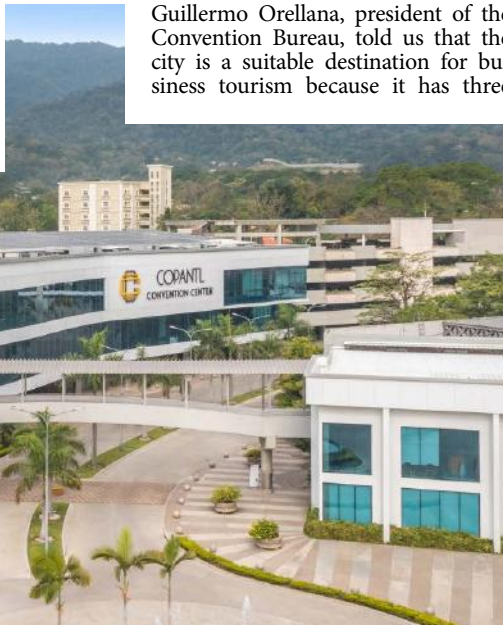
If you decide to visit while doing business you will see that the city of the Zorzales. It also has a variety of restaurants where you can enjoy national and international cuisine.

If you want to move to another place, it has the largest bus terminal in Central America "La Gran Central Metropolitana". An airport that receives a large number of people from various countries of the world with national and international connections.

San Pedro Sula is bordered to the north by the beaches of Omoa and Puerto Cortes, to the south by the municipality of Villanueva and Lake Yojoa, to the east by the municipality of La Lima and to the west by Quimistan Santa Barbara. Donaldo Suazo president of CANATUR in San Pedro Sula said "At this time the remodeling of the national airport Ramon Villeda Morales will boost business tourism in the city".

In the higher parts of the city, in the area of Merendon has a pleasant climate because it is 1400 meters above sea level. There you will find a great tourist project Maya Temple Tours, which allows the international tourist to live an extraordinary experience.

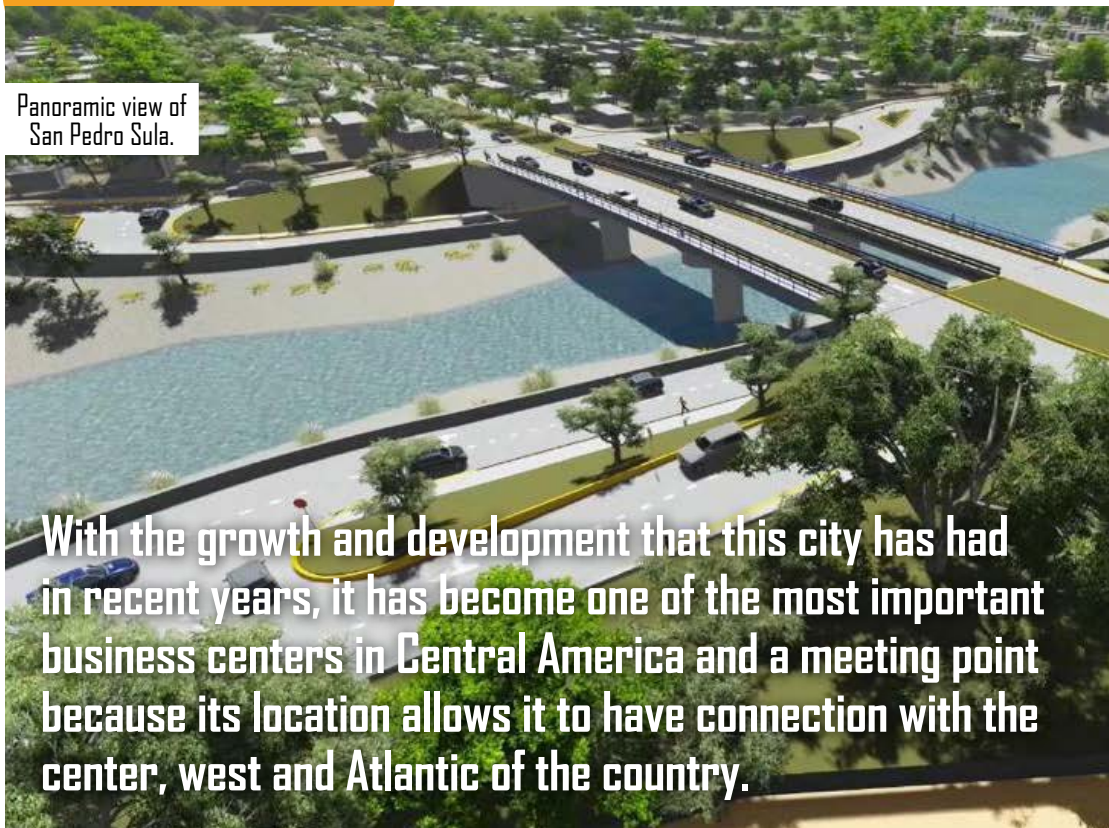
The Chamber of Tourism and the Convention Bureau work hand in hand for the development of business tourism. On your next business visit, don't forget to visit the city.



## FACT

It has more than 3000 rooms to accommodate domestic and foreign tourists visiting the city.

Panoramic view of San Pedro Sula.



With the growth and development that this city has had in recent years, it has become one of the most important business centers in Central America and a meeting point because its location allows it to have connection with the center, west and Atlantic of the country.





Lawyer Esly Lobo, new director of the UTH campus.

# Esly Lobo new director of the UTH in Roatan

The new campus will be located in the French Cay sector on the road to the municipality of Santos Guardiola.



University authorities supervising the construction area.

**L**awyer by profession with more than 17 years working for the main educational center of the island of Roatan. Esly Lobo has broken

barriers and has demonstrated true female empowerment by becoming the new director of the Technological University of Honduras.

Who is Esly Lobo? She is a primary education teacher, with a degree in legal and social sciences, a master's degree, and a member of the honorable bar association Roatán chapter. She recalls her beginnings on the campus: "I heard about the selection of teachers to start activities in Roatan, there was no university in this area, and it was explained to me that many young people had to go to other departments to study, that motivated me to want to cooperate. I went to the selection of personnel, and they hired me for Honduran History classes."

Subsequently, he began to offer classes in Introduction to Law. Later, the university opened the careers of business management and tourism.

Faced with the need of the young people of the island to have access to university studies, she decided to stay to cooperate for a while and became more involved to the point that she ended up living in this island department.

In her career at the university campus she has excelled as a teacher, director of the law program, director of the legal office and today director of the UTH Roatán campus.

Among the challenges facing the new authority is the completion of the UTH University building, which will have its own facilities on the island of Roatan. She recently received the commission of the Higher Education Council CES, the Higher Education Directorate DES and representatives of UNACIFOR and UNITEC, in order to verify the current campus facilities.

She also presented the prospects of the new building that will house the structure of the Roatán Campus.

As the new director, she thanked the commitment of the collaborators of the Roatán and La Ceiba campuses, and the valuable presence of Dr. Edgardo Enamorado, Dr. Jesús Mora and Mr. Ortiz, who made valuable contributions to this mission.

The educational center currently has 702 students

The four careers currently offered are: tourism, business management, and law, with the possibility of opening soon the careers of psychology and accounting.

The new campus will be located in the French Cay sector on the road to the municipality of Santos Guardiola.





Students from La Casa de la Cultura who participated in the exhibition.



# Students from La Casa de la Cultura held an art exhibition

On August 3, the students of La Casa de la Cultura held an important art exhibition with the technique of acrylic on canvas, in the facilities of Mall Megaplaza.

This activity was available from 5 to 9 pm and was carried out thanks to the participation of the teacher Nancy Serrano and her students, who showed the public more than 40 works with the technique, which were bought by the people who attended; being this a great help for the students, since with that income they buy new materials.

It is important to point out that all the activities carried out by La Casa de la Cultura are free of charge, since it seeks to strengthen the educational system, due to the fact that the public schools on the island only have two art teachers, so the young people lack professional training in the area; however, thanks to the musical concerts, art exhibitions and others that are held every three months, it manages to strengthen the system.

In this regard, La Casa de la Cultura thanks Mall Megaplaza for providing the space to hold the event, and also thanked RoatanToday, parents and the general public for their support.



Student exhibiting their artwork.



Acrylic works on canvas.



# Women victims of violence will be able to attend a shelter in San Pedro Sula

\*An immediate response will be given to women and their families who are victims of domestic violence.

**W**ith the purpose of assisting women victims of domestic violence and safeguarding their lives, Mayor Roberto Contreras and the ad honorem director of EcoSocial, Zoila de Contreras, opened Casa Refugio in San Pedro Sula.

In March of this year, Mayor Roberto Contreras and the Minister of the Secretariat of State in the Office of Women's Affairs (SEMujER), Doris Garcia, signed the Inter-institutional Cooperation Agreement for the reopening of this care center. The Municipality of Sampedrana will implement programs of attention, integral protection and prevention of violence against women and their children at the shelter. Mayor Contreras said that as part of the program of the Management of Support to the Provision of Social and EcoSocial Services, the Shelter House was inaugurated in the city, which is fully equipped. "For the safety of women victims of violence the place where the house is located is not given and this is part of a project in which we will establish five shelters for battered women to receive comprehensive care," said the mayor. He added that the victims of violence will receive psychological help, food and 24/7 attention, adding that "with this project we support battered women". He explained that they have the support of the National Police, the Women's Prosecutor's Office, the Courts and the Central Government, among

other entities in charge of providing security to abused women. The shelter will provide an immediate response to women and their families who are victims of domestic violence, offering them protection measures and therefore a better quality of life. In order to set up the shelter, the municipal authorities held several meetings with representatives of the entities involved in the issue of violence against women and children.



## FACT

The reopening of the shelter house was attended by the manager of Support to the Provision of Social Services, Armando Antúnez, representatives of the National Police, the Women's Prosecutor's Office and the Secretary of State in the Office of Women's Affairs.



Inauguration of the shelter in San Pedro Sula.



GOOD NEWS ROATAN

# Roatan Municipal Mayor thanks USAID for its support to young islanders

The municipal mayor of Roatan Ron McNab thanked the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), on behalf of the community of Roatan for the delivery of Entrepreneurship Kits to young people who completed the business plan course (Identifying the business idea, analyzing the market, starting the business, resource management, sales and promotion). Executed by USAID through its project "Creando Mi Futuro Aqui" (Creating My Future Here), together with the municipal corporation. These entrepreneurship kits will help young people to start their small businesses and grow economically.



Mayor of Roatán thanking USAID.

# Roatán celebrates festivities in commemoration of black English heritage



Festivities in honor of the English heritage on the island of Roatan.

The island of Roatan has been holding festivities in honor of its English heritage since August 1st. All three islands have programmed activities, but Roatan has dedicated several of them to community leaders who left a historical legacy, such as the one in memory of Professor Martel Whatler. A day of festivities was dedicated to him for his great contribution to the cultural development of the island of Roatán.



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# 260 couples have been married in the month of August in San Pedro Sula

More than 260 couples have been married by civil ceremony, as part of the second edition of the Cana Weddings, promoted by Mayor Roberto Contreras



Couples getting married.

**A** Salvadoran and a Honduran woman are among the couples who have already married. \*The ecclesiastical weddings will take place on September 30 at the Ebenezer Church of Christ. The legal weddings continue in the Municipality of Sampedrana, as part of the second edition of the Cana Weddings, promoted by Mayor Roberto Contreras, with the aim of strengthening family unity. Of the 940 couples who have registered for the Wedding at Cana, about 260 couples have already been married by civil ceremony in Plaza las Banderas, where daily marriage ceremonies take place.

The couples participating in this project are from the municipalities of Choloma, Potrerillo, Villanueva, La Ceiba, Tegucigalpa, Choluteca, Nacaome, Santa Rosa de Copán and also from abroad. Fátima Videa, in charge of marriages of the Municipality of San Pedro Sula, said that they already have 940 couples registered for the Wedding at Cana, to be held on September 30. She said that the ages of the registered couples range from 18 to 79 years old, but most of them are between 25 and 35 years old. Videa indicated that they already married the first international couple formed by a Salvadoran and a Honduran, adding that Mayor Roberto Contreras is helping to unify the families. The couple formed by Manuel Peña and Alejandra Salguero, who got married Wednesday morning at Plaza las Banderas, expressed their gratitude to Mayor Roberto Contreras for giving them this opportunity to get married. About the Wedding at Cana, Peña said that it is a very nice project which benefits many couples who have decided to take a big step in their lives. For their part, the couple Bayron Alexis López and Sonia Cruz said that thanks to Mayor Roberto Contreras they were able to get married for only one lempira. He said that “the project (Bodas de Cana) is perfect because with only one lempira you can get married and save a lot and many couples are getting married”.

## FACT

Couples have until August 31 to submit their documentation at the Municipal Secretariat.



OTHER NEWS

# Guanaja Health Center conducts cleaning campaign for children

**W**ith the objective of maintaining better oral health in the children of the island, the Integral Health Center (CIS) of Guanaja El Cayo, conducted a dental brigade for children attending the Pedro Nufio Pre Basic Center, located in the town of El Cayo. With this day we seek to raise awareness from the school age of infants, how important it is

to have a good oral hygiene, which helps us to stay healthy. Dental cleanings help to keep teeth protected, without tartar, plaque or bacteria. In addition, the enamel, all this translates into healthy teeth against oral diseases such as periodontal diseases. Fifteen third graders participated in this extra-mural activity. They benefited from topical fluoride application, dental evaluation and educational talks to maintain strong teeth and a nice smile.



Children receiving oral treatment.

## CICESCT presents recognition to the President of the National Congress Luis Redondo for his fight against human trafficking.



Head of Cigest Sua Martínez delivering recognition to the president of the congress.

**T**he head of CICESCT, Sua Martinez delivered a recognition to the president of the National Congress of the Republic, Luis Redondo for his hard work executed from the legislative branch in the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation, during the last two years. It is important to mention that the National Congress has given enormous support to the Commission in its different activities in prevention and attention to victims of human trafficking. "I congratulate the work of Sua Martinez for her hard work at the head of this noble institution, together we are taking important steps to raise awareness, provide support and work towards a better future where every child can grow up in a safe environment," concluded the president of the National Congress Luis Redondo.

During his speech, he also joined to promote the film "The Sound of Silence" giving ten theaters nationwide to publicize the reality that thousands of people live worldwide, when they are captured by these networks of traffickers who subdue them and snatch their freedom.

CICESCT continues to make a call to the general population, therefore, if you know of any case of this crime, please report it to the corresponding authorities by calling 911, or to the CICESCT immediate response line 504-8990-5187.



# August is family month

The family will always be the foundation of society. A man's triumph begins in his home life.

**E**ach family is different, each one has different characteristics. Some are big and others are girls, some are funny and others are more serious, but there is something they all have in common: love.

The family is the first social nucleus that we know, in which we learn to love with our hearts. The family also accepts us and loves us no matter what, so it doesn't hurt to be grateful for everything we do for each other as a family. 34 phrases for united and happy families that will excite you.

