



Utila East Wind

Issue no. 2
Bay Islands, Honduras

June, 2005

Dedicated to Utila

Blue
Pages



Killer Whales
Off Utila!

Pg 9



Chamber
Fees
Explained

Pg 9

Manta
Rescue

Pg 9



Bank Fiasco... Will New ATM Help?

The BGA bank on Utila is clearly struggling to accommodate its increasing volume of transactions.

Queuing starts an hour before opening and people are forced to wait for hours. "I've been here for three hours, it takes about 25 minutes to serve one person" said one customer. "They could at least open all the tell-

ers, it might speed things up a little," he said, but it appears staff shortages make this impossible.

Pregnant women and the elderly receive priority but still face long waiting times.

"People ask me to come to the bank for them because I can do it quicker, but now I have to wait longer and longer and its not worth it" said a pregnant cus-

tomor.

UPCO electricity payments have made up the bulk of transactions since the pre pay metre system was established in 2003.

The bank insists upon handling these payments to ensure they receive their share of UPCO profits.

The company owe them monthly installments for the 1.89 million dollar

loan they took out with the bank two years ago.

Ms. Vilmer Reye, public relations officer in La Ceiba said, "We are aware of the problems faced in Utila and are installing an ATM within the next two weeks in order to help resolve the situation".

It will not be possible however to pay for electricity through the ATM.

Many Utilians are concerned that the extent of the situation is not fully recognised by governing bodies on the mainland.

Ricardo Flores, General Manager for UPCO has offered another solution.

"We are willing to pay for installation and software for an additional payment point in Bush Supermarket," he said.

This service would be available from
Cont. on pg.3



Special Forces Lead Manhunt

Pg. 2



“ I thought they were going to kill me ”
Pg. 4



Shannon Campbells House on Fire

Fire Destroys House

Billowing smoke alerted the island to the raging inferno that was Miss Shannon Campbells house at Tradewind properties on the evening of Friday the 27th.

In a mad rush people swarmed to the scene to witness the wooden house burn to cinders as firefighters struggled to control the blaze.

Brave Ms. Campbell looked on tearfully as she recounted the chain of events, "I had just put a frozen chicken in the oven for my future son in law and walked over to chat with my neighbours briefly when we saw the smoke".

After rushing back to discover the plasterboard behind the oven on fire, very close to two propane tanks, Ms. Campbell only managed to salvage her bag, and land documents and passport from the drawer before running out of the house.

"Three minutes later there was a massive explosion and the fire turned into a blazing inferno, spewing out thick black smoke," she recalled.

Members of the community rallied to-

gether to assist the fire department in extinguishing the flames.

Mr Johnny Hinds, who owns the house just four metres away was also concerned for the safety of his own home as the intense heat melted the gutters and cracked the glass in his windows.

Luckily the wind changed direction and the threat diminished.

Mr. Hinds' tenant, Mr. Warren Cowling looked on anxiously from his balcony as Mr. Bush cut through his outside pipeline to access a further water supply.

Inside Mr. Cowlings home smelt of a sauna as a result of the heat, "I have been dousing the walls with water in an effort to fend off the flames," he exclaimed.

Mrs. Campbell had recently brought furniture for her new business and was busy painting it inside the house.

Everything was lost save for her electricity meter and the clothes she was wearing.

50 minutes after it began the fire was tamed and the hoards gathered on the beach made their way home.

Cont. on pg. 5

Hurricane Season



Pg. 6

Articulos
en Español

Inside

Municipality Talks	3	Dear Dr John	14	Letters to the Editor	17	Cinema Listings	18
Restaurant and Bar Guide	13	Just Kids	14	Classifieds	17	Out and About	19
Hotel Guide	13	Puzzles	14	Horoscopes	18	Sport	20