

Saturday, November 10, 2007

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*We have great neighbors. We noticed Sammy sloth the other day,
climbing up a tree in our backyard, looking for his next meal.
See that orange and black patch on his back?
That's the identifying mark for a male of this species. Sammy it is.
Howdy, neighbor!*

RECENT NEWS

What is a Bribri weatherman like? Read the answer below. Doctors here, doctors there – the situation isn't fare. The Bribri kids are busy making book! A shameless sales pitch – when the going gets tough, the tough go GoodShopping!

WEATHER FORECAST ***Jungle Style***

For some weeks now, we – and the town of Puerto Viejo – have been out of water. No water in the faucets, no water in the toilets... no water at all. So it came as a great relief when we got a weather forecast recently.

Now, in the US, we sit down in front of the TV and watch satellite photos, weather maps, and hear an expertly trained person give a forecast.

Here, we had an older Bribri Indian look at the ground... watching a column of ants –

He looked down at the ants, held his hand on his chin, bent down for a closer look and noticed that every ant was carrying an egg... and made his forecast:

“It’s really going to rain.”

A couple of days later, it rained... and rained... and RAINED! YAY!

If you’ve never seen a column of ants moving, it might be fun to see – click on this link and let your video player give you a quick look www.elpuente-thebridge.org/video/bribri_forecast.mov

DOCTORS HERE, DOCTORS THERE

Recently, we reported that Don Candido’s land, which he was renting for his garden of medicinal plants, was in trouble. The owner, an older woman, wanted to sell it, and had been approached by two “rich gringos” who offered her \$48,000 for the land. As luck would have it, the land was saved by bureaucracy. When the title search was done, it was discovered that the land was within the borders of the indigenous reserve. Not only could she not sell it, but because she is not indigenous, she can’t live there either. The government will pay her the official value of the land - \$7,000, and then she has to move out.

Candido needed to go to San José with the documents granting him title to the property, to make sure they were valid – his land, as well, was on the Bribri reserve. He needed to come up with the \$60 or so it would take for bus fare and an overnight stay in a hotel to make the trip. He took up a collection. We helped.

On his return, he was all smiles – the documents were OK! His house – and the garden – are now secure!

It Doesn’t Seem Fare

Thinking about this, I felt a twinge of sadness. This man has been regularly curing people we’ve brought to him – people with terminal or serious diseases – using medicinal plants. He’s producing what some would describe as “spectacular results”. Yet he has to take up a collection for bus fare.

His colleagues in the US are “enjoying” a different form of reputation. Consider this snippet from the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*

“The U.S. health care system may contribute to poor health or death. According to Dr. Barbara Starfield of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, 250,000 deaths per year are caused by medical errors, making this the third-largest cause of death in the U.S., following heart disease and cancer. “

Yet I have a hard time envisioning a doctor in the US having to take up a collection for bus fare.

It doesn’t seem fare...

BRIBRI KIDS MAKE BOOK

It’s not what you’re thinking. It’s a VERY rainy day, and Don Candido’s class on medicinal plants has been cancelled.

We have a few kids hanging around. Here’s the scene this Saturday morning...

Nanci set them to the task of drawing outline pictures of jungle animals – of the type that might be used in coloring book.

They were asked to sketch the animals, and then write their names – both in Spanish, and in Bribri.

Alejandro, Mauricio, Irene, and Maria drawing pictures of animals

By the way – see those leaves lying on the ground outside the porch? In an earlier issue of the newsletter, I mentioned that “banana trees are notorious for simply falling over...”. Some of the Bribri planted a banana tree in our yard and, in a very heavy rainstorm last night, it – simply fell over! The bananas it was growing were too small to harvest – we’ll see if it can be stood aright and tied up.

WE INTERRUPT THIS NEWSLETTER FOR A SHAMELESS SALES PITCH

Avoid those long lines, and – put your Christmas shopping dollars to work!

If you can listen to an audio file from the internet, then listen to Barry as he makes the pitch by [clicking on this link now](#) – the Windows media player (or whatever media player you use) should do the rest. I hope you have as much fun listening as I had making the “pitch”.

If listening to the audio file is too difficult, here’s the script!

It’s that time of year again – the stores are filled with shoppers looking for those special gifts. Over the years I remember spending hours shoulder-to-shoulder with other shoppers, trying to get it all done.

Today, right here in the e-pages of our newsletter, we’re announcing a cure for the infamous malady known as “Christmas Shopping Crunch”. No more long lines! No more tired feet!

Shop online at GoodShop! You can buy goods from 35 brand-name stores online, and have it shipped to your home, or even delivered to the lucky intended recipient of the gift.

But wait... there’s **more!**

When you buy now, from GoodShop, the stores have pledged a donation to El Puente. The amount will range from 0.5% to 35%, depending on the store!

What stores are involved in this outstanding offer? Names you’ll recognize!

1-800-flowers.com	Fandango	Kodak Easy Share	Pet Smart
Amazon.com(soon)	Gap	Kohls	Sears
Apple Store	Guess	Land's End	Sephora
Barnes & Noble	Half.com	Macy's	Staples
Best Buy	Home Depot	Nike	Target
Buy.com	Hotels.com	Nordstrom	Travelocity
Circuit City	HP	Old Navy	Wal-Mart
Drugstore.com	HSN	Oriental Trading Company	Zappos
ebay.com	iTunes	Overstock.com	

Forget all about standing in lines in crowded stores! Get on the Internet! Send some flowers to that special someone! Buy some new sneakers! Get that Plasma TV you’ve been thinking about! Find something exciting on eBay! Track down those hard-to-find titles at Barnes & Noble!

...and feel really good about supporting the programs of The Bridge with the donations that result...
...when you shop online at GoodShop... NOW!

Excited? Ready to get started?

Visit our website at www.elpuente-thebridge.org and click on "GoodShop".

Get started TODAY!

You'll be *glad* you did!

And now, back to our regularly scheduled newsletter!

YOU CAN HELP US!

Send this email to two people you know who might also enjoy it.

If they like it, they can sign up with us directly!

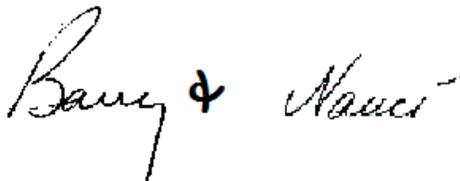
VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Thank you for your support!

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!



IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES

...go to www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly and download the file with the date of this issue.

Go to The Bridge Website by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to The Bridge Online Store by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Download a Powerpoint presentation and a brochure by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to the newsletter archive by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Here's some Video clips showing activities at The Bridge:

[Nanci and Alejandro working together to serve lunch on the porch](#)

[Daniel, Barry, and Alejandro setting up for the movie](#)

[Watching the movie: this day, "Winnie The Pooh" in Spanish](#)

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