







## Editorial



### Back In Love Again!

Being away from the hustle and bustle of Belize City for almost 15 years somehow changed my perspective on a city where I was born and raised, a city I once loved.

On the occasions I managed to drop in, it would be for a couple hours at a time, during which I went about my shopping being very guarded and somewhat scared. Purse clutched tight against my chest, chain tucked into my clothing, heart racing constantly, always expecting to be jacked, and mauled, harassed, anything bad period.

Daily news reports would always give the impression that the city is one of the worst places to grow up, to walk the streets, to hang out, to simply exist, especially the South Side!

For years I allowed those reports to mar my judgement. I didn't want to be in the city longer than necessary, worse of all I stayed completely clear of South Side Belize City. I didn't want my children attending any functions, I worried about family members left behind, I

simply feared Belize City.

Well, circumstances changed. This North Side girl/late Cayo girl, finds herself moving back to the city and living in the heart of South Side, where all the supposedly horrible things happen.

For weeks, I kept all the windows and doors closed, worrying that we might get shot! Or worse we might become victims of a home invasion! Thinking back, it all seems so hilarious now.

A couple months went by, and I came to realize that not only is my neighbourhood very peaceful and calm, I'm surrounded by neighbours who live the same way I remember growing up. Children play in the streets and they belong to everybody, chores are shared with neighbourhood children and there is no rudeness or disrespect from them. Mothers and fathers work long hours to provide only the very best for their children and if they fall short, guess what, other neighbours chip in.

My boys have new friends, friends you know will last them a lifetime. Neighbourhood children gather

during the day and play till the wee hours of the night, all guarded by hawk-eyed parents sitting on verandas or very close nearby windows.

Laundry is left on clotheslines, balls and bicycles from the days play are strewn about in yards, and guess what, they are all in the same spot when you wake up in the morning.

I feel a sense of nostalgia being back in the city. Things like visiting the nearest panades shop and sitting down to those greasy little treats simply take me back, taking the children to BTL Park and just sitting and talking to them for hours on end enjoying the sea breeze is priceless. Late nights spent with friends hanging

out on the seawalls that line our coast is breath-taking.

I'm not going to say that crime doesn't exist, but crime exists everywhere, worldwide. All I'm saying, is that the few incidents that are being reported on the news, doesn't encompass all those honest to goodness decent people living in the city, especially all those living on the South Side.

We have beautiful homes, strong family values, we encourage all our children to dream big and work hard. There is a sense of ownership in what happens to our children. We are the products of Belize City, a city that really hasn't changed very much, a city that has me back in love again!

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# Gas Price Goes Down Despite Increase in Duty

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, February 25, 2016:

Motorist who visited the gas station on Thursday, February 25, were happy to find out that gas prices had gone down for Premium and Regular Gasoline. On Thursday Premium gasoline went to eight dollars and ninety-nine cents, down thirty-one cents from the previous price of nine dollars and thirty. Regular gasoline now stands at seven dollars and ninety-eight cents, down thirty-two cents from eight dollars and thirty cents. Therefore, it was a joyful day at the pumps across the country. However, that joy was accompanied with a sense of disappointment when they learnt that the price could have been even lower.

On Tuesday, February 23, the Ministry of Finance apprised the Cabinet of the continued, significant decrease in domestic crude oil production and the slump in tax



revenues and royalties. The Ministry made recommendations for immediate compensatory adjustments to the duties levied upon imported fuel products.

Consequently, Cabinet approved

an increase of 40 cents per gallon on Premium Gasoline, 30 cents per gallon on Regular Gasoline and 80 cents per gallon on Diesel Oil. Fortunately for consumers, the acquisition cost of fuel

decreased so much for the importer that pump prices will still go down.

In a release from the Government of Belize, they break down the effect that global oil prices is having on fuel consumers and the Belize petroleum industry. The release says that the projected windfall savings to Belizean consumers, estimated at more than BZ\$163 million this year compared to 2014 and the reduction by 60% in government's fuel import bill as compared to that same period. At current import prices, the approved tax adjustments to date ensure that consumers continue to keep in excess of two thirds or more than \$100 million of this windfall savings. Even when global per barrel prices peaked at US\$147 per barrel in 2009 and remained at elevated levels until recently, Belize's economy achieved steady, sustained growth.

Cabinet says that because the price of fuel products is likely to vary with each shipment, *"the Ministry expects that there may be a substantial downward adjustment in the coming weeks."*

## Consumer Prices Increase Marginally In January



airfares, served to offset the increases observed in the other types of fuel during the month.

Within the *"Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages"* category, the prices of food items saw an overall increase of 1.8 percent for January 2016. Higher prices were observed across all types of meats, eggs, fresh fruits, sugar and vegetables. Prices for Red Kidney beans, however, remained well below what they were

SAN IGNACIO, Cayo, Thursday, February 25, 2016:

The prices of goods and services purchased by Belizean households increased marginally, by an average of 0.4 percent, during the month of January 2016. The Statistical Institute of Belize's latest statistics on consumer prices show that the All Items Consumer Price Index stood at 103.2, up from 102.7 in January 2015.

Prices within the *"Transport"* category dropped by 3.3 percent despite an increase in the sub-category of Fuel. The average price of premium gasoline was up by 15.4 percent when compared to same month last year, while that of regular was 7.7 percent higher. Only diesel saw a decrease in its average price per gallon, declining by 9 percent during the period. The decline in diesel prices, combined with a 39 percent decrease in international

in January of 2015, decreasing by 24.3 percent.

The category of *"Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels"* recorded an average increase of 0.7 percent compared to January 2015. While home rental prices rose by 1.9 percent, this was offset by decreases in electricity tariffs and prices for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). In the case of the latter, the average price of a 100-pound cylinder fell by over \$20 from \$105 in January 2015 to \$84 in January 2016.

Across the seven municipalities, Dangriga continued to record the highest inflation rate, with consumer prices rising on average by 4 percent. This was as a result of this municipality having the highest increases in food and home rental prices. Belmopan, on the other hand, saw the greatest decline in consumer prices, with an inflation rate of negative 1.3 percent.

## Police Remove Drugs And Firearm Off Santa Elena Streets



.38 Special Revolver Taurus Brand Pistol

SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Sunday, February 21, 2016:

In recent weeks, Cayo police have increased searches of hot spots in the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena to take illicit materials off the streets.

At about 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 21, police conducted a search in an open lot in the Hot Point area, St. Lucia Street in Santa Elena Town. The search was based on information received. This led to the discovery of a black .38 Special Revolver Taurus brand pistol with brown wooden pistol grip and serial number VG961440. The pistol contained four live rounds of .38 ammunition and one .38 expended shell. It was concealed between some old zinc. No one was in the immediate vicinity; therefore, the

firearm and ammunition were labeled and deposited as found property. However, several persons have been detained pending investigations.

Then at about 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22, police were conducting mobile patrol on Santa Lucia Street, Santa Elena Town when they conducted a search in the area of an abandoned trailer. There police retrieved a black plastic bag containing 704 grams of Cannabis. No one was in the area so the drugs was labeled and deposited as *"Found Property"*.

*The More You Read The More You Learn!*



## Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

### ARIES:

#### March 22 to April 20

Life is a mixed message for you right now because you are in limbo. Your personal year is ending and you are waiting for your new year to begin; and this time of waiting is not easy for the Aries warrior who likes action! In fact, it can be maddening! Fortunately, friendships with younger people and artistic, creative types are rewarding. You don't even mind the disputes about shared property, taxes, debt and such. The upside being that this same influence pumps your sex drive. And yes, job opportunities continue to be great and will continue -- so grab this chance while you have it. This blessing will not return again until 2027. **Lucky numbers: 03, 14, 29.**

### TAURUS:

#### April 21 to May 21

This is a lovely, popular time for you! Even your interactions with bosses and VIPs are full of bright, warm moments. They think you're clever! Some of you might begin a friendship or a romance with your boss or someone in a position of authority. Quite likely, someone will seek out your advice or recommendations about how to make something look more attractive. It's wonderful to enjoy these warm relations with others because admittedly, partnerships and close friendships are tough right now. You know it; they know it. The thing to remember is that this testing time is temporary. Nothing lasts forever. **Lucky numbers: 31, 50, 63.**

### GEMINI:

#### May 22 to June 21

The Sun continues to be high in your chart making you look so good in the eyes of others, especially bosses, parents and VIPs. This is a once-a-year phenomenon, so make the most of it. Go after what you want. Make your pitch. You will be surprised at how the doors will open for you. Oh yes! Meanwhile, travel for pleasure, study plus opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine and the law will reward you. And why not? Goodness knows you are busting your buns right now working hard, as well as directing the efforts of others. Fortunately, benefits from home, family and real estate continue to bless you. **Lucky numbers: 19, 55, 80.**

### CANCER

#### June 21 to July 21

As a rule, your sign likes to travel for a reason. You're not the restless drifter that Sagittarius is. Nevertheless, many of you seem to have reason to travel now because travel opportunities abound. Likewise, others will explore their world through learning or capitalizing on

opportunities in medicine and the law. The advantage of travel right now is that you're in such a playful mood! You want to have fun! You want to explore sports, the arts, musical performances and playful times with children. And fortunately, because you will benefit from the gifts and resources of others - you can afford to do so. **Lucky numbers: 12, 43, 79.**

### LEO:

#### July 24 to August 21

This intense month continues. In fact, this is one of the most intense months of the year for you. Nothing is casual. Fortunately, relations with partners and close friends are convivial and warm. This week, you might be introduced to someone who is new and different or original in some way. This person will likely stimulate you and make you feel younger. Of course, your ability to earn money now pleases you and offsets some of the tension and challenges taking place on the home front. Continue to focus on ways to boost your income because they exist; and you can use this opportunity while you have it. Be patient with the challenges at home because they will continue for a month. And so it goes. **Lucky numbers: 32, 47, 61.**

### VIRGO:

#### August 22 to September 21

Once again, here is a reminder that you need more sleep. This is the only time of the year when this happens; and believe me - you feel it. Acknowledge your need for more rest by taking cat naps, getting to bed earlier or rising later. Paradoxically, your mental energy is bright! Your ability to converse and communicate is excellent and energetic! This week something new and fresh will surprise you at work. It could relate to a clever idea that you have or perhaps, the introduction of new technology or someone's suggestion about a better way of doing something. Things continue to go in your favour with lucky Jupiter in your sign. You are blessed! **Lucky numbers: 26, 37, 95.**

### LIBRA:

#### September 22 to October 23

This is a hard-working time for Librans, which is why you're setting such high standards for yourself. You want productivity, effectiveness and results! You are also creative this week, in fact, innovative and experimental. Trust these impulses. If a romance with someone younger begins, this will surprise you as well, but it will invigorate you. Sudden opportunities for a vacation or a chance to move ahead in the arts, the entertainment world or the hospitality industry will help you this week. Believe in your future! Lucky Jupiter will enter your sign in September for the first time since

2005. **Lucky numbers: 22, 75, 99.**

### SCORPIO:

#### October 24 to November 21

This continues to be a playful, fun-loving time for you. The best in months. Grab every opportunity for a vacation or a chance to enjoy sports, the music world, the theatre, hotels and theme parks. With fiery Mars in your sign now, you have strong energy to play and work. Your thoughts are also turning to romance. Surprise changes on the home front, perhaps with unexpected news or something that impacts a younger family member, will occur this week. Sudden repairs might be needed as well. Meanwhile, pleasure, romance, sports and fun are tops on your menu. **Lucky numbers: 33, 57, 88.**

### SAGITTARIUS:

#### November 22 to December 21

Your focus on home, family and your private life continues. This also means that you need some down time to contemplate your future. With Jupiter at the top of your chart, boosting your reputation in the eyes of others, you have to know how to harness this good fortune in the best way possible. After all, you can't waste it or let it just slip by. This opportunity comes only once every 12 years and will not return again until 2027. Since everyone see you in such a positive light right now -- how can you use this to your advantage? This is a good time to think about this because lots of bright, clever ideas are going to occur to you this week. **Lucky numbers: 09, 13, 24.**

### CAPRICORN:

#### December 22 to January 20

Your busy pace continues with an accelerated tempo. Just accept this and go with the flow because you have no choice. You're full of moneymaking ideas that are original and clever. The trick is - can you act on them? Part of you is excited about taking a chance, but another part never wants to risks your security, especially a steady job. You agree with Oscar Wilde who said, *"It's better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating."* Continue to look for travel opportunities because they exist. Likewise, this same planetary influence brings you opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine and the law. **Lucky numbers: 00, 62, 93.**

### AQUARIUS:

#### January 20 to February 18

For many reasons, money is flowing and you're happy! You have moneymaking ideas, and at the same time, you can reap benefits from the wealth and resources of others.

Yippee! Everyone wants to see your face! People also admire you now because you're fired up with enthusiasm about your career and your life path. Nothing will hold you back because this year you're going for baroque. Because the gods are with you now, and you personally are so ambitious, this is an unbeatable combination that can only bring success. **Lucky numbers: 40, 73, 94.**

### PISCES:

#### February 20 to March 21

You continue to be favoured with the Sun in your sign. However, at the end of the week, when it lines up with your ruler Neptune, you will feel confused and tired. It's as if your direction in life is unsure. Fear not because this will pass. In the bigger scheme of things, this is one of the most powerful times in your life because it's a time of harvest for you. You see what is working, and you see what is not. Act on this. Cut your losses and go with what works. You are stronger than you think and you have more support than you know. Don't hesitate to explore travel plans and opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine and the law. **Lucky numbers: 38, 48, 69.**

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# NEBL Reaches Mid-Way Point Of Regular Season

BY: Karim Juan, Commissioner  
SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo,  
Sunday, February 21, 2016:

## Ballaz beats Burgess' Belmopan Bandits

Friday saw the return of **Kurt "Chengo" Burgess** to his old home town, San Ignacio, as Cayo Western Ballaz hosted Belmopan Bandits at the Sacred Heart College Auditorium. Belmopan Bandits jumped out to an early 21 - 12 lead at the end of the first quarter, which they extended to 21 points in the second quarter, to take a 15 point lead into the locker room, 40 - 25. However, in the third quarter the home team made a huge run to cut that deficit to only 3 points, going into the fourth quarter. Cayo Western Ballaz defense and free throw shooting sealed the 67 - 60 victory, in a huge game for both teams. Cayo Western Ballaz (3-3) was led by **Elvis "Zui" Usher** with 17 points and 3 steals, complemented by his great defensive effort that sparked the come-back. **James Milton** finished with another double-double, tallying 16 points and 10 rebounds while **Brandon Flowers** and **Jamal Harris** netted 11 and 9 points respectively. Belmopan Bandits (1-4) top scorer was **Jarell Velasquez** who had the game high

with 18 points to go with 6 rebounds and 5 assists. **Nick Brown** finished with 4 three-pointers to tally 12 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals and 2 assists while **Kyle Pascascio** finished with 10 points and 5 rebounds. Cayo Western Ballaz led in points off turnovers, 21 - 10, which was instrumental in their come back, and they also dominated the paint, outscoring the Bandits 38 - 18.

## Hurricanes Continue To Destroy Teams In Its Path, Remains Undefeated

Orange Walk Running Rebels traveled to Belize City on Friday night to take on the undefeated Smart Belize Hurricanes at the Belize Elementary School gym. The home team, Smart Belize Hurricanes jumped out to an early 28 - 13 lead at the end of the first quarter, which they extended to 58 - 23 at the half. Hurricanes controlled the entire game, easily sealing up the 112 - 78 victory, while extending their winning streak to 6 games. Smart Belize Hurricanes (6-0) was anchored by big man, **Farron Louriano** who had a double-double with the game high 29 points and game high 11 boards, to go with 3 steals. **Randy Usher** finished with 21 points and 2 assists versus his old

squad, while **Akeem Watters** clocked in a double-double with 17 points and 10 boards. Rookie sensation **Glency "Coope" Lopez** netted 12 points to go with 3 boards, 3 assists and steals while **Brian White** finished the night with 8 points and 8 boards. The visiting team, Orange Walk Running Rebels (1-2) was lead by **Lupito Acosta** who sank 20 points, while the league leading scorer, **Roger Reneau**, netted 19 points to go with 8 rebounds. **Bernard Felix** and **Darren Neal** scored 11 and 10 points respectively. Smart Belize Hurricanes dominated points off turnovers, 27 - 7, while gaining a huge rebounding edge of 54 - 34.

## Griga Wins Battle Of The South Versus Independence

Dangriga Warriors traveled further south to take on Independence Thunderbolts at the Independence High School on Friday night. Dangriga Warriors gave the first punch, taking a 26 - 9 lead at the end of the first quarter, which was increased to 46 - 32 at intermission. The visitors were able to hang on to the easy 86 - 74 victory. Dangriga Warriors (3-3) was led by **Macario Augustine** who posted a monster game, with a huge double-double as he got the game high 21 points and game high 20 rebounds to go with 3 steals. **Edgar Mitchell** had another great outing with 21 points, 7 assists and 3 rebounds while **Jamir Flores** and **James Ewing** netted 12 and 11 points respectively. Independence Thunderbolts (0-6) was led by **Arnold Torres** who had 19 points and 4 rebounds, while **Dominique Guzman** finished with 15 points and 5 boards. **Alroy Foreman** scored 14 points to go with 8 rebounds and **Aaron Valerio** and **Kareem Andrews** netted 10 points each. Dangriga Warriors led the entire game, while outscoring Independence Thunderbolts 14 - 9 off the bench.

## Belmopan Bandits Bounces Back With A Win Against Orange Walk

Belmopan Bandits returned home on Saturday night to take on Orange Walk Running Rebels at the UB gymnasium in Belmopan. At the end of the first quarter, the home team had a 18 - 13 lead, which ballooned to 41 - 26 at the half. Belmopan Bandits led the entire game, handily winning 94 - 62. Belmopan Bandits (2-4) was led by **Nick Brown** who had the game high with 26 points while ripping down 10 rebounds.

**Kyle Pascascio** scored 12 points with 7 boards and **Jevaughn McKenzie** and **Stephen "Muerte" Williams** netted 11 points apiece. Orange Walk Running Rebels; (1-3) top scorer was **Leith Paulino** with 17 points and 2 rebounds, while **Roger Reneau** tallied 14 points and 5 rebounds. **Lupito Acosta** finished the night with 12 points, 6 boards and 2 assists. Belmopan Bandits doubled up Orange Walk Running Rebels on the glass, 63 - 31, and had a huge 21 - 2 advantage on second chance points.

## San Pedro Tiger Sharks Reclaimed Home Turf With A Big Win

On Saturday night San Pedro Tiger Sharks hosted Belize City No Limit at San Pedro High School. At the end of first quarter, San Pedro Tiger Sharks had a 17 - 15 lead, which they increased to 37 - 27 at the half. Belize City No Limit was able to shrink the lead to 7 points going into the fourth quarter, but the home team was able to secure the win, 83 - 70. San Pedro Tiger Sharks (5-1) was led by **Caleb Sutton** who had the game high with 30 points while grabbing 8 rebounds. **Ashton Edwards** netted 15 points while **Andrew "Bynum" Ortiz** scored 13 points while grabbing 8 rebounds and **Gene Myvett** finished with 12 points, 5 assists, 4 rebounds and 4 steals. **Michael Babbles** was the top scorer for Belize City No Limit (2-2) with 20 points and 3 rebounds while **Greg "Chippy" Rudon** scored 19 points to go with 3 boards and 2 assists. San Pedro Tiger Sharks out-rebounded Belize City No Limit, 38 - 25, while they had greater contribution off their bench, with a 33 - 16 advantage.

## Upcoming Games

**Friday at 9 p.m.** - Belmopan Bandits at Smart Belize Hurricanes  
**Saturday at 8 p.m.** - Belize City No Limit at Dangriga Warriors  
**Saturday at 8 p.m.** - Cayo Western Ballaz at Independence Thunderbolts  
**Saturday at 9 p.m.** - Smart Belize Hurricanes at Orange Walk Running Rebels

All games can be followed live on our website at [nebl.sportingpulse.net](http://nebl.sportingpulse.net), with real time box scores while the game is being played. The website also has all game scores, box scores, players and teams statistics, along with standings for the season.



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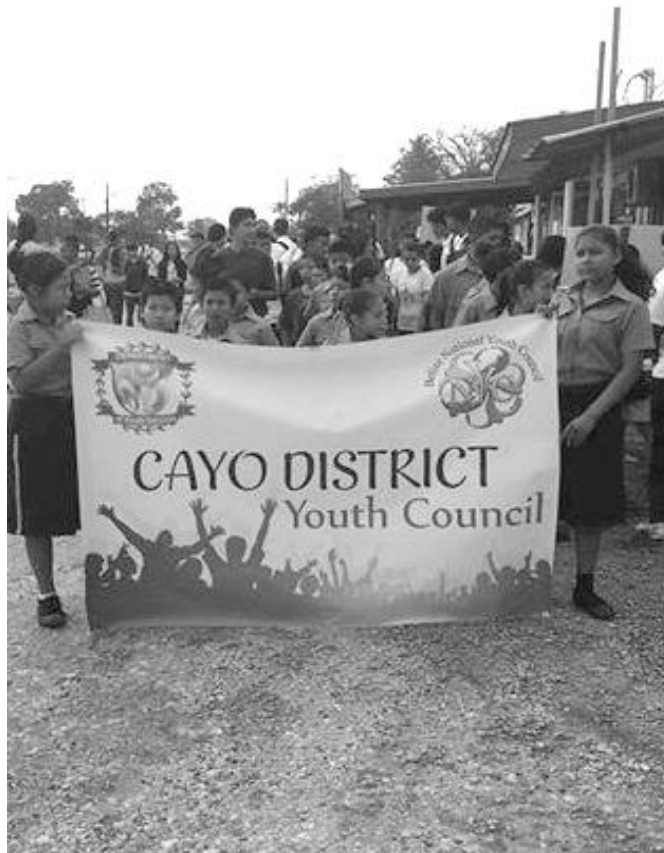
# Youths Election For Cayo District

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, February 25, 2016:**

A group of young people from the Cayo District will be electing a group of their peers to represent their voice on national issues on Monday, February 29. The District Youth Councils will be elected across the country on Monday. For Cayo, the polling station is at the Department of Youth Services office at #28 Peter August Street in Santa Elena Town. This is upstairs of the Post Office.

Young men and women in the 18 to 26 age group are vying for posts of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer of their respective District Councils. Voters are selected by youth groups registered with the Department of Youth Services. Each registered youth group was allowed to select two members as delegates for the district elections. The names had to be submitted by February 12 to allow candidates to have a two week window to make their pitch directly to voters. As mentioned earlier, most of the campaigning is being done on social media platforms. However, the Department of Youth Services is organizing youth rallies countrywide to give candidates an opportunity to address delegates in person.

According to the Department of the



**Cayo District Youth Council Rally**

Youth Services, the President is responsible to preside over all meetings of the District Youth Council and the District Youth Council Executive. He/she is responsible for the general supervision and administration of the Council and Executive. The President is a co-signatory for cheques of the District Youth Council, an ex-officio

member of all standing, special and advisory committees and have the authority to speak on behalf of the District Youth Council. She/he sits on the Executive Body of the National Youth Council and ensure that the mandates directed by the National Executive and National Council be carried out. Every President must compile, submit and present a progress report for their District Youth Council at the National Council meetings and shall

perform any other functions that are assigned to him/her from time to time by the National Council, the District Youth Council or the Council's Constitution and By-laws.

The Presidents of all District Youth Councils will make up the National Youth Council of Belize. The aim of the National Youth Council of Belize is to *"provide a platform for youth*

*voices to be heard"*. Its main responsibility is to *"ensure that the National Youth Policy is actualized and relevant to addressing the situation of adolescents and youth in Belize."* The Council will provide the opportunity for youth to participate in decision making nationally and internationally.

The President of the National Youth Council will represent Belize on the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC). The Regional Youth Council is *"the collective voice of National Youth Councils and represents the voice of youth for the Caribbean."* It was established at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Caribbean Youth Leaders Summit in 2013 with the inaugural Executive Board elected. According to CRYC, its main strategic objective is *"to secure itself as a strategic youth governance and advocacy movement with one voice, working towards regional representation, integration and cooperation as a platform for youth development."*

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## Tourism Scholarships

The Belize Tourism Board is offering scholarship opportunities to interested applicants for Tourism Programs commencing August 2016 for Full-time Students for the following degrees:

### 1. Associate Degree in Tourism (Two Year Tuition Scholarship)

Requirements: Applicants must submit a certified copy of their High School Diploma, an official transcript, two BTB recommendation forms, a page which describes your career goals and aspirations, proof of Belizean Citizenship and a copy of the acceptance letter into the **Tourism Program** for 2016 at one of the Junior Colleges or Universities offering the Tourism Program.

### 2. Bachelor Degree in Tourism Management (Two Year Tuition Scholarship)

Requirements: Applicants must submit a certified copy of their Associates Degree, an official transcript, two BTB recommendation forms, a page which describes your career goals and aspirations, proof of Belizean Citizenship and a copy of the acceptance letter into the **Tourism Management Program** at the University of Belize.

### 3. Jean Shaw Scholarship (Two Year Full Scholarship)

Requirements: Applicants must be **female** Belizean citizens wishing to pursue a Bachelor Degree in Tourism Management. Interested applicants must submit a certified copy of their Associates Degree, an official transcript, two BTB recommendation forms, a page which describes your career goals and aspirations, proof of Belizean Citizenship and a copy of the acceptance letter into the **Tourism Management Program** at the University of Belize.

### 4. Scholarship for Culinary Studies

Requirements: Applicants must submit letter of acceptance into a culinary program, an official transcript of last school attended, two BTB recommendation forms, a page which describes your career goals and aspirations and proof of Belizean Citizenship.

**Application deadline: Friday, June 24th, 2016**

For more information and application forms, please contact:

Telephone: 227-2420 or e-mail: training@travelbelize.org for electronic copies.



# STAR HUMOR

## Hello

A wife comes home late one night and quietly opens the door to her bedroom. From under the blanket, she sees four legs instead of just her husband's two. She reaches for a baseball bat and starts hitting the blanket as hard as she can. Once

she's done, she goes to the kitchen to have a drink. As she enters, she sees her husband there reading a magazine. He says, "Hi Darling, your parents have come to visit us, so I let them stay in our bedroom. Did you say hello?"

## Surprise Message

A man checked into a hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. He accidentally typed the wrong email address and without realizing, he sent the mail to a lady who had just returned from her husband's funeral.

The widow decided to check her email, expecting condolence messages from family and friends.

After reading the first message she fainted. The son rushed into the room,

found his mother on the floor and saw the computer screen which read: "To my loving wife, I know you are surprised to hear from me, they have computers here and we are allowed to send mails to loved ones. I've just been checked in. How are you and the kids? The place is really nice but I'm lonely here. I have made necessary arrangements for your arrival tomorrow. Expecting you Darling. I can't wait to see you."

## Mrs. O'Connor Divorce

"Well, Mrs. O'Connor, so you want a divorce?" the solicitor questioned his client. "Tell me about it. Do you have a grudge?"

"Oh, no," replied Mrs. O'Connor. "Sure now, we only have a carport."

The solicitor tried again. "Well, does the man beat you up?"

"No, no," said Mrs. O'Connor, looking puzzled. "I'm always first out of bed."

Still hopeful, the solicitor tried once again. "Well, does he go in for unnatural connubial practices?"

"Sure now, he plays the flute, but

I don't think he knows anything about the connubial."

Now desperate, the solicitor pushed on. "What I'm trying to find out are what grounds you have."

"Bless you, sir. We live in a flat -- not even a window box, let alone grounds."

"Mrs. O'Connor," the solicitor said in considerable exasperation, "you need a reason that the court can consider. What is the reason for you seeking this divorce?"

"Ah, well now," said the lady, "Sure it's because the man can't hold an intelligent conversation."

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# Belizeans Stuck in Chetumal Due To Riot

CHETUMAL, Quintana Roo, Mexico, Wednesday, February 24, 2016:

Belizeans travel to Chetumal daily for business, shopping and leisure activities. Rarely do they encounter difficulties because the municipality is now primarily a “tourism town” and Belizeans spend millions of dollars there each year. Wednesday, February 24, 2016 was one of those rare days when Belizeans experienced difficulties in Chetumal, indirectly.

As Belizeans were making their way home, they were blocked by protestors staging a demonstration against law enforcement authorities. Unconfirmed reports are that residents of the Subteniente Lopez community have been complaining for weeks about unreasonable checkpoints set up in the area that result in extremely long lines for motorists trying to get home after a long days work. Reports are that it sometimes take up to an hour and a half to get pass a one mile stretch due to traffic backed up by an “unnecessary and unwanted”

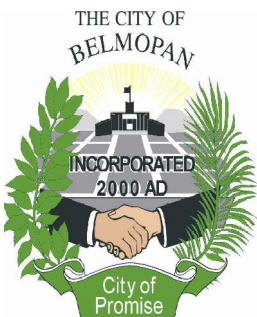


checkpoint. Residents started a petition that was signed by thousands of supporters. That petition was presented to local authorities but no response was given. By Wednesday, residents had taken all they could and an adhoc protest was launched.

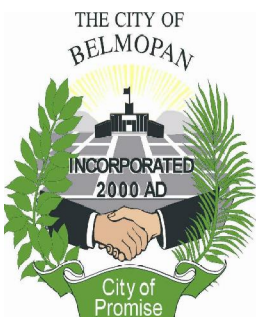
The residents blocked the roads

with their vehicle making it impossible for vehicles on both sides of the road to pass. This road leads to the Belize border; therefore, Belizeans could not get home while the protest was ongoing. The protestors made their statement and the authorities finally listened. Shortly after 8 p.m.

Belize time the road was cleared and normal movement was possible. By this time some Belizeans had already returned towards Chetumal for hotel accom0dations. Details of the agreement between the authorities and protestors have not be revealed.



## The Belmopan City Council Advises Motorists



**Price Center Road Junction with South Ring Road Closed Effective Tuesday February 16, 2016**  
**Alternate Route Shown**  
**Junction to be reopened February 26, 2016**





# Johnson & Johnson Hit With \$72m Damages In Talc Cancer Case

BBC NEWS, From the section US & Canada, Wednesday, February 25, 2016:

A jury in the US state of Missouri has ordered Johnson & Johnson (J&J) to pay \$72m (£51m) to the family of a woman who claimed her death was linked to use of the company's Baby Powder talc.

Jackie Fox from Birmingham, Alabama died of ovarian cancer last year, aged 62, having used the talc for decades.

Her family argued that the firm knew of talc risks and failed to warn users.

J&J denied the claim and is said to be considering an appeal. Researchers say links with ovarian cancer are unproven.

A company spokeswoman said: *"We have no higher responsibility than the health and safety of consumers, and we are disappointed with the outcome of the trial."*

*"We sympathise with the plaintiff's family but firmly believe the safety of cosmetic talc*



Getty Images

*is supported by decades of scientific evidence."*

### Other cases pending

The verdict at the end of the three-week trial was the first time damages have been awarded by a US jury over talc claims.

More than 1,000 similar cases are pending nationwide and lawyers said thousands more could now be filed.

There have been concerns for years that using talcum powder, particularly on the genitals, may increase the risk

of ovarian cancer.

But the evidence is not conclusive. The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies talc used on the genitals as *"possibly carcinogenic"* because of the mixed evidence.

### Why is there any debate?

The mineral talc in its natural form does contain asbestos and does cause cancer, however, asbestos-free talc has been used in baby powder and other cosmetics since the 1970s. But the studies on asbestos-free talc give contradictory results.

It has been linked to a cancer risk in some studies, but there are concerns that the research may be biased as they often rely on people remembering how much talc they used years ago. Other studies have argued there is no link at all and there is no link between talc in contraceptives such as diaphragms and condoms (*which would be close to the ovaries*) and cancer.

Also there does not seem to be a *"dose-response"* for talc, unlike with known carcinogens like tobacco where the more you smoke, the greater the risk of lung cancer.

### What should women do?

The charity Ovacome says there is no definitive evidence and that the worst-case scenario is that using talc increases the risk of cancer by a third.

But it adds: *"Ovarian cancer is a rare disease, and increasing a small risk by a third still gives a small risk. So even if talc does increase the risk slightly, very few women who use talc will ever get ovarian cancer."*

The jury in Ms Fox's case

deliberated for five hours before finding Johnson & Johnson liable for fraud, negligence and conspiracy.

The award constituted \$10m in damages and \$62m in punitive damages.

*"This case clearly was a bellwether and clearly the jury has seen the evidence and found it compelling,"* said Stanford University law professor Nora Freeman Engstrom. *"The jury was distressed by the company's conduct."*

However, she said the size of the award was unlikely to survive.

*"Big jury verdicts do tend to be reined in during the course of the appellate process and I expect that to be the case here,"* she said.

'Small risk'

Cancer Research UK says evidence for a link between talc use and ovarian cancer is *"still uncertain"*.

*"Even if there is a risk it is likely to be fairly small,"* the charity says.

Ovarian cancer charity Ovacome says causes of the disease are still unknown but are likely to be *"a combination of many different inherited and environmental factors, rather than one cause such as talc"*.

It says that in 2003, results of 16 studies involving 12,000 women showed that using talc increased the risk of ovarian cancer by around a third, and that a 2013 review of US studies involving 18,000 women had similar results for genital, but not general, talcum powder use.

However, it warns that studies of this type *"can suffer from bias"* and there were *"uncertainties"* around the results.

*"A large well-designed American study in 2000 involving nearly 80,000 women found no link between using talc and the risk of ovarian cancer,"* it says.

The charity says that even if using talc does raise the ovarian cancer risk by a third, *"to put it into context, smoking and drinking increases the risk of oesophageal cancer by 30 times"*.



## BLANCANEUX LODGE Employment Opportunity For: Horse Handler/Riding Instructor

Blancaneaux Lodge is seeking placement for a Horse Handler/Riding Instructor with previous horse guiding experience, horsemanship skills and a strong communication skills. Riding instructors must work with both animals and people which requires a delicate but firm balance.

### Expectations and Responsibilities Include:

- \* A solid work ethic, a skill for routine tasks and love of outdoors are essential fundamentals needed
- \* Attentiveness to daily behavior of horses and monitoring health risks
- \* Experience as a riding instructor
- \* Perform daily feeding, exercising and grooming
- \* Teaching general horsemanship principles and skills
- \* Teaching students to ride in groups or individual lessons
- \* Teach riding through a variety of methods of inexperienced or experienced riders
- \* Assist with getting feed, attending trails for horses and equipment maintenance
- \* Provide feedback to management regarding needs and changes for improvement and benefit of work environment, horses, stables upkeep and trails

### Requirements:

- All applicants must have a current: Tour Guide License, Senior First Aid Certificate, Driver's License and Police Clearance Certificate
- Serious applicants with at least 3 years of experience in the field as horse handler/guide are preferred; though training will be conducted based on services provided with position out of resort
- Applicants who are bi-lingual (English and Spanish) is an asset
- Willingness to comply with company regulations and occasionally stay on premises with rotating schedule

If you have the ability to work with animals and people simultaneously and provide attention to detail which are fundamental aspects of a good riding instructor and horse handler, please send your resume to:

Human Resources Manager  
The Family Coppola Resorts  
#84 Burns Avenue, San Ignacio  
Cayo District, Belize. C.A  
[humanresources@blancaneaux.com](mailto:humanresources@blancaneaux.com)  
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# Belize Water Services Limited

## VACANCY: Operations Area Manager

**BWS** invites interested professionals to apply. The Area Manager will assist the Operations Manager to plan, direct, coordinate and evaluate the operational activities of the technical operations in the Northern Zone (Corozal, Orange Walk, San Pedro and Caye Caulker). He/She will implement policies and procedures and ensure compliance with the company’s mission, vision and core values.

POSITION:	Operations Area Manager ( Northern Division)
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:	<div><div>* Liaise with Branch Operations Supervisors to oversee and maintain the daily operation of the company’s water and wastewater systems in the Northern Zone including.<div><div>a) Maintaining adequate water supply on a daily basis of quality, quantity, security and pressure</div><div>b) Maintaining the integrity of the water treatment processes and the water transmission and distribution systems including storage tanks and pumping stations</div></div></div><div>*Providing technical assistance in meeting water quality regulations and consumption demand including:<div><div>a) Coordinating with engineering staff to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative treatment and methods</div><div>b) Daily monitoring of production and consumption levels</div><div>c) Planning of required maintenance and expansion works</div></div></div><div>* Preparing monthly management and KPI reports and updating of the company’s key operational data.</div><div>* Ensuring proper Health and Safety operations and environmental compliance.</div></div>
QUALIFICATIONS:	<div><div>* Degree in Civil or other Technical Engineering</div><div>* Five years’ experience in supervisory/management will be preferred</div><div>* Valid driver’s license</div><div>* Excellent command of English language; Spanish language will be an asset</div></div>

Please send your application letter with your detailed resume giving your current position and salary by March 4th, 2016 to:

Human Resource Manager

Belize Water Service Limited

P.O.Box 150, Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize

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## Liquor License Notices

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **HOWARD OLDHAM** is applying for a **MALT & CIDER** liquor license for the year 2016 to operate **Hot Mamas** located in Unitedville Village Cayo District.

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# 12-Year-Old Sexually Assaulted By Uncle

**BENQUE VIEJO TOWN, Cayo, Friday, February 19, 2016:**

Police have arrested and charged 48-year-old **Feliciano Merejildo Sutherland** of Church Street, Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town for the crime of Sexual Assault upon a 12-year-old female minor.

The student accompanied by her mother reported that sometime around 8:30 p.m. on Friday,

February 19, she was at home with her sisters, father and uncle in the living room area watching television. Her mother was at work, her older sister went to the store and her father later went out. She was left at home with her uncle and 3-year-old sister. At this time, her uncle threatened her and then forcibly performed oral sex on her against her will. Police investigation led to the arrest of Sutherland.

## NOTICE

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**Belize Water Services Ltd**

## TENDER INVITATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF SECURITY SERVICES

Belize Water Services Ltd (BWS) is inviting tenders for the supply of security guard and courier services for the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

**Services being requested are for the following locations:**

- Belize City Offices and Main Compound
- Double Run Water Treatment Plant, Sand Hill Village
- Lords Bank Storage Facility
- San Pedro Branch Office
- Caye Caulker Office and Compound
- Corozal Branch Office
- Orange Walk Branch Office
- Belmopan Branch Office
- Belmopan Water Treatment Plant
- Santa Elena Branch Office
- Dangriga Branch Office
- Dangriga Water Treatment Plant
- Placencia Branch Office
- Seine Bight Compound
- Punta Gorda Branch Office

Tenders can be submitted for any location or combination of locations. Interested firms should pick up the detailed requirements at BWS main office in Belize City between the hours 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday commencing **Wednesday March 2, 2016** or can request for it to be forwarded electronically.

The closing date for tenders is **Monday March 14, 2016 at 10:00am**. BWS reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders.

## Belize Water Services Ltd

P.O. Box 150, 7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize  
**Telephone:** 222-4757 ext 1101 **Fax:** 222-4263  
**Email:** [corporateservices@bws.com.bz](mailto:corporateservices@bws.com.bz)  
**Website:** [www.bws.bz](http://www.bws.bz)





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As of January 1, 2016, Property Owners in the City of Belmopan are eligible to participate in the following discount package:

**15% Discount for full payment of 2016/2017 Property fees made ON or BEFORE January 31, 2016.**

**10% Discount for full payment of 2016/2017 Property Fees between February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

**5% Discount for full payment of 2016/2017 Property Fees between March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016.**

**N.B. Senior Citizens (65 yrs. or older) are eligible for an additional 5% discount on properties on which they reside.**

# Launch of Having Fun with Rights: A Children’s Activity Book

BELIZE CITY, Thursday, February 25, 2016:

The Special Envoy for Women and Children with support from UNICEF Belize launched the publication, “Having Fun with Rights: A Children’s Rights Activity Book”, at the Bliss Center for Performing Arts this morning.

The book targets children aged 8-11 years old and is designed to

make the teaching of children’s rights more interactive and enjoyable. Activities based on situations that may occur within homes, at school or in social settings are used to make the material relatable while encouraging the children to think, rather than simply memorizing information. The book also places significant focus on the responsibilities that accompany each of the rights to foster positive behavioural habits and promote child-appropriate

responsibilities, particularly within households.

Significant to the development of **Having Fun with Rights**, were workshops held with students of Hummingbird Elementary School and All Saints Primary School in May, 2015 to gather feedback on the content and appearance of the book. Those workshops also resulted in the name being selected by participating students.

This is the second children’s book published by the Special Envoy for Women and Children with an aim to empower children with information. This book gives children the knowledge to determine whether their rights are being respected, which can help to protect them mistreatment.

“*Having Fun With Rights: A Children’s Rights Activity Book*” was illustrated by Belizean, Lindbergh Joseph and printed by local publisher, McNab Design Ltd. Following today’s launch, the books will be distributed to schools and via the National Library System.

# Ministry Warns Heavy Transport Vehicles of Delays in Benque

BENQUE VIEJO TOWN, Thursday, February 25, 2016:

The Ministry of Works and Transport issued a release to inform the general public that an axle weight survey for heavy construction and heavy transport

vehicles is taking place in Benque Viejo del Carmen Town in front of the Cancha Marshalleck.

The main purpose of this survey is to gather preliminary information regarding the range of heavy axle loads borne by Belize’s main highways that will be used

to assist engineers in improving future highway design, improve the performance of routine and periodic maintenance and to expand its database of vehicular axle weights.

The Ministry apologized in advance for inconveniences in the

form of minor delays for heavy construction and heavy transport vehicles. All motorists are encouraged to obey the rules of the road, to drive with caution and to be mindful of those involved in carrying out the axle weight survey from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.

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# Nigeria Team Rewarded After 30-Year Wait

BY: Oluwashina Okeleji  
BBC Sport, Nigeria  
Thursday, February 25, 2016:

The Nigeria squad that won the first Fifa Under-16 World championship have been rewarded after a 30-year wait.

New Nigeria president **Muhammadu Buhari** has made good on a promise to reward the players after the 1985 tournament when he was the military head of state.

**Nduka Ugbade**, captain of the team who beat West Germany 2-0 in the final in Beijing, told BBC Sport: *"I have finally received my money."*

*"I am extremely delighted that our president has fulfilled his promise."*

Buhari had promised the players a house, stock in the central bank and a scholarship and other incentives after their success but soon after he was ousted by another military regime and the country's government never fulfilled his pledges.

Following Buhari's election as president last year he announced in January a 2m naira (\$10,000;

**SANTA ELENA MAN  
EXPOSED AS CON  
ARTIST IN BOTH  
ORANGE WALK AND  
SAN PEDRO**

**Continued From Front Page**

the Orange Walk Police station for the very same crime of obtaining property by deception. Pineda's employee identified Neal as the man who she gave the money to.

Windell Neal, who may have used the name Brian, is facing 2 counts of obtaining property by deception, and he's wanted in San Pedro for this other report as well, which could mean that he might be facing 3 counts of obtaining property by deception.

## NOTICE

Deadline for the submission of all ads, articles and humor will now be on Wednesdays at 12 noon.

We thank you for your continued support throughout the years and look forward to serving you more efficiently for many more years to come.



Under-16 World Championship winner Akpoborie went on to play 13 times for the senior Nigeria team

£7,000) reward for each of the players and 1.5m for the officials.

*"He's truly a man of his word and on behalf of myself and the team I say a big 'thank you' to our president,"* added Ugbade.

*"I would also like to thank the sports ministry, Alhassan Yakmut of the sports commission, the Nigerian Football Federation, both local and international media, and everyone involved in this great story."*

Another of the winning squad **Jonathan Akpoborie**, who went on to represent the country at senior level, told BBC Sport: *"I have spoken to some of my colleagues and they are happy that the president has delivered on his promise."*

*"This gesture - and not the amount involved - will change the perception of unfulfilled promises in our country."*

However, the rewards came too late for **Kingsley Aikhionbare**, who died in London in 1996. At the presentation to the players a minute's silence was held in his honour.

The Under-16 World Championship was contested three times before it was changed to the Under-17 world Championship in 1991.

Nigeria won the Fifa under-17 World Cup in 1993, 2007, 2013 and 2015.

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