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BELIZEAN FACING IMPRISONMENT FOR INCIDENT IN NEIGHBOURING MELCHOR

Information to the press is that she went over to that town between

Saturday, January 30, and Sunday, January 31. While she was there, she was reportedly cornered by a group of Guatemalan residents of the town in the Central Park area. They say that she stole a cellular phone, and was trying to pry it open with a knife. Fortunately, Guatemalan Police officers observed a commotion in the park, and intervened before their attempt at citizen's arrest turned into a mob which tried to hurt her.



Kayla Sanchez Meeting With Ambassador Guerra

She was taken into custody, and sometime after that, the Belizean Ministry of Foreign Affairs was

informed of her detention. Diplomat
Said Guerra, a member of the

Please Turn To Page 2

Zika Virus Likely Already in Belize

BELIZE CITY, Thursday, February 4, 2016:

Kim Bautista, Chief of Operations for the Vector Control Unit in the Ministry of Health, said on ***“Open Your Eyes”*** on Thursday morning, February 4, that the Zika Virus ***“most likely is already in Belize”***. This belief, says Bautista, is based on the geographical location of detected cases. Bautista says if you look at the countries around us ***“the virus has been detected in every single one”***. Therefore, it is almost certain that the disease is within our territory. What is the Vector Control Unit’s campaign to fight the virus? Well, its anchored on a stern warning to all Belizeans:



Aedes Aegypti Mosquito



Zika Virus Likely Already in Belize

“Don’t Get Bite!!”

The Zika Virus has been around for more than 60 years - but it is only in the past year that scientists and health experts have become seriously worried about it. A massive outbreak that started last year in Brazil brought it sharply into focus because of emerging links to microcephaly - a congenital disorder that can shrink unborn babies’ brains and heads and reduce life expectancy. Since April, the virus has spread quickly. There have been confirmed cases affecting more than a million people so far. Transmission is currently active in at least 30 countries across the Americas, Pacific islands and Cape Verde, while Zika has also appeared in Australia, Ireland and several other European countries after tourists were infected abroad. There is no known cure or vaccine. The virus was believed to be exclusively spread by mosquitos until authorities in the US

reported a patient had caught it through sexual contact.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has described it as having potentially *“explosive pandemic potential” and the authority has declared a global public health emergency on 1 February. Zika is a mosquito-borne disease that normally has symptoms similar to the dengue and chikungunya viruses, which are spread by the same mosquito, the Aedes Aegypti mosquito. It is named after the Zika Forest near Lake Victoria in Uganda, where it was first noticed in 1947 from a captive monkey. Since, it has spread across Africa to Asia, Pacific Polynesia and now the Americas. Only 14 “sporadic” human cases were detected until 2007.*

Zika has now affected almost 30 countries already, mainly in the

Americas. The World Health Organization has said, *“Every country in which Aedes mosquitos are present can be at risk for the spread of Zika virus disease.”*

It is only a matter of time before cases are officially reported in Belize. The Vector Control Unit has already done considerable ground work to limit the spread of the disease, says Bautista. The Ministry of Finance has

provided about \$800,000 to the unit over the past years, in addition to the \$2,000,000 in grants from the Global Fund and the European Union to combat vector borne illnesses. These monies have allowed the unit to replace its formerly dilapidated vehicle fleet, procure equipment and train personnel at both the community and technician level. The Ministry of Finance stands ready to release additional funds to the unit if needed to launch a campaign against the Aedes Aegypti Mosquito.

BELIZEAN FACING IMPRISONMENT FOR INCIDENT IN NEIGHBOURING MELCHOR

Continued From Front Page

Foreign Affairs Ministry immediately travelled to Melchor to try and intercede on her behalf to ensure that she is treated fairly by Guatemalan law enforcement. She was supposed to be arraigned on the charge of aggravated robbery on Monday, February 1, but most likely due to logistics, she was transferred to Peten, Guatemala to a state

prison, similar to the Belize Central Prison. She has been held there in detention for two days, and it is expected that today, Thursday, February 4, she will get her day in court. In the meantime, Ambassador Guerra is trying his very best to assist her in any way he can to preserve her rights to a fair trial. If found guilty, she could be facing 6 months in jail.

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Ministry of Education Saves Hundreds of Teachers' Jobs

BELMOPAN, Cayo, Wednesday, February 3, 2016:

Teachers of Belize got another break from the Ministry of Education when **Hon. Patrick Faber** signed a Statutory Instrument on Wednesday, February 3, that will save hundreds of them from losing their job because of delinquency.

Teachers have been urged by the Government of Belize to secure their qualifications for Teacher's Licenses since the Education Act was passed in 2000. More than 15 years later, hundreds of teachers in our classrooms are still not qualified to teach. This can not be allowed to continue, says the Ministry of Education. As part of its plan to improve quality and relevance under the Education Sector Reform Strategy, the Ministry of Education has set a goal to have one hundred percent trained teachers in the classrooms across Belize. The ministry reinforced its position with the passage of an amendment to the Education Act in 2010 and informed all stakeholders of its intention to enforce requirements for teacher



Teacher's Forum

training and licenses for individuals in the classroom. For teachers who did not have qualifications for a license, a five year provisional license was issued on June 30 2011 for them to remain in the classroom. During this five years they were expected to further their education and take

lessons in pedagogy in order to meet qualifications for a license.

Hundreds of provisional licenses will be up at the end of this school year and even more will expire at the midpoint of the next school year. Many of the teachers have not accomplished the goals that were set out

for them when they were granted the provisional licenses. They did not further their education - did not access teacher training. Some of them only just signed up for classes a semester ago because they knew a deadline was coming. If the ministry was to hold on to its position, hundreds of teachers would not be able to teach on September 2016. Fortunately, for them, the Ministry of Education has come up with another special provision for these tail draggers to remain in the system.

On Wednesday, February 3, **Hon. Patrick Faber** signed a Statutory Instrument that makes provisions for a "**Special Permit**" to be granted to teachers who have not yet met the qualifications for a teacher's license. Teachers that can apply for the Special Permit are those who have completed a minimum of 70 percent of the total credit load for the teacher education program they are currently enrolled in. Teachers who were working in rural areas and whose study leave request were not supported are also eligible to apply since they had limited opportunity to access a teacher education program. Those who teach at the early childhood or lower primary level may apply. Secondary school teachers with Associate degrees in a subject for which there is no locally available teaching certification program are qualified for a Special Permit. Applicants who are currently on approved study leave with an expired provisional license may apply. And, in order to not deny veteran teachers of the benefits from retirement, teachers who are scheduled to retire in or before 2018 are qualified for a Special Permit.

Applicants for Special Permits must submit their forms between February 3 and March 15 to the Special Permit Advisory Committee. The committee will review and evaluate the applications and forward its recommendations to the Chief Education Officer, **Dr. Carol Babb**, on March 31. Dr. Babb will make the final decision on who is to receive Special Permits by April 7. The Special Permit Advisory Committee is comprised of Deputy Chief Education Officers, **Dr. Neulin Villanueva** and **Mrs. Cecilia Smith**, Director of Teacher Administration Services, **Mrs. Luana Sosa**, Representative of General Managers of Pre and Primary Schools Association, **Mrs. Deborah Domingo**, President of the National Teachers Union, **Luke Palacio**, and President of the Belize Association of Secondary School Principals, **Ms. Yolanda Gongora**.

The Special Permits may be issued for a period of three years. Forms are available at the Ministry of Education's offices countrywide.

Scholarships to New Zealand Now Available

BELMOPAN, Cayo, Thursday, February 4, 2016:

Belizeans who wish to pursue higher education in New Zealand can now apply for scholarships that have been made available. Nominations are invited from suitably qualified applicants wishing to pursue post-graduate programmes in New Zealand commencing in February of 2017. The award is being offered for two (2) PhD or Masters level study

in New Zealand. The Scholarship is available to those working in the public sector, private sector and civil society organizations.

Applicants must be a citizen of Belize. They must be residing in Belize for at least two (2) years prior to the application submission. It is important that an applicant must be applying to commence a new qualification and not seeking funding for one already commenced. They

must hold a first degree of upper second class honors level or above or at second class degree and a relevant post-graduate qualification. Applicants should be able to take up their awards by the start of the New Zealand academic year in February of 2017.

If you intend to apply you are strongly encouraged to secure admission to the preferred institutions in New Zealand in advance of scholarship application. A copy of that admission letter or email must be attached to the application form before submission. Whilst awards remain open to all subjects of study, preference will be given to applications that demonstrate linkage to the country's development priorities.

Applicants are encouraged to make such links explicit in their application. Additional information can be obtained from the Ministry of the Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities. Application forms are available at the Ministry and applicants who meet the criteria will be required to attend an interview as part of the selection process. Duly completed applications should be submitted to the **Ministry of the Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities at Sir Edney Cain Building in Belmopan no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 30th May, 2016.**

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(First Publication)

Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

ARIES:

March 22 to April 20

This is a popular time for you! This week, in particular, is an excellent time to make long-range plans, especially related to future travel, study, courses, and anything to do with the law, medicine, publishing and the media. Disputes about shared property and inheritances might be successfully settled. Your relations with a boss or an authority figure might get out of hand. You can work with others to achieve your goals this week. Please do not lose sight of the fact that this is your year to get a better job or improve your existing job. Likewise, you can improve your health. No slackers! **Lucky numbers: 05, 34, 42.**

TAURUS:

April 21 to May 21

The Sun continues to be at the top of your chart casting a flattering light on you, which is why everyone thinks you're competent, talented and reliable. In particular, bosses, parents and VIPs are impressed with you, which is why they will ask you to take on increased responsibilities. Just say yes because you will dazzle them. Someone older or more experienced might have advice for you now. It looks like you can settle red-tape issues about inheritances and shared property. Meanwhile, something might occur that causes you to take a new approach to a partnership. This is probably a good idea. **Lucky numbers: 12, 27, 73.**

GEMINI:

May 22 to June 21

This continues to be a wonderful time for adventure, travel and chances to learn something new either through formal education or your ability to scrounge for exciting information. You're a magpie. Some of you will solidify your approach to travel plans or coursework and training. Take note: At the end of this week, surprise opportunities in these areas will fall in your lap. Meanwhile, you're working hard plus you're ingenious and resourceful with whatever you do this week. You see new approaches, new uses and new applications for things. Because your sex drive is amped, romance will give you juicy fodder for your diary. **Lucky numbers: 51, 65, 77.**

CANCER

June 21 to July 21

Your focus continues to be on inheritances, shared property, taxes, debt and insurance matters. Fortunately, the planetary configurations of this week will help you by giving

you the patience, endurance, and also flashes of insight, so that you can wrap up loose details. Relations with partners and close friends are passionate this week. No question. Keep your eyes open for an unexpected gift or favour from someone, which will likely come your way. You might decide to take a new approach to dealing with your kids or dealing with a romantic partner. **Lucky numbers: 20, 83, 92.**

LEO:

July 24 to August 21

The first thing that you have to keep in mind right now is that you need more sleep. Don't beat yourself up if you are a buzz kill at parties. Your first duty right now is to take care of yourself. Nevertheless, you are working hard on the home front to introduce changes you want; plus you will be resourceful and see new ways of working with what you presently have. Be ready for a few surprises from a partner or close friend because something out of the blue will occur. A work-related romance might begin for some. **Lucky numbers: 09, 36, 95.**

VIRGO:

August 22 to September 21

You continue to be keen about getting better organized and boosting your health. Something unexpected might trigger some excitement in your job. This could be related to technology. Meanwhile, those of you who write, teach, act, sell or use your words for a living are very powerful this week. Your persuasive skills will be impressive! This could come in handy because romance, love affairs and even casual, recreational sex look promising in an intense, passionate way. This might also be why serious relationships are confusing. **Lucky numbers: 18, 28, 57.**

LIBRA:

September 22 to October 23

Things are good now because you are a social sign and the planets are giving you lots of opportunity to play! In fact, this week surprise invitations will come your way, along with unexpected flirtations that could lead to something sweet and sizzling. Meanwhile, you will feel passionately about something at home. This could relate to how you want to redecorate or make improvements at home. Or it could be an emotional family matter. Whatever the case, you won't compromise. Meanwhile, back at the bank, you're working hard to earn money and working just as hard to spend it! Money in - money out. Life is getting easier for you for the most part; and by September - you're laughing! **Lucky numbers: 14, 49, 62.**

SCORPIO:

October 24 to November 21

Home, family and your private life are your main focus now and will continue to be so for the next few weeks. Conversations with relatives and siblings are intense - nothing is casual. But at least, you know what you want and you're not afraid to express it. An older family member will help you now. However, something unexpected and out of the blue will likely impact your private world. You might temporarily live somewhere different or something unusual might impact your home - possibly the introduction of something new and high-tech? Meanwhile, with Mars in your sign, you're bursting with energy to both work and play. Yes, the bases are loaded and you are up to bat. **Lucky numbers: 45, 68, 87.**

SAGITTARIUS:

November 22 to December 21

Your busy pace continues. Short trips, errands, increased reading and writing and conversations with everyone push your pace now. In addition, unexpected demands on your time further complicate things for you. Nevertheless, you are making long-range plans for the future and working hard to earn money. Some of you are considering a whole new income stream or way of generating cash. It might be a new job or a new idea to make some money on the side. Considering that you are now in the process of reinventing yourself, who is surprised? **Lucky numbers: 01, 50, 81.**

CAPRICORN:

December 22 to January 20

You have so many ideas right now! Naturally, you're focused on money and cash flow because you have to know what you can count on in order to expedite your brilliant plans. It goes without saying that you are in the process of downsizing and letting go of much of what you accumulated since 2003. Oh yes, you're heading into a whole new game by 2018. Hence, your efforts to do some serious financial planning this week. An unexpected job opportunity or a chance to boost your earnings or buy something unusual will fall in your lap. Stay tuned for this. Meanwhile, take a realistic look in the mirror because you can make some radical changes to improve your appearance this week. **Lucky numbers: 23, 38, 78.**

AQUARIUS:

January 20 to February 18

With the Sun in your sign, you are energized and fortunate! But you're not being silly. Oh no. This week you are taking a long-range look at things in a very careful, measured way. This

is a good thing because your ambition might reveal a new career path that will open for you. Or maybe it's similar to what you're doing but it's got a whole new twist. This week you need your freedom because you intend to do exactly what you want to do. "Full speed ahead! Remember that gifts, goodies, loans and mortgages will come your way now, so keep your eyes peeled and your pockets open. **Lucky numbers: 25, 53, 85.**

PISCES:

February 20 to March 21

Because your birthday will not arrive for a few weeks, you are sort of waiting in the wings. Nevertheless, you're willing to put a lot of energy out to travel and explore your world. Big time! It's curious because two contradictory influences are at play now. On one hand, you are serious, dedicated and keen to make long-range plans. This part of you presents a responsible, reliable image to the world. But another part of you feels quite different. You are passionate, intense and up for adventure! This influence makes you restless, excited and eager for change. Just remember that friendships and partners are supportive to you now. You are not alone. **Lucky numbers: 08, 11, 97.**

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Belizean Banks in Crisis – Your Credit Card in Trouble

BELIZE CITY, Monday, February 1, 2016:

“There is currently not a single bank in Belize with no form of international correspondence,” says **Prime Minister Dean Barrow**, who returned from the United States on Monday, February 1, after a mission to save Belizean banks from financial *“Armageddon”*.

Bank of America announced on April 27, 2015 that it was cancelling its correspondent banking operation with Belize Bank. That was a huge blow for the country and it was followed by other large U.S. banks pulling out of partnerships with Belizean banks. This caused people in the banking sector, trade merchants and other Belizean business owners hours of sleep. The economy of Belize depends on the ability *“of our importers and exporters to send money to the States to pay for goods and receive money from the states for their goods,”* says PM Barrow. If there is no corresponding banks in the United States to complete the transactions then trade with our largest partner will cease. Belizeans will no longer be able to purchase goods online



Prime Minister Dean Barrow

and relatives abroad will no longer be able to send money back home.

The situation is at this point because banks in the US are terrified of engaging in correspondent relations with financial institutions of this jurisdiction. While the US government says it is discouraging their institutions from ending relations with Belize and other countries in the region, their actions make it irresponsible for any profit based enterprise to continue such practice. The United Statesø Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) campaign

could kill the Caribbean banking sector.

U.S. banks could face huge penalties if one tainted transaction slips through. This means they would have to invest heavily in monitoring transactions coming from countries like Belize who by itself does not have the monitoring capability to track sources of capital passing through the system. Therefore, a client who seems legitimate in Belize based on their history could have made purchases for or from sources deemed to be tainted by the United States. This would make them a sponsor of terrorism. Belize does not have access to information that would allow them to link the apparently clean client with individuals or organizations labeled by the U.S. as suspected radicals. If Belize process a transaction for this *“clean” client through correspondence with U.S. banks and they do not flag the transaction then they could be penalized. Prime Minister Barrow painted it this way: “Why if I can make a million dollars doing business with you I would take the risk of paying a*

billion dollars in fines if something goes wrong?”

Prime Minister Dean Barrow, Secretary of Finance, **Joseph Waight**, Governor of the Central Bank, **Glen Yssaguirre**, and Economic Ambassador, **Mark Espat**, were joined in the United States by Belizeø Ambassador **Pat Hughes** on a mission to hold meetings with several financial regulatory agencies from January 25 to January 29. The team returned to Belize and Prime Minister Barrow briefed the nation on his strategy to avert a banking crisis.

U.S. banks made a little more than six million dollars in 2014 from correspondent transactions with banks in Belize. That is not even a drip in the bucket for large institutions like Bank of America. It is for this reason that the Government of Belize has decided to target smaller banks for correspondent relations. Prime Minister Barrow said in his briefing on Monday, *“We have learnt that it may be better to go after the smaller banks who can handle the load just as well as the top banks.”* This decision was foreshadowed before the team left on the mission when he said that for small banks *“it would rather make more economic sense to do business in Belize since they are not so big as to be able to simply turn up their nose at business in Belize and decide that it’s not worth it because of the regularity burden.”*

Competition For Best Municipal Football Pitch

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, February 4, 2016:

Victor August Football Field in Santa Elena and **Victor Galvez Recreation Field** in San Ignacio will have some stiff competition for the title of Best Municipal Field in Belize. That is because the **Isidro Beaton Football Stadium** in Belmopan City is more than seventy percent complete and its beauty can no longer be hidden behind construction walls.

The stadium is being renovated to world class standards at a cost of \$3.5 million. However the scope of works has been expanded and the massive beauty that will be the pride of Belmopan may actually end up being the pride of the entire country.

That is if the fields being built in Santa Elena at the Victor August Football Stadium was not in the race. The Santa Elena Football Complex and Facilities will include a basketball court, training football field, a FIFA standard playing field and a mile long running track. It has an estimated cost of \$2.25 million. It will be the home of Cayo Centralø very own Premiere League team which Hon. Rene Montero says will be launched this year.

Other facilities in the race are the Victor Galvez Recreation Field in San



Isidro Beaton Football Stadium

Ignacio which is being upgraded to international standards at a cost of more than \$1.3 million. The Benque Viejo Del Carmen Football Complex and Facilities will be upgraded to FIFA standard at an approximate cost of \$4.5 million. Belize will have its first

synthetic turf field in San Pedro Town for the San Pedro Football Field expected to cost in the neighbourhood of \$3.25 million. Multipurpose facilities will be built in Dangriga and Punta Gorda for up to \$5 million each.

These projects are being imple-

mented by the Belize Infrastructure Limited.

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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, **RICARDO PELAYO** is applying for a **PUBLICAN SPECIAL** liquor license for the year 2016 to operate **Amber Sunset Jungle Resort** located at Mile 59 George Price Highway, Cayo District

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **RAMIGIO TZIB** is applying for a **RESTAURANT** liquor license for the year 2016 to operate **Pine Ridge Lodge** located on the Mountain Pine Ridge Road, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **ALEXIA MALO** is applying for a **HOTEL** liquor license for the year 2016 to operate **Casa Sofia Ltd.** located in Unitedville Village, Cayo District

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **LIDIA MCPHERSON** is applying for a **RESTAURANT** liquor license for the year 2016 to operate **La Oficina Restaurant** located on Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **ERVA ESPAT** is applying for a **RESTAURANT** liquor license for the year 2016 to operate **Erva's Restaurant** located on Far West Street, San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **MAXIMO MCFARLANE** is applying for a **MALT & CIDER** liquor license for the year 2016 to operate **Joe's Cool Spot** located on Carmen Street, Santa Elena Town, Cayo District

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **MARISOL TOBAR** is applying for a **PUBLICAN SPECIAL** liquor license for the year 2016 to operate **Hill Top Bar** located in Unitedville Village, Cayo District



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Greater Parity In League As NEBL Teams Make Key Roster Additions

BY: Karim Juan, Commissioner
SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo,
Sunday, January 31, 2016:

San Pedro Tiger Sharks Continues To Dominate Ballaz

On Friday night, San Pedro Tiger Sharks traveled out west to take on their rivals, Cayo Western Ballaz, at the Sacred Heart College auditorium in San Ignacio Town. The defending champions, San Pedro Tiger Sharks remained undefeated, as they handed Cayo Western Ballaz their second consecutive loss of the season. The home team jumped out to an early 15 point lead, at the start of the second quarter, but San Pedro was able to close the first half on a 14-3 run, to shrink Ballaz lead 35-31, going into intermission. San Pedro dominated the third quarter, holding Ballaz to only 9 points, as the visiting team took control of the game and maintained a double-digit lead throughout the second half, to seal the 71-59 victory. San Pedro Tiger Sharks (2-0) was led by foreigner **Caleb Sutton** who had the game high 23 points to go with 9 rebounds and 3 steals. **Gene Myvett** was huge in the second half to tally 17 points, 7 boards, 7 assists and 5 steals, while **Jamal Kelly** also finished the night with 17 points. American baller **Milton James** was the top scorer for Cayo Western Ballaz (1-2), as he tallied his third double-double of the season in as many tries, with 19 points and 10 rebounds. **Ivan Flowers** scored 14 points while **Winston Pratt** tallied 11 points, 6 boards and 3 assists. San Pedro outscored the home team, Cayo Western Ballaz, 42-18 in the paint, while getting better production off the bench, 25-13. Tiger Sharks also out-rebounded Ballaz 44-37 while leading in second chance points, 12-4.

Griga Surprises Pan At UB; Bandits Still Can't Steal A Game

On Saturday night, Belmopan Bandits hosted Dangriga Warriors at the UB gymnasium in Belmopan, as both teams were seeking to record their first win of the season. At the half, Dangriga Warriors was nursing a 34-33 lead and with less than 3 minutes to go in the game, both teams were sharing the lead. However, down the stretch, the visiting team, Dangriga Warriors, was able to hold on to the 68-63 lead to record a huge victory and their first win of the season. Dangriga Warriors (1-1) was led by **Edgar Mitchell** who had 16 points, 4 rebounds and 2 assists, while new comer and foreign player, **James Ewing** recorded his first double-double of the season with 15

points and 13 rebounds. **Macario Augustine** finished with 11 points while ripping 17 rebounds and **Akeem Trapp** finished with 10 points, 4 rebounds and 5 steals, while **Quinton Bowen** also tallied 10 points and 4 boards. Belmopan Bandits (0-3) big man, **Nick Brown**, had the game high with 20 points to go with 5 rebounds, while sharp shooter **Kyle Pascascio** finished with 12 points. **Geovannie Lennan** tallied 11 points and 9 rebounds, as Belmopan Bandits is still looking for their first win of the season. Belmopan Bandits has been the victim of a tough schedule at the start of the season, with one more big game slated for this weekend in Belize City. Dangriga Warriors dominated the points in the paint 44-26, while they also had the edge with bench points, 26-16. There were 8 lead changes and 11 times the score was even. The visitors also out-rebounded Belmopan Bandits, 46-35.

Smart Belize Hurricanes Is atop the standings at 3-0, With Blowout Victory

On Saturday night, Smart Belize

Hurricanes hosted the new franchise Independence Thunderbolts at the Belize Elementary School gym in Belize City, as the visiting team was trying to record their first win of the season. Unfortunately, there was no thunder in this hurricane, as Smart Belize Hurricanes drowned Independence Thunderbolts, 127-59, setting the NEBL record for greatest offensive output. Smart Belize Hurricanes was led by **Farron Louriano**, who was in MVP form, tallying his first double-double of the season with the game high 34 points and 11 rebounds, while **Brian White** had another great game with 15 points and 12 rebounds. The league's leading scorer, **Jacob Leslie** scored 15 points, while rookie sensation, **Glency Lopez**, had a great game with 12 points, while dishing out 9 dimes and recording 6 steals. **Ty Bradley** and **Akeem Watters** scored 12 and 10 points respectively. Independence Thunderbolts was led by **Hyrarn Augustine** who tallied 17 points, 8 rebounds and 4 steals, while **Alroy Foreman** finished the game with 15 points and 7 boards. Point guard

Jason Daly scored 11 points to go with 4 assists and 3 rebounds. Smart Belize Hurricanes scored 28 points off turnovers, compared to only 5 for the visiting squad, while dominating the paint, outscoring their opponent 86-26. The home team also led in bench points, 41-10, and they out-rebounded the Thunderbolts 58-42.

Upcoming Games

Friday at 9 p.m. - Dangriga Warriors vs. Cayo Western Ballaz at Ecumenical College

Friday at 9 p.m. - Belize City No Limit vs. Belmopan Bandits at Bird's Isle
Saturday at 8 p.m. - Independence Thunderbolts vs. Orange Walk at Independence High School

Saturday at 8 p.m. - Cayo Western Ballaz vs. No Limit at Sacred Heart College Auditorium

Saturday at 9 p.m. - San Pedro vs. Smart Belize Hurricanes at San Pedro High School

Sunday at 3 p.m. - Dangriga Warriors vs. Orange Walk at Ecumenical College

All games can be followed live on our website at 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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STAR HUMOR

Blonde Riding a Horse

A blonde decides to learn and try horse back riding assisted without any experience or lessons. She mounts the horse with great effort, and the tall, shiny horse springs into motion.

It gallops along at a steady and rhythmic pace, but the blonde begins to slip from the saddle. Out of sheer terror, she grabs for the horse's mane but cannot seem to get a firm grip. She tries to throw her arms around the horse's neck, but slides down the side of the horse anyway.

The horse gallops along, seemingly

oblivious to its slipping rider.

Finally, giving up her frail grip, she leaps away from the horse to try and throw herself to safety. Unfortunately, her foot has become entangled in the stirrup. She is now at the mercy of the horse's pounding hooves as her head is struck against the ground again and again.

As her head is battered against the ground, she is moments away from unconsciousness or even death when Todd, the Wall-Mart Manager, runs out to turn the horse off.

Weather Indian

A film crew was on location deep in the desert. One day an Old Indian went up to the director and said, **"Tomorrow rain."**

The next day it rained.

A week later, the Indian went up to the director and said, **"Tomorrow storm."**

The next day there was a hailstorm.

"This Indian is incredible," said the director. He told his secretary to hire the Indian to predict

the weather. However, after several successful predictions, the old Indian didn't show up for two weeks.

Finally the director sent for him. **"I have to shoot a big scene tomorrow,"** said the director, **"and I'm depending on you. What will the weather be like?"**

The Indian shrugged his shoulders. **"Don't know,"** he said. **"Radio broken."**

Serious Talking Cowboy

A cowboy rode into town and stopped at the saloon for a drink. Unfortunately, the locals always had a habit of picking on newcomers. When he finished, he found his horse had been stolen.

He comes back into the bar, handily flips his gun into the air, catches it above his head without even looking and fires a shot into the ceiling. **"Who stole my horse?"** he yelled with surprising forcefulness.

No one answered.

"I'm gonna have another beer and if my horse ain't back

outside by the time I'm finished, I'm gonna do what I dun back in Texas and I don't want to have to do what I dun back in Texas!"

Some of the locals shifted restlessly.

He had another beer, walked outside, and his horse was back! He saddled up and started to ride out of town.

The bartender wandered out of the bar and asked, **"Say partner, what happened in Texas?"**

The cowboy turned back and said, **"I had to walk home!"**

Juan the Smuggler

Juan comes up to the Mexican border on his bicycle. He has two large bags over his shoulders. A guard stops him and says, **"What's in the bags?"**

"Sand," answered Juan.

The guard says, **"We'll just see about that. Get off the bike."**

The guard takes the bags and rips them apart; he empties them out and finds nothing in them but sand. He detains Juan overnight and has the sand analyzed, only to discover that there is nothing but pure sand in the bags. The guard releases Juan, puts the sand into new bags, lifts them onto the man's shoulders and lets him cross the border.

A week later, the same thing happens. The guard asks, **"What**

have you got?"

"Sand," says Juan.

The guard does his thorough examination and discovers that the bags contain nothing but sand. He gives the sand back to Juan, and Juan crosses the border on his bicycle.

This sequence of events repeats every day for three years. Then one day, Juan doesn't show up. The guard meets up with him in a cantina in Mexico.

"Hey, buddy," the guard says, **"I know you're smuggling something. It's driving me crazy. It's all I think about. I can't sleep. Just between you and me, what are you smuggling?"**

"Bicycles," Juan says.

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'Tree Man' Abul Bajandar To Get Government-Funded Surgery

BBC NEWS, Thursday, February 4, 2016:

Bangladesh's government will pay for the treatment of "tree man" Abul Bajandar, who has a rare disease that causes warts to form on his body.

Health minister **Mohammad Nasim** made the announcement after visiting Mr Bajandar in hospital on Thursday.

Mr Bajandar has epidermodysplasia verruciformi, a genetic disease that makes a person susceptible to skin growth. It is popularly known as "tree man disease".

He first developed warts 10 years ago.

"Initially, I thought that they're harmless," Mr Bajandar



Abul Bajandar has epidermodysplasia verruciformi, a rare genetic disease that causes warts to form on the hands and feet

told AFP.
 "There are now dozens of two to three inch roots in both my hands. And there are some small ones in my legs," he said.

Mr Bajandar travelled to India to seek treatment, but his family could not afford the cost of operations.

Samples of his blood and skin tissue are now being sent to a laboratory in the United States, professor **Abul Kalam**, a plastic surgeon, told the BBC.

He will be treated in Bangladesh when his diagnosis reports are available.

Mr Bajandar's is one of only three cases of "tree man disease" in the world, **Samanta Lal Sen**, director at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, told AFP.

"It is the first time we have found such a rare case in Bangladesh," he said.

Zika Virus

Symptoms

About 1 in 5 people infected with Zika virus become ill (i.e., develop Zika).

The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis (red eyes). Other

common symptoms include muscle pain and headache. The incubation period (the time from exposure to symptoms) for Zika virus disease is not known, but is likely to be a few days to a week.

The illness is usually mild with

symptoms lasting for several days to a week.

People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika.

Zika virus usually remains in the blood of an infected person for about a week but it can be found longer in some people.

Diagnosis

The symptoms of Zika are similar to those of dengue and chikungunya, diseases spread through the same mosquitoes that transmit Zika.

See your healthcare provider if you develop the symptoms described above and have visited an area where Zika is found.

If you have recently traveled, tell your healthcare provider when and where you traveled.

Your healthcare provider may order specialized blood tests to look for Zika or other similar viruses like dengue or chikungunya.

Treatment

There is no vaccine to prevent or specific medicine to treat Zika infections.

Treat the symptoms:

Get plenty of rest.

Drink fluids to prevent dehydration.

Take medicine such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to relieve fever and pain.

Do not take aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

If you are taking medicine for another medical condition, talk to your healthcare provider before taking additional medication.

If you have Zika, prevent mosquito bites for the first week of your illness.

During the first week of infection, Zika virus can be found in the blood and passed from an infected person to a mosquito through mosquito bites.

An infected mosquito can then spread the virus to other people.

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NOTICE

Deadline for the submission of all ads, articles and humor for the New Years Edition of the STAR will be on Tuesday, December 29th at 12 noon.

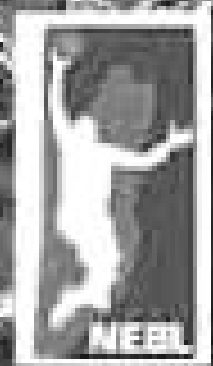
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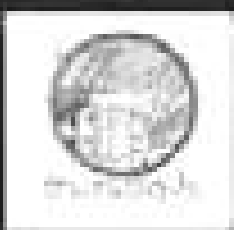
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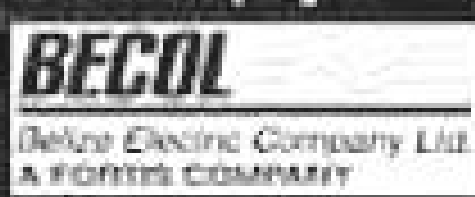
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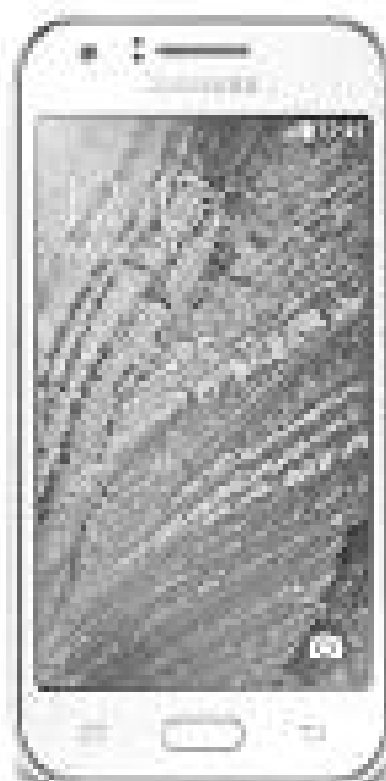


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