

BELIZE RECEIVES HELICOPTERS FOR MUCH NEEDED BORDER PATROLS

PRICE BARRACKS, Ladyville, Wednesday, April 27, 2016:

Belize's greatest ally of the 21st Century is undoubtedly the Government and people of the Republic of China-Taiwan. This great friend has come true for Belize once again and the timing could not be better. Since the British Government pulled out its helicopters being used by the British Army Training and Support Unit in Belize (*BATSUB*) in 2012, the Government of Belize had been calling on allies to provide air support for its troops. Requests went out to the Governments of the United States, Taiwan, Canada and others but it appeared that those request were falling on deaf ears and Government was forced to begin scouting for affordable helicopters to

purchase. The helicopters were going to be paid for with the use of Petrocaribe funds and would cost anywhere between \$4 million for used to US\$8 million for new ones. This would mean less money for infrastructure development, sporting facilities, social programs and debt control. However, the need for helicopters made the sacrifice worth it.

Brigadier General Jones, Commandant of the Belize Defense Force, believes, *"The only way to secure our borders is to have a presence on the ground."* Transporting soldiers to strategic locations along the border has been difficult since the withdrawal of BATSUB. A trek through extremely dangerous terrain takes 12 to 48



**Hon. John Saldívar,
Minister of National Security**

posts. They have fallen, been bitten by poisonous snakes and more."

Fortunately for Belize, the Government of the Republic of China-Taiwan informed the Government that they will be donating two helicopters from its fleet to the Belize Defense Force. A seventeen-member assembling team from the Taiwan army, led by **Colonel Ao Cheng-Lin**, arrived in Belize on April 5, 2016. This team included engineers, technicians, mechanics and two army pilots. They came to assemble the helicopters and

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hours, depending on the destination. According to General Jones, *"Having the helicopters will allow troops to be deployed in a matter of 45 minutes to two hours."* *Many soldiers have been injured on the way to observation*

provide training to BDF engineers, technicians, mechanics and pilots. The helicopters were assembled by April 18 and officially handed over on Wednesday. His Excellency **Benjamin Ho**, Ambassador of the

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San Ignacio Businessman Shot In Belize City

BELIZE CITY, BELIZE, Tuesday, April 26, 2016:

Police are investigating a shooting and robbery that took place in Belize City on Tuesday, April 26, in which San Ignacio businessman **Zane Robinson** was shot.

At about 5:43 p.m. on Tuesday, police visited the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where they saw 41-year-old Zane Robinson, Belizean sales agent of San Ignacio Town, suffering from gunshot wounds to the upper left shoulder and left hip.

Initial investigation revealed that Robinson was in the vicinity of First Street, Belize City to collect payments for his company and while exiting his pickup truck he was accosted by two men. One of the men



Zane Robinson

was armed with a handgun. He assaulted Robinson with the firearm and ordered him to hand over money.

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Belize Receives Helicopters For Much Needed Border Patrols

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Republic of China-Taiwan, handed over the two UH1H helicopters to Hon. John Saldivar, Minister of National Security, on Wednesday, April 27, at Price Barracks.

Hon. John Saldivar took the first official flight of the BDF's B-12 chopper and gave his full approval of the aircraft. The machine runs so well and the blades are so new that you cannot even hear them when they fly above. Minister Saldivar expressed the Government and people of Belize's

gratitude to the Government and people of Taiwan for their continued friendship. *"Notwithstanding all the hurdles and obstacles, Taiwan remains resolute in its quest for significant participation in international organizations, and continues assisting those in need, and sharing its experiences of development to assist those less developed nations around the world, such as Belize,"* said Saldivar. *"To the Government and people of the Republic of China-*



Taiwan, your continued and timely assistance is well received."

The donation included parts that will be needed to maintain the choppers for up to two years, said General Jones. The Government of Belize

have budgeted for maintenance of the aircraft and the BDF will continue reaching out to other allies for support of its Air Wing. General Jones says there is no plan to seek additional helicopters in the immediate future.

San Ignacio Businessman Shot In Belize City

Continued From Front Page

The other man proceeded to search him and took away his Chrome 9 mm Tactical Smith & Wesson special protection pistol valued at \$4,500. The men also took the keys to his black Hilux pickup truck and a white I Phone 6S valued at \$2,000.

The robbers made off with items having a total value of \$6,500. Before leaving the gunman opened fire on Robinson causing his injuries. They then fled the scene in a blue car.

Zane Robinson remains in a stable condition at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital.



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GOOGLE	✓	✓	✓	✓
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FACEBOOK	✓	✓	✓	✓
WHATSAPP	✓	✓	✓	✓
TWITTER	✓	✓	✓	✓
SNAPCHAT	✗	✓	✓	✓
SKYPE	✗	✓	✓	✓
SOUNDCLOUD	✗	✓	✓	✓
YOUTUBE	✗	✓	✓	✓
✓ Recommended for plan	✗ Not recommended for plan			

The Future Of Forests In Belize

Contributed:

Have you ever paused to wonder what Belize would be like without trees? Trees produce the oxygen we breathe; they provide a home for many of the animals that tourists come to Belize to see; and the timber industry provides jobs and contributes to the country's economy. In short, trees benefit us in countless ways.

While driving through Belize, it can sometimes seem as if there is an endless amount of trees, but unless we take care of our forests, we could see the trees disappear. So how can we take advantage of everything our trees

have to offer today while making sure that our grandchildren will also be able to benefit from the presence of trees?

One of the ways to achieve this is sustainable forestry ó selectively cutting trees to maintain forest cover. While traditional logging takes out every tree that is large enough to sell, sustainable forestry uses techniques such as rotating where trees are cut each year and only removing a certain number of trees from the land. Several concessionaires in Belize already practice these methods, and some communities are adopting these

techniques as well.

Another way to ensure that forests remain standing in Belize is to protect tree species that are threatened, meaning they are in danger of ceasing to exist. Belize is home to several species of trees that are declining in number, according to the International Union on the Conservation of Nature (*IUCN*) Red List, including mahogany and cedar. For some species, such as mahogany and rosewood, the reason they have been overharvested is due to a high market price and international trade. If too many trees of a species are cut

to sell now, the species will not be available to sell in the future. In order to allow the population of these species to recover, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (*CITES*) controls trade by ensuring that exported trees of these species are cut using sustainable techniques.

The biggest way that we can make sure trees remain in Belize for generations to come is by becoming aware of threats to forests and making our voices heard in support of practices such as sustainable forestry. Let's make sure our children and grandchildren enjoy the benefits of trees in Belize!

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Sarstoon Trip Places Belize In Danger

BELIZE CITY, Belize, Thursday, April 28, 2016:

The Belize Territorial Volunteers are willing to put every single Belizean man, woman and child in danger just for 10 minutes of fame. **Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dean Barrow** and **Brigadier General David Jones** have urged the leaders of the BTV to *"give peace a chance"* but they remain committed on going on an exercise that every objective thinking individual deems as an act of provocation. They are planning a trip to the Sarstoon Island for this Saturday, April 30.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs scheduled a meeting with the leaders of BTV for Thursday, April 28, and it is expected that the officials will attempt to reason with them. General Jones, Commandant of the Belize Defense Force, says he is currently working with his Guatemalan counterpart to come up with a modus vivendi and until then he is advising Belizean NGOs to not add more tension to the area. *"Give diplomacy a chance to work to ensure that we have an established protocol that both countries will agree to that will allow civilians and military to operate in the area peacefully. Just give peace a chance,"* said Jones to the Belize



Territorial Volunteers.

Territorial Volunteers.

Wil Maheia, Leader and Founder of BTV, said they will make a final decision on the Sarstoon trip after the meeting with the Ministry. General Jones will be present at the meeting. About Maheia, Jones says, *"We are aware of his passion, we are aware of his patriotism but I believe that reasoning and logic in regards to the issues that have been evolving due to the shooting incident he would be able to listen to us."*

This is not the first time that the authorities have cautioned the BTV

from making a trip to the disputed area. However, this time the request comes after days of escalated tension between the militaries of Belize and Guatemala. Prime Minister Barrow said, *"In the current circumstances, where we just went through an absolutely harrowing weekend... where our diplomacy and the face to face meetings with Guatemala have produced this resolve to de-escalate tensions and to find a way routed in peace and mutual respect forward - in those circumstances for these people to maintain that*

they will still go to the Sarstoon on Saturday would in my view be absolutely and utterly unacceptable." *"I am appealing to the Territorial Volunteers to give peace a chance."*

Up to news time no word has come out from the meeting. The entire nation is watching closely. It is a very polarizing issue. There are strong emotions on both side of the argument. Some Belizeans strongly support the BTV's trip because it would show Guatemala that we are not afraid of them and we can go to any part of our country, including the Sarstoon. Others strongly oppose the trip because they believe that BTV should give authorities a chance to establish a protocol for use of the Sarstoon diplomatically.

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Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

ARIES:

March 22 to April 20

Your focus on money, assets and what you own continues. Basically, it's important for you to know your financial worth so that you can both protect it, grow it and use it the best way possible. After all, what you earn and what you own are supposed to make your life easier, right? Meanwhile, lucky Jupiter continues to offer you fabulous chances to improve your job or get a better job. This blessing comes only once every 12 years and will be gone by winter. Make hay while the Sun shines! Buy lovely wardrobe goodies for yourself while Venus is still in your sign. It stays there until late Friday the 29th. The body part that Aries rules is the head, which is why many of you love hats, glasses, earrings and lampshades. **Lucky numbers: 11, 24, 63.**

TAURUS:

April 21 to May 21

The Sun is in your sign; Mercury retrograde is in your sign, and late Friday, Venus will enter your sign. There's a lot going on! But all of this is good news, with the exception of Mercury retrograde. When Mercury is retrograde in your own sign, it attracts ex-partners and old friends back into your life, which can be cool - or not. But it also magnifies the errors and silly, stupid mistakes you make. It creates delays, mixed-up communications and ridiculous misunderstandings where you are waiting at one Starbucks and your friend is waiting at another. **Lucky numbers: 03, 41, 52.**

GEMINI:

May 22 to June 21

Things are rather low key for you this week because several major planets are "*hiding*" in your chart. This means you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes. It also means you might be involved in some kind of secret activity. Indeed, some of you will dabble in secret liaisons and hidden love affairs. Of course, fiery Mars continues to oppose your sign, which makes you impatient with others. Naturally, from your POV, these people are irritating! **Lucky numbers: 01, 32, 91.**

CANCER

June 21 to July 21

This continues to be a popular time for you. You will enjoy hanging out with younger people as well as creative, artistic types. It will benefit you to share your hopes and dreams for the future with others because their feedback will help you. In fact, your exchanges with others will be beneficial. Fiery Mars keeps you working hard this week. And lucky, moneybags Jupiter boosts your optimism and positive state of mind.

Keep up this good work because by 2018, you will get acknowledgement and recognition for your efforts. **Lucky numbers: 05, 44, 76.**

LEO:

July 24 to August 21

Three planets are at high noon in your chart making this a powerful month for you. More than that, you are noticed! You are even admired! This is good; Leos like to be admired. Obviously, relationships with bosses, parents and VIPs will be smooth; in fact, for some of you, they will be so smooth that you might strike up a cozy relationship with a boss or VIP. Meanwhile, despite these advantages, fiery Mars wants you to play! That's why many of you will enjoy vacations and party at night, even though you impress work colleagues in the day. **Lucky numbers: 23, 65, 84.**

VIRGO:

August 22 to September 21

Your want to blow town so that you can experience something new and different! Not only do you seek adventure, you also seek opportunities to learn more because you want more out of life. Discussions about philosophy, religion and important, political issues will intrigue you. Some of you might strike up a love affair or a new friendship with someone from another country or a different culture. Unfortunately, crazy chaos at home dogs your footsteps. Renovations, redecorating, residential moves or visiting relatives are some reasons your home scene is out of control. **Lucky numbers: 12, 87, 96.**

LIBRA:

September 22 to October 23

As a rule, you are perhaps one of most diplomatic signs in the zodiac. And yet, you can debate superbly because after all, Libra rules the legal profession. Unfortunately, your tact and diplomacy seem to have drifted south, because you've been coming on like gangbusters with others! And you know it. In part, this is because you feel intense about everything right now, especially sex and money. Instead of being so blunt and forthright, use your strong communicating skills for writing, sales, teaching and acting. And maintain your sweet, Libran charm. **Lucky numbers: 39, 49, 66.**

SCORPIO:

October 24 to November 21

Remember to get more sleep now because you need it. No sleep equals a grumpy Scorpio, and certainly a less productive work. Meanwhile, retrograde Mercury will attract ex-spouses and partners back into your world. Or some of you might have increased interaction with an

ex-partner. Just grin and bear it. Meanwhile, this week you will work hard to earn money, which is a good thing because you are spending it! Save what you can to establish some security because between 2018-2021, many of you will have residential moves or a job change. Remember: Happiness is having alternatives. **Lucky numbers: 01, 16, 46.**

SAGITTARIUS:

November 22 to December 21

This is a high-energy time for you! Fiery Mars is in Sagittarius boosting your drive to accomplish as much as possible. In fact, you feel almost competitive about doing so. "*Look how great I am!*" In addition, other planets now urge you to be efficient, effective and productive. When you combine all these influences, you get a hard-driving machine that is bound to be successful. Focus this energy on finishing old tasks and wrapping up old business because you are a dynamo now. In fact, at work, you look so good to others, a work-related romance might begin. **Lucky numbers: 19, 54, 75.**

CAPRICORN:

December 22 to January 20

Lucky you! This is one of the most playful months of the year for Capricorns. Vacations, sports events, the arts, romance, love affairs and fun activities with children are all tops on the menu. And yes, old flames from the past are in the picture as well. Actually, some of you might flirt with a secret dalliance, for old time's sake. If you do, keep in mind that everything has consequences. There's no free lunch. Don't do anything you will later regret. Continue to look for ways to travel and explore new avenues in publishing, the media, medicine and the law because these blessings are here for several more months, and after that, they will not return until 2027. **Lucky numbers: 06, 53, 91.**

AQUARIUS:

January 20 to February 18

Home, family and your domestic life are your primary focus now. In fact, many of you are tackling home repairs and things you've been meaning to get you for too long. Naturally, once you start to fix things, this advances into making them prettier, doesn't it? This is why redecorating projects will soon follow. And after that, you have to entertain and show everyone how great your place is. Yes, one thing leads to another. The ultimate, of course, being that once your place look fabulous, you might even sell it! Meanwhile, physical activity with groups and friends appeals now. In fact, some of you are physically

competitive about a sport or an event, especially for a worthy cause. **Lucky numbers: 13, 42, 60.**

PISCES:

February 20 to March 21

You're busier than a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. You are juggling short trips out of town, visits with siblings and relatives, conversations with friends and enemies plus increased reading, writing and studying. You are on the go! But the nice thing is that despite your busy schedule, you will take time to notice how beautiful your surroundings are. And not only that, many of you will start to see just how much love there is in your daily world. Sounds corny but it's true. Actually, it is your own positive energy that attracts this energy back to you. Nothing happens by accident. **Lucky numbers: 29, 38, 99.**

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Faster Internet for Belize

BELIZE CITY, Belize, Wednesday, April 27, 2016:

The Public Utilities Commission in collaboration with the University of Belize and local internet providers launched the Belize Internet Exchange Point (**BIXP**) on Wednesday, April 16, making Belize the only country in the Caribbean in which all Internet providers are connecting at the same exchange point.

An Internet exchange point is a physical infrastructure through which Internet service providers and content delivery networks exchange Internet traffic between their networks. Before the BIXP switch was flipped, traffic from Belize had to go through international points.

The primary role of a local internet exchange point is to keep local traffic



within local infrastructure. It provides more security for sensitive data.

Traffic no longer has to access international points; therefore, there

is less chance of information being intercepted by foreign entities. Quality of services will also be dramatically better. Lower prices will depend on the service providers but the average per-bit delivery cost for them will definitely decrease.

BIXP is stationed at the University of Belize compound in West Landivar. For Belize to take full advantage of the technology, the country must move from simply being consumers of internet content to being producers. This means uploading videos, developing apps and opening websites, etc.

The BIXP taskforce was formed in September of 2013. Making history on Wednesday took hard work. Representatives of Government, PUC, UB and especially the internet service providers were key to the launch of a local exchange point.

Police Department Promotions

BELIZE CITY, Belize, Wednesday, April 27, 2016:

More than 200 police officers from all over the country have been promoted for the financial year beginning April 1.

146 police constables been elevated

to corporals. 56 of them are from the Eastern Division, 31 are from the Cayo Formation, 11 from Orange Walk and Corozal and seven are from Stann Creek and Toledo. 38 are being promoted from specialized areas; including Special Branch,

Anti-Narcotics Unit, Professional Standards Branch, Gang Suppression Unit, Special Patrol Unit, Mobile Interdiction Team and the Joint Intelligence Coordinating Centre. 65 corporals are being elevated to the rank of sergeant. Eight of them are from the West, three from the South,

six from the North and 19 from the Eastern Division. In addition to the specialized areas, there are also promotions being given to officers in the Tourism Patrol Unit, Prosecution Branch and the Financial Intelligence Unit. Other promotions are expected to be announced for higher ranks.

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★ STAR HUMOR

A Fitting Punishment

Mr. Jones is traveling with his wife and mother-in-law in a far east country. At a place of honor his mother-in-law makes a careless remark, which the native people take as an insult to the royal family.

Mr. Jones is dragged off to court with his wife and mother-in-law and are sentenced to corporal punishment. Each of them are to receive 50 lashes on the rear end with a cane. But because the royal family doesn't want to appear hostile to foreigners, they grant the guests in their country a wish beforehand, as long as it is able to be fulfilled.

Mrs. Jones is first.

"What do you wish for yourself?"

"I would like a pillow bound on my rear end before the lashings."

"Okay, that shall be granted to you."

Mrs. Jones has the pillow bound to her rear end and receives her punishment. But because the pillow is too small and the executioner also hits her back a couple of times, she receives a few blows.

Next it is Mr. Jones' mother-

in-law's turn.

"What do you wish for yourself?"

"I would like a pillow bound on my rear end and a pillow bound on my back before the lashings."

"Okay, that shall be granted to you."

The mother-in-law receives her fifty lashes, but hardly feels the pain through the pillows.

Then comes Mr. Jones himself.

"What do you wish for yourself?"

"I have two wishes. Do you want to fulfill them for me?"

"Because you are a guest in our country, we want to fulfill your wishes for you, as long as they are reasonable."

"I would like 100 lashes instead of 50."

The executioner is surprised, but recovers again right away and replies, **"Yes, that is a pious wish, it shall be granted to you. And what is your second wish?"**

"I would like to have my mother-in-law bound to my back."

Brain Transplant

In the hospital the relatives gathered in the waiting room, where their family member lay gravely ill.

Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and somber. 'I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news,' he said as he surveyed the worried faces. 'The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, semi-risky and you will have to pay for the brain yourselves.'

The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a great length of time, someone asked, 'Well, how much does a brain cost?'

The Doctor quickly responded,

'\$25,000 for a male brain, and \$3,000 for a female brain.'

The moment turned awkward. Men in the room tried not to smile, avoiding eye contact with the women, but some actually smirked. A man, unable to control his curiosity, blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask, 'Why is the male brain so much more?'

The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and said to the entire group, 'It's just standard pricing procedure. We have to mark down the price of the female brains, because they've actually been used.'

Who Would Know

The man passed out in a dead faint as he came out of his front door onto the porch. Someone called 911.

When the paramedics arrived, they helped him regain consciousness and asked if he knew what caused him to

faint.

"It was enough to make anybody faint," he said. "My son asked me for the keys to the garage, and instead of driving the car out, he came out with the lawn mower!"

The Ring Bearer

A little boy was in a relative's wedding. As he was coming down the aisle he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd (*alternating between bride's side and groom's side*). While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar.

So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the

crowd was near tears from laughing so hard by the time he reached the pulpit.

The little boy, however, was getting more and more distressed from all the laughing, and was also near tears by the time he reached the pulpit.

When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, **"I was being the Ring Bear."**

Useless In The Parking Lot

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication for her daughter.

When returning to her car she found that she had locked her keys in the car. She was in a hurry to get home to her sick daughter.

She didn't know what to do, so she called her home and told the baby sitter what had happened and that she did not know what to do. The baby sitter told her that her daughter was getting worse.

She said, **"You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door."**

The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been thrown down on the ground, possibly by someone else who at some time or other had locked their keys in their car.

Then she looked at the hanger and said, **"I don't know how to use this."**

So she bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within five minutes an old rusty car pulled

up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head.

The woman thought, **"This is what you sent to help me?"** But, she was desperate, so she was also very thankful.

The man got out of his car and asked her if he could help. She said, **"Yes, my daughter is very sick. I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car. I must get home to her. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"**

He said, **"Sure"**. He walked over to the car, and in less than one minute the car was opened.

She hugged the man and through her tears she said, **"Thank you so much! You are a very nice man."**

The man replied, **"Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for about an hour."**

The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out loud, **"Oh, Thank you God! You even sent me a Professional!"**

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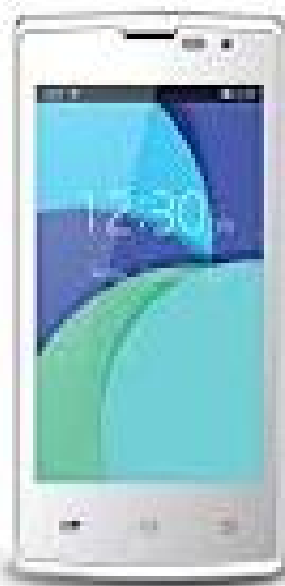
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