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FORMER PREMIER TRIAL TO START IN EARLY JANUARY...p2 | ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS SLATED FOR 2024...p3

“PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF FALSE HOPE AND FLOWERY LANGUAGE,” OPPOSITION MEMBERS SAY

Members of the Opposition, Second District Representative Hon. Melvin Mitch Turnbull and Eighth

District Representative Hon. Marlon Penn, have raised concerns about Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the

Hon. Natalio Wheatley’s 2024 Budget address, accusing him of glossing over crucial issues.

Premier - Wheatley presented a budget totaling approximately \$382.67 million. Out of this budget,

\$367.95 million is allocated for recurrent expenditure, which covers ongoing operational costs, while \$70.9 million is designated for capital expenditure, focusing on long-term asset investments and infrastructure development. However, during his review of the fiscal presentation, -Second District Representative Hon. Turnbull expressed dissatisfaction with what he perceived as a lack of substance and criticized the government for not providing sufficient relief to the people of the Territory. He accused the Premier of not addressing important issues such as the high cost of living, electricity bills, water problems, healthcare, and crime in the Territory. Hon. Turnbull emphasized the need for tangible solutions and questioned what specific measures would be introduced to ease

Continued on page 2



*Simone Monsanto of Caribbean Insurers Ltd., right, cuts piece of tart for judges Angel Cameron, left and Keturah Crabbe, during the Coconut Tart competition that attracted 22 entires during Friday’s Food Fair at The Noel Lloyd Positive Action Movement Park.
(Photo Credit: Dean “The Sportman” Greenaway)*

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“PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF FALSE HOPE...from page 1

the hardships faced by the people.

He stated: “What is going to be done, what is going to be injected into the budget that people could feel at ease in this country as we live and as we go through?”

Hon. Turnbull expressed hope that further scrutiny during the Standing Finance Committee stage would shed more light on the budget’s details, as he emphasized the importance of practical actions and programs to address the challenges faced

by the people.

Regarding job creation and wage increases mentioned in the budget speech, Hon. Turnbull called for transparency and concrete plans, emphasizing that these initiatives come with costs that need to be adequately addressed.

He concluded: “It’s not just to talk about jobs, talk about employment, but what programs are you putting in place to ensure that the people of the Virgin Islands are receiving employment?”

Eighth-District Representative Hon. Penn also criticized the Premier’s budget speech, describing it as filled with eloquent words and false hope. He stressed the need to examine the budget’s details to see if it aligns with the promises made in the speech.

Hon. Penn pointed out that key areas such as infrastructure, the economy, and the business sector appeared to lack sufficient funding. He highlighted the case of the National

Business Bureau, where only \$27,000 was allocated, which he deemed insufficient to effectively run such an initiative.

He emphasized the importance of concrete plans and tangible steps to move the economy and businesses forward, stating: “We can’t just give people false hope. People are tired of false hope and flowery language.”

Hon. Penn also expressed deep concern about the long-standing issue of

sewerage disposal in his district, lamenting the lack of progress in addressing this challenge. He pointed out that despite budget allocations, residents had not seen any tangible results, which he found disheartening.

In conclusion, Hon. Penn urged the government to provide clear explanations and deliver on their promises, especially in critical areas that impact the daily lives of the people they serve.

FORMER PREMIER TRIAL TO START IN EARLY JANUARY

Oleanvine-Pickering-Maynard, the former Managing Director of the BVI Ports Authority (BVIPA), is expected to be a key witness in the trial of former Premier Andrew Fahie when his trial kicks off in January 2024

When the long-awaited trial of the former BVI Leader gets on the way he is likely to stand alone on the drug-related charges since he opted not to negotiate a plea deal. According to his attorney, Theresa Van Vliet, Fahie intends to vigorously defend himself against the charges in court.

The arrests of the former Premier Andrew Fahie, Oleanvine Pickering-Maynard, and her son, Kadeem Maynard, occurred in April 2022, following a lengthy undercover operation conducted by agents of the US Drug Enforcement Administration. The charges

they face include conspiracy to import cocaine, engaging in money laundering, attempted money laundering, and racketeering. Notably, the Maynards have already pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge related to cocaine smuggling as part of a plea agreement.

On 20 November Kadeem was sentenced to 57 months by a Miami court for his involvement in the alleged scheme to traffic cocaine from Colombia through the British Virgin Islands to the United States mainland. His guilty plea in June, alongside his mother’s pertained to conspiracy to import a controlled substance. Their plea agreements revealed their involvement with a confidential source of the Drug Enforcement Administration in smuggling significant quantities of cocaine through Tortola waters. Upon completing his

sentence, Kadeem will be subject to deportation from the United States.

It’s noteworthy that Kadeem’s plea agreement does not require him to testify during Fahie’s trial, set to commence in January in a federal court in Miami. Pickering-Maynard, in her plea agreement, admitted to introducing an informant to Fahie, and together, they allegedly abused their positions of authority to facilitate the purported cocaine smuggling plan. Her sentencing is scheduled to occur after Fahie’s trial. Her plea agreement mandates that she testify against Fahie during the trial.

Furthermore, Pickering-Maynard’s-sentencing hearing is slated for 18 January -- ten days after the commencement of Mr. Fahie’s trial.

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ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS SLATED FOR 2024



Dr. the Hon. Natalio D. Wheatley

During his recent presentation of the 2024 budget address, Premier and Minister for Finance Dr. The Hon. Natalio Wheatley unveiled substantial plans for the revitalization of the Territory's road infrastructure.

While noting that work to better the roadways

have already commenced, the BVI Leader stated that more significant efforts are underway to repair and maintain the Territory's road network. Towards, this end, Hon. Wheatley noted that the recent commissioning of a state-of-the-art asphalt plant is expected to usher in a new era of efficiency and responsiveness in road maintenance and construction in the Territory.

A-standout announcement in the budget speech was the allocation of \$2.6 million in the development budget for road improvement projects slated for 2024. These projects, the Premier said will encompass the upgrade and rehabilitation of a total

of 38 miles of primary roads spanning Tortola, Virgin Gorda, and Jost Van Dyke.

Hon. - Wheatley announced-that government has already initiated a tender process, and with the support of loan funding, anticipates the-comprehensive reconstruction of the road network within a two-year-timeframe. This-comprehensive program encompasses the construction of new curb and slipper drains, as well as short retaining walls to bolster road security. It also includes an extensive overhaul of the roads, focusing on rebuilding the road base, enhancing drainage systems, and

improving road markings.

Furthermore, it was mentioned that the Seventh and Eighth Districts will witness new road construction-projects following-sewerage works. These projects will entail the reconstruction of roads stretching from Paraquita Bay to Parham Town, promising enhanced connectivity and transportation in these areas.

To further enhance road surfaces, a comprehensive asphalt patching program will be rolled out across all nine Districts. This program will target secondary and tertiary roads, providing a substantial upgrade to existing road surfaces. The primary objective is to ensure a safe and comfortable road network for all motorists, aligning with the government's commitment to road safety.

In addition to the road

improvement initiatives, the budget speech highlighted the significance of the coastal sea defense project, which encompasses Carrot Bay and Cappoon's Bay.

These projects play a critical role in safeguarding both roads and residents' properties from erosion, especially during storm surges. Phase One of this project, which commenced in the vicinity of the Coal Pot with the placement of rock revetment and gravity walls, is poised for completion in the upcoming year. Concurrently, Phase 3 rock revetment works in the cemetery area will also conclude, with the installation of sidewalks forming an integral part of the project. These efforts aim to bolster coastal defenses and enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure against environmental challenges.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT COUNCILS IN THE PIPELINE

In a significant move towards fostering stronger, more engaged communities, the government is set to introduce a comprehensive community development policy, with a key feature being the establishment of district councils across all nine Districts.

Premier and Minister for Finance Natalio Wheatley has emphasized the importance of vibrant, tightly-knit communities in contributing to the sustainable development of the nation. The forthcoming policy will seek to empower these communities by providing them with a platform for active participation in local affairs.

The district councils will play a pivotal role in

organizing and coordinating community events and activities. Their responsibilities will extend to various aspects of community development, including enhancing social cohesion, supporting local initiatives, and addressing community-specific needs.

As part of the government's commitment to this initiative, it has allocated a budget of \$920,000 for the urgent rehabilitation of three community centres. These essential hubs for community engagement include the Cane Garden Bay Community Centre, the East End-Long

Look Community Centre, and the Brewer's Bay Community Centre.

These rehabilitation efforts will not only address structural improvements but also introduce smart features to these facilities. The inclusion of smart technologies aligns with the government's vision to create modern and efficient spaces for community members to convene, collaborate, and participate in various activities.

The introduction of district councils is an election campaign promise that was touted as a significant step towards promoting community-driven development and strengthening the bonds among residents in each District.

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Remarks by Honourable de Castro on Special Education Week



Hon. Sharie de Castro

*Special Education Week
November 27 - December 1*

November 27th 2023

Special Education Awareness Week will be observed from 27th November to 1st December. This year, our focus is on the theme of “Accessibility and Equity: A Spectrum of Possibilities.” This theme embodies our collective efforts to ensure that every child, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, can thrive and succeed.

As we continue to strive for educational excellence, it is important to understand that a society’s progress is measured by its ability to provide equal access to education for all individuals. Special education goes beyond catering to the needs of a specific group; it aims to create an environment

where every student, regardless of their unique abilities, is equipped with the necessary tools to reach their full potential.

When we talk about accessibility in education, it extends beyond physical spaces. It encompasses a wide range of possibilities, including the use of adaptive technologies, inclusive curricula, and supportive learning environments. These elements contribute to an educational system where diversity is celebrated, and every learner is empowered to succeed.

Equity in education requires a commitment to fairness. It means acknowledging and addressing the diverse needs of our students, understanding that some may require additional support to overcome obstacles. Equity is not about providing the same resources to everyone; it is about meeting individuals where they are and providing them with the necessary tools for success. By prioritizing equity in education, we lay the foundation for a just society.

The spectrum of possibilities we envision is one where every child, regardless of

their abilities, is given the opportunity to shine. It involves tailoring education to meet individual needs, embracing differences, and fostering an inclusive culture that permeates every level of our educational system. By working together and embracing the theme of “Accessibility and Equity: A Spectrum of Possibilities,” we can create an educational landscape where every child can thrive and contribute to society.

As Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports I am pleased with the progress that we have made in promoting inclusivity in our education system, but there is still much more to be done. The construction of a new facility dedicated to the students of the Eslyn Henley Richiez Learning Centre is a clear demonstration of our government’s unwavering commitment to providing a supportive and inclusive educational environment for every child, regardless of their unique abilities. As a Ministry, we firmly believe that education should not be a one-size-fits-all concept, and every student deserves an environment that caters

to their individual strengths, supports their challenges, and empowers them to reach their full potential.

I want to take a moment to express my deepest appreciation to the teachers and support staff who dedicate themselves to the education of children with special needs. I acknowledge your commitment to inclusivity, your tireless efforts, and your ability to see beyond the challenges to the immense possibilities within each student. Your work is an example of the transformative power of education, and your dedication serves as an inspiration to us all.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt commendation to the parents of our exceptional students. Your remarkable resilience and unconditional love for your children is truly inspiring. Your commitment to supporting your children through their educational journey is a testament to your unwavering dedication as parents.

During the week, there are several activities to promote special education awareness. We invite you to participate in the activities which include,

Special Education highlights on government Facebook page, panel discussion on Tuesday, 28, Special Education Word Recognition and General knowledge contest on Wednesday, 29 November and a family fun night on Friday 1, December.

In conclusion, I encourage every stakeholder to embark on this journey with a shared vision—a vision of a society where accessibility and equity are not mere aspirations but the bedrock of our educational system. Together, let us explore the vast spectrum of possibilities that lie before us, knowing that by championing special education, we are shaping a future where every child can reach for the stars. As we continue to improve on a more inclusive education system, let us remember that the true measure of our success lies in the positive impact we make on the lives of these students.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to declare Special Education Awareness Week opened.

Thank you.

Premier Wheatley To Attend Climate Change Conference In Dubai

Premier Honourable Dr. Natalio Wheatley will be attending 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) from November 30 to December 6 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The objective of this 28th annual United Nations (UN) climate change conference is to determine the responsibilities of governments, and other global leaders to accelerate actions towards combatting the effects of climate change.

Premier Wheatley stated, “This meeting presents an excellent opportunity to advocate in an international forum for the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that are especially vulnerable to ill-effects of climate change.”

The Premier added, “We will advance for climate justice, where major polluters recognise their responsibility to assist those disproportionately affected, in adaptation and mitigation, by adopting metrics which properly assess eligibility for concessional finance. We will also promote the Virgin Islands’ readiness to receive funding and investment, due to our advanced legislative framework, our Climate Change Trust Fund, and a bevy of costed approved projects.”

COP28 will explore the climate-health nexus, where bi-lateral discussions on health concerns and implications of climate change will be held.

Against this backdrop, the Premier’s delegation will include

Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Vincent Wheatley; Climate Change officer in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, Ms. Angela Burnett-Penn, and the Acting United Kingdom/European Union Representative Ms. Tracy Bradshaw.

Minister for Communications and Works Honourable Kye Rymer has been appointed to carry out the duties of Premier and Minister of Finance for the period 28 November - 1 December 2023 as Deputy Premier, Honourable Lorna G. Smith, OBE will also be away from the Territory from Tuesday, November 29 to December 1.

Honourable Rymer’s appointment is in accordance with the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007 Section 55 (2) which states, “If

both the Premier and the Deputy Premier are expected to be absent from the Virgin Islands for more than forty-eight hours, the Governor shall authorise another Minister designated by the Premier to perform the functions of the office of Premier; and the Governor shall revoke this authority on the return to the Virgin Islands of either the Premier or the Deputy Premier.”

On her return to the Territory, Deputy Premier Smith will be appointed to carry out the duties of Premier and Minister of Finance during the period December 2 to 5.

Honourable Smith’s appointment will be in accordance with Section 55 (1) of the Virgin Islands

Constitution Order, 2007 which states, “If the Premier is expected to be absent from the Virgin Islands for more than forty-eight hours, the Governor shall authorise the Deputy Premier to perform the functions of the office of Premier; and the Governor shall revoke this authority on the return to the Virgin Islands of the Premier.”

The Government of the Virgin Islands remains committed to the overall development of the Territory including advancing mitigation measures in response to climate change concerns confronting Small Island Developing States.



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Message by Premier Wheatley on the Anniversary of the Great March of 1949

27 November, 2023

A pleasant good day to all the beautiful people of the Virgin Islands.

The fruits of the 1949 Great March were monumental achievements by our fore parents. They have indelibly

changed the political, social and economic landscape of our country, and the prospects of all the generations of Virgin Islanders since. Many of the rights, privileges and comforts that we enjoy and take for granted today, would not have

been possible were it not for the efforts of the brave men and women who stood up to mighty powers and demanded what are now more widely recognised in modern terms as fundamental human rights.

Most of us are very familiar with the concerns and outrage expressed in the 1930's and 40's by notable persons such as Hope Stevens, David G. Fonseca, Charles W. Georges, Howard R. Penn Joseph R. O'Neal, and the BVI Civic League, over the deplorable standard of living on the islands, the poor governance by the administrators, and the social injustice of the day. They championed the cause that Virgin Islanders deserve to have a greater and more meaningful participation in their own governance; a situation that had been deteriorating to abysmal lows since the Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands was shut down in 1901. Of course, it took the frustrations and persistence of a humble fisherman from Anegada, Theodolph H. Faulkner – angry with the poor treatment of his pregnant wife, to inspire and stimulate action among the population. United by their common belief of what was right and just, and what was wrong, the masses came out in their number, marched through the Capital and aired their grievances, and demanded the return of their rights and human dignity in the return of their legislature so that they would not be governed by persons hundreds of miles away who had no clue as to the realities on these islands.

The return of the legislature to these shores in 1950 paved the way for incremental political development and advancement of our nation and our people. The ability to govern certain aspects of our affairs cleared the way for the development of our tourism and financial services industries, which have aided the economic advancement of our country and our people. Our economic successes have enabled us to develop our infrastructure such as our ports, airports and schools. All of this and more have come from the courage of those brave souls who reminded us of the long-held desire of our fore parents

to have self-determination, and that if it does not happen in their lifetime then in the lifetime of their generation.

My dear Virgin Islands people, as we celebrate the return of the legislature, as we remember the 1949 Great March and as we hold up the memory of those great leaders, we must also remember that we hold that vision on trust for the future generations – and we must not falter.

People of the Virgin Islands, we must be the guardians of the democracy that our ancestors fought for. We must not allow it to slip away from us. Let us not forget what Faulkner, Fonseca, De Castro, and the 1500 marched for when our democracy is threatened, and even in the midst of our negotiations for a new constitution, let us not drop the baton that was handed to us in an advanced position. At the end of the day, whatever happens, our unique identity, culture and heritage, must be protected and our people must truly be rendered better off – and that means progressing to a full measure of self-government, and, ultimately, the ability to decide our own destiny.

These are the things that Hope Stevens, David Fonseca, Charles Georges, Howard Penn, Joseph O'Neal, Theodolph Faulkner, the Members of the BVI Civic League and all those who marched through Road Town, were lobbying for. This is why the restoration of the legislature is so significant that we are celebrating it almost three-quarters of a century later.

So, as we celebrate, my dear Virgin Islands people, let us celebrate the fact that we are descended from great heroes; people who were gifted with strength, courage and perseverance. Let us recognize and celebrate all the great things we have achieved as a nation because they chose to stand up. And, let us celebrate the confidence that they inspire in us to continue aspiring towards great things.

I thank you.



PROGRAM LISTINGS

MONDAYS

- (1:00 PM) OMOJA - WITH EDJU EN KA
- (5:00 PM) TALKING POINTS - WITH MRS. VIOLET GAUL
- (7:00 PM) INSPIRATION MONDAYS - WITH MEADE MALONE
- (7:30 PM) TRANSFORMING YOUR TOMORROW TODAY - BY TRANSFORMATION CHURCH INTERNATIONAL
- (8:00 PM) NDP RADIO PROGRAM (1ST & 3RD MONDAYS) - BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
- (8:00 - 9:00 PM) NEW COVENANT PRAYER LINE (EVERY 2ND MONDAY) - NEW COVENANT MINISTRIES

TUESDAYS

- (5:00 PM) HONESTLY SPEAKING PROGRAM - WITH CLAUDE SKELTON CLINE

WEDNESDAYS

- (10:00 AM) THE MORNING SHOW - WITH PAUL HEWLETT
- (1:15 PM) OMOJA - WITH "EDJU EN KA"
- (7:00 - 8:00 PM) DYAS VOICE PROGRAM - (2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAY) WITH DEPT. OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
- (7:00 - 9:00 PM) THE HOT SEAT REVISED PROG. - (1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY)
- (8:00 - 10:00 PM) THE HOT SEAT REVISED PROG. - (2ND WEDNESDAY) WITH CARL DAWSON, JULIAN GORDON, AND WALWYN BREWLEY

THURSDAYS

- (5:00 PM) HONESTLY SPEAKING PROGRAM - WITH CLAUDE SKELTON CLINE

FRIDAYS

- (7:00 - 8:00 PM) BODY AND SOUL PROGRAM - WITH REV. DR. PASTOR MELVIN TURNBULL, DR. KEDRICK PICKERING, REV. MICHAEL ANTHONY, PASTOR CALVIN MILLS, AND REV. DR. KEITH LEWIS

SATURDAYS

- (8:00 - 10:00 AM) MORE TALK, LESS MUSIC - WITH ZOE AND JOE JACK
- (10:00 - 11:00 AM) KNOWLEDGE IS POWER HOUR
- (4:30 - 6:00 PM) SPORTS TALK - WITH CLEMENT "BONE CRUSHER" DONOVAN, AND ROY PICKERING (ALTERNATING WEEKS)
- (6:00 - 7:30 PM) A LOOK AT THE COMMUNITY - WITH HOSTS ULRIC SCATLIFFE & DR. HARLAN VANTERPOOL

SUNDAYS

- (7:15 - 7:30 AM) HOPE FOR TODAY B'CAST - BY: CHRISTIAN FAITH ASSEMBLY
- (7:30 - 7:45 AM) VOICE OF THE LAMB B'CAST - BY: TRINITY MORAVIAN CHURCH
- (7:45 - 8:00 AM) ADVENT EYE MINISTRY (2ND & 4TH SUNDAY) - BY: BRO. MICHAEL WILLIAMS
- (7:45 - 8:00 AM) FAITH BELIEVING B'CAST (1ST & 3RD SUNDAY) - BY: UPPER ROOM DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE, BOSTON, MA
- (8:00 - 8:15 AM) VOICE OF HOPE B'CAST - BY: APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH
- (8:30 - 9:00 AM) GOSPEL OF JESUS B'CAST - BY: GOSPEL OF JESUS EVANGELISTIC PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
- (9:00 - 9:30 AM) SHOCKING BIBLE PROPHECIES - BY: SEVENTHDAY ADVENTISTS CHURCHES
- (9:30 - 9:45 AM) AGAPE TOTAL LIFE BROADCAST - BY: AGAPE TOTAL LIFE CENTER
- (9:50 AM) HOLINESS AWAKENING B'CAST - BY: CHURCH OF GOD OF HOLINESS, BAUGHERS BAY
- (10:05 AM) REVEALED TRUTH B'CAST - BY: SHAMMAH DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES
- (10:35 AM) UNSHACKLED RADIO MINISTRY
- (12:30 PM) ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, SEA COWS BAY SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE
- (1:30 PM) ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL ANGLICAN CHURCH (EXCEPT 2ND SUNDAY)
- (4:30 PM) HYMNS & THEIR MEANINGS PROG. (1ST & 3RD SUNDAY) - WITH BRENDA HERBERT STEWART
- (6:00 PM) METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY SERVICE (1ST SUNDAY)
- (6:00 PM) ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL ANGLICAN CHURCH (2ND SUNDAY)
- (7:00 PM) YOUR GOSPEL MUSIC PROGRAM - WITH VALERIE LETTSOME AND CLAUDE PARILLON (LAST 3 SUNDAYS)
- (7:30 PM) "VICTORIOUS PRAISES" B'CAST - WITH SIS. ESMIE POTTER (2ND SUNDAY)
- (8:15 PM) PRAISE & PRAYER SERVICE - BY: TRINITY MORAVIAN CHURCH (4TH SUNDAY)

Cabinet Approves 2024 Public Holidays

Acting in accordance with Section 5 of the Public Holidays Act (Cap 199), as amended, Cabinet has approved the following public holidays for 2024:

Monday, 1st January - New Year's Day

Monday, 4th March - The Anniversary of the Birth of Hamilton Lavity Stoutt

(In lieu of Thursday, 7th March)

Friday, 29th March - Good Friday

Monday, 1st April - Easter Monday

Monday, 20th May - Whit Monday

Friday, 14th June - Sovereign's Birthday

(to be confirmed)

Monday, 1st July - Virgin Islands Day

Monday, 5th August - Emancipation Monday

Tuesday, 6th August - Emancipation Tuesday

Wednesday, 7th August - Emancipation Wednesday

Monday, 21st October - Heroes and Foreparents Day

Monday, 25th November - The Commemoration of the Great March of 1949 and the Restoration of the Legislative Council

Wednesday, 25th December - Christmas Day

Thursday, 26th December - Boxing Day

Road Town Round-A-Bout Temporary Road Closures Notice

The public is notified that the following roads will be temporarily closed on Sunday December 3 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. to facilitate Trefle's 15th Anniversary celebrations.

The westbound lane of James Walter Francis Drive in the Vicinity of B&F Medical Complex to the round-a-bout. Traffic will be redirected to the Mangrove bypass road in the area of the Richard Stout Building.

A portion of DeCastro Street in the vicinity of the round-a-bout to the exit of the Mangrove bypass road.

A portion of Nibbs Street in the vicinity of First Bank to Cutlass Tower. Traffic will be diverted through Positive Action Drive and Norman Fowler Drive.

A portion of Waterfront Drive from Palm Groove to the round-a-bout. Traffic will be diverted through Shoreway Drive in the vicinity of I-Smart on to Flemming Street.

A portion of Flemming Street in the vicinity of the intersection by the old Flow Building to the round-a-bout. Traffic will be diverted to Fishlock Road and the Market Square bypass road onto the James Walter Francis Drive.

Motorists are asked to follow all traffic signs. Any inconvenience caused by the road closures is regretted.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT COUNCILS IN THE PIPELINE

In a significant move towards fostering stronger, more engaged communities, the government is set to introduce a comprehensive community development policy, with a key feature being the establishment of district councils across all nine Districts.

Premier and Minister for Finance Natalio Wheatley has emphasized the importance of vibrant, tightly-knit communities in contributing to the sustainable development of the nation. The forthcoming policy will seek to empower these communities by providing them with a platform for active participation in local affairs.

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will play a pivotal role in organizing and coordinating community events and activities. Their responsibilities will extend to various aspects of community development, including enhancing social cohesion, supporting local initiatives, and addressing community-specific needs.

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Centre.

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The introduction of district councils is an election campaign promise that was touted as a significant step towards promoting community-driven development and strengthening the bonds among residents in each District.



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[s30]

Rotary Club of Road Town's Project 1BVI: A Decade of Community Impact and Service Excellence



Water Cooler and Filtration System Installation

Road Town, British Virgin Islands – [29th November 2023] – The Rotary Club of Road Town proudly announces the successful completion of its annual community initiative, Project 1BVI, marking its ninth consecutive year of service to the British Virgin Islands (BVI) community. This transformative project, held on 28 October, 4 November, and 11 November 2023, exemplifies Rotary's enduring commitment to fostering positive change and unity.

History and Mission

Originating from the genuine desire to foster unity and positive change, Project 1BVI is a testament to the Rotary Club of Road Town's unwavering commitment to the well-being of the BVI community. Aligned with Rotary's core values of service, leadership, and fellowship, this initiative has become a sustainable embodiment of these principles.

Impactful Endeavors in Focus

Over the years, Project 1BVI has addressed diverse community needs by aligning its efforts with Rotary's Areas of Focus. Previous projects have ranged from painting benches and classrooms to tree planting, landscaping public spaces, home repairs, water cooler installations, garbage bin construction, and library refurbishments.

Highlights from Project 1BVI 2023

1. Food Drive to Benefit the Enis Adams School Pantry (28 October 2023): A food drive was organized by the Rotary Club to benefit Enis Adams Primary School's pantry, aiming to contribute to the community's well-being.
2. Water Cooler with Filtration System Installation (28 October 2023): A water cooler with a filtration system was installed at the Robinson O'Neal Memorial

Primary School in Virgin Gorda to support access to clean and safe drinking water.

3. Beach Clean-Up (11 November 2023): In collaboration with Green VI, the Rotary Club of Road Town hosted a beach clean-up at Sprat Point, Beef Island, to preserve the natural beauty of BVI's pristine beaches and promote environmental stewardship.

4. Painting of Benches at Centennial Park (11 November 2023): Members of the Rotary Club of Road Town, along with student volunteers, gathered to upgrade Rotary Centennial Park by painting benches in vibrant blue, providing a space for community relaxation.

5. Mini Health Fair (4 November 2023): Focused on youth well-being, the Rotary Club of Road Town hosted a mini health fair covering essential topics such as hygiene, healthy eating practices, and mental wellness, emphasizing the importance of instilling healthy practices early in life.

Community United, Commitment Undivided

Project 1BVI reflects the Rotary Club of Road Town's dedication to collaboration, emphasizing the enduring partnerships forged with community members. This annual event underscores Rotary's "Service Above Self" motto and reinforces the club's unwavering commitment to the BVI community.



Food Drive



Beach Clean Up



Before you discipline a child

S - stop! Calm yourself and your child

T - take a few deep breaths

O - observe the needs of your child

P - proceed in a kind but firm manner

This message was produced by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture in collaboration with UNICEF and funded by the UK Government.

VI Represented At UN Climate Change Conference - COP28

Premier and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Honourable Dr. Natalio Wheatley is leading a three member delegation to the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai.

The COP is an annual event where countries that are party to the UNFCCC review and agree joint efforts to limit the extent of climate change and to support the most impacted and vulnerable countries, like small island developing states, adapt to impacts.

The Premier's delegation includes Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Vincent Wheatley; Climate Change officer in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change Ms. Angela Burnett Penn and the Acting United Kingdom/European Union Representative Ms. Tracy Bradshaw.

The Premier and his team will join delegates from other overseas territories and countries around the world to participate in the meeting which is being held from November 30 to December 12. The commitments made at this year's COP will be key to determining whether the world can still achieve the critical target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, widely recognised as the boundary of change small islands can survive.

The Virgin Islands delegation will have an opportunity to discuss its priority climate change issues and concerns with the United Kingdom delegation for representation during the conference negotiations. Key among these is the VI and other Overseas Territories (OTs) being formally recognised

under the Convention to pave a path to allow access to international climate finance to support local efforts to build resilience to climate change impacts and transition to renewable energy.

Premier Wheatley accompanied by ministers/premiers from all other British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean, will be the lead panelist at a side event to be hosted by the Virgin Islands at COP28 through the CARICOM pavilion in collaboration with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECES) Commission. The event will explore the case for OTs accessing international climate finance in the context of being members/associate members of the OECES and CARICOM.

In addition, the VI delegation will participate in a number of bilateral meetings and be present at side events and showcase multimedia products to attract first international donors to the Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund. The delegation will also seek investment in renewable energy initiatives and explore opportunities for the Territory to engage in the international carbon credits market.

Among the climate change impacts already plaguing the Virgin Islands and wider Caribbean are rising temperatures and heat waves, coral bleaching, stronger hurricanes, more frequent and severe floods and droughts, mass sargassum blooms and coastal erosions. Adaptation to climate change will, among other things, require large-scale investment to enhance environmental protection, restore ecosystems and build climate-resilient infrastructure, facilities and communities.

Meanwhile, the Government of the Virgin Islands is taking steps to increase the Territory's

resilience to the impacts of climate change and reduce its carbon footprint through updating and implementing the Virgin Islands Climate Change Adaptation Policy and working towards the initial target of replacing 30% of the national electricity supply with renewable energy.

Earlier this year, Premier Wheatley in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) called for nations which are contributing

heavily to greenhouse gas emissions to be as ambitious as possible in meeting targets to reverse the ill effects of climate change.

The Premier said at the time, "There is a need for world leaders to recognise climate change as an existential threat to the planet and, as such, keep the threat of climate change in proper perspective. The Caribbean is one of the regions of the world most vulnerable to climate change."

The Government also continues work to operationalise The Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund which was legally established in March 2015 as an independent entity with the mandate to raise, manage and on-grant donor funds to eligible actors to support climate change adaptation and mitigation in line with the Climate Change Policy.

Emerald Sakara's Inaugural Call to the British Virgin Islands



29 November 2023 – On 28 November 2023, the British Virgin Islands Ports Authority (BVIPA) in collaboration with the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board (BVITB) and local ship agent ROMASCO GROUP, commemorated the inaugural arrival of Emerald Cruises small luxury yacht, Emerald Sakara with a plaque exchange ceremony. This event took place onboard the ship while it was anchored near Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda with Captain Robert O'Leary.

FIRSTCARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL COMTRUST FOUNDATION PROVIDES US\$80,000 TO CCRIF SPC TO ENHANCE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AMONG MEMBER GOVERNMENTS



L-R: CIBC FirstCaribbean's Debra King, Director, Corporate Communications and Mark St. Hill, Chief Executive Officer, along with CCRIF SPC's Desirée Cherebin, Vice-Chairperson of the CCRIF Board and

Bridgetown, Barbados, November 23, 2023. Yesterday, the FirstCaribbean International ComTrust Foundation and CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) met to celebrate the Foundation's donation of US\$75,000 to help enhance rainfall monitoring systems and disaster preparedness in the Caribbean and another US\$5,000 to print and disseminate additional copies of CCRIF's children's publication on "Hazards, Disasters and Climate Change", developed for children ages 8

to 12 years old.

The grant of US\$75,000 will be used to enable at least 4 Caribbean countries to improve their weather monitoring networks by adding automated weather systems and other equipment to their existing networks. These new automated weather systems (AWSs) will enhance these countries' early warning systems and their ability to better prepare for hydro-meteorological events such as hurricanes and severe rainfall events throughout the year. These systems also can inform longer-term planning.

AWSs can incorporate a range of sensors that can provide data to enable national meteorological services to undertake more detailed and reliable analysis of climate trends to inform national strategies on climate change and disaster risk management.

Chairperson of CCRIF's Technical Assistance Committee; Isaac Anthony, Chief Executive Officer; and Leslie Gittens, Business Development Specialist at the ceremony commemorating the donation from FirstCaribbean International ComTrust Foundation to CCRIF.

The FirstCaribbean International-ComTrust Foundation is a registered charity which was established in 2003, to support CIBC FirstCaribbean's community relations programmes. The Bank makes contributions to causes within the Caribbean in the areas of Health & Wellness, the Community & the Environment, and Youth & Education. Since its inception in October of 2002, through the ComTrust Foundation, CIBC FirstCaribbean has donated more than US\$30M to worthy projects across the Caribbean.

This donation from the ComTrust Foundation will support an existing initiative currently being implemented by CCRIF that focuses on providing much needed assistance to its member governments to enhance their AWS networks. In 2020, CCRIF worked with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) to undertake a situational analysis to determine if there were existing gaps in rainfall measuring networks of its member governments and the extent of these gaps.

According to Isaac Anthony, CCRIF's Chief Executive Officer, "The Situational Analysis, which assessed the rainfall measuring network of 19 of CCRIF member governments, indicated that

only 5 Caribbean countries have over 70 per cent of the recommended level of AWS coverage. The minimum coverage was 10 per cent of optimal coverage, the maximum was 90 per cent of optimal coverage, with an average of 40 per cent of optimal coverage across the countries". Having reviewed the report, the CCRIF Board took the decision to provide support under its Technical Assistance Programme to member countries in the region to strengthen their network of automated weather stations (AWSs). CCRIF also reached out to the FirstCaribbean International ComTrust Foundation based on the goals of the Foundation to determine if this was an area that they would be willing to provide support for. The rest is history!

To date, CCRIF has assisted 4 countries (Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Cayman Islands), providing them with approximately US\$250,000 in support to improve and expand their rainfall data collection and measurement systems. These resources from the ComTrust Foundation will support an additional 4 countries to expand their rainfall monitoring networks. CCRIF will match these resources from ComTrust to support another 4 countries in the region. By the middle of 2024, 12 countries in the Caribbean would have additional AWSs and enhanced rainfall measuring networks, which will help governments to better prepare their populations in the face of the increasing frequency and intensity of hydro-meteorological hazards.

CIBC FirstCaribbean's CEO,

Mark St. Hill, who also serves as the Chairman of the ComTrust Foundation, noted: "Our bank is committed to maintaining strong environmental standards and to conducting our activities in an environmentally and socially responsible manner that contributes to long-term value for our clients, employees, communities, and our shareholders.

Climate change has been engaging our region for some time, and our bank has established itself as a leading financial partner for stakeholders seeking to address the issue. We actively seek to support the Caribbean region's transition to a low-carbon economy and advancing of sustainability and climate resiliency initiatives in the territories in which we operate."

The "Hazards, Disasters and Climate Change" booklet allows children to learn about the different types of hazards that affect the Caribbean; actions to take before, during and after these natural hazard events; climate change; and how to take care of our natural environment. Since its first publication in 2021, CCRIF has distributed over 2,000 copies to schools, ministries of education, disaster preparedness and management-agencies, public libraries, and civil society-organizations throughout the region. The booklet is also available in French and can also be accessed via the CCRIF website at: <https://www.ccrif.org/publications/booklet/booklet-ccrif-spc-hazards-disasters-climate-change-primary-level-kids>.

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Nanny Cay Challenge For Round Tortola Record Raises \$2700 For Local Charities

Tortola, British Virgin Islands, 30 November 2023 - On Saturday November 18, Triple Jack, the phoenix-like Kelsall 47 trimaran built in 1979, attempted to beat her Round Tortola record of 2:33:33 she set in 2015. With rare and brisk southerly winds, and a new a sail inventory, conditions looked good for the record-breaking attempt.

Clocking speeds in the mid to high teens, and having completed just one tack and one gybe through the whole route they crossed the line with a time of 2 hours 40 minutes and 4 seconds - just 6 minutes and 37 seconds shy of their 2015 record.

"Triple Jack is in practice mode for a potential Caribbean 600 entry next February," said Richard Wooldridge, co-skipper/owner with Steve Davis. "After a 6-year refit post Irma we are evaluating to see if she has still got it."

However, following the valiant but failed attempt the BVI Humane Society is \$700 better off. Triple Jack's attempt was part of the Nanny Cay Challenge in which yachts, kiteboarders, and paddleboarders visiting the British Virgin Islands are invited to make an attempt to beat the latest round Tortola records. The notional entry fee is a \$250 donation to BVI charity of choice. For this attempt, Triple Jack donated \$350 and Nanny Cay matched the donation.

"We will keep supporting the Humane Society until they have their new premises! They go above and beyond looking after some of the most unfortunate animals on the island," Richard added.

To date \$2,700 has been raised for BVI charities:

BVI Humane Society: \$700, Triple Jack & Nanny Cay - November 2023

Family Support Network: \$250, Mike Hirst - January 2019

BVI Humane Society: \$250, Triple Jack - April 2015

RBVIYC Youth Sailing Programme: \$250, SPOOKIE - March 2016

RBVIYC Youth Sailing Programme: \$250, Aiyana - March 2013

VISAR: \$250, Aiyana - March 2013

KATS: \$250, INTAC - November 2012

BVI Humane Society: \$250, Triple Jack - October 2012

BVI Humane Society \$250, Soma - April 2010

"It's fun way to raise money for charity," said Miles Sutherland Pilch, general manager of Nanny Cay. "The Nanny Cay Challenge has been exciting to watch over the years, and we're looking forward to seeing more attempts as the margins get narrower!"

Nanny Cay launched the Nanny Cay Challenge for the round Tortola record in 2010 with Triple Jack's benchmark time of 3:33:00. It's an all-comer, any-day event, starting and finishing off Nanny Cay. Competitors (except paddboarders) must attempt the record anti-clockwise and round Beef Island, Scrub Island, Great Camanoe and Guana Island to port. The start transit is in line with the western tip of Peter Island and the western tip of Nanny Cay.

In addition to the substantial bragging rights, record breakers receive a crew dinner at PegLegs for up to 15 crew members; large bottle of Drappier champagne; and name on the perpetual trophy in Peg Legs.

The record has been broken many times since it was set, but the 2019 Round Tortola Race in the Sailing Festival, the three-day warm up event for the BVI Spring Regatta, was a

banner year for breaking, if not smashing, the record.

A perfect day for record setting saw Fujin, the Bieker 53 catamaran owned and skippered by Greg Slyngstad, win the Nanny Cay Challenge with the fastest elapsed time of 1:57:16, breaking the standing multihull record set in 2015


by the trimaran Triple Jack of 2:33:40 - and the outright record of 2:14:54 set by Mike Hirst on a kiteboard in January that year. The monohull record was also overturned by E1, the Volvo 70 skippered by Rafal Sawicki in an elapsed time of 2:53:08, beating the previous record of 3:08:43. set in 2016

by the TP52 Spookie.

Gunboat 62 Mach Schnell, owned and skippered by Kent Haeger also broke Triple Jack's record with 2:00:39; the Rapido 60 trimaran owned and skippered by Steve Bourne did the same finishing in 2:19:54.


Be SMART

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DO'S


- Before using your LPG cylinder, check the valve and other joints to make sure there is no leakage
- Keep your cylinder in a vertical position with the valve on top
- Install cylinder at ground level on flat surface
- Replace rusty cylinders
- Keep cylinder away from electrical sources, air conditioners and switch boxes
- Ensure regulators to be used on cylinder are the same diameter as the cylinder valve
- Check your lines once a year, many leaks are due to corrosion



DON'TS


- **DO NOT** ever install your cylinder near any heat source or exposed to sun, rain, dust and heat.
- **DO NOT** place cylinder inside a closed compartment.
- **DO NOT** fill up above the 85% fill mark. You must leave 'dead space' to allow for the expansion of LPG from liquid state to gaseous.



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- Turn OFF the regulator.
- Call a qualified inspector.
- **DO NOT** switch ON/OFF any electrical equipment inside the house.
- **DO NOT** light matches, lighter or stove.



A message from the Department of Disaster Management and Sol



GLOBAL NEWS BRIEF

STORIES SELECTED BY GIORGIO MIGLIAVACCA

MEXICO - In recent years, instead of decreasing, sexual crimes against girls have increased. Impunity rates continue to hover around 95%. Emilia was 14 years old when she disappeared on her way to school in Apatzingán, Michoacán. Her mother and family reported her missing, blocked roads in desperation and marched to demand that she be found. None of this worked, and the teen's body was located six months later in a vacant lot. She joined a long list of girls and women who are murdered every year in Mexico with total impunity. Violence against women, far from ending or decreasing, has increased in the last 30 years, even though governments insist on highlighting some specific declines. Newly published data reinforces the theory that women in Mexico experience violence from birth. Every year, more than 3,000 women — including children and teens — are murdered, although only 24% of that figure is counted as femicides. Feminist and civil society

organizations, however, point out that it is very likely that this number is much higher due to the problems getting prosecutors and courts to investigate and pass judgment with a gender perspective. "Of all those murdered, 50% have characteristics of femicide," says María de la Luz Estrada, director of the National Femicide Observatory, which believes the real number of femicides is more than 1,500 each year. Until the month of September, state prosecutors' offices had tallied counted 625 of these misogynistic murders. [El País]

CHINA - With family incomes squeezed by a weak Chinese economy, international travelers are cutting back on designer goods and luxury hotels.

Nearly a year after Beijing said goodbye to zero-COVID — its strict policy of lockdowns and quarantines to contain the spread of the coronavirus — the Chinese public are traveling internationally again in large numbers.

In the first half of 2023, the number of outbound tourists from mainland China reached 40.3 million, according to official statistics. That figure is expected to have grown further in the latter half of the year.

But it's still a far cry from 155 million outbound trips taken by mainland Chinese tourists in 2019 before the pandemic struck.

The Chinese have been a major boon to global tourism as they are regularly the world's highest-spending visitors, enjoying luxury hotels, tours, souvenirs and designer brands.

In 2019, Chinese tourists spent \$255 billion (€235 billion) while overseas, according to business consultancy McKinsey & Company. The figure is almost twice as much as Americans, three times more than Germans and almost four times the spending of British tourists.

"The continued expected rise in incomes and emerging travel class means that over the next 10 years, we expect that there will be an additional 60 million Chinese households per year looking to travel both within China and internationally," Dave Goodger, Managing

Director (EMEA) at Tourism Economics, told DW.

He said during that period, China is expected to make the greatest contribution to long-haul travel growth to Europe in terms of visits and spending, overtaking the US as the most important growth market. [Deutsche Welle]

GUYANA - A Republic Bank teller and school teacher in Guyana have been charged for fraudulently withdrawing money from a customer's bank account.

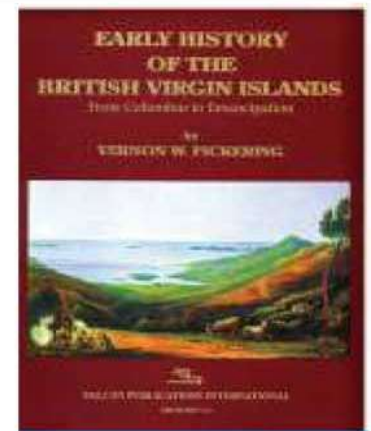
Tyrell Davis, a 19-year-old bank employee, stands accused of breaching bank protocols to facilitate a fraudulent money withdrawal.

Donna Edwards, a 44-year-old school teacher has also been implicated.

Edwards is alleged to have been the recipient of the fraudulently withdrawn funds.

Reports are that Davis was contacted by a friend to help in facilitating the fraudulent withdrawal and he was paid GYD\$300,000. [CNW]

SANTO DOMINGO. - Last week, the Dominican Republic has been grappling with the aftermath of a tropical disturbance over the weekend, which led to soil saturation and river overflows in several areas. Notably, the Malecón de Santo Domingo was suggested as an alternative route by the National Institute of Land Traffic (Intrant) due to the closure of the 27 de Febrero tunnel at Máximo Gómez. However, a cliff collapse near the Floating Bridge over the Ozama River early on Monday forced the closure of this section as well. This incident occurred on George Washington Avenue, close to Johnny Pacheco Boulevard, but fortunately did not result in any injuries. In El Seibo province, the situation was dire, with multiple bridges collapsing due to the heavy rains and pre-existing



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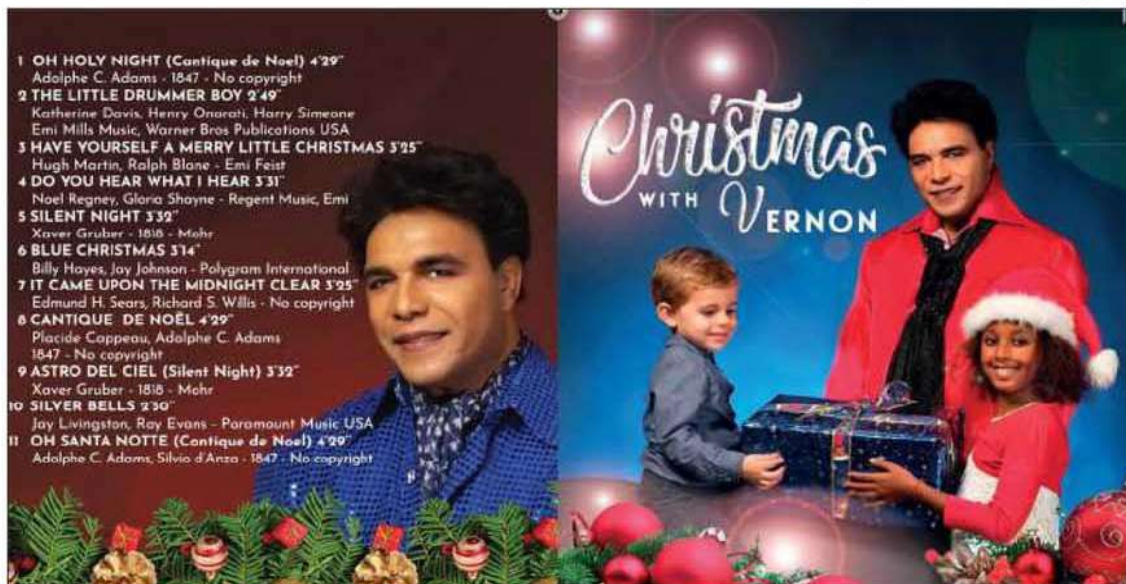
islandsun@surfbvi.com

deterioration. Bridges in towns like Las Cuchillas, Sabana de Pedro Sánchez, Marmolejos, La Higüera, Arroyo Grande, El Cuy, and the one connecting El Bejucal and Palma de Gallo in San Francisco Vicentillo were affected. Many of these bridges, built decades ago, are in urgent need of intervention by authorities. As a result, numerous communities are now isolated.

In Azua, particularly in the Guayabal municipality, the tropical disturbance has caused significant damage.

Two bridges collapsed and river flooding has cut off two communities since Friday. Tragically, a 25-year-old man was swept away by the Las Cuevas River in Guayabal while trying to cross between communities. His body was recovered on Sunday, November 19.

These events highlight the urgent need for infrastructural attention and disaster response in the affected areas. [Dominican Today]



- 1 OH HOLY NIGHT (Cantique de Noel) 4'29"
Adolphe C. Adams - 1847 - No copyright
- 2 THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY 2'49"
Katherine Davis, Henry Onarati, Harry Simeone
Emi Mills Music, Warner Bros Publications USA
- 3 HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS 3'25"
Hugh Martin, Ralph Blane - Emi Feist
- 4 DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR 3'31"
Noel Regney, Gloria Shayne - Regent Music, Emi
- 5 SILENT NIGHT 3'39"
Xaver Gruber - 1818 - Mohr
- 6 BLUE CHRISTMAS 3'14"
Billy Hayes, Jay Johnson - Polygram International
- 7 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR 3'25"
Edmund H. Sears, Richard S. Willis - No copyright
- 8 CANTIQUE DE NOEL 4'29"
Placide Cappeau, Adolphe C. Adams
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- 9 ASTRO DEL CIEL (Silent Night) 3'32"
Xaver Gruber - 1818 - Mohr
- 10 SILVER BELLS 2'30"
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RHYTHMS OF LOVE WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON IN THE BVI: WATCH HIM ON YOUTUBE

The Sunny Side Up



Through the Lens of The Sunny Side



*Mirleese Newton serves up some some pork for patrons during Friday's Food Fair at The Noel Lloyd Positive Action Movement Park.
(Photo Credit: Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway)*

INSIDE	PAGE 14 Promoting preventive care (Continue on page 16)	PAGE 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">. Ladyburd Talks. Ladyburd Mail Box. Lightbulb Moments. Poetry Corner. Tickle My Funny Bones. Pun Intended	PAGE 16 Promoting preventive care (Continue from page 14)
			PAGE 17 Divas On A Dime

JOYFUL 2023 LOBSTER FESTIVAL

PHOTOS: BVI TOURIST BOARD



The 2023 annual BVI Lobster Fest was held from 24 to 26 November treating food enthusiasts to a three-day gastronomic extravaganza. This year's fest, touted as the Territory's premier foodie event, left attendees with unforgettable memories of delectable dishes, and lively music.

The festivities commenced with a 'Lobster Crawl,' a unique bar crawl that set the tone for what was to be an extraordinary first day. At the heart of the event was the Anegada spiny lobster which

was prepared in various delectable ways. From fried lobster with mango dip to succulent lobster rolls and mouth watering lobster patties, the culinary offerings were nothing short of extraordinary.

The BVI Lobster Fest was not just about the tantalizing food; it was an immersive cultural experience. Live music filled the air, enhancing the festive atmosphere as attendees strolled along the picturesque shores of Anegada. Local artists showcased

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16





Ladyburd Talks...

Dear Readers: Christmas Day at Home: Tips and Ideas to keep a small family Christmas special! If you haven't planned a big family affair this year, you may be looking for ideas to make a small Christmas Day at home special!

Here are some Christmas ideas, with some Mumbler recommendations for Christmas Day activities to make this Christmas one to remember.

Spread out opening presents

In the morning, only let your children open a stocking or a couple of small gifts. Encouraging to open things throughout the day (and even into Boxing Day too) not only keeps the excitement going, but keeps their interest in each present a little longer

Home Scavenger Hunt:

For even more fun why not try a Christmas Present Hunt? Hide presents around the house (and even garden) for your children to find. If you're feeling really creative you could create a treasure hunt with clues! If you can't quite face any preparation, hide a set number of items around the house, such as 10 chocolate coins, 5 reindeer statues etc to find!

Breakfast:

Get creative with your Christmas breakfast! There are some brilliant ideas to get you started... or even better get your children to create their own Christmas trees from fruit or reindeer pancakes! You might not want to do all the food with a Christmas Dinner looming, but decorations and activities are key!

[more next week]

Source: <https://northleeds.mumbler.co.uk/christmas-day-at-home-tips-and-ideas-to-keep-a-small-christmas-day-special/>



LIGHT BULB MOMENTS

"Remember, -if Christmas-isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under a tree."

—Charlotte Carpenter

Poetry Corner

What Do We Love About Christmas?

*What do we love about Christmas;
Does our delight reside in things?
Or are the feelings in our hearts
The real gift Christmas brings.*

*It's seeing those we love,
And sending Christmas cards, too,
Appreciating people who bring us joy
Special people just like you.*

© By Joanna Fuchs

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/son>

Tickle My Funny Bones



Thanks for the harmonica

"Thanks for the harmonica you gave me for Christmas,"

little Joshua said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays.

"It's the best present I ever got."

"That's great," said his uncle.

"Do you know how to play it?"

"Oh, I don't play it,"

the little fellow said.

"My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."

The Usual Question

*As a little girl climbed on to Santa's lap, he asked her the usual question,
"And what would you like for Christmas?"*

*The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped,
"Didn't you get my text?"*

Source: <http://www.jokesoftheday.net/tag/christmas/1>

PUN INTENDED

"I didn't become a doctor because I don't have the patients...."



Ladyburd's Mail Box

EMAIL ADDRESS:

delseitaliburd@msn.com

or

islandsunnewsp@gmail.com

Dear Ladyburd: I hasten to write to you to see if you could give me some fresh ideas about this situation. My boyfriend has been divorced now for 4 years, we met two years ago. I did not have anything to do with their divorce, I did not even know him during their marriage, but his ex-keep harassing me, and I am frustrated over this entire situation.. **Ready To Leave**

Ladyburd: Dear **Ready To Leave:** You have to have a serious discussion with your boyfriend and let him know what is going on with his Ex wife. He may have to have a talk with her and let her know in no uncertain terms that she should leave you alone and if she does not, he has to include the authorities. If not, you know what you have to do.

JOYFUL 2023 LOBSTER FESTIVAL



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14



their talent, and the island's vibrant spirit was on full display.

To make the festival even more accessible and enjoyable, the BVI Tourist Board took steps to streamline transportation. New shuttle schedules and pickup locations were coordinated to ensure that visitors could easily access the featured restaurants, making the event more convenient than ever before.

In a nod to modern convenience, the Tourist Board unveiled the Lobster Fest "flapbook." This handy guide contained all the essential information attendees needed, including event details, maps, available accommodations, transportation

options on the island, safety information, and a tantalizing list of the culinary creations available at each restaurant.

The \$10 featured lobster dishes at each restaurant was a hit, allowing guests to savor the Anegada spiny lobster in various delightful forms. This culinary adventure became even more exciting as patrons realized that every restaurant visit was an opportunity to enter a drawing. Two lucky winners would secure direct Miami-VI tickets via American Airlines, making the fest even more enticing.



Savor the Season With a Quick Chicken Enchilada Casserole

The holidays are in full swing with all the hustle and bustle and seemingly endless to-do lists.

You know what we need? (Besides more money, lower prices and an extra week before Christmas.) We need a recipe for an easy, comforting, home-cooked meal the whole family will love that doesn't break the bank.

Today I'm sharing a recipe that's a true gem; a Chicken Enchilada Verde Casserole that's not only easy on the wallet but also on your precious time. This is your ticket to a cozy, heartwarming dinner with a recipe that easily doubles so you can make one for dinner tonight and stash the second in the freezer for a zero-effort dinner when you are too tired from all the fun to cook.

PHOTO CREDIT: www.JasonCoblentz.com



Make two cozy, comforting casseroles and freeze one for later

Please note this is enchilada casserole, not enchiladas. I find layering like lasagna is faster and easier to prepare and serve than rolled enchiladas. But if you have the time, use this recipe to roll enchiladas to your heart's content.

This recipe calls for corn tortillas, but you could use flour tortillas if that's what you have. I love the way corn tortillas absorb the sauce and become almost fluffy. Besides, if you buy a package of 30 corn tortillas, you have enough to double this recipe.

CHICKEN ENCHILADA VERDE CASSEROLE

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Total Time: 45 minutes

- 1 (28 ounce) can green chile enchilada sauce, divided
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground chile powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 to 3 cups cooked chicken, shredded or chopped
- 1 (15 ounce) can pinto beans, drained
- 15 yellow corn tortillas, cut in half
- 3 cups Mexican cheese blend, shredded
- Optional Garnish: onions, cilantro, avocado, tomatoes, sour cream and tortilla chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees with the rack in the middle position. Grease a 9-by-13-inch pan, then pour 1 cup of enchilada sauce and spread around the bottom. Set it aside.

In a mixing bowl, whisk together 1 cup enchilada sauce, sour cream, cumin, chile powder, salt and pepper. Add the shredded chicken and pinto beans, then stir to combine.

In the 9-by-13 pan, place 9 tortilla halves on top of the enchilada sauce. Placing the cut sides along the sides of the pan offers better coverage for layering.

Spread half of the chicken mixture on top of the



tortillas. Evenly distribute 1 cup of cheese over the chicken mixture.

Place another layer of 9 tortilla halves followed by the remaining chicken mixture and 1 cup of cheese.

Layer the last tortilla halves on top followed by the remaining enchilada sauce. Top with the last cup of cheese. Bake for 30 minutes, or until it's nice and bubbly. Allow this to rest for 15 minutes before serving. Garnish as desired.

Store leftovers in the fridge for three to four days. Or freeze for up to three months. Thaw overnight in the fridge and reheat in 350 degree oven for 45 minutes when completely thawed.

If you have the budget to add some ingredients to this casserole, you could happily add a can of diced tomatoes with chiles and/or a can of diced green chiles. And no one would be mad at you if you added more cheese.

So whip up this Chicken Enchilada Casserole, savor the flavors of comfort food and take a moment to cherish the warmth it brings to your table. And remember, doubling the recipe can be a lifesaver during these busy times, either for yourself or as a gift for another holiday harried household. Enjoy!

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website *Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!* Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com Visit Patti at www.DotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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INTRODUCTION TO THE STAMPS OF THE B.V.I.



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PART 8

By Giorgio Migliavacca

THE POSTWAR YEARS

The war had brought a few but very interesting developments both from a philatelic and postal history viewpoint. The British Empire solemnized the end of World War II with an omnibus set to celebrate victory. The B.V.I. adopted the standard design and a set of two stamps was issued 1 November 1946 depicting the Houses of Parliament at Westminster at left and a cameo of the monarch at right.

They were originally engraved by De La Rue & Co. (London) but recess printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. (Hong Kong). Both the 1.1/2d. and 3d. Denominations exist perforated SPECIMEN. The plates used for printing the B.V.I. "Victory" stamps are: plate 1 for both values and additionally plate 47 for the 1.1/2d. stamp and plate 48 for the 3d.



1949 (3 January) saw the issuance of two new sets belonging to empire-wide omnibus series celebrating the Silver Wedding of Their Majesties. The lower denomination 2½d represented the basic postage for a letter and was printed in photogravure by Waterlow & Sons, while the £1 value was printed in recess by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. The latter exists with perforation SPECIMEN, and it is quite rare since it realized at auction £250 back in 1986.

Later in the year Britain and Crown colonies issued four stamps to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.). On 10 October 1949 the B.V.I. set was issued.



On 2 April 1951 the British Virgin Islands issued a set of four stamps saluting the Restoration of the Legislative Council and Constitutional Rule: a true milestone in the history of the B.V.I.

On 24 November 1949 a Colony-wide demonstration had taken place with the goal to restore a partially elective Legislative Council. The following year this request was approved by the United Kingdom.

The four monochrome, recess printed stamps issued to mark the historic achievement depict a map of the British Virgin Islands and a cameo portrait based on a postwar photograph by Dorothy Wilding. The same portrait was used for the 1952 BVI definitive series which was issued after the death of King George VI. Most importantly these stamps are inscribed BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, the first time the word "BRITISH" was used on a local postage stamp.



1951 set of two stamps saluting the inauguration of the University College of the West Indies

TO BE CONTINUED

THIS WEEK IN CORRUPTION

MIND THE (GENDER) GAP

BY TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

“Women are not just asked for money, but also for sex.” This is what an Indonesian woman told Transparency International researchers when asked about her experience with corruption. What this woman was referring to is known as sextortion, which occurs when people in a position of power use it to sexually exploit someone dependent on them.

Sadly, this is not an isolated experience; it’s a global issue that needs to be tackled head-on. And now is the time to do so.

Tomorrow marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, kicking off the 16 Days of Activism. The next 16 days are an important opportunity to champion the cause and push for an end to gender-based violence.

This week, we released a report on how corruption affects women, girls, and other groups in Asia and the Pacific - a region with high levels of gender inequality. By gathering personal testimonies in Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, we uncovered how gender and other identities impact people’s experiences with corruption.

So, what did we find? To start, while men and women are similarly vulnerable to requests for bribes, gender inequality exacerbates corruption. Women, especially those who experience different forms of marginalisation, often encounter barriers when accessing services and corruption reporting channels. This alone causes many to forgo essential services, therefore strengthening existing inequalities.

Gender stereotypes don’t just shape perceptions; they directly influence how people experience corruption.

Commonly held societal expectations of masculinity and femininity often force women to take on most, if not all, caretaking responsibilities. Given their role as primary caregivers, women tend to have more frequent interactions with public officials when seeking services for their families. This increased interaction exposes them to higher risks to be asked for bribes, including sextortion, to access services that are meant to be

free of charge.

The report also shows how people who already face multiple forms of discrimination, like sex workers or LGBTQI+ individuals, and people with disabilities experience even greater abuse and exploitation by public officials while also being less likely to challenge or report these incidents due to fear of retaliation. Sextortion often goes unreported, as it’s very difficult to prove and survivors are fearful of re-victimisation and social stigma.

Blowing the whistle on sextortion also comes with other risks, in this case with gender-specific risks. Women might not know their legal rights, lack the means and resources to file a complaint, or fear how

a male-dominated system might respond. If we want women, girls and other marginalised people to speak up, reporting and whistleblowing mechanisms need to be gender sensitive, including by providing the support survivors of sexual abuse often need.

Governments must establish legal frameworks that create adequate mechanisms for women and other marginalised communities to report sextortion, considering how gender and

other lived realities influence their willingness to report. Efforts must also be made to develop strategies to raise awareness about gendered corruption, challenge stereotypes and inform vulnerable people about their rights. People need to know how to access information and use existing reporting channels and these mechanisms should be equipped to handle sextortion cases.

Ultimately, our report only scratches the surface of a much bigger systemic issue. More research is needed on the connection between gender and corruption, including sextortion - both in the Asia Pacific and beyond.

Gendered forms of corruption will not change until broader social beliefs are undermined - and that’s where the fundamental transformation starts. The fight against gender violence cannot be limited to the next 16 days: it must persist every single day until we live in a world where the safety of all is guaranteed.



Warming Up: Alternative Energy Source and Global Warming

Global warming is one of the hottest issues nowadays. The current climate change is the worst yet to happen. Global warming is an overall increase in world temperature which is attributed to the increasing number of greenhouse gases trapped in the atmosphere. Searching an alternative energy source is considered a way of reducing the toxic emissions.

Greenhouse gases can be produced both by natural and industrial processes. The most abundant greenhouse gases on earth's atmosphere are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and CFCs.

There are several sources of greenhouse gases. Burning of fossil fuels and deforestation lead to higher concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Without the trees and plants to take in the carbon dioxide emitted by burning fossil fuels, natural gas and petroleum products, all of the CO₂ emitted stays in the atmosphere.

Also the use of CFCs or chlorofluorocarbons in refrigeration systems and in fire suppression systems and other manufacturing processes also increase the greenhouse content of our atmosphere. While the use of non-organic fertilizers in agriculture also lead to higher nitrous oxide concentrations, another greenhouse gas.

In the United States, greenhouse gas emissions mainly come from the use of fossil fuels as energy source.

Approximately 82 percent of the greenhouse gas emission in the United States in 2006 came from the combustion of coal, natural gas and petroleum (United States Energy Information Administration). Meanwhile in Asia, China is expected to increase its emission of greenhouse gas because of the construction of old-fashioned power plants in its internal provinces.

Currently, the carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are the highest in 150,000 years. The 1990s were most likely the warmest decade in history, while 1998 was the warmest year (Greenpeace).

Not controlling the greenhouse gas being emitted by human activity can increase climate change the next hundred years that will be much faster than anything known and recorded in history. There are necessary steps to be undertaken to control the toxic emission that will soon be killing us.

To minimize the consumption of oil, petroleum and other fossil fuel, we should use energy efficiently. Energy that we use should be generated from renewable energy sources, which would mean harnessing the natural energy from the sun, winds, crops, tides and waves.

Green energy is another term used to describe sources of energy that are considered to be environmentally friendly, which is also similar to the renewable sources of energy.

There are numerous ways of generating electricity and energy from renewable and natural sources that generate clean and safe energy. Wind, sun, and heat can generate electricity for less price and less carbon emission than those of coal and even gas.

Shifting the world's attention to alternative fuel source other than relying on fossil fuel is among the solutions in resolving the drastic climate change. Greenpeace cited that with renewable energy and using it smartly, can deliver half of the world's energy needs by 2050. Greenpeace also cited that it is feasible to reduce carbon dioxide emission to almost 50 percent within the next 43 years.

Governments are taking steps to use and tap alternative energy sources as main source of energy. The European Union leaders made an agreement in March 2007 to ensure that 20 percent of their nations energy should come from renewable fuels by 2020. This is part of their effort to cut carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gas. There are even governments offering incentives to their residents who are using green energy.

Alternative energy source may not be the only way to reduce the greenhouse emission that human activity produce. There are simple ways in which we can do to contribute in reducing toxic gas emission and mitigate global warming.

Caribbean News / Regional News

CARICOM Gender Equality Strategy aims to fulfil Vision of Protection and Economic Empowerment of Women, Equitable Access to Education and Healthcare for All

Tuesday, 21 November 2023 - (CARICOM Secretariat, -Turkeyen, Greater-Georgetown): Ministers responsible for gender affairs and equality from CARICOM Member States and Associate Members are currently reviewing the draft CARICOM Gender Equality Strategy, "Stepping It Up: A Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality in the Caribbean Community", during the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) – Gender. The Meeting, which is being convened on 20-21 November 2023 in Barbados, reaffirms Member States' commitment to gender equality with the overarching goal of providing a strategy that holistically addresses the issue.

UN partners under the Regional Spotlight Caribbean Programme, including UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are also participating in the COHSOD.

In opening remarks, Ms Alison Drayton, Assistant Secretary-General, Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat, stated that the participation of Ministers is indicative of Member States' strong commitment to gender equality and their partnership to advance common regional aspirations for a resilient, thriving Community.

She reminded the meeting that the process to review the Strategy commenced with the Thirty-First Special Meeting of the COHSOD – Gender held virtually in October. "This Forty-sixth COHSOD is being held under the theme "Inclusive and Equitable Futures: A Gender-Responsive Approach Post COVID", stated Ms Drayton, "the theme could not have been timelier for the Region as we acknowledge the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic".

She noted that it is a critical opportunity to take stock of the Region's progress in achieving

regional and international commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "It underscores our Region's commitment to gender equality, recovery, and resilience while promoting the health and well-being of our citizens, particularly women and marginalised populations," stated Ms Drayton.

The Assistant Secretary-General underscored that the meeting is not being held in a vacuum and explained that it builds on the decisions of the Fortieth Meeting of the Council on Gender held in June 2021, when Member States agreed to support the national consultations across the Region on the draft CARICOM Gender Equality Strategy.

She noted that after widespread meetings, consultations, and validations, both virtual and in-person, across the Region over seventeen (17) months, including a two-week extension, this COHSOD will seek approval of the Strategy. Ms Drayton explained that the Strategy is a roadmap for Member States to "mainstream" gender and provides a regional coordinated approach to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, which aligns with SDG Goal 5. She emphasised that while no nation has achieved gender equality, the Strategy will be an excellent coordination and implementation tool.

"Let us all remember that equality is not just a goal; it's the foundation of an inclusive, thriving, just, and resilient society," stated Ms Drayton, "as we embark on this historic journey towards first approving, launching and implementing the CARICOM Gender Equality Strategy, let us envision a Region where every woman and girl stands as a beacon of empowerment."

Hon. Gloria Thomas, Minister with responsibility for Social Development and Gender Affairs, Grenada, served as Chair. She emphasised that the discussion around the Strategy and the Region's future must not only

be inclusive and equitable but profoundly responsive to the needs of all genders in the post-COVID world. "As we reflect on the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and confront the extraordinary challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must recognise that the time has come for us to weave these two profoundly different events together into a unified tapestry of progress," stated Minister Thomas.

Ms Thomas also referred to the escalating incidents of gender-based violence during the height of the pandemic when women were forced to shelter in place with their abusers. She noted reported rates as high as 125% in some Member States. She also stated that the Region continues to experience the economic fallout from inflationary prices, the loss of jobs and household incomes, all of which fall disproportionately on women, many of whom are heads of single-parent households, which accounts for 40% in the Region according to UN Women data.

Minister Thomas stated that the timing of the Strategy could not be more opportune. Only seven (7) years remain for the target date for achieving the SDGs, and it is evident that the global community has encountered setbacks mainly because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that no country is within reach of eradicating Intimate Partner Violence. She highlighted that despite the scale of the problem and the unacceptable trends globally and in the Region, the financial commitments to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence remain limited at best.

Ms Thomas also acknowledged the initiative of the European Union in funding the groundbreaking Spotlight Initiative Programme. The Programme invested 500 million Euros in eradicating violence and harmful practices worldwide, 50 million of which

has been invested in the Caribbean.

She underscored that the draft CARICOM Gender Equality Strategy is a commitment to equality, justice, and sustainable development. Ms Thomas explained that it acknowledges the progress made over the past 25 years since the Beijing Declaration, the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the urgency to accelerate efforts towards the SDGs. She emphasised that by embracing the Strategy, all 20 CARICOM Member States, 15 full members and 5 Associates are taking a monumental step towards a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous future where the rights and dignity of all, regardless of gender, are upheld and celebrated.

What is the draft CARICOM Gender Equality Strategy?

The draft CARICOM Regional Gender Equality Strategy provides the framework for targeted interventions sensitive to the unique challenges faced by our Caribbean nations, accelerating progress toward the SDGs. The Region is rich in diversity, culture, and resilience. However, gender disparities persist in economic participation, political representation, education, governance, the environment and social inclusion. The draft Gender Equality Strategy for CARICOM is anchored with all the issues highlighted in regional consultations and validations, both virtual and in-person, paying particular attention to regional nuances and challenges and ensuring its implementation will be contextually relevant.

The Strategy prioritises

the economic empowerment of women, equitable access to education and lifelong learning and healthcare for all, as well as the elimination of violence against women and girls who are disproportionately affected by the scourge.

Furthermore, the Strategy promotes a multi-stakeholder approach involving governments, civil society, the private sector, and international organisations. Collaboration and partnerships are central to addressing the multifaceted nature of gender inequality effectively.

The central goal is the implementation of a Strategy that provides a roadmap for achieving the Region's vision of a violence-free and peaceful existence for every Caribbean citizen.

Helpful links

What is the 1995 Beijing Declaration and platform for action?

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

What is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/291/89/PDF/N1529189.pdf?OpenElement>

What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS

Israel-Hamas Truce Reaches 6th Day Amid Push for Extension



An elderly person is helped in a mini-bus transporting Israeli hostages released by Hamas at the Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel, Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023.

A temporary truce between Israel and Hamas reached its sixth day Wednesday, with the two sides expected to release more hostages and prisoners while negotiators pushed for extending the deal.

“We’d like to see the pause extended because what it has enabled, first and foremost, is hostages being released, coming home, being reunited with their families,” U.S. Secretary of State Antony

Blinken said Wednesday. “It’s also enabled us to surge humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza who so desperately need it.”

Blinken is set to travel to the region to meet with Israeli and Palestinian officials for talks about Israel’s military campaign, protecting civilian lives in Gaza and working to accelerate deliveries of humanitarian aid.

The original deal called for four days of Israel pausing its campaign to eradicate the Hamas militant group, with Hamas releasing 50 hostages it seized during an attack on Israel last month and Israel setting free 150 Palestinian prisoners. The pause also allowed for increased humanitarian aid to reach the battered Gaza Strip.

A two-day extension was added under the terms of Hamas releasing 10 more hostages per day and Israel freeing additional prisoners.

The Israeli military said

12 hostages who were held in Gaza — 10 Israelis and two foreign nationals — were driven to Israel late Tuesday in the latest round of releases. In turn, Israel freed 30 Palestinian prisoners — 15 women and 15 young men from a West Bank prison and a Jerusalem detention center, according to the Palestinian Prisoners Club, a semi-official organization.

Hamas militants seized about 240 people during their rampage into southern Israel on October 7 in which they killed about 1,200 people. In its counteroffensive, Israel has killed more than 15,000 people, according to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry.

The truce has brought Gaza its first quiet after six weeks of intensive Israeli aerial bombardment and a ground offensive prompted by the Hamas attack.

With the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza

Strip, the United Nations estimates 1.8 million of Gaza’s 2.3 million people have fled their homes with many staying in overcrowded shelters. Shelter Network, a U.N.-led aid consortium, said in a report Friday that more than 60% of Gaza’s housing stock had been damaged or destroyed.

The World Health Organization warned Tuesday about the high risk of “explosive outbreaks of infectious diseases” amid the overcrowded conditions and the disruption of health, water and sanitation systems in Gaza.

The U.N. Security Council was due to hold a meeting Wednesday focused on the Israel-Hamas conflict.

VOA State Department bureau chief Nike Ching and White House correspondent Anita Powell contributed to this article. Some information for this story came from The Associated Press, Agence France-Presse and Reuters.

UN Chief Pushes for Gaza Truce to Become Full Humanitarian Cease-fire

UNITED NATIONS — United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pushed on Monday for a full humanitarian cease-fire between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas instead of a temporary truce, as the “humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is getting worse by the day.”

Egyptian, Qatari and U.S. negotiators closed in on an extension of a four-day truce in Gaza that expires on Monday, Egyptian security sources said, amid growing global pressure to roll over a deal which has paused seven weeks of fighting.

“The dialog that led to the agreement must

continue, resulting in a full humanitarian cease-fire, for the benefit of the people of Gaza, Israel and the wider region,” Guterres’ spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

“The United Nations will continue to support these efforts in every possible way,” he said.

Guterres again called for the hostages held by Hamas to be released immediately and unconditionally, Dujarric said.

The United Nations has scaled up the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza over the past four days during the truce and sent



FILE - United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during a Security Council meeting at United Nations headquarters, Oct. 24, 2023.

aid to some northern areas of the coastal enclave that had been largely cut off for weeks, Dujarric said.

“But this aid barely registers against the huge needs of 1.7 million displaced people. The humanitarian

catastrophe in Gaza is getting worse by the day,” he said.

SPORTS

Adaejah Hodge commits to Georgia, Khybah Dawson to Texas A&M

By Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway

TRACK & FIELD

Sprint sensation Adaejah Hodge announced via social media last Thursday, that she has committed to the University of Georgia Bulldogs and signed a Letter of Intent, starting with the 2024-25 school year. She chose the Dawgs over Stanford, Texas, Louisiana State and Southern California.

On Monday, Long Jumper Khybah Dawson, signed his Letter of Intent with the Texas A&M Aggies for the 2024-25 school year and became the BVI's first male athlete in the SouthEastern Conference. Hodge will also compete in the SEC. Dawson was suited by Texas Tech, South Florida, Florida, Alabama and Kansas.

Hodge, 17, a Montverde Senior, will join St. Croix teammate Michelle Smith, who signed with the Dawgs last Tuesday.

"I actually liked Georgia the most because it felt like home and I really clicked with the team and coaches," Hodge, who moved from the BVI to Atlanta when she was nine, told The Daily News. "It allowed me to feel empowered because the coaches

actually listen to their athletes and what they want to accomplish in life."

Hodge, who competes in the 100, 200, 400m and Long Jump, said she also liked Georgia because they allowed her to choose the sprinting event she'd like to compete in. "I'll be jumping between the three events until I'm ready to actually specialize in one," she said, noting that she will drop the Long Jump. "I think it was time for me to hang up my jumping spikes. It was causing a lot of hamstring issues and it was very dangerous for my other events."

Hodge, who won three Carifta Games U-17 Girl's gold medals in the 100 and 200m and Long Jump last year in Jamaica and was a 200m semi finalist in the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary over the summer, described the recruiting process as "interesting" and "long sometimes" depending on the time zone she was in. When she and her mom Tonya Hodge left Carifta last year, they left with a stack of cards. She said that she's glad she narrowed her selection down to five schools from up to 25 after her Carifta exploits.

"All the schools had great things to say," she noted. "But some of the visits started to sound repetitive, which made the decision really hard. I'm glad it's over because a lot of schools reached out after the exposure in Carifta."

Hodge, who ran 11.11 seconds

100m time, was No 3 among US High School girls this year, said her Montverde roommate Smith's signing days earlier didn't influence her decision to attend Georgia.

"Ironically, I thought Michelle was going to choose Texas A&M," said Hodge, who along with Smith visited Southern Cal together and Georgia separately. "One day we were sitting in our dorm and we said we might as well tell each other who we're signing to and on the count of three, we both said the Georgia Bulldogs. We were really shocked and started screaming in the room. So we'll be roomies again."

Hodge's.

Dawson said he chose the Aggies because of the package offered and the track record the coach has with jumpers and his success. The school also offered his kinesiology major.

"Recruiting was a good experience, I got to see things I normally don't see or never seen before, just being able to go out there and see the facilities, the surroundings around the school, classrooms and labs were very interesting to me," he said. "Meeting new people, seeing how Division I teams train and how hard they work and how different their caliber is."

Dawson, 19, a 2019 Carifta Games U17 Boys Long Jump silver



Adaejah Hodge, left and Khybah Dawson

medalist, has leapt 7.84m (25'8¾") and a 200m best of 21.16, was told depending on how fast he runs, he'll have a spot on the 4x100m relay and he'll be allowed to run the 200m.

"I'm looking forward to a lot of competition because I feel that I do my best under a lot of pressure," he said. "I really wanted to be in the SEC because of how competitive it is and the competition level every year, because I watch it every year, so I wanted to be amongst that to bring the best out of me."

Dawson said he has a close relationship with St. Thomas' Tabarie Henry, a Texas A&M Alumni, who is currently working

with him, helping him keep his calm and running tips. "He also shared his experience as an athlete and has helped me with my running technique," Dawson said. "He also told me about how Texas A&M moves, how they care about their athletes and it's a good program to be in, because they want to be winners all the time."

Dawson said he was surprised to learn he's the first male BVI athlete to compete in the SEC Conference and said it's like a 'stepping stone' to show the younger ones it's possible to go out there and show where the BVI is in the sport. "It's good to know I can give them that kind of encouragement as they grow into the sport," he said.

Bickerton prematurely ends his 3rd term as BVIFA President

By Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway

FOOTBALL

In a Nov 23 letter to BVI Football Association General Secretary Juliana Luke, Andy Bickerton said he would retire as the association's president and resign from his position with effect from Nov 30, prematurely ending his term that would expire in June, 2024.

Bickerton, who has been at the helm for 20 of the association's 49-year existence, serving 1991-96; 2000-03 and 2011-2023, became the association's first president to resign from the post.

"Due to personal and family matters, I am no longer able to commit the necessary time and energy the position requires," Bickerton said in his letter. "I

would like to thank my present and past colleagues for their support and friendship over the past 12 years and wish the British Virgin Islands Football Association continued progress and success in the future."

Bickerton is credited with lobbying the government for the lease of land at East End on which a football stadium and athletics track are being developed. The site was drained and filled, a turf football field was laid, floodlighting installed and the foundation for the stand constructed. The completion of the 2,600-seater Stand is anticipated to commence shortly. It will provide dressing rooms for the teams and referees, medical facilities and a gym, as well as accommodate the offices of the BVIFA and the BVI Olympic Committee, along with several concessionary spaces. Funding for this project is being provided by FIFA, the world football body.

Bickerton is also credited with

the development of an after-schools football program, providing coaching and playing opportunities for youngsters from the age of five years. This program aimed to give them the opportunity to compete in overseas tournaments from the age of 10 years and eventually pursue further education through the provision of BVI FA football scholarships to colleges and Football Academies in the UK and USA.

In a statement, it said that the success of Bickerton's vision is evident on the men's national team, as 18 of the 23 members emerged from the BDO Schools League. There are 17 players who are teenagers and eight are currently playing overseas. Despite their relative lack of experience, the men's national team ended a 19-year regional losing streak and played three unbeaten games in the 2023 Concacaf National League, before losing to Dominica, 2-1, as they played



Andy Bickerton, left with Coach Chris Kiwomya at the Nations League game in Turks and Caicos Islands

for the League C title and a chance to be promoted to League B for the first time. Since 2018, they have gained valuable experience by competing in various countries, including Suriname, Martinique, Curacao, Guatemala, St. Kitts & Nevis, Anguilla, Puerto Rico,

Dominican Republic, USA and the UK. Based on the association's constitution, 2nd Vice President Aubrey "Rakie" Liburd assumes the presidency from Dec 1, based on being the longest serving VP.

SPORTS



Primary Schools Girls from St. Georges, Enis Adams, Seventh Day and Francis Lettsome in the BDO Schools League



Kyle Farrington of Seventh Day Adventist, left, prepared to kick the ball ahead of Ciboney's Noah Fox



Girls from ESHS 1 & ESHS 2, Cedar and St. Georges, in the BDO High Schools League



Seventh Day Adventist Goalie Romario Joseph, tries to stop the ball to keep Ciboney from scoring



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The Garden Bug

Frankincense

This fragrant substance is harvested from the *Boswellia sacra* species, also known as the olibanum. This tree is native to Oman, Yemen and Somalia, and has a long history in folk medicine throughout Africa and Asia. In the Bible, it is one of three gifts offered to Jesus by the “wise men.” It is said to control bleeding, help heal wounds, fight inflammation, improve oral health, and studies have shown it may even help treat cancer. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.medicalnewstoday.com, thetruthaboutcancer.com, wikipedia

top ten

Most expensive **WOOD** in the world

1. African Blackwood
2. Sandalwood
3. Agarwood
4. Lignum Vitae
5. Pink Ivory Wood
6. Bubinga
7. Purpleheart
8. Ebony
9. Bocote
10. Brazilian Rosewood

Source: Teakmaster.com



GRIN and BEAR IT



"I saw what happened on 'America's Funniest Home Videos!'"

Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.

Mark Twain

BrainyQuote



Out on a Limb

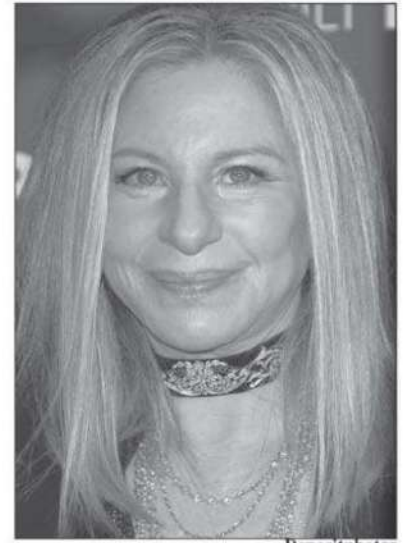


HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Who isn't talking about Barbra Streisand's memoir "My Name Is Barbra"? After doing a slew of interviews, many taped at her home in California, she revealed **Judy Garland's** advice to her: "Don't let them do to you what they did to me!" But what you won't read in her book was when I first met her; she was co-starring with **Elliot Gould** (who would then become her future husband) in "I Can Get It for You Wholesale" on Broadway. I asked her to take a photo, and she said, "I look a mess!"

You also won't read about the night Elliot assaulted me while protecting his wife from being photographed at the premiere of **Steve McQueen's** film "Bullitt" (1968). Barbra was removed from my lawsuit because she hadn't physically assaulted me, but still, I won two battery judgments against Elliot. There was also the time she killed my Cosmopolitan magazine cover for spite because of my lawsuit. Elliot apologized eventually. Still, I have loved, and will always love, her golden voice.



Depositphotos

Singer and actress Barbra Streisand

after Warner Bros. licensed some of their DC hits — "Man of Steel," "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," "Suicide Squad," "Wonder Woman" and "Justice League" — to Netflix, who allegedly have more money than all the other streaming services put together. How long will Disney hold out?

Word that "Young Sheldon" is ending after it seven seasons has upset fans, until word also came that **Chuck Lorre**, producer of "The Big Bang Theory," might develop a possible spin-off for the Max streaming service. Speculation is that the reboot could center around entirely new characters, the children of Sheldon and Amy and Howard and Bernadette, which would leave the door open for guest appearances or supporting roles for the original "Big Bang Theory" characters. This was successfully done in the reboot of "That '70s Show."

Disney's CEO **Bob Iger** turned Netflix down on its offer to license some of their Disney+ hits from Pixar, Marvel, Lucasfilm and other core brands such as the "Star Wars" franchise. Disney won't give up, no matter how strapped for cash they have become.

The bold move from Netflix came

"Monk" fans rejoice! Peacock has announced that they have greenlit "Mr. Monk's Last Case: A Monk Movie." The story involves Monk looking for the killer of his stepdaughter's fiancé, who died in a bungee jumping accident.

Aiding and abetting Monk again is **Ted Levine** as Leland Stottlemeyer, **Traylor Howard** as Natalie Teeger and **Jason Gray-Stanford** as Randy Disher. Even though Monk has to overcome his fear of heights and germs to solve this case, he's now in a sympathetic post-COVID world. How can Monk stand out now that we've all become germophobes?

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by Gary Kopervas

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



The Spats

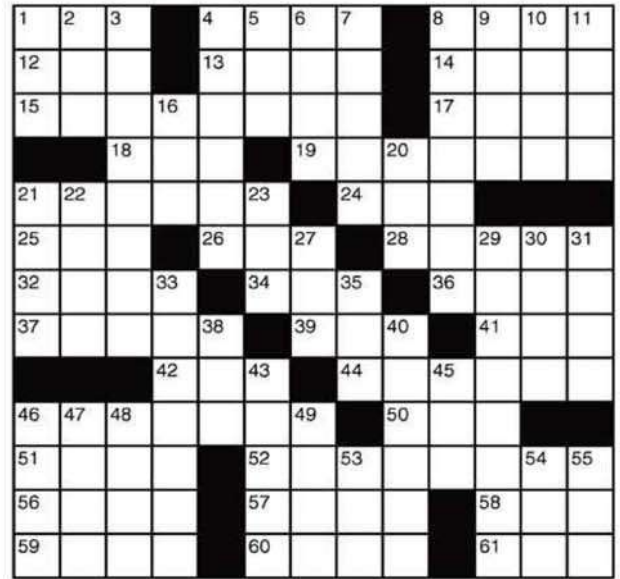
by Jeff Pickering



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Microwave
- 4 Jubilation
- 8 Scruff
- 12 "— Believer"
- 13 Give temporarily
- 14 Big-screen format
- 15 Layered desserts
- 17 Refer to
- 18 Irate
- 19 Breaks away
- 21 Stockholm's land
- 24 JFK's veep
- 25 Fleur-de- —
- 26 Cutting tool
- 28 Parlor pieces
- 32 Now, on a memo
- 34 Luau bowlful
- 36 Karate level
- 37 Prison-related
- 39 Atty.'s title
- 41 Mauna —
- 42 Soda
- 44 Steering device on a ship
- 46 Leaping antelopes
- 50 Hosp. hook-ups
- 51 Donald Duck's nephew
- 52 Like a good golf score



- 7 '50s Ford
- 8 "Great work!"
- 9 During
- 10 Top of the head
- 11 Former mates
- 16 Passing craze
- 20 "Survivor" aier
- 21 High-five sound
- 22 Sagacious
- 23 Snooze
- 27 Misery
- 29 Crystalline mineral
- 30 Skin soother
- 31 Twinkler in the sky
- 33 Tropical fruits
- 35 Leb. neighbor
- 38 Texter's chuckle
- 40 Calms
- 43 "Straight Up" singer Abdul
- 45 TiVo, for example
- 46 Denny's rival
- 47 Inspiration
- 48 Nuisance
- 49 Break suddenly
- 53 Chips go-with
- 54 Santa — winds
- 55 Crater part

DOWN

- 1 Energy
- 2 Docs' bloc
- 3 Italian cheese
- 4 Forest clearings
- 5 Tiki bar neck-lace
- 6 Tolkien creatures

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	5	6	8		4			
1		3			7			
	2			1				5
6		4					8	
	9	8		3				4
	7			8	2	9		
	1			7	6		3	
		7	2			9		
4			5					1

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

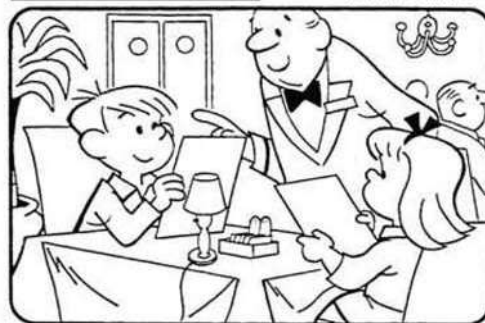
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

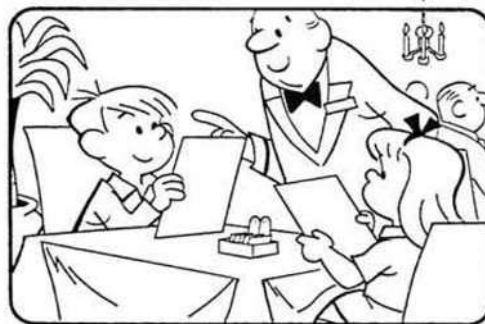
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Doors are missing. 2. Elbow is concealed. 3. Lamp is missing. 4. Silver is shorter. 5. Light fixture is different. 6. Hair is concealed.

1	7	8	3	5	6	9	2	4
9	6	4	1	2	7	8	3	5
2	3	4	9	7	8	5	1	6
3	6	2	8	9	1	4	7	5
4	1	9	7	3	5	8	6	2
7	8	5	6	2	1	4	3	9
5	9	1	3	6	7	2	4	8
8	8	7	2	5	4	3	6	9
4	9	1	4	9	3	6	8	7

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Z	A	P	G	L	E	N	A	P	
I	M	A	L	E	N	D	I	M	
A	X	L	E	N	D	I	M	A	
T	E	C	I	T	S	C	I	T	
E	S	C	E	D	E	S	E	S	
S	W	A	D	S	E	C	E	D	
S	M	A	D	S	E	C	E	D	
L	I	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	
A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	
B	E	L	T	B	E	L	T	B	
P	E	N	A	L	E	N	D	I	
P	O	P	H	U	D	D	E	R	
L	O	A	V	A	L	E	S	O	
I	M	P	A	L	E	S	O	P	
H	U	E	V	Y	U	N	D	E	R
A	N	I	A	V	A	L	E	S	O
R	A	M	S	A	P	S	A	P	

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the captain in "The Love Boat"?
2. MOVIES: What is E.T.'s favorite candy in "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"?
3. FOOD & DRINK: What is Hungary's national spice?
4. ADVERTISING: Which company's mascot is Elsie the Cow?
5. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called plutophobia?
6. GAMES: How many pawns are on a chess-board?
7. SCIENCE: What is the name of the giant land mass that is believed to have existed on Earth 200 million years ago?
8. GEOGRAPHY: Which of the Great Lakes is southernmost?
9. LANGUAGE: What is an octothorpe?
10. LITERATURE: Where are the novels "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" set?

**MORE READERS:
THE ISLAND SUN**

- Trivia Test Answers:
1. Capt. Merrill Stubing; 2. Reese's Pieces; 3. Paprika; 4. Borden Dairy Company; 5. Fear of wealth; 6. 16, eight pawns for each player; 7. Pangea; 8. Lake Erie; 9. A hashtag or pound sign; 10. Missouri.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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BIBBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Revelation (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What method of death was for a man who blasphemed the Lord's name with a curse? *Hanging, Stoning, Starvation, Beaten*
3. Who used handkerchiefs and aprons to heal the sick and drive out demons? *Jesus, Paul, Mark, Jeremiah*
4. From John 6, what substance did Jesus miraculously walk upon? *Sea, Fire, Clouds, Broken bones*
5. What did God call the firmament? *Rapture, Armageddon, Passover, Heaven*
6. From Romans 6, what are the wages of sin? *Riches, Eternal life, Death, Freedom*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Stoning, 3) Paul, 4) Sea, 5) Heaven, 5) Death

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- When the D-Day forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, Adolf Hitler was asleep. None of his generals dared to send reinforcements without his permission, and no one even dared to wake him, since he'd issued strict orders not to be disturbed.
- On its one-year anniversary, NASA's Curiosity Rover sang the "Happy Birthday" song to itself on Mars.
- Atomic bomb tests were a major tourist attraction in Las Vegas during the 1950s.
- Microplastics aren't an issue only in the world's oceans and ice caps. Researchers have discovered the tiny particles in clouds over Japan's Mount Fuji and Mount Oyama.
- A study found that students who chewed gum earned better math test scores than those who didn't.
- Ever wonder why our friends across the pond wish each other a "Happy Christmas" as opposed to Americans' "Merry Christmas"? In the 19th century, the word "merry" also meant intoxicated, so they wanted to separate it from public insobriety
- When staying at hotels, guests are more likely to interact with female robots, especially if they have human-like features, than male robots.
- Next time you're feeling stressed, try reaching for a hunk of chocolate: The sweet's smell increases theta brain waves, which triggers relaxation.
- In 1987, Marvel Comics celebrated the wedding of Spider-Man, aka Peter Parker, and his red-haired, green-eyed, longtime girlfriend Mary Jane Watson with a grand, live-action ceremony at New York's Shea Stadium. Guests of the happy couple included actors costumed as the Fantastic Four, Captain America and even the Hulk.
- Right-handed people tend to chew food on their right side, while left-handed folks are prone to chewing on their left.

Thought for the Day: "Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards." — Vernon Sanders Law

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

LUKE 5:4-6

Salome's Stars

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Restless Rams and Ewes might want to let others finish a current project so they can start something new. But if you do, you could risk losing out on a future opportunity.
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) The Bovine's creative forces start revving up as you plan for the upcoming holidays. Some practical aspects also emerge, especially where money is involved.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Moments of doubt disrupt your otherwise clear sense of purpose, but don't ignore them. They could be telling you not to rush into anything until you know more about it.
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A planned trip might have to be delayed. Plan to use this new free time to update your skills and resume so that you'll be ready when a new job opportunity opens.
- LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A flood of holiday party bids from business contacts allows you to mix work and pleasure. Your knowledge plus your Leonine charm win you a new slew of admirers.
- VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) An unexpected act by a colleague complicates an agreement, causing delays in implementing it. Check out the motive for this move — it might not be what you suspect.

- LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You might want to cut ties with an ingrate who seems to have forgotten your past generosity. But there might be a reason for this behavior that you should know about. Ask.
 - SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Be careful not to set things in stone. Much could happen during the next several days that will make you rethink some decisions and maybe change them.
 - SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Your plans to help provide holiday cheer for the less fortunate inspire others to follow your generous example. Expect welcome news by week's end.
 - CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) You're in your glory as you start planning for the holiday season ahead. But leave some time open to deal with a problem that needs a quick and fair resolution.
 - AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) The upcoming holiday season provides a perfect setting for strengthening relationships with kin and others. Meanwhile, a new contact has important information.
 - PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Instead of fretting over a cutting remark by a co-worker, chalk it up to an outburst of envy of your well-respected status, among both your colleagues and superiors.
- BORN THIS WEEK:** You instinctively know when to be serious and when to be humorous, which are attributes that everyone finds endearing.

celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

Q. I recently started watching “General Hospital” again. What happened to Jax? He was my favorite character. — *K.A.*

A. Actor Ingo Rademacher, who played Jax on and off since 1996, was fired by ABC in 2021 for refusing to adhere to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. His character bid goodbye to Port Charles to conduct business in Sydney and hasn’t been seen since.

Rademacher recently posted on Instagram about his mental health struggles since being fired. So far, no one from “General Hospital” or ABC has asked him to return, but that might be due to the fact that he attempted to sue ABC over its mandate. A Los Angeles judge ended up ruling in favor of ABC.

Q. Is the original “Law & Order” series returning anytime soon? I’ve always liked it more than the spin-offs, but I miss the original cast. — *K.J.*

A. “Law & Order” debuted on NBC in the fall of 1990 and lasted a whopping 20 seasons. The late Jerry Orbach is probably the most fondly remembered actor from the show, but he didn’t debut as Detective Lennie Briscoe until the third season. The first season featured Chris Noth, Steven Hill and Michael Moriarty, but these core actors eventually departed the show. It endured two decades with a changing cast, but always had creator Dick Wolf’s input and that signature “dun dun” theme song in the background.

“Law & Order” returned in 2022 after an 11-year hiatus with former cast members Sam Waterston and Anthony Anderson. Jeffrey Donovan (“Burn Notice”), Hugh Dancy (“Hannibal”) and Camryn Manheim (“The Practice”) rounded out the solid cast, but the revolving door kept swinging. Anderson departed after one season, and Mehdad Brooks (“Supergirl”) joined in his place.

“Law & Order” will return with 13 new episodes sometime in 2024, but Donovan won’t be on the set. According to Entertainment Weekly, he has exited due to “creative reasons,” and casting is on the hunt for his replacement.

Be sure to visit NBC.com/law-and-order for more updates about the show as it gets closer to its season 23 premiere.



Courtesy of ABC

Ingo Rademacher
 (“General Hospital”)

Q. Is it true that “Big Little Lies” is returning for another season? Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon are such busy actresses. I hope they have the time to film again and that it’s not an all-new cast. — *W.S.*

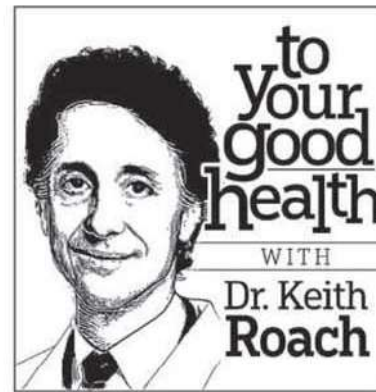
A. I agree. Not only are Kidman and Witherspoon busy starring in other films and shows, but they also work behind-the-scenes as producers to help develop other projects. This past January, Kidman joined the cast of “Special Ops: Lioness” on Paramount+, then followed it up with the Netflix series “The Perfect Couple.” She’ll also be seen in Netflix’s “A Family Affair” in 2024.

Witherspoon produces and co-stars in Apple TV+’s “The Morning Show” She’s also set to reprise her iconic character Elle Woods in the upcoming film “Legally Blonde 3.”

As for HBO’s “Big Little Lies,” Kidman recently announced during a press event that they “will be bringing you a third one, just FYI.” Nothing else has officially been announced, but I imagine that Witherspoon, Laura Dern and Zoe Kravitz will be reprising their roles.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Vitamins for Macular Degeneration Coincide With New Cramps

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been told at the age of 70 that I am in the early stages of the eye disease macular degeneration. The doctor told me to take PreserVision AREDS 2 vitamins. He said that I will be taking them for the rest of my life. I started them immediately, and a few nights later, I started having severe left leg cramps to the point where I woke out of a sound sleep to jump out of bed and shake off the cramp. Is this typical? — *C.L.*

ANSWER: For the dry form of age-related macular degeneration, the AREDS and AREDS2 vitamins are the usual treatment. Although they are not a cure, they do slow progression of the disease.

My experience with these has been that they almost never cause side effects, and muscle cramping is not a reported side effect by the manufacturer. The timing, however, certainly is suspicious. You can try stopping them for a few days, then restarting them to see if the cramps are truly affected by the vitamins.

If they are, you have two choices. The first is to deal with cramps the same way that people who get them at night for no particular reason deal with it, which is by getting regular moderate exercise and stretching the calf and hamstring muscles before bed.

Having weight on the toes is a trigger for many people, so very light bed covers that aren’t tucked in can be sur-

prisingly helpful. I’ve had a few readers come up with devices to keep all weight off of their toes in bed.

Your second option is to discuss an alternative with your eye professional. The AREDS and AREDS2 formulas were shown to be helpful, but some eye professionals only choose a few components of the formula.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently had a CT scan of my chest and pelvis that resulted in an incidental finding of “mild bibasilar atelectasis.” My doctor does not seem to be concerned at all. Should they be? — *J.M.*

ANSWER: “Bibasilar atelectasis” is a scary-sounding term unfamiliar to most people, so I understand why you might be concerned. “Atelectasis” refers to non-inflation of the tiny air structures in the lung called the alveoli. The bottom of the lungs are the bases, so “bibasilar atelectasis” means a partial collapse of the lung at the bases.

This is very common in people who aren’t breathing deeply, such as those who undergo surgery. In healthy people, this finding is not likely to represent serious disease of the lung. Before (and while you were getting) your CT scan, you might not have been breathing very deeply, allowing a very small portion of the lungs to deflate a bit. A few really deep breaths are all that is usually needed to open up those air sacs again. Sighing is a mechanism found in virtually all animals that helps treat and prevent atelectasis.

If that was the only finding on your CT scan, and you are otherwise healthy, your doctor is right not to be concerned, although I wish that they had explained it a little better to keep you from getting concerned in the first place.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of intelligent effort.

John Ruskin

BrainyQuote

BREAKING THE OECD HOLD ON GLOBAL TAX GOVERNANCE

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States)

"The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is nothing less than a Club of the world's wealthiest countries which is determined to bend powerless countries to its will". I wrote that statement in 2002 after four years of negotiations with the OECD against its unilateral imposition of a regime to counter what it called the 'Harmful Tax Competition Initiative (HTCI)', launched in 1998.

Unfortunately, in 2001, it succeeded in imposing its arbitrary HTCI, which killed the provision of global financial services by developing nations, including in the Caribbean, by threatening and imposing sanctions on countries that tried to stand up for their sovereign right to set their own tax levels. It was aided in this unjust action to establish itself as the only global rule maker on taxation, by the absence of a strong, united resistance from developing countries.

Since then, there has been no end to the OECD's relentless - some may say, ruthless - efforts to control and dictate tax levels for the rest of the world. Today, the OECD, comprising of 38 of the world's 180 nations are still blacklisting countries that do not comply with the so-called "standards" that it sets, using a mechanism, euphemistically named, "The Global Tax Forum", in which many developing states have become complicit in their own loss of autonomy on tax matters.

The 27 member states of the European Union (EU) are a powerful and important bloc in the OECD, outnumbering other countries by 11 votes. Among the other 11 members are the US, Canada, Japan, Australia and, sadly, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico from Latin America. When the EU does not succeed in securing OECD endorsement of any of its ambitions, it implements its own.

In September 2000, Sir Lester Bird, the late Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, whose country had battled courageously against the dictates of

the OECD, declared in the UN General Assembly (UNGA) that OECD action on global taxation was contrary to international law. In this regard, he called on the OECD "to resolve to halt its insidious process and place any discussion on tax issues in this multilateral forum (the UN) where it rightly belongs".

His call went unheeded. And, over the following 23 years, the OECD alone has dictated rules, regarding taxation. In the course of it, the financial services sector in developing states was decimated at a high cost, which continues to mount as the OECD instigates self-serving global directives.



Then, in 2022, fifty-four African nations, led by Nigeria, frustrated by the OECD's stranglehold, successfully brought a resolution to the UNGA, recommending that the UN Secretary-General produce a report on "the promotion of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation at the United Nations". Encouraged by the admission in the report that the UN has a role to play and its identification of three options that could be followed, the Africans submitted another Resolution, seeking to wrest control from the OECD.

The Resolution, entitled "Promotion of inclusive and effective international cooperation at the United Nations", was adopted on 22 November 2023 by a vote of 125 in favour, 48 against and 9 abstentions. Ten countries, surprisingly including Dominica and Venezuela, absented themselves.

Naturally, all 27 of the EU states voted against the Resolution. They were joined by the US, the UK, Japan and other countries with strong dependent, economic or military links to the OECD nations. However, it is notable that Mexico and Costa Rica - both OECD members - abstained from the vote.

The question is what happens now? One certainty is that the powerful states of the OECD will not allow international taxation to be taken from their control, by placing it in the UNGA. Even before the resolution was adopted on November 22, the big OECD countries had been working against it. That work



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will continue in their accustomed way - through coercion and inducements to break the resolve of the developing countries that so overwhelmingly voted for the Resolution.

The powerful states of the OECD have until August 2024 to once again divide and rule developing countries. By that time, an ad-hoc working group will have the responsibility to draft terms of reference for a UN framework convention on international tax cooperation. Undoubtedly, the big OECD countries will field their toughest negotiators; developing countries, including the Caribbean, need to do the same.

The large OECD countries are the principal advocates of the merits of competition in the provision of goods and services in the world because their industrial and agricultural capacity has reached the point where they need unrestricted entry to global markets to meet their expanding and increasing domestic financial challenges. But while they promote competition in the areas of their competitive advantage, they decry it in taxation which is the last frontier of autonomy for developing countries.

Already the big OECD countries are disparaging the Resolution, desperate to make it fail when it is considered by the UNGA in 2024. The language being used is remarkably deceptive. For instance, a UK representative is reported to have said, "If we're to deliver an improved tax system through the UN community, there must be the broadest possible buy-in from the start". Regrettably, that edict did not apply to the OECD's rules and standards, which its members developed by themselves and which they now pressure developing nations to accept.

The pursuit of a fair, just, and equitable international tax system is paramount. This system should reflect the needs, priorities, and capacities of all countries, considering the unique challenges faced by regions like Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Hopefully, this time - the countries of the global south, including the Caribbean, will not sacrifice their long-term interest for short term crumbs. The OECD of 38 nations should not dictate terms for the other 142 states in the world community. That undertaking should rightly reside in the UN.



PUBLIC NOTICES

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act, 2004

Data One Group Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 2018736

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 28th November, 2023.

Dated: 28th day of November 2023
(Sgd.) Philippa V O'Sullivan
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/1]

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act, 2004

Mobius Group Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 2018547

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 28th November, 2023.

Dated: 28th day of November 2023
(Sgd.) Philippa V O'Sullivan
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/2]

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act, 2004

VALUE CREATION CO., LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1982598

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 28th November, 2023.

Dated: 28th day of November 2023
(Sgd.) Philippa V O'Sullivan
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/3]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004

DCDW Ventures Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 2107861

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 28th day of November, 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa. O' Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: 28th day of November 2023
(Sgd.) Philippa O'Sullivan
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/4]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
White Oak Properties Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1823810

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on November 24th, 2023. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: November 28th, 2023
(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/5]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.
Strago Enterprise Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 2093109

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from November 28, 2023.

Dated: November 28, 2023
(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/6]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004
MAGNIFIED HOLDINGS OVERSEAS CO. LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1800622

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 24th November 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, Blackburne Highway (P.O. Box 116) Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: 24th November 2023
(Sgd.) Philippa O'Sullivan
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/7]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.
OLINE INVESTMENTS LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1645855

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from November 24, 2023.

Dated: November 27, 2023
(Sgd.) Philipp Neumann
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/8]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.
REISAN GROUP LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1768121

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from November 24, 2023.

Dated: November 27, 2023
(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/9]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.

INTERGROUP DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1802298

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on November 24th, 2023. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: November 24th, 2023
(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/10]

CTG Evergreen Investment X Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 1854359

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, Subsection (1) (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 23rd day of November, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated this 23rd day of November, 2023
Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/11]

Liquidator's Final Notice
DARNFORTH HOLDINGS LIMITED

("the Company")
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 66789

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section (208) (3) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 21st November 2023.

Dated 28th November 2023
Carmine Bailey
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/12]

STRUCK OFF
Liquidator's Final Notice
NELSON HOLDING INVESTMENTS LIMITED
("the Company")

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 342737

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section (208) (3) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 18th October 2023.

Dated 28th November 2023
Carmine Bailey
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/13]

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act, 2004
HOME SOLUTIONSLIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1998042

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 24th November 2023.

Dated: 24th November 2023.
(Sgd.) Jason Jagessar
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/14]

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act, 2004
HOME SOLUTIONS TECHNOLOGY LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1998775

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 24th November 2023.

Dated: 24th November 2023.
(Sgd.) Jason Jagessar
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/15]

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act, 2004
HOME SOLUTIONS HOLDINGS LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1996454

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 24th November 2023.

Dated: 24th November 2023.
(Sgd.) Jason Jagessar
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/16]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
ANHUA GROUP HOLDINGS COMPANY LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1684408

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 28th November 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: 28th November 2023.
(Sgd.) Philippa O'Sullivan
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/17]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.

BinMade Holding Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 2033011

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 28th November, 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: 28th November 2023.
(Sgd.) Philippa O'Sullivan
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/18]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act
JCG INVESTMENTS LTD
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

Company No. 2018735

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th November 2023. The Liquidator is **Myron Walwyn of Travers Thorp Alberga, 2nd Floor Jayla Place, P.O. Box 216, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, VG1110.**

Dated 28th November 2023
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/19]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act
BULES INVESTMENT INC.
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

Company No. 1727535

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. -The-Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th November 2023. The Liquidator is **Myron Walwyn of Travers Thorp Alberga, 2nd Floor Jayla Place, P.O. Box 216, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, VG1110.**

Dated 28th November 2023
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator
[28/20]

PUBLIC NOTICES

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act; 2004
LINKJOINT HBG Investment Limited
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 2012879
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004, that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 28th November 2023.
 Dated: 28th November 2023.
 (Sgd.) **Philippa O'Sullivan**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [28/21]

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act; 2004
LINKJOINT HBG Investment Limited
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 2012879
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004, that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 28th November 2023.
 Dated: 28th November 2023.
 (Sgd.) **Philippa O'Sullivan**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [28/22]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
Yong Feng Holding Limited
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 1907154
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 29th November 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa O'Sullivan** of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.
 Dated: 29th November 2023
 (Sgd.) **Philippa O'Sullivan**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [28/23]

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act. 2004
Enhance Group Ltd.
 - (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. - 1892636
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 24th day of November, 2023.
 Dated: 29th day of November, 2023.
 (Sgd.) **Philippa O'Sullivan**
 Liquidator
 [28/24]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
SKY JET GLOBAL LIMITED
 ("the Company")
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 21st November, 2023; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
 The Liquidator is:-
Joan Johnson
 of Nerine Chambers
 P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
 Road Town, Tortola
 British Virgin Islands
 [28/25]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
Sellarcac Holdings Limited
 ("the Company")
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 26th November, 2023; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
 The Liquidator is:-
Joan Johnson
 of Nerine Chambers
 P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
 Road Town, Tortola
 British Virgin Islands
 [28/26]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
Monaco Group Holdings Corp.
 ("the Company")
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 23rd November, 2023; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
 The Liquidator is:-
Joan Johnson
 of Nerine Chambers
 P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
 Road Town, Tortola
 British Virgin Islands
 [28/27]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act. 2004
Forthright International Holdings Limited
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 1923352
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 30th day of November, 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa V O' Sullivan** of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.
 Dated: 30th day of November 2023
 (Sgd.) **Philippa V O'Sullivan**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [28/28]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
FREE RANGE LIMITED
 ("the Company")
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 21st November, 2023; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has been dissolved and struck from the Register.
 The Liquidator is:-
Wayne Francis
 of Nerine Chambers
 P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
 Road Town, Tortola
 British Virgin Islands
 [28/29]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
ISABELLA INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LTD.
 ("the Company")
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 24th November, 2023; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has been dissolved and struck from the Register.
 The Liquidator is:-
Wayne Francis
 of Nerine Chambers
 P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
 Road Town, Tortola
 British Virgin Islands
 [28/30]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
Hally Investments Limited
 ("the Company")
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 24th November, 2023; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has been dissolved and struck from the Register.
 The Liquidator is:-
Wayne Francis
 of Nerine Chambers
 P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
 Road Town, Tortola
 British Virgin Islands
 [28/31]

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act; 2004
Anfri Ltd
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 2099702
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004, that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from the 29th day of November, 2023.
 Dated: 30th day of November, 2023
 (Sgd.) **Philippa V. O'Sullivan**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [28/32]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.
Brera Finance Limited
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from November 29th, 2023.
 Dated: November 30th, 2023
 (Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [28/33]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
Plethro Holdings Ltd.
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 1568558
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on November 29th, 2023. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean** with an address at **116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**
 Dated: November 29th, 2023
 (Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [28/34]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.
GLENBOURNE SERVICES CORPORATION
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 1694140
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from November 29, 2023.
 Dated: November 30, 2023
 (Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [28/35]

FORM "A" "NEW"
 To: The Licensing Magistrate
 And
 The Officer in Charge of Police
I, MACGARVEY AND ARLENE-THOMPSON dba MAC'S RESTAURANT -now residing at **TRUNK BAY, TORTOLA, BVI** in the Territory of the Virgin Islands do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply to the Licensing Magistrate at the Special Sitting of the Magistrate's Court to be held at Road Town, Tortola, on the **1st day of DECEMBER, 2023** for **RESTAURANT Licence** to sell intoxicating liquor at my premises situated at **BUILDING 16, TORTOLA PIER PARK, BVI**, in the territory of the Virgin Islands and registered **Parcel Number 120/1 of Block 2937B** of the **ROAD TOWN, Registration Section in the Land Registry of the Virgin Island**
 Dated-this-21st-day-of November, 2023.
Signed M. Thompson & A. Thompson
 [28]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act
Ericsson (British Virgin Islands) Ltd.
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company Number: 1802328
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204(1)(b) of the BVI Business Companies Act that the Company is in voluntary liquidation.
 The voluntary liquidation commenced on 29 November, 2023. The Joint Liquidators are **Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape of Conyers Dill & Pearman, Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1, P.O. Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands.**
 Dated: 29 November, 2023
Rachael Pape
 For and on behalf of Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape
 As Joint Liquidators
 [28/36]

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
(PROBATE)

CLAIM NO. BVIHPB2023/

IN THE ESTATE OF ANDREW ROBERT COPELAND LATE, OF FLAT 10, CLEARWATER HOUSE, BROCKWELL AVENUE, BECKENHAM, KENT, BR3 3GD, UNITED KINGDOM, DECEASED

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the Grant of Letters of Administration of the Estate of Andrew Robert Copeland Late, of Flat 10, Clearwater House, Brockwell Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3GD, United Kingdom granted by the High Court of Justice, Principal Registry of the Family Division, of the United Kingdom on the 21 day December 2021.

Dated this 17 day of November 2023

Filed by: **Vistra Legal (BVI) Limited**
Legal Practitioners for the Applicant

[28]

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
(PROBATE)

CLAIM NO. BVIHPB2023/

IN THE ESTATE OF KIRPALANI, SURENDAR MANGHARAM ALSO KNOWN AS SURENDAR MANGHARAM, LATE OF FLAT B, 13TH FLOOR, BLOCK 1, ROBINSON PLACE, 70 ROBINSON ROAD, MID-LEVELS, HONG KONG, DECEASED

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the Probate of Kirpalani, Surendar Mangharam also known as Surendar Mangharam, of Flat B, 13th Floor, Block 1, Robinson Place, 70 Robinson Road, Mid-Levels, Hong Kong granted by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Court of First Instance in Hong Kong on the 11th day of August 2022.

Dated this 28th day of November 2023

Nelcia St. Jean
McW Todman & Co
Legal Practitioners for the Executor

[29]

THE EASTERN
CARIBBEAN
SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH
COURT OF JUSTICE
BRITISH VIRGIN
ISLANDS
(PROBATE)

CLAIM NO. BVIHPB
2023/0257

IN THE ESTATE OF
LENIA LUCINDA GREEN
DECEASED

TAKE NOTICE: that Delvin Marshall Green Sr, Delvin Marshall Green Jr, Dondre Malik Green and Dmoni Mateo Green all of Great Mountain, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, intends to apply to the Probate of Division of the High Court of Justice in the Territory of the Virgin Islands for the letters of Administration of the estate of LENIA LUCINDA GREEN, deceased, late of Great Mountain, Tortola, British Virgin Islands who died on the 26th day of May, 2019.

ANY PERSON: having any objections to the grant of representation to the Intended Applicants shall within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice, lodge with the Registry of the High Court in the Territory of the Virgin Islands a proper documents setting out the said objections.

DATED: this the 30th
November day of
November, 2023.

[29]

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
(PROBATE)
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

CLAIM NUMBER BVIHPB 2023/0243

In the Estate of Soraya Amedee, late of the Valley, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands, deceased

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by BERTHELINA AMEDEE HENRY of The Valley, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the mother of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 18th July 2022.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2023.

Filed by **Maximea & Co. Law Chambers**
Legal Practitioners for the Applicants 2nd Floor,
Glancina George Building Road Town,
Tortola, British Virgin Islands

Tel: 1 284 494 6623,

494 2366 whose address for service is the same.

[29]

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
Virgin Islands

In the Estate of Tsai, Teng-Long late of
2F, No.1-2, Aly 4, Ln.42, Jingxing Rd., Wenshan Dist., Taipei
City, Taiwan. (R.O.C), deceased

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Ching-Hui Tsai of 14F, No. 67, Zongzheng Rd., Xindian District, New Taipei City, Taiwan, ROC, a merchant, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant, who is the son of the Tsai, Teng-Long late of 2F, No.1-2, Aly 4, Ln.42, Jingxing Rd., Wenshan Dist., Taipei City, Taiwan. (R.O.C), the deceased. The deceased having died intestate on the day of 19th May 2022.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Filed by **BGA Law (BVI) Limited** whose address for service is Sea Meadow House, P. O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

[29]

PUBLIC NOTICES



Lands Unit
British Virgin Islands

BY EMAIL AND VIRGIN ISLANDS GAZETTE
BVILR/PRE/12/2023

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION
OF AN EASEMENT BY PRESCRIPTION
SECTION 138 OF THE REGISTERED LAND ACT
CAP 229 OF THE 1991 EDITION OF THE REVISED LAWS
OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Virgin Gorda South	4840B	229

The CHIEF REGISTRAR OF LANDS hereby gives NOTICE that NATHANIEL WEEKS, of North Road, Valley, Virgin Gorda, Virgin Islands, the Registered Proprietor of Parcel 322, Block 4840B, Virgin Gorda South Registration Section has applied to register an Easement by Prescription over Parcel 229, Block 4840B, Virgin Gorda South Registration Section. An unapproved Survey Plan dated 29th July 2019, produced by Christine Ferreira and an Affidavit was filed in support of his Application.

Parcel 229 is registered to:

- Janet Millington, Valley, Virgin Gorda

Anyone who has just cause to object to NATHANIEL WEEKES registering an Easement by Prescription over Parcel 229, Block 4840B, Virgin Gorda South Registration Section, as shown on the unapproved Survey Plan dated 29th July 2019 produced by Christine Ferreira should file their objection in writing at the Lands Unit on or before Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

An Interim Restriction has been entered on the Land Register for Parcel 229 pending the outcome of the application for prescription. The filed application may be inspected at the Lands Unit upon request. Copies will be provided by the Applicant to any objectors.
Dated this 24th day of November 2023

Toni Hodge-Davis
Executive Officer
for Chief Registrar of Lands

To: Thornton Smith
Capitol Chambers
PO Box 3534
Road Town, Tortola, VG1110
Virgin Islands
Legal Practitioners for the Applicant, Nathaniel Weekes

Janet Millington
Valley, Virgin Gorda, VG1150
Virgin Islands
Registered Proprietor of Parcel 229

[29]

Tel: Lands Unit: (284) 468-2017, Survey Unit: (284) 468-4321 | Email: Lands Unit: landregistration@gov.vg, Survey Unit: landandsurveydept@gov.vg | Website: www.bvi.gov.vg

*Notice of Appointment of a
Liquidator under Section 204 of the
BVI Business Companies Act*
**Northern Offshore
Enterprises Ltd.**
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 1506361

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204(1)(b) of the BVI Business Companies Act that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 30 November 2023. The Joint Liquidators are Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape of Conyers Dill & Pearman, Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1, P.O. Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands.

Dated: 30 November 2023

Rachael Pape
For and on behalf of *Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape*

As Joint Liquidators
[28/37]

*Notice of Appointment of a
Liquidator under Section 204 of the
BVI Business Companies Act*
**Northern Offshore Energy
Ltd.**
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 1631668

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204(1)(b) of the BVI Business Companies Act that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 30 November 2023. The Joint Liquidators are Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape of Conyers Dill & Pearman, Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1, P.O. Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands.

Dated: 30 November 2023

Rachael Pape
For and on behalf of *Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape*

As Joint Liquidators
[28/38]

THE ISLAND SUN CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR BEST RESULTS

**SEETO-CHINESE
RESTAURANT- needs
TWO full time KITCHEN
ASSISTANT and one
full time RESTAURANT
HELPER. Please call 494-
2731 for further details**

[s29]

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
VIRGIN ISLANDS
PROBATE DIVISION

BVIHPB No. 2023/0250

IN THE ESTATE OF ROQUELINA RAFAELA FRANCIS, ALSO
KNOWN AS ROQUELINA FRANCIS, LATE OF PURCELL ES-
TATE, TORTOLA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, DECEASED

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by NAOMI ELIZABETH JOAQUIN TORRES, of Purcell Estate, Tortola, Virgin Islands, NOEMI JOAQUIN TORRES, of Purcell Estate, Tortola, Virgin Islands, and NOAMI WELLS (nee JOAQUIN TORRES), of Pockwood Pond, Tortola, Virgin Islands for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicants, who are the daughters of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 30th day of July, 2023 at Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital, Road Town, Tortola, Virgin Islands.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 13th day of November, 2023.

Filed by N. R Samuel & Co, Solicitors for the Administrator whose address for service is 3rd Floor, Chevelle Center, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

[28]

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
(PROBATE)

CLAIM NO. BVIHP 2023/0249

IN THE ESTATE OF SU, YU, DECEASED

ADVERTISEMENT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Su, Chia-Hao of No. 15, Sec. 1. Guangming Rd., Puyan Township, Changhua County 516018, Taiwan, R.O.C for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Letters of Administration to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 28 November 2023

Filed by Travers Thorp Alberga, Attorneys-at Law for the Administrator whose address for service is:

2nd Floor Jayla Place, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands; email: mpeters@tta.lawyer

[29]

PUBLIC NOTICES

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

(PROBATE)

BVIHPB2023/0256

IN THE ESTATE OF INGAH BEATRICE SMITH,
DECEASED

TAKE NOTICE that BENLY LOUEWLLYN SMITH, BRENDERLEE CHRISTINE SMITH-JONES and PETE SAMUEL SMITH, the children of the Deceased who died on the 30th day of May, 2022 intend to apply to the High Court of Justice in the Probate Division for a Grant of LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION to the Estate of the said INGAH BEATRICE SMITH, deceased.

ANY PERSON or persons who has or have any objections to the Grant of LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION to the said BENLY LOUEWLLYN SMITH, BRENDERLEE CHRISTINE SMITH-JONES and PETE SAMUEL SMITH, all of Carrot Bay Tortola, British Virgin Islands, shall within fourteen (14) days from the date of the publication of this Notice lodge with the Registry of the High Court of Justice in the British Virgin Islands the proper documents setting out the proper objections.

Dated this 28th day of November, 2023

Harbour Chambers BVI
Legal Practitioners for the Applicants [29]

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
(PROBATE)
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

CLAIM NUMBER BVIHPB 2023/0243

In the Estate of Soraya Amedee, late of the Valley,
Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands, deceased

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by BERTHELINA AMEDEE HENRY of The Valley, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the mother of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 18th July 2022.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2023.

Filed by Maximea & Co. Law Chambers
Legal Practitioners for the Applicants 2nd Floor,
Glancina George Building Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands Tel: 1 284 494 6623,
494 2366 whose address for service is the same.

[28]

POLICE NEWS

CHARGES LAID FOR RECENT BURGLARIES IN ROAD TOWN

Thursday, November 30 – In response to a series of burglaries plaguing both residential dwellings and businesses in Road Town over the past two weeks, the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force has taken swift action. Officers of the Criminal Investigations Department have diligently conducted thorough investigations leading to notable breakthroughs. As a result, arrests have been made, and charges have been laid against individuals involved in these criminal activities.

Kempes Nicholls, 32, of Wickham's Cay I, has been charged with three counts of burglary and two counts of handling stolen goods. He is currently in custody awaiting his appearance at the Magistrate's Court. Additionally, David Baronville, 45, of Long Bush and Mikhail Howe, 33, of Lower Estate have been charged with burglary and have been granted bail for their scheduled court appearance in January.

The RVIPF remains committed to maintaining the safety of the community and will continue our efforts to address and prevent criminal activities. We appreciate the support and cooperation of the public in providing information that aids in these investigations.

CHARGES LAID IN RECENT STABBING INCIDENT

Thursday, November 30 – On Sunday, November 19, the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force received a report concerning a male who arrived at Dr. Orlando Hospital with stab wounds. Officers responded and conducted investigations, leading to the arrest and charging of one individual. Verne Forbes Jr., 29, of Sea Cow's Bay, has been charged with Unlawful and Malicious Wounding. Forbes remains in custody, awaiting his scheduled appearance at the Magistrate's Court.

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‘Youth must be co-creators for peaceful and sustainable Caribbean’ –

(CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana - Thursday, 23 November 2023) - The Caribbean Youth Summit (CYS) 2023 commenced yesterday, Wednesday, 22 November, at the AC Hotel Marriot, Kingston, Jamaica. Activities for the summit are being held under the theme: ‘Securing Our Future: Youth Co-Creating a Peaceful and Sustainable Caribbean Community.’

Mr Shakeem Howell, Vice Dean, Communication, CARICOM = Youth Ambassador Programme, Barbados, urged Caribbean youth to use their platform to effect change and end gender-based violence.

He also advocated for the establishment of the CARICOM Youth Foundation, which will provide the necessary support and resources to fuel the impactful work of the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Programme and other regional youth development initiatives.

Remarks below.

Good morning. It is truly an honour to stand before you today as we embark on the historical journey of the inaugural Caribbean Youth Summit, a visionary endeavour that has come to fruition through months of meticulous planning and dedication. On behalf of Dean Tiffany Moore, Her Excellency CARICOM Youth Ambassador for Anguilla, and the entire CARICOM

Youth Ambassadors Corps, I extend warm greetings to each and every one of you.

As we gather here in Jamaica, embracing the vibrant atmosphere of Youth Month 2023, we are reminded of the resilience and strength that define the spirit of Caribbean youth. Today marks not just the commencement of a summit but the ignition of a spark—a spark of renewal that promises to permeate throughout the fabric of regional youth development.

Our timing is significant, occurring in tandem with the 46th COHSOD-Gender Meeting in Barbados, where critical discussions are unfolding. The theme of this summit, “Securing Our Future: Youth Co-Creating a Peaceful and Sustainable Caribbean Community against Gender-Based Violence,” resonates deeply with the challenges and aspirations of our Region. It acknowledges the pressing need for transformative behaviours that only the dynamism of Caribbean youth can manifest.

We, the young people of the Caribbean, carry the power to effect change, to put an end to Gender-Based Violence, and to contribute to the establishment of a peaceful and sustainable CARICOM.

In this pursuit of securing our future, we recognise the imperative need for a foundational structure that will uphold and sustain our collective efforts. Therefore, I am advocating for the establishment of the CARICOM Youth Foundation. This foundation

will serve as the bedrock, providing the necessary support and resources to fuel the impactful work of the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Programme and other regional youth development initiatives.

As we celebrate thirty years of the journey under the theme “Connecting Youth, Advancing CARICOM,” the Caribbean Youth Summit epitomises the spirit of this theme. It unites the diverse and dynamic young minds

of the Caribbean, fostering collaboration and innovation to advance our shared goals. Together, we embark on this transformative journey, co-creating a future where peace, sustainability, and equality define the essence of our beloved Caribbean Community.

In the words of the Declaration of Paramaribo on the Future of Youth in the Caribbean Community, let us “commit to fostering a

sense of Caribbean identity, pride, and purpose among our youth.”

Today, we take a significant step towards realising this commitment. Thank you for your presence, your dedication, and your unwavering belief in the potential of Caribbean youth. The journey begins now, and together, we shall shape a future that reflects the resilience and brilliance of our Region.

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‘No more excuses’: Commonwealth Secretary-General will call for accelerated action on climate crisis at COP28

27 November 2023

The Secretary-General, The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, will lead the Commonwealth delegation at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai to call for accelerated action on the climate crisis in light of intensifying threats to small and vulnerable member countries.

Scheduled from 30 November to 12 December 2023, the annual summit comes just months after Commonwealth environment ministers committed to accelerating climate action at their inaugural meeting, held alongside the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

The Secretary-General, who will deliver at least 20 speeches across the summit, will urge negotiators to deliver a transformative outcome at the summit.

This includes accelerating efforts to implement national climate plans mandated under the Paris Agreement, using the findings of the ‘global stocktake’ report to increase ambition and action, and delivering an inclusive, operational Loss and Damage Fund.

Secretary-General Patricia Scotland will officially open the Commonwealth Pavilion COP28, which will host about 40 events across the two weeks, demonstrating the Commonwealth’s ability to convene vital dialogues between governments, experts,

businesses, youth leaders and civil society.

She will also meet with leaders and ministers from Commonwealth member countries and across the international community, to advance progress on emissions, finance, adaptation, biodiversity, oceans, health, innovation and the green economy.

‘No more delays’

Ahead of the summit, the Commonwealth Secretary-General said:

“The worst predictions of climate change have become a daily reality. In the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable countries, fertile lands are turning to dust, wells are running dry, storms and floods are overwhelming communities, and the ocean is rising.

“This represents not only a threat to the health, welfare and survival of millions of people, but to our collective stability and economic prospects.

“Yet as climate change advances, the gap on emissions, finance and justice has widened, while the window for action continues to narrow. COP28 must close that gap.

“Every day of delay makes life more dangerous, and makes climate action more complex, challenging and expensive. There can be no more delays, and no more excuses – this is the time for implementation.”

“The health of us all and of our planet rests on a 1.5°C degree cap on global warming,” she added. “We cannot lose sight of that objective, and I implore



leaders at COP28 to renew their determination to deliver a bright, resilient, sustainable common world – now and for generations to come.”

During the summit, the Secretary-General will call for increased support for small and vulnerable states, highlighting that despite ambitious pledges, these countries are receiving limited funds to mitigate, adapt to and build resilience against the impacts of climate breakdown.

She will also draw attention to the broader consequences of the climate crisis on economic growth, leading to high debt burdens, food insecurity, stressed resources, and impaired livelihoods for many of the 2.5 billion people living across the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth response

Secretary-General Scotland will inform delegates at COP28 about the Commonwealth’s programme, designed to assist its member countries – including 33 small states – in dealing with the challenges posed by the climate crisis.

These include:

the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, which has mobilised US \$310 million in climate finance for 17 vulnerable Commonwealth countries, with an additional US \$500 million in the pipeline; the Commonwealth Blue Charter, which is an agreement by all 56 member countries to actively co-operate to address

shared ocean challenges; the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter: A Call to Action, which commits Commonwealth countries to safeguard global land resources while taking coordinated action on climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable land management; the Commonwealth Disaster Risk Finance Portal, which gives countries open, 24-hour access to key information on financing to better manage the impact of disasters; and the Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition Agenda, which seeks to fast-track an inclusive, just, and equitable transition to low-carbon energy systems across the group.

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COP28 Climate Summit: Disaster Fund Agreed, but Stark Divisions on Fossil Fuels

LONDON —

Disagreements over the phasing out of fossil fuels look set to dominate the two-week COP28 climate meeting in Dubai, after the summit president used his opening speech to argue against a full ban on the use of coal, oil and gas.

More than 70,000 delegates from nearly 200 countries are taking part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which got underway Thursday in the United Arab Emirates, a major exporter of hydrocarbons.

Fossil fuels

Scientists say greenhouse gas emissions must be cut by some 43% by 2030 if the world is to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the target agreed under the Paris climate deal seen as a crucial threshold to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change. However, current trajectories suggest greenhouse gas emissions will actually rise by 9% by 2030.

Central to the talks in Dubai is the tackling of a major source of those emissions: the burning of fossil fuels.

Phasedown or phaseout?

COP28 President Sultan Al-Jaber, who is also the head of the UAE's state oil company, opened the meeting with his vision: not a phasing out of fossil fuels, but a phasing down.

"We must look for ways and ensure the inclusion of the role of fossil fuels. I know there are strong views about the idea of including language on fossil fuels and renewables in the negotiating text. We collectively have the power to do something unprecedented, in fact, we have no choice but to go the very unconventional way. I ask you all to work together. Be flexible. Find common ground," Al-Jaber told delegates, adding that it was right that oil and gas firms had been invited to COP28.

COP28: Disaster Fund Agreed, but Stark Divisions on Fossil Fuels

"Let history reflect the fact that this is the presidency that made a bold choice to proactively engage with oil and gas companies. We had many hard discussions, let me tell you, that wasn't easy, but today many of these companies are committing to zero methane emissions by 2030 for the first time," Al-Jaber said.

'Window dressing'

Al-Jaber's speech prompted immediate condemnation from environmental groups. "The Emirates is pushing very hard for recognition of fossil fuel phasedown rather than phaseout. And I think that the COP president is going to have to be much more flexible on that because we know that a fossil fuel phase out was needed, not a phase down. We know that

what he's pushing for on the phase down is simply window dressing increased oil and gas production," said Bill Hare, the CEO of Climate Analytics.

Alden Meyer, of the climate think-tank E3G, also was skeptical.

"The larger issue is the inconsistency between [Al-Jaber's] acknowledgment that we need to cut emissions from fossil fuels by some 40% in the next six years, and the plans that his country has to expand oil and gas production to the tune of \$150 billion investment over that same time frame," Meyer told The Associated Press.

Disaster fund

While divisions over the phase out of fossil fuels appear likely to dominate much of the summit, there was progress in other key

areas.

The COP28 parties agreed to a new \$420 million fund to help poorer, vulnerable nations cope with the cost of disasters caused by climate change, such as droughts, floods and rising sea levels, with the UAE hosts' \$100 million pledge making them among the most generous of the donors.

"[The] fact that we have been able to achieve such significant milestone in the first day of this COP is unprecedented," Al-Jaber said at a Thursday evening press conference. "This is historic, the fact that we are able to get the agenda voted and agreed on without any delay."

The United States pledged a smaller \$17.5 million, with funding subject to approval by Congress. "We are obviously pleased with

everybody by the early adoption by the parties, which is a great way to start this COP... we also expect this fund to be up and running quickly," U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry told reporters Thursday.

Further deals

The day one deal could pave the way for further agreements at COP28, said Tom Rivett-Carnac, a former strategist at the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. "That will provide developing countries with the confidence that they can now step forward and implement mitigation measures as well," he told VOA.

Delegates hope the momentum continues into the rest of the summit, as marathon negotiations loom over the future use of fossil fuels.



A man walks through the venue for the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Nov. 30, 2023.

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