



# the Island Sun



No. 3231 \* 61st Year \* Tortola \* British Virgin Islands \* Saturday \* 23 December 2023

PREMIER DEFENDS HIS "NECESSARY" TRAVELS...p2

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## OPPOSITION CONTINUES CRITICISM OF PREMIER

Eight District Representative Hon. Marlon Penn said that it was the Opposition that

mainly carried the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) process because members

of the Government were no show on most days.

While contributing to the budget debate on 19 December Hon. Penn complained that Members of the Opposition were always present while the Premier and some members of the Government were not present on some of the days. While complaining about the situation Hon. Penn said: "I wouldn't join the band and jump on the Premier in terms of the travel, I won't do that, but the members who were on the ground though, and the importance of the process. You had situations where for several sessions Ministers weren't present who were on the ground and just like it is today, it's going to require the Opposition for this budget to pass."

"It was the Opposition that made sure that this process was facilitated and we got through that process. Members are the first call of duty is to this House, not to any Ministry or any obligation that we have

outside of the House."

While lamenting that the Standing Finance Committee - (SFC) deliberations were not given the attention they deserved; Hon. Penn said: "We need to take this process with the seriousness it deserves. The Appropriation Act is the single most important piece of legislation any administration passes in any given year. It formulates what their spending, what the revenue projections are and it also formulates the hopes and aspirations of a country and its people and we have to take this process more seriously."

### SIXTH DISTRICT REP SAYS HE WAS DISAPPOINTED

Similar sentiments about the absence of the Premier and some members of the government during some of the deliberations were expressed by Sixth District Representative - Hon. Myron Walwyn during his contribution to the budget debate on 18 December.

Hon. Walwyn criticized the Premier's noticeable absence, calling it a departure from the norm and unprecedented in his extensive experience with budget discussions. "I've been part of the budget process for nine years, and this is the first time I've seen a Finance Minister largely absent during such a critical time. During the Standing Finance-Committee's meetings, the absence of the Minister of Finance was strikingly unconventional," Hon. Walwyn said.

The Sixth District Representative highlighted the Premier's missed opportunity to gain first-hand insights from civil servants who possess deep understanding of the various challenges and key areas requiring attention. "Directly hearing from the departments is crucial and cannot be replaced by merely reading reports. The Minister of Finance failed

Continued on page 2



Beautiful Christmas Tree sponsored by Lions Club of Tortola at the Olva Georges Plaza in Road Town (Photo credit: Dean "The Sportsmand" Greenaway)



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## OPPOSITION CONTINUES CRITICISM...*from page 1*

to seize a crucial chance to do this. His attendance at COP28 and the speech he delivered there seem more like an attempt to divert attention from this lapse," said Walwyn.

Hon. Walwyn also noted the sparse attendance of government members during the budget process, in stark contrast to the more regular participation of Opposition members.

"Madam Speaker, as the records will show, at each

session of the Standing Finance Committee, there were consistently more Opposition members present than those from the government," Mr. Walwyn pointed out.

In his critique of the government, Walwyn commended Deputy Premier Lorna Smith for her diligent handling of her ministry's budget review before her departure on business, marking her actions as responsible and in sharp

contrast to those of Premier Wheatley.

Opposition Leader Ronnie Skelton had similarly criticized the Premier for his absence during the budget process, underscoring the need for his leadership.

Premier Wheatley responded, explaining his absence was due to important engagements and affirming that he left the Territory under competent management.

## PREMIER DEFENDS HIS "NECESSARY" TRAVELS

Once again Premier Dr. the Hon. Natalio Wheatley was forced to defend the overseas travels undertaken by his government to attend various conferences and events. This time the Premier repeated that the trips were necessary during the recent House of Assembly sitting.

Despite critics accusing the government of excessive and unproductive overseas travel at public expense since taking office, Premier Wheatley has reiterated the necessity of these trips. He highlighted their purpose in representing the Territory's interests, including lobbying against the UK government's potential imposition of an Order in Council, which would temporarily suspend representative government in the BVI.

"We successfully averted the immediate threat of this Order [in Council] that was expected to be implemented this month," the Premier



*Hon. Natalio D. Wheatley*

stated, "And to achieve that, flying was essential."

He also pointed out the significant contributions of these travels to the Territory's financial services sector, especially regarding public registers. These accomplishments, he noted, were only possible through direct dialogues in the UK.

"We've firmly conveyed to the UK that imposing public registers in a manner that breaches client data privacy is unacceptable," Dr. Wheatley explained. "Our success in this regard is a testament to our efforts, achieved through our travels to the United Kingdom."

Premier Wheatley dismissed the idea that these trips were mere sightseeing excursions. "These trips are far from leisure sightseeing. I've been to the UK multiple times," he commented. "I have no interest in experiencing the cold for sightseeing purposes. I'd much rather be in the Virgin Islands."

He accused the Opposition of hypocrisy, noting that they too engaged in travel during their time in government.

"Members of the Opposition, many of whom have been ministers, have also undertaken numerous trips. Except for you, Speaker, all have traveled extensively," the Premier remarked.

He added: "Even as Opposition members, travel is necessary. Whether it's going to Ghana, the United Kingdom, or Turks and Caicos, flying is the only way. No one swam there. It required taking a plane to get there."

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## BVIHSA ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ROAD TOWN CLINIC.

The BVI Health Services Authority (BVIHSA) would like to inform the public of the immediate closure of the Road Town Clinic, effective today, Tuesday, December 19, until Thursday, December 28, 2023.

This temporary closure is due to essential maintenance and facility improvements. The clinic will resume normal operations on Friday, December 29, 2023.

For medical assistance during this period, please visit the nearest available BVIHSA healthcare facility.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding as we work to ensure the continued safety and quality of our healthcare services.

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**  
\* AND HAPPY NEW YEAR \*



## “RATED” PROGRAMME RAISES DOUBTS

Both Leader of the Opposition Hon. Ronnie Skelton, and Second District Representative Hon. Melvin ‘Mitch’ Turnbull raised concerns about government’s RATED programme during the budget debate in the House of Assembly.

The RATED programme, is an initiative created by Premier Wheatley’s administration aimed at providing temporary jobs for young people throughout the Territory.

However, Hon. Skelton during his debate contribution in the House of Assembly on 19 December said the programme is not sufficiently meeting the needs of Virgin Islanders who are unemployed. Hon.

Skelton alluded to issues of unemployment in the Territory. While making this point the Leader of the Opposition noted: “We need to help our people better than this. With the RATED programme you get \$10,000 you can’t come back until next year or six months...”

Hon. Skelton said that he is concerned that aspects of the RATED programme are similar to matters flagged during the Commission of Inquiry (COI). As such Hon. Skelton warned that the Government should take heed that it is not flagged for this approach.

While raising this point about COI-related concerns Hon. Skelton said: “This big

RATED programme – what it stands for again – rest in peace! ...It brings me to the point Madame Speaker, we’re running away from the COI, but are you sure we are not creating another avenue for the COI to come and check on a RATED programme. Are we sure?”

Earlier in the sitting (18 December) the Second District Representative also brought up the RATED programme and urged the Government to make significant improvements. He highlighted the dissatisfaction among participants regarding the prolonged wait for their salaries.

Hon. Turnbull mentioned that he has received numerous complaints from his constituents

about delayed payments for their work in the programme. “Even though we as members of the House of Assembly, don’t directly oversee the RATED programme, our community members expect us to assist them. It’s unfair for young people, regardless of gender, to engage in activities like bush cutting and then have to wait over two months to be paid,” Turnbull stated during his budget contribution.

He further declared his intention to cease recommending the programme until the issue of timely payments is addressed. “Participants are instructed to complete numerous tasks, such as registration, ID submission,



*Hon. Ronnie Skelton*

bringing tools like machetes, etc. They receive praise for their work, but face bureaucratic hurdles when it’s time for payment. This treatment is unjust. The programme needs to be rectified – both funding and staffing should be adequately provided,” Turnbull advised the government.

## GOVERNMENT PLANS TO BUY JOE’S HILL MANOR ESTATE FOR \$20MILLIONS

Following persistent appeals from various critics, the government has finally agreed to acquire Joe’s Hill Manor Estate, in order to simplify the home-buying process for first-time buyers.

In the budget discussion, Premier Wheatley revealed the government’s plan to invest \$20 million in purchasing the estate from the Social Security Board (SSB).

Dr. Wheatley stated the government’s intention to collaborate with the SSB and financial institutions to devise a strategy that ensures a more just and equitable distribution of homes in the project, specifically targeting first-time local homeowners.

The Premier pointed out that the existing procedure inadvertently sidelines individuals aspiring to move from renting to owning a home, mainly due to the

high costs of properties in the housing project. “We observed that houses were increasingly being bought by those intending to rent them out, leading to a scenario where the wealthy become wealthier,” Dr. Wheatley remarked.

Earlier in the year, the government completed a \$26 million construction initiative at Joe’s Hill Manor, initially perceived as an affordable housing project. It was later realized, however, that many of the homes were too expensive for the average applicant and intended beneficiary, rendering them inaccessible.

Dr. Wheatley acknowledged that the program had flaws and was not optimally designed.

“The program should have focused on qualifying individuals before the construction of the homes,” he noted. “Nevertheless,

we cannot simply watch these homes being bought and rented out. That is not acceptable.”

The Premier committed to collaborating with experts to address this issue effectively. “I will form a committee

dedicated to devising sustainable solutions. We will not allow the creation of ‘ghettos’ under any circumstances,” he asserted.

Dr. Wheatley reassured that under his leadership, the government would

implement a system ensuring that individuals feel confident in their ability to fulfill financial commitments and achieve homeownership.

**Merry Christmas**

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**Island Sun**



# The Bregado Flax Educational Centre

- Secondary Division Senior Team and the St. Georges Secondary School Junior Team are the winners of the 2023 Inter-Secondary School Chess Tournament.

The top three students for the Senior Secondary Division were Alexis Ganigan from the Bregado Flax Educational Centre winning 1st; Zevieh Abraham from the Elmore Stoutt High School placed 2nd; and Dominic Clarence from the Bregado Flax Educational Centre placed 3rd. The final game that determined the winners was played on Wednesday, December 13.

Acting Chief Education Officer, Mrs. Orlandette Crabbe said the Inter-Secondary School Chess Tournament was the first in the Territory.

Mrs. Crabbe said the event was sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports and thanked Education Minister Honourable Sharie de Castro for endorsing the vision.

“Without you, this event would not have been possible,” Mrs. Crabbe said. She further thanked the BVI Chess Federation for its unwavering support, expertise and commitment to fostering a culture of intelligence and strategic thinking in the community and the officials, arbiters, and volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth conduct of the tournament.

Tournament Director, Mr.

Art Christopher said that Chess in the Virgin Islands is very strong and dates back 50 years.

Our Chess Federation is one of the oldest in the world. Lately we have been trying to get more of our young players to revive chess here. I am overjoyed to see what we have seen here today,” Mr. Christopher said.

The Director added, “We do have a national team that competes internationally and we have been scoping players here for that national team and I think we see a lot of good prospects.”

The Inter-Secondary School Chess Tournament was categorised by Juniors and Seniors. The Junior Secondary winner was the St. Georges Secondary School while the Senior Secondary winner was the Bregado Flax Educational Centre (BFEC) - Secondary Division. Second place for the Junior students came from the BFEC and the Elmore Stoutt High School (ESHS) placed third. Second place for the Senior students was the ESHS while St. Georges placed third.

Coordinator of the Chess Tournament and Education Officer, Ms. Renee Weston said that the seven schools including Bregado Flax Educational-Centre, Claudia Creque Educational Centre, Ciboney Centre for Excellence, Cedar International-School, Elmore Stoutt High School, St. Georges Secondary School and the Virgin



Islands School of Technical Studies registered for the tournament.

Ms. Weston said individual awards were given for the top students in the tournament. She said in the Junior Secondary Division, Rayjon George from St. Georges Secondary School placed 1st, Isaiah

George from Bregado Flax Educational Centre placed 2nd; while Dimitri Fungfook from the Elmore Stoutt High School placed 3rd.

Ms. Weston said, “There was an open session for primary students to participate, where 28 students entered. The winner from that segment was Isaiah

Smith, Broden Baird placed second and Zivon Abraham placed third.”

Persons wishing to view the final games and award ceremony can do so on the Government’s Facebook page via this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/BVIGovernment/videos/1678138452679752>





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# BVI Post Releases King Charles Coronation Commemorative Stamp

Acting Postmaster General Mrs. Iris Romney has announced the release of the commemorative stamp collection of the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May, 2023. This collection

was launched today 19th December, 2023.

The 20 cent stamp depicts London, England, UK, on 6th May, 2023. King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla are seen leaving

Buckingham Palace ahead of the coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey.

The 35 cent stamp depicts King Charles III after being crowned with St. Edwards's crown by the

Archbishop of Canterbury the most Reverend Justin Welby during his coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey, London.

The 50 cent depicts King Charles III and Queen Camilla travel to Buckingham Palace in the Gold State Coach after their coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey, London.

The 1.00 dollar depicts King Charles III and Queen Camilla on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, London, following the coronation.

The First Day Covers and Mint Sets are now available for purchase at the General main post office in Road Town, Tortola and the Valley Branch post office in Virgin Gorda.



## 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)

## Government Seeks Board Members For Virgin Islands Shipping And Maritime Authority

The Government of the Virgin Islands is providing the opportunity for suitably qualified persons to serve as members on the Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Shipping and Maritime Authority, established under Section 3(1) of the Virgin Islands Shipping and Maritime Authority Act, 2023 (the "Act").

The Authority's functions are primarily to:

continue the functions relating to maritime affairs under Part II and Part XIX of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2001 (as amended); administer and enforce all matters for which the Minister is responsible under the Act, and the laws in force in the Virgin Islands relating to merchant shipping and seamen; and promote the proper development of ship registration, survey, inspection, safety management of audits and related services.

The Authority's decentralisation from Government empowers it with direct management and control over maritime matters for the purpose of achieving self-sufficient and sustainable revenue levels for the a Authority and additional economic contributions through increased company registration and tourism products.

To serve on the Board of Directors, candidates should have experience or capacity in matters relating to maritime affairs, industry, commerce, transportation, finance, law, Government or administration.

Interested candidates are required to submit a cover letter and resume or curriculum vitae electronically to the following by closing date 29th December, 2023:





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- Flowers Pinot Noir..... \$52.99
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- Plungerhead 'Lodi' ..... \$13.99
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## WINAIR Successfully Clears Dutch Government Loan Debt Received During COVID

Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten, December 21, 2023 – WINAIR is delighted to announce the fulfillment of its commitment to the Dutch Government by making the final payment towards the USD 4,500,000 loan received during the challenging period of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This significant milestone marks a moment of gratitude towards the Dutch Government for the invaluable support provided. Together with the SSRP received

from the St. Maarten Government, it proved instrumental in sustaining our operations through the tumultuous period of the pandemic, enabling us to navigate challenges effectively.

"We extend our deepest appreciation to the Dutch and St. Maarten Government for their unwavering support during a time of uncertainty," stated Hans van de Velde, CEO of WINAIR. "This pivotal assistance not only assisted WINAIR in

overcoming the hurdles posed by the pandemic but also enabled us to cultivate a stronger and more resilient organizational framework."

The careful utilization of the loan facilitated not only the successful management of debt but also contributed significantly to the financial fortitude of WINAIR. The airline now stands as a testament to stability, ready for healthy growth and abundant prospects in the region's aviation landscape.

An integral condition of the loan agreement was to maintain a minimum of two flights to Saba and Statia. WINAIR is proud to have not only met but exceeded this requirement. In the past year, we successfully operated up to four flights daily on select days of the week. Looking ahead to 2024, we have plans for sustaining four daily flights for the majority of the year, underscoring our commitment to serving these vital routes and fostering regional

connectivity.

The successful repayment of the Dutch government loan underscores WINAIR's commitment to financial responsibility and sustainability. By paying this last installment, Winair is completely debt free, financially healthy and ready for new endeavours. It marks a turning point in our journey, positioning us for a future characterized by growth, resilience, and unwavering dedication to the communities we serve.



### We Are BVI Restaurant

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[s31]

## 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



## UK Government And The British Overseas Territories Agree To Closer Collaboration

New Joint Declaration agreed by UK Government and elected leaders of British Overseas Territories (OTs) Declaration commits to a new, more collaborative and 'modern partnership' between the UK and the OTs.

Includes plan to deepen bilateral-partnerships enhance transparency and support the OTs to take on more responsibilities, alongside accountability should they wish to do so.

The UK Government and elected leaders of the British Overseas Territories, including the British Virgin Islands, have agreed a new Joint Declaration. The Declaration defines a new, more collaborative and 'modern partnership' between the UK and the OTs. The Declaration includes a commitment to practise the highest standards of governance, including in the areas of human rights, rule of law, integrity in public life and financial management.

As part of the declaration, the UK and OTs committed to; improve transparency and deepen bilateral partnerships; consult OTs on UK primary legislation that impacts them; and support OTs to take on more

responsibilities where they wish to do so.

UK Minister for the Overseas Territories, David Rutley, said:

"The Overseas Territories are an important part of the British Family, and our shared values such as support for democracy and the rule of law underpin this close relationship.

Our new Joint Declaration sets out more clearly than ever how the UK and Overseas Territories will work closer together on the opportunities and challenges of the modern world."

The Joint Declaration was agreed during the UK and British Overseas Territories annual Joint Ministerial Council meeting in London on 14 – 15 November and has now been formally approved within the OTs.

Other commitments in the agreement include investigating improvements to how the UK provides financial support to OTs and agreeing to speak with one voice on the international stage, such as at the United Nations. It also creates more opportunities for the OTs to take on responsibilities where they want to, such as around transparency measures, and through the

development of 'Compacts.'

These 'Compacts' will set out roles and responsibilities

on specific issues bespoke to each community. The UK will seek to agree

these detailed bilateral agreements with each of the OTs



MERRY  
*Christmas*  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Wishing you a Christmas that's merry and bright!"

**FROM**

**Z BVI RADIO 780 AM**  
THE AM ADVANTAGE

**MORE READERS:  
THE ISLAND SUN**



## Norwegian VIVA's Inaugural Call to the British Virgin Islands

16 December 2023 – The British Virgin Islands Ports Authority (BVIPA) in collaboration with the Tortola Pier Park Ltd, British Virgin Islands Tourist Board (BVITB) and local ship agent Island Shipping Trading Co. Ltd, commemorated the inaugural arrival of Norwegian's second of five Prima-Class Ships, VIVA with a plaque exchange ceremony. This event took place onboard the ship while it was berthed at the Cyril B. Romney Tortola Pier Park, Tortola with Captain Kim Karlsson and Minister of Communication and Works Honorable Kye Rymer. Special guest Michele Paige, CEO of the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) also joined in the ceremony.



*Hon. Kye Rymer, Minister Communication & Works and Captain Kim Karlsson (Photo Credits: BVIPA)*



**BVI Delegation and Captain Kim Karlsson and Michele Paige, CEO FCCA (Photo Credits: BVIPA)**



## Pope approves blessings for same-sex couples

*By Nicole Winfield and David Crary*



*Pope Francis*

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis formally approved letting Catholic priests bless same-sex couples, the Vatican announced Monday, a radical shift in policy that aimed at making the church more inclusive while maintaining its strict ban on gay marriage.

But while the Vatican statement was heralded by some as a step toward breaking down discrimination in the Catholic Church, some LGBTQ+ advocates warned it underscored the church's idea that gay couples remain inferior to heterosexual partnerships.

The document from the Vatican's doctrine office elaborates on a letter Francis sent to two conservative cardinals that was published in October. In that preliminary response, Francis suggested such blessings could be offered under some circumstances if the blessings weren't confused with the ritual of marriage.

This is not the first time Pope Francis has worked to open the Church to the LGBTQ+ community. Some say it's too much, and others say that it's not enough.

Last month, the Vatican said it is permissible under certain circumstances for trans people to be baptized as Catholics and serve as godparents.

"Being homosexual isn't a crime" — Earlier this year, the pope said these words in an interview with The AP, criticizing laws that criminalize homosexuality.

**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




GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS | unicef | Funded by UK Government

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.



# . Adina Donovan Home receives shopping gift from Drakes Traders



Tortola, British Virgin Islands, December 18, 2023 – The Adina Donovan Home for the Elderly in Tortola received an annual gift of \$2,500 from Drakes Traders. The donation recently was presented to the Home Manager, Mrs. Ritzia Turnbull-Smith by Assistant Managers Mrs. Michelle Rymer and Mr. Adam Patrick Recio and the Drakes Traders team at the store in Fish Bay.

The funds will be used to purchase items needed by the Manager of the Adina Donovan Home to provide services required by the residents and to enhance the operations at the Home.

“The Adina Donovan Home is the residence

of 21 people from the community and our team wants to ensure that we are able to deliver quality services with minimal interruption,” said

Mrs. Turnbull-Smith. “The gift from Drakes Traders enables us to replace and/or stock up on appliances and materials so we can deliver our care giving services to the best of our abilities.

On behalf of the Chief Social Development Officer, the staff and residents of the Home,

I thank Mr. Esser for his continued generous support.”

In keeping with the time of year, the end of year shopping cart included décor to bring festive

cheer into the Home for the Holidays.

The Adina Donovan Home has an open communication with Drakes Traders, which has been a community partner for a number of years. The relationship enables the store managers to respond to any requests it may receive from the home throughout the course of the year. “The Adina Donovan Home is such an important facility and community service

for the BVI and it is one of the organisations that we are happy to be able to support with what we do as a business,” said Mr. Christian Esser, Managing Director of Drakes Traders. “We wish the residents and staff all the best and a very Merry Christmas!”

The Manager at the Home ensures that the residents enjoy a good quality of life through a programme of activities designed to keep them

active and engaged. These include reading sessions and conversations or general entertainment such as musical presentations, exercise, tours, art and craft.

Private sector entities or individuals looking to support the work of the Adina Donovan Home may contact Mrs. Turnbull-Smith by email at [riturnbull-smith@gov.vg](mailto:riturnbull-smith@gov.vg) or by telephone on 1 (284) 468-2345.



## REBOOTING YOUR YEAR

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# GLOBAL NEWS BRIEF

STORIES SELECTED BY GIORGIO MIGLIAVACCA

**USA** - A jury awarded \$148 million in damages on Friday to two former Georgia election workers who sued Rudy Giuliani for defamation over lies he spread about them in 2020 that upended their lives with racist threats and harassment.

The damages verdict follows emotional testimony from Wandrea "Shaye" Moss and her mother, Ruby Freeman, who tearfully described becoming the target of a false conspiracy theory pushed by Giuliani and other Republicans as they tried to keep then-President Donald Trump in power after he lost the 2020 election.

Giuliani didn't appear to show any emotion as the verdict was read in Washington's federal courthouse after about 10 hours of deliberations. Moss and Freeman hugged their attorneys after the jury left the courtroom and didn't look at Giuliani as he left with his lawyer.

Giuliani had already been found liable in the case and previously conceded in court documents that he falsely accused the women of ballot fraud. Even so, the former New York City mayor continued to repeat his baseless allegations about the women in comments to reporters outside the Washington, D.C., courthouse

this week. Giuliani's lawyer acknowledged that his client was wrong but insisted that Giuliani was not fully responsible for the vitriol the women faced. The defense sought to largely pin the blame on a right-wing website that published the surveillance video of the two women counting ballots.

The judgment adds to growing financial and legal peril for Giuliani, who was among the loudest proponents of Trump's false claims of election fraud that are now a key part of the criminal cases against the former president.

Giuliani had already been showing signs of financial strain as he defends himself against costly lawsuits and investigations stemming from his representation of Trump. His lawyer suggested that the defamation case could financially ruin the former mayor, saying "it would be the end of Mr. Giuliani." [AP - El Pais]

**AIDS** - Twenty years ago, U.S. President George W. Bush, launched the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR. When I came into office as Minister of Health of Ethiopia, I used funds from the program to save lives and reverse the HIV epidemic, which was sweeping across my country and much of

the continent. U.S. leadership through PEPFAR helped to change the course of HIV in Africa.

Two decades on, and now as Director-General of the World Health Organization, I (TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS) have seen the global impact of PEPFAR across the world, and particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The stats are impressive: in twenty years the program has saved 25 million lives, enabled 20 million people with HIV to start antiretroviral treatment and prevented 5.5 million babies from being born with HIV. And five countries from sub-Saharan Africa — that were hit especially hard — are now reaching ambitious global targets of 95% of people living with HIV knowing their status, 95% of those diagnosed with the virus are receiving treatment and 95% of all those receiving lifesaving drugs will achieve viral suppression by 2025.

However, all these gains could now be in jeopardy.

The rising cost of living, new global conflicts and the climate crisis are all placing pressure on overseas development aid. This is squeezing the dollars for, and interest in, programs like PEPFAR that have had such broad impact on millions of people who are no longer condemned to ill health and early death because of where they were born.

As American representatives continue to debate

reauthorizing PEPFAR for the next five years, it is worth reflecting on the legacy of this historic program for HIV and more broadly for global health.

**DENGUE** - In a groundbreaking move to combat the alarming surge of dengue cases across the Caribbean, two private companies have joined forces in an ambitious project aimed at curbing the spread of the deadly virus.

Orbit Services Partners Incorporation, a Barbados-registered firm, has entered into a strategic partnership with Verily, a San Francisco-based health technology company, to release specially bred mosquitoes with bacterium capable of blocking the dengue virus.

Orbit chairman Anthony Da Silva revealed that the two companies have been diligently working on this collaborative endeavor and have engaged with government officials in the Caribbean region. The initiative aims to target several nations grappling with dengue outbreaks, including Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Maarten, St. Martin, Suriname, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti.

Similar projects employing the Wolbachia bacterium have already yielded positive results in various parts of the world.

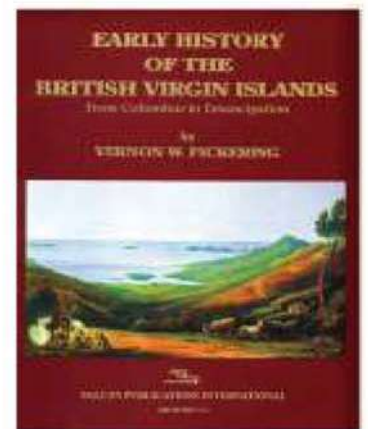
The process involves infecting mosquitoes with Wolbachia within a controlled laboratory environment and subsequently releasing them into the wild.

As these mosquitoes reproduce, they pass on the bacterium to their offspring, effectively preventing the dengue virus from replicating within the mosquitoes' gut. (CNW)

**BOB MARLEY** - The lost Bob Marley song 'Selassie is the Chapel' has been released on all major streaming platforms.

The 1968 tune by the late reggae icon and The Wailers was penned by his friend and teacher, Mortimer Planno, and is about his meeting with Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie during a visit to Jamaica in 1966.

It's being released on Marley's former label JAD Records, which was founded by late country music legend Johnny Cash. As well as being able to stream on all major platforms, a limited batch of just 2,000 vinyl copies has been made available.



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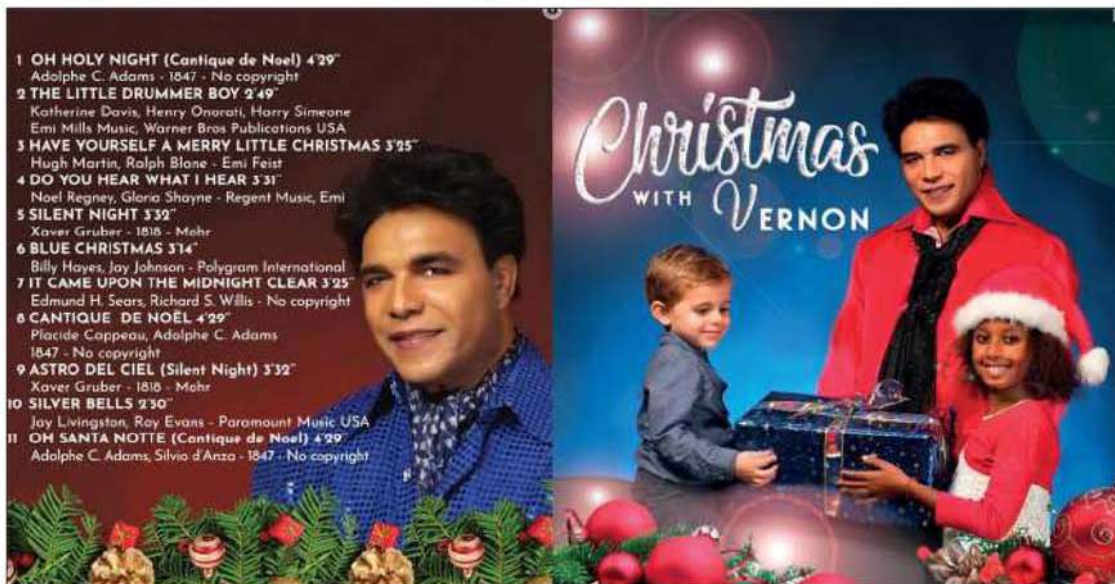
The previously unreleased song's arrival comes a few months ahead of the biopic 'Bob Marley: One Love', which is due to be released in cinemas on February 14, 2024.

Kingsley Ben-Adir portrays the legendary singer in the movie, which is helmed by 'King Richard' director Reinaldo Marcus Green and produced by Bob's widow Rita Marley and her and Bob's eldest son Ziggy Marley and daughter Cedella Marley. (CNW)

**MORE AUTONOMY FOR BRITISH TERRITORIES** - Britain will support Bermuda and other Overseas Territories in their quest for greater autonomy under a newly signed agreement.

The joint declaration between Whitehall and the 14 OTs — which will cement "a modern partnership for a stronger British family" — also encourages the territories "to enter into bilateral agreements with independent nations and other bodies, and to strengthen links with regional and international organisations".

The declaration was signed following a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council in London last month. Bermuda was represented at that meeting by David Burt, the Premier, and Walter Roban, the Deputy Premier. Britain is to publish a strategy which will set out its commitment to the OTs. (Royal Gazette)



- 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 Onorati, 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 3'32"  
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  
1847 - No copyright
- 9 ASTRO DEL CIEL (Silent Night) 3'32"  
Xaver Gruber - 1818 - Mohr
- 10 SILVER BELLS 2'30"  
Jay Livingston, Ray Evans - Paramount Music USA
- 11 OH SANTA NOTTE (Cantique de Noel) 4'29"  
Adolphe C. Adams, Silvio d'Anzo - 1847 - No copyright

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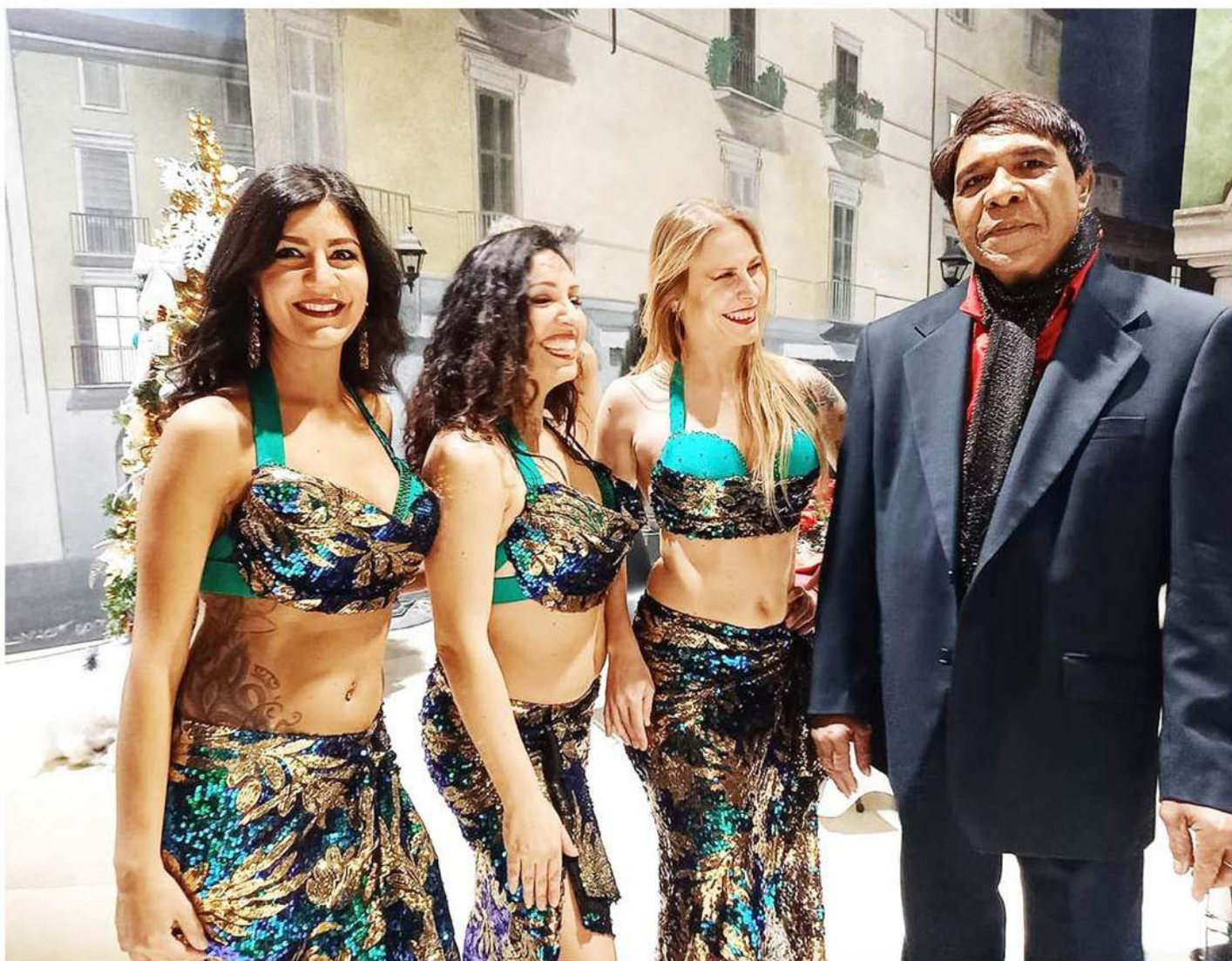
on the INTERNET at over 125 platforms including iTunes AMAZON NAPSTER Last FM emusic.com Also see videos on YouTube and listen to the entire album on SPOTIFY and GOOGLE PLAY more information at [www.vernon-style.com](http://www.vernon-style.com) and FACEBOOK: Vernon Pickering **RHYTHMS OF LOVE WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON IN THE BVI: WATCH HIM ON YOUTUBE**



# The Sunny Side Up



## Through the Lens of The Sunny Side



**TELELOMBARDIA STUDIOS (Antenna 3), 20 December 2023:** Guest vocalist **Vernon Pickering** is pictured here with the exotic belly-dancers "Briansoule" during a pause of the "Voci in Piazza" recording of the Christmas Special to be aired on Christmas Day at 8:30 pm GMT (Italian Time + 1) and at the same hour on 27 December as Xmas Special of "Under the sky of Lombardy".

The two different Xmas Shows will both feature Vernon as superstar.

The filming of the two traditional specials was greeted by an enthusiastic audience and the presence of many other important artists, pianists and singers from all over.

A special guest group was that of the "Zampognari" (Bagpipe players and Carollers). Both shows will be repeated on Youtube throughout the holiday season.

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Santa Claus came to town!

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- . Ladyburd Mail Box
- . Lightbulb Moments
- . Poetry Corner
- . Tickle My Funny Bones
- . Pun Intended

### PAGE 16

BVI Diabetes Association annual Christmas dinner

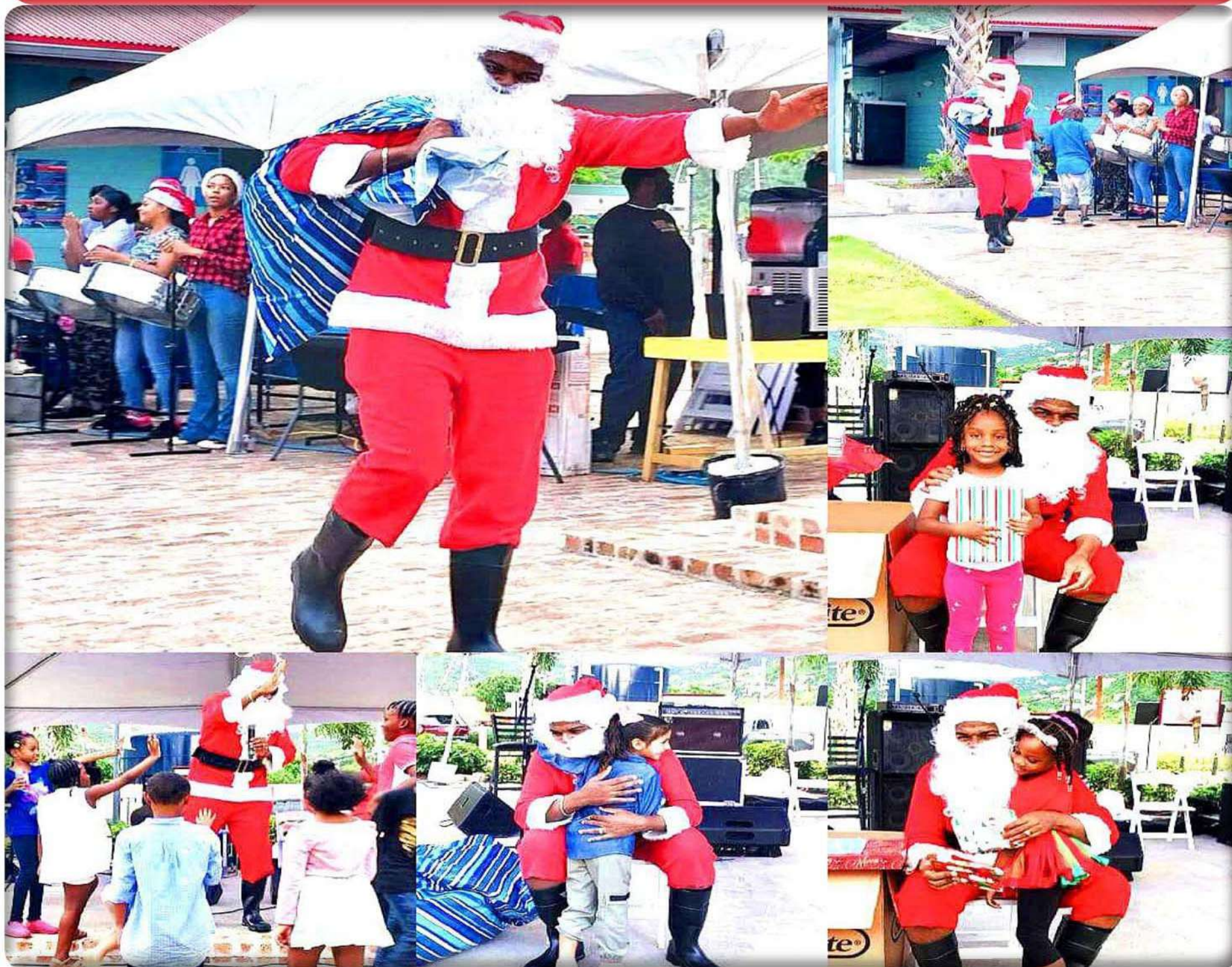
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Divas On A Dime

INSIDE



# SANTA CLAUS CAME TO TOWN!



On 16 December, Santa Claus came to town! Premier Honourable Dr. Natalio Wheatley stepped into the Cyril B. Romney Tortola Pier Park donning a Santa suit, ready to spark excitement and holiday fun. "It was such a joy to dress up as Santa and spread Christmas cheer to all the little children," Premier Wheatley said.

With more than enough gifts to go around,

lines of children quickly formed to take photographs and receive gifts from Santa that were all locally purchased! In addition to sitting with Santa, the event also included music, food, face painting, and inflatable bounce houses for the children to enjoy! Foggy Mountain Boys, Zion Sounds, and the Band of Love serenaded the crowd with classic Christmas carols! Yet, with all the excitement and won-

der, the greatest gifts were not the ones under the Christmas tree. "The greatest gifts I have received thus far are the smiles on these adorable little ones' faces and their warm hugs," Premier Wheatley said. "This is a special time of year where our community comes together in love and fellowship, and I encourage us all to see the benefit in giving, sharing, and caring."





## Ladyburd Talks...

**Dear Readers: Happy Holidays – Time To Relax, Reflect, and Recharge**

**Recharging during the holidays:** How can you set yourself up for successful relaxation?

The holidays provide the perfect opportunity for a break. For many people, this is a slower time of year. So, take advantage of this quiet respite!

Set yourself up for a successful break by following a few steps:

Think of this break as essential to the success of your company. "Remind yourself that breaks are normal and necessary"; by taking care of yourself, you are taking care of your business.

Schedule it. Seeing it in your calendar makes you accountable – your break or vacation becomes a priority.

Send the right signal to your brain. Dedicate yourself to your time off;

Give your mind and body the rest it needs.

Engage in hobbies.

Doing something out of your routine will "flex different parts of your brain and different modes of thinking".

Any way to nourish and encourage is essential.



## LIGHT BULB MOMENTS

**"Christmas gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us."**

—David Cameron

## Poetry Corner

### Year-Round Joy

*Christmas is full of shiny things  
That sparkle, gleam and glow.  
These holiday pleasures  
dazzle us,  
And yet, deep down, we  
know...*

*That Christmas has its  
special gifts,  
But our year-round joy  
depends  
On the cherished people  
in our lives,  
Our family and friends.*

© By Joanna Fuchs

<https://www.poemsource.com/Christmas-poems.html>  
Source: <https://>



## Tickle My Funny Bones



### SHORT CHRISTMAS JOKES

One turkey asks another, "Do you believe in life after Christmas?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Oh, by the way – the book I gave you for Christmas must be returned to the library next week.

\*\*\*\*\*

Another helicopter tried to land in our garden today. I think we're going to have to reduce our Christmas lights a bit.

\*\*\*\*\*

This will be the fifth year in a row that my in-laws will come over for Christmas.

I think this time we should let them in.

\*\*\*\*\*

How do we know Santa is a man?

Because...No woman with an ounce of dignity would wear the same outfit for so many years.

\*\*\*\*\*

Christmas tip: Wrap empty boxes in Christmas wrapping paper. When your child misbehaves, toss one into the fire.

\*\*\*\*\*

What does a bald guy say when you give him a comb for Christmas?

Oh thanks... I shall never part with it.

\*\*\*\*\*

What is any parent's favorite Christmas carol?  
Silent Night.

## PUN INTENDED

**"What did Adam say to his wife on the day before Christmas?  
It's Christmas, Eve."**





# BVI DIABETES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER



Last Wednesday 13 December Premier Hon. Dr. Natalio Wheatley joined the BVI Diabetes Association at their annual Christmas dinner. The event brings members of the association together to celebrate the festive season and recognize their hard work and dedication to the cause. "It was a joy to help sponsor and attend the BVI Diabetes Association's annual Christmas dinner to eat, sing, and recognize those who form the background of this amazing organization," Premier Wheatley said.

Throughout the year, the BVI Diabetes Association has hosted

several events geared towards promoting diabetes awareness and prevention. "The Diabetes Association has done a great job of promoting awareness to the public, providing services to diabetics, and conducting activities in accordance with their mission to support those with this non-communicable disease and preventing others from joining their ranks," Premier Wheatley added. "Let's all do what we can to support the work of the organization in 2024."

This year, the Association recognized Viola Callwood and Seddy Dawson for their many contributions to the organization.





# DIVAS ON A DIME

By Patti Diamond

## Cranberry Orange Cake: A Festive Slice of Joy

As the holidays approach, there's nothing quite like the aroma of a freshly baked Cranberry Orange Christmas Cake wafting through the air. This sweet and tart treat is a crowd-pleaser, balancing the burst of fresh cranberries with a rich, buttery cake containing the perfect amount of sugar for a perfectly balanced flavor.

This recipe is a holiday must-have with my family. I usually make this cake at least twice. First is for dividing the batter into mini loaves for gifting. The second is a whole cake to devour shamelessly right out of the cake pan -- oops! -- I mean, to serve elegantly with coffee Christmas morning.



PHOTO CREDIT: [www.JasonCoblentz.com](http://www.JasonCoblentz.com)

*Buttery, sweet, zesty and tart, this cake is a crowd*

Fresh cranberries, a staple in my kitchen, can be easily frozen for year-round use. Toss them right in the freezer in the bag they came in, and you'll have these ruby gems ready whenever the craving strikes.

Keep your eyes open for cranberries on clearance after the holidays. Last year I found fresh cranberries for 25 cents a bag. You can believe I stocked up and enjoyed them all year.

The beauty of this recipe lies not only in its simplicity, but also in its versatility. If your secret stockpile of cranberries runs out, you can also make this cake by swapping blueberries or frozen mixed berries for the cranberries.

In a departure from the norm, this recipe skips the baking soda or baking powder. Instead, the eggs take center stage, providing the leavening needed for the perfect rise.

You'll see that this batter will resemble luxurious cookie dough. This thick concoction, a result of extended egg beating, requires a little extra effort but is the secret to the cake's exquisite texture. Don't skimp on beating time; let those eggs work their magic until the batter forms a ribbon off the beaters.

For an extra burst of flavor that sets this recipe apart from the rest, we're adding orange zest to the mix and an orange icing drizzle to finish the cake. It elevates the cake, adding a citrusy note that complements the cranberries beautifully.

**Diva Tip:** The cold from frozen cranberries may thicken the batter, making it difficult to spread in the pan. Allowing the cranberries to thaw on the counter as you prepare the cake will make the stirring process a breeze.

### CRANBERRY ORANGE CHRISTMAS CAKE

For the cake:

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup softened butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Zest of one large orange
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 12 ounces fresh or frozen cranberries

1 cup pecans, chopped, optional

For the orange icing:

- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 2 1/2 tablespoons fresh

### The Sunny Side Up

orange juice

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Butter or spray a 9 by 13 pan; set aside.

Beat eggs with sugar until thickened, are doubled in size and lemon-colored (approximately 5-7 minutes). Add butter, vanilla and orange zest; mix for an additional two minutes. Stir in flour until just combined. Add cranberries and pecans, ensuring an even distribution.

Spread the batter in a buttered 9x13 pan. Bake for 40-50 minutes, or until lightly browned and a toothpick comes out clean.

Let the cake cool completely. Make the icing by stirring together the powdered sugar with juice from the orange we zested. Drizzle the cake with icing before cutting it into small slices. Serve alone, with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

Embrace the sweetness of the season with this Cranberry Orange Christmas Cake -- a delightful, cost-effective masterpiece that tastes even better the next day, if there's any left. Enjoy the season, and may your kitchen be filled with the warmth of good food and great company!

*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](http://www.divasonadime.com) and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com) Visit Patti at [www.DotCom](http://www.DotCom). Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)*

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## “QUAKER WITHDRAWS GRANOLA BARS AND GRANOLA CEREALS DUE TO POSSIBLE HEALTH RISK

” British Virgin Islands, December 2023 – The Quaker Oats Company announced today the market withdrawal of the granola bars and granola cereals included in this detailed list [www.quakergranolarecall.com](http://www.quakergranolarecall.com) because they have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella, an organism that can cause severe infections and, occasionally, fatal outcomes in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy individuals infected

with Salmonella typically experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, Salmonella infection can lead to the organism entering the bloodstream and causing more serious illnesses, such as infected arteries (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis, and arthritis.

The products listed on this website ([www.quakergranolarecall.com](http://www.quakergranolarecall.com)) were produced in the United States

and distributed to the British Virgin Islands. Therefore, the company informs potential consumers to check their pantries for any of the listed products and discard them.

Additionally, consumers with any of the mentioned products can return the described product to the original store where they purchased it, presenting their purchase receipt. For additional information, consumers with any of the mentioned products can contact the customer service hotline: [consumers.1800@](mailto:consumers.1800@pepsico.com)

[pepsico.com](mailto:consumers.1800@pepsico.com)

To date, Quaker has not received reports of illnesses related to the products covered by this market withdrawal. Quaker has reported these actions to the relevant local authorities.

It is important to note that this withdrawal **ONLY APPLIES** to the specific products listed ([www.quakergranolarecall.com](http://www.quakergranolarecall.com)), and **NO OTHER** Quaker product is affected.

### Celebrity Ascent’s Inaugural Call to the British Virgin Islands



20 December 2023 – The British Virgin Islands Ports Authority (BVIPA) in collaboration with the Tortola Pier Park Ltd, British Virgin Islands Tourist Board (BVITB) and local ship agent ROMASCO Group, commemorated the inaugural arrival of Celebrity Ascent with a plaque exchange ceremony. This event took place onboard the ship while it was berthed at the Cyril B. Romney Tortola Pier Park, Tortola with Staff Captain Maria Gotor and Minister of Communication and Works Honourable Kye Rymer.

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holiday season and throughout the coming year!*

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

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**PART 11**  
By Giorgio Migliavacca

## POPULARITY OF KING GEORGE VI STAMPS

King George VI's greatest achievements came during the Second World War, when he remained for most of the time at Buckingham Palace (the Palace was bombed nine times during the war). He and his wife, Queen Elizabeth, visited severely bombed areas in the East End of London and elsewhere in the country, and that gained him great popularity.

This popularity became a great incentive for stamp collectors to assemble specialised collections. The second and last definitive series of his Reign was issued on 15 April 1952, after the King's death. The 1c, 2c, 4c, 8c, 12c and 24c denominations are monochrome, while the others are bicolored. Maps were featured prominently on 2 cents (Jost Van Dyke), 4 cents (Anegada), 8 cents (Virgin Gorda correctly spelled), 12 cents (Tortola, the capital island), and \$4.80 depicting a general map of the archipelago. This last stamp is worth special mention in that the spelling of Virgin Gorda is distorted to VIRGIN CORDA. The boo-boo on the \$4.80 stamp did not cause excitement among collectors and islanders. A second printing of this definitive series on thin, very white paper took place in December 1952.

The BVI stamps of King George VI represent a fascinating field both for the

philatelist and postal historian especially because of the concurrent use of Leeward Islands stamps in the BVI and the currency shift to the complex Bee-Wee Dollar.

**TO BE CONTINUED**



1952 Imperf colour trial of the 12c in unadopted red-purple (Courtesy Dr. G. Migliavacca)



2 June 1953: Self addressed First Day cover prepared by Sir Olva Georges, franked with the stamp commemorating the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II





# THIS WEEK IN CORRUPTION

## COSP PLAYING IN ATLANTA

BY TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

We're bringing this week's newsletter to you from Atlanta, where a big UN anti-corruption conference has been in full swing since Monday.

The United States government is hosting the tenth conference of states that are party to the UN Convention against Corruption, or UNCAC CoSP 10. Transparency International, 30 of our chapters and many other civil society organisations are here too, making our voices heard - with our written submissions, plenary speeches and some visual aids.

The week started on a good note with objections against the participation of five civil society organisations overturned during a plenary vote.

The vote was a first for a UNCAC CoSP, where countries traditionally negotiate matters until they reach consensus. This holds particularly true for resolutions on the various corruption topics that each conference adopts. However, as it turns out, reaching consensus has been more challenging at this CoSP than ever before.

We had been concerned about the negotiations even before the resolutions reached Atlanta, as news got out that some countries were blocking any and all language that was remotely progressive.

While these resolutions are not binding - unlike the convention - they hold significance by helping to advance the global anti-corruption debate and fostering consensus on key issues. They can also mandate UN agencies to work on certain topics, which are very useful. And yet, some delegates participating in these negotiations appear to be primarily driven by geopolitical interests, while some others simply don't want to see progress in anti-corruption.

Scrutiny is typically absent as these discussions unfold behind closed doors.

But the behaviour of some states has made it outside the negotiating rooms and been a hot topic all week. They have apparently refused to move on their positions, often watering down the language in resolutions.

One such resolution, which we have been following closely, was proposed by Nigeria and centres on enhancing beneficial ownership transparency. It was finally agreed to last night, which is an achievement considering how things had been going. We are eagerly anticipating seeing the approved text,

so we can hold governments to their word.

However, the fate of the Atlanta Declaration on accountability, tabled by the United States government as the host, is unclear even as we write this. What we do know, however, is that delegates missed an opportunity to include commitments on transparency and oversight of political finance ahead of the biggest election year in history.

Now, civil society organisations attending the conference are issuing a declaration that assess the outcomes so far and challenges ahead.

One thing is clear: Civil society has been well-represented and visible at this conference. Future hosts must ensure that they empower independent actors to make meaningful contributions towards the CoSP process.

Because someone has to nudge governments to pick up the pace.

Transparency International calls on States Parties to enhance UNCAC implementation and follow-up mechanisms, committing to advancing beneficial ownership transparency, improving transparency in

political financing, and fostering an enabling environment for anti-corruption fighters.

Transparency International and the UNCAC Coalition strongly condemn the move by Azerbaijan and Turkey to exclude five civil society organisations from participating in the 10th session of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) Conference of the States Parties (CoSP). The conference, starting today in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, runs until 15 December 2023.

As the conference began, Turkey withdrew its objections, but the Azeri objections remain.

The UNCAC recognises that civil society plays a key role in preventing and combating corruption. Still, this role can only be realised if they have the freedom to operate safely, independently and free from undue restrictions, including in international fora. Transparency International and the UNCAC Coalition call for objections to be overturned, highlighting that the arbitrary process used to exclude civil society organisations from the UNCAC CoSP is inconsistent with the Convention and with UN values and standards.

Further, we call on State Parties to reform the objection procedures for future CoSPs to prevent its abuse and ensure a timely decision that safeguards civil society participation.





# COMMENTARY

## CAPITAL DRIVES INEQUALITY

By Dickson Igwe



Dickson Igwe

December 13, 2023

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer, is a useful cliché in revealing the tendency of capital to drive social and wealth inequality

The reason the wealthy appear to exist in a rarefied place is not that they possess two heads. The wealthy own the capital that drives the growth and concentration of wealth and power, and that capital, passes from one generation to the next. In today's world, capital ownership is the main factor defining social class and who belongs to the elite; then, there is learning and talent.

Capital and its ownership is a culture that a minority inhabit. The power of Supply Side Economics is the reality that production – the supply of consumer goods and services for consumer demand- drives up profits of producers, and their agencies, concentrating wealth in the

hands of the few. In 2023, corporate stock ownership is the deciding factor in who joins the 1% Club.

Inequality is nothing new, and neither is capital. In ancient times, the owners of land, and the implements and people who worked the land, including the seafaring vessels that opened up foreign lands to barbarian conquerors, were the holders of wealth and power. It is the same today.

That capital has always appreciated is also nothing new. The steady rise in the stock market price is a reflection of the increasing value of capital. In fact, the success of capital to move through the centuries, adding value as it travels, has allowed for the establishment of wealth and power in the hands of the minority: European royal households, US industrial barons, owners of financial and corporate stock, business magnates, autocratic leaders, and today's tech billionaires.

Capital is a beast that adopts the features and cultures of the historical epochs it passes through. It takes on the ideas, sciences and technologies at each stage. Capital discards and adopts, as it moves through history.

Today, capital has arrived in the time of artificial intelligence. Pilotless aircraft, ships without captains, driverless cars, robots, drone technology, trains with no navigator on board and the list goes on. Where it ends, no one knows.

Capital is energy and motion. It is the flux and flow of the capital mix- wealth making assets and enterprise-towards establishing value to those who control that

mix. Capital is dependent on human effort, exigence, and enterprise for value.

Capital appreciates because of the dynamism of human effort in satisfying the demands of life on earth. Abraham Maslow decided there was a hierarchy of needs from the most basic such as food and water to the most incredible such as space travel. Capital provides the inputs and outputs for every human need and purpose.

We live in the Age of

Capital in that the capitalist creed drives global society and economic culture. Science and technology reign supreme in driving up the value of corporations and their owners. Any assessment of inequality will reveal that the owners of capital have the advantage in the wealth stakes. Capital is power. That is not a revelation. History has evolved that way.

Dickson Igwe



The Bitter End Yacht Club 2.0 has the following position available. Interested candidates kindly email resume to [kcharles@beyc.com](mailto:kcharles@beyc.com) or call 346-9763 for appointment.

### Bar Supervisor

- Seeking a dynamic leader to supervise our beverage program encompassing coffee shop, craft cocktail lounge, wine program and busy bars.
- Must have extensive knowledge of wines, beers and spirits. Possess the desire to train and inspire restaurant and bar teams.
- Extensive back of house knowledge including beverage program conceptual creative, supplier negotiations, costings and inventory control, ability to manage POS operations and create and train beverage service manuals and recipe specifications.
- Essential experience- minimum 2 years managing all aspects of multi outlet luxury bar experience including new bar openings.
- Must have prior knowledge of POS and IQWARE systems.

### Qualifications:

- National Certification in Bartending

[s32]



# Caribbean News / Regional News

## JAMAICA SET TO RECORD 4.1 MILLION VISITORS AND US\$4.3 BILLION IN EARNINGS FOR 2023

Kingston, Jamaica; Tuesday, December 12, 2023: With a record winter tourist season on the horizon, Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, has announced that the island is set to eclipse its growth projections for visitor arrivals and tourism earnings for 2023, based on the robust growth trajectory of Jamaica's vibrant tourism industry.

While providing an update on the sector in the House of Representatives earlier this afternoon, Minister Bartlett outlined optimistic estimates. He said "the island should record a total of 4,122,100 visitors for the period January to December, 2023. This would signal an increase of 23.7% over the total number of visitors recorded in 2022."

Highlighting the impressive growth trend, Minister Bartlett said: "Of this number 2,875,549 are expected to be stopover visitors, which would represent a 16% increase over the number of stopover arrivals recorded in 2022. Additionally, we expect to end the year with a total of 1,246,551 cruise

passengers, which would represent a 46.1% increase over the tally for 2022."

Stressing that the sector's record-breaking recovery seems set to continue, he noted that: "This continues the spectacular growth pattern of tourism, with 10 consecutive quarters of substantial growth since the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on arrival figures to date, all indications are that we will be having an 11th quarter of significant expansion."

In terms of tourism earnings, the Minister announced that "this influx of visitors is expected to generate a whopping US\$4.265 billion for 2023, representing a projected increase of 17.8% over the revenue secured in 2022, and a 17.2% increase in revenue over the pre-pandemic year of 2019."

Minister Bartlett emphasised that, "if we continue on our impressive growth trajectory, we will be on track to surpass our projections of 4 million visitors and foreign exchange earnings of US\$4.1 billion by year-end."

Additionally, the Minister provided an estimated breakdown of these earnings, specifying direct revenues to the government's coffers. These include contributions to the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) fees, Departure Tax, Airport Improvement Fee, Airline Passenger Levy, Passenger fees and charges, as well as the Guest Accommodation Room Tax (GART), amounting to US\$336 million or JA\$52 billion.

Minister Bartlett expressed gratitude for the support and sterling contribution of all tourism stakeholders to the continued success of the sector, including tourism workers, the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA) and other local and international partners. The tourism minister reaffirmed that the Ministry, its public bodies and all tourism partners remain committed to fostering the sustainable growth and resilience that have enabled Jamaica to maintain its position as a premier travel destination globally.

## CARICOM EMINENT PERSONS GROUP STATEMENT FOLLOWING FOURTH VISIT TO HAITI



On 13 December the CARICOM Eminent Persons Group of former Prime Ministers Bruce Golding, Perry Christie and the Coordinator, Dr Kenny D. Anthony concluded a week of intense negotiations between Haitian Stakeholders on a Framework Agreement intended to provide a transitional governance arrangement to take the troubled country to free and fair elections.

The negotiations, attended by representatives of a broad cross section of political and civil society Stakeholders, including Prime Minister Ariel Henry, provided an opportunity for narrowing of differences on the details of the transitional governance arrangement.

The draft Framework Agreement that formed the basis of the negotiations was prepared by the EPG and reflected the contributions of all the Stakeholders over more than five months of consultations. The Stakeholders achieved consensus on several aspects of the draft Framework and have agreed to continue discussions between themselves in the absence of the EPG on the key areas of the balance of power and representation within the proposed transitional arrangements.

The EPG indicated their willingness to return to Haiti once the Stakeholders have made significant progress in their informal discussions and provide a clear indication of their readiness to enter the last phase of negotiations.





VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS

## Hamas Leader in Egypt for Talks as Gaza War Sides Consider Pause in Fighting



*FILE - In this photo released by Lebanese government, Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of Hamas, speaks during a press conference in Lebanon, June 28, 2021. Hamas said Haniyeh is in Cairo to discuss the war in Gaza.*

Hamas said its top leader Ismail Haniyeh is in Cairo Wednesday to discuss the war in Gaza with Egyptian officials.

Egypt has previously played a role in mediating between Hamas and Israel, including a temporary, week-long cease-fire in late November that included the

militant group releasing more than 100 hostages.

Negotiations have taken place regarding a new pause in fighting that would involve Hamas releasing more hostages, but the warring sides have not agreed to a deal.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog

told a gathering of international diplomats Tuesday that Israel is prepared to enter into a further humanitarian pause in return for the release of its hostages. He also said Israel is not fighting the Palestinian people, only Hamas.

Fighting continued Wednesday in Gaza, with the Israeli military saying it had attacked more than 300 targets during the past day.

Wednesday also brought another planned vote in the U.N. Security Council on a resolution calling for a pause in fighting to facilitate scaled-up aid deliveries to Gazans in dire need of food, water and medicine.

The vote had been expected Monday but has been pushed back twice amid negotiations about the text as its drafter, the United Arab Emirates, sought support for the resolution.

The draft resolution in its current form seen by VOA "demands" that the parties to the conflict "allow, facilitate and enable the immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance at scale directly to the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Gaza Strip" by the most direct

routes. It also "calls for the urgent suspension of hostilities" to allow safe and unhindered aid access.

The text also authorizes a U.N. monitoring mechanism to confirm the humanitarian nature of aid shipments into Gaza through multiple entry points.

An attempt to adopt a resolution in the council on Dec. 8 calling for a humanitarian cease-fire failed due to the United States using its veto.

As the vote was pushed from Tuesday morning to early afternoon, U.S. Deputy U.N. Ambassador Bob Wood told reporters, "We are still working on it."

**The vote was then delayed until Wednesday.**

UAE envoy Lana Nusseibeh said to reporters, "Ultimately, the endpoint is a cease-fire, but as you know, that was not adopted recently. So, we have to move to the space that allows humanitarian workers to work safely and at scale."

"Calls for a cease-fire on human rights and humanitarian grounds are getting louder by the day and must be heeded," Volker Türk, U.N. high commissioner for human

rights, told reporters Tuesday in Geneva.

Israel vowed to destroy Hamas, which governs Gaza, after Hamas fighters crossed into southern Israel on Oct. 7. Israel said 1,200 people were killed and some 240 captives taken in the terror attack. More than 100 of the hostages remain in Gaza.

The Israeli response has killed more than 19,600 people in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry, which does not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths. Israel says 132 of its soldiers have died in its ground offensive.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, says the conflict has forced an estimated 85% of Gaza's population from their homes, with many of them trying to find a safe place to stay at U.N. shelters in southern Gaza that are several times over their intended capacity.

Some information for this story came from The Associated Press, Agence France-Presse and Reuters

## Chinese Quake Victims Pulled to Safety in Subfreezing Weather, 131 Dead

HAIDONG, CHINA — Braving below-freezing conditions, rescuers pulled to safety victims of an earthquake that rocked a remote area in China's northwestern Gansu province more than a day ago, while survivors faced months of uncertainty ahead without permanent shelter.

The magnitude-6.2 earthquake jolted Jishishan county near the border straddling Gansu and Qinghai provinces a minute before midnight on Monday, sending frightened residents out of homes into the cold in the dead of the night, damaging roads, power and water lines as well as agricultural production facilities, and triggering land and mudslides.

In Gansu, 113 people had been found dead as of 9 a.m. Wednesday and 782 were injured, authorities said.

The death toll in neighboring Qinghai province rose to 18 with 198 injured as of 5:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Seventy-eight people have been found alive in Gansu, where rescue operations ended on Tuesday afternoon, Chinese media said, as

focus shifted to treating the wounded and resettling residents as a months-long winter loomed.

It was not immediately clear whether the search in Qinghai had ended or not.

In Gansu, more than 207,000 homes were wrecked and nearly 15,000 houses collapsed, affecting more than 145,000 people.

More than 128,000 emergency supply items including tents, quilts, tent lights and folding beds, were delivered while food such as steamed buns and instant noodles were provided to the victims.

The quake-stricken area is geographically a transition zone between two plateaus, featuring terrains of altitudes ranging from 1,800 to 4,300 meters with "very complex" topography, CCTV said.

Recovery from Monday night's earthquake has been further challenged by the powerful cold snap that has gripped most of China since last week. Temperatures around the quake epicenter in Gansu fell to about minus 15 degrees Celsius Tuesday night.

According to local media citing researchers, people trapped under

rubble exposed to minus 10 C conditions without help run the risk of developing hypothermia and may only be able to live for five to 10 hours if uninjured.

In Qinghai's quake-hit Haidong, Du Haiyi said his family home had been completely leveled.

The 21-year-old told Reuters he had managed to save his mother and 16-year-old sister, who were trapped under debris the night of the quake.

"My parents were pulled out from underneath this, but I don't know how," Du said. "We ran to wherever we could."

Du, an occasional laborer, said his family of seven had slept exposed to the elements with neither sustenance nor adequate covers, taking shelter in a tent provided by the local government.

**Homeless in winter**

Those who lost their homes in the earthquake on Monday had few options but to gather in fields, burning wheat straw for warmth. One family of seven took refuge in a car for the night as emergency tents were prioritized for the elderly and young, Beijing Youth Daily reported.

Within 50 km of the epicenter on the

side of Qinghai province, the earthquake affected 22 towns and villages, but of that, two villages suffered the worst damage.

The county of Minhe county in Haidong earlier recorded 20 missing people from two villages, where a mudslide swept through half-burying many buildings in brown silt. Search and rescue operations and efforts to resettle residents were complicated as mud blocked main roads, state media said, showing footage of bulldozers clawing through mud and rubble.

"We have prepared coats with extra cotton, like military coats, and then some things to keep warm like heating equipment," said 21-year-old Wu Saying, a rescue volunteer in Haidong.

Food supplies were also a concern.

"I didn't have anything to eat yesterday, and today I'm eating the food left in the house," said Bao Yinzi, 53. "The pot is buried, the bowl is buried. There's nothing left."

**Aftershocks**

The freezing cold was not the only concern weighing on rescuers and working groups assessing the situation.

The Gansu Provincial Seismological Bureau said through comprehensive analysis, strong aftershocks of magnitude 5 were still possible around the area in the coming days, based on the characteristics of the Monday quake, historical seismic activity and other factors.

The aftershocks will be closely tracked so as to issue early warnings, official news agency Xinhua cited the bureau's deputy director as saying.

Wu, the volunteer, said villagers whose homes were seriously damaged were given tents. He said he was worried about aftershocks.

By early Wednesday, there were two aftershocks of magnitude 4.0 and above, and eight of magnitude 3.0 and above, China Earthquake Networks Center said.

The quake in Gansu's Jishishan county was logged at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles), which experts consider shallow. Earthquakes with shallow focal points can easily cause considerable damage to the ground, Xinhua reported citing a senior engineer with the China Seismological Network Center.



# SPORTS

## McMaster's World Champs silver, top Sports story of 2023

By Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway

Eight years after his late coach Dag Samuels predicted in Beijing in 2015 that his charge would win a 400m Hurdles World Athletics Championship medal, Kyron McMaster bagged silver in 47.34 seconds in Budapest, Hungary, in August, becoming the BVI's 1st World Sr. Championships medalist. McMaster's medal, the first outdoor medal since the BVI began competing in the championships in Helsinki, Finland 40 years ago in 1983, completes the territory's haul of medals in the World Athletics Series: Indoor, Youth, Junior and now Outdoor.

"My goal is to reach the podium," McMaster said after automatically advancing to the final. "I always come in fourth - in Tokyo, in 2019, and last year I was out due to injury. If I finished fourth again this year I might snatch a medal from somebody," he said. It's McMaster's 2nd World Championships medal after grabbing World Jr. Championships Bronze in 2016.

### D'Moi Hodge signs with NBA's LA Lakers

D'Moi Hodge, who went undrafted in the 2023 NBA Draft, immediately signed a two-way contract with the Los Angeles Lakers thereafter, becoming the first BVI player on an NBA roster, after coming directly out of College. Hodge, who showcased for 18 teams, joined Kleon Penn—who signed with the Minnesota Timberwolves long after turning pro—as the 2nd BVI player on an NBA team roster. Penn however, didn't play in an NBA league game.

Hodge reflected on his first meeting with coach Dennis Gates at Cleveland State that changed his life. Gates did a powerpoint presentation with projections and a road to the NBA. "I watched him and told him, 'you're tripping. I'm not going to the NBA. I don't know what you see in me,'" Hodge recounted. "But that was his goal for me to make it to the NBA. I didn't see it at the time. I didn't believe in myself. I knew I was good, but not good enough for the NBA."

Silver medals ends 14-year Jr. Caribbean Squash drought  
Delilah Pease and Ethan Mohamed, ended the BVI's 14-year Caribbean Junior. Squash Championships finals drought with silver medals

in St. Vincent and The Grenadines, marking the first time in its competition history the territory had earned two medals in the same competition. Their medals in the U11 Girls and U13 Boys Divisions, were the first finals hardware since Joe Chapman won U19 silver in 2009. Oliver Henderson was an U13 bronze medallist in 2022.

### Morton leads NACAC medal haul with golden High Jump leap

Jah'Kyla Morton used a personal best, meet and national record High Jump leap, to snatch gold in the NACAC U18 Championships in San Jose, Costa Rica, as BVI athletes walked home with one gold, one silver and two bronze medals, in the competition that also featured an U23 Division.

Morton scaled the bar at 1.74m (5'8½") on her first attempt to eclipse the 1.71m (5'7¼") mark set by Jamaica's Rasheda Samuels in 2021.

"Going into this championship, my goal was to jump close to 1.80m (5'10¼") and I think that I came close enough," Morton told Island Sun Sports. "I tried 1.77m (5'9¼") but did not succeed. When I cleared 1.71m (5'7¼"), I was proud of myself because my coach (Carl Barrett) wasn't there, but I had assistance from Mr. (Ralston "Grandfather) Henry and I stayed calm throughout the competition and didn't get flustered like I usually do."

Morton, whose best was 1.70m (5'7") and fought for Carifta Games gold before settling for silver on her last attempt, said winning medals in both events shows that the hard work she has been putting in is paying off.

Sprinter Beyonce DeFreitas won a 200m silver and a 100m bronze in the U23 Division. She advanced to the 100m final after running 11.37 seconds with a +5.5 mps tailwind. She ran 11.41 seconds (+0.7) to grab the bronze. DeFreitas ran 23.42 (+1.3) for an automatic spot in the final, where she ran 23.59 (+0.1) for the 200m bronze.

After a wind aided leap of 5.94m (19'5¾") (+2.7) in the U23 Long Jump and settling for fourth place, Kimberly Smith earned a bronze medal in the Javelin Throw, with a personal best heave of 37.54m (123'2").

Kings and Queen's Softball

Tourney ends prematurely

A matchup between two of the territory's top women's softball teams came to a premature and controversial end early Monday morning July 10, in the Kings and Queens of the Virgin Islands softball tournament.

The women's championship game between St. Croix's Feds and defending champion BVI Women's All-Stars was called in favor of the All-Stars at 1:46 a.m. Monday when the Feds refused to resume play after an All-Stars protest in the top of the sixth inning nullified what could have been a game-winning run for Feds.

The late finish to the women's championship game at the E. Walwyn Brewley Ballpark also affected the men's final between St. Croix's Los Llacos and the BVI Men's All-Stars. With the start time after 2 a.m., Los Llacos opted not to play, with the BVI All-Stars winning by forfeit.

### BVI bags 2 Bronze medals at CAC Games

Djimon Gumbs and Rikioi Brathwaite won bronze medals in the Shot Put and 100m at the Central American and Caribbean Games in San Salvador, El Salvador. Their hardware came after Laser Sailor Thad Lettsome earned a qualifying spot to the Pan Am Games in Santiago, Chile in late October.

Gumbs, in his debut, had a second round heave of 19.00m (62'4") then followed up with 18.83m (61'9¼") another mark that had him in the silver medal position, before being passed by Mexico's Jario Moran's (19.10m (62'8)). Eldred Henry, in his return to action after injury slowed his progress since 2020, was sixth with 18.12m (59'5½"). He won Shot Put bronze in 2018 in Baranquilla, Colombia.

"It means a lot, especially for a senior championships to come home with a bronze medal, it's very good," Gumbs who won the BVI's first Commonwealth Youth Games Discus Throw medal in 2017 and the 2022 Caribbean Games Shot Put silver medal told Island Sun Sports. "It means a lot, especially for a senior championships to come home with a bronze medal, it's very good," Gumbs who won the BVI's first Commonwealth Youth Games Discus Throw medal in 2017 and the 2022 Caribbean Games Shot Put silver medal told Island Sun Sports.

Brathwaite then grabbed a 100m bronze medal in 10.26 seconds an hour later, as he ran the same time in a photo finish as the Dominican Republic's Jose Gonzalez, who got the silver medal by .001.



Kyron McMaster became the BVI's 1st World Championships medalist with 400m Hurdles silver. Photo: Kermit Taylor, Bahamas Athletics

Brathwaite ran 10.29 in the prelims and became the second CAC Games 100m male medallist behind Dion Crabbe in 2002.

### Women's sweep hosts Dominica for ECVA U23 Volleyball bronze

Debuting in the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's Women's U23 Championships, the BVI showed that it's not how you start, but rather, how you finish. After an opening four set 19-25, 25-22, 14-25 and 19-25 opening loss to hosts Dominica, the BVI swept them 25-14, 25-21 and 25-21 on the final day, to claim the bronze medal.

"It means a lot—not necessarily for myself and Jackie (Weeks), but it speaks tremendous volume for the players themselves, in terms of a confidence booster," Assistant Coach Stephen Payne told Island Sun Sports in an exclusive interview. "We know a lot of them are still pretty much green in terms of the sport itself,

skills and the likes. So, it was a tremendous help for them in terms of the game, having to realize that what they were doing at home paid off and the sky's the limit from here for them."

The U23 Men were fifth in the Championships that the BVI hosted in October.

### O'Neal ends 22-years ESHS sports day drought

O'Neal's House 2 ended a 22-year drought and claimed its 14th inter-house track and field title and its first under the Elmore Stouff High School brand. O'Neal's last ESHS title came in 2001 when it was Lincoln House in the former BVI High School. O'Neal, which came into the two-day competition with 371 points after a series of pre-events, amassed 892 points for the title. Carlisle House 4 was second with 841 and Lettsome House 1 placed third with 835. Defending champion Flemming House 3 finished with 775 points.



# SPORTS



*Sharonda Pickering is currently fourth in blocks in the Slovenian Volleyball League*



*Legends finalist surfers in the Josiah's Bay Surf Classic*



*The BVI U20 Men's Football team played St. Kitts-Nevis to a 0-0 draw and a 1-0 loss, in St. Kitts over the weekend*



*Men's finalists in the Josiah's Bay Surf Classic*



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# The Garden Bug

**Star of Bethlehem**



*Ornithogalum umbellatum* forms carpets of low-growing foliage that are topped with star-shaped white flowers in the spring. It's great for keeping a sunny bank of soil from eroding away, as an accent in a sunny garden, or for covering exposed roots under trees or shrubs. Its flowers are rich with nectar and pollen and attract bees and other pollinators. - Brenda Weaver

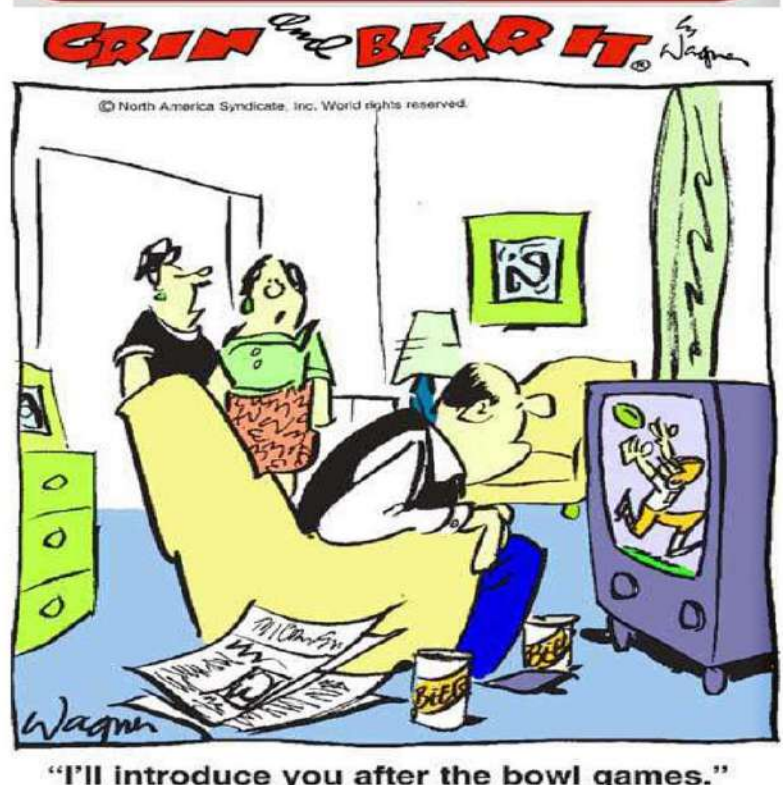
Sources: [www.easytogrowbulbs.com](http://www.easytogrowbulbs.com),  
[www.gardenersworld.com](http://www.gardenersworld.com),  
[www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)

# TOP TEN

## MOST EXPENSIVE HOUSES IN THE WORLD IN 2023

- 1** The Holme, London  
\$321 Million
- 2** Central Park Tower Penthouse, NY  
\$250 Million
- 3** Hacienda Canalete, Cartagena, Colombia  
\$225 Million
- 4** Tarpon Isle, Palm Beach, FL  
\$218 Million
- 5** Eisner Estate, Malibu, CA  
\$195 Million
- 6** The Manor, Los Angeles  
\$155 Million
- 7** Mylestone at Meadow Lane, Southampton, NY  
\$135 Million
- 8** Le Palais Vénitien, Cannes, France  
\$134.83 Million
- 9** Green Gables Estate, Woodside, CA  
\$125 Million
- 10** Royal Style Mansion, Caesarea, Israel  
\$109 Million

Source: [GOBankingRates.com](http://GOBankingRates.com)

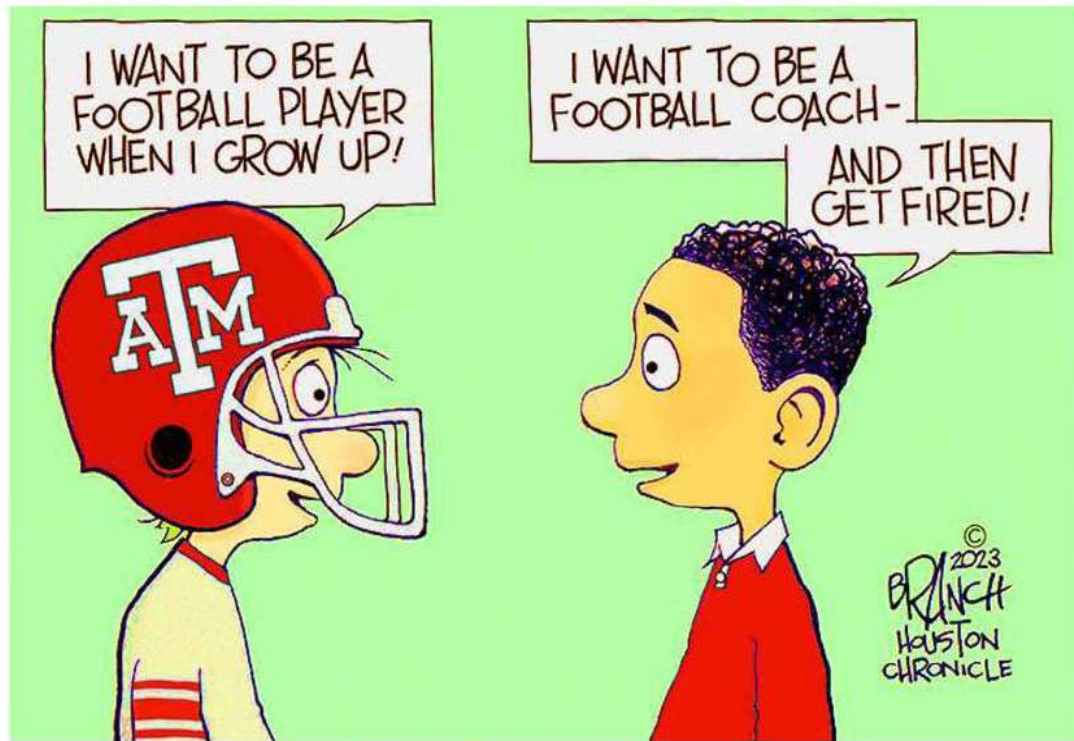


Trust in dreams,  
 for in them is  
 hidden the gate to  
 eternity.

Khalil Gibran

BrainyQuote®





# HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Legendary actor and director **Clint Eastwood** (93 years young) is directing his 41st film, "Juror No. 2," which is about a murder trial juror realizing that he's at fault for the victim's death. It stars **Nicholas Hoult, Toni Collette, Kiefer Sutherland, Leslie Bibb** and **Chris Messina**.

I first met Clint at a CBS press reveal for his show "Rawhide" in 1959. In 1964, I ran into him at his New York hotel, and he was worried that a Western he'd just made in Italy would flop here because he didn't utter one word of dialogue. I assured him that with his good looks, he didn't need dialogue, and "A Fistful of Dollars" was a smash hit.

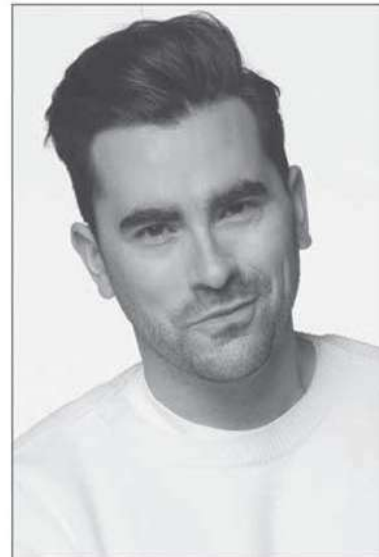
In 1968, when **Carol Channing** won a Golden Globe, she entered the press room saying, "This is my first award for my very first film!" "But Miss Channing," I said, "your first film was 'The First Traveling Saleslady' with **Ginger Rogers**!" At first, she asked, "Where is his badge? Does he belong here?" Then she continued, "Well, RKO went out of business and couldn't release it!" "But I saw it on TV last week," I assured her.

"Is he still here? Where is his badge?" She proclaimed. "Well, actually, my leading man in that is the No. 1 box-office star today ... Clint Eastwood!"

\*\*\*

**Rob Reiner** is reviving his 1984 classic "This Is Spinal Tap," with **Christopher Guest, Michael McKean, Harry Shearer** and Reiner himself returning. In 2016, Shearer sued StudioCanal and Vivendi for \$125 million due to a breach of contract, asserting that he and other co-stars only received \$179 for the sales of merchandise and music over three decades.

In 2018, Guest, McKean and Reiner joined the lawsuit, increasing it to \$400 million in damages. The two studios tried to get the case dismissed, but a judge ruled that they could pur-



Courtesy of Not a Real Company Productions

**Dan Levy** ("Good Grief" and "Schitt's Creek")

sue the fraud claim against Vivendi. In 2019, the music rights were returned to Shearer, Guest and McKean, and in 2020, a settlement was reached for an undisclosed amount. With that settled, no wonder it took until this year to get the ball rolling on the sequel.

\*\*\*

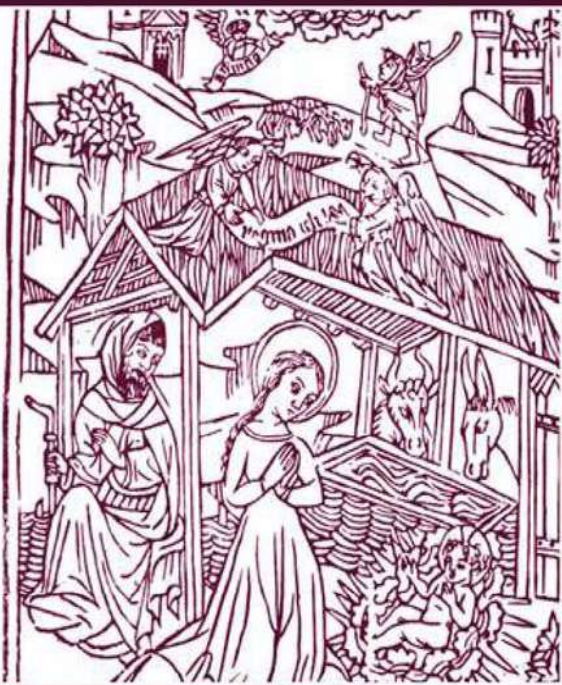
Four-time Emmy-winning actor/producer/writer/director **Dan Levy** ("Schitt's Creek") co-starred in Disney's "Haunted Mansion" and is now producing/directing/writing/starring in Netflix's "Good Grief," with **Ruth Negga, Himesh Patel** and **Luke Evans**. It shoots in London and follows a man struggling with the deaths of his husband and mother. He travels to Paris with his two best friends for a weekend getaway.

Levy, at 40, just received the second-highest honor in Canada by being named a Member of the Order of Canada. From motel grief in "Schitt's Creek" to "Good Grief" ... oh my lord!

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ISAIAH 7:14



"Heilige Nacht" (15th-century woodcut)

## Out on a Limb



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KOPERVAS

by Gary Kopervas



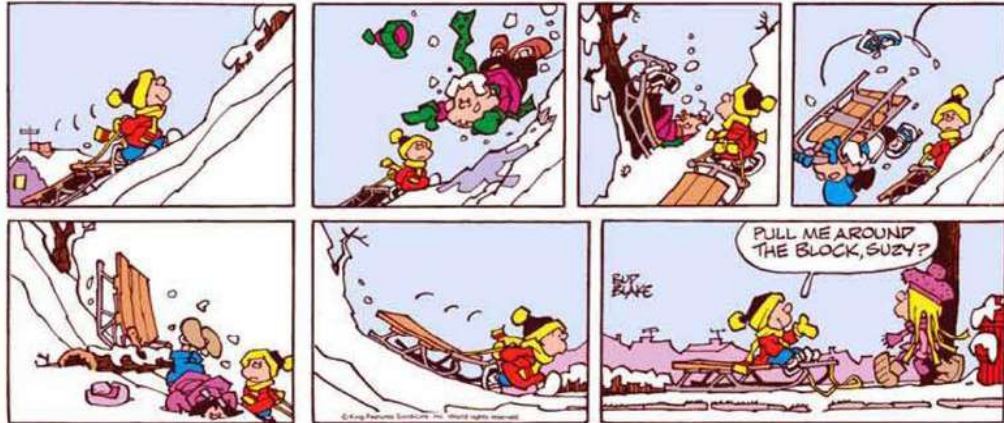
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



# King Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 TiVo precursor
- 4 Wide
- 9 America's uncle
- 12 Consume
- 13 Heart line
- 14 La-la lead-in
- 15 Gym machine
- 17 And so on (Abbr.)
- 18 Nabokov novel
- 19 Bowling lanes
- 21 Packs tightly
- 24 Go yachting
- 25 Yale grad
- 26 Author Umberto
- 28 Aegean island
- 31 Building wings
- 33 Farm female
- 35 Steakhouse order
- 36 Rice recipe
- 38 PC key
- 40 Chaney of horror films
- 41 First lady of scat
- 43 Bistro furniture
- 45 Telepathic
- 47 Sushi choice
- 48 Hostel
- 49 Heavy burden
- 54 Memo letters
- 55 Deadly virus

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16					17			
			18			19		20			
21	22	23				24					
25			26		27		28		29	30	
31			32		33		34		35		
36			37		38		39		40		
			41		42		43		44		
45	46					47					
48			49		50				51	52	53
54			55						56		
57			58						59		

- 56 Schlep
- 57 Air safety org.
- 58 Philly hoopster
- 59 Director Lee
- 10 Bohemian
- 11 Apple computers
- 16 Small batteries
- 20 Tale teller
- 21 Army transport
- 22 "That's — need to know"
- 23 1,000-year spans
- 27 Have debts
- 29 Bassoon's kin
- 30 Taxpayer IDs producer
- 32 Pretzel topper
- 34 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
- 37 Fireplace flickerers
- 39 Salad type
- 42 Suspect's excuse
- 44 Crunchy sandwich
- 45 Peeve
- 46 "May It Be" singer
- 50 Bagel topper
- 51 Slangy suffix
- 52 Sister
- 53 Silly Putty container

## DOWN

- 1 Animal doc
- 2 Train unit
- 3 Hwy.
- 4 Villain
- 5 Woo
- 6 "... — quit!"
- 7 World record?
- 8 Texas city
- 9 Sheet metal

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# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

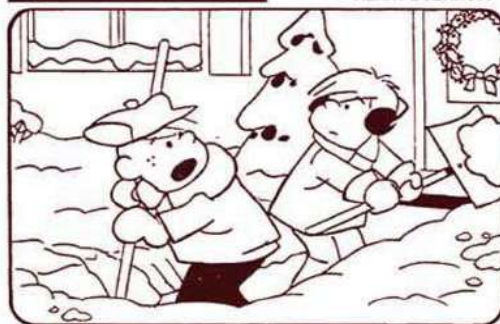
## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

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

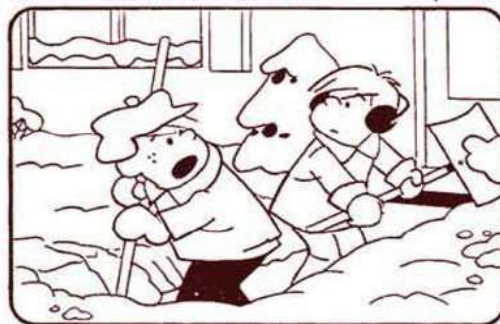
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# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Ear flap is moved; 2. Collar is smaller; 3. Tree is smaller; 4. Arm is moved; 5. Wreath is missing; 6. Snowfall of snow is smaller.

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

Answer

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

## King Crossword

- Trivia Test Answers
- 1. An Italian bread; 2. "T.J. Hooker"; 3. 2010; 4. Charles Dickens; 5. Alexander Fleming; 6. France; 7. New Mexico; 8. Martin Brody; 9. Juris Doctor; 10. Katy Perry;

# Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. FOOD & DRINK: What is ciabatta?
2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the 1980s cop drama series starring actor William Shatner?
3. HISTORY: In which year did the Gulf oil spill occur?
4. LITERATURE: Who wrote the classic holiday novella "The Cricket on the Hearth"?
5. INVENTIONS: Who invented penicillin?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Monaco is bordered on three sides by which European country?
7. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is "The Land of Enchantment"?
8. MOVIES: What is the name of the police chief in the movie "Jaws"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does the J.D. stand for in a law degree?
10. MUSIC: Which singer had a breakout hit with "I Kissed a Girl"?

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**MORE READERS:**  
**THE ISLAND SUN**



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



**BIBBLE TRIVIA**  
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Immanuel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
 2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? *Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah*  
 3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ... *Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers*  
 4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of Christ's birth? *Magi informed, Joseph announcement, Mighty wind, Angel appearance*  
 5. Where did the wise men go first when they arrived in the Holy Land? *Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron*  
 6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born? *Late September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does not*

**ANSWERS:** 1) Neither, 2) Isaiah, 3) Engaged, 4) Angel appearance, 5) Jerusalem, 6) Does not

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).

**Strange BUT TRUE**

By Lucie Winborne

- We should all be so lucky as to have vision like that of the mantis shrimp: Not only do its eyes possess four times as many color receptors as a human's, it can see UV, visible and polarized light as well.
- The rise in global temperatures has led to flowers emitting less scent.
- Lightning hasn't brought down an airplane since 1963, thanks to engineering that allows a bolt's electric charge to run through and out of the aircraft.
- Spinraza, a drug prescribed for spinal muscular dystrophy, has a list price of \$750,000.
- By 2018, more than 100 people living in the U.S. owed at least \$1 million in federal student loans.

• A one-euro breakfast featured at an IKEA store in the Netherlands proved so popular that it had to be canceled after it attracted too many customers and even led to highway traffic jams.

• Kellogg's All-Bran cereal is actually 87% bran.

• Heading for the gym in the new year? Be sure to take some hand sanitizer! A report found that a typical gym's free weights boast 362 times as much bacteria as a toilet seat.

• During the Cold War, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to put aside their political differences if Earth was ever invaded by aliens from outer space.

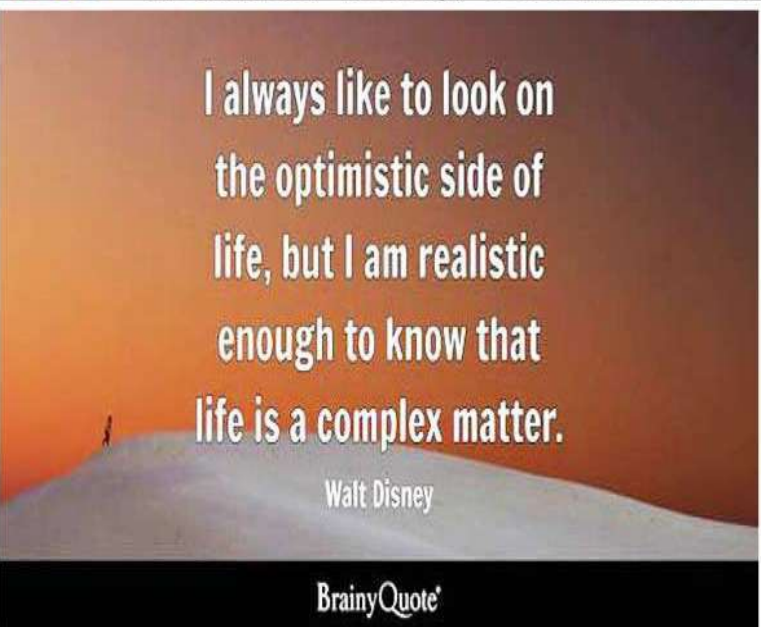
• Nicaraguan Catholics who abstain from meat during Lent include iguanas and armadillos in their diet.

• In 1978, Equatorial Guinea's President Francisco Macias Nguema, widely considered one of history's most brutal, possibly even insane dictators, tempted fate by changing his country's national motto to "There is no other God than Macias Nguema."

• More than four tons of old American paper money is mulched into compost every day.

\*\*\*

**Thought for the Day:** "Your life is your story. Write well. Edit often." — Lisa Nichols



BrainyQuote

**Salome's Stars**

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) The holidays allow you to let your usually downplayed soft side really glow. Don't be surprised to find a Scorpio looking to share the light.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Dress up in your party best and enjoy the compliments that come your way. You'll have a great time reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Holiday galas give you many chances to do what you're so good at — namely, being the life of the party. Indulge yourself in the good times. You earned it!

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Get out and experience the holiday fun. And remember, while you're a traditionalist with most things, open your mind to how others like to celebrate.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time to fill the family den with the love and warmth that you lucky Leos and Leonas exude. Invite friends to share in your happy celebrations.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Indulge yourself in the holiday festivities with family and friends, and forget about those small details that often keep you from enjoying the moment to its maximum.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October

22) The holiday season brings family and friends together to help you repair a very special relationship that recently underwent a serious test of commitment.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Set aside those workaday woes, and enjoy the holidays with family and friends. You'll learn soon enough the cause behind those workplace problems.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Aim for a happy, festive time with family and friends. Reach out to friends from the past and restore or reconnect those once-strong ties.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A family member pays you a surprise visit to help you celebrate the holidays. Meanwhile, that workplace problem is closer to getting resolved.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Your holiday plans are working out as you had hoped they would. Congratulations! Also, expect news about a long-needed change in the workplace.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your holiday plans could suddenly change, but rest assured, it's for the better. Be ready to go with the flow and accept the unexpected.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You aim high, and you aim true. You are a good friend whose loyalty can be relied upon.



# celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

**Q.** I was sorry to hear about the death of Ryan O'Neal. "Paper Moon" is one of my all-time favorite movies. How is his daughter Tatum doing? — H.G.

**A.** Tatum O'Neal wrote in her 2004 autobiography, "A Paper Life," that she and her father did not speak for two decades. According to Entertainment Weekly, they started to repair their relationship in the months before his longtime love, Farrah Fawcett, died after her cancer battle in 2009. The father and daughter duo, who starred in the classic film "Paper Moon," reunited on-screen in 2011 for their own reality show, "Ryan & Tatum: The O'Neals."

Their bond continued to grow until his passing on Dec. 8 at the age of 82. In a statement to People magazine, Tatum stated that her dad "meant the world to me. ... I'll miss him forever, and I feel very lucky that we ended on such good terms."

\*\*\*

**Q.** I know most of the new shows are starting later this season, but when is my favorite, "Station 19," returning? — K.L.

**A.** "Station 19" is a spin-off of "Grey's Anatomy," one of the longest-lasting drama series ever, but unfortunately "Station's" time is coming to an end, as ABC recently announced that the upcoming seventh season will be its last. The show boasts six cast members who have been there since the beginning — Jaina Lee Ortiz (Andy), Jason George (Ben), Grey Damon (Jack), Barrett Doss (Vic), Jay Hayden (Travis) and Danielle Savre (Maya).

Due to the writers' and actors' strikes in Hollywood, which have fortunately ended, the fall TV season was pushed to 2024 and will air much fewer episodes. "Station 19" will premiere its final season on March 14 at 10 p.m. ET., the first of just 10 episodes.

\*\*\*

**Q.** What happened to the show "Big Sky"? A friend told me it was canceled. This surprises me. I thought it was great and was looking forward to more. — B.F.



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

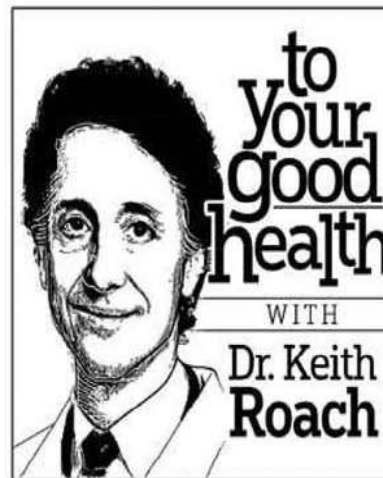
Ryan and Tatum O'Neal in "Paper Moon" (1973)

**A.** "Big Sky" was a very promising series created by David E. Kelley. If that name sounds familiar, it's because Kelley has created and/or produced many highly successful shows like "L.A. Law," "Ally McBeal," "The Practice," "Big Little Lies" and "The Lincoln Lawyer." In between these notable hits have been some misses ("Big Shot" for one). "Big Sky," however, probably sits somewhere in the middle. It lasted only three seasons, but with its beautiful scenery (set in Montana) and compelling storyline, it seemed to have the makings of a hit.

It starred Katheryn Winnick ("Vikings"), Kylie Bunbury ("Pitch") and Dedee Pfeiffer ("Cybill"). Pfeiffer is actually the sister of Kelley's wife, actress Michelle Pfeiffer. When the show wasn't generating its desired ratings, the name of it was changed to "Big Sky: Deadly Trails," and two stars were added to the cast — Reba McEntire ("The Voice") and Jensen Ackles ("Supernatural"). Alas, it wasn't enough, and the series was canceled back in May.

Send me your questions at [NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com](mailto:NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com), or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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## Patient With PBC Needs Calcium Supplements Amid Normal Levels

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I am a 60-year-old female who was diagnosed with primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) in 2020. At the time, I had a bone density scan that showed osteopenia of the left femoral neck with a T-score of -1.3. My 10-year risk of any fracture was 6.9%, while my risk for hip fractures was 0.5%.

My hepatologist wants me to take a calcium supplement, even though my calcium level has always been normal. I have always been overweight and led a very sedentary way of life. I had vitamin D tests done yearly, but the deficiency was, negligently, never addressed by my doctors.

So my first question is, do I really need to take this supplement? I am concerned that too much calcium may do more harm than good, and my osteopenia may not have been caused by my PBC.

The other question is, would taking vitamin K2 along with vitamin D and calcium help absorb vitamin D better so that it would not accumulate in my kidneys and damage them in the process? — R.Z.

**ANSWER:** PBC is an autoimmune disease where the body attacks the bile ducts. Without treatment, it can cause loss of the bile ducts, eventually leading to cirrhosis and liver failure. Since ursodeoxycholic acid has been available, fortunately the majority of people with this condition have a normal life expectancy. Few develop cirrhosis.

A lesser-known complication of PBC

is osteopenia and osteoporosis. There are several theories as to why this occurs, including decreased growth factors and toxicity to bone-producing cells. Low vitamin D and, possibly, vitamin K2 may play a role as well.

It's important for all people with osteopenia or osteoporosis to have adequate calcium in their diets. Calcium blood tests are not a reliable indicator of calcium stores in the body, since inadequate calcium intake will cause the body to take calcium out of the bones so that the blood levels remain normal. You can be severely deficient in calcium and dangerously osteoporotic with normal calcium blood levels.

Ensuring adequate dietary calcium then becomes of the utmost importance. If you aren't getting 1,000-1,200 mg of calcium in your diet, then changing your diet to add more or taking a supplement is recommended. Kidney stones are a complication of calcium supplementation, and there is controversy surrounding whether the calcification of blood vessels is more likely in people who take calcium supplements. For these reasons, dietary calcium is preferred, if possible.

Many people with osteoporosis need supplemental vitamin D to keep their blood levels in the recommended range, which is 30-48 ng/mL (75-120 nmol/L) for a person with PBC and osteopenia, in my opinion. Although studies in Japan have shown benefit when using vitamin K2 supplementation in people with osteoporosis, I don't generally recommend it, based on multiple other studies that failed to produce a benefit.

However, for bone disease associated with PBC in particular, K2 is reasonable for those who wish to try it. Vitamin K2 works through its mineralization effect on the bone itself. By carefully monitoring vitamin D blood levels, you can avoid the unusual complication of vitamin D excess.

Finally, becoming less sedentary will help, even if it's walking an extra 10-20 minutes a day.

*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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).*

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# COP28: SMALL DEVELOPING NATIONS LEFT IN THE SHADOWS OF FOSSIL FUEL GIANTS

By Sir Ronald Sanders  
*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. The views expressed are his own.)*

COP28 in Dubai, presided over by a major oil-producing nation, has ended with a compromise that, depending on one's perspective, either represents a milestone or underscores the persistent inadequacies in confronting the climate crisis.

From the standpoint of small developing countries, grappling with the existing damaging impact and the continuing threats of climate change and global warming, very little cheer emanated from COP28. This includes the areas of the Loss and Damage Fund and climate financing, on which pledges have been made. But that record has been played so many times, it has worn thin.

## INSUFFICIENT MOMENTUM

While COP28 marked an important agreement explicitly calling for a shift away from fossil fuels, the compromise reached still grants energy-exporting giants like Saudi Arabia substantial leeway to continue drilling. The lack of legally binding rules to curb fossil fuel production raises serious concerns about the acceleration of global warming, posing an increased threat to vulnerable nations, particularly small island states in the Caribbean and the Pacific, and Central American states. These countries are among the greatest victims of the impacts of climate change.

## THE HARSH REALITY OF 2023

Despite commitments to triple the installation and use renewable energy technology by 2030 and cease carbon emissions by 2050, this year, 2023, has already witnessed record-breaking temperatures globally. The slight progress made for small states at COP28 falls significantly short of the necessary measures needed to counteract the escalating impacts of climate change. According to the latest Global Carbon Budget Report, global fossil carbon dioxide emissions this year are set to hit a record high of 36.8 billion tonnes, an increase of 1.1% relative to 2022 levels



and 1.4% above pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.

## COLOMBIA: A BRIGHT SPOT

It is noteworthy that Colombia became the first Latin American country as well as the largest fossil fuel producer to endorse the Fossil Fuel non-Proliferation Treaty. The push for a Treaty is spearheaded by a bloc of 10 nation-states from Latin America, the Pacific, the Caribbean. Colombia has led the way, and every encouragement should be given to its government's responsible leadership.

## LEGACY OF DUBAI AND CONCERNS FOR AZERBAIJAN

While providing a platform for developing countries to voice their concerns, COP28 should not be prematurely celebrated as a significant advancement. There is a growing apprehension that if fossil fuel interests were prioritized in Dubai, the trend might continue in Azerbaijan, the host of COP29. This concern is accentuated by the fact that Dubai, as one of the world's ten largest oil producers, hosted an unprecedented number of oil and gas lobbyists - at least 2,456, according to recent reports. Those lobbyists would certainly have outnumbered all the delegates from every small state that attended the gathering in Dubai, showing the severe disadvantage in which small states are trapped.

Of course, the lobbyists would also have far more incentivising methods to secure support for their positions than small countries that can only appeal to reason and conscience.

## LOOPHOLES IN THE COP28 AGREEMENT

The compromise at COP28 lacked specific commitments to finance energy transitions in poorer nations. According to the World Bank, a multi-donor trust fund has been announced, mobilizing an initial US\$250 million to help developing nations cut CO2 and methane emissions generated by the oil and gas industry. However, contributions from major oil companies like Chevron and Exxon Mobil were notably absent.

## LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND

The final text on the Loss and Damage Fund is critiqued as woefully inadequate,



Founded in 1962

by Carlos and Esme Downing  
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despite the string efforts of small states both to get the Fund made operational, and to secure adequate financing.

Pledges for the fund exceeded US\$700 million, including \$300-400 million from the European Union (EU) collectively, \$100 from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), \$50 million from the UK, \$17.5 million from the US, and \$10 million from Japan. However, pledges are not delivery, and the record shows a history of pledges not being fulfilled. Further, we still do not know the number of countries that would qualify to benefit from the Fund and what conditions would be applied,

Of great concern is that, at least for a 4-year period, the fund will be administered by the World Bank whose reputation for applying onerous conditions with lengthy periods of assessment does not instil faith that benefits would flow with the urgency they should,

It should be noted that contributions to the Fund represent less than 0.2% of the economic and non-economic losses developing countries face every year from global warming. Therefore, while it is something; it is distressingly insufficient.

## CLIMATE FINANCING

With respect to climate financing, the failure to meet the \$100 billion per year climate finance target and the lack of progress in doubling adaptation finance by 2025 reveal the shortcomings of affluent nations in meeting their commitments. Consequently, developing countries have developed grave mistrust of the rich nations. That mistrust should not be cause for giving up; rather, it is the reason for continuing to speak up and to expose the need and urgency for the plight of the vulnerable not to fall off the table of global consideration until it is too late for any saving actions to be implemented.

## CONCLUSION:

In evaluating the outcome of COP28, some progress was made, but much more needs to be done. Small states, particularly, must remain vigilant against potential dominance by fossil fuel interests in future conferences. The urgency for meaningful, binding actions to address the existential threat of climate change faced by vulnerable nations is underscored by the escalating temperatures; destructive extreme weather events that wreck livelihoods and national economies; and the persistent shortcomings of the current global response.





# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**GOLDEN FIRM INVESTMENTS LIMITED**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1826621

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 7th day of December, 2023.

The liquidator is **Philippa V. O'Sullivan** of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.  
Dated: 13th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Philippa V. O'Sullivan*  
Voluntary Liquidator [31/1]

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

**Lotus Investors S.A.**  
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

Company No. 1683741  
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 8th December 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 8th December 2023  
*(Sgd.) Myron Walwyn*  
Voluntary Liquidator [31/2]

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

**Tower Assets Investments S.A.**  
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

Company No. 1590450  
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 8th December 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 8th December 2023  
*(Sgd.) Myron Walwyn*  
Voluntary Liquidator [31/3]

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

**KATANA INVESTMENTS CAPITAL LTD**  
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

Company No. 1986749  
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 8th December 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 8th December 2023  
*(Sgd.) Myron Walwyn*  
Voluntary Liquidator [31/4]

**Jumeira Company Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company Number 1013229

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 14th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated this 15th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Brian Jackson*

**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/5]

**Umm Al Sheif Company Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 1013228  
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 14th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated this 15th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Brian Jackson*

**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/6]

**Awir Company Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 1013230  
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 14th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated this 15th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Brian Jackson*

**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/7]

**Al Burj Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 1013227  
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 14th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated this 15th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Brian Jackson*

**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/8]

**GRAND RITZ LIMITED**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company Number 1689010

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 14th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated this 15th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Brian Jackson*

**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/9]

**Hedgehog Capital Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 1764030  
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 14th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated this 15th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Brian Jackson*

**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/10]

**JAP FOODS TRADING COMPANY LIMITED**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 1720142  
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 14th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated this 15th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Brian Jackson*

**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/11]

**CTG Evergreen Investment V Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 1849989  
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 14th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated this 15th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Brian Jackson*

**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/12]

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

**Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company No. 1417826  
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 15th December, 2023.

Dated: 15th day of December 2023  
*(Sgd.) Philippa V O'Sullivan*  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/13]

*Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.*

**White Oak Properties Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company No. 1823810  
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 December 15, 2023.  
Dated: December 15, 2023

*(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean*  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/14]

*Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.*

**Barker Group Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company No. 1514289  
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 December 11, 2023.  
Dated: December 12, 2023

*(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean*  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/15]

**APPOINTMENT KABO HOLDINGS LIMITED**  
("the Company")  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company No. 417248  
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that: **Kabo Holdings Limited** is in voluntary liquidation. The date of commencement of liquidation is-15th December 2023. The liquidator is **Carmine Bailey of Kendall Corporate Services Limited, 2nd Floor Abbott Building, 87 Main Street, Waterfront Drive, P.O. Box 3169; PMB425, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated 18th December 2023  
*Carmine Bailey*  
Voluntary Liquidator [31/16]

**APPOINTMENT**

**JAMORIL LIMITED**  
("the Company")  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1757296

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that: **Jamoril Limited** is in voluntary liquidation. The date of commencement of liquidation is 15th December 2023. The liquidator is **Carmine Bailey of Kendall Corporate Services Limited, 2nd Floor Abbott Building, 87 Main Street, Waterfront Drive, P.O. Box 3169; PMB425, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated 18th December 2023  
*Carmine Bailey*

Voluntary Liquidator [31/17]

**APPOINTMENT**

**TROUBADOUR GLOBAL LIMITED**  
("the Company")  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1576869

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that: **Troubadour Global Limited** is in voluntary liquidation. The date of commencement of liquidation is 15th December 2023. The liquidator is **Carmine Bailey of Kendall Corporate Services Limited, 2nd Floor Abbott Building, 87 Main Street, Waterfront Drive, P.O. Box 3169; PMB425, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated 18th December 2023  
*Carmine Bailey*

Voluntary Liquidator [31/18]

**Liberty Holdings Investment Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 464841  
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 15th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated this 18th day of December, 2023  
*Sgd. Brian Jackson*

**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/19]

*Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act; 2004*

**Paper playing Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 2100530  
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 18th December, 2023.

Dated: 18th December, 2023  
*(Sgd.) Philippa O'Sullivan*  
Voluntary Liquidator [31/20]



# PUBLIC NOTICES

**STRUCK OFF**  
Liquidator's Final Notice  
**AMYVALE LIMITED**  
("the Company")  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1876577

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 December 2023.  
Dated 18th December 2023  
**Carmine Bailey**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/21]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004**  
**TNG Holdings Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 2012066

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204 (a) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 18th December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Cassandra Glasgow-Penn of Chapel Hill, East End, Tortola, BVI VG1120**.  
Dated this 19th December, 2023.  
**Sgd. Cassandra Glasgow-Penn**  
Liquidator  
[31/22]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act.**  
**SERG INVESTMENTS, LTD.**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 49790

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 December 18th, 2023. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands**.  
Dated: December 19th, 2023  
**(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/23]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004**  
**KingStar Investments International Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1857613

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 19th day of December, 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa V O' Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands**.  
Dated: 19th day of December 2023  
**(Sgd.) Philippa V O'Sullivan**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/24]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act**  
**Cloudon Investments Ltd.**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company Number: 1407967

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 18 December 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: 19 December 2023  
**Rachael Pape**  
For and on behalf of Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape  
As Joint Liquidators  
[31/25]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act**  
**Wheattum Invest Holding Ltd.**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company Number: 1409685

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 18 December 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: 19 December 2023  
**Rachael Pape**  
For and on behalf of Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape  
As Joint Liquidators  
[31/26]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act**  
**Barranquilla Investments Ltd.**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company Number: 1006984

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 18 December 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: 19 December 2023  
**Rachael Pape**  
For and on behalf of Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape  
As Joint Liquidators  
[31/27]

**Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.**  
**INTERGROUP DEVELOPMENT LIMITED**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1802298

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 December 15, 2023.  
Dated: December 19, 2023  
**(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/28]

**Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.**  
**Plethro Holdings Ltd.**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1568558

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 December 18, 2023.  
Dated: December 19, 2023  
**(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/29]

**Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.**  
**Serafyn International Holding Ltd**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1951445

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 December 18, 2023.  
Dated: December 19, 2023  
**(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/30]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act**  
**GODALMIN INTERNATIONAL LTD.**  
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)  
Company No. 276945

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 14th December 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 14th December 2023  
**(Sgd.) Myron Walwyn**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/31]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004**  
**Midnight Consulting Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 2064840

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 19th day of December, 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa V. O' Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands**.  
Dated: 19th day of December 2023  
**(Sgd.) Philippa V. O'Sullivan**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/32]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.**  
**MacDoel Realisations Ltd**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 2050773

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 18th day of December, 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa V. O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands**.  
Dated: 19th day of December, 2023  
**Sgd. Philippa V. O'Sullivan**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/33]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.**  
**Kildare Realisations Ltd**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 2050721

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 18th day of December, 2023. The liquidator is **Philippa V. O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands**.  
Dated: 19th day of December, 2023  
**Sgd. Philippa V. O'Sullivan**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/34]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act**  
**Car House Investment Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company Number: 1918181

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 18 December 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: 19 December 2023  
**Rachael Pape**  
For and on behalf of Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape  
As Joint Liquidators  
[31/35]

**PEARL STONE ENTERPRISES LIMITED**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company Number 1415834

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 19th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **John Greenwood of Arawak Chambers, Mandar House, 3 Floor, PO Box 2196, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands**.  
Dated this 19th day of December, 2023  
**Sgd. John Greenwood**

**John Greenwood**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/36]

**KIRI HOLDINGS LIMITED**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company Number 1463978

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 19th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **John Greenwood of Arawak Chambers, Mandar House, 3 Floor, PO Box 2196, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands**.  
Dated this 19th day of December, 2023  
**Sgd. John Greenwood**

**John Greenwood**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[31/37]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act**  
**Emerald Jade Limited**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company Number: 1867766

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 19 December 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: 19 December 2023  
**Rachael Pape**  
For and on behalf of Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape  
As Joint Liquidators  
[31/38]





# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**In the Estate SÔNIA THEREZINHA DE SOUSA RAMOS VETTORAZZO late of AV Selma Parada 201 CD Office an 5 andar SA 451 JD Madalena, 13091-904 Campinas, SP, Brazil, deceased**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by ROBERTA DE SOUS RAMOS VETTORAZZO also known as ROBERTA SOUSA RAMOS VETTORAZZO MARCONDES of R Cambui 401 LT 8 QD 01 CDO Alphaville, 13098-311, Campinas SP, Brazil, for a Grant of Letters of Administration of the above named deceased who died intestate on the 20th day of April 2023.

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

Dated this 18th day of December 2023.

Filed by Walkers Attorneys-at Law whose address for service is

171 Main Street  
Road Town, Tortola  
British Virgin Islands  
VG 1110  
[32]

**The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**In the Estate of WOO, KING WAI DAVID late of 5A & Penthouse, Guildford Garden, 1 – 3 Mansfield Road, Hong Kong, deceased**

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 probate of the estate of WOO, KING WAI DAVID late of 5A & Penthouse, Guildford Garden, 1 – 3 Mansfield Road, Hong Kong granted by the High Court of Hong Kong, Probate Jurisdiction, on the 21st day of September 2023.

Signed: Walkers  
Attorney-at-Law for Administrator  
171 Main Street  
Road Town, Tortola  
British Virgin Islands  
VG 1110

[32]

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

**Zelda Trading Services Ltd**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1746694

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. Voluntary liquidation commenced on December 20th, 2023. The Liquidator is Nelia St. Jean with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Dated: December 20th, 2023  
(Sgd.) Nelia St. Jean  
Voluntary Liquidator [31/39]

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

**FRELLA GLOBAL LTD.**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1683560

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. Voluntary liquidation commenced on December 20th, 2023. The Liquidator is Nelia St. Jean with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Dated: December 20th, 2023  
(Sgd.) Nelia St. Jean  
Voluntary Liquidator [31/40]

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

**XINDA TRADING LIMITED**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1574288

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 20th day of December, 2023. The liquidator is Philippa O' Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Dated: 20th day of December 2023  
(Sgd.) Philippa O'Sullivan  
Voluntary Liquidator [31/41]

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

**TAMARACK CAPITAL CORP.**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
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 December 19th, 2023. The Joint Liquidators are Michele Hibbert with address at Sea Cow's Bay, Tortola, British Virgin Islands and Saajid Jasat Bhana with address at Obarrio, Calle 59, Casa 5, Apartado 0816-04554 Ciudad de Panamá, República de Panamá.

Dated: December 19th, 2023.  
(Sgd.) Michele Hibbert and Saajid Jasat Bhana  
Joint Voluntary Liquidators  
[31/42]

**IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS  
COMMERCIAL DIVISION  
CLAIM NO. BVIHC (COM) 258 of 2023**

**IN THE MATTER OF BULL'S-EYE LIMITED**

AND

**IN THE MATTER OF THE BVI INSOLVENCY ACT, 2003**

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Application for the appointment of Ms Elaine Hanrahan of Kroll Advisory (BVI) Limited, 3rd Floor, Commerce House, PO Box 3110, British Virgin Islands, a licensed insolvency practitioner under the Act, and, Chan Ho Yin (also known as Michael Chan) of Kroll (HK) Limited, Level 3, Three Pacific Place, 1 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong, a foreign insolvency practitioner, as joint liquidators of of BULL'S EYE LIMITED ("the Company"), whose registered office is located at Conyers Trust Company (BVI) Limited and its registered address is c/o Conyers Trust Company (BVI) Limited, Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1, PO Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands, was made to the Commercial Division of the High Court of Justice on 30 November 2023 by INTENDED FEATURES LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION), a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands with registration number 255536 and an address of c/o Portcullis (BVI) Ltd, Portcullis Chambers 4th Floor, Ellen Skelton Building, 3076 Sir Francis Drake Highway, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands, the legal practitioners of whom are Conyers Dill & Pearman, Commerce House, Wickhams Cay I, P.O. Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Any creditor or member of the Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Application may appear at the time of the hearing on Monday 15 January 2024 at 10.00 am (or the time specified in the final Commercial Court list, if different) by himself or his Counsel for that purpose, at the BVI Commercial Court, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. A copy of the Application will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or member of the Company requiring the same on payment of the regulated charge.

NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Application must serve on, or send by post to, the below named, notice in writing of his intention to do so, so that it reaches the undersigned no later than 16:00 hours on Friday the 12th of January 2024 The notice must be in compliance with Rule 162 of the Insolvency Rules, 2005 and must state the name and address of the person or firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any):

**CONYERS DILL & PEARMAN**  
Legal Practitioners on behalf of the Applicant  
Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1  
PO Box 3140  
Road Town, Tortola  
British Virgin Islands

[31]



# PUBLIC NOTICES

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS  
COMMERCIAL DIVISION**

**Claim No. BVIHC (COM) 2023/0233**

**In the matter of CELLVERA LIMITED  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE  
INSOLVENCY ACT 2003**

**BETWEEN**

**G RESPONSE AID FZCO** Applicant  
**CELLVERA LIMITED** Respondent

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application for the appointment of a liquidator has been made in respect of CELLVERA LIMITED whose registered office is at c/o Ocorian Corporate Services (BVI) Limited, Jayla Place, Wickhams Cay 1, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands. The Applicant is G RESPONSE AID FZCO.

The application was filed on 5 December 2023. It will be heard by the Judge of the Commercial Court, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, sitting in the Commercial Courtroom Upstairs, Main Street, Tortola, British Virgin Islands on Monday, 15 January 2024 (at a time to be confirmed in the Final Commercial Court List).

Any person intending to appear at the hearing of the application, whether to support or oppose the application, must give notice to the Applicant or their legal practitioners in accordance with Rule 162 by 4.00 pm on Friday, 12 January 2024.

Travers Thorp Alberga  
Legal Practitioners  
for the Applicant  
2nd Floor, Jayla Place,  
P.O. Box 216,  
Road Town,  
Tortola, British Virgin Islands

[32]

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

**VB Atlantic, LTD.**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
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 December 19th, 2023. The Joint Liquidators are Michele Hibbert with address at Sea Cow's Bay, Tortola, British Virgin Islands and Saajid Jasat Bhana with address at Obarrio, Calle 59, Casa 5, Apartado 0816-04554 Ciudad de Panamá, República de Panamá.

Dated: December 19th, 2023.  
(Sgd.) Michele Hibbert and Saajid Jasat Bhana  
Joint Voluntary Liquidators  
[31/43]

*Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.*

**ROUNDSTONE PROPERTIES LIMITED**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 47217  
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 18 December 2023. Dated 20 December 2023  
(Sgd.) Harry J. Thompson  
Voluntary Liquidator(s) [31/44]

*Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.*

**Runying Biotech Group Ltd**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 2076221  
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 14 November 2023. Dated 20 December 2023  
(Sgd.) Harry J. Thompson  
Voluntary Liquidator(s) [31/45]

*Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act.*

**Bio Prox Environmental Limited**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 2044183  
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 14 December 2023. Dated 20 December 2023  
(Sgd.) Harry J. Thompson  
Voluntary Liquidator(s)  
[31/46]

**EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
(PROBATE)**

**BVIHPB2023/0276**

**IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN WALTER TODMAN of  
Tortola British Virgin, deceased**

TAKE NOTICE that EDITH VIOLET HODGE, CROMWELL STANLEY TODMAN and ELAINE ALTAGRACIA HODGE all of Tortola, British Virgin Islands, siblings of the deceased aforesaid, who died on the 14th day of September, 2018 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 JOHN WALTER TODMAN, deceased.

ANY PERSON or persons who has or have any objections to the Grant of LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION to the said EDITH VIOLET HODGE, CROMWELL STANLEY TODMAN and ELAINE ALTAGRACIA HODGE all of 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 14th day of December, 2023

Harbour Chambers BVI  
Legal Practitioners for the Applicants [31]

**EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
(PROBATE)**

**BVIHPB2023/0275**

**IN THE ESTATE OF HARRIS TODMAN of  
Tortola British Virgin, deceased**

TAKE NOTICE that EDITH VIOLET HODGE, CROMWELL STANLEY TODMAN and ELAINE ALTAGRACIA HODGE all of Tortola, British Virgin Islands, siblings of the deceased aforesaid, who died on the 8th day of November, 2017 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 HARRIS TODMAN, deceased.

ANY PERSON or persons who has or have any objections to the Grant of LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION to the said EDITH VIOLET HODGE, CROMWELL STANLEY TODMAN and ELAINE ALTAGRACIA HODGE all of 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 14th day of December, 2023

Harbour Chambers BVI  
Legal Practitioners for the Applicants

[31]



# PUBLIC NOTICES



Lands and Survey Department  
P.O. Box 142  
Road Town, TORTOLA, VG1110  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

BY EMAIL AND VIRGIN ISLANDS GAZETTE  
BVILR/PRE/14/2023

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TITLE BY  
PRESCRIPTION  
SECTION 135 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	336

The CHIEF REGISTRAR OF LANDS hereby gives NOTICE that GERMAINE SCATLIFFE, of Road Town, Tortola, Virgin Islands has applied for Title by Prescription of Parcel 336, Block 4840B, Virgin Gorda South Registration Section. Affidavits were filed in support of the Application. Parcel 336 is registered to:

- KITTIE PENN GRANT AND SYDNEY KEITH A. GRANT, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA, VIRGIN ISLANDS

Anyone who has just cause to object to GERMAINE SCATLIFFE being registered as Proprietor by Prescription of Parcel 336, Block 4840B, Virgin Gorda South Registration Section, should file their objection in writing at the Lands Unit on or before Wednesday, 24th January, 2024.

An Interim Restriction has been entered on the Land Register for Parcel 336 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 14th day of December 2023

*Toni Hodge-Davis*  
Executive Officer  
for Chief Registrar of Lands

To: Patricia Archibald Bowers  
JS Archibald & Co.  
PO Box 3534  
Road Town, Tortola, VG1110  
Virgin Islands  
Legal Practitioners for the Applicant, Germaine Scatliffe

Kittie Penn Grant and Sydney Keith A. Grant  
Road Town,  
Tortola, Virgin Islands  
Registered Proprietors of Parcel 336

[31]



*Final Notice of Dissolution under  
the BVI Business Company Act.*

ACF Business Company Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company No. 1674309

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 15 December 2023.

Dated 20 December 2023

(Sgd.) Harry J. Thompson

Voluntary Liquidator(s)

[31/47]

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

Snowfields Corporate Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company No. 1980612

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 20th day of December, 2023.

The liquidator is **Philippa V. O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: 20th day of December, 2023

(Sgd.) Philippa V. O'Sullivan

Voluntary Liquidator

[31/48]

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

MASTERY FUTURE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company No. 1965597

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 December 20th, 2023. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: December 21st, 2023

(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean

Voluntary Liquidator

[31/49]

**CTG Evergreen Investment X Limited**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 1854359

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 21st day of December, 2023.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2023

(Sgd.) Brian Jackson

[31/50]

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

JA Development Co., Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number: 1037705

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 20 December 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: 20 December 2023

(Sgd.) Rachael Pape

For and on behalf of Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape  
As Joint Liquidators

[31/51]

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

**RIVA MARINE VENTURES LTD.**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

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 19th December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Mr. Meade Malone, with address at Geneva Place, 2nd Floor, #333 Waterfront Drive, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: 19th December, 2023.

(Sgd.) Meade Malone

Voluntary Liquidator

[31/52]

## 2023 Holiday Schedule for Offices and Warehouses and Extended Hours for Cargo Clearance

6th December 2023 – The British Virgin Islands Ports Authority (BVIPA) would like to inform the public of the following holiday schedule for the offices and warehouses and extended hours for cargo clearance on Tortola and Virgin Gorda.

### Holiday Schedule

Saturday, 23rd December 2023 CLOSING at 1:30 p.m. (warehouses only)  
Monday, 25th December 2023 CLOSED  
Tuesday, 26th December 2023 CLOSED (Boxing Day)  
Monday, 1st January 2024 CLOSED (New Year's Day)

### Extended Hours for Cargo Clearance

Saturday, 9th December 2023 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 16th December 2023 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 23rd December 2023 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cargo vessels will continue to be facilitated during the holiday period, except on Sunday, 25 December in accordance with the British Virgin Islands Ports Authority Regulations, 1995, 143 (3), "Every harbour shall normally be closed on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Festival Monday and Christmas Day."

For more information, please contact 494-3435.



## END OF YEAR STATEMENT BY THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) HONOURABLE ROOSEVELT SKERRIT PRIME MINISTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA



**HON. ROOSEVELT SKERRIT**

Our Community made steady progress to advance our integration movement in 2023. A highpoint of the year were the joyous celebrations across the Community for the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the signing of the original Treaty of Chaguaramas. Under the theme, “50 Years Strong: A Solid Foundation to Build On,” we paused for reflection on the many seminal achievements since 1973 and recommitted to the vision of our Founding Fathers for a prosperous, unified Community.

To further this objective, at our 45th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in Trinidad and Tobago in July, we took the pivotal decisions to work towards the free movement of all CARICOM nationals within the Community and to advance measures to bring the regional capital market into being, with appropriate attendant amendments made to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Our 25 by 2025 food security initiative picked up pace, with several Member States

recording important initiatives to reduce our food import bill, and advance food and nutrition security for our people. Our flagship event, the Caribbean Week of Agriculture, held in The Bahamas in April, allowed focused engagement with the private sector. A critical Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture will prioritise actions to combat food and nutrition insecurity, and improve the climate resilience of agriculture in the Caribbean.

Regional security was brought into sharp focus as we navigated escalating threats to our borders. We continued strenuous efforts, including through the interventions of the CARICOM-appointed Eminent Persons Group (EPG), and international advocacy, to find solutions to the multi-dimensional crisis in Haiti and for a return to peace and stability.

To date, five consultations with stakeholders have been undertaken, the last yielding

a Framework Agreement to provide a transitional governance arrangement to take the troubled country to free and fair elections. Stakeholders achieved consensus on several aspects of the draft Framework and have agreed to continue discussions. Efforts have been further bolstered with the pledge of support from several Member States to the Multinational Security Support (MNSS) mission which the UN Security Council has approved.

Our efforts to transition to renewable energy and increase energy efficiency were bolstered with the provision of \$20 million in funding from USAID to Caribbean companies with financial and technical assistance and business development services, through the Caribbean Climate Investment Program. A Prime

Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on Climate Change and the Climate Finance Agenda, with the support of the relevant technical experts and institutions, now provides coordination and oversight of the preparation for international climate change and climate finance negotiations.

We continued to pursue targeted regional and international partnerships. A key outcome of these interactions has been the opening of the CARICOM headquarters of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) in Barbados, to expand Africa-Caribbean trade and investment relations in critical economic sectors.

The challenges and achievements of the past year have clearly indicated that acting in concert is our surest way of making the local,

regional and international impact that is needed to deepen the CARICOM integration movement. In this regard, I extend sincere gratitude to my colleague Heads of Government, to leaders across the length and breadth of the Community, and to the staff members of the CARICOM Secretariat. Your contributions have helped to further our mandate of a Caribbean Community of which we can be proud.

My fellow CARICOM citizens, it is with collective will and action that we will achieve our goal of a prosperous, healthy and safe “Community for All”. Let us recommit to pursuing that goal in the coming year.

May you have a happy and peaceful end to 2023, and a New Year of success and prosperity.

### 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

**problem**      **thinking**      **solution**

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.



# THE WINNERS OF THE CARIBBEAN TRAVEL AWARDS 2024

Caribbean Journal has released the results of the 10th annual Caribbean Travel Awards, the region's premier celebration of travel, tourism and hospitality.

This year's winners cover 29 different categories, celebrating the best of the Caribbean in the calendar year, selected by Caribbean Journal's editorial team of the world's top experts on Caribbean trav-

el and tourism.

"The Caribbean Travel Awards is the premier celebration of excellence in Caribbean travel and tourism, and this year's slate of winners is as vibrant as ever," said Alexander Britell, editor and publisher of Caribbean Journal. "Congratulations to all those who work so tirelessly to solidify the Caribbean's place as the world's

ultimate travel destination."

You can find the list of winners below:

**Caribbean Destination of the Year: Nassau Paradise Island**

**Caribbean Hotel of the Year: Harbour Village Beach Club, Bonaire**

**Small Hotel of the Year: Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, Aruba**  
**Caribbean All-Inclusive of the Year: The Verandah Antigua**

**Small All-Inclusive of the Year: Hammock Cove, Antigua**

**Caribbean Tourism Minister of the Year: Marsha Henderson, St Kitts**

**Caribbean Tourism Director of the Year: Petra Roach, CEO, Grenada Tourism Authority**

**Caribbean Hotelier of the Year: Janelle**

**Hopkin, Spice Island Beach Resort, Grenada**

**Caribbean Tourist Board of the Year: Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority**

**Wellness Resort of the Year: Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic**

**Golf Resort of the Year: Aurora Anguilla**

**Dive Resort of the Year: Small Hope Bay Lodge, The Bahamas**

**Innovative Destination of the Year: US Virgin Islands**

**Culinary Destination of the Year: Antigua and Barbuda**

**Cruise Destination of the Year: St Thomas**

**Sustainable Destination of the Year: The Bahamas**

**Culture Destination of the Year: Curacao**

**Luxury Destination of the Year: Cayman Islands**

**Wedding Destination of the Year: Antigua and Barbuda**

**Honeymoon Destination of the Year: Aruba**

**Yachting Destination of the Year: British Virgin Islands**

**Caribbean Airport of the Year: Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay, Jamaica**

**Caribbean Restaurant of the Year: Le Pressoir, St Martin**

**Caribbean Bar of the Year: The Dilly Club, Paradise Island, The Bahamas**

You can find the full story here: <https://www.caribjournal.com/2023/12/12/the-caribbean-travel-awards-2024/>

## Be SMART

when using Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) most commonly used for cooking.

### 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.

---

### IMPORTANT NOTE IN CASE OF LEAKAGE

- Open all doors and windows.
- 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





THE ISLAND SUN CLASSIFIED ADS

**CLASSIFIEDS**

FOR BEST RESULTS

The Tortola Auto Group Ltd. (TAG) is accepting applications for the position of Warranty Claims Officer. The candidate should have at least 2 years' experience in a similar role with specific experience in the Hyundai brand together with a professional Academic Diploma/Qualification. Interested persons should contact and submit their CV/Resume to [hr@tagbvi.com](mailto:hr@tagbvi.com) and/or 284-494-2600.

[s32]

FLEX - MARINE MACHINERY is seeking two experienced T.I.G. WELDERS-WELDING-STAINLESS and ALUMINUM, OTHER-DUTIES INCLUDE but not limited to cutting, grinding, cleaning metals, preparing equipment etc. Interested persons please call 346-7134 or email [flexmarine45@gmail.com](mailto:flexmarine45@gmail.com) eith your resume.

[s32]

Winnies-Steakhouse,- Virgin Gorda is looking servers,- bartenders, bussers, line cook, pastry chef and hostess. Please send your resume to [winniessteakhousevi.com](http://winniessteakhousevi.com).

[s31]

CP4 ENTERTAINMENT BAND NEEDS ONE FULL TIME ENGINEER.; Telephone 499- 1542.

[s32]

ONE STOP MALL / FLORAL EXPRESSIONS & DECOR IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF:

FLORIST - AT LEAST (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE.

INTERIOR DECORATOR - AT LEAST (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE.

SEND RESUME TO [lakede284@yahoo.com](mailto:lakede284@yahoo.com) or call 1284 4943054

[a32]

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

NOTICE  
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT  
Cheerful Pacific Investments Limited ("the Company")

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 20th December, 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  
Nerine Chambers  
PO Box 905  
Quastisky-Building,  
Road Town Tortola,  
VG 1110  
[31/3]



**Be SMART**  
when using Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)  
most commonly used for cooking.



**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

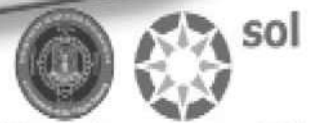
**DON'TS**

- **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.



**IMPORTANT NOTE IN CASE OF LEAKAGE**

- Open all doors and windows.
- 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

**CONTINUE TO PAGE 40**



**THE ISLAND SUN CLASSIFIED ADS**



*The Island Sun ---Simply the Best for your Advertising Needs*

To place your ad in The Island Sun: Call 284-494-2476\* or email [islandsunnewsp@gmail.com](mailto:islandsunnewsp@gmail.com). The Island Sun reserves the right to edit, refuse or cancel any ad at any time. The Island Sun is not liable for any loss of revenue or expense incurred for erroneous or unpublished advertising.

**STAFF WANTED**

**HELP WANTED:**

**Meridian Construction Company Ltd** is currently accepting applications for **Finishing Carpenters, Masons, Steel Benders, Carpenters, Riggers, and Crane Operators.-**

Applicants should have worked in the field for at least 5 years. Successful applicants will be hardworking,-self-motivated, and prepared to work long hours and weekends. Please submit applications to The Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 978, Road Town, Tortola, or via email-[hr@meridianbvi.com](mailto:hr@meridianbvi.com).

[31]

**TORTOLA - GENERAL SERVICES LTD.** is looking for a Male Gardener to maintain the plants on the Property . Must be responsible, hardworking and able to work flexible hours daily Kindly call 543-3469. [s31]

**Wolvaadd (2021) Limited** requires the following:

- 1 carpenter
  - 1 mason
  - 1 foreman
- Please call 541 7818 for details or send resume to P.O. Box 2858

East End, Tortola, BVI  
[s31]

**Wolvaadd (2021) Limited** requires the following:

- 1 carpenter
  - 1 mason
  - 1 foreman
- Please call 541 7818 for details or send resume to P.O. Box 2858

East End, Tortola, BVI  
[s31]

**Reliance-Maintenance** is urgently seeking two employees to fill the post as a painter. Email resume to [denisher1gayle@outlook.com](mailto:denisher1gayle@outlook.com).  
[s31]

**HIHO International Ltd:**

Customer service & logistics coordinator - Tortola based lifestyle and clothing company seeks a customer service and logistics coordinator. Candidate must - understand e-commerce platforms and web-based inventory management software. Good people & team work skills a-must.-Occasional weekend and holiday work - required. Candidate must also have a valid passport and US visa. Salary commensurate-with experience. BVI Islander or belonger preferred. Tel: 284 441-1964 or mail CV to P.O. Box 857, Road Town.  
[s31]

**George & Son Quality Construction Company** is seeking two masons, and three carpenters' fulltime with at least 10 years of experience.-BVI Islander preferred.- Interested persons please contact 344-1023 or our Facebook page  
[s31].

**EMCS Caribbean** is looking for Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Interested applicants can submit their CV/Resume with cover letter to P O Box 386 Road Town, Tortola, BVI or call 284-494-1300  
[s31]

**TENNIS.BVI** is looking for a highly experienced part-time Tennis Coach to assist with tennis coaching consisting of kids' tennis, junior tennis, and adult tennis group classes and private lessons, who also has a strong background in running successful tennis tournaments and social events. Required qualifications include:

- High School Degree (Physical Education degree preferred).
- Coaching certificates.
- Extensive coaching, managerial, and administrative experience

**Multilingual**

Candidate must also have strong interpersonal skills, creative thinking and patience for teaching young children, empathy and positive attitude when dealing with customers of all ages and cultural backgrounds, be flexible in terms of working schedule, have the ability to anticipate and execute, is willing to learn, and has strong organizational and administrative skills.

Applicants can send their CV to [tennis.bvi@gmail.com](mailto:tennis.bvi@gmail.com)

[s31]

#1

**TENNIS.BVI** is looking for a highly experienced part-time Tennis Facility Manager to assist with tennis program and event management, administrative duties, and on-court coaching. Required qualifications include:

- Master Degree (MBA preferred).
- 10+ years of extensive coaching, managerial, and administrative experience in the tennis industry.

**Multilingual**

Candidates must also have strong interpersonal skills, creative thinking, empathy and positive attitude when dealing with customers of all ages and cultural backgrounds, be flexible in terms of working schedule, have the ability to anticipate, execute, and have strong organizational and administrative skills.

Applicants can send their CV to [tennis.bvi@gmail.com](mailto:tennis.bvi@gmail.com)

[s31]

# 2

**ISLAND DEPARTMENT STORE**

**DUFF'S BOTTOM**  
TEL: (284) 494 36 77  
FAX: (284) 494 39 09  
e-Mail: [ids58@hotmail.com](mailto:ids58@hotmail.com)



**APPLIANCES  
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS  
FURNITURE  
GIFTS**