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No. 3233 * 62nd Year * Tortola * British Virgin Islands * Saturday * 13 January 2024

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES REVIEW INTO COMPLAINTS...p2

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IMPLEMENTATION OF COI REFORMS IS "FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE": GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES FINAL DEADLINE

The additional power request by Governor John Rankin that has caused both the House of Assembly and members of the public to express concern was offered

by the United Kingdom Overseas Minister since last year.

During his Fifth Quarterly Review of the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry

recommendations on 5 January Governor Rankin announced that while he was not going to trigger the Order in Council that would establish an interim administration led by

the Governor; he would be requesting additional powers for the Governor that very day. These powers the Governor stated were required to "help ensure that the BVI Government delivers its commitments."

Since then, Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Hon. Natalio Wheatley has announced that he intends to also write the UK Minister of Overseas Territories asking him not to grant the additional powers to the Governor. However, it has been stated that the idea for the Governor being given additional power was placed on the table since April last year by the same Ministry the Premier intends to write. This disclosure was made in the same review the Governor circulated last Friday. In that document His Excellency said that the former UK Minister of Overseas Territory Lord Goldsmith offered additional powers. The Governor said,

"In his letter in April 2023, Lord Goldsmith asked me to consider if "resources, additional powers or technical expertise" were necessary to accelerate the Government's reform programme."

At this point, the Governor declared that he is going to accept that offer to fulfill the COI recommendations implementation. He said, "In addition to exercising the powers which I have under the Virgin Islands Constitution, I have reached the conclusion that I must request additional powers to help ensure the Framework Agreement proposed by the BVI Government is delivered. Experience has shown that providing more time alone will not be sufficient to deliver reform and that there may be a need for the Governor to step in further."

Continued on page 2



New Year Baby for 2024

The Territory and the BVI Health Services Authority welcomed its first baby of 2024 at 10:17 am on 2 January. Our 2024 bundle of joy was born to mother

Melessa Richards Ferdinand and father Janel Ferdinand

This bouncing baby girl weighed 9lbs 4 ozs and was presented with gift baskets from the National Bank of the Virgin Islands and BVIHSA.



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IMPLEMENTATION OF COI REFORMS IS...*from page 1*

While making the case further for his intervention the Governor stated: "Key recommendations are far behind schedule and the capability and determination of the BVI Government to drive forward and complete reforms is in question. It has remained an option to consider an interim administration whereby the Governor takes over the responsibilities of Ministers in line with the Order in Council. However, this is not my recommendation at this stage."

Over the months of the implementation efforts persons in the community have accused the Governor of being insensitive to the gravity of work the implementation requires; and even chided the Governor for originally lagging behind. In an obvious response to this criticism the Governor stated in the review: "I do not underestimate the scale of the task to deliver the recommendations for which I am responsible. I have increased resources

and developed contingency plans to ensure that the Law Enforcement Review (B38 & 41) and Vetting Project (B39) meet deadlines. I am confident that we will. I expect Ministers to take a similar approach and dedicate resource to make the COI reforms a priority."

He also stated that he is not taking any pleasure from the fact that he had to contemplate requesting additional powers. "I am disappointed to be in the position of requesting additional powers and an extension at this stage. I nonetheless continue to hold the best interests of the BVI in mind and I believe that these measures are necessary in ensuring that the BVI prospers in the future, with the strong foundations of a modern democracy."

The Governor noted that he has been very cooperative and understanding throughout the process, and is disappointed that this is where things have gotten: "At the beginning of April 2023, the then UK

Minister for the Overseas Territories, Lord Goldsmith, set the expectation that reforms must have taken root no later than May 2024. In my previous Quarterly Review, I offered my understanding of what that could look like."

"By May 2024, I would expect to see that reforms are making a tangible difference. This could include legislation which is in force, policies which are being consistently applied, and adequate resources assigned to maintain systems and processes to ensure that reforms are achieved effectively."

While further belaboring the snail's pace of the reform the Governor pointed out: "... Some of these mechanisms have been in development for the last twenty years and remain on the shelf." He also touted that as far as he could see the additional powers were the best way to ensure implementation: "Much more must be done to fully implement the COI recommendations. I previously

reported that I was concerned that without additional action, the reforms needed were at risk. I highlighted that the pace of work needed to increase with appropriate levels of prioritization.

In further shedding light on his concern about the implementation His Excellency noted that the progress has been disappointing. "Only one additional recommendation is reported as completed since my June 2023 Quarterly Review, or indeed since the General Election in April 2023. The total reported is 25 of 48 with only a few months left until May 2024. The reforms are more than a box ticking exercise, however the fact that there has only been one additional recommendation completed in the past few months is unacceptable. It shows that the required milestones have continued to be missed. In some areas, it is evident that work is progressing, but in other areas meaningful change seems unlikely to be achieved by the end of May 2024 at the

current rate.

While the Governor noted that the 48 recommendations are not weighted equally, and some require much more work than others; he did note that being in-progress is not the same as complete. "For legislative change, a recommendation would usually be marked as complete if the legislation has been brought into force. In relation to reviews, the COI Implementation Unit considers these recommendations to be complete when policy changes or legislative amendment is made."

Governor Rankin further lamented that deadlines proposed by the BVI Government and agreed by the UK had to be revised on at least two occasions. "The Premier wrote to me in September with the most recent proposed deadlines; this letter was shared with the UK Government. Based on this, a number of recommendations should have been completed by now," he added.

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES REVIEW INTO COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE COMMISSIONER

His Excellency the Governor, John Rankin has announced the initiation of a comprehensive review into numerous complaints lodged against the Territory's Commissioner of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF), Mark Collins.

Several of these complaints against Mr. Collins emanate from a leaked email wherein he had allegedly instructed senior officials to dispose of specific evidence linked to a case involving a now-retired officer. However, the majority of other complaints were formally presented

to Governor Rankin in the form of a petition in late 2023, encompassing a total of 55 allegations against Commissioner Collins.

The decision to formally look into the matter was mentioned by the Governor on 5 January during his Fifth Quarterly Report on the Implementation of the Commission of Inquiry (COI). In noting the decision His Excellency pointed out: "I have, in fact, in line with UK and international best practice, enlisted the services of a senior police officer from another Overseas

Territory in the Region to conduct an independent review of the complaints that have been made..." As it relates to the way forward on the matter, the Governor said: "Once the review is concluded and the findings and recommendations are available, I will share the information with the public. However, I must await the outcome of this review. I take all complaints seriously and have acted accordingly in this matter, as in others." Governor Rankin did not disclose details regarding the identity or qualifications of the investigating officer from the Overseas Territory, but he emphatically asserted that there was no bias on his part. He stated: "I have demonstrated that I hold no

bias in this matter and have initiated a review of the complaints... I categorically reject any accusations of bias." Additionally, the Governor clarified that he is not aware of any evidence suggesting that the majority of RVIPF officers are opposed to the Commissioner, as suggested by one reporter. He remarked: "I have reviewed the petition, which has been endorsed by several officers. While some complaints in the petition vary in nature, they will all be thoroughly examined. I do not believe there are grounds to lack confidence in the Commissioner of Police, but I will await the outcome of the review with impartiality and fairness."

Premier Natalio Wheatley was also asked to weigh in on the plans to investigate the Commissioner. The Premier was asked to comment on why the Commissioner was still on active duty even though he is under investigation.

In response the Premier said that he would look into the matter and ensure that the response is fair and in accordance with established protocols. Dr. Wheatley stated: "Obviously, I would lobby for what is fair and what is right. If it's fair and it's right under the existing protocols for when someone is being investigated for them to go on administrative leave, I certainly would advocate for that."



OPPOSITION CRITICIZES GOVERNOR'S PLANS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL POWERS

While emphasizing that they stand united with the Government members of the Opposition have criticized the Governor's plan to seek additional powers. Even more, Sixth District Representative Hon. Myron Walwyn announced that the Governor already wields the authority.

His Excellency Governor John Rankin on 5 January announced that he was writing to the United Kingdom government to give him additional powers to be able to fast-track the implementation of the COI recommendations. This disclosure has been criticized across the

Territory; nevertheless it is a fact that the COI reforms are too slow in materializing.

In his announcement of his disapproval of the matter, Hon. Walwyn on 9 January during a press conference organized by the Opposition to show solidarity and support to the Government announced that additional power is unnecessary.

In his response, Hon. Walwyn carefully scrutinized the governor's justification for these enhanced powers and contended that many of them were already at the Governor's disposal. Mr. Walwyn stated: "He mentioned the ability to



Hon. Myron Walwyn

introduce legislation directly to the House of Assembly, exercising control over departments and ministries to accomplish specific tasks, and overseeing contract matters brought before the Public Accounts Committee.

I argue that, within the existing framework of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007 and the standard government operations, the Governor can achieve each of these three objectives he mentioned."

He further asserted that, within his reserved powers, the governor can delegate or request the Premier or any other Minister to present legislation to the House of Assembly on his behalf.

While emphasizing his disagreement with the request, the Sixth District Representative declared that he sees no good reason why the Governor would pursue such additional

powers. Hon. Walwyn said: "I am not entirely convinced that having the authority to introduce legislation directly in the House would expedite its progress beyond the current pace."

While further poking holes with the Governor's announced reason for accessing additional powers Hon. Walwyn also pointed out that Governor Rankin in his role as Chairman of Cabinet has the authority to summon any department, including the COI Implementation Unit, to investigate the causes of delays if he is dissatisfied with the responses provided by the minister responsible for implementation.

DEPUTY PREMIER EXPRESSES CONCERNS ABOUT COI INVESTIGATIONS

His Excellency Governor John Rankin has refuted comments that the Commission of Inquiry (COI) investigations and the allegations involving misconduct or the misuse of public funds should be dismissed as "frivolous".

During a 5 January press conference a member of the media asked His Excellency the Governor about the possibility of the UK providing compensation to individuals facing COI charges if they were later proven innocent. While asking the question the media member suggested that some persons view the allegations or even charges in some instances as "frivolous."

In response, Governor Rankin stated: "I'm not aware of any frivolous charges that have been brought, though there may

be differing opinions on the matter. Charges are only laid after a thorough investigation by the RVIPIF and are subsequently subject to the independent decision of the DPP. Thus, I would not categorize these charges as frivolous in that regard."

As it relates to whether the United Kingdom Government was going to consider providing compensation to individuals found innocent who choose to sue the British Government for the public embarrassment they endured due to the COI.

In response, the Governor said: "The short answer is that it depends on the nature of the civil lawsuit, the outcomes of the civil lawsuit, and determining the party specifically responsible for any wrongdoing. We would

need to scrutinize all these aspects before offering a definitive response to that question."

Concerns about COI investigations and the allegations associated were mentioned by Deputy Premier and Minister for Labour Hon. Lorna Smith during a recent House of Assembly sitting. The Minister stated that she noticed that a number of cases linked to the COI are still under investigation and appear to be the priority for the police and Governor Rankin.

Hon. Smith said, "It is my understanding that there is a significant number of prosecutions still pending and the fact that these appear to be the priority for the police and the Governor, reminds me of Nero fiddling while Rome burned."

"Don't get me wrong, I

am all for good governance and best practice and the implementing the recommendations of the COI but I must ask the question: are we putting sufficient human and other resources into solving these crimes, including the

unsolved murders? Or are we investigating and making arrests on charges like breach of trust simply to tick the boxes? We must ensure this country does not descend into the abyss of complete chaos and lawlessness," she added.



PRESS STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR OF THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS MR JOHN RANKIN CMG

Today I have published my Fifth Quarterly Review of the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry recommendations.

The COI report was published in April 2022, twenty-one months ago. The COI found poor governance, a lack of accountability and the misuse of public funds. Members of the House of Assembly weren't declaring their interests, two thirds of all contracts over \$100k weren't being openly tendered. There were serious concerns over the system of assistance grants, which were further clearly shown in the audits that have been carried out by the Auditor General.

The COI made 49 recommendations to help resolve these issues and place the BVI on a better path to good governance. In June 2022, the Government of National Unity accepted 48 of those 49 recommendations and committed themselves to delivering them. Politicians from across political parties agreed that delivering these reforms was vital.

I am disappointed however to report that in recent months progress on these commitments has significantly stalled. My previous Quarterly Review was relatively positive, but it called for a concerted effort and prioritisation from Ministers to make further progress. This has not happened.

Last September, 24 of the 48 recommendations had been delivered by the Government's own count. As of today, only one more recommendation has been delivered. Namely, the receipt of the Constitutional Review Commission Report, which of course was not carried out by Government but by an independent review body.

In April 2023, I published a letter from the then UK Minister for the Overseas Territories. Lord Goldsmith said if the necessary reforms have taken root no later than May 2024, this should allow the Order in Council to be lifted. I do not

now foresee that reforms will have taken root at that point, and it is clear that more time will be required. I have accordingly suggested in my Quarterly Review that an extension to the end of November 2024 would be appropriate.

While I believe an extension is necessary, additional time alone will not be enough. The initial deadlines were agreed by BVI Government. Some (not all) of the deadlines were tight and the Government asked for extensions on two occasions, last January and again in September. Those extensions were accepted by the UK. But even these are still being consistently missed.

So in addition to a deadline extension to the end of November, there is clearly a need for some further step or steps to drive forward implementation of the COI recommendations. I am not recommending triggering of the Order in Council in order to establish an interim administration led by the Governor. But I have come to the conclusion that additional powers for the Governor are required to help ensure that the BVI Government delivers its commitments. I will be writing to the UK Minister today with a recommendation to that effect.

I know that implementation of some of the recommendations isn't easy. Indeed I have faced challenges in delivering a couple of the recommendations for which I am responsible. For example, the Vetting Project, to conduct checks to ensure that all law enforcement officers are suitable for their roles. When we realised matters weren't moving quickly enough, my team and I stepped in to provide greater oversight, with additional time and resources devoted to the project. In particular we successfully pushed for and got a full time project manager, who has helped to bring this work back on track.

Similarly, we've ensured that the Law Enforcement Review is now fully underway, with an expert team now in place who have made two intensive visits to the Territory, supported by \$1m funding from the UK Government. I expect to receive their report by the end of March.

There is a need for similar interventions when other recommendations are lagging behind.



*His Excellency
John James Rankin CMG*

So which specific areas are lagging behind? The Premier wrote to me in September with the most recent proposed deadlines. For example, by now we should have:

An amended Register of Interests Act
A new education grants policy

A policy setting out the principles of how Statutory Boards should operate

A new Public Service Management Act Revised Criminal Procedure Rules Improvements to the way the discretionary powers of Ministers are exercised

A strengthened Integrity in Public Life Act

A functioning Whistleblower Act

None of these have yet been achieved.

Without such reforms, the better governance which the people of the BVI need and deserve will not be achieved and the issues which the COI identified could more easily return.

I want the BVI to succeed. It is precisely for that reason that I believe that simply proposing

another extension in deadlines is insufficient and that additional steps are required. The potential of these beautiful Virgin Islands is there for all to see and I want to see that potential wholly fulfilled.

I am scheduled to leave the Territory soon and a new Governor, Mr Daniel Pruce, will be in place by the end of January. I will continue to work hard during my remaining time in the BVI. I am grateful to the Premier for his continued commitment and the hard work demonstrated by the public servants who are committed to this work. With determination and resolve together, the reforms which the people of the Virgin Islands want and deserve can be achieved.

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Regulations, 2008 and the Economic Substance (Companies and Limited Partnerships) Act, 2018

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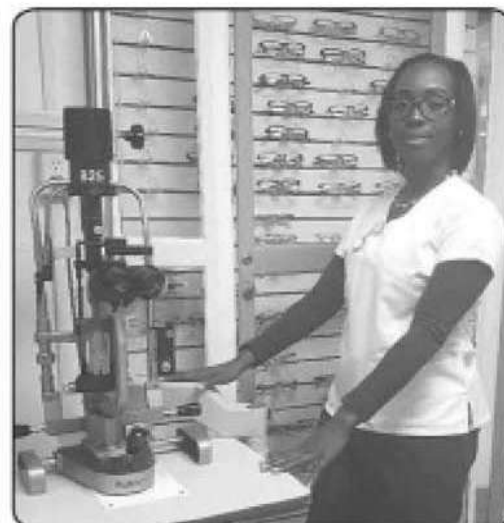
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Bethsaida Smith-Hanley Appointed Clerk Of The House Of Assembly

Mrs. Bethsaida Smith-Hanley has been appointed Clerk of the House of Assembly, effective December 31, 2023.

As Clerk, Mrs. Smith-Hanley will oversee the daily operations of the House of

Assembly, including the coordination of official functions, the management of House of Assembly sittings, the preparation of Order Papers as well as the supervision of all staff within the Office of the

House of Assembly.

Mrs. Smith Hanley has an extensive Public Service career, having most recently served as Assistant Secretary in the Cabinet Office, and Acting Commissioner of the

Department of Motor Vehicles. Throughout her career, she developed a love for leadership and the advancement of administration in the Public Service.

Deputy Governor, Mr. David D. Archer Jr. said, "Mrs. Smith-Hanley's appointment as the Clerk of the House of Assembly is a forward advancement as we continue to transform the Public Service. Her experience in the Public Service has prepared her well to be successful in this role."

Commenting on her appointment, the new Clerk said, "I am delighted and grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. The role of Clerk is a vital one in the legislative work of the Government, and I am proud to be able to lend my hand in this way."

Mrs. Smith-Hanley has earned a Bachelor of Science in Technical Management, with a concentration in Project Management from



Mrs. Bethsaida Smith-Hanley

DeVry University, a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from the Keller Graduate School of Management. Additionally, she has completed the Level 7 Diploma from the Chartered Management Institute (CMI).

The mission of the Office of the House of Assembly is to provide essential support services for Members in the exercise of their parliamentary functions, in an informed and efficient manner, and to inform the public, on an on-going basis, about the parliamentary procedures of the House of Assembly.

TENNIS.BVI is looking for a highly

experienced full-time tennis program 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.

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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

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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)

BVI Airports Authority Advances Airport Development

The Government of the Virgin Islands has announced that significant progress is being made in the ongoing airport development project.

To this end, the BVI Airports Authority has opened tenders for the development of a business case which is crucial to the project's success following a recently concluded RFP process.

The tendering process attracted interests from both local and international firms and saw a total of eight (8) bids being received and publicly opened on January 4.

Minister of Communications and Works, Honourable Kye Rymer expressed his satisfaction with the level of enthusiasm and interest displayed by potential partners, underscoring the Government's unwavering commitment to the airport's development.

Honourable Rymer said, "We see this as a significant step in realising our vision for the expansion of the Terrance B Letsome International Airport

and the Territory on a whole. The overwhelming responses from reputable firms, both locally and internationally, affirms the importance and potential of this project."

The next phase of the project involves a thorough evaluation of the tenders received, with the aim of entering into a contractual agreement with the successful bidder in the coming weeks.

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Theodore Burke, emphasised the Authority's dedication to keeping the airport development project at the forefront of priorities until it is realised.

Theodore Burke said, "It is our intention to maintain momentum on the airport development project until its fruition. The public opening of tenders today marks a significant leap forward in this process as we move closer to solidifying the next steps in the airport's development."

Officer-in-Charge Mr. Elvis Harrigan represented the

Managing Director at the ceremony and shared his optimism about the future of the project. He said, "Today is a great day, not only for the Authority but for the entire Virgin Islands as we advance rapidly with the airport development project. We are

determined to make this vision a reality, and this marks a crucial step in that journey."

The evaluation process is expected to be completed in the upcoming weeks, after which the successful bidder will be awarded a contract. The Government of the Virgin

Islands and the BVI Airports Authority express gratitude for the widespread interest and commitment demonstrated by all stakeholders involved in this pivotal undertaking.

**BVI AIRPORTS
AUTHORITY LTD.**
January 4, 2024



CLARENCE THOMAS LTD HOME CENTER VACANY NOTICE 4/2023

Clarence Thomas Ltd Home Center (CTL) invites qualified professional applicants to apply for the post of: CTL HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER	
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Accountability:	Reports to the Managing Director
Nature & Scope:	The Human Resources Manager is responsible for developing, maintaining, and carrying out all phases of Human Resources Management at CTL. The individual will provide leadership and direction by ensuring all employees adhere to all CTL policies and procedures along with the territory's employment laws, expertise in recruitment, employee recognition and development, payroll procedures, coaching, mentoring, and attendance.
Major Responsibilities, Tasks and Duties:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains a high level of confidentiality. Provides expertise in Employee Relations and Human Resources Compliance. Provides leadership to the rest of Human Resources team; holds weekly department meetings. Recruits, interviews, tests, and selects employees to fill vacant positions. Prepares employee termination notices and related documentation, and conducts exit interviews. Understands, interprets, and administers company policies and procedures. Supports associate managers in managing employee issues (conflicts, conducting investigations and reaching appropriate resolutions) Assists employees to address various issues or concerns, fairly representing all parties. Establishes and promotes programs that provide a safe workplace. Leads and directs employee training and development efforts. Analyzes wages and salary reports and data to determine competitive compensation plan. Administers benefits programs such as life, health and dental insurance, pension plans. Investigates incidents and accidents and prepares reports. Overseas team building exercises and incentives. Prepares monthly and annual reports as well as departmental budgets. Oversees performance appraisal and evaluation exercises.
Minimum Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, or the equivalent Five (5) years' experience in related field.
Person Specifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of computerized HRIS Systems Knowledge of HR Best practice in accordance with BVI Labour Code. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and under pressure. Exceptional customer service, organizational, and time management skills. Excellent oral, verbal, and written communication skills. Excellent organizational and time-management skills. Ability to prioritize tasks and to delegate them when appropriate. Ability to understand, create, and implement a budget
Closing Date:	15th January, 2024
How to Apply:	Please address Applications to: Human Resources Manager, Clarence Thomas Ltd Home Center Box 56, Fish Bay, Road Town, Tortola VG1110 British Virgin Islands Email: mmark@ctlbvi.com

TENNIS.BVI is looking for a highly : experienced full-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:

Bachelor's Degree

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

STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER HONOURABLE DR. NATALIO D. WHEATLEY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE

ON MONDAY, 8th JANUARY, 2024



Dr. the Hon. Natalio D. Wheatley

Update on the Implementation of the COI Recommendations

A pleasant good afternoon to the Press Corps, persons listening online and via radio, and Virgin Islanders here at home and abroad. Firstly, allow me to wish the people of the Virgin Islands a blessed and prosperous 2024. May we as a people ask Our Most High God for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding as we navigate the tumultuous waters on this journey of nation building.

I am pleased to be joined by my Government colleagues with whom it is an honour to serve the people of the Virgin Islands as we work together to build a model democracy in which we thrive as a community.

As I indicated in my address last Friday in response to the Governor's quarterly update on governance reform, I am holding this press conference to provide the public with greater detail on the progress of implementation. Unfortunately, the Governor's press conference did not present the full picture of where things stand. It is extremely important that you are aware of the full extent of the work your Government has been undertaking and the context. First, however, I would like to reiterate some of the key points I made in my previous address.

My colleagues and I are alarmed and deeply offended by the Governor's request for additional powers to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry (COI). Only as recently as last month we agreed a joint declaration with the United Kingdom (UK) Government which spoke to the deep, historic and enduring partnership between the UK and the Overseas Territories (OTs). Further, it affirmed the principle of equal rights and self-determination of the people of the Overseas Territories as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and pledged greater consultation between the UK Government and the Governments of the Overseas Territories. The hallmark of a modern partnership is democratic engagement between partners.

Now, for the Governor to seek the power to overrule our Constitution and have the authority to act in areas of constitutional responsibility devolved to the elected arm of Government, especially after a General Election only just over eight months ago, is a shock to the system. The fact that this request has been made without any consultation with the Government of the Virgin Islands harkens back to the heyday of colonial Governors ruling over these Virgin Islands.

This Government has said from the start that we see the reforms recommended by the COI in April 2022, as an essential route to improving the delivery of transparent, effective and accountable government in the Virgin Islands.

To this end, we have worked with our officials to effect what is a major transformation and reform of government for the Territory. We have stated on a number of occasions that given the capacity and staffing resources of the Government of the Virgin Islands, the original timelines for implementation of the COI Recommendations and Other Reforms were always extremely tight. This, together with the day-to-day responsibility of governing a country still recovering from two category five hurricanes, and with two economic pillars in tourism and financial services, which need constant care and attention, made for a significant challenge. But we have put our shoulder to the wheel to get implementation across the line and there has been significant progress which I want to outline to you today.

I also want to give more details on some of the areas the Governor has mentioned, but which unfortunately were not adequately addressed in his report.

As of 30th November 2023, 50% of the recommendations agreed in the implementation framework between the Government of the Virgin Islands and the UK Government had been fully implemented.

Within the 50 Recommendations, there are 131 Actions. Of these 80 (61%) have been completed, while there are 34 actions (26%) that are in the red zone, meaning that they are not yet completed and the deadline agreed for their completion has passed. The December report is currently being finalised, so I will be able to update you on additional progress within the next two weeks. However, today, I want to give you some perspective specifically on these red zone actions and where we stand on them. I would not ordinarily give this level of detail in a speech but given the Governor's recent statement, I think that it is essential that I give a full measure of clarity, so you, the People of the Virgin Islands can understand where the COI Implementation stands.

Firstly, we have four actions that will need constitutional amendment in order for them to be marked as completed. Two of these actions relate to Declaring House of Assembly Interests and another two relate to the Jury Act.

Secondly, we have four actions that are waiting on the Governor himself. As he admits in his report, he has faced challenges balancing the need to implement the recommended reforms with the capacity to bring those reforms into effect. The reforms within his area of responsibility, including those in law and order and prisons are urgent and I find it questionable that the Governor can turn a blind eye to his own failure to make adequate progress on these reforms, but wishes to penalise the Government of the Virgin Islands for its capacity challenges.

We have two further actions that have actually advanced almost to completion but are now dependent on external action outside of our control. These relate to our Criminal Procedure Rules reform. We have completed the draft for Cabinet's approval but the Chief Justice has asked us to allow the OECS review to be completed before we advance our own so they can be in synergy. We have been advised that this will be completed by the end of March.

We have two Reviews that our Audit Department is working assiduously to complete: The Audit of COVID Assistance Grants covers two actions and the other has to do with Audit of Contracts over \$100,000.

We, of course, also have our critical law enforcement reviews which span three actions that were initially delayed because the reviewers first selected could not in fact conduct the reviews. I should point out that the delay in this area has worked out to the benefit of the Virgin Islands as the reviewers now engaged wish to maintain a long-term relationship with our law enforcement bodies, and will help us to build capacity and standards moving forwards.

Outside of the red zone, we have eight actions that are ongoing throughout the COI Implementation process which cannot be marked as completed until the full process is finished. These are connected to how the process works and is monitored.

Finally, we had completed much of our election reform but in consideration of the 2023 election, we agreed not to make

significant changes to our electoral process right before a general election. Following the election, the Elections Supervisor and external observers have submitted their reports and their recommendations will be considered for incorporation into the reforms that we already intend to implement.

I remind everyone that reform is not a tick box exercise to check off deadlines. We must live and breathe these reforms and thus consider all the factors involved, some of which were not raised during the COI hearings but that are certainly significant. The process must also be democratic and involve our people and the relevant stakeholders. This is the only way we can make positive and lasting change for our territory.

I share the Governor's urgency in advancing to completion the reforms and seeing us come safely through the task that the COI has set before us, but true reform is about building capacity and resilience and ensuring that all of us in the Virgin Islands understand what we must do to move forwards. Time is needed above all else- time to consider, time to consult and time to draught new legislation and amend existing laws.

Indeed, because we have taken that time, we have at least one action for which a different solution has been envisioned from what was originally agreed in the Framework and which may need now to be considered closed. This relates to addressing the Border Security System.

In addition, there are a number of recommendations which have significant implications for our Territory, how we live and our future. We are a country of 30,000 and our people have opinions on these matters which as a Government, we cannot and will not simply ignore. Indeed, that is the whole of point of democracy.

Given this, the Government decided to extend its public and internal consultation periods, to ensure that we have taken

all considerations into account before we map the way forward in these matters: There are 12 remaining Actions in these areas and they are related to Public Assistance Grants, Educational Assistance Grants, Crown Land Disposal, Belonger and Residency Status and the Public Service Management Act.

The quick path is not always the best path. This process is about understanding what is right and doing that requires transparency and thorough consultation so that reform would be driven by the democratic will of the people of the Virgin Islands.

And we should not be punished or our democratic and human rights threatened with an Order in Council in reserve to suspend our constitution. Nor should the Governor be granted additional powers just because he wants to see certain things done before he departs the Territory. He does not have the democratic accountability to make certain decisions for the people of these islands.

It is incredulous that the Governor, who has also sought extra time for unfinished tasks under his purview is pursuing a power grab to assume control over strategic areas within the elected government's responsibility. This is an uneven approach that raises concerns about fairness and collaboration in addressing the challenges at hand.

This necessitates a partial suspension of the constitution – an alarming and retrograde step that should not be considered. Preserving democratic principles is paramount, and alternative solutions must be explored to expedite reforms without compromising our constitutional framework.

I will write to UK Overseas Territories Minister Hon. David Rutley immediately to urge him to decline the Governor's request for additional powers and remain on the path of partnership that he has led with the agreement of a Political Declaration between the UK, Virgin Islands and

Continue on page 9

STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER HONOURABLE DR. NATALIO D. WHEATLEY...from page 8

other Overseas Territories. It is not worth damaging the UK's relationship with the Government and people of the Virgin Islands and sully the UK's international reputation as it grapples with its colonial past and the legacy of slavery. The perception of the UK matters in the Caribbean region, Commonwealth and the World.

A supportive approach by the UK would assist the Virgin Islands in progressing the remaining reforms and demonstrate the re-establishing of the modern partnership we have just agreed. That is the spirit of partnership Lord Goldsmith had in mind when he set the target date of May 2024 to lift the Order in Council in reserve that is not justified if you genuinely believe in democracy. I am asking Minister Rutley to stay true to

partnership and democracy.

I restate today that my Administration remains firmly committed to full transparency and good governance and intends to fulfil our Framework Agreement. While realistic and appropriate timeframes will assist with this, our focus is on completion at the highest possible level.

Where we stand on each Recommendation can be seen in the recently launched and publicly accessible COI tracking tool (Commission of Inquiry Implementation Tracker). The site will be populated with more details over the next few weeks but for now, you can see Recommendation by Recommendation, which have been implemented, which are in progress and which are yet to start. Importantly, you can also see where responsibility for implementation lies for each

one.

Before I finish, I want to pay tribute to our public officers. While politicians are used to developing thick skins in the rough and tumble of political debate, it is essential to recognise that this should not be expected of our dedicated public officers.

The deflating and frankly anti-democratic words of the Governor are an insult to our voters. They also damage the morale of the very public officers who are working so tirelessly to ensure that the Virgin Islands fully implements the COI's recommendations and through this enables us

to develop truly modernised government structures.

Within the next six weeks, Cabinet will consider the new Educational Grants Policy, the new Crown Land Disposal Policy, the new Belongership and Residency Policy, the drafting instructions for the Public Service Management Act and the new Statutory Boards Management Policy. We have done much consultation on these and involved you, the citizens and residents of the Virgin Islands, as we considered how to best move forward.

This has only been possible through the hard work of our

officers. I can assure all of them that this Government stands with them and together we will ensure that decision making in the Virgin Islands continues to be underpinned by democratic governance, continues to maintain our self-determination and continues to protect the interests of all Virgin Islanders.

Thank you very much for your attention and I would very much welcome questions from the press on the implementation of the reforms I mentioned earlier. It is important that the people of the Virgin Islands are clear on where things stand.

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

PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Peter Island Resort & Spa Vacancy Notice for Engineer 11

- The Engineer II position handles mechanical and electrical equipment and specialized technicians while assisting Chief Engineer, Supervisor, and staff. Responsible for the handling of all mechanical, HVAC and electrical duties.
- The position works closely with the Chief Engineer and Supervisor to ensure communication on requests is timely and accurate. The Engineer II position interfaces with personnel in all phases of day-to-day maintenance operations, including, work orders, Rooms, Kitchen and Public areas Preventive Maintenance schedules.
- The position is key in working as part of a team to maintain all preventative maintenance and ensure the timely and correct completion of work requests.
- The Basic Skills necessary are a High School Certificate plus two years of technical training, two years of college, or two years of experience in lieu of the college degree.
- Ability to lift fifty (50) pounds to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
- Candidate must have a valid Driver's License.

BVI Islanders or Belongers preferred. To apply, send application and resume to Chad James, Director of Human Resources, P.O. Box 211, Road Town, Tortola, BVI or email: cjames@peterisland.net

BVI, January 3, 2024: Cervical Cancer Awareness Takes Center Stage with Mrs. British Virgin Islands 2022/2023, Dr. Arliene T. Penn

In observance of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, January 2024, Dr. Arliene T. Penn, the reigning Mrs. British Virgin Islands for the years 2022 and 2023, and a committed ambassador for WINBVI, is fervently advocating for women's health. Dr. Penn emphasises the critical importance of Pap tests in early detection, firmly believing that such screenings save lives.

Dr. Penn said, "I am focused on doing my part to ensure that ladies do all they can to mitigate cervical cancer. It is real. It is present and it is claiming the lives of too many women who are dying in silence, unnecessarily. I take my platform very seriously as it is my personal experience and I am happy to continue doing my part to help others. The year 2024 makes me a 20-year cervical cancer thriver. I want others to be thrivers as well, and more importantly be proactive about their health. Pap smears can help to detect abnormalities in the cervix. I want us as women to 'know' what is happening so that we can get the appropriate treatment to help 'fix' the problem, so that we can go on to 'live' fruitful lives and 'win' in our quest to be productive citizens contributing to the development of our lives, that of our families, our respective economies and the world."

Under her "Celebrating Life: Know>Fix>Live>WIN!" series, dedicated to eradicating cervical cancer globally, Dr. Penn launches the "Cervical Cancer That's Enough" initiative in

collaboration with Eureka Medical Clinic, PicSmith Medical Services, The Wellness Center Clinics, and B & F Medical Complex. This effort aligns with the World Health Organisation and the Pan-American Health Organization's tireless work in combatting cervical cancer as a public health pandemic.

Global statistics from the World Health Organization reveal that over 600,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer annually, resulting in more than 300,000 deaths. Dr. Penn, celebrating two decades as a cervical cancer thriver in 2024, emphasises the need for proactive measures to mitigate the impact of this silent killer.

Beginning January 9, women aged 18-29 who are sexually active and have never undergone a Pap test, along with women aged 18-65 sexually active and without a Pap test in the last three years, are invited to register for a free screening. Registration concludes on 31 January 2024. It is important to note that there is no copay with your NHI.

This Mrs. BVI initiative, under the WINBVI banner, is powered by UniteBVI and garners support from the VI Cancer Society and GirlUP. Dr. Arliene T. Penn passionately encourages all eligible women to be an integral part of this life-saving initiative.

Director of WINBVI Alicia Green, said that, "we are happy to support our

ambassador, Dr. Arliene T. Penn with this very important initiative that transforms and saves lives. Her commitment to her Cervical Cancer Awareness and the Celebrating Life Pap Smear campaign empowers women to prioritise their health and is a crucial step towards cervical cancer prevention. Together, we advocate for early detection and a future free from the burden of this preventable disease. We want to thank Eureka Medical Clinic, B & F Medical Complex, Wellness Center, PicSmith Medical Services for partnering on this as well."

Foundation Manager, Kim Takeuchi from Unite BVI reiterated that, "Collaboration is key to transformation. Unite BVI is a registered non-profit that brings people, great ideas and resources together for the positive benefit of future generations in the BVI and we are proud to come to together to support Dr. Penn and her drive for supporting women's health and wellness with early detection of cervical cancer."

Screenings will be scheduled throughout the love month of February, offering registered participants not only the crucial examination but also a complimentary doctor's consultation.

To register, call/whatsapp 440-4122. The first 200 registered women will receive a signature shirt.

50 Percent Of Recommendations Implemented-

Premier Wheatley

Premier and Minister of Finance, Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley has said that 50 percent of the recommendations agreed in the implementation framework between the Governments of the Virgin Islands and the United Kingdom has been fully implemented.

Premier Wheatley while providing an update on the Commission of Inquiry (COI) recommendations implementation process during Monday's press conference said as of November 30th 2023, the 50 recommendations are comprised of 131 separate actions. Of these actions, 80 or (61 percent) have been fully completed.

The Premier said, "In keeping with the principles of transparency and effectiveness towards good governance, continual updates will be provided detailing the breakdown of the progress on the 131 actions to the members of the Virgin Islands public in the coming weeks."

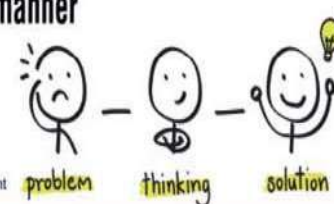
Premier Wheatley also acknowledged the commitment and dedication exhibited by public officers towards holistic reform. He commended the resoluteness of public officers across ministries over the near two-year period in the implementation of the recommendations.

Premier Wheatley said, "This has only been possible through the hard work of our officers. I can assure all of them that this Government stands with them and together we will ensure that decision making in the Virgin Islands continues to be underpinned by democratic governance, continues to maintain our self-determination and continues to protect the interests of all Virgin Islanders."

The Government of the Virgin Islands remains resolute in the promotion of the overall development of the Territory through commitment and sustainable transformation.

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



The UWI Global Campus congratulates Honourable Ambassador Dr June Soomer on being appointed Chair Designate of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal. Wednesday, January 10, 2024 — The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Global Campus (formerly Open Campus) congratulates Honourable Ambassador Dr June Soomer on being appointed Chair Designate of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD). Her appointment took effect on January 1, 2024.

Ambassador Soomer is a proud UWI alumna and currently serves as Chair of The UWI Global Campus Council. She is among five (5) persons elected by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and one of two CARICOM representatives on the PFPAD. Ms Gaynael Curry from The Bahamas is the other representative. The outgoing Chair is Dr Epsy Campbell Barr, former Vice-President of Costa Rica.

Ambassador Soomer received her PhD in History from The UWI in 1994 and was the first female to graduate with a doctorate in this discipline at the Cave Hill Campus. As an accomplished author and historian, she served in the diplomatic, financial and educational fields regionally and internationally. She also has over 40 years of academic and professional experience in management, operational and technical areas; has developed a solid understanding of contemporary development issues; and continues to advocate for equality and equity in sustainable development, particularly in the Caribbean Region.

Since 2008, Ambassador Soomer has served on

several national and regional committees. She was the first woman to serve as Saint Lucia's Ambassador to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and CARICOM with responsibility for Diaspora Affairs, a position she held from 2008-2016. She also served as an OECS Commissioner and was the first female Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) from 2016-2020. She was Head of the Maritime Boundaries Delimitation Team for Saint Lucia with Barbados and St Vincent and the Grenadines and a Member of the National Working Group on Free Circulation of Goods in the OECS.

Over the years, she has received numerous awards for her work across the Region. In July 2018, she was awarded The UWI Alumni Association Pelican Award for excellence in diplomacy, public service and the promotion of regionalism, representing the 1989-1998 decade of the university with distinction. In October of that year, she was also recognised for outstanding leadership by the Cave Hill Campus on the 70th Anniversary of The UWI. In 2021 she received Saint Lucia's highest national award, the Saint Lucia Cross, for her distinguished work in the fields of education, diplomacy, regionalism and development specialty and the Order "José de Marcoleta" in the Degree of Grand Cross, from the Republic of Nicaragua.

The Permanent Forum for the People of African Descent was launched in 2021 by the United Nations

General Assembly (UNGA), as a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders to improve the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent. The Permanent Forum also serves as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council, in line with the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent 2015 – 2024.

The mandate of the

Permanent Forum on People of African Descent includes contributing to the full political, economic and social inclusion of people of African descent through its modalities, formats, and substantive and procedural aspects.

Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal, The UWI Global Campus, Dr Francis O. Severin is delighted by this news. He reflects, "These outstanding and prominent appointments of Dr June Soomer at the helm of well-respected Regional and International bodies

are irrevocable proofs of her standing and profile in the eyes of her peers." He continues, "The foregoing has not in any way altered the person she is, that is, pleasant, down-to-earth, authentic, and calmly confident. We are proud of and honoured to have her as our Campus Council Chair and the fact that she is a UWI alumna, gladdens our hearts tremendously. "The Global Campus Senior Management Team congratulates Honourable Ambassador Dr June Soomer and wishes her success in this new role.

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IT'S A SECRET BAND

KENDRA PENN

**Brandon Walters
BFEC Secondary School Band**

Island Fusion Duo

Aburakera Music

VIRGIN ISLANDS ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Rotaract Club of Virgin Gorda

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL



GLOBAL NEWS BRIEF

STORIES SELECTED BY GIORGIO MIGLIAVACCA

USA - EUROPE: In the years following the historic 2008 financial crisis, the IMF, the OECD and other major international organizations became overly optimistic. Year after year, reality tested growth forecasts that repeatedly proved to be too bullish. This trend has seen a reversal recently. The energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine dampened European growth, starting with Germany, but it didn't cripple the bloc as feared. But caution is always warranted in the forecasting business, as the economy is an ever-evolving story — the last few years have proven that anything is possible. Macroeconomic indicators show remarkable resilience despite the steepest interest rate hikes in four decades.

Pessimistic economists dismissed the prospect of a soft landing last year, the coveted scenario in which an economy can digest inflation and rising interest rates without sinking into a deep recession. Now, what was once a niche theory is close to becoming a tangible reality. Growth is slowing on both sides of the Atlantic, but it hasn't stopped altogether. This is mainly due to a strong labor market and steady household consumption in the face of significant credit tightening.

If one had to choose a single word to describe the economy in 2023, it would undoubtedly be resilience. Inflation is approaching reasonable levels again, and with the prospect of interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank (ECB), a much more favorable economic outlook is not unthinkable. The future is not all rosy, but it is far from the "blood, sweat and tears" that many feared.

"Everything is pointing towards a soft landing, as proven by the recent stock market surge," said Xosé Carlos Arias, an economics professor at the University of Vigo (Spain). "The feeling is that we are converging towards the 2% inflation target, so fears of price spikes are dissipating." However, everything is still in the treacherous realm of "it seems as if..." Still, Arias said, "One thing is clear: tight monetary policy has not led to a severe recession, and any comparison to the [oil] crisis of the 1970s is hyperbole." [El Pais]

ITALY - The disposable income, purchasing power and savings of Italian families all grew in the third quarter of last year, ISTAT said on Friday. Household gross disposable income and final consumption expenditure of

consumer households grew respectively by 1.8% and 1.2% over the second quarter of 2023 according to the national statistics institute's Quarterly non-financial General Government (GG) account.

Purchasing power of consumer households in real terms rose by 1.3% over the previous quarter against a 0.5% increase in prices. The saving rate of consumer households stood at 6.9%, 0.6 percentage points higher than in the second quarter of 2023. [ANSA]

FRANCE - "We no longer sell this brand due to unacceptable price increases," say tags on shelves in Carrefour's French stores where the Pepsico products once stood.

The source said the move also affected stores in Belgium, Italy and Spain.

It means consumers will no longer be able to find the iconic products alongside PepsiCo names such as Lay's potato chips, Lipton tea, Quaker Cereals and 7Up.

French retailers are locked in annual negotiations with big food industry firms on prices and other conditions regarding their sale in supermarkets.

"We've been in discussion with Carrefour for many months and we will continue to engage in good faith in order to try to ensure that our products are available," a PepsiCo spokeswoman said, declining to comment further on the talks.

Retailers say they are under pressure from food industry

firms to raise prices.

Pepsi's main rival, Coca-Cola, said in November it was seeking to raise its prices an average of 7 percent.

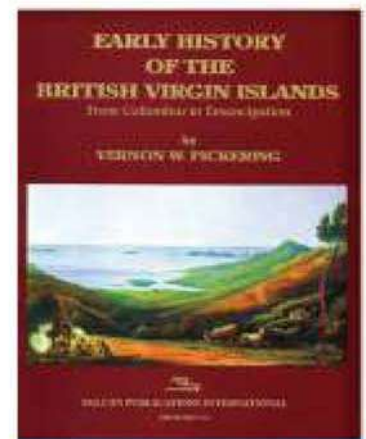
PepsiCo reported in October its sales so far in 2023 had risen by 9 percent on slightly lower food sales and steady beverage sales, an indication it has also raised prices. [France 24]

RUSSIA - Moscow said its military accidentally bombed a village in the southern Voronezh region on January 2 during a massive Russian attack on Ukraine. The Russian Defense Ministry said six buildings had been damaged but there were no casualties in Petropavlovka, some 150 kilometers east of the border with Ukraine. It came on the same day that Russia's military launched a barrage of missiles and drones at Ukraine, with four killed and nearly 100 injured in Kyiv and Kharkiv, the two cities targeted in the Russian attacks. [RadioFreeEurope]

LIAT - After nearly half a century of operating under Caribbean government ownership, the 67-year-old regional carrier LIAT is set to conclude its current phase as LIAT (1974) Ltd on January 24, according to Barbados Today. This decision will unfortunately result in over 90 employees being laid off without receiving their due payments, although assurances have been made regarding meeting the company's obligations. Barbados TODAY obtained a letter signed by the administrator, Cleveland Seaforth, dated Thursday, which conveyed this news.

Although the closure leads to staff layoffs, a handful of employees are expected to stay behind to oversee the final tasks aimed at wrapping up the company's affairs. This step is part of the transition toward establishing its replacement, the proposed LIAT (2020) Limited, according to one of the few remaining employees.

"After careful consideration and evaluation of the present operations, a decision has been taken by the court-appointed Administrator to permanently cease all commercial flying operations as of close of business on January 24, 2024," said the letter by Seaforth who had been retained to run a scaled-down LIAT which collapsed in

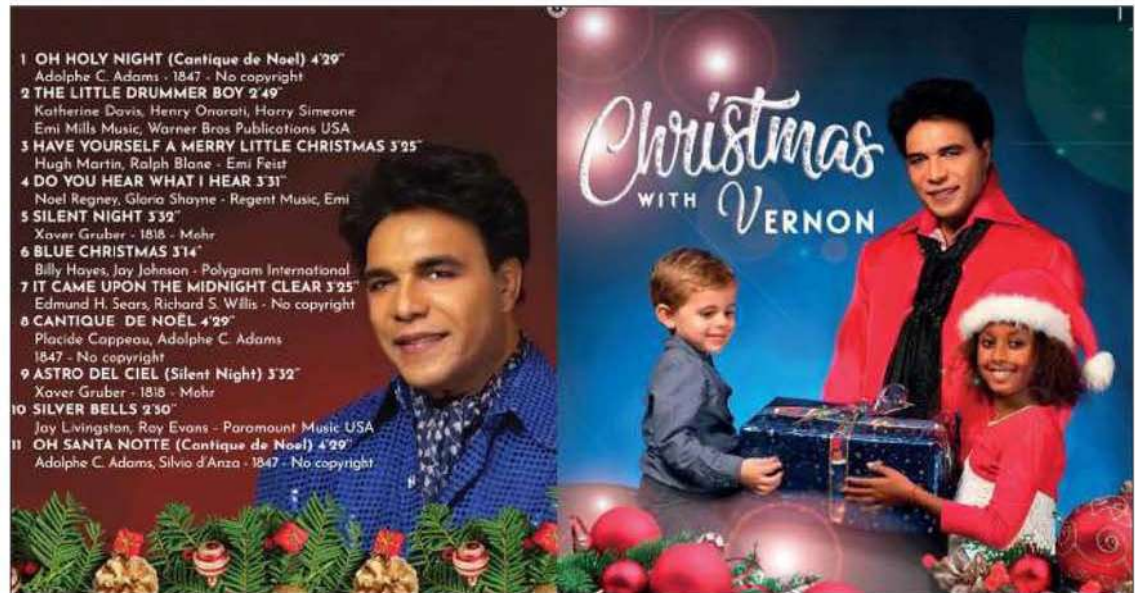


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 across the region.

"As a result of the foregoing, you are hereby notified that your employment with LIAT (1974) Limited (in administration) will be made redundant effective February 4, 2024." Seaforth told the staff the company was not in a position to make any severance payments at this stage, but declared that it would not be shying away from its obligations to them on severance, vacation pay, retroactive pay, and any outstanding salaries.

LIAT was owned by the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica. Browne said that LIAT was needed for greater connectivity "and to ensure that Caribbean people could move and move readily." He had also hoped that the airline could complement the efforts of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Airlines. But he also said he believed that there are "regional competing forces that would like to see the demise of LIAT." The governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, and St Vincent and the Grenadines and regional trade unions say their members are owed millions of dollars in severance payments and other benefits. [CNW]



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The Sunny Side Up



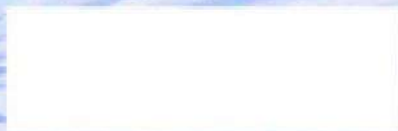
Through the Lens of The Sunny Side



One of the Top Photos of 2023 Long Jump Khybah Dawson cuts the sand in his pet event

INSIDE

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Divas On A Dime

Another layer of misery: Women in Gaza struggle to find menstrual pads, running water

By Aya Batrawy, Abu Bakr Bashir

Heba Usrof, a young woman in Gaza, is running out of options to deal with her menstrual cycle. Pads have disappeared from pharmacies and stores. It's been this way since the war that began in October, and it's a situation that mirrors how nearly every basic requirement — from food to medical aid — has become harder to find in Gaza over the past three months.

“We go around and around, searching in all the pharmacies for pads, but we can't find any,” Usrof says.

Ruba Akkila, whose work in Gaza before the war focused on the protection of women and children, says pads do sporadically appear on shelves, but they are five and six times their normal price when and if they are sold, putting them out of reach for most of Gaza's impoverished and now unemployed households. The lack of pads is a result of Israel's near-total siege of Gaza, which began following a deadly rampage in Israel by Hamas militants on October 7. “We're suffering from being hungry, from being thirsty, from being bombed. We're suffering from being displaced,” says Bisan Owda, a young woman in Gaza who's been vividly documenting her life throughout the war to her 3.7 million followers on Instagram.

“Now, we're suffering also because there's no pads. It's just a new suffering,” she says in a video post about this issue.

A LACK OF HYGIENE PRODUCTS — AND BASIC HYGIENE

The U.N. estimates that some 700,000 women and girls in Gaza experience menstrual cycles but don't have adequate access now to basic hygiene products like pads, toilet paper or even running water and toilets because of the war. These conditions put women and girls in Gaza at risk of reproductive and urinary tract infections, according to the U.N.

A spokesperson for UNICEF told NPR: “This situation is particularly challenging for women and adolescent girls, who lack safe, private and dignified places to manage menstrual hygiene. There are reports this is exacerbating mental health issues.”

Jumana Shahin, a women's rights activist in Gaza, says women's needs are being neglected because of the scale of

the humanitarian crisis gripping Gaza.

“This situation is not simple. We are talking about a woman's needs,” she said. “This situation does not have a solution. You ask if there are alternatives. There are no alternatives.”

“The situation is harder than you can imagine,” she adds.
HOW WOMEN ARE COPING

Nevertheless, women are trying to find ways to deal with their menstrual cycles.

Usrof says her friends are now taking pills that prevent their periods. She's going to start doing the same, she says. It's either that or “drown,” she says. “This issue is we're moving around a lot. We don't have the luxury of sitting around and relaxing, so it's really hard,” she says, describing how most people have fled from their homes and shelters multiple times in past weeks as Israel expands its offensive.

Meanwhile, not all women can find pills to block their periods or, for underlying health reasons, can take these pills. With no other choice, Akkila, the gender protection expert, says some women are turning to old clothes, towels or even the corners of their tents to use as pads.

“The only way to do it is just to do with scissors,” she says.

“It's messy. It's terrible. And nobody speaks about it,” Akkila says, explaining openly talking about menstrual struggles remains taboo, even in wartime. That's partly a reflection of Gaza's traditional society — and because menstruation is a sensitive and private subject everywhere in the world.

THE SEARCH FOR RUNNING WATER AND TOILETS

Israel's bombardment and evacuation orders have displaced around 2 million people, more than 85% of Gaza's population. As a result of this mass displacement, women also have to contend with a lack of privacy and little to no access to bathrooms. Much of Gaza has no access to running water, making showers a rare luxury.

The water crisis is so severe that those in apartments, where extended families are sheltering together, can only flush the toilet when necessary because every drop of water has to be carried up the stairs and rationed.

Most Gazans, however, are living in overcrowded U.N.-run schools, where 400 people or more share a single bathroom.

Others are living in tents and on the streets as Israeli evacuation orders push people further and further south as the Israeli military tries to dismantle Hamas tunnels and expands deeper into Gaza.

Women are waking up early and lining up at hospitals to shower before water runs out for the day, Akkila says.

Others are lining up at hospitals just to use the bathroom.





Ladyburd Talks...

Dear Readers: Five Things You Should Do Differently in the New Year

As we approach a New Year, most of us have goals and resolutions on our minds. I don't have to give you the stats, but most resolutions won't make it past the first few months of the year. This year can be one of the greatest of your life or the same as every other year.

End toxic relationships

Love can be a funny thing. It can make you feel like you're flying over the clouds or like you just got punched in the stomach. Here's the thing to understand about love, it's not a feeling, it's a decision.

You choose to love and you can choose whether to stay in the relationships in your life. It can be a significant other or friends, but if the relationship is toxic without the possibility of improvement, it's healthier for you to part ways. You have to determine if the relationship is salvageable, but trying to fix something that's broken is a waste of time and affecting your state of mind.

Step outside of your comfort zone

You can live a comfortable life without stepping outside of your comfort zone and probably end up just fine. However, when you live life this way, you miss so many amazing opportunities. Making big changes and chasing dreams might take you more time than even this year. But you can use this year to get started.

<https://addicted2success.com/life/5-things-you-should-do-differently-in-the-new-year/>



Ladyburd's Mail Box

EMAIL ADDRESS:

delseitaliburd@msn.com
or
islandsunnewsp@gmail.com

Dear Ladyburd: I have a question and I hope you can help me to understand how a woman know if the man she has in her life really loves her, or when he is faking it. I have been with this guy for the past year, he has been treating me better than my ex. Sometimes I wonder if we were meant to be together or just a dream, or he is going to do something stupid any minute. I love him but I am not sure if my love is going in vain. Sometimes I wish I could understand the word love. Thanks.... Lynn.

Ladyburd...Dear Lynn: Love is a very loaded word, and it means different things to different people, however, it is not an illusion. Love do exist, and if your boyfriend is treating you with respect first and foremost, and he shows you and tells you that he loves you often enough, he takes care or help to care for your needs not only financially, sexually and emotionally but in other ways, why complain. **That is Love right there.**

You mentioned that he treats you better than your ex, that means, you know when you are being treated like a lady and you know when you are not.

What you have to remember though, that one hand can't clap, so you will have to treat him just as good as he is treating you, and please don't look for trouble if trouble don't trouble you, if he is doing what he is suppose to do in the relationship, then why are you crying wolf, just be happy that you have someone who cares so much for you, because not everyone is that lucky.

(Repeat)



LIGHT BULB MOMENTS

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Quotes above by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Poetry Corner

LOCAL POET

Love above the label

*Love above the label
is more than what you
see in shows on cable
it's more than what you've
read in the fables
love itself is just
unstable
and I am incapable of
using labels to define anyone
there are times
when we are all unstable
when we feel like
jumping off the table
and that's okay
because love should
be the connection
that tight-knit cable
that serves to disable
judgmental actions
criticisms and sanctions
we are all different
yet we are the same
all insane but some
are just more contained
so don't call anyone
by a defined label
else you'll be liable for libel
don't let anyone
classify you
because of your stance or style
because in time
you will be defiled
stand in your strength
and love above the label*

© Linette Rabsatt

Tickle My Funny Bones



Following Doctor's Order

A doctor asks his patient angrily,

"Why did you send
my bill back,

unopened, Mr. Gunrick?"

Mr Gunrick explains,

"But doctor, it was you, who told me
to avoid

any upsets and stress!"

At a job Interview:

"What are your strengths?"

"I take matters in my own hands."

"Ok, thank you.

We will contact you."

"No, I will contact you."

Expiry Date?

I got all sentimental when I saw
my husband looking at our marriage
certificate for half an hour.

Then I found out he's been looking
for an expiry date.

PUN INTENDED

"My New Year's resolution is to stop
procrastinating.

But I'll wait until tomorrow to start."

Researchers find a massive number of plastic particles in bottled water

By James Doubek

Microscopic pieces of plastic are everywhere. Now, they've been found in bottled water in concentrations 10 to 100 times more than previously estimated.

Researchers from Columbia University and Rutgers University found roughly 240,000 detectable plastic fragments in a typical liter of bottled water. The study was published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

About 10% of the detected plastic particles were microplastics, and the other 90% were nanoplastics. Microplastics are between 5 millimeters to 1 micrometer; nanoplastics are particles less than 1 micrometer in size. For context, a human hair is about 70 micrometers thick.

Microplastics have already been found in people's lungs, their excrement, their blood and in placentas, among other places. A 2018 study found an average of 325 pieces of microplastics in a liter of bottled water.

Nanoplastics could be even more dangerous than microplastics because when inside the human body, "the smaller it goes, the easier for it to be misidentified as the natural component of the cell," says Wei Min, a professor of chemistry at Columbia University and one of the study's co-authors.

The researchers used a technology involving two lasers called stimulated Raman scattering (SRS) microscopy to detect the particles and used machine learning to identify them. They searched for seven common types of plastic using this system: polyamide 66, polypropylene, polyethylene, polymethyl methacrylate, polyvinyl chloride, polystyrene and polyethylene terephthalate.

They tested three brands of bottled water; they did not identify the brands.

The particles they could identify accounted for only 10%

of total particles they found — the rest could be minerals, or other types of plastics, or something else, says Beizhan Yan, a research professor at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University and a co-author on the study.

The International Bottled Water Association, an industry group that represents U.S. and international water bottlers and distributors, said in a statement that it has had "very limited notice and time" to review the study.

But the group said the new detection method "needs to be fully reviewed by the scientific community and more research needs to be done to develop standardized methods for measuring and quantifying nanoplastics in our environment."

The association said there is "no scientific consensus on the potential health impacts of nano- and microplastic particles." It added: "media reports about these particles in drinking water do nothing more than unnecessarily scare consumers."



The researchers hypothesize that some of the plastics in the bottled water could be shedding from, ironically enough, the plastic used in types of water filters.

Phoebe Stapleton, another study co-author who is a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at Rutgers University, says researchers have known that nanoplastics were in water. "But if you can't quantify them or can't make a visual of them, it's hard to believe that they're actually there," she says.

The significance of their group's research is that it now "brings that to light, and not only provides what is a computer generated image, but it also allows for the quantification and even more importantly, the chemistry of that quantification," Stapleton says.

They hope the research will lead to having a better understanding of how much plastic humans are regularly putting into their bodies and its effects.

Yan says they plan future research employing the same technology to look at plastic particles in tap water, in the air, in food and in human tissues. "This is basically just to open a new window for us to see [what was] this invisible world before." Humans produce more than 440 million tons of plastic each year, according to the United Nations. About 80% of plastic ends up in landfills or the environment, researchers say.





DIVAS ON A DIME

By Patti Diamond

Bewitching Charcuterie Board on a Budget

It's a continuing hot trend in easy holiday entertaining -- charcuterie boards overflowing with wonderful nibbly-noshy goodies. A charcuterie (shahr-KU-tuh-ree) board is essentially a lavish meat, cheese and cracker board. While it's easy to drop a bucket of cash going "overboard" with this entertaining trend, you can create an Instagram-worthy board and still have money for rent. Here are some rules for success.

Rule 1 -- There are no rules. Put whatever you like on your board.

Rule 2 -- Don't go crazy! As tempting as it is; you don't need 25 different items on your board. It's better to

have a generous quantity of affordable items than tiny portions of high-priced offerings.

Rule 3 -- Spend wisely. Be conservative with costly items like meats and cheeses and liberal with low-cost items like bread and fruit. For a hearty appetizer, plan on 2 ounces of meat and 3 ounces of cheese per person.

Rule 4 -- Shop your pantry first and use up all the little bits of dried fruits and nuts left from baking projects. Look for jars of pickles, peppers, mustards and jams in the back of the fridge.

Here are three secret weapons for frightfully frugal and fabulous entertaining.

MUSHROOM SKULLS

Here's a ghoulishly great addition to your Halloween board.

8 ounces button mushroom for skulls, see directions below

2 tablespoons butter

1 tablespoon olive oil

1/4 cup shallots or red onion, thinly sliced

2 cloves garlic, sliced thin

Salt and pepper

To make mushroom skulls: Clean your mushrooms. To create two skull faces on opposite sides of each mushroom, use a straw to form the eye holes. Use a paring knife to cut nose holes and to slice down the stem to create teeth. Cut mushroom in half, creating two skull halves.

To saute the mushrooms: In a saute pan, heat butter and oil. Add shallot and garlic, and cook until fragrant.

Add the mushrooms, gently tossing to coat with the oil. SautŽ the mushrooms until warmed through and softened. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve with any accumulated juices: warm, room temperature or cold.

BEER CHEESE BALL

Yield: 16 servings Prep: 15 minutes Rest: 8 hours or overnight

This makes one rather-large cheeseball, so I suggest dividing it into two.

16 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

4 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

1 small garlic clove, finely

The Sunny Side Up

minced

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
2/3 cup lager beer, nonalcoholic beer, cider or white wine

1. Place cheese in a food processor; pulse until crumbled, about 1 minute. This creates a better texture than shredding.

2. Add cream cheese, Worcestershire, garlic and salt. While continuing to process, gradually add beer until mixture is smooth and spreadable.

3. To make a pumpkin shape; double wrap the cheeseball in plastic wrap and form into a round. Take four rubber bands and space them evenly around the ball to make impressions like a pumpkin. Refrigerate until firm. For a stem, press a bell pepper stem into the top.

ONION JAM

1 large onion -- any variety

1 tablespoon butter

1/4 cup balsamic vinegar

2 tablespoons brown sugar

1. Thinly slice the onion. In a large skillet on low heat, warm the butter and add onions. Cook, stirring occasionally for 20 to 25 minutes or until very soft and translucent.

2. Add the balsamic vinegar and brown sugar, stirring to combine. Reduce heat to very low and simmer for 15 minutes or until most of the liquid has evaporated.

For your spooktacular soiree, you'll enjoy watching your dangerously delicious charcuterie board mysteriously disappear! Happy Feast of the Baptism of the Lord!

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

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Charcuterie board featuring cheese ball pumpkin

PHOTO CREDIT: www.JasonCoblentz.com

Opening Of The New Law Year 2024

On Friday, 12th January 2024, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court will mark the commencement of the New Law Year with its traditional Ceremonial-Opening proceedings under the theme "Innovation and Justice Reform" - The ECSC Looking to the Future. This year, the host Member State is Grenada, where the first scheduled sitting for the Court of Appeal for 2024 will occur.

The Ceremonial Opening will commence with a church service in most Member States and Territories, followed by the procession to the High Court, where the formal Special Sitting of the Court will be held. In the Territory of the Virgin Islands, the Church Service will be held at the Apostolic Faith Church, Road Town, Tortola, commencing at 8:00 a.m. This will be followed by the gathering moving to the Civil Court Room, 4th Floor, Sakal Building for the Special Sitting to mark the Opening

of the Law Year. The Special Sitting will commence at 10:00 a.m.

Similar to the past three years, there will be one Special Sitting throughout the 9 Member States and Territories. The Chief Justice, Her Ladyship Dame Janice M. Pereira, DBE, LL.D, will deliver the feature address, appearing live from the Court in Grenada along with the other speakers from the various Member States and Territories of the Eastern Caribbean.

The Special Sitting will be streamed live to the other Member States and Territories via the Grenada Information Services media platforms and social media pages to the other Member States and Territories of the OECS. It will also be live-streamed via the Court's Website and Facebook Page, the websites and social media pages of the Government Information Services in each Member State and Territory and UWITV.

The public is encouraged to participate in the Ceremonial

Opening of the Law Year 2024 by attending either the church service or the Special Sitting or by watching and listening on the various media platforms.

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) was established in 1967 by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court Order No. 223 of 1967. The (ECSC) is a superior court of record for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), including six independent states: Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and three British Overseas Territories (Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, and Montserrat). It has unlimited jurisdiction in each Member State.

To learn more about the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC), please visit our website @ <https://www.eccourts.org/> or call us at Tel: 758-457-3600

POLICE NEWS



ROYAL VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE FORCE

WANTED

Wanted for:
Burglary



Name: Paul Jack
Age: 49
Alias: None Known
Hair: Afro
Sex: Male
Race: Black
Height: 5.7ft
Complexion: Brown skinned
Built: Slim Built
Address: No Fixed Place

Wanted since: December 2023

INFORMATION DETAILS

Paul Jack is alleged to have entered the BVI illegally and is now wanted for the offense of Burglary. He was last seen in the area of Princes Quarters in Virgin Gorda.

Persons with any information regarding his whereabouts are kindly asked to contact the RVIPF Intelligence Unit at 368-9339 or Virgin Gorda Police Station at 368-7597.

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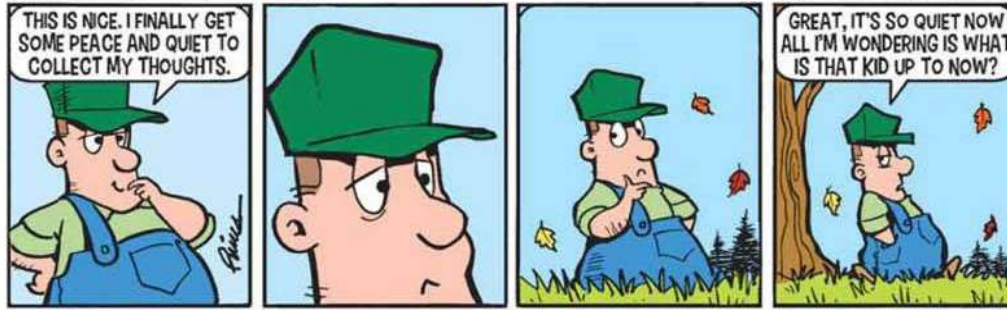
TEL: (284) 494-2476

E-mail: islandsun@surfbvi.com

islandsunnewsp@gmail.com

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

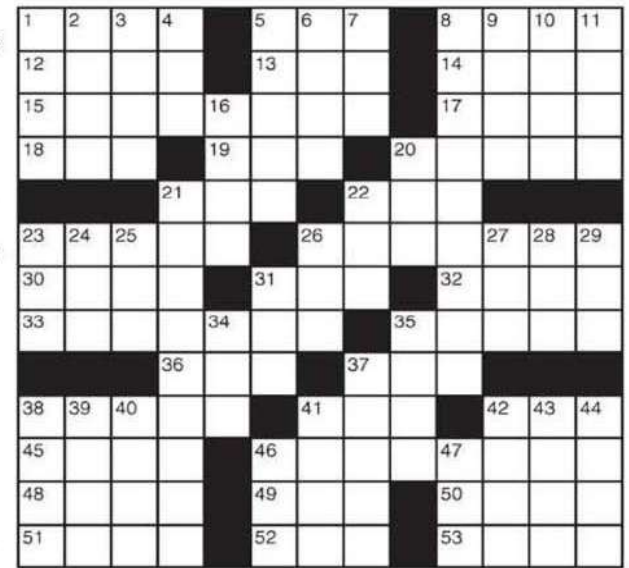
by Jeff Pickering



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Tibetan monk
- 5 Triumphed
- 8 Used car sites
- 12 Trojan War hero
- 13 Lincoln nickname
- 14 Taj Mahal city
- 15 TV fare for a night owl
- 17 Gusto
- 18 Gallery display
- 19 "The Raven" writer
- 20 "No way!"
- 21 Sign before Virgo
- 22 "Now, where — I?"
- 23 Vivaldi's output
- 26 Reveal
- 30 Dating from
- 31 Embrace
- 32 Salty septet
- 33 "Citizen Kane" sled
- 35 Train tracks
- 36 Observe
- 37 "Ray Donovan" actor
- 38 Dish
- 41 Pirate's drink
- 42 Expert
- 45 San —, Italy
- 46 Single payments



- 48 Borodin's "Prince —"
- 49 "Uh-huh"
- 50 Perched on films
- 51 Like slasher Mag. staff
- 53 Shetland, for one
- 8 Revolving server
- 9 Curved molding
- 10 Serving aid
- 11 Auction
- 16 Detail, briefly
- 20 Dallas hooper, briefly
- 21 Biography
- 22 Puke
- 23 Scratch
- 24 Mil. morale booster
- 25 "Mayday!"
- 26 Lemon
- 27 Wahine's gift
- 28 Guy's date
- 29 Curvy letter
- 31 Coloration
- 34 Spell-off
- 35 Cavort
- 37 Checker moves
- 38 Bluenose
- 39 Toy block name
- 40 Cupid's specialty
- 41 Regretted
- 42 Car
- 43 "Let's go!"
- 44 Glimpse
- 46 Caustic solution
- 47 Potential syrup

DOWN

- 1 In — land
- 2 Slightly open
- 3 Damon of Hollywood
- 4 Chopper
- 5 "Yippee!"
- 6 Bassoon's kin
- 7 Just out

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Star is missing. 2. Pencil is shorter. 3. Eraser is added. 4. Glasses are added. 5. Bow is larger. 6. Pants are different.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What was the name of Jay's dog in "Modern Family"?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many pecks are in a bushel?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which continent has regions in all four hemispheres of Earth — north, south, east and west?
- MUSIC: Which singer is known as the Queen of Disco?
- U.S. STATES: Which state has the only royal palace in the United States?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many federal holidays are recognized by the United States?
- ASTRONOMY: How many moons does Mars have?
- MOVIES: Which iconic movie has the tagline, "A man went looking for America, and he couldn't find it anywhere"?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which minerals are found abundantly in dairy products?
- COMICS: Which long-running comic strip developed from a weekly panel titled "L'il Folks"?

- Trivia Test Answers
- Stella; 2. Four; 3. Africa; 4. Donna Summer; 5. Hawaii; Iolani Palace; 6. 11 annually, with Juneteenth as the most recent addition, and 12 every four years, with Inauguration Day as the additional holiday in Washington, D.C. only; 7. Two, Phobos and Deimos; 8. "Easy Rider"; 9. Calcium, phosphorus and magnesium; 10. "Peanuts"

Aloe Vera Plant: Beneficial For Your Skin Problems

Many may not be familiar with the benefits and importance of Aloe Vera even though it has been around for a very long time. They are desert lilies and belong to the same family. It grows wild in Madagascar and in parts of Africa. As it is so useful and beneficial you can find it the world over, packed and sealed.

There are more than 300 varieties of Aloe Vera plant with many different medicinal benefits.

With very high water content nearly 96% it has been leisurely used by the people to recover from their skin problems.

It has so many good properties that it would be very hard to even count them. It has a very good healing capacity and is mainly used for burns, blisters, insect bites and other allergic skin reactions.

It provides you with one of the most natural ways of healing. You can term this plant as a beauty product due to the miracles it does on your skin, which is one of the most visible parts of your whole body.

Aloe Vera is mainly used to shrink warts which are very



common. The other painful problems like shingles also tend to heal due to Aloe Vera.

It has become a growing business for people who have come to understand its benefits.

You can have it in juice form too which is good for other problems you are suffering from. Aloe Vera helps you from some of the most common diseases like insomnia, heartburn, congestion, arthritis, asthma and also lowers your sugar level.

It is widely used as a moisturizer and anti-ageing cream. The gel has some of the most important properties which moisturizes your skin and makes it soft. If

you suffer from second degree burns Aloe Vera's natural gel is what you should apply for a speedy recovery.

Sun burn or sun tan has turned out to be one of the major problems for people due to global warming and other climatic changes.

Aloe Vera has been widely used to protect you from such problems. It can also be used as an ointment for your backache or other pains you suffer from.

To avoid dark circles under your eyes you can use this gel every night before sleeping to have less tired and more beautiful eyes. It also helps with any skin irritation caused due to infection or bacteria. It can also be used for minor wounds.

It helps in reducing swelling and relieving pain. The plant gel has been known to have anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial and anti-viral properties to help you from most of your problems. As the gel enters your skin very easily it becomes one of the biggest sources of anti-ageing products.

MORE READERS: THE ISLAND SUN

TOURISM RUINED MY CITY. TOURISM IS SAVING MY CITY



By Miguel Macias/NPR

SEVILLE, Spain — There was an old house in a very narrow street in central Seville, Spain that I used to stop and look at when I was a teenager in the early '90s. I dreamt of owning it one day, or at least one similar in the neighborhood that back then had a decent number of locals.

I say “back then” because today that area, Barrio de Santa Cruz, has lost its soul. It’s not me saying this — it’s what you hear from nearly anyone who lives or works in the neighborhood. Many longtime residents have left, saying they were pushed by a wave of tourism that, after the pandemic, has come back in full force. It’s good news for the city and its economy. But it’s mixed news for nearly anyone whose memories are attached to those narrow streets, now filled with souvenir shops, boutique hotels and restaurants that locals don’t quite feel welcome in anymore.

This is the story of how a city tries to honor its past while ensuring its future.

STUDENTS REPLACED BY SELFIES

In the heart of Barrio de Santa Cruz you can still find a public school. It almost seems like a relic of a different time, when this neighborhood had not turned into a museum of sorts.

Ana Palacio is the principal of the San Isidoro school. She joined seven years ago, when admission for students was competitive. “When we’d start receiving applications for admission, people would camp out at the door and spend the night to grab a spot for their kids,” she tells me.

Now, she has open spots in her classrooms, and the reason is simple. Palacio looks up and points at the beautiful old houses in front of the school, on Mateos Gago street. “All those houses, where families used to live and send their kids to our school — all those houses are now apartments for tourists,” she says.

For Palacio, this is not just a small inconvenience.

“I have real issues here. When kids enter and exit the school, I have a crowd of tourists at the door,” she says. “Since the school building is a beautiful old convent, tourists want to take pictures and shoot videos.”

The tourism boom is causing an exodus of sorts. Locals have been leaving the historic center for other neighborhoods, which has then driven up rents across the city. Palacio gets emotional when talking about how Seville is changing.

“We have the largest historic city center in Europe. Let’s not ruin it,” she says. “If there are no neighbors that care for it personally — neighbors who hurt when they see that tree not being respected, when they see a glass bottle thrown on the ground — we need those neighbors, and we’re losing them.”

This change isn’t confined to the city center. Palacio lives in Triana, a neighborhood overlooking the Guadalquivir river, which has also become a tourist attraction in recent years.

She says it’s affecting the way locals enjoy the city, and that in areas where tourists flock, locals sometimes don’t even feel welcome at tapas bars and restaurants. “In Seville, you order the first beer at the bar. Then you sit down and chat with your friends. Then maybe you order a tapa. And after a while,

you order another one. And before you realize it, it’s 5 or 6 in the evening,” she says. That would be the Sevillian way. But many restaurants are no longer locally owned, or simply prefer to cater to tourists, who sit for an hour, order fast and copiously, and then move on. These days it’s not unusual to see restaurants that don’t serve tapas anymore and won’t let you sit at a table if you’re not ready to order a meal.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO BENEFIT

There are some restaurants, however, that are still locally owned, and try to maintain a balance between benefitting from the tourism boom and serving local customers.

On Mateos Gago street, just a short walk from the San Isidoro school, I stand in front of a small restaurant called La Azotea. I know this place well; it used to be called Campanario more than two decades ago. I worked here when I was in my early twenties. I meet Juan Antonio Gómez, the chef and owner of La Azotea, outside of his restaurant, where the view from the tables is simply astonishing. The tower of the cathedral of Seville, La Giralda, is the most iconic monument of the city. If you come to Seville, chances are you will walk down this street and visit it. When Gómez opened his first location, his clients were mostly locals.

“But soon — as in, like, three months — we start to receive our first tourist. And a year later, we have, every day, lines at the door at the opening time for 30 people, mostly tourists,” Gómez says. His story reinforces a truth now widely known in Seville: if a restaurant is good, tourists will find it.

Gómez says he wishes he could see more locals around Mateos Gago street — an area he has known since he was a child attending the same San Isidoro School that is now struggling to find students. Tourism is an engine of the Spanish economy. In 2022, it represented more than 11% of the national GDP. It’s even more acute in Seville, where tourism provides an estimated 20% of the city’s economy. This southern region of Spain where Seville is located has long been mired by unemployment as well, which currently sits at just over 18% — about 5 points above the national average. So you can appreciate how jobs in the service sector provide a lifeline for the city that welcomed nearly 2 million visitors in just the first eight months of 2023 — up 14% from the previous year.

Gómez benefits from this tourism boom, obviously, but he has mixed feelings: “What I’m seeing right now in Seville I’ve never seen before. It’s massive. And I think, in one way or another, we have to stop a little bit.”

THE YEAR EVERYTHING CHANGED

Sevillians point to 1992 as transformative for the city. It was the year Seville hosted the International Expo, which became a presentation party of sorts, celebrating the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ arrival in the Americas. Seville was pitching itself to the world as a place of beauty and historic landmarks. Hundreds of acres of unutilized land was transformed into a type of international theme park, with more than 100 nations represented in pavilions. Tens of millions of people visited Seville that year. Billions of dollars were invested in the city: bridges were built over the Guadalquivir River; dozens of new hotels were opened; a high-speed train connecting Madrid and Seville was inaugurated; and the city looked at the historic center as its crown jewel. A jewel that needed urgent care.

Miguel López was 10 years old then, and lived in the neighborhood of Alameda — a huge open space now filled with restaurants. Like the city center back then, his neighborhood was falling apart, he tells me, with many houses needing drastic rehabilitation. Crime was common in central areas, and it wasn’t unusual to turn to a street and find yourself alone and vulnerable to theft or worse. Before the wave of expo investment, the region of Andalucía had a staggering 30% unemployment rate, which skyrocketed to more than 50% for young people. López was enamored with the expo as a child, with all its promise of change and progress, and visited the site many times that year. On his way home, he would have to cross the Alameda, an area that was known for drugs, crime and sex workers back then.



Caribbean News / Regional News

Meeting of CARICOM Heads discusses situation in Haiti



The Seventh Meeting of the Caribbean Community Lead Heads of Government on Haiti was held today under the chairmanship of His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and Chairman of CARICOM, to consider the situation in Haiti and determine further action in support of a Haitian-led solution to the crisis in that sister CARICOM country.

Heads received a briefing from the CARICOM Eminent Persons Group and acknowledged the important efforts being made to facilitate a

political consensus among stakeholders in Haiti. They also took account of the status of preparations for the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission. Heads acknowledged the role of Jamaica in coordinating the efforts of the Community in this regard, as well as the critical contributions of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Heads remained gravely concerned over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Haiti as the political and security crises persist with the horrendous impacts of this situation on the most vulnerable in Haiti.

They noted that increasing violence had resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and forced hundreds of thousands to flee from their homes.

Heads called on all stakeholders in Haiti to exert every effort to urgently arrive at a political resolution and the implementation of a transitional roadmap towards stability, the facilitation of humanitarian support, the holding of credible elections, the restoration of political and institutional legitimacy, and long-term development for the Haitian people.

The Community remains committed to working with the people and all stakeholders in Haiti towards durable peace and sustainable development. CARICOM looks forward to strengthened collaboration and coordination of efforts with the friends of Haiti and the wider international community in support of Haiti.

JAMAICA INSTALLING NEW KIOSKS AT TWO OF ITS AIRPORTS

Passport Control Systems to Streamline Passenger Flow

MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA, January 10, 2024 – As part of upgrades being made to the island’s airports, Jamaica’s Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA) is installing and testing new kiosks at Montego Bay’s Sangster International Airport and Kingston’s Norman Manley International Airport. These kiosks are automated passport control systems to streamline passenger flow.

“We are very pleased that PICA is installing kiosks at our premier airports in Montego Bay and Kingston, as they will provide additional convenience for stopover visitors by speeding up processing times through the immigration halls,” said the Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism, Jamaica. “This will provide a more seamless airport experience as we progress through our peak winter season, during which we expect to welcome record-breaking arrivals.”

The kiosks, which are a feature at many airports worldwide, use biometric technology to authenticate the identity of passengers. They scan the passenger’s passport and take a photo of the passenger’s face, which is then compared to the digital image stored in the passport’s microchip. These kiosks will serve as an alternative to using desks staffed by immigration officers, thereby allowing passengers to move through passport control more quickly. In addition, they free up immigration officers to concentrate on more critical border security duties.

“The installation of automated kiosks for passport control at our airports is an excellent use of modern technology to improve the overall passenger experience at Jamaica’s airports, which is important as we continue to grow arrivals to the destination,” said Donovan White, Director of Tourism, Jamaica Tourist Board. “Visitors’ first impressions of Jamaica’s overall tourism product take place upon landing, so we are glad to soon be able to enhance them.”

It is anticipated that airline passengers will have access to as many as 100 immigration kiosks before the end of the year.

For more information on Jamaica, visit www.visitjamaica.com.



VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS

China, Finland Held 'Constructive' Talks on Damaged Gas Pipeline



FILE - Chinese President Xi Jinping.

HELSINKI, FINLAND — Finnish President Sauli Niinisto and China's Xi Jinping on Wednesday said their countries held "constructive dialogue" over a Baltic Sea gas pipeline that Finnish authorities believe was damaged by a Chinese vessel, Helsinki said.

Finnish police in late October recovered an anchor believed to have damaged the Balticconnector pipeline between Finland and Estonia on October 8.

They said findings suggested it belonged to the Chinese cargo ship Newnew Polar Bear.

"The presidents noted the - constructive dialogue between the

countries regarding the Balticconnector pipeline incident," a statement from the Finnish presidency said. A Chinese statement about the presidents' video-link meeting made no mention of talks on the damaged pipeline.

Finnish officials said in late October that China was cooperating in its investigation.

The incident came just over a year after underwater explosions struck three of four Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea, cutting off a major supply route to Europe from Russia at a time of heightened tensions between Moscow and the West over the war in

Ukraine.

The cause of that sabotage remains unknown.

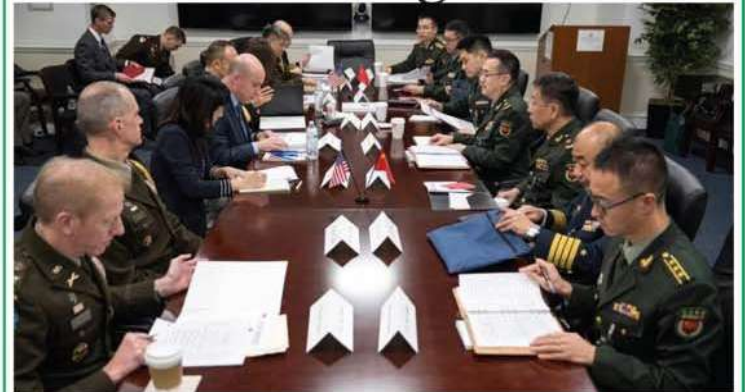
The Finnish operator of Balticconnector said in October it would take at least five months to repair the pipeline, leaving Finland dependent on liquefied natural gas imports for the winter.

Natural gas accounts for around five percent of Finland's energy consumption, being mainly used in industry and combined heat and power production.

In the Finnish statement, Niinisto, whose country joined NATO last year, said he had also raised the issue of the war in Ukraine in his talks with Xi and "stressed the role of China in achieving a just and lasting peace."

In a summary of the meeting on Chinese state television CCTV, Xi said the Asian nation was "firmly pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace."

US, China Conclude Military Talks in Washington



In this photo proved by the Defense Department, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for China, Taiwan and Mongolia Michael Chase hosts delegates from China for the annual U.S.-PRC Defense Policy Coordination Talks at the Pentagon, on Jan. 9, 2024.

WASHINGTON — The United States and China wrapped up two days of military talks in Washington Tuesday, the Pentagon said, the latest engagement since the two countries agreed to resume military-to-military ties.

Washington and Beijing are at loggerheads over everything from the future of democratically ruled Taiwan to territorial claims in the South China Sea. Ties are still recovering after the U.S. downed an alleged Chinese spy balloon in February.

U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed late last year to resume military ties, severed by Beijing after a visit in August 2022 by then-House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan.

The 17th round of the talks saw Michael Chase, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for China, Taiwan, and Mongolia, meet China's Major General Song Yanchao, deputy director of the central military commission office for international military co-operation, the Pentagon said.

"The two sides discussed U.S.-PRC defense relations, and Chase highlighted the importance of maintaining open lines of military-to-military communication in order to prevent competition from veering into conflict," the statement added, using an acronym for the People's Republic of China.

Pentagon officials say communication between the two militaries is key to preventing a miscalculation from spiraling into conflict.

The top U.S. military officer, General Charles Q. Brown, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff held a virtual meeting last month with his Chinese counterpart, General Liu Zhenli.

China is willing to develop healthy and stable military-to-military relations with the U.S. "on the basis of equality and respect," its defense ministry said in a statement Wednesday, citing the meeting.

It urged the U.S. to cut military deployment and "provocative actions" in the South China Sea, as well halt support for such actions by "certain countries," but did not identify them.

It asked the U.S. to abide by the one-China principle and stop arming Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, despite Taiwan's strong objections, and vowed never to compromise on the issue.

"The United States should fully understand the root causes of the maritime and air security issues, strictly restrain its front-line forces, and stop hyping up (the issues)," it added.

Taiwan is holding presidential and parliamentary polls this weekend amid a ramped-up war of words between Taiwan and China.

U.S. officials have cautioned that even with some restoration of military communications, forging truly functional dialog between the two sides could take time.

(Reporting by Idrees Ali and Phil Stewart in Washington, Liz Lee in Beijing; Editing by Clarence Fernandez)

"Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

SPORTS

Athletes kick off season opener in Dag Samuels Development Series

By Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway

TRACK & FIELD

Carifta Games 800m finalist Jonathan Lynch of Fast Lane Track Club, began his 2024 Track and Field season on Saturday at the first Dag Samuels Development Series meet, with a second place 400m finish, behind Talent Ex's Jelani Croal. No times from the opening day competition were available.

Lynch said it was a good day and he felt good about it and can work on improving the time. "I'm looking forward to staying healthy, staying focused as I always tell people to do, listening to your coach and being true to the game," he told Island Sun Sports. "My 800m goal is to shoot for a World Jr. Championship qualifying time (1:51.00). My preparations have been going well. I'm feeling my body getting stronger and stronger and with the work I'm putting in, I should be able to get there."

He added: "Last year taught me that as much as you want it, there's always somebody that wants it more."

U17 Girls Shot Putters Makeda

Christopher and Romeena Davis are finding their footing in the technical event, they're fairly new to. Christopher switched her style of throwing.

"I used to do the glide, now that I'm doing the spin I'm seeing a little improvement," she said. "But more needs to go into the work. I need more practices, more training so that I can get my form right."

On her final throw after a 10.26m heave, Christopher, who had a faulty release because her right hand was in a throwing motion, explained that her hand needed to be going slightly down and to the side. She said the progress she made last year wasn't bad but expects more this year.

"Today I was hoping for an 11 or 12m throw," she said. "I have to correct my form. My leg form my technique, my arms and my legs."

Davis, who threw 10.11m, said it wasn't a good competition for her and felt she could have done better. "Last year, I did better and I know that I can throw further," she said. "Today I had problems with my form—in the front part (of the circle) and my hand. Last year, it wasn't like that. Last year, I was slower in the front and now I'm too quick in the front and I need to slow down some more."

In the off season, she said that she had been working on her technique



U20 Girls running off the curve in the 200m during Saturday's Dag Samuels Development Series opener

which has improved quite a lot since last year. "I wasn't satisfied with my throws today," she said. "I will be looking for something about 11-12m."

Davis, who is now in the third year of her event, said that her aim is to qualify for the Carifta Games in Grenada, over the Easter Weekend.

Their Coach and former national Shot Put record holder, Raphael "Booker" Jack, told Island Sun Sports that he has been working with Davis and Christopher for the last two years. He said that they have improved. Christopher has slimmed down and is now looking like a Shot Putter.

"These girls are going to be alright. They're working hard, but

it's getting the technique right now as they've just started. They've only been out for two years. If they were in it for 3-4 years, they would have been more technical," Jack explained. "We've been doing a lot of exercises for release, where you're pounding the ball into the ground, you're throwing other things. But these girls are young coming up in the sport so they're going to be making mistakes from time to time. But as they progress, I know that they will be good because you can see their technique is coming, from the things I have been putting in in training."

Jack said he was expecting throws over 12m from both girls, but things didn't work out as planned,

so they'll have to return to the drawing board.

"I've been seeing some high 13s from them but I don't really have them throwing the lighter competition implement (3kg), they throw the heavier ball (4kg) in practice," he noted. "When you see they're throwing high 10s and 11s with the heavier ball, it's equivalent to a 14m throw (with the lighter ball). There were just mistakes with the put and we'll have to correct all of that. These girls were on Christmas holidays vacation, so it's just to come back in now and get their groove in. I guarantee that by the next two meets, we'll be at 12, 13m."

L.A. Lakers waive D'Moi Hodge after playing seven NBA games

By Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway

BASKETBALL

D'Moi Hodge, the first BVI basketball player to play in the NBA, was waived by the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday, and is now an unrestricted free agent.

Hodge, 25, a 6'3" guard, was one of two players on two-way contracts who was waived by the club ahead of the weekend deadline. Alex Fudge, a 6'8" forward who like Hodge went undrafted in the April NBA

Draft, and played collegiately at Florida, was also waived.

Hodge, who played locally before moving to Florida, played two seasons with State College of Florida, then two seasons with Cleveland State, before finishing his collegiate career with Missouri, last spring, signed a \$241,000 deal in a two-way contract on July 3 after playing with the Lakers team in the NBA Summer League, and was in the BVI weeks later, where he was honored during a welcoming

ceremony.

In seven NBA games with the Lakers, he averaged 2.0 points in 5.9 minutes, and was also on the Lakers' roster, when they won the inaugural NBA In-Season Tournament in Las Vegas, in early December.

Hodge, who wore No 55, played in 16 games with the L.A. Lakers G-League team the South Bay Lakers, averaging 11.2 points, 3.4 rebounds, 1.2 assists and 1.6 steals in 22.6 minutes. He had 35 points off seven 3-pointers for the South



D'Moi Hodge, left, makes a move past the A's Azim Beazer, during a summer game in his honor, at Save The Seed

Bay Lakers vs Salt Lake City. His best two Summer League games were; 22 points with six 3-pointers and four rebounds

against the Boston Celtics. He had 23 points, including seven treys and three assists, against cross town rivals, LA Clippers.

SPORTS

Dag Samuels Development Series Highlights



U15 Girls competing in the 200m, rounding the curve



Romeena Davis, competing in the U17 Girls Shot Put, releases a best throw of 10.11m



Open Boys 100m starters powering out the blocks



U17 Girls Makeda Christopher, in the process of a 10.26m throw, her best effort of the day

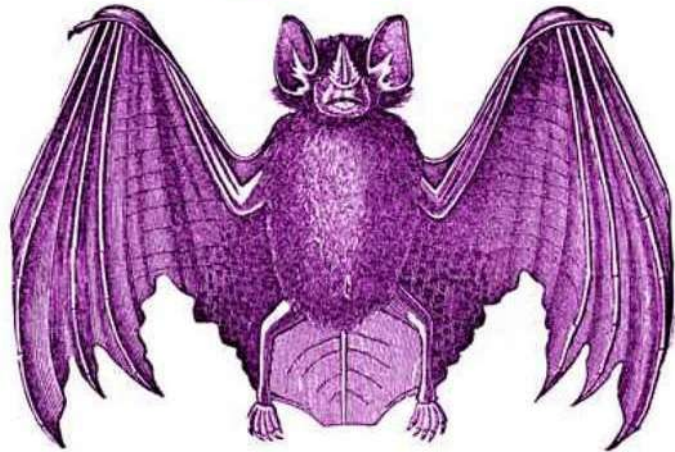


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Bats

These creatures are important to ecosystems in many ways. They are voracious predators of night-flying insects. Many tropical bats pollinate plants and help spread seeds



from the fruit they eat. Bat droppings can be used as fertilizer.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

TOP TEN

Largest U.S. Newspapers*

1. Wall Street Journal
2. New York Times
3. USA Today
4. Washington Post
5. Los Angeles Times
6. New York Post
7. Tampa Bay Times
8. Chicago Tribune
9. Newsday (Long Island)
10. Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

*weekday print circulation

Source: Press Gazette/Alliance for Audited Media

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GRIN and BEAR IT

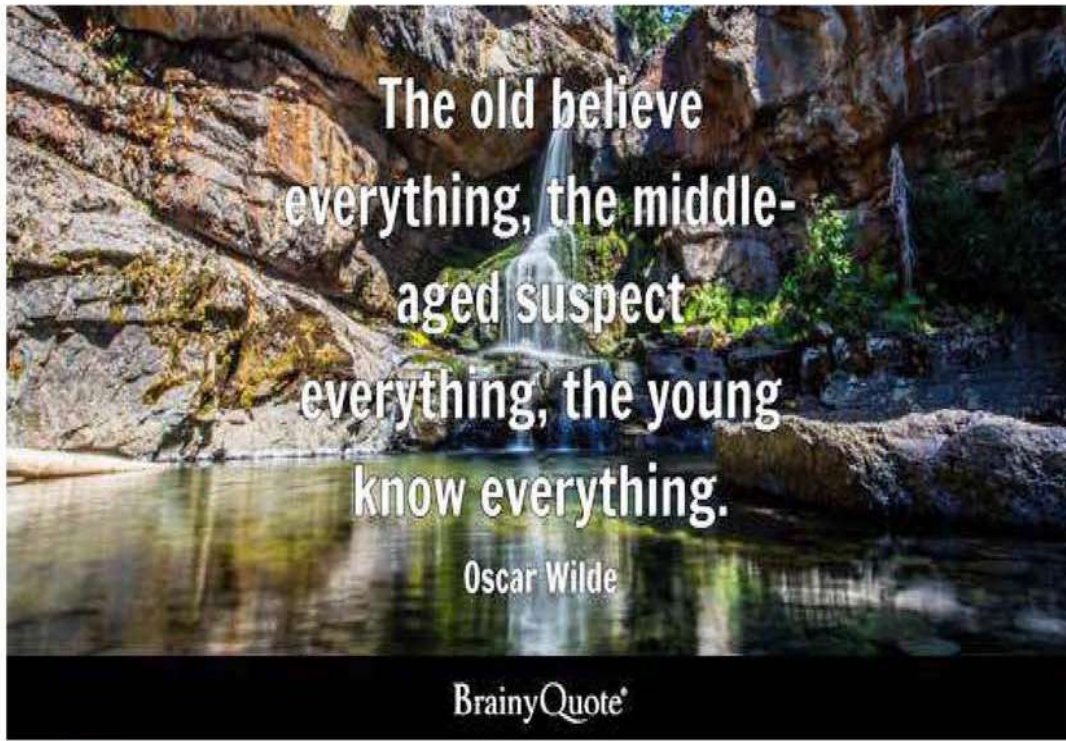


"We're on the intelligence committee, right?"

He that is jealous
is not in love.

Saint Augustine

BrainyQuote®



celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

Q. Who is the actor who plays the arrogant soccer star Jamie Tarrt on "Ted Lasso"? When I first saw him, I thought he had to be one of the DeLuise boys — or a distant cousin. Did he ever play soccer in college or anything? The soccer scenes look so realistic. — *E.D.*

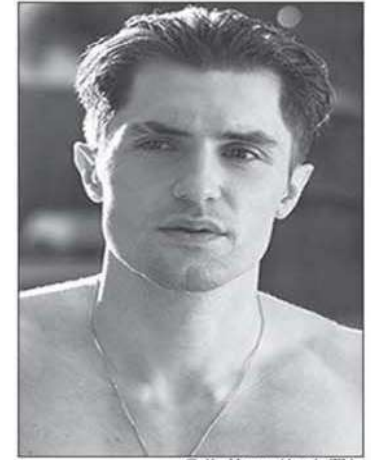
A. Phil Dunster, who plays Jamie Tarrt on the Apple TV+ comedy "Ted Lasso," is a 29-year-old British actor. He's not related to the late, great Dom DeLuise or his offspring, but he's a joy to watch even when he's playing the bad guy.

Dunster's previous roles include playing a count in the Helen Mirren HBO limited series "Catherine the Great" and a colonel in the 2017 Kenneth Branagh film "Murder on the Orient Express." In an interview with AV Club about how they film the professional soccer scenes, Dunster said: "We have a dedicated sports choreography team for the show. We had a dedicated football director on season 2 who has worked a lot with shooting football. ... It takes a lot of time and good editors, which luckily we have, to make me look like Jamie Tarrt."

In addition to being represented in England, Dunster just signed with the American talent agency CAA, so, in my opinion, it's just a matter of time before we start seeing his name above the title at your local cinema. In the meantime, look for season three of "Ted Lasso" on Apple TV+ next summer.

Q. Is the game show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" ever coming back to prime time? I loved the brief run it had last year with host Jimmy Kimmel, although Regis Philbin is my all-time favorite host. — *C.K.*

A. Game shows made a big comeback in prime time during the confining days of the pandemic, but "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," which debuted 21 years ago, hasn't been renewed for another season — yet. Modern versions of classic game shows "The \$100,000 Pyramid," "To Tell the Truth" and "Match Game" provided visual comfort food for nos-



Colin Hutton/Apple TV+

Phil Dunster in "Ted Lasso"

talgia lovers as well as a new generation of fans.

"Deadline" speculates that "Millionaire" could return to ABC in what is called "event programming" and not necessarily a regular fixture in prime time again like it once was when Philbin hosted.

Q. This has been driving me crazy for a while. What is the name of the football drama that lasted just one season because, allegedly, the bigwigs in the NFL disapproved of it. — *G.G.*

A. You're thinking of "Playmakers," an ESPN original drama series that, despite high ratings, was given the ax three months after it premiered in August 2003. It was about a fictional NFL team, but rumor has it that NFL executives didn't like how the players were depicted off the field and wanted to preserve their image. I think the show would have survived had it aired on a different network.

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

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

MATTHEW 14: 25-27

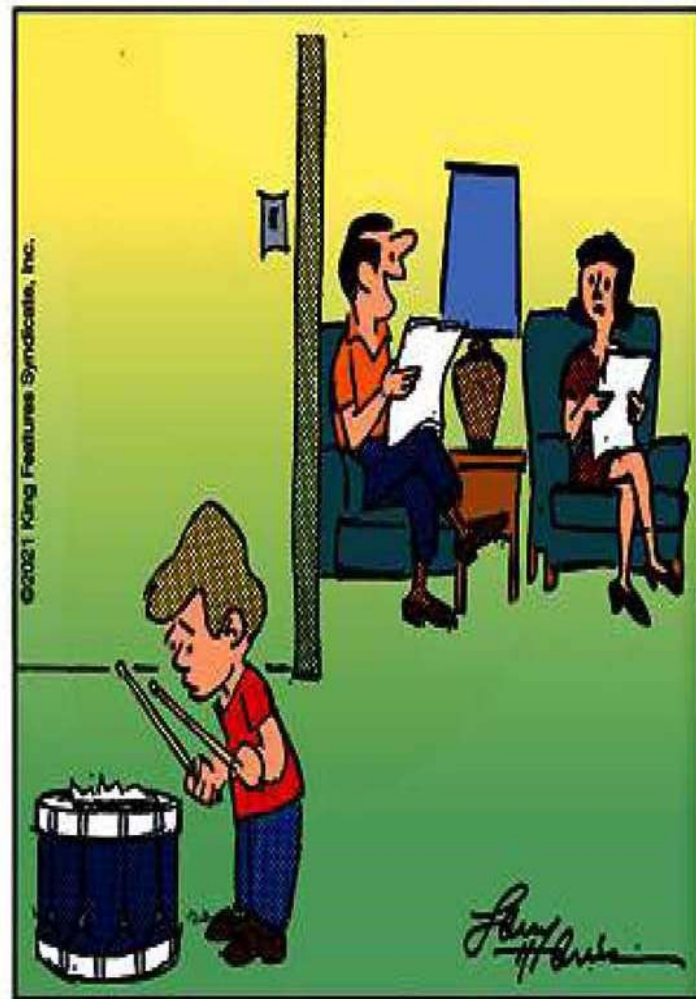
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



"Toys don't last as long as they used to...
thank goodness!"

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- In Italy, pizza inspectors are hired by the government to ensure that restaurants are making their pizza at "Italian quality."

- The cables of the Golden Gate Bridge contain a whopping 80,000 miles of steel wire.

- Ray Bradbury wrote the first draft of "Fahrenheit 451" on coin-operated typewriters in the basement of a library at a cost of 10 cents for every 30 minutes. The first draft cost him a total of \$9.80.

- The straw was invented by Egyptian brewers to taste beer without removing the fermenting ingredients that floated on top of the container.

- James Christopher Harrison is an Australian blood donor whose rare plasma composition has helped in the treatment of Rhesus disease. In May 2018, he made his final donation (1,173rd) at the age of 81 after having saved 2.4 million babies during his lifetime as a donor.

- No, alcohol doesn't kill brain cells — it just makes them grow more slowly.

- In 2009, the Wisconsin Tourism Federation changed its name to the Tourism Federation of Wisconsin because, in the 30 years since its founding, the abbreviation "WTF" took on new meaning.

- Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a Friday the 13th.

- Not that you'd ever want to swim in it, but the average person's body produces enough saliva in their lifetime to fill two swimming pools.

- Plants grow larger and more quickly when watered with warm water.

- In late 2020, a North Korean gymnast defected to South Korea by vaulting himself over the 3-meter-high border barricades without triggering sensors.

- Newborn babies cry, but they have no tears. Their tear ducts aren't formed until they are a month old.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The pitter-patter of all those Sheep feet means that you're out and about, rushing to get more done. That's fine, but slow down by the weekend so you can heed some important advice.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're in charge of your own destiny these days, and, no doubt, you'll have that Bull's-eye of yours right on target. But don't forget to make time for family events.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be prepared for a power struggle that you don't want. Look to the helpful folks around you for advice on how to avoid it without losing the important gains you've made.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Congratulations! You're about to claim your hard-earned reward for your patience and persistence. Now, go out and enjoy some fun and games with friends and family.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat might find it difficult to shake off that listless feeling. But be patient. By week's end, your spirits will perk up and you'll be your perfectly purring self again.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A problem with a co-worker could prove to be a blessing in disguise when a superior steps in to investigate and discovers a situation that could prove helpful to you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) This is a favorable time to move ahead with your plans. Some setbacks are expected, but they're only temporary. Pick up the pace again and stay with it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your creativity is recognized and rewarded. So go ahead and claim what you've earned. Meanwhile, that irksome and mysterious situation soon will be resolved.

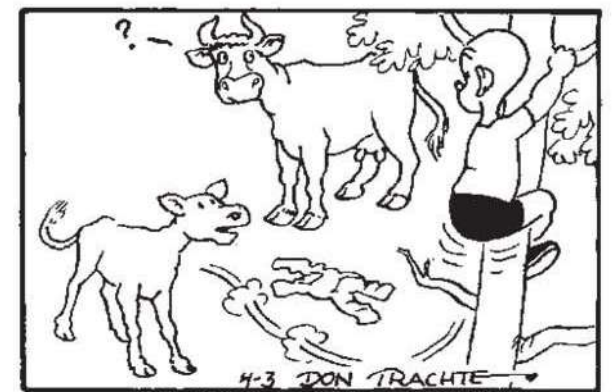
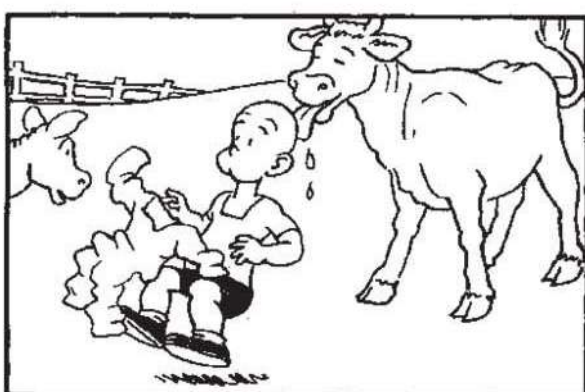
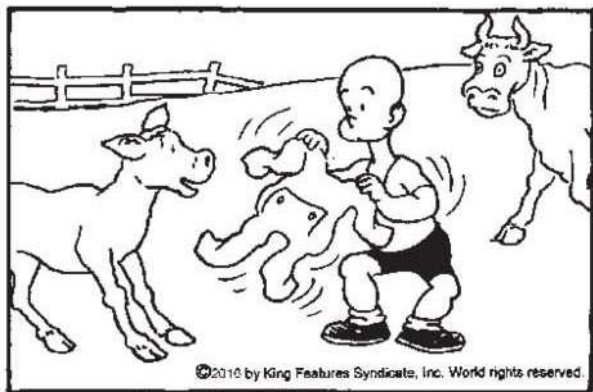
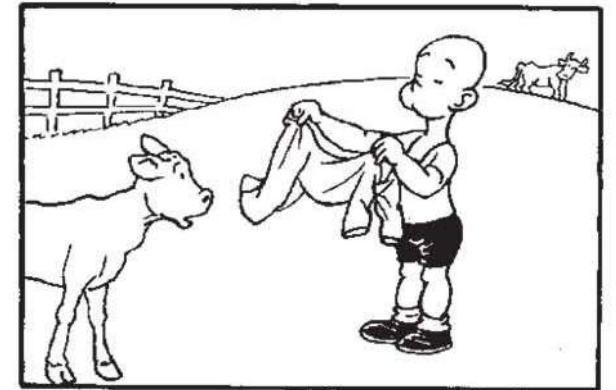
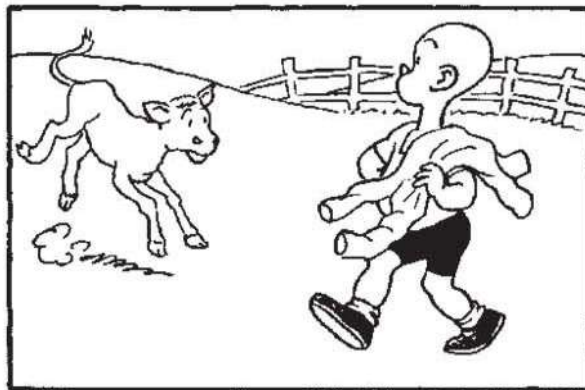
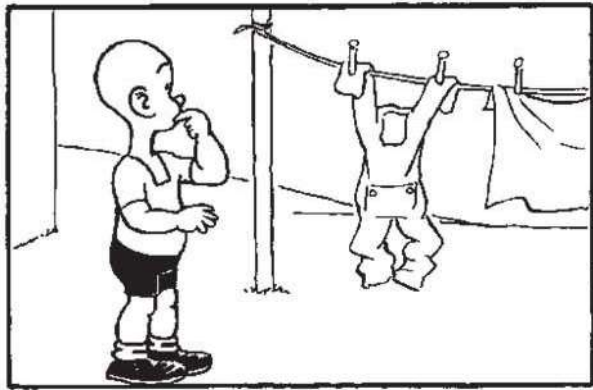
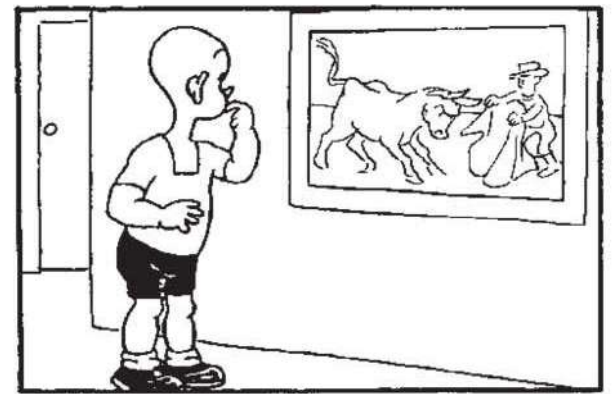
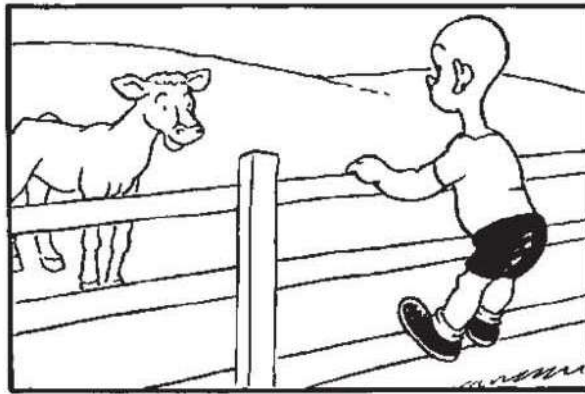
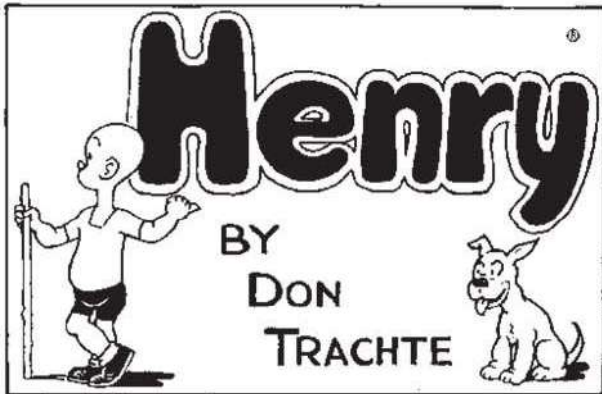
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A new associate brings ideas that the wise Sagittarian quickly will realize can benefit both of you. Meanwhile, someone from the workplace makes an emotional request.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It might be a good idea to ease up on that hectic pace and spend more time studying things you'll need to know when more opportunities come later in November.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A relatively quiet time is now giving way to a period of high activity. Face it with the anticipation that it will bring you some well-deserved boons and benefits.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Go with the flow, or make waves? It's up to you. Either way, you'll get noticed. However, make up your own mind. Don't let anyone tell you what choices to make.

BORN THIS WEEK: You like to examine everything before you agree to accept what you're told. Your need for truth keeps all those around you honest.



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JERRY CRAFT



RALPH GONSALVES EXPLAINS HIMSELF ON GUYANA VENEZUELA MAP

By Sir Ronald Sanders

The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. The views expressed are entirely his own.

The New Year broke over Guyana with Guyanese everywhere deeply worried about the intentions of the Nicolas Maduro government in Venezuela which, through various communiqués and public statements and action, appeared to be gearing up to seize the Essequibo region of Guyana.

A meeting, on December 14, 2023, in which Maduro and Guyana's President, Irfaan Ali, participated in St Vincent, under the auspices of the Prime Minister of that country, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, eased fears of an imminent Venezuelan invasion, but it did not quell the sense of deep disquiet among the Guyanese people.

Into this scenario of anxiety and uncertainty, on Wednesday, January 3, a Venezuelan group posted a photograph on Facebook which was rapidly shared on social media networks. The photograph prompted swift condemnation of Prime Minister Gonsalves from many Guyanese. The picture showed the Prime Minister and his Foreign Minister, Keisal Peters, standing at the two ends of a line with two Venezuelans, who were holding, for the camera in front of them, a papier-mâché map of Venezuela which depicted Essequibo as Venezuelan territory. Behind Gonsalves was a statue of Simon Bolivar.

The photograph was described by the Venezuelans, who posted it, as "Very emblematic image of the PM of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, paying homage to the liberator Simon Bolivar with a map of Venezuela that includes our Essequibo". As happens when emotions are high and anxiety pervasive, none of those who commented on the Facebook post, checked either the age of the photograph or the circumstances in which it was taken.

There appeared to be a general assumption that the photograph was taken after the St Vincent meeting of December 14, which issued "The Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace between Guyana and Venezuela". In this connection, the comments on Facebook and on social media accused Gonsalves of acting in support of the Venezuelans by appearing in the company of Venezuelans with a map, showing Essequibo

as part of Venezuela.

I was never persuaded that the Facebook post and the image it offered of Gonsalves, seeming to endorse Essequibo as a part of Venezuela, represented the truth of the situation. I immediately posted on the Facebook page, the following observation: "I have known and highly regarded Dr Ralph Gonsalves for over 40 years. I cannot be convinced that, when he stood behind the artwork map, showing the Essequibo incorporated into Venezuela, he was made aware of the image being displayed. The Ralph Gonsalves, I know and respect, would not consciously do such a one-sided thing while the world awaits a decision on the Guyana-Venezuela controversy from the International Court of Justice, and while he, himself, is playing the role of CELAC's honest broker".

In order to write this commentary, I called Dr Gonsalves to learn his side of this story. He told me what he subsequently included in a letter to Presidents Ali and Maduro, concerning this incident. He explained that he was not aware of the photograph but confirmed that it was taken at a ceremony commemorating Bolivar in St Vincent on the grounds of the Venezuelan Embassy in December 2022.

He went on to say in his letter, as he had told me: "While the photographs were being taken, I am advised that someone attached to the Venezuelan Embassy placed the "papier-mâché" depiction of the said map in front of us. I did not look at what the depiction was. I assumed that it was about Simon Bolivar."

As all leaders know - politicians and otherwise - persons take photographs in which they appear but have little knowledge of anything or anyone that is not within their vision. Gonsalves was behind the map, and photographs are taken within seconds. That situation could have happened to anyone, and indeed, they frequently do.

He described the incident as "an innocent inadvertence on his part" and he regarded it as "unfortunate" that it "has been used by some to drum up, unnecessarily, antipathy of one kind or another". He also understood "all the emotions attendant on this controversial issue"; and recognized that, as happened on this occasion, "from time to time there will be flare-ups".

Gonsalves then said to both Ali and Maduro, "we as leaders must maintain a patience and a calm knowing that sun brightens stone,



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even as the river burns". For those who do not recognize those words, they are taken from one of the iconic poems of Guyana's Poet Laureate, the late Martin Carter, "Death of a Slave". Dr. Gonsalves went on to urge that "about this matter of the papier-mâché depiction, hopefully it has been laid to rest, where it ought properly to reside among the assorted ghosts from the past, which ought never to rule us from the grave". None should forget that in the long months of 2020 as Guyana's democracy was being sorely tested and the free will of the people, as expressed at the ballot box, was being jeopardised, Ralph Gonsalves stood in solidarity with all the people of Guyana, seeking peace, stability and democratic rights. Like every man, Ralph Gonsalves, is not infallible but one thing is for certain, he is a Caribbean man and, he cares deeply about our one Caribbean region. Undoubtedly, he has a friendship with Maduro, and he is seeking, as best he can, to promote acceptance of a lasting solution to the Guyana-Venezuela controversy. That is Ralph Gonsalves' nature. But he is no enemy of Guyana's, and none should wrongly try to make him so.

He has explained himself fully and satisfactorily. As he has asked, the matter should be laid to rest.

Of the greatest importance now is that Guyana and its CARICOM partners must move forward, focusing on the legal and diplomatic efforts necessary to end the Venezuela controversy.

My Map of Venezuela includes our Essequibo @AntroCanal_2h
#HacetInARo Very emblematic image of the PM of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, paying homage to the Liberator Simon Bolivar with a Map of Venezuela that includes our Essequibo. #21ne 2023 #MiMapa



PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act.
Lubat International Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1814929
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 January 4th, 2024. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**
Dated: January 4th, 2024
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/1]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Companies Act.
MYTHICAL UNICORN LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1874356
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 January 5, 2024.
Dated: January 8, 2024
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/2]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
Wuwei Group (BVI) Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th day of November 2023, under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/3]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
Chunning Holding Co., Ltd

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th day of November 2023, under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/4]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
Taixiang Hengrui Holding Co., Ltd

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th day of November 2023, under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/5]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
Dingsheng Runxin Holding Co., Ltd

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th day of November 2023, under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/6]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
Yuanjuheng Holding Co., Ltd

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th day of November 2023, under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/7]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
Wili Technologies Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th day of November 2023, under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/8]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
Eyelead Technologies Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th day of November 2023, under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/9]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
Breton EV Holdings Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th day of November 2023, under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/10]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
AMH Lianyun Logistics Infrastructure Co., Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th day of November 2023, under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/11]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(NO. 16 OF 2004)
RICH SUCCESS IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 12th day of 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:-
Wayne S. Francis
of c/o Sertus Chambers, P.O. Box 905, Quastisky Building, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands [33/12]

FINAL NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION UNDER THE BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT, 2004
RÍO CAUTÍN INVESTMENT COMPANY LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1560015
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 the 3rd day of January, 2024.
Dated this 3rd day of January, 2024.
(Sgd.) **Ray A. George**
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/13]

Notice of Appointment of a Voluntary Liquidator under Section 204 (1) (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004.
CHELENA INC.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1403228
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204 (1) (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 4th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Ray George of Long Trench, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**
Dated this 4th day of December 2023.
Ray George
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/14]

Notice of Appointment of a Voluntary Liquidator under Section 204 (1) (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004.
SISTER HOLDING LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1966884
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204 (1) (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 6th day of December, 2023. The Liquidator is **Ray George of Long Trench, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**
Dated this 6th day of December 2023
Ray George
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/15]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Companies Act.
MASTERY FUTURE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1965597
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 January 8, 2024.
Dated: January 8, 2024
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/16]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act
POLARIS YACHTING LTD.

(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 480321
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 21st 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 21st December 2023
(Sgd) **Myron Walwyn4**
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/17]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act
SADYAN LTD.

(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 272017
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 4th January 2024. 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 4th January 2024
(Sgd) **Myron Walwyn4**
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/18]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act
SETRAVEX LTD.

(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 109854
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 4th January 2024. 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 4th January 2024
(Sgd) **Myron Walwyn4**
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/19]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Companies Act.
FRELLA GLOBAL LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1683560
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 January 8th, 2024.
Dated: January 9th, 2024
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/20]

PUBLIC NOTICES

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act. Zelda Trading Services Ltd

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1746694
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 January 8th, 2024.
Dated: January 9th, 2024
(Sgd.) *Nelcia St. Jean*
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/21]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act. SERG INVESTMENTS, LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 49790
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 January 8, 2024.
Dated: January 9, 2024
(Sgd.) *Nelcia St. Jean*
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/22]

Real Investment Group Ltd
Company No. 1948258
(in voluntary liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given, in accordance with the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the above named company, is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on December 26th, 2023 and *Paula Ajarie of Lot 24 de Castro Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands VG1110* is the voluntary liquidator.
AVISO é dado por meio dessa, de acordo com a Lei de Sociedades Comerciais das Ilhas Virgens Britânicas de 2004, de que a empresa acima mencionada está em liquidação voluntária. A liquidação voluntária começou em 26 de Dezembro de 2023 e *Paula Ajarie do lote 24 de Castro Street, Road Town, Tortola, Ilhas Virgens Britânicas VG1110* é a liquidante voluntária.

Paula Ajarie
Voluntary Liquidator
Dated: December 26th, 2023
[33/23]

NOTICE BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT Glade Property Holdings Ltd. ("the Company")
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 8th January, 2024; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has been dissolved and struck from the Register.
The Liquidator is:-
Joan Johnson
of Nerine Chambers
P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
Road Town, Tortola
British Virgin Islands [33/24]

NOTICE BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT Gamine (BVI) Limited ("the Company")
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 8th January, 2024; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has been dissolved and struck from the Register.
The Liquidator is:-
Wayne Francis
of Nerine Chambers
P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
Road Town, Tortola
British Virgin Islands
[33/25]

NOTICE BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT METROSCALE LIMITED ("the Company")
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 8th January, 2024; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has been dissolved and struck from the Register.
The Liquidator is:-
Joan Johnson
of Nerine Chambers
P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
Road Town, Tortola
British Virgin Islands
[33/26]

Schulze Global Korea Debt Partners I, L.P.
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
LP No. 1049
(the "Partnership")

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Section 105 of the Partnership Act 1996 that the above mentioned partnership is in dissolution as of January 9, 2024.
Mr. Ryan Geluk of BDO Limited, Sea Meadow House, Tobacco Wharf, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, has been appointed liquidator.
Ryan Geluk
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/27]

Partnership Act, 1996 Advertisement of Liquidator's Appointment Section 105 Schulze Global Korea GP, L.P.
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
LP No. 1045
(the "Partnership")

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Section 105 of the Partnership Act 1996 that the above mentioned partnership is in dissolution as of January 9, 2024.
Mr. Ryan Geluk of BDO Limited, Sea Meadow House, Tobacco Wharf, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, has been appointed liquidator.
Ryan Geluk
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/28]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act FIRESIDE HOLDINGS LIMITED
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 305078

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 9th January 2024. 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 9th day of January 2024
(Sgd.) *Myron Walwyn*
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/29]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act ISAFRA HOLDINGS CORP.
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 1501456

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 9th January 2024. 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 9th day of January 2024
(Sgd.) *Myron Walwyn*
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/30]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 DTC Investments (BVI) Ltd
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1519272

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 9th January, 2024. The Liquidator is *Cassandra Glasgow-Penn of Chapel Hill, East End, Tortola, BVI VG1120.*
Dated this 10th January, 2024.
Sgd. Cassandra Glasgow-Penn
Liquidator
[33/31]

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 CAPITAL TODAY HOLDINGS LIMITED
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 655457

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 10th January, 2024.
Dated: 10th day of January 2024
(Sgd.) *Philippa O'Sullivan*
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/32]

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Virgin Islands

Probate No. BVIHPB2024/0008

In the Estate of ANDREAS KELLER also known as KELLER, ANDREAS ALFONS late of 9402 Mörschwil, Huebstr. 36, Switzerland, deceased.

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by *WERNER RECHSTEINER* of Unterer Graben 1, 9001 St. Gallen, Switzerland, for a Grant of Probate of the will of the above named deceased who died on the 9th day of January 2023 wherein the applicant is the named sole executor

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

Dated this 8th day of January 2024.

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

171 Main Street
Road Town, Tortola
British Virgin Islands, VG 1110
[34]

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

BVIHPB2024/0003

IN THE ESTATE OF LYDIA HODGE-PICKERING ALSO KNOWN AS LYDIA PICKERING, LATE OF FORT HILL, TORTOLA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, DECEASED

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by *Francois Felesque Smith* of Tortola, British Virgin Islands and Atlanta, Georgia in the United States of America for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named deceased who died on the 25th day of November 2023 without revoking a Will bearing the date of the 3rd day of April 2023 wherein the applicant is named as Executor.

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

Dated this 2nd day of January 2024.

Sabals Law, Solicitors for the Executor whose address for service is 87 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Abbott Building, Waterfront Drive, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

[34]

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

BVIHPB 2024/

**IN THE ESTATE OF LEELA WATHY DABIE PERSAD
(also known as LEELAWATHYDABIE MAHARAJ, LEELA
WATHY DABIE MAHARAJ and LEELA MAHARAJ) late
of Corner Belle Vue Road and Calvary Hill, Arima, Trinidad,
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, deceased**

ADVERTISEMENT (RESEALING)

Notice is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the probate of LEELA WATHY DABIE PERSAD (also known as LEELAWATHY DABIE MAHARAJ, LEELA WATHY DABIE MAHARAJ, and LEELA MAHARAJ) late of Corner Belle Vue Road and Calvary Hill, Arima, Trinidad, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago granted by the High Court of Justice of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at Hall of Justice, Knox Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on the 21st day of July, 2023.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2024.

Signed: VIGILATE LAW,
Legal Practitioners for the Executor, whose address for service is at
C/o VIGILATE LAW, Chevelle Centre, Middle Floor, Unit #2, Main
Street, Road Town, Tortola, Virgin Islands.

[33]

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

**In The Estate of LI WAH FAI late of Flat C, 27/Floor,
Block 1, Clovelly Court, No. 12 May 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 letters of administration of the estate of LI WAH FAI late of Flat C, 27/Floor, Block 1, Clovelly Court, No. 12 May Road, Hong Kong granted by the High Court of The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Court of First Instance on 25th day of July 2023.

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

[34]

*Notice of Appointment of a
Liquidator under Section 204 of the
BVI Business Company Act.
Vicemi 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 January 2nd, 2024. The Joint Liquidators are Michele Hibbert with address at Sea Cow's Bay, Tortola, British Virgin Islands and Saajid Jasat Bhana with address at Obarrío, Calle 59, Casa 5, Apartado 0816-04554 Ciudad de Panamá, República de Panamá. Dated: January 2nd, 2024. (Sgd.) Michele Hibbert and Saajid Jasat Bhana Joint Voluntary Liquidators [33/33]

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

(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 January 5th, 2024. The Joint Liquidators are Michele Hibbert with address at Sea Cow's Bay, Tortola, British Virgin Islands and Saajid Jasat Bhana with address at Obarrío, Calle 59, Casa 5, Apartado 0816-04554 Ciudad de Panamá, República de Panamá. Dated: January 5th, 2024. (Sgd.) Michele Hibbert and Saajid Jasat Bhana Joint Voluntary Liquidators [33/34]

**BonRock Investments
Limited**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 2061958
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 10th day of January, 2024. The Liquidator is Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Dated this 11th day of January, 2024
Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/35]

**Jacob Angel Investments
Limited**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number 2061960
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 10th day of January, 2024. The Liquidator is Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Dated this 11th day of January, 2024
Sgd. Brian Jackson
Voluntary Liquidator
[33/36]

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
VIRGIN ISLANDS**

BVIHPB2024/0010

**In the estate of CARLOS MONTEALEGRE QUIRÓS late of
5th Floor, Linda Vista Building, San Jose, Escazu, San Rafael,
Costa Rica, deceased**

TAKE NOTICE that XIMENA MONTEALEGRE SOLER, of 5th Floor, Linda Vista Building, San Jose, Escazu, San Rafael, Costa Rica, the substitute executrix named in the Last Will and Testament (the Will) of CARLOS MONTEALEGRE QUIRÓS, deceased who died on the 1st day of March, 2022, domiciled in Costa Rica (the Deceased), has applied to the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in the Probate Division for Probate of the Will bearing the date 4 December 2012.

ANY PERSON having an objection to the Grant of Probate to the said XIMENA MONTEALEGRE SOLER, shall within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this Notice lodge with the Registry of the High Court in the Territory of the Virgin Islands a proper document setting out the said objections.



Filed by O'Neal Webster, Attorneys-at-Law for the Executrix, whose address for service is 2nd Floor Commerce House, 181 Main Street, P.O. Box 961, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands VG 1110.
[34]

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

PROBATE NO. BVIHPB2023/0283

**IN THE ESTATE OF JULIO HOTH Y ALATRISTE, LATE
OF CERRADA COLORINES 95, JARDINES DEL PEDREGAL,
ALVARO, OBREGON, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO,
DECEASED,**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF
PROBATE**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by MARIO LAZCANO TORRES of Calzada del hueso No 39, Colonia Ex Ejido Santa Ursula, Coapa 04650 Ciudad de México, Mexico, for a Grant of Probate of Will of the above-named deceased who died on the 29th day of December 2020 without revoking a will bearing the date of 18th December 2020, wherein the applicant is named as the executor.

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

Dated this 8th day of January 2024.

Filed by: Sinclairs (BVI), 2nd Floor, Unit 20, Mill Mall, Road Town Tortola, British Virgin Islands
Legal Practitioner for the Applicant for Grant of Probate

[34]

PUBLIC NOTICES

KW Angel Investments Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 2061959

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 10th day of January, 2024. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated this 11th day of January, 2024
Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson

Voluntary Liquidator [33/37]

LZD Angel Investments Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 2061961

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 10th day of January, 2024. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated this 11th day of January, 2024
Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson

Voluntary Liquidator [33/38]

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

GOOD LUCK STUDIO LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 2023612

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

Dated: 28th November 2023.

(Sgd.) Philippa O'Sullivan

Voluntary Liquidator [33/39]

NOTICE
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
SOMA BAYVIEW HOLDINGS INC.
("the Company")

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 11th January, 2024; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has been dissolved and struck from the Register. The Liquidator is:-

Joan Johnson

Nerine Chambers
P.O. Box 905
Quastisky Building, Road Town
Tortola VG 1110
British Virgin Islands

[33/40]

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
VIRGIN ISLANDS**

In the Estate of Ng, Ka Ying (吳家英) late of No. 9 Braga Circuit,
Homantin, Kowloon, Hong Kong, Deceased

FORM 16: ADVERTISEMENT (RESEALING)

Notice is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the probate of Ng, Ka Ying (吳家英) late of No. 9 Braga Circuit, Homantin, Kowloon, Hong Kong, deceased, granted by the High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Court of First Instance on the 8th day of December 2023.

Filed by **Conyers Dill and Pearman**, Solicitors for the Applicant, Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1, P.O. Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands VG1110. Tel: 1 (284) 852 1000 Fax: 1 (284) 1001 Email: Anna.Lin@conyers.com, Allana-Joseph@conyers.com

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Parents! Teach your child the **PANTS RULE!**
Talk Pants and you've got it covered!



Private parts are private.
Nobody is permitted to touch it



Always remember
your body is yours and yours only.



No means no.
Never yield to pressure.



Talk about secrets that upset you.



Say something and speak up!
Someone can help.



**DONATE
BLOOD
SAVE A
LIFE**



Every drop counts! One donation of blood can save up to 3 lives. Join the millions of people across the globe who have become donors. To register as a donor visit redcross.vg/how-we-help/giveblood and or scan the QR below.



BVI RED CROSS

284-494-6349

1 First

Bank

This notice is being given in accordance with Section 6 (3) of the Dormant Accounts Act, 2011.

1. The name of the institution is FirstBank Puerto Rico with office located at 15 Wickham's Cay, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, VG1110.
2. FirstBank Puerto Rico holds dormant accounts in respect of the listed persons below. If a transaction or activity is not effected in respect of the dormant account by the account holder not later than three months from the date of the notice, the moneys in the account shall be transferred to the Dormant Account Fund with the Government of the British Virgin Islands, without further notice to the account holder.
3. Any interested person should contact the institution to prove ownership of the account.
4. The account holder is entitled, subject to this Act, to claim repayment of the moneys in the dormant accounts from FirstBank Puerto Rico, subject to any lawful charges agreed to by the dormant account holder and the bank and any additional information that may be prescribed by the Minister of finance, British Virgin Islands Government.

Dated: January 09, 2024


Amory Jervis
VP/BVI Market Manager

728 ELIHU RUDOLPH-RYMER	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	748.00
728 PHYLLIS GEORGE	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	131.27
728 WILMOTH CORNELIUS	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	1.50
728 MARK VANTERPOOL	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	90.35
728 RHONDA L WILLIAMS	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	308.21
728 CLAUDIUS WHEATLEY	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	343.09
728 RICARDO SAMUEL LEONARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	1,057.01
728 TED THOMAS	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	230.40
728 ULEARY G DONOVAN	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	394.58
728 MAURICE A DONOVAN-JR	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	593.68
728 SHIRLEY A HODGE-LEWIS	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	838.42
728 VALDA LEWELLYN	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	0.78
728 MELVA V HODGE	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	3,720.50
728 GAVIN TURNBULL	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	224.00
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	969.23
JOHN W CULLIMORE	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	200.00

Wickham's Cay 1 Road Town
Tortola, British Virgin Islands
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PEDR DAVILA CARRASQUILLO	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	20,000.00
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	87.40
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	969.23
HAMILTON TRUST & MANAGEMENT CO LTD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	50.26
SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	969.23
DAVID DIXON	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	550.00
BCI SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	969.23
BANCO POPULAR	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	3,880.74
SHARLENE K SMITH	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	100.00
B.V.I. SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	354.99
JACQUELINE THOMAS	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	20.00
DERRICK MARTIN	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	67.50
SOCIAL SECURITY	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	969.23
BVI SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	235.08
BVI SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	969.23
LARIISA A. MAPP	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	15.00
QUINCY LETTSOME	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$	100.00

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Tortola, British Virgin Islands
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VICTOR F CASEY	GEN DELY RD TOWN TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$	792.06
MICHAEL J SMITH	PO BOX 11156 ST THOMAS VI 00801-0000	Checking Account	\$	312.05
MONROE W THOMAS	PO BOX 3396 RD TOWN TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$	358.80
CHRISTALIA E LEONARD	CARROT BAY TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$	987.32
FLORENTINE GEORGE	LONG LOOK TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$	1,448.83
ANEGADA SENIOR CITIZENS BUS DRIVE	P O BOX 2709 THE SETTLEMENT ANEGADA BVI VG1140	Checking Account	\$	3,125.05
BINNY SEBASTIAN	VADAKKALAVIL VELLASSERY, KADUTHURUTHY KOTTAYAM KERALA 686604	Checking Account	\$	4,800.77
ANNIGATHA LOUTARY	GENERAL DELIVERY VALLEY VIRGIN GORDA BVI VG1150	Checking Account	\$	236.95
728 DEON VANTERPOOL	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	564.15
728 RAWLE R HANNIBAL	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	497.74
728 JOHN FORBES	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	12,046.69
728 DAVE B SMITH	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	811.27
728 MONICA RAMGEET	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	975.77
728 AVONICE PEMBERTON	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	75.22
728 KAREEM A MALONE	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	413.84
728 CLAUDE O CLINE	NOT AVAILABLE	Bk Cks Escrow Acct.	\$	581.04

Wickham's Cay 1 Road Town
Tortola, British Virgin Islands
Telephone: (284) 494-2662

1 First

Bank

1 First Bank

NOTICE REGARDING DORMANT ACCOUNTS

This notice is being given in accordance with Section 6 (3) of the Dormant Accounts Act, 2011.

1. The name of the institution is FirstBank Puerto Rico with office located at 15 Wickham's Cay, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, VG1110.
2. FirstBank Puerto Rico holds dormant accounts in respect of the listed persons below. If a transaction or activity is not effected in respect of the dormant account by the account holder not later than three months from the date of the notice, the moneys in the account shall be transferred to the Dormant Account Fund with the Government of the British Virgin Islands, without further notice to the account holder.
3. Any interested person should contact the institution to prove ownership of the account.
4. The account holder is entitled, subject to this Act, to claim repayment of the moneys in the dormant accounts from FirstBank Puerto Rico, subject to any lawful charges agreed to by the dormant account holder and the bank and any additional information that may be prescribed by the Minister of finance, British Virgin Islands Government.

Dated: January 09, 2024


Amory Jervis
VP/BVI Market Manager

Wickham's Cay | Road Town
Tortola, British Virgin Islands
Telephone: (284) 494-2662

NAME OF ACCOUNT HOLDER	ADDRESS OF NOTICE	Column1	AMOUNT
DIRK J DE-JONG	APARTADO 0413-00017 BOQUETE CHIRIQUI REP OF PANAMA	Checking Account	\$ 143.11
MARK WEHRLY	PO BOX 8309 ST JOHN VI 00831-8309	Checking Account	\$ 8,268.53
ERICA N MANDRYKO	89 FREESTONE WAY CORSHAM WILTSHIRE SN139EE	Checking Account	\$ 13,177.44
JOHN C JOHNSTON	10 CAMPANELLA CT HANAHAN SC 29410-8606	Checking Account	\$ 445.00
DPTO OF EDUCATION CULTURE	RD TOWN TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$ 434.95
DORIS L RODRIGUEZ	THE SETTLEMENT ANEGADA BVI	Checking Account	\$ 14,080.81
MARGERITA BLYDEN	OLD PLANTATION TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$ 401.26
MARGERITA BLYDEN	OLD PLANTATION TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$ 587.65
EUNICIA BAPTISTE	THE VALLEY VIRGIN GORDA BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	Checking Account	\$ 15,745.58
OGAN BARONVILLE	PO BOX 3086 TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$ 1,083.93
GLENN J CALLWOOD	PO BOX 3223 RD TOWN TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$ 650.86
HEIRS OF HR PENN	PO BOX 15 RD TOWN TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$ 10,441.98
KHAJARI K DAWSON	PO BOX 2809 EAST END TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$ 754.11
ALPHONSE E THOMAS	GEN DELY EAST END ST THOMAS VI 008001-0000	Checking Account	\$ 584.59
ARNO C DE-FREITAS	PO BOX 706 RD TOWN TORTOLA BVI	Checking Account	\$ 658.16

Wickham's Cay | Road Town
Tortola, British Virgin Islands
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JAMAICA HIGH COMMISSION	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$ 10.00
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$ 50.00
BVI SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$ 969.23
ELVIN R STOUT JR.	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$ 50.00
VICENT OSBORNE	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$ 3.00
REGISTRAR GENERAL	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$ 3.00
CABLE AND WIRELESS (BVI) LIMITED	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$ 348.45
LOUIS POTTER	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$ 600.00
LOUIS POTTER	NOT AVAILABLE	Mger Ck - Rd Twn, Tortola	\$ 600.00
728 JACKY E SMALL	NOT AVAILABLE	Proof & Transit - Xmas Club	\$ 184.00
728 JACKY E SMALL	NOT AVAILABLE	Proof & Transit - Xmas Club	\$ 183.00
728 REYNALDO E NISBETT-FAULKNER	NOT AVAILABLE	Proof & Transit - Xmas Club	\$ 75.00
728 RAHIM A THOMAS	NOT AVAILABLE	Proof & Transit - Xmas Club	\$ 183.00
728 BEVERLY BROWN	NOT AVAILABLE	Proof & Transit - Xmas Club	\$ 43.00
728 REGINALD E WYNTER	NOT AVAILABLE	Proof & Transit - Xmas Club	\$ 70.00
728 CARMENCITA A BREWLEY	NOT AVAILABLE	Proof & Transit - Xmas Club	\$ 20.00
731 FRANCES K CHARLES	NOT AVAILABLE	Proof & Transit - Xmas Club	\$ 20.00

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731 EITHAN G DAVIS	NOT AVAILABLE	Proof & Transit - Xmas Club	\$ 250.00
731 YVETTE B FAULKNER	NOT AVAILABLE	Savings CD	\$ 0.05
731 YVETTE B FAULKNER	NOT AVAILABLE	Savings CD	\$ 0.09

OneMart's Christmas Campaign Delivered Exactly What Customers Wanted

OneMart's management, led by Mr. Mark Vanterpool, embarked on a mission during the Christmas season to fulfill the desires of their customers. Charged with this mission, the marketing team crafted a campaign based on the feedback received from BVI residents.

The Christmas campaign garnered significant attention with an array of enticing prizes totaling over \$60,000, which included grocery vouchers, a year's supply of groceries, a washer and dryer set, a furniture set, and two new cars. Shoppers eagerly participated by submitting their receipts in entry boxes at various locations, while online users engaged in the 12 days of Christmas giveaways on social media.

"I wanted to contribute more to the people of the BVI and our loyal customers, so we decided to start by directly asking them what they needed and build our Christmas campaign around their feedback. After receiving responses from over 400 residents, we worked tirelessly to create an exciting Christmas promotion that both the community and our shoppers could benefit from. I am pleased with the results, and I am genuinely happy that we were able to provide our shoppers with exactly what they wanted during the Christmas season. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead continuing to serve our customers," expressed Mr. Mark Vanterpool, President, and CEO of OneMart.

Remaining true to its slogan, "The People's Store," OneMart consistently demonstrates its commitment to the community through sponsorships and promotions that give back to customers year-round. The management is eagerly anticipating the New Year, poised to strengthen their dedication to shoppers and provide exactly what the people of the BVI need.



Alex Dick-Read

Winner of 2024 Hyundai i10
OneMart 2023 Christmas Campaign



Phoebe Murrell

Winner of a \$5,000 year supply of groceries



Benroy Brown

Winner of 2024 Hyundai i10
OneMart 2023 Christmas Campaign

CONTINUE TO PAGE 40

THE ISLAND SUN CLASSIFIED ADS



Alphonso Gas Station Limited for A Driver with:
 Proven experience as a Driver
 A valid driver's license no less than 5 years
 Must be a non smoker
 A clean driving record
 Visual acuity
 Ability to lift heavy weight
 Availability to occasionally work weekends and holidays
 A polite and professional disposition

Alphonso Gas Station Limited for: 1 Cashier
 High school diploma or equivalent desired
 Have keen attention to details
 Effective communication and customer service skills
 Readily adjusts schedule, tasks, and priorities when necessary to meet business needs

Collects payments by accepting cash, check, or charge payments from customers and makes change for cash customers.
 Balances cash drawer by counting cash at beginning and end of work shift.
 2 Pump Attendants

Friendly and positive attitude
 Excellent customer service
 Excellent communication skills
 Basic math skills
 Attention to detail

Contact Mr. Martin "Tony" Alphonso at Alphonso Enterprise Ltd via telephone 284-394-8746/284-340-2443 and /or email alphonso_ent@email.com
 [s34]

Qualified Delivery Man/ Handyman is needed at Sunrise Bakery. Apply in person or call 340 4569 or 494 9181. BVI Islanders/ Belongers preferred.
 [s34]

Flax Ground Up Construction is currently seeking:
 Electricians
 Plumbers
 Carpenters
 Masons
 Laborers
 Interested persons should call Sandy Flax 341-5447
 [s34]

P R A N A - H E A L T H LIMITED needs SPA THERAPIST full time with relevant spa certification and 3years work experience.
 Contact 346-3604 info@spabvi.com [s34]

Ethaen's Farm is seeking a full-time Kitchen Helper. Must have a driver's license and a car. Send Resume to sherrinea@hotmail.com or Telephone 441-0407 for more information. [s34]

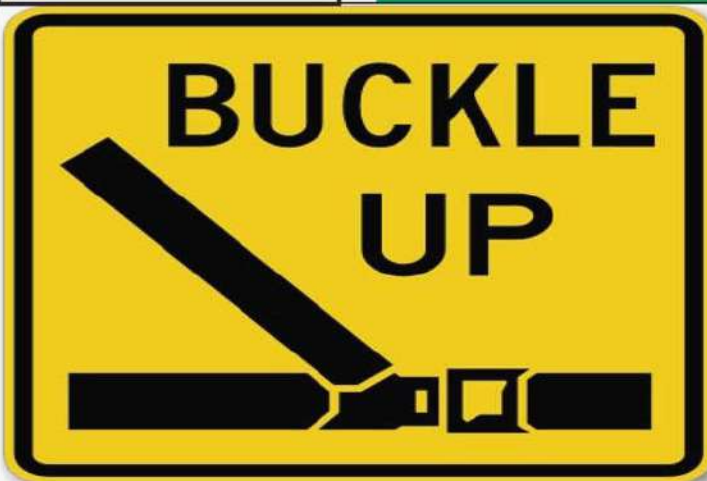
G L O W - H A I R - C A R E - B E A U T Y - S A L O N - requires one full time -- HAIRSTYLIST.
 Telephone 342-7729
 [s34]

THE WORLD OF SPICES needs one FEMALE--must be honest and friendly and be able to work full time as SALES CLERK/ CASHIER. and one MALE to work as GENERAL-HELPER/DRIVER, must have at least two years experience.
 Telephone 343-9663
 [s34]

ZULEIKA BAR requires fulltime:
 COOKS
 BARTENDERS
 WAITRESSES
 KITCHEN HELPER
 HANDYMAN.
 Please call 542 -1577 for more information [s34]

DARIO JERK CENTRE requires - full - time KITCHEN ASSISTANT
 Telephone-543-1691
 [s34]

**MORE READERS:
 THE ISLAND SUN**



Position:

Executive Assistant to the Managing Director

Company: MWM Global Holdings

Seeking a dynamic and proactive individual to support the MD. Candidate must be highly organized, detail-oriented, and capable of managing multiple priorities in a fast-paced environment. Will play a key role in supporting the managing director across the various companies under his authority.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Acting as a liaison and supporting MD with various companies under MWM Global Holdings
- Manage and support MD with all administrative functions (meetings, schedules, travel etc.)
- Prepare and edit correspondence, communications, and presentations
- Conduct research and compile data while preparing reports and documents
- Liaise with internal staff at all levels and external contacts
- Assist with a wide range of functions across different entities

Qualification Requirements:

- Proven experience as an executive assistant or similar administrative role
- Knowledge of all or some of the following in a supportive role will be an asset
 Compliance, Finance, Wealth Management, Small Business, HR, Legal, Trust
- Excellent organizational and time management skills
- Minimum 5 years high profile customer service experience
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Proficiency in MS Office and Excel
- High level of integrity and professionalism
- Ability to work independently and proactively
- Associate Degree or higher in Business
- Diploma or similar in General Management and HR

Please email resumé to lleung@mwmglobalhld.com. Closing date is January 30th 2024. BVI Belongers Preferred
 [s34]

**OUR CLASSIFIED ADS
 PRODUCE RESULTS**

Whether on line or on our FREE DIGITAL edition you will **GET GREAT RESULTS at a LOW COST.**

Offices: 123 - MAIN STREET,
 Road Town, Tortola

TEL: (284) 494-2476

E-mail: islandsun@surfbvi.com

islandsunnewsp@gmail.com

THE ISLAND SUN CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR BEST RESULTS

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. 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

Job Description: VG Asian Mart is seeking full-time positions for the General Manager (1), Supervisor (1), and Cashier (1) for a new mini mart in Valley, Virgin Gorda to retail Asian food products.

Applicants must have at least 5 years experience in the retail/supermarket business, be a team player and an independent thinker, able to work with minimal supervision, competent in QuickBooks software and Point-of-Sale systems, High School Certificate minimum, and willing to work on holidays and weekends.

BVI Islanders and Belongers preferred. Interested persons should send resume and work history via email to: VGASIANMART@GMAIL.COM or WhatsApp Message ONLY (284) 542-5246 for more information. [s34]

TMT - CLEANING SERVICES needs one full time CLEANER. Telephone 545-5620 [s34]

Nexgen Yachting LTD has an openings for Yacht Captain (Belonger Preferred or current work permit), Chef, 1st Mate, and Stew on the following yachts: 2024 Sunreef 80 Halcyon, 2024 Sunreef 60 VIVI, 2022 Fontaine Pajot 67 Inspirante, 2024 Bali 5.4 Motek, 2024 Bali 5.4 Epiphany, 2017 Sunreef 60, Adea. We offer excellent compensation along with outstanding gratuity opportunities. All of our yachts are fully crewed with a captain, chef, & some with stew. Must have RYA yacht master or equivalent with at least 3 years of yacht charter captain experience. Please submit CV's to tracey@nexgenyachting.com [s34]

D'COMFORT ZONE NIGHT CLUB & BAR needs three full time BARTENDERS/WAITRESSES. Must be experienced.-Telephone 547-4394 - or email mrcoolshell43@gmail.com [s33]

**CLASSIFIEDS
WORK
WONDERS**

TowerLink-Management, is a Small Management Consulting and Administration firm, seeking to employ the following professionals, Client Accounting Manager and Client Account Manager. Applicant must be an ambitious and dedicated individual to fill this vacancy.-Must possess professional-qualifications such as Bachelor of Science in Accounting or similar in Management Administration with at least 8 - 10 years' experience and knowledge of financial management and the ability to interpret financial statements; accounts receivable and collection reporting. The ability to work to meet deadlines, management client portfolios and other client work; Good communication and writing skills; bilingual in English and Spanish will be a plus. Further, the person must be a team player and willing to cross train on the job. The individual must be efficient in opening bank accounts and have worked in back-office support environment previously, with a firm understanding of compliance administration. Applicants must be well organized and methodical, with the ability to work unsupervised. Good working knowledge of the Internet, Microsoft Outlook, and other software such as QuickBooks. Quick learner and ability to retain information. Please apply in writing to: info@lyntonspencer.com; tel: 1-284-542-8081. [s33]

KLEEN TO DE TEE LIMITED needs one full time CLEANING TECHNICIAN. Telephone 340-9366 for more information [s33]

Morrell & Company Ltd

Is seeking a dynamic individual to fill the post of Customer Service associate in our retail outlet. Applicant must have exceptional customer service and selling skills with an uncompromised level of business ethics and integrity. Responsibilities includes but is not limited to assisting with maintenance of stock levels; ordering, receiving, and stocking shelves & coolers, cashing, monitoring activities within the store, offering customer assistance, keeping the store tidy and other incidentals. Applicants must be able to always demonstrate exceptional customer service and selling skills ethics and integrity. Be able to lift and carry 50lbs, must be acquainted with POS systems, working knowledge of MS Office, must smile habitually. CV accepted via e-mails only to neliag@ticobvi.com Tel: 494-2211. [s33]

The Anegada Reef Hotel is seeking the following positions:- Waitresses, Bartenders, - Chefs, Groundsmen, - Office-Assistant. Please-forward resumes to Lorraine@anegadareef.com. Please call (284)495-8002 for further details. [s33]

QUAMI SEWING DESIGN LIMITED is seeking : Full Time Tailors and Seamstress. Persons must have at least 5 years experience. Please call 494-7856/543- [s33]

Bamboushay - Lounge and Restaurant is hereby seeking to employed a Full Time Bartender/ Waitress with at least five years experience Applicant will have to work weekends and Holidays. Please send resume to info@bamboushaylounge.com [s33]

DYNOSTIC CLEANING SERVICES needs one full time CLEANER. Telephone 441-1259-for-more information [s34]

MB'S ICE is seeking a Full Time Production Associate to work at our location in Huntums Ghut. Please call 284-543-9651 for details. [s33]

BLOSSOMS FLORIST Vacancy for a delivery person male preferred, must have a good knowledge of the BVI and possess a valid driver's license Nonsmoker need only apply call 4992142 for more information.[s33]

EKW Nursery is currently seeking two (2) full time Farmers to work land space in Huntums Ghut area. Please call 284-543-9651 [s34]

180 FITNESS located in 2985 Kingstown, Tortola requires ONE FULL TIME GYM ASSISTANT to assist with the upkeeping, maintenance and cleaning of the gym. Telephone 284-441-3688 [s34]

ISLAND DEPARTMENT STORE

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





**APPLIANCES
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
FURNITURE
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