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No. 3237\* 62nd Year \* Tortola \* British Virgin Islands \* Saturday \* 10 February 2024

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## HON. MATHER FOCUSES ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The discussion of unemployment insurance has been broached once again, this time by Deputy Speaker and Territorial At-Large Representative Hon. - Stacy-Mather. Hon. Mather while

speaking in the House of Assembly recently voiced a pressing need for the implementation of an unemployment insurance plan, designed to support individuals grappling with

job loss stemming from unforeseen events like the COVID pandemic and the 2017 hurricanes.

Unemployment insurance, similar to the National Insurance Scheme,

operates by deducting funds from salaries to assist individuals facing financial hardship.

During the last sitting of the House of Assembly, the At Large Representative directed queries to Minister for Health and Social-Development, Hon. - Vincent Wheatley, regarding the government's stance on establishing this vital social safety net.

In response, Hon. Wheatley acknowledged the long-standing consideration of unemployment insurance by successive BVI administrations. - He highlighted the ongoing collaboration between the ministry and the Social Security Board (SSB) to explore the practicality of introducing such a system. "Various administrations have explored the potential implementation of an

unemployment insurance system, with documented efforts dating back as far as 2005," noted Minister Wheatley, referencing information provided by the SSB, including the recent completion of an unemployment benefit system commissioned by Mr. Derrick Osbourne in May 2020.

"In the weeks ahead, the Ministry will maintain dialogue with the SSB to assess existing information on the proposed system and devise the most viable strategy for its realization," Hon. Wheatley added.

The need for unemployment insurance in the Territory became apparent during the COVID 19 pandemic; especially during the Government-instituted lockdowns. At that

Continued on page 2



**CIBC (BVI) rebrand**  
CIBC staff celebrated the launch of the rebrand with a breakfast at the bank.



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## HON. MATHER FOCUSES ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE...+from page 1



Hon. Stacy Mather

time both businesses and individuals-struggled to make ends meet and Government had to foot a stimulus payment via the Social Security Board to help curb the situation. As a result, discussions commenced about ensuring that there is a dedicated system in place to help persons in periods of

work loss. In keeping with the process to move forward with such an idea, last year Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Hon. Natalio Wheatley announced in his 2023 Budget Address that efforts to explore this initiative will commence. He stated: "the Government will...engage stakeholders on plans to introduce unemployment benefits, as well as explore measures to extend Social Security coverage to more workers in the informal economy." Back in 2020 Government members announced that the Unemployment Insurance extension of the Social Security system was going to be in place by summer 2021. However, this was not the case. The announcement that the Territory would have had

Unemployment Insurance by 2021 was made by Hon. Vincent Wheatley who was at the time the Minister for Natural Resources Labour and Immigration. At that time Hon. Wheatley stated that the unemployment insurance legislation would pave the road for the Territory to soon have unemployment benefits for residents who for one reason or another are unable to work. Unemployment benefit or unemployment insurance is a benefit that is offered in many countries and in response to calls for this service the former Minister announced that the Government was aiming to have the insurance at no additional cost to residents.

## Best Wishes to King Charles III

Statement

Premier of the Virgin Islands  
Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley  
5 February, 2024

A pleasant good afternoon.  
On behalf of the Government and people of the Virgin Islands, I join with persons around the world in extending prayers and best wishes to His Majesty King Charles III during his current medical concern.

We pray for a successful treatment and a complete recovery for His Majesty.

## PREMIER PROMISES REFERENDUM ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGES



Dr. the Hon. Natalio D. Wheatley

Premier Dr. Natalio Wheatley's promised referendum on the handling of same-sex marriages in the Territory faces yet more delays, adding to the tension surrounding this divisive issue. Same-sex marriage remains a hot-button topic in the BVI, with Premier Wheatley committing back in 2022 to let the public decide through a referendum, especially with a looming court trial that could shape the outcome.

The ongoing court case revolves around the marriage of Kinisha Forbes and Kirsten Lettsome, two Virgin Islands women, who were married abroad and are suing the BVI government to have their

union legally recognized in the Territory.

The Premier had previously stated that the BVI government would vigorously defend its local laws that clearly define marriage as being between a man and a woman. The proposed referendum, which will be a first for the BVI will also consider whether the Territory should introduce new legislation to provide any person in a domestic partnership or civil union with certain legal rights, such as the ability to pass on one's estate to their partner regardless of sex. The same-sex married couple sued the BVI government in June 2022 after being denied a marriage license from the Registrar General. If the couple is successful, Section 13(1)(c) of the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman, would be declared unconstitutional and null and void, leading to same-sex marriage becoming legal in

the BVI.

Many progressive countries including UK, USA, Israel, and European Union have been at the forefront of legislation regarding same sex marriages and civil unions. Same-sex marriage is legally performed and recognized in 35 countries: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal. Recently Pope Francis confirmed that he will give blessings to same sex married couples; he repeated the same approach this week Wednesday. + In mid December Pope Francis had formally approved allowing priests to bless same-sex couples, with a new document explaining a radical change in Vatican policy by insisting that people seeking God's love and mercy shouldn't

be subject to "an exhaustive moral analysis" to receive it. The BVI referendum will be an opportunity for the people to have their say on the issue of same-sex marriage. The Premier hopes that it will be held soon.

Dr. Wheatley estimated that holding a referendum outside of a general election would incur costs of \$250,000 to \$300,000. In terms of legalities: Under Section 8 of the BVI's Referendum Act, 2002, a

referendum addressing a specific subject requires only affirmative or negative votes. If over fifty percent of the total votes counted are affirmative, it's considered accepted. Conversely, if fifty percent or fewer votes are negative, the referendum is rejected. However, for a referendum to be valid, at least fifty percent of registered voters must cast valid votes. Once the results are declared, they're final and binding.

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# CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMISSION REPORT PUBLISHED

The Constitutional Review Commission's (CRC) report has been officially made public. This extensive document, spanning nearly 300 pages, was unveiled on February 5, outlining numerous recommendations aimed at overhauling the constitution of the Territory. Among the report's notable suggestions is the proposal that both the Premier and Deputy Premier should be drawn from the pool of At Large elected officials, with added term limits

— a departure from the traditional norms observed in Westminster-style Governments.

While the CRC hinted at the possibility of subjecting the issue of Term Limits to a referendum, they firmly recommended that should the decision be made to directly elect these positions, term limits should be introduced. Furthermore, the report advocates for the introduction of a recall mechanism for elected officials, a move that raises eyebrows given

its potential conflict with democratic principles. The CRC proposes legislative action to enact such a mechanism, suggesting an amendment to section 67(3) of the Constitution to include recall as a valid reason for vacating a seat in the House of Assembly (HoA).

According to the report, the recall legislation should outline specific grounds for triggering the mechanism, including serious breaches of the Code of Conduct outlined in the Integrity in

Public Life Act 2021.

Moreover, the Commissioners recommend setting a high threshold for initiating the recall process to ensure it remains a last resort, alongside establishing a 'safe harbor period' post-assumption of office before the recall mechanism can be activated. This buffer period aims to provide elected representatives with adequate time to fulfill their electoral promises.

However, skepticism looms

as a majority of political commentators scrutinizing the matter caution that recall provisions could sow seeds of political instability. They argue that such mechanisms might undermine the democratic will of the people by allowing defeated opponents to perpetually challenge elected Members' positions, potentially creating a constant state of political turmoil.

## FORMER BVI PREMIER FACES TRIAL IN MIAMI

Jurors in the Miami, Florida, drug and money laundering trial of former premier Andrew Alturo Fahie were informed that Fahie allegedly intended to divert the proceeds from an alleged drug scheme towards a house he was constructing at the time of his arrest in April 2022.

Fahie was apprehended in Miami in April 2022 after purportedly conspiring with others to allow significant quantities of cocaine to transit through the BVI's ports as part of a multimillion-dollar deal with an undercover US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) informant posing as a drug trafficker.

Testifying in court, undercover-detective Jossue-Dominguez,

instrumental in Fahie's and co-accused former BVI Ports Authority Director Oleanvine-Maynard's apprehension, revealed that the two was promised nearly \$700,000 for their roles in the alleged drug and money laundering plot.

Secretly-recorded conversations allegedly captured Fahie discussing methods-to-obscure the funds he received from these transactions as construction-related invoices for his home in Tortola's western end.

In these recordings, Fahie purportedly inquired about a 'cartel' construction company issuing invoices, with an initial transaction totaling \$40,000.

An undercover informant, using the alias Roberto,

informed Fahie that his fictitious cartel operated three-construction companies serving as 'fronts' and offered various materials to aid the former Premier.

They discussed the possibility of Fahie establishing a line of credit with the fictitious cartel-construction firms to create a veneer of legitimacy. Fahie allegedly stated that windows, doors, and tiles for his home would cost nearly \$300,000.

Fahie's defense attorney argued that Fahie had no genuine intention of facilitating drug shipments through the Territory and suggested that the UK authorities were framing him to oust him as Premier.

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## CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN UNVEILS REBRAND TO CIBC CARIBBEAN HONOURING HERITAGE WHILE LOOKING TO NEW ERA OF GROWTH, INNOVATION AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE



**CIBC (BVI) rebrand**  
*CIBC staff celebrated the launch of the rebrand with a breakfast at the bank.*

Tortola, British Virgin Islands, February 1, 2024 – CIBC FirstCaribbean unveiled its rebranded regional bank, CIBC Caribbean on January 30, promising it is not just a “cosmetic change but a strategic move to position ourselves as a modern, forward-thinking institution.”

Speaking during the evening ceremony at the bank’s Barbados-based head office, Chief Executive Officer Mark St. Hill said the decision to rebrand “reflects our dedication to adapt and evolve with the needs of our clients and the dynamic landscape of the financial industry. In an era of rapid technological advancements and changing customer-expectations, rebranding is not just a cosmetic change but a strategic move to position ourselves as a modern, forward-thinking institution”.

St. Hill told the audience, which included Barbados Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mia Amor Mottley, CIBC President and Chief Executive Officer, Victor Dodig, members of the diplomatic corps and scores of excited bank staff, that the

bank is on the cusp of “a new era of growth, innovation, and service excellence through our rebranding initiative”.

“Our new brand identity is a testament to our heritage, symbolizing the values that have been the cornerstone of our success for the past 100 years. At the same time, it embraces a fresh, contemporary look that signifies our readiness to embrace the future. We want our clients to feel a renewed sense of confidence in our ability to meet their financial needs, coupled with the assurance that we remain rooted in the principles that have guided us since our inception,” St. Hill said.

Barbados’ Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, the featured speaker at the event, thanked CIBC’s President and Chief Executive Officer Victor Dodig for “having the confidence in this country to recommit in this way [for us] to be a serious part of the global brand of CIBC. It was so easy for you to choose anywhere else, but you chose Barbados, and you chose to recommit after some difficult years and that has not escaped

us as government or a country. I’m sure it has not escaped your employees as well.”

In the British Virgin Islands, the rebrand was celebrated on January 31 with a staff breakfast. The team arrived to see the new sign affixed above the bank’s entrance and a festive air in the balloon festooned banking hall.

“Today we are celebrating with pride as we gather to celebrate our new image as CIBC Caribbean. We are thrilled to usher in a new era of growth, innovation, and service excellence through adopting the CIBC brand,” said Fabian Devonish, Branch Manager and Acting Country Manager.

Earlier in the month, the team had attended a special event to mark the change to come. Highlighting the strategic shift of the rebrand to benefit both business and customer, the staff were fired up for the next phase.

The rebranding event in Barbados commenced with a flag-raising ceremony conducted by members of the Barbados Cadet Corps whose smartly attired cadets unfurled 10 national flags which fluttered proudly in the evening breeze, representing the territories where the bank is located as well as that of parent company Canada, and the corporate flag. The rebranding ceremony was punctuated with performances

from the island’s leading entertainers RPB, the band Two Mile Hill as well as dancers and stilt walkers. The event concluded in dramatic fashion with the bank’s old corporate logo hovering in the night sky then slowly transitioning to the iconic new CIBC brand, to cheers from the hundreds of staff and specially invited guests.

Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, along with executives and staff members, also placed items representing the bank’s milestones over the years as well as a letter from the youngest member of staff, into a time capsule to be opened in 50 years.



**Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley joined Chair of CIBC Caribbean’s Board Brian McDonough (left), President and CEO of CIBC Canada, Victor Dodig (second left), CEO of CIBC Caribbean Mark St. Hill (second right) and Harry Culham, Senior Executive VP and Group Head, Capital Markets for the unveiling of the new logo.**



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Again, we thank you for all your support and encouragement – so as measure of our gratitude, we have expanded our availability, improved our services and secured your cost control by extending our Hurricane Relief Assistance with your Co-pay as previously done.

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Major Bay, East End/Long Look, Tortola



# Constitutional Review Commission Report Now Available

The Constitutional Review Commission Report was laid on the table during the Eighth Sitting of the First Session of the Fifth House of Assembly on Wednesday,

31st January, 2024.

The comprehensive report, which is 288 pages, is divided into six chapters and eight appendices. The Commission in its Terms

of Reference was required to consider, among other things:

1. the aspirations of the people of the Virgin Islands;
2. how the executive

ministerial government can be held to account in the HOA (e.g. by some different structure, number and/or configuration of seats) and/or in other ways;

3. whether the current constitutional pillars of governance are sufficient, and in any event how those independent institutions can be effective;

4. the powers that need to be reserved to the Governor, and how issues as to the exercise of devolved and reserved powers respectively, when they arise, are to be resolved;

5. a mechanism for the transfer of reserved powers to the devolved Virgin Islands' Government in the future, without a further change to the Constitution being required;

6. whether there should be a regime in relation to election expenses in the form of a requirement on election candidates to submit a breakdown of expenses including donations above a specific sum and/or a cap on such expenses;

7. whether statutory boards should be embedded in the Constitution and, if so, whether there should be a Statutory Boards Commission;

8. whether the term "Government of the Virgin Islands" is intended to encompass statutory bodies;

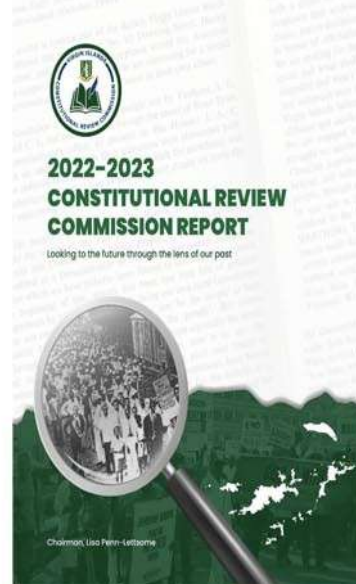
9. whether the Speaker should continue to be a political-appointment, or whether he or she, even if elected, should be independent of the political

parties; and

10. without prejudice to earlier legislative action, clarification of the circumstances in which persons seeking election to the House of Assembly who contract with the Government of the Virgin Islands (either personally or through a dba, a partnership or a company with which he or she is associated), need to declare an interest, how such a declaration should be made, and the consequences of him or her not doing so.

The public is encouraged to review the report and familiarize themselves with its contents. The document is now available for public review and can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/crcreportbvi>.

The Government of the Virgin Islands remains resolute in the promotion of the overall development of the Territory through the continued pursuit of constitutional goals inclusive of our commitment to democratic ideals, good government, and sustainable transformation





## 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

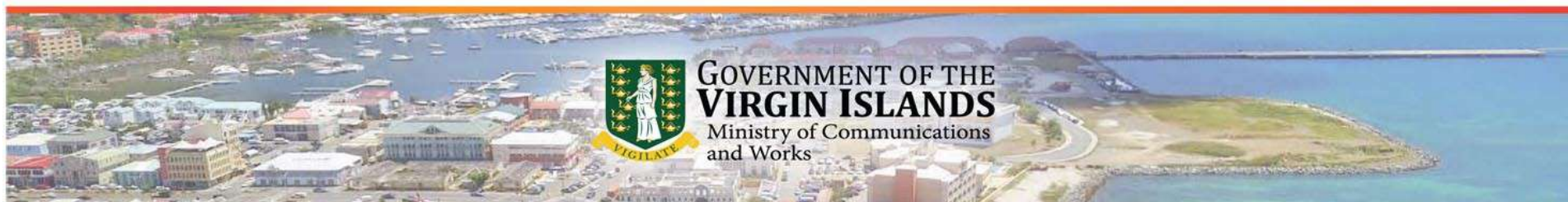
**SATURDAYS**

- (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)





# NOTICE TO TENDERERS

Public Tender Notice No.1 of 2024

PAGE 1

The Government of the Virgin Islands (GOVI or the "Purchaser") invites tenders for the **CONSULTANCY SERVICES - RE-FORMING OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS TAXI TARIFF FOR THE TAXI AND LIVERY COMMISSION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.**

## SCOPE OF CONSULTANCY

The Plan will include, among other essential elements:

- Review of existing Taxi Tariff Legislation, Policy, Guidelines and current tariff regime.
- Develop pricing model and new tariff
- Develop presentation slides and summary of new taxi tariff regime including pricing methodology.
- Presentations at stakeholder meetings

## DELIVERABLES

The deliverables to be provided relative to this assignment include:

- Monthly reports on the implementation of the project.
- Final report at the conclusion of the consultancy

## INSTRUCTIONS TO TENDERERS

Tenderers are required to furnish the following:

1. A completed Form of Tender in accordance with **Section 5**. This form must be completed without alteration to its wording or format, and no substitutes shall be accepted except for the one provided;
2. Priced Bill of Quantities in accordance with **Section 5.3.7**;
3. A list of projects undertaken by the Tenderer within the past ten (10) years that demonstrate the Tenderer's experience in delivering similar projects in the form included in **Section 5.3.5**;
4. An Organizational Chart showing management structure including contact details of the key members of the organization that are to be involved with this tender, **Section 5.3.5**.
5. Proof that company/individual is in good standing with respect to taxes, duties, social security and national health insurance contributions, company registration, or payments due to the Government of the Virgin Islands. These certificates of good standing can be obtained from the Director of Social Security Board and National Health Insurance

and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue.<sup>1</sup>

6. Tenderers registered as companies in the British Virgin Islands are required to submit a Certificate of Good Standing from the Commercial Registry;
7. A Special Certificate is required from the Company Registry at the Financial Services Commission indicating that all fees are paid and company is in good standing.<sup>1</sup>
8. Tenderers operating in the British Virgin Islands are required to submit a Trade License (valid for 2024).
9. Companies not registered or operating in the British Virgin Islands are required to provide a valid business license or equivalency as proof of authorization to operate a business in the area of the required expertise in its jurisdiction of operation.
10. Any other materials required to be completed and submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Tenderers embodied in these Tender Documents. The Forms, and Bill of Quantities provided in these Tender Document shall be used without exception.

<sup>1</sup> The date of issue on the above-mentioned certificates should be no later than six (6) months prior to the date of the tender opening.

Failure on the part of tenderers to enclose the supporting documentation indicated above with each respective tender will render the tender non-responsive on the date of the opening of tenders.

## APPLICATION FOR DOCUMENTS

The RFP will be available from **Tuesday, 30th January, 2024**, on weekdays between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Documents will be sent to Tenderers electronically upon request to [mcw@gov.vg](mailto:mcw@gov.vg) with the subject title "**Request for Proposal - Consultancy Services -Re-forming of the Virgin Island Taxi Tariff for The Taxi and Livery Commission of the Virgin Islands**". Tenderers are advised that the destination mailbox is NOT automated to send Tenderers an acknowledgment of receipt and delivery of their request by email. Therefore, **Tenderers should not assume that their email has been safely received and it is the responsibility of the Tenderer to follow up with the Ministry of Communications & Works** using the contact information below if an acknowledgment of receipt is not received within one (1) day of

submission of the e-mail. Under no circumstance will GOVI or the Ministry of Communications & Works, be responsible for the non-receipt of documents by the Tenderer.

## Address for correspondence only:

**Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Communications & Works  
Government of the Virgin Islands  
Manuel Reef, Tortola  
Virgin Islands  
Tel: (284) 468-2183/2163  
Email: [mcw@gov.vg](mailto:mcw@gov.vg)**

## SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

Interested tenderers should submit one **(1) original** and two **(2) copies** plus one **(1) flash** drive containing the tenderers' documents. The original tender should be placed in a sealed envelope and marked "**ORIGINAL**" and the additional copies placed in another sealed envelope and marked "**COPIES**". Both envelopes should then be placed in an outer envelope and marked "**CONSULTANCY SERVICES -RE-FORMING OF THE VIRGIN ISLAND TAXI TARIFF FOR THE TAXI AND LIVERY COMMISSION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**" and addressed to:

The Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Communications & Works  
Government of the Virgin Islands  
Manuel Reef, Tortola, VG1110  
Virgin Islands

All tenders must be deposited in the **Tender Box at the Ministry of Communications & Works, Manuel Reef, Tortola, Virgin Islands**, by the bearer **not later than 10:00 a.m. local time on Tuesday, 20th February, 2024. Tenders will not be received after the Tender Box is closed.**

Tenders will be opened on **Wednesday, 21st February, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. local time at the Ministry of Communications & Works, Manuel Reef, Tortola, Virgin Islands**. Tenderers are invited to witness the opening process via WebEx. Tenderers will be provided with the access code and password prior to the opening of Tenders.

The Government of the Virgin Islands does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any other tender and will not defray any costs incurred by the Tenderer.

**The Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Communications & Works  
Government of the Virgin Islands  
Manuel Reef, Tortola, VG1110  
Virgin Islands**



## Public School Closure February 14 To 16

The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports is notifying the public that all public schools will be closed from Wednesday February 14 to Friday February 16 to

allow for mandatory training of educators through the Virgin Islands Public Service-Learning Institute. Teachers who are not attending the training will be engaged in professional development activities to enhance their teaching skills.

Students will receive classwork through Google Classroom to ensure their continued

academic progress during the closure. Parents and guardians are encouraged to support their children in accessing and completing assignments.

Friday, February 16 is also mid-term break. Students will return to the classroom on Monday, February 19. All school staff, parents and students are asked to take note.



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

### **F&B Manager**

**Position Objective:** As the F&B Manager, you will fill a critical role in Bitter End Yacht Club's operations by working with the General Manager, Head Chef, F&B consultants, executive leadership and ownership to elevate the front of house service standards and guest experience to world-class levels.

### **Main Duties and Responsibilities:**

- **Oversee all Front of the House activities for all dining and bar concepts**
- **Set steps of service and service standards that align with each concept and the Bitter End brand**
- **Oversee team scheduling, payroll, and other administrative duties necessary for the proper administration of the restaurants and bars.**
- **Evaluate restaurant and bar staffing needs to align with business volume needs**
- **Supervise service personnel, touch tables and oversee service during meal periods**
- **Implement a system of coordination between runners, servers, and kitchen staff to ensure timeliness and proper service to each guest**
- **Work closely with culinary leadership on menu development, specials and promotions**
- **Work with the home office to align all activities with the Bitter End brand and story and coordinate marketing and promotional activities**
- **Oversee, schedule and supervise all bar service staff to improve productivity and service to the guest**
- **Coordinate with the F&B consultants, partners and vendors to select beverage suppliers and coordinate purchasing and leverage product for promotions**
- **Adhere to and support all guidelines and regulations as stated in The Bitter End Yacht Club Employee Handbook**
- **Set the bar for world-class hospitality standards and ensure team members have the tools and training to meet the standards set.**
- **Engages as a Bitter End brand ambassador in communications, presentation and demeanor**

[s37]

## **UK Foreign Office Minister Visits British Virgin Islands (BVI) to Discuss Governance Reforms**



*David Rutley MP,*

Minister for the Americas, the Caribbean and UK Overseas Territories, David Rutley MP, arrives in Road Town today.

During his visit, the Minister will meet Premier Honourable Dr. Natalio Wheatley and the British Virgin Islands Government to receive an update on progress of governance reforms stemming from an independent inquiry into governance in the territory.

### **Ahead of his arrival the Minister said:**

"The Overseas Territories are a core part of the UK family and the UK Government is committed to the security, prosperity and wellbeing of the people of the British Virgin Islands. We want to see a successful, thriving, well-governed BVI, and will continue to do our utmost to support the Governor and the people of the BVI to achieve that goal.

"The Commission of Inquiry has identified serious governance and reputational issues, but progress on implementing its recommendations has been too slow, with agreed deadlines missed. That is why I am here: to listen and understand from those working directly on the reforms how they can be delivered quicker so that the people of BVI get the good governance they deserve.

"The UK will provide further technical assistance if required. However, if there continues to be a lack of progress, we will not hesitate to take further action to help deliver the much-needed reforms."

Of the Minister's visit, Governor Daniel Pruce said:

"The Minister's visit comes at a crucial time for the BVI, and signals the UK's interest and commitment to ensuring that the BVI succeeds. Delivering the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry will help us achieve the positive changes we all want to see, including better access to services, a fairer society with opportunities for all, and a more accountable and transparent government."

Findings from the independent Commission of Inquiry (COI) showed that the people of BVI have long lacked good governance and set out a list of recommendations to be implemented to address the historic failures around honesty, transparency and the rule of law.





## NOTICE OF DORMANT ACCOUNTS BY NATIONAL BANK OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS LIMITED

Pursuant to the Dormant Account Act 2011 (“the Act”), No. 12 of 2011 which came into force on 1st February 2012 the National Bank of the Virgin Islands Limited of Wickham’s Cay I, Road Town, Tortola, BVI (“the National Bank”) hereby publish the following list and particulars of accounts which have been declared Dormant under the Act and are being held by this institution. Customers whose names appear on the list below are hereby notified that:

- (i) the National Bank hold dormant accounts in respect of the listed persons in its books;
- (ii) if a transaction or activity is not effected in respect of a dormant account by the account holder not later than sixty (60) days from the date of the notice, the moneys in the account shall be transferred to the Dormant Account Fund established pursuant to section 13 (1) of the Act, without further notice to the account holder;
- (iii) an interested person should contact the National Bank to prove ownership of the account, and
- (iv) an Account holder is entitled, subject to the Act, to claim repayment of the moneys in the dormant account from the National Bank, subject to any lawful charges agreed to by the dormant account holder and the National Bank.

NAME	ADDRESS	BALANCE
ROY R SMITH	GENERAL DELIVERY, EAST END, TORTOLA VG1120	102.23
ESTIMABLE LUDERS	GENERAL DELIVERY, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	107.59
JERRY M FRETT	P.O. BOX 71, CRUZ BAY 831, ST. JOHN	107.60
DAVID NEPTUNE	GENERAL DELIVERY, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	112.08
BEVERLEY ELAINE FRETT	GENERAL DELIVERY, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	113.81
KAFAR SMITH	P.O. BOX 1503, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	120.28
CLARENCE TIMOTHY EMMANUEL	P.O. BOX 807, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	123.45
JASMIN DIAN CHOUCOUTOU	P.O. BOX 3078, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	126.33
SHANIQUE CHARIS CHRISTOPHER	GENERAL DELIVERY, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	138.44
CATHY-ANN BASCOMBE	GENERAL DELIVERY, VALLEY, VIRGIN GORDA VG1150	146.89
ALWYN J WARNER	P.O. BOX 404, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	148.46
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ARTHUR ROMEO TITLEY	GENERAL DELIVERY, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	156.87
DONALIN PRINELLA MICHEL	P.O. BOX 102, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	158.64
DENERY DOTHLYN DUNCAN	P.O. BOX 3155, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	169.54
RICARDO HUSHANE BAILEY	GENERAL DELIVERY, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	169.89
JAMAL JERMAINE NOEL	GENERAL DELIVERY, NORTH SOUND, VIRGIN GORDA VG1150	170.54
DANIELE YAZMIN WHEATLEY	P.O. BOX 337, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	182.64

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CAROL MONICA DIXON-FARQUHARSON	P.O. BOX 777, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	199.58
KELON MIGUEL FORTUNE	P.O. BOX 2156, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	205.16
DELICE ANNELLE JAMES	P.O. BOX 3083, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	206.27
DRUSILLA FABULAR FAHIE	P.O. BOX 2806, EAST END, TORTOLA VG1120, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	229.88
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MAGUERITA KISHEBA LETTSOME	2013 PALM STRADE 13, CHARLOTTE AMALIE 802, ST. THOMAS	293.61
DIANA FLARVIE HACKSHAW	GENERAL DELIVERY, EAST END, TORTOLA VG1120	294.71
JENNIFER A GEORGE JAMES	GENERAL DELIVERY, VALLEY, VIRGIN GORDA VG1150	315.62
MONIQUE A CREQUE	GENERAL DELIVERY, VALLEY, VIRGIN GORDA VG1150	332.99
ALISHA ANDRA ANILL FINDLAY	P.O. BOX 696, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	352.50
LISA TAISHA STAPLETON-SMITH	GENERAL DELIVERY, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	354.21
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DASSIL GAIL CHARLES	P.O. BOX 37299, VALLEY, VIRGIN GORDA VG1150	383.52
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ANNALEE CLEMENTINA RICHARDS	P.O. BOX 2412, ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA VG1110	446.73
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Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> of Jan, 2024  
NATIONAL BANK OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS LIMITED



## Honourable Wheatley Supports Prison Rehabilitation Initiatives



Vincent O. Wheatley has voiced his support for rehabilitation initiatives at His Majesty's Prison.

Honourable Wheatley during a visit to the prison on February 1, along with Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly and-Territorial-at-Large Representative Honourable Stacey Mather emphasised the role of rehabilitation and successful reintegration of prisoners into the local community.

Honourable Wheatley said, "Embracing rehabilitation for prisoners is not merely an investment in their individual

redemption; it is a commitment to rebuilding the foundations of our society, one restored life at a time. Therefore, I am happy to see the efforts Mr. Kendall and his team her at His Majesty's Prison are putting in to facilitate the rehabilitation of our prisoners."

The visit included the official handover of a brand-new laptop computer to inmate Phillip Powell. Mr. Powell has exhibited a keen interest in architecture and technical drawings and applied through the Superintendent's Office to the minister for assistance to enhance his skills in the

areas. This initiative aligns with the prison's focus on providing educational and skill development opportunities to support successful reintegration into society.

Honourables Wheatley and Mather took the opportunity to inspect the recently expanded-wood-workshop, a key component of the prison's efforts to offer diverse resettlement activities. They visited the female wing, where meetings were held with both prisoners and staff and also witnessed the positive outcomes of the ongoing clean and repainting program.

Meanwhile, Honourable Mather expressed his eagerness to further support prison initiatives including supplying additional materials for the woodwork project and facilitating the rollout of a chess activity, a programme designed to teach logic and related social skills to prisoners through community organisations such



as Unite BVI.

Superintendent Jay Kendall expressed his satisfaction with the progress made in prisoner resettlement activities in the last two months, stating, "We are working hard to expand our offerings in vocational areas such as woodwork, welding, tailoring, as well as behavior change programs and formal educational skills and qualifications. I am pleased that the ministers had the chance to witness firsthand the strides we are making through our clean and decent campaign to improve living and working

conditions within our prison."

Mr. Kendall thanked the minister and Honourable Mather for their unwavering support of the prison Service and the ongoing efforts towards prisoner rehabilitation. He added that the visit underscored the collaborative commitment to building a safer, more rehabilitative environment for all.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to enhancing the health and social well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands.

## TWO ORGANISATIONS GIVEN A TOTAL OF BDS\$425 000 IN SUPPORT DURING BANK'S REBRANDING CEREMONY



*Independent Director of the ComTrust Foundation Mr. Clennell Goodman (left) presents the funds to Professor Cardinal Warde of the Caribbean Science Foundation*

Bridgetown,-Barbados, February 1, 2024 – As CIBC Caribbean celebrated its rebranding two entities also had cause to cheer as the bank donated a total of BDS\$425,000 to support their vital work.

The bank, through its charity, the FirstCaribbean International-ComTrust Foundation, donated \$175,000 to the Barbados Defence Force's Field Hospital to purchase a generator, which will assist with hospital's

readiness for deployment in response to disasters.

The other entity, the Caribbean-Science Foundation was presented with \$250,000 to support programmes-targeted mainly the region's youth. These include the Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE), Caribbean STEM Olympiads, Barbados Junior Robotics Camps and the Caribbean Computer Coding Workshops.

The donations took place during a ceremony marking the rebranding of the bank from CIBC FirstCaribbean to CIBC Caribbean on January 30 at their regional headquarters in Warrens, St. Michael.



*Comtrust Foundation Director Lynda Goodridge presents the funds to Major David Clarke of the Barbados Defence Force. Major Clarke is the Coordinator for the Field Hospital.*





# Virgin Islands Holds Multi-Agency Oil Spill Exercise



Twenty-two public officers and partners attended a marine pollution training and table top exercise designed to test and strengthen the Virgin Islands Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

Director of Disaster Management Mr. Jasen Penn said the training exercise allowed Virgin Islands responders to work together and talk through how they would coordinate, prioritise, and execute a complex marine response.

Mr. Penn said, "These officers and our partners from outside government are very well versed in their specialties, but this training and exercise gave them the opportunity to review our national oil spill plan as a team and identify the gaps that exist."

The director added, "This type of ongoing training helps ensure that our plans and procedures keep pace with best practices for marine pollution response."

Participants have gained knowledge on international best practise when it comes to

marine pollution management, including an understanding of the various risks associated with different types of pollutants.

The table top exercise challenged participants to consider how they would respond to a complex at-sea incident that included a search and rescue element, multiple pollutant types, and the need to request resources from external sources.

The training was facilitated by UK Maritime Coastguard Agency's Head of Counter Pollution and Salvage Stan Woznicki and Environmental Science Lead Neil Chapman and coordinated as part of the Department of Disaster Management's annual training calendar.

Participants included relevant responders from the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, BVI Airports Authority, BVI Ports Authority, BVI Fire and Rescue Services, Department of Disaster Management, Department of Waste

Management, His Majesty's Customs, Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, Virgin Islands Shipping Registry, Virgin Islands Search and Rescue,

Delta Petroleum, and SOL. Regular testing of the Virgin Islands Oil Spill Contingency Plan ensures that the Territory remains in compliance with

the International Maritime Organisation's International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC).



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# GLOBAL NEWS BRIEF

STORIES SELECTED BY **GIORGIO MIGLIAVACCA**

**SPAIN** - Supermarkets increasingly offer vegetables that, within just a few minutes of microwaving them in the same plastic bag in which they were purchased, are ready to eat. Potatoes, cabbages, or mixtures of various vegetables come already pre-cooked and — according to the producers' instructions — it's not necessary to put them in another container to microwave them. But new research shows that perhaps it would be better to take your veggies out of the bag before heating them up.

Researchers from the University of Almería (Spain) — led by Dr. Francisco José Díaz Galiano — have discovered that this microwave cooking process actually causes a “very pronounced” transfer of plastic components from the bag to the vegetable. The research — published in the journal Food Chemistry — has also identified that the action of the microwave in these cases creates a new compound in the potato, which they call HMPP-maltose. According to Díaz Galiano, this is a “potentially toxic” compound, although new studies are still required to confirm this. Regardless, the transfer of plastic to potatoes remains an issue.

The researchers had the feeling that “in a very energetic

situation — like that of the microwave — it was more than possible for certain plastic components to migrate into the food.” They began to do all kinds of tests with potatoes from different brands, dispensed in bags and ready to be cooked or heated up. They were made with all possible variants: “In the microwave in a plastic bag or in a microwave in a glass container... in both cases using the recommended time for the bag, or cooked in water over fire. In this case, we gave [the potatoes] more time, between 10 and 15 minutes,” Díaz Galiano explains. He remembers that the potatoes were also analyzed before cooking them. They did 27 replicates of the experiment and “the same differences always appeared.” [El País]

**GERMANY** - Across Germany, tens of thousands of people have rallied against right-wing extremism. At least 150,000 people gathered in Berlin alone to protest against racism and xenophobia and show support for democracy.

Around 150,000 people have attended a protest rally in the German capital, Berlin, against the far right and its ideology, the latest in a series of such demonstrations across Germany in recent weeks.

The wave of protests follows a recent report by the investigative network Correctiv on a secret meeting, attended by neo-Nazis, business people and members of the political parties AfD and CDU, among others, where participants discussed a secret plan for the mass deportation of millions of immigrants.

In the year's first Bundestag general debate, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz spared with the conservative opposition, but both sides of the political spectrum agreed on denouncing the far-right AfD.

In an unusually fiery speech in Germany's lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called on democratic parties from across the political spectrum to stand together against threats to democracy.

Wearing a black suit and black tie following a special parliamentary session to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day, Scholz evoked Germany's Nazi past as he urged voters to reject the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party and argued for a stronger European Union. [Deutsche Welle]

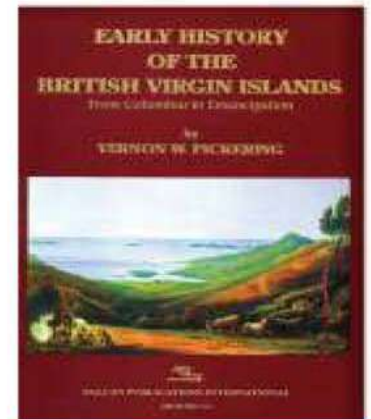
**ITALY** - Justice Minister Carlo Nordio told La Stampa newspaper Sunday

that he had felt “deep sorrow and surprise” when he saw Italian antifascist militant Ilaria Salis being led into court on a chain with her hands and ankles cuffed in Budapest last Monday.

Nordio stressed that “as long as the trial lasts, the Hungarian jurisdiction is sovereign, but there is work to be done on the prison treatment front, so that European standards are respected.” “And to achieve results one must act with prudence,” Nordio underscored to the Turin-based daily. Prudence was also called for by Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, who in the Corriere della Sera newspaper noted a “willingness to listen on the Hungarian side”, assured support to Salis' family and lawyers and stressed that “when negotiating, silence is golden”. Salis faces up to 24 years in jail for allegedly attacking the two neoNazis, who were reportedly only slightly injured and did not complain to the Hungarian police. [ANSA]

**CALABRIA** (Italy) -- Their arrival had aroused amazement and perplexity. Today, the Cuban doctors who arrived in Calabria to make up for the shortage of doctors represent a healthcare asset that allows many hospitals scattered throughout the region to still be kept open. Another 98 arrived on Thursday, adding to the 172 already in service for more than a year. As happened with their colleagues before being placed on the ward, they will follow an Italian course. «It is not a structural solution — says Roberto Occhiuto, president of the region — but we could not do otherwise, given the shortage of doctors. At the beginning I was criticized for having made this choice, today many people want to replicate this idea of mine — says Occhiuto -.

However, we can say that in Calabria, in recent months, there has been a change in trend: we have just concluded a competition with 250 suitable specialists, including specialists and post-graduates, who will soon take up service.” The



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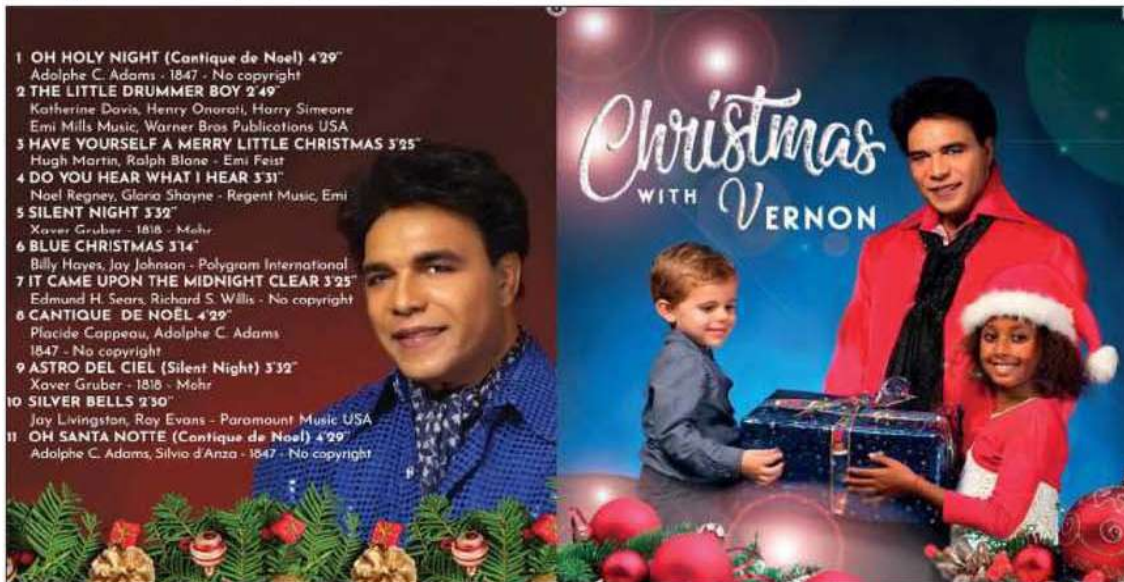
positive fact that emerges in the evaluation of the winners of the competition is that, for the vast majority, they are Calabrian. (Corriere della Sera)

**USE OF CANNABIS** - Some say men have a habit of refusing to ask for help, especially when confronting medical or mental health issues they may be experiencing.

“Men don't want to seek any type of medical support, whether it be mental health or physical health. A lot of studies and surveys show that men are afraid; that there is some sort of belief that they are weak if they go to the doctor,” says Dr. Delvena Thomas, a board-certified psychiatrist and qualified medical marijuana physician. Her practice is based in Fort Lauderdale.

Changing this potentially detrimental behavior among men is a long-term project that starts with parenting, says Dr. Michael Railey Sr., a psychologist with a private practice based in Tallahassee.

“I've got three sons, and I've talked to my sons openly about taking care of themselves, about starting to do that now and not waiting,” he says. [CNW]



- 1 OH HOLY NIGHT (Cantique de Noel) 4'29"  
Adolphe C. Adams - 1847 - No copyright
- 2 THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY 2'49"  
Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati, Harry Simeone  
Emi Mills Music, Warner Bros Publications USA
- 3 HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS 3'25"  
Hugh Martin, Ralph Blane - Emi Feist
- 4 DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR 3'31"  
Noel Regney, Glana Shayne - Regent Music, Emi
- 5 SILENT NIGHT 3'32"  
Xaver Gruber - 1818 - Mohr
- 6 BLUE CHRISTMAS 3'14"  
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- 7 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR 3'25"  
Edmund H. Sears, Richard S. Willis - No copyright
- 8 CANTIQUE DE NOEL 4'29"  
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- 9 ASTRO DEL CIEL (Silent Night) 3'32"  
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- 10 SILVER BELLS 2'30"  
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- 11 OH SANTA NOTTE (Cantique de Noel) 4'29"  
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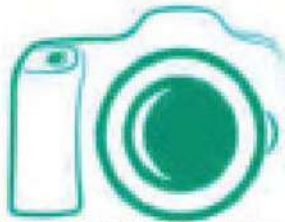
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# The Sunny Side Up



## Through the Lens of The Sunny Side



The Virgin Islands Afrikan Studies Klub held its 16th Annual African Remembrance and Wreath Laying service on 4 February. (more on pages 14 and 16)

	<b>PAGE 14</b> The Virgin Islands Afrikan Studies Klub (Continue on page 16)	<b>PAGE 15</b> • Ladyburd Talks • Ladyburd Mail Box • Lightbulb Moments • Poetry Corner • Tickle My Funny Bones • Pun Intended	<b>PAGE 16</b> The Virgin Islands Afrikan Studies Klub (Continue from page 14)
			<b>PAGE 17</b> Divas On A Dime



## THE BVI AFRIKAN STUDIES KLUB HELD ITS 16TH ANNUAL AFRICAN REMEMBRANCE AND WREATH LAYING SERVICE



*The Virgin Islands Afrikan Studies Klub held its 16th Annual African Remembrance and Wreath Laying service on 4 February.*

*Each year the Club holds its Wreath laying service at the commencement of Black History Month. As the event got on the way, Art Christopher, the master of ceremonies explained "As most of you may know. this tradition we do every year. At*

*the beginning of Black History Month, we come and we give thanks and we show gratitude to our ancestors.*

*Black History Month for us is a period where we could reach out to our community and help to educate and elevate."*

*"We are starting our Black History Month as the Afrikan Studies Klub with the way that we know it to be in our African culture and tradition before we do anything*

*of significance we must first speak with our ancestors. We must get their permission, we must get their blessings," Christopher said as he announced the start of a libation. The Master of Ceremonies noted that libation sets the protocol of the event in the order where respect is paid to God the creator first, the ancestors second and the elders third.*

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**





## LadyburdTalks...



Dear Readers: February is Love Month.  
(Continue from last week)

**Take a self care day:**

Self-care is essential to staying healthy and happy. Whether you've been working long hours or would like to have a few days off to recharge, February is a good time to take a day off to relax and rest. On Valentine's Day, celebrate by attending a yoga class or taking a spa day and treating yourself to a massage or facial. If you've been putting stressors aside and focusing on what makes you happy, now is a good time to escape from the daily grind by relaxing and focusing on yourself. There is nothing like a good facial and hot stone massage, try it, you will thank me later!

**Catch up with friends and family:**

Speaking of relaxing, you can also catch up with friends and family members who live far away. Try to arrange a video chat with a friend you've missed over the holiday break, or schedule a FaceTime call with a loved one who lives far away. You can also catch up with family members who moved away or who you haven't spoken to in awhile. Speaking with loved ones especially during this love month allows you to express your love and appreciation for them in a more profound way.

**Surprise your loved one with a special gift**

Valentine's Day is a great day to give a loved one a special gift. Perhaps you've been dating for a while and your partner has been asking for a specific gift. This might be a great opportunity to get that gift they've been wanting. You could also give a loved one who lives far away a gift while they are on vacation. As a last gift, you could give your loved one a special card expressing your love and admiration. **Make Valentines everyday!**

(more next week) Source <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/what-do-february-ideas-love-month-andrena-phillips>



### Ladyburd's Mail Box

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

[delseitaliburd@msn.com](mailto:delseitaliburd@msn.com)  
or  
[islandsunnews@gmail.com](mailto:islandsunnews@gmail.com)

**Dear Ladyburd:** My boyfriend doesn't want me to use my Birth Control tablets, I am not ready to be a mother and he is upset because he saw me with a pack of Birth Control tablets. We are together for five years now and as far as I am concerned I do not think he is ready to settle down. What-advice-would-you-give-me... **Silma**

**Ladyburd.....Dear Silma:** You have been with this young man for five years. He is not making any effort to commit to you and make you his wife, but he is upset because you are protecting yourself from an unwanted pregnancy? Interesting! In my opinion you are doing the right thing in that regard, however, you are with him long enough to get some sort of commitment from him. Do not get yourself caught up in his trap and get pregnant before you are ready, the next thing you know, he leaves you high and dry and move on to the next victim and you are left to raise your child as a single mother. **NO!** Do not let that happen. Don't be overcome by your love for him. Stand your ground, you have to protect yourself. Have a discussion with him and lay your cards on the table. **Don't sugar-coat anything**, you have a future to protect. **Best wishes to you.**



## LIGHT BULB MOMENTS

"There is only one happiness in this life: to love and be loved."

— George Sand

"Love yourself first and everything else falls into place." — Lucille Ball

"Success is a journey not a destination."

— Ben Sweetland

## Poetry Corner

**Cheers To Love**

*The world must become a much better place  
Where more people dwell  
With a smile on their face  
Living together in kinship  
and peace  
A world full of hope where  
joys never cease.*

*Wearing our heart on our sleeve everywhere  
Will show all mankind that we really care  
Thus shining a light that's warming and bright  
Love's a splendid way to make the world right.*

*Live for the moment,  
our time here won't last  
Life is too precious to live in the past  
The dawn of each day gives us all a fresh start  
To those whom you love,  
tell them straight from your heart.*

*Today is a day that's made for romance  
Cast cares aside, let us all sing and dance  
Kissing any doubts and heartaches away  
Raise our glasses to love on Valentine's Day.*

© Beryl L Edmonds.

## Tickle My Funny Bones



### You Are Adopted

Father looks at his teenage son,

"James, you've been adopted."

James jumps up,

"Adopted! I knew it!"

I want to meet my biological parents!"

Father laughs, "No no, James, we are your biological parents. But you need to get packing, your new parents will be here in an hour."

### LETTER FROM SON TO DAD AND FROM DAD TO SON ...SON INDIRECTLY ASKING FOR MONEY AND DAD INDIRECTLY SAYING NO

Dear Dad,

School i\$ great. I'm making lot\$ of friend\$ and \$tudying hard. I \$imply can't think of anything I need, \$o ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I would love to hear from you.

Love,  
Your \$on  
\*\*

Dear Son,

I kNOW astroNomy, ecoNomics and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOur student busy. Do NOt forget that the pursuit of kNOWLEDge is a NOble task, and you can never study eNOugh.

Love,  
Dad

## PUN INTENDED

"I used to be a banker, but I lost interest..."



## THE BVI AFRIKAN STUDIES KLUB HELD ITS 16TH ANNUAL AFRICAN REMEMBRANCE AND WREATH LAYING SERVICE



**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14**

*"In African culture and tradition libation comes before any significant event. It is a means of giving honor, it's a means of showing gratitude to the ancestors who paved the way for you to be here; and so we continue that tradition," he explained.*





## A Fusion of Love and Tradition: The Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day Hot Pot Feast

As winter With Chinese New Year coming up on Feb. 10 and Valentine's Day Feb. 14, let's embark on an affordable culinary love story as we blend the rich traditions of Chinese New Year with the romance of Valentine's Day through a delightful hot pot experience at home.

A hot pot meal is a communal dining experience where diners cook a variety of raw ingredients, such as thinly sliced meat, seafood and vegetables, in a simmering pot of flavored broth at the center of the table.

While my take on hot pot doesn't offer a strictly authentic experience, it's a simple and enjoyable introduction. For a more authentic encounter, additional research, or a visit to a hot pot restaurant or a Chinese market is recommended.

For those with access to an Asian market, a single trip will yield all the essentials. If an Asian market isn't handy, a little online planning can bring the

necessary ingredients and equipment to your doorstep.

When shopping for your hot pot feast, simplicity is key. Equip yourself with an electric or butane burner for tabletop cooking, use an electric skillet or plan your meal around the stovetop. Consider a divided pot to enjoy two broths at once. A wire skimmer and chopsticks keep your ingredients in check while cooking. (You can use a fork; I won't tell anyone.)

When planning your menu, it's easy to over shop. Plan for 8 to 12 ounces of meat, seafood and/or tofu per person, and aim for 2 to 3 ingredients from each food group: vegetables, mushrooms, starch and fun accompaniments. Leftovers? Repurpose them into delicious soups and noodles in the days following the festivities.

The menu that's pictured includes thin slices of beef sirloin and pork belly. The veggies are napa cabbage, baby bok choy, spinach, sweet potato, red pepper and white, cremini and enoki mushrooms. For starch you'll see fresh noodles, bean threads and rice vermicelli -- as well as dipping sauces, zesty soy sauce, peanut sauce and chili oil, with fresh garnish of cilantro, green onion, chopped peanuts and sesame seeds.

Since this meal centers on broth, this recipe makes a delicious broth using chicken, beef, pork or vegetable broth. Or you can also use a few flavor packets from instant ramen and cook the noodles during your meal.

## HOT POT BROTH

Yield: 6 to 8 cups

Time: 20 minutes

6 to 8 cups broth, depending on pot size

2 cloves garlic, smashed

1 (1-inch) piece ginger, peeled and sliced

2 green onions, chopped into large pieces

1 tablespoon soy sauce

2 teaspoons sesame oil

1/2 teaspoon chili oil, or to taste for spicy broth only!

Heat broth in a saucepan on the stovetop or in your hot pot. Add the remaining ingredients and simmer until ready to use.

## ZESTY SOY DIPPING SAUCE

Yield: 1/2 cup

Time: 5 minutes

1/2 cup low sodium soy sauce

1 (heaping) tablespoon green onion, sliced

1 clove garlic, grated

1/2 teaspoon ginger, grated

1 teaspoon brown sugar

Mix ingredients together and refrigerate until serving.

## EASY PEANUT SAUCE

Yield: 1/2 cup

Time: 5 minutes

1/3 cup peanut butter

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

1 tablespoon teriyaki sauce

1 teaspoon sesame oil

1/2 teaspoon garlic, grated

1/2 teaspoon ginger, grated

Place peanut butter, oil and teriyaki sauce in a microwave-safe bowl, and microwave for 15 seconds. Stir until the ingredients are smooth. Add remaining ingredients and stir to incorporate. Refrigerate until serving. Feel free to customize these ideas to fit your style and preferences. Enjoy creating a memorable and culturally rich Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year celebration!

\*\*\*

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



**Savor the flavor: Dive into a hot pot delight where DIY dining meets culinary creativity!**



# VIRGIN ISLANDS DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CHAIR CALLS EMERGENCY MEETING AFTER LACK OF A QUORUM

State Chair Stedmann Hodge, Jr., stated that 20 members joined at different times during a scheduled virtual meeting held on January 27, 2024 and there were technical issues with the Zoom platform. The members present were able to discuss the proposed Election Cycle Calendar which kicks off with a Prayer Breakfast on June 15, 2024, and ends on December 14, 2024, with an Innovations Awards Gala.

Additionally, there is a Business After Hours Scheduled on February 22, 2024, as part of the St. Thomas/St. John Chamber of Commerce networking events that allow Chamber members to meet one another, to introduce new and prospective members, and to network and promote businesses in a relaxed social atmosphere.

The Rules of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands states in summary that the Territorial Committee cannot be notified less than 15 days prior to the scheduled date for a special meeting that requires 25 enabling signatures. With the first activity taking place on February 22, 2024, an emergency meeting had to be called.

There are a few criteria that signal when an emergency meeting might be necessary, including:

- An unexpected issue occurs that couldn't have been reasonably foreseen;
- An issue requires immediate action; and
- It's impractical to provide advanced notice.

The decision to call the Emergency Meeting was also suggested by a few members of the Party and it was the right choice. The following highlights several activities that require Territorial and District Committee Members' immediate action to support the Party's 2024 Agenda and ensure the success of the activities geared to elect Democrats and support party initiatives:

**Business After Hours**  
Thursday, February 22, 2024

**Prayer Breakfast**  
Saturday, June 15, 2024 (St. Thomas)

**Democrats Social: Meet the Candidates Friday,**  
June 21, 2024 (St. John)

**Prayer Breakfast**  
Saturday, June 22, 2024 (St. Croix)

**Democrats Social: Meet the Candidates Friday,**  
June 28, 2024 (St. Croix)

**Food Sale**  
Saturday, July 13, 2024 (Territory-Wide)

**Fish Fry**  
Friday, July 26, 2024

**Democratic Party Forum**  
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 (St. Croix)

**Thursday, August 29, 2024 (St. John)**

**Food Sale**  
Saturday, September 14, 2024

**Democratic Party Forum**  
Thursday, September 19, 2024 (St. Thomas)

**Thomas)**  
**Soup Sale**  
Saturday, September 28, 2024 (St. John)

**Motorcade**  
Saturday, October 26, 2024 (Territory-Wide)

**Victory Celebration**  
November 5, 2024 (General Election Day)

**Annual Innovations Awards Gala**  
Saturday, December 14, 2024

**Other significant achievements made on behalf of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands include:**

•A proposal on January 10, 2024, to host the Association of State Democratic Committees (ASDC) Winter Meeting in the U.S. Virgin Islands was submitted to Ken Martin, President, ASDC. The Winter Meeting will be held in January/February of 2025.

•On December 16, 2023, the Delegate Selection Plan was approved by the DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee and all permanent members of the delegation or standing committee shall be elected on June 8, 2024.

There are planned fundraising events to support the Delegates that will be traveling to 2024 Democratic National Convention:

•On March 22, 2024, the DPVI will be hosting a Wine Tasting with Smooth Jazz at the Point Pleasant Beach Resort. This fundraiser is the first to benefit the VI Delegation to attend the 2024 Democratic National

Convention.  
•On June 7 – 9, 2024, the DPVI is planning to host a Casino Night, Golf Tournament & Dinner & Jazz on the island of St. Croix.

On August 19-22, 2024, the Democratic National Convention will take place in Chicago, Illinois to nominate Joe Biden, President and Camila Harris, Vice President for re-election as President and Vice President of the United States.

The Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands has a lot of work to do for the 2024 Election Cycle. Our priorities are clear and when we are needed most, we respond to the call to serve. The members of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands will answer the call to serve on the following committees to ensure that Democrats are elected Territory wide:

- Prayer Breakfast & Democratic Social
- DPVI Candidates Forum
- Fundraising Committee
- Motorcade & Fundraising Committee
- Victory Celebration Committee
- Annual Innovations & Awards Gala

The members of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands are passionate about politics and what happens in the Virgin Islands Communities. There are those that believe the Democratic Party is not doing their part and the

truth of the matter is that the Democratic Party's goal is to make the lives of all citizens better.

The matters on the proposed agenda are as follows:

- DPVI Calendar Update & Committee Appointments
- Proposed Fundraising Activities
- Delegates Selection Plan Updates, Caucus Dates & Caucus Committee Member Selection

State Chairman Hodge stated, "We invite Democrats across the territory to participate. The Emergency Meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 10 am and meeting is open to the public, but only members can vote. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86350686061?pwd=Z1RtV0RfK0ttalNzRDRVZ1pNblZ3QT09>  
Meeting ID: 863 5068 6061 Passcode: 027428

"Thank you for your continued participation and interest in this important process. We will keep you informed of all the upcoming activities, plans and meetings," concluded Chairman Hodge.

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# Biden wins South Carolina's Democratic presidential primary

By Asma Khalid (NPR)

President Biden won the South Carolina Democratic primary on Saturday, according to The Associated Press. It is the first official nominating contest for the party, and one that Democrats hope sends a message to Black voters.

As the incumbent president, Biden had been widely expected to carry the primary. Rep. Dean Phillips, D-Minn., and author Marianne Williamson were also on the ballot.

Biden backed the push to change the party's calendar this year to put South Carolina's primary at the front of the pack, ahead of Iowa and New Hampshire. It's not a state that Democrats expect to win in the general election, but by elevating its primary, the Democratic Party is signaling the importance of Black voters — a crucial part of its base.

"When I was elected President, I said the days of the backbone of the Democratic Party being at the back of the line were over," Biden said in a statement Saturday night. "That was a promise made and a promise kept. Now, you are First In The Nation."

Despite skipping the unsanctioned New Hampshire primary, Biden won that race after voters wrote in his name — though the results won't count toward his official nomination at the party's convention in August.

In 2020, Biden turned around his struggling campaign in the state, where Black voters account for about 60% of the party's electorate.

He referenced that win in his statement Saturday.

"In 2020, it was the voters of South Carolina who proved the pundits wrong, breathed new life into our campaign, and set us on the path to winning the Presidency," Biden said. "Now in 2024, the people of South Carolina have spoken again and I have no doubt that you have set us on

the path to winning the Presidency again — and making Donald Trump a loser — again."

The Biden campaign sees South Carolina as a springboard for his reelection bid and has poured resources into the state over the past month. Biden campaigned at a barbershop and spoke at a luncheon at a Black church. Vice President Harris campaigned in the state on Martin Luther King Jr. Day — and returned on Friday to speak at a historically Black college. First lady Jill Biden attended a gala for Alpha Kappa Alpha, a historically Black sorority.

"We know that to be the Democratic nominee and to win

the general, you need to be getting a lot of support from voters of color," said Josh Marcus-Blank, the Biden campaign's communications director for state operations. "And that's what South Carolina is all about."

Polls have shown Biden has been lagging in approval ratings with younger voters and nonwhite voters, so analysts will be paying close attention to turnout as a signal of whether Biden's message is resonating.

But Terrance Woodbury of HIT Strategies, a group that researches Black voter attitudes, cautioned against overanalyzing the results of this primary — a contest that likely will mainly attract party faithful, rather than the broader group of Black voters that Biden needs to win in battleground states like Georgia and North Carolina.

"The voters that Democrats need to mobilize in the general election aren't participating in the primary election," Woodbury told NPR.





# RUSSIA-UKRAINE AND ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICTS SHOULD NOT BE CHESS PIECES

**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. He is also the current President of the OAS Permanent Council. The views expressed are entirely his own)*

If governments, around the world have become confused about support for Ukraine in defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity against Russian aggression, the US Congress is responsible.

Over recent weeks, a contentious negotiation has unfolded between Republicans and Democrats, overshadowing the urgent matter of authorizing continued funding for Ukraine. Republicans seek to tie increased aid to Ukraine with the closure of the US southern border, citing concerns about escalating migrant numbers. Despite Democrats acquiescing to this demand, Republicans, influenced by Donald Trump's campaign strategies, have hesitated to act on border closure, potentially using the migrant issue as a political tool against Joe Biden.

The theatrics exhibited by representatives of both the Republican and Democratic parties in the US Congress have been broadcasted globally, prompting onlookers to question whether Ukraine should consider alternative avenues to resolve the conflict with Russia.

However, Ukraine faces a dire predicament with limited favorable options. Without adequate military support, it is left with the grim choice of either engaging in a potentially more devastating conflict with Russia or acquiescing to significant territorial concessions and ceding control over crucial aspects of its affairs to Russia.

Ukraine bears no responsibility for igniting this conflict; rather, it was instigated by Russia, blatantly violating international law and the principles outlined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has frequently cited the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) into Eastern Europe as justification for his country's invasion of Ukraine, despite NATO never formally agreeing to Ukraine's membership, both then and now. It's plausible that NATO refrained from extending membership to Ukraine precisely due to concerns about provoking Russia, given that its 31 members, predominantly European states along with Canada and the US, aimed to avoid escalating tensions.

Hence, the more plausible motive behind Russia's aggression towards Ukraine, which commenced with the invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014, long predating the current military escalation, is Vladimir Putin's persistent aspiration to absorb Ukraine into Russia.

Any act of aggression against a sovereign state warrants universal condemnation to preserve peace and stop war. This principle holds particular significance for smaller nations, whose defence against aggression by more powerful entities relies heavily on worldwide adherence to international law. The toxic behaviour exhibited in the US undermines the credibility of the Congress in upholding international principles.

It is the behaviour of the US Congress that is causing other nations to ponder other choices for Ukraine.

Mixed-up with the global attitude to the Russian-Ukraine conflict is the Israeli war against Hamas in Gaza, which is now in its fourth month since October 7, 2023, when Hamas militants killed some

1,200 Israelis and took more than 200 hostages. Whatever Hamas thought it would achieve by its actions, it succeeded in giving a license to Israeli leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, to rain down a war of hell in Gaza. Israeli military forces are now responsible for the deaths of more than 27,000 people. The war's death, destruction and displacement are without precedent in the decades of conflict between Israel and Palestine. Netanyahu's confrontational stance has sparked international outrage, prompting South Africa to file a case with the International Court of Justice. The case accuses Israel of genocide in its campaign against Hamas, alleging a deliberate intent to annihilate Palestinians in Gaza as part of the broader Palestinian community.

Netanyahu's persistent and aggressive stance against Palestinians, exemplified by his rejection of a Hamas ceasefire proposal as "delusional," has stirred international frustration. Of greater concern is Netanyahu's decision to intensify military operations in Gaza, despite the support of influential Arab states like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar for a peace plan that includes the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Netanyahu's insistence on pursuing "absolute victory" and opposing a Palestinian state further complicates the situation.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is actively pursuing what has been termed as "a practical, timebound, irreversible path to a Palestinian state," as part of negotiations involving the US, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Saudi Arabia.

While there are no assurances that such a deal could be reached or effectively implemented, Blinken's efforts are set against a backdrop where the reputation of the US government has, in the eyes of many governments, been tarnished by its previous staunch support for Israel.

However, conflating the plight of Ukraine, a victim of Russian aggression, with the Israeli-Hamas conflict is a misstep. Refusing to address the Ukrainian crisis unless Gaza receives comparable focus is counterproductive. What is necessary is equal global attention to both crises and a steadfast commitment to actively pursue their resolution.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized to the UN General Assembly when outlining priorities for 2024: "Peace is the missing piece across the globe and across a spectrum of issues. People yearn for peace and security, peace and dignity, and quite frankly, peace and quiet".

Representatives in the US Congress should reconsider their posture of bargaining for domestic political advantage over global issues that is costing lives and disrupting the world. All other nations should refrain from treating the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine conflicts as bargaining chips. These crises demand urgent humanitarian attention and the application of international justice.

If the US Congress and governments around the world continue the present approach to these two conflicts, much more destruction and many more lives will be lost. This will exacerbate the current global instability, and potentially expand into other countries, pushing the prospect of global peace further out of reach.





# RULE OF LAW AND POLITICAL INTEGRITY THREATS UNDERMINE ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

By Flora Cresswell, Altnai Myrzabekova and Lidija Prokic, Regional Advisors for Europe, Transparency International

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) average score of 65 out of 100 has dropped for the first time in almost a decade in Western Europe and the European Union (EU). Despite remaining the top-scoring region in the CPI, robust anti-corruption measures continue to be undermined by the weakening of checks and balances. The erosion of political integrity contributes to diminishing public trust in countries' ability to tackle the region's ongoing challenges.

The 2023 CPI reveals that anti-corruption efforts have stagnated or declined in more than three-quarters of the countries in the region. Among the 31 countries assessed, only six have improved their score, while eight have declined since 2012.

Several high-ranking democracies, including Sweden (CPI score: 82), Netherlands (79), Iceland (72) and the United Kingdom (71), have recorded their lowest-ever scores. Notably, the UK has experienced a six-point decrease over the past five years. Denmark (90), Finland (87) and Norway (84) top the CPI ranking, while the lowest-performing countries, reflecting substantial weaknesses in the rule of law, include Hungary (42), Romania (46) and Bulgaria (45).

Over a decade of systemic breach of the rule of law in Hungary (42) has created a system where high-level corruption thrives unsanctioned. The of rule of law reforms, coupled with a recent legislative initiative to silence remaining critics, reveal the government's commitment to protect the status quo.

Despite the adoption of long-overdue legislation on whistleblowing, Bulgaria's (45) significant problems with the rule of law and oligarchic influence remain, despite the legislative reform agendas of consecutive governments. The long overdue legislation on whistleblowing was adopted, but challenges with its implementation are evident.

The UK (71) continues to backslide with a two-point decline, marked by persistent lobbying scandals and instances of abuse of public office for private gain. The absence of an appointed Anti-Corruption Champion for the prime minister over the past eighteen months and the emerging details about the handling of COVID contracts have done little to restore confidence. Weaknesses in Norway's (84) trust-based system were brought to light following a string of conflict of interest scandals leading to the resignation of high-profile ministers.

Italy's (56) proposed amendments to the constitution, if passed, would concentrate power in the executive, weakening parliamentary oversight.

Reporting on corruption is also becoming increasingly challenging for journalists, weakening a vital check on government, due to heightened use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) or legal intimidation by powerful businesses and politicians in countries such as Cyprus (53), Malta (51), Ireland (77), Hungary (42), Croatia (50), Bulgaria (45), the Netherlands (79) and Poland (54).

Poland's (54) seven-point decline over the last decade showcases systematic efforts by the previous ruling Law and Order (PiS) party to monopolise power at the expense of public interest.

Judicial reforms enabling political appointments and the establishment of mechanisms to investigate and sanction judges have tilted the balance of power and eroded the rule of law in the country. These changes paved the way for subsequent legislative reforms, including those governing employment in public administration or state broadcasters, which set Poland on the path of democratic backsliding.

The PiS government reversed some decisions, such as dismantling

the Disciplinary Chamber for judges, only after facing a daily €1 million EU fine, a ruling by the EU Court of Justice deeming judicial reforms in Poland contrary to EU law, and restricted access to EU recovery funds.

Following the October 2023 elections, the new government has made the restoring of the balance of power and the rule of law among its top priorities. However, with the PiS still exerting significant influence on the institutions, rebuilding them while respecting democratic processes will not be an easy task.

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## Judicial independence falling short across Europe

Weaknesses in judicial systems are creating barriers to accessing justice and preventing courts from effectively limiting government powers. In the worst cases, politicisation of judicial and law enforcement appointments has left abuses of power unchecked.

The EU has highlighted issues in the appointment judges and the overall quality of the justice system in countries across the region, including Sweden (82), Spain (60), Poland (54), Croatia (50), Malta (51), Greece (49), Lithuania (61) and Ireland (77).

In Slovakia (54), previous progress in the prosecution of corruption is tainted by the government's controversial dismissals in the justice sector. This was swiftly followed by legislative measures aimed at closing the special prosecutor's office responsible for combating corruption and reducing criminal sanctions for corruption. If adopted, these changes would significantly undermine the rule of law and democratic stability, fostering an environment of impunity for corruption.

Long-standing rule of law issues persist in Spain (60), with judicial independence perceived as falling short. At the centre is the urgent need for reform of the party quota system of judicial appointments, which has led to a five-year standoff of appointments to the General Council of the Judiciary.

In France (71), Minister of Justice Éric Dupond-Moretti has been indicted on suspicion of using his ministerial role to settle disputes with magistrates with whom he had clashed during his time as a lawyer. The special court made up of members of parliament found him not guilty. Dupond-Moretti remained in office throughout the trial.



# Caribbean News / Regional News

## UNDP appoints new Resident Representative for Jamaica, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands



*Newly appointed UNDP Resident Representative, Kishan Khoday presents his credentials to Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon Kamina Johnson Smith at the Ministry in Kingston on 2 February 2024*  
Photo: © UNDP MCO in Jamaica

The new Resident Representative presented his credentials to Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, signalling the official start of duty. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has announced the appointment of Kishan Khoday as Resident

Representative for Jamaica, effective 22 January 2024.

As Resident Representative based at the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Jamaica, Mr. Khoday also represents UNDP in Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Mr. Khoday, a Canadian national of Indian descent, presented his credentials to Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith today at the Ministry, officially marking the start of his tour of duty.

In welcoming the new Resident Representative, Minister Johnson Smith highlighted the fruitful cooperation between Jamaica and the UNDP, particularly in poverty reduction, climate change, disaster risk management, coral reef protection, and advancing gender equality. She said these efforts are pivotal for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, showcasing the depth of the multilateral partnership and shared commitment to a sustainable future.

Mr. Khoday pledged continuing support for Jamaica's development aspirations anchored on an inclusive and sustainable approach that leaves no one behind. He said that through UNDP's current Country Programme (CP) in Jamaica (2022-2026),

UNDP offers a strategic approach to combating multidimensional poverty and advancing climate resilient, nature-based pathways, leveraging UNDP's capacities in innovation, digitalisation, and sustainable finance. "As we near the 50th anniversary of UNDP's presence in Jamaica, I look forward to building on our long-standing history and expanding cooperation in a way that builds resilience to multi-dimensional crises and the many pressing challenges facing local communities across Jamaica and the region. This includes our partnerships in Jamaica for social inclusion and resilience; citizen safety, justice and the rule of law; gender equality and community empowerment; climate resilience and natural resource security," he stated.

Mr. Khoday has served with UNDP for 25 years, having coordinated over USD \$1 billion in country programming to help partners and communities around the world advance inclusive and sustainable development pathways. This included tours of duty with UNDP Country Offices in China,

Saudi Arabia and Indonesia and with UNDP's regional offices for the Middle East and North Africa based in Egypt and Jordan. Prior to joining the UN, Mr. Khoday worked with government and community organisations in his home countries of Canada and India on issues of poverty reduction, ecological resilience, and community empowerment.

Mr. Khoday is a scientist and lawyer, holding a Juris Doctorate specialising in constitutional, international, and environmental law; a Master of Science in natural resource management focused on land and water systems, and a Bachelor of Science in agriculture specialising in biodiversity and ecological change. The UNDP Resident Representative is a frequent speaker at international conferences and policy dialogues on the development agenda and a recognised thought leader on strategic issues such as climate change, ecosystem resilience, constitutionalism, postcolonial and decolonial theory, and resilience-based approaches to development, having published extensively on these and other issues.

## The CariSECURE 2.0 project will support provision of awards for responsible coverage of youth in crime and trafficking in persons.

**Two new categories announced for Excellence in Responsible Reporting. Submission of entries closes on February 29, 2024.**

As part of its vital work on citizen security in the Eastern Caribbean, UNDP, through the CariSECURE 2.0 project, has joined with the Caribbean Broadcasting Union's (CBU) 35th NGC Caribbean Media Awards to recognise journalism excellence.

CariSECURE 2.0 (Strengthening Evidence-Based Decision Making for Citizen Security in the Caribbean) is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It aims to improve youth crime and violence policy-making and programming in the Eastern and

Southern Caribbean through the use of quality, comparable and reliable national citizen security information, and aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5: Gender Equality; and 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

CariSECURE 2.0 is taking an innovative approach in line with the project's objectives by partnering with the CBU to recognize Excellence in Responsible Reporting in two new categories: Youth Involvement in Crime and Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

Submitted news stories should demonstrate balanced and well-sourced insight on issues of youth involvement in crime in Barbados, Grenada, or Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, or a human-rights based approach to reporting or raising awareness of trafficking

in persons (TIP) in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Lucia, or Trinidad and Tobago, across print, television, radio, or digital platforms.

Highlighting a regional media assessment currently being undertaken by CariSECURE 2.0, Limya Eltayeb, Resident Representative of UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean noted, "The media has unparalleled ability to build public awareness, mobilise citizens and influence policy. Doing so ethically and responsibly is critical so that people better understand crime and violence from the perspective of human rights and social justice. By providing recognition and training for Caribbean journalists, CariSECURE 2.0 aims to enhance the media's capacity to deliver data-driven, balanced and

insightful reporting – especially in areas of youth involvement in crime and trafficking, to ensure vulnerable individuals are not further victimized."

In welcoming the new partnership with CariSECURE 2.0, CBU President, Dr. Claire Grant, recognised the project's commitment to working with the CBU in its emphasis on Caribbean news professionals providing accurate and relevant information throughout the region. She highlighted that, "As the premier media content competition in the region, the CMAs shine a spotlight on the important themes highlighted in the award-winning entries as well as the critical work by indigenous media dedicated to serving Caribbean audiences at home and in the diaspora."

For more than three decades, the

CBU has presented its Awards to showcase outstanding work by regional media. This year the title sponsor is the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC). The NGC CBU Awards Gala will be transmitted live on broadcast and digital platforms on August 13 from Belize.

Full information on the criteria for the new categories and how to enter the competition can be found at <https://www.caribroadcastunion.org/cbu-events/cma/>. Fee waivers for submissions to CariSECURE 2.0 categories will be considered upon request, providing an opportunity for broader participation and recognition. Submission of entries closes on February 29, 2024.



**VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS**

## Trump Not Immune From Prosecution in Election Subversion Case, US Appeals Court Rules

Former U.S. President Donald Trump is not immune from being prosecuted on charges that he illegally plotted to overturn his 2020 reelection loss to stay in power, a U.S. appellate court panel in Washington unanimously ruled Tuesday.

The 3-0 decision rejected Trump's claim that special counsel Jack Smith cannot prosecute him for the actions Trump took in the waning days of his presidency to upend his loss to Democrat Joe Biden because they were related to his official duties as president.

"Former President Trump has become citizen Trump, with all of the defenses of any other criminal defendant," the court ruled. "But any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as President no longer protects him against this prosecution."

In a four-count indictment, Smith accused Trump of using false claims of voter fraud to pressure state election officials, the Justice Department and his vice president, Mike Pence, to thwart congressional certification of the election results showing he had lost.

Trump, the first president accused in a criminal case, has denied wrongdoing in the election subversion case and three other indictments he is facing that encompass a total of 91 charges. Some of the trials in the cases could occur this year as Trump, the leading 2024 Republican presidential candidate, seeks to reclaim the White House in the November election, again facing Biden.

Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung said the appellate court ruling "threatens the bedrock of our Republic. Without complete immunity, a

President of the United States would not be able to properly function!"

Tuesday's ruling, which Trump said he is appealing, either to the full appellate court or the U.S. Supreme Court, came nearly a month after the three appellate judges heard arguments in the case, with Trump in the courtroom.

With the length of the time for a decision on Trump's immunity claim and other legal issues in the case yet to be decided, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan last week indefinitely postponed the scheduled March 4 trial date.

Chutkan had rejected Trump's immunity claim, which he then appealed to the appellate court. She said the office of the president "does not confer a lifelong 'get-out-of-jail-free' pass."

The appellate court ruling was handed down by Judges Florence Pan and Michelle Childs, both Biden appointees, and Karen LeCraft Henderson, who was named to the bench by President George H.W. Bush, a Republican.

While awaiting the appellate court ruling, Trump has claimed numerous times at campaign rallies and on social media that all U.S. presidents need full immunity from prosecution, lest their political rivals charge them with crimes once their four-year presidential terms have ended.

Trump's lawyers argued that former presidents were entitled to sweeping legal protections. They claimed that unless the House of Representatives

had first impeached them for wrongdoing, and they then were convicted by the Senate and removed from office, they could not be criminally prosecuted for official actions.

Trump was twice impeached by the House, including for inciting an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol two weeks before he left office by urging supporters to "fight like hell" to block congressional certification of Biden's election victory. In both impeachment cases, enough Senate Republicans voted to acquit him to keep him from being convicted.

Even if Trump's immunity is eventually rejected by the Supreme Court, he will have delayed his prosecution and possibly pushed any trial past the November 5 election. If he wins, he could direct the Justice Department to drop the case.

But any trial, whether the Washington election subversion case or any of other three Trump is facing, holds unprecedented implications for the U.S. presidential contest.

Rather than campaigning, Trump would be required to sit in court day after day and listen to testimony against him. News stories about the cases would fill the front pages of newspapers and dominate the airwaves and social media accounts just as the election approaches.

In addition to the Washington case, Trump faces federal charges in Florida that he illegally retained classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate after he left office in January 2021. He is also charged in the southeastern state of Georgia with scheming to subvert Biden's 2020 victory there and in New York in connection with hush money payments made to porn actress Stormy Daniels ahead of his successful 2016 election.

The New York trial is scheduled to start in late March.

## Media Reports: Ukrainian Intelligence Official Fired Over Surveillance of Journalists

A top official at Ukraine's SBU intelligence agency was fired following revelations that investigative journalists in the country had been surveilled, according to media reports.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy approved the firing, a source said.

The press freedom group Reporters Without Borders, or RSF, which identified three relevant cases, called for investigations.

In one case, the investigative outlet Bihus.info reported on Monday it had been under surveillance by the SBU, the Security Service of Ukraine. The intelligence agency later confirmed the monitoring but said it had acted as part of an investigation into drug trafficking.

In another case, Odesa-based journalist Iryna Hryb reported in January that she found a device in her car that could be used to listen to her phone calls or discussions with passengers and track her movement.

In the third case, masked individuals tried to force their way into the Kyiv apartment of investigative reporter Yuriy Nikolov on January 14. He was threatened with forcible enlistment to fight in the Ukrainian army, according to RSF.

Speaking about the surveillance of Bihus.info, SBU chief Vasyl Maliuk condemned these actions and announced internal measures against the "people involved."

A source with the SBU told Agence France-Presse this week that "the head of the SBU state protection department, Roman Semchenko, was fired as a result of the surveillance of Bihus Info staff."

Jeanne Cavelier, head of RSF's Eastern Europe and Central Asia desk, said these cases are connected because all three involved journalists covering corruption linked to the Ukrainian elite.

"Journalists must be able to work in Ukraine without being spied on, followed or threatened," Cavelier said in a statement. "The Ukrainian media landscape draws its strength from these journalists, who continue their investigative reporting despite the war." Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Some information in this report came from Agence France-Presse.



# SPORTS

## Palesa Caesar opens with Carifta Games Discus Throw qualifier

By Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway

### TRACK & FIELD

Discus Thrower Palesa Caesar, opened her season with three throws over 39m, to qualify for the 51st Carifta Games in St. George's Grenada, over the Easter weekend. She settled for a best mark of 39.62m (129'11¼") which came on her opening effort.

"The first throw was the best out of all I did. I threw two 38s and three 39s and I had one foul. It was not my best meet," she told Island Sun Sports in an exclusive interview following the event. "It was my first meet of the season but not my best meet I've ever had. It's not really okay-ish for a season opener, but I'm not complaining, because I know that I can do way better than that."

For an opening effort, Caesar said she wanted at least a throw over 40m (132'2¾"). In order to do that, she said that she must fix her lining and her speed in the circle to get the desired mark. She also has to fix

the middle of her throws and stay stable. On the throw she fouled, Caesar explained that her release was a bit too early, causing her to hit the supporting pole on the cage.

"That's why that happened," she said on reflection, noting that she has to correct that by "fixing" the line. "If you fix your line, you fix your foot timing," she said. "This year, I'm looking for a 45m (147'7¼") throw. I'm looking for more of course, but the least is a 45m throw." Caesar entered the 2024 season with a personal best of 43.68m (143'3¼").

Notable performances on the track came from Shaniah Johnson, who won an U20 Girls sprint double in 12.39 and 25.22 seconds respectively, dropping her time from 25.83 in the latter, during her debut. M'Kenzi Crabbe—who will be 14 later this year—was second in both events in 12.68 (0.1) and 25.76 (0.2) seconds respectively. She opened her season with 26.04 and 60.91 in the 400m.

Vadley Sylvester ran 49.40 and 22.05 seconds respectively, in the 400m and 200m. Jahshani Farrington, who was second in 49.68, pulled Jonathan Lynch to an 800m personal best of 1 minute, 58.61 seconds, after he stopped the clock at 1:57.98. Lynch opened his

season with 2:01.92.

Already qualified for Carifta in the U17 Boys 100m, Tiondre Frett made his 400m debut in 51.71 seconds.

Taking just a five steps approach, Jah'Kyla Morton, who has won Carifta Games U17 Girls High Jump bronze in 2022, silver in 2023, a NACAC U18 Girls gold in 2023 and will compete in the U20 Girls Division this year, cleared 1.65m (5'5") and narrowly missed at 1.70 (5'7"). She lowered her 100m Hurdles season's best from 15.73 seconds to 15.42.

In the U17 Girls Shot Put on Friday afternoon, Makada Christopher won the event with a 10.80m (35'5¼") toss and Romeena Davis threw 10.44 (34'3") for second. Both improved on their last outing. Savianna Joseph, an U17 Girls Shot Put gold medalist in 2022, had a best heave of 11.38m (37'4").

"I haven't been on the track as much but I've been sending the workouts to them. I feel good and I'm content with what I got today," their Coach Raphael "Booker" Jack told Island Sun Sports. "I see what has to be done to take the next step, meaning we're not far away from our goal and that's a good thing."

Christopher, he noted, has



Palesa Caesar in the middle of her best throw of 39.62m

corrected her throwing hand release, resulting in a better Shot Put mark. "That was the most important thing and I feel good about that," Jack said. "The hand is fixed, she's putting the ball the right way now, so we're working on the technique now to get more speed (in the circle) and more aggressiveness and we'll be right there. Their consistency is there." Of Joseph, Jack said while he didn't get the work in ahead of the meet,

the mark sets her up for a bigger mark and closer to the 13.25m (43'5¼") Carifta Games qualifying standard. "We'll see what happens in the next two weeks," he said of the next competition. "That's all I could say."

Then on Saturday, Davis won the Discus Throw with a heave of 28.33m (92'11¼") while Christopher settled for 23.42 (76'10"). Joseph fouled on her efforts.

## Big wins for Sugar Boys, Wolues in Football play

By Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway

### FOOTBALL

Alejandro Sanchez had a quadruple of goals as visiting Virgin Gorda Sugar Boys routed Positive 11-0, while the Wolues got braces from Noel Maxwell and Leo Forte, in a 6-1 win over One Love.

Sanchez has scores in the 10th, 45+2, 55th and 79th for Sugar Boys who led 6-0 at the half. Aron Jones had a brace with scores in the 17th and 24th. Akeem Hendrickson connected in the 43rd, Michael Castello in the 69th and Lenard Davis in the 74th. Positive contributed

to the lopsided victory with two own goals, one from Tyrell Wright in the 33rd and another from Mathurin Rosier in the 60th.

Maxwell had his brace in the 26th and 38th for Wolues while Marcus Robinson scored in the 39th for their 3-0 halftime lead over One Love. Phil Nelson scored off a penalty kick in the 50th and Leo Forte added his brace six minutes apart, finding the net in the 60th and 66th.

League leaders VG United and Old Madrid's game prematurely ended in a forfeiture in favor of VG United, 3-0, after leading 4-0 at halftime, due to unsportsmanlike conduct. In the 57th minute, Old Madrid players sat on the turf in Greenland and refused to play,

after the center referee made a call on them off a penalty kick. The unsportsmanlike conduct lasted 26 minutes until the referee blew the whistle in the 38th minute of the second half.

Joel Mars had scored in the 16th and 34th, after Joel Mars put VG United ahead, 1-0 in the 7th. Jaadon Quashie made it 4-0 at halftime, which his ledger in the 41st.

Lion Heart pinned yet another loss on the Rebels, this time, 2-1. Janel Ferdinand had a brace for Lion Heart, with scores in the 50th and 79th. Curtley Peters got on the board for Rebels in the 75th.

In the Women's game, a battle for bragging rights on Virgin Gorda between Avengers and VG United, ended in a scoreless



The ball off a Wolues' player kick, left, eludes the Positive Goalkeeper had a brace in the 11th and 67th. Eva Carey continued her scoring with another one in the 32nd. Imogen Allen had a hat trick in leading the Wolues to a 6-0 victory, after leaving 4-0 at the half. Zolita Bramford



# SPORTS



Runners line up for the start of the 800m during Saturday's Dag Samuels Development Series Meet No 3



Jah'Kyla Morton, 2022 and 2023 Carifta Games High Jump U17 Girls bronze and silver medalist, measuring her height



2022 Carifta Games U17 Shot Put champ Savianna Joseph, competes in the Discus Throw



Official Dezarre Woodley, measuring the High Jump bar at 1.70m



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# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



# The Spats

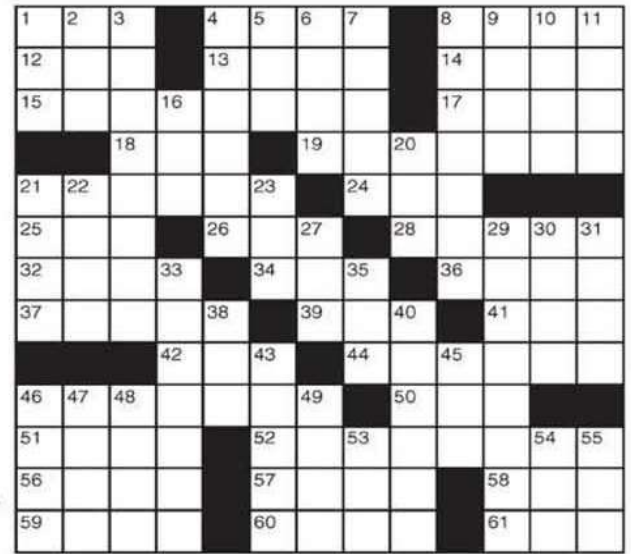
by Jeff Pickering



# King Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 TV schedule abbr.
- 4 Rotate
- 8 Exerciser's target
- 12 Slithery fish
- 13 Layered cookie
- 14 Greek vowel
- 15 Selflessness
- 17 Seize
- 18 Chapeau
- 19 Slogan
- 21 Garden figurines
- 24 Use henna
- 25 Post-op area
- 26 Apply cream
- 28 College study
- 32 Close by
- 34 "Gee, ya think?"
- 36 Golfer's cry
- 37 Campfire leftovers
- 39 Clothing protector
- 41 Sandwich meat
- 42 "— been real"
- 44 By and large
- 46 Opposite of candor
- 50 Eggy quaff
- 51 Bern's river
- 52 Halite
- 56 Egyptian deity
- 57 Shrek, for one
- 58 Half of CIV
- 59 Society newbies



- 60 French perfume brand
- 61 Prom rental

## DOWN

- 1 Afternoon get-together
- 2 Ann Patchett's "— Canto"
- 3 However
- 4 Praised loudly
- 5 Mentalist Geller
- 6 Take it easy
- 7 Wanderer
- 8 Biblical cover-up?
- 9 Petty of "Tank Girl"
- 10 — impasse
- 11 Innocent one
- 16 Ewe's mate
- 20 Workout venue
- 21 Actress Gershon
- 22 Mark Harmon TV series
- 23 Melancholy
- 27 Fella
- 29 "Atlas Shrugged" hero
- 30 Exam format
- 31 "Ratatouille" rat
- 33 Patty Hearst, for one
- 35 "Tell —" (Streisand/Dion song)
- 38 Fr. holy woman
- 40 Monopoly job
- 43 Seafood selection
- 45 Cyclades island
- 46 Stated
- 47 Lighten
- 48 Baby's bed
- 49 Boo-Boo's buddy
- 53 — -Magnon
- 54 Lucy of "Elementary"
- 55 Box office buys, slangily

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# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Newspaper is longer. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Label is missing. 4. Fille cabinet is taller. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Jacket sleeve is shorter.

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

Answer

## Weekly SUDOKU

T	U		O	D	S	B	S	D
I	I		O	G	S	S	I	S
A	A		R	O	C	O	S	A
S	G		O	N	S	E	C	R
L	N		I	S	I	S	I	L
A	M		H	B	I	B	S	A
O	R		E	D	U	H	G	S
R	C		D	A	B	M	A	J
E	N		D	Y	E	S	G	O
I	N		E	A	G	L	A	N
R	A		B	T	A	G	L	A
F	L		A	B	O	R	E	O
T	B		A	T	U	R	N	F

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

## King Crossword

# Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a beaver's home called?
2. U.S. STATES: In which state would you find Crater Lake?
3. TELEVISION: Which animated cartoon character says, "What's up, Doc?"
4. LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Exorcist"?
5. MATH: In Roman numerals, what is XVIII times V?
6. ANATOMY: How many vertebrae are in the human spine?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Which nation is home to Europe's largest glacier?
8. MOVIES: In which film does Doris Day sing "Que Sera, Sera"?
9. SCIENCE: What is anemophily?
10. MUSIC: Who sang the hit "Girls Just Want to Have Fun"?

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**MORE READERS:**

**THE ISLAND SUN**

1. A lodge; 2. Oregon; 3. Bugs Bunny; 4. William Peter Blatty; 5. XC(90); 6. 33; 7. Iceland; 8. "The Man Who Knew Too Much"; 9. Pollination by the wind; 10. Cyndi Lauper.

## Trivia Test Answers



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

*Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.*

PSALM 146: 5-7

Detail of "Nervous People at Dinner" by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1916)

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The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

BrainyQuote





I REMEMBER A WORLD BEFORE EMPEROR MING.



LAWLESS. CHAOTIC.

THEY CALLED HIM "MERCILESS," BUT MING'S LAW BROUGHT ORDER TO GENERATIONS.

AND MY JUDGMENTS CONVERTED HIS LAW INTO JUSTICE.



MING IS GONE, BUT I REMAIN-- LOGICAL, IMPARTIAL.

ENSURING JUSTICE WILL ENDURE.

I AM INQUISITOR AEGIA, AND IT FALLS ON ME TO DETERMINE IF FLASH GORDON -- SUPPOSED KILLER OF EMPEROR MING --



-- HAS ALSO KILLED MING'S SON.

HE CLAIMS MING II ACCOSTED HIM -- THAT THEY STRUGGLED IN THE DARK UNTIL THE VICTIM WAS STABBED BY AN UNSEEN PARTY.



DUBIOUS.



FACTS:

- FLASH IS A LONGTIME ALLY OF PRINCESS AURA, WHOSE ROYAL CLAIM THE VICTIM WAS CHALLENGING.
- HE PUBLICLY THREATENED THE VICTIM.
- THE MURDER WEAPON WAS A STEAK KNIFE FROM THE ROYAL RECEPTION, WHICH HE HAD JUST LEFT.

I GIVE RULERS AURA AND BARIN MY VERDICT:



THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE OF FLASH GORDON'S GUILT, AND HE WILL BE PLACED IN THE TOMBS PENDING A FULL INVESTIGATION.

HIS FELLOW ALIENS TRY TO DENY MY VERDICT...



...BUT MONGO'S NEW RULERS CANNOT BE SEEN TO SUBVERT THE LAW TO HELP THEIR ALLY.

I RESPECT THIS. IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE, ONE CANNOT BE SOFT. SENTIMENTAL. LIBERAL.

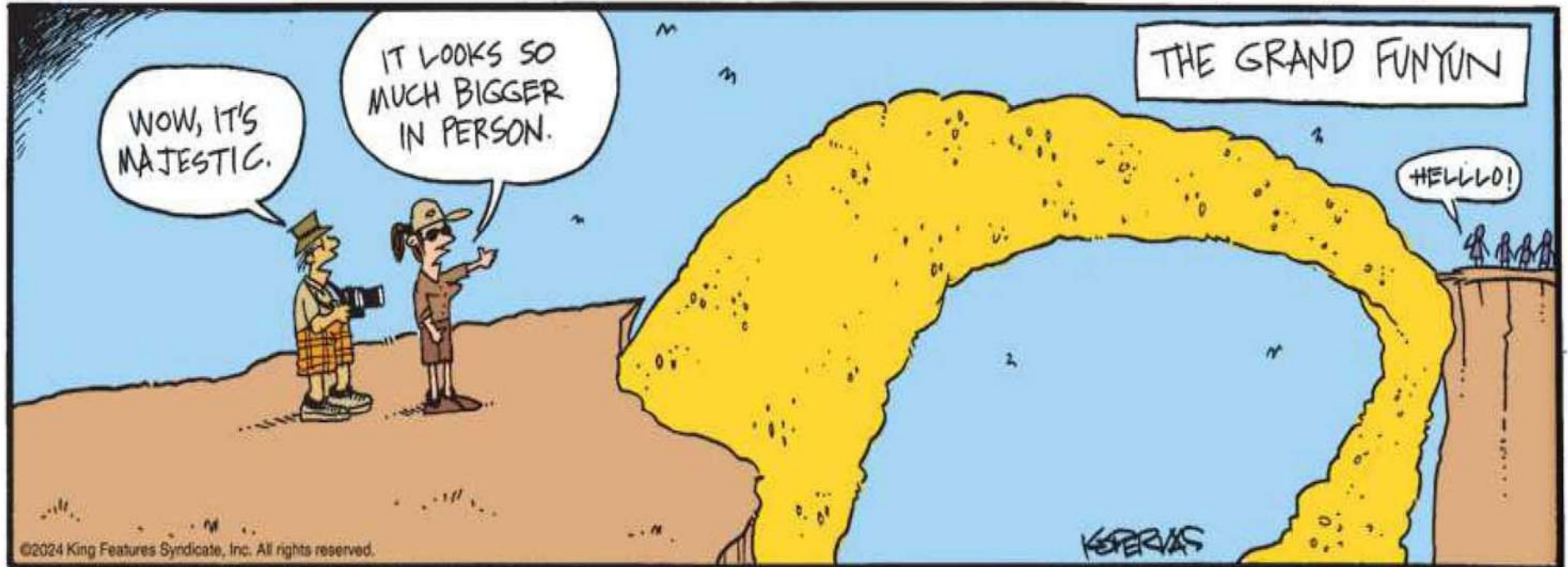


ONE MUST BE MERCILESS.

NEXT: THE TOMBS

# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas




KOPERVAS



**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.

PSALM 146: 5-7



Detail of "Nervous People at Dinner" by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1916)

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**DONNA ERICKSON'S BEST BITES**



### Celebrate the Chinese New Year With Firecracker Shrimp

When it comes to demystifying Chinese cooking, my friend Katie Chin, daughter of restaurateur Leeann Chin, knows what it takes to bring tasty recipes into American homes. As a chef, cookbook author and television personality, Katie believes in spreading the word about how truly delicious Chinese cuisine can be, starting with sharing culinary traditions with her 8-year-old twins.

"Chinese New Year is coming up on Feb. 10," she reminds me. "Firecracker shrimp is a tasty and whimsical appetizer to kick off the celebration in our home in Southern California. My sous-chef kids mix the dipping sauce and roll up the 'firecrackers,' revealing shrimp tails and carrot strips for 'fuses.' As we prep, I'll tell them about their grandmother's memories of growing up in China — and how firecrackers (believed to ward off evil spirits) lit up the sky on New Year's Day."

Roll up her firecracker shrimp for an appetizer that explodes with flavor in every bite. The recipe was adapted from her cookbook "Katie Chin's Everyday Chinese Cookbook: 101 Delicious Recipes From My Mother's Kitchen."

#### FIRECRACKER SHRIMP

- Serves 6 as an appetizer
- 1 large carrot, cut into 3-inch-by-1/4-inch matchsticks
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt, divided
- 12 shelled and deveined large, raw shrimp (tails left intact)

- 4 spring roll wrappers
  - 1 egg, beaten
  - Vegetable oil for deep-frying
- Place carrot slices in a small bowl. Sprinkle with 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt. Sprinkle shrimp with remaining garlic salt. Set aside.
- Cut each spring roll wrapper into thirds to make 12 long strips. Brush the top third of each strip with the egg. Lay 1 shrimp at the bottom of the strip. Set a carrot slice on top of the shrimp.
- Tightly roll, letting the egg seal it together at the end. (The tail of the shrimp and the carrot should protrude from one end to resemble a firecracker.) Repeat with remaining wrappers.

In a large wok or deep skillet, heat 2-3 inches of oil to 350 F. Fry the shrimp rolls 5 or 6 at a time until golden brown (about 2 minutes), turning 2 to 3 times. Transfer to a cooling rack lined with paper towels.



Serve hot with dipping sauce.

#### DIPPING SAUCE

- 4 tablespoons mayonnaise
  - 2 tablespoons sriracha chili sauce
- In a small bowl, mix the mayonnaise and sriracha together.

**Cook's Note:** Find spring roll wrappers in the freezer section of Asian markets. You can also substitute them with egg roll wrappers from the produce section of grocery stores.

*Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at [www.donnaerickson.com](http://www.donnaerickson.com).*

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• In 2012, a 90-year-old Baltimore woman named Venus Green locked a police officer in her basement when he tried searching her home without a warrant. Afterward, she brought a civil rights lawsuit and won a \$95,000 settlement.

• "Jeopardy!" contestants stand on adjustable platforms so that they all appear to be the same height on camera.

• Chess is a required school subject in Armenia.

• Before the modern glass versions we use today became commonplace, mirrors were made from bronze and were prized possessions of rich households in Egypt, Greece, Rome, China and Japan.

• The Statue of Liberty's full name is Liberty Enlightening the World.

• A study conducted at the University of Montreal showed that young people who played the 1996 game Super Mario 64 for only two months increased their spatial and episodic memory, which improves brain capacity and helps to ward off dementia.

• More than 20% of all the world's freshwater is in the Great Lakes.

• While humans and giraffes obviously have vastly different neck lengths, they still have the exact same number (seven) of neck vertebrae.

• Ever wonder why some cocktails are shaken while others are stirred? Chalk it up to the level of dilution and texture required: The longer the shake or stir, the more diluted and cold the beverage gets. Hence cocktails made with spirits, tonics and bitters should be stirred, while those featuring fruit juices, egg whites, cream or cream-based liqueurs should be shaken.

• Folks used to say "prunes" rather than "cheese" when having their pictures taken.

**Thought for the Day:** "It is not by muscle, speed or physical dexterity that great things are achieved, but by reflection, force of character and judgment, and in these qualities old age is usually not only not poorer, but is even richer."

— Cicero

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## HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Paramount Pictures has lost its biggest star now that **Tom Cruise** is moving his production company to Warner Bros. after 30 years. Cruise has been making pictures with Paramount since 1992, and his last release will be the upcoming eighth film in the "Mission Impossible" franchise. The seventh film, "Dead Reckoning Part One," grossed \$567.5 million. It will be a sad day for Paramount when the 61-year-old superstar moves to Warner Bros.

"Wonka," starring **Timothee Chalamet**, is impressive in an "Oliver Twist" kind of way. He sings, dances and acts great, but while it had some magic, it didn't have the appeal of the first two films with **Gene Wilder** and **Johnny Depp**. Still, you can't argue with half a billion in its first three weeks.

"Killers of the Flower Moon" was a disappointment at the box office — and at the Golden Globes when **Robert De Niro**, **Leonardo DiCaprio** and **Martin Scorsese** didn't score any wins. But **Lily Gladstone** won for Best Actress in a Motion Picture. Scorsese says that his next project will be an 80-minute film called "A Life of Jesus."

Six-time Tony winner, two-time Grammy winner, and Emmy winner **Audra McDonald**, recently seen in season two of Max's "The Gilded Age" (which was renewed for season three), will take on **Mama Rose** in a revival of "Gypsy" on Broadway. It's the first time a woman of color is taking the role on.

Oscar-winning director **Guillermo Del Toro** has picked his next project. He's developing a new Frankenstein film starring "Priscilla's" **Elvis Presley**, **Jacob Elordi**. **Oscar Isaac** will play Dr. Frankenstein, and two-time Oscar winner **Christoph Waltz** will be backing them up. At least Elordi won't have to learn any dialogue!

What we need even less than another Frankenstein film is another "King Kong" film (or another edition of



Audra McDonald ("The Gilded Age")

"Mean Girls"). Still, "Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire" opens on March 29.

**Linda Ronstadt**, who was misdiagnosed with Parkinson's disease, has been re-diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy, leaving her unable to sing anymore. A biopic will be made about Ronstadt's life, starring "Only Murders in the Building's" **Selena Gomez**.

**Josh Hutcherson** (of "The Hunger Games" franchise) scored big with "Five Nights at Freddy's," which cost \$20 million and grossed \$294.6 million. A sequel is in the works. Meanwhile, he currently has "The Beekeeper" out in theaters, with **Jason Statham**, **Jeremy Irons** and **Minnie Driver**.

Paramount's revving up their "Star Trek" franchise, but probably won't have **Chris Pine** playing Capt. James T. Kirk. Pine played Kirk in 2009, 2013 and 2016; however, this one's a prequel, so Pine is probably too old to take us into the final frontier! Imagine being too old at 43! Stay tuned.

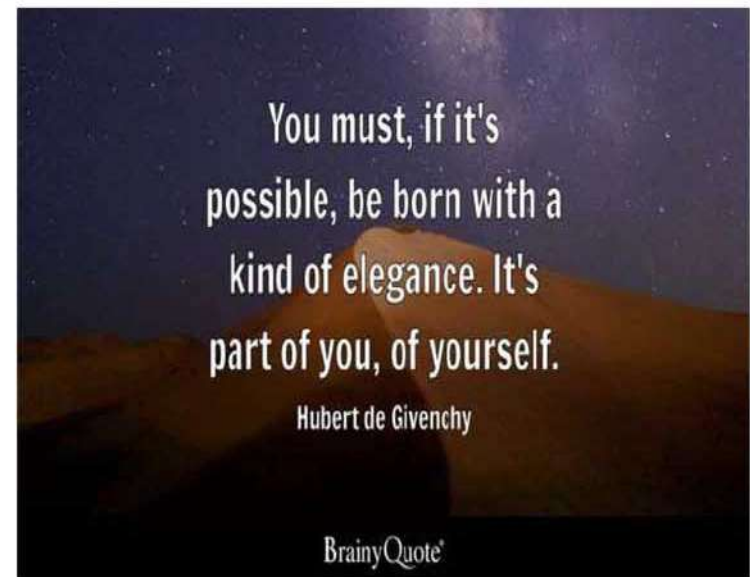
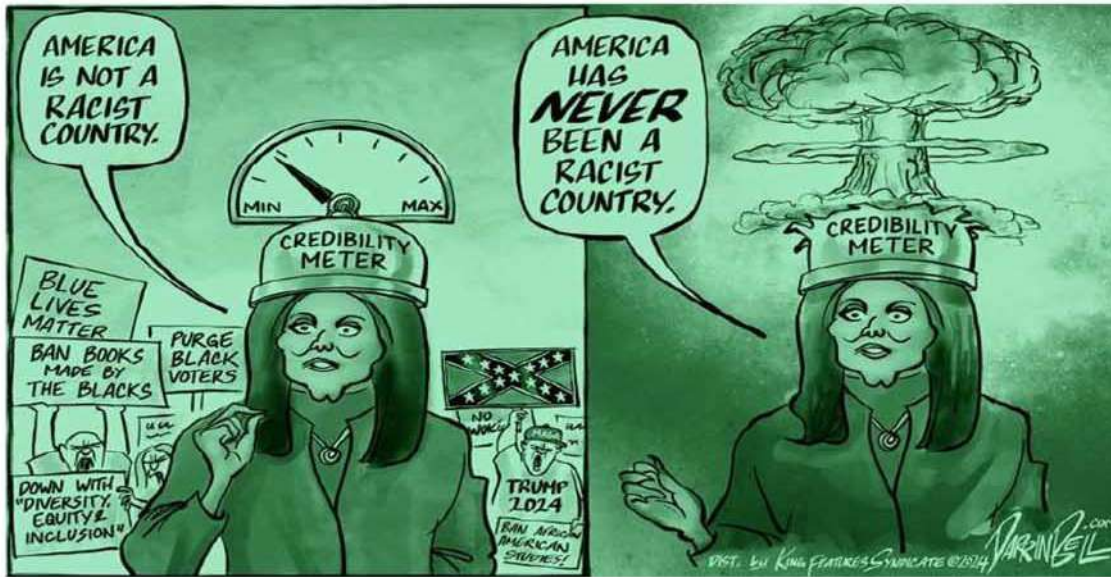
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Gentleness doesn't get work done unless you happen to be a hen laying eggs.

Coco Chanel

BrainyQuote





**celebrity extra**  
by Dana Jackson

**Q.** What is Jeff Goldblum up to these days? I only see him on commercials for apartments, but not in any movies lately. — P.T.

**A.** Despite having what is surely a lucrative gig as the spokesman for Apartments.com, Jeff Goldblum is still very much a beloved and sought-after actor in Hollywood. Originally from Pittsburgh, Goldblum started out as most actors do when they move to California — landing guest-starring roles on hit primetime shows. He landed small but memorable roles in movies like “Annie Hall,” “The Right Stuff” and “The Big Chill.”

In 1986, he starred in the sci-fi horror film “The Fly,” but it would be the “Jurassic Park” movies that would bring him his greatest box-office success. He’s caught the eye of other big-name directors, including Taika Waititi for “Thor: Ragnarok” and Wes Anderson for “Asteroid City,” the latter of which was just released last year. So, yes, Goldblum’s acting days are far from over. He even has a role in the highly anticipated film “Wicked,” which is based on the hit Broadway musical.



Jeff Goldblum (Upcoming in “Wicked”)

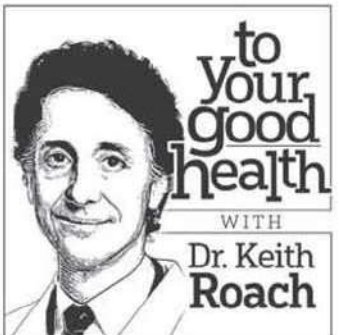
satiric film “Best in Show,” then later in “Legally Blonde,” opposite Reese Witherspoon. Coolidge has won two Critics’ Choice Awards, one Golden Globe and two Primetime Emmys for playing ditzy Tanya, so it’s no wonder that stars are lining up to work for White.

**Q.** Is there going to be another season of “The White Lotus” on HBO? If so, where will it take place? I hope they return to Hawaii. — G.J.

**A.** There definitely will be a third season of “The White Lotus,” but not until sometime in 2025. Once again, the story will be set at a luxury resort, but instead of Hawaii and Italy, it’ll be Thailand.

Natasha Rothwell, who played spa manager Belinda in season one, will be returning to the series. Joining her is an impressive cast that includes Carrie Coon (“The Gilded Age”), Parker Posey (“Best in Show”), Jason Isaacs (“Archie”), Walton Goggins (“Justified”), Michelle Monaghan (“True Detective”) and Leslie Bibb (“Popular”).

“White Lotus” creator Mike White and his cast have been a strong presence at the Emmy and Golden Globe Awards for the past two years. The series has also relaunched Jennifer Coolidge’s career since she starred in Christopher Guest’s



**to your good health**  
WITH Dr. Keith Roach

**How to Take Precautions When a Family Member Has Mono**

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My daughter was exposed to infectious mononucleosis (“mono”) at college, and she is coming to spend a week at home. What precautions do we need to take to make sure that the rest of the family remains safe? How long does the virus stay active on surfaces?

**Also, can she get her flu and COVID shots? — D.G.**

**ANSWER:** Mono is classically caused by the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), but very similar symptoms can be caused by other agents, viruses and even a parasite as well. The virus is transmitted through saliva.

The latency period (the time from exposure until the time of symptoms) is longer than you might expect; four to six weeks is typical. Not everybody develops symptoms. Younger children seldom develop symptoms at all when infected, yet they still receive immunity. Unfortunately, they may shed infectious virus particles for months, years or even decades.

It is likely that the adults in your family are immune, since 90% of adults have had an EBV infection before. EBV is not a particularly infectious disease, so transmission to family members is uncommon. Still, you should avoid sharing anything that saliva touches, like food, cups or toothbrushes. You don’t need to take special precautions with surfaces.

She can get the flu and COVID vaccines as long as she feels well and doesn’t have a fever.

**Q.** I saw a headline that said singers Alanis Morissette and Ciara are distant cousins? Did they just find this out? — L.B.

**A.** The two singers aren’t related; however, both did appear on the same PBS show “Finding Your Roots.” In Ciara’s case, she learned that one of her distant cousins is former New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter. The two actually met almost 10 years ago at the ESPY Awards and were even photographed together, but didn’t know that they were related at the time.

Alanis Morissette was informed on “Finding Your Roots” that she also has a famous relative. In fact, her distant cousin is someone she already considered a friend — actress Claire Danes (“Homeland”).

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

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**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I am an aging athlete (60 years old) with a history of minor injuries and wear and tear on my body that has resulted in minor arthritis. Also, I have recurring bouts of tendonitis, IBS and depression, so I avoid foods that cause inflammation.

Recently, I read that tart cherry juice is very good for reducing inflammation. However, in my efforts to avoid inflammatory foods, I also avoid sugar. A serving of tart cherry juice has a lot of fruit sugar. This is confusing to me. Does tart cherry juice reduce or increase inflammation? What is the difference between sucrose and fructose in terms of health? — P.G.

**ANSWER:** There is some evidence that tart cherry juice does have anti-inflammatory properties, and studies on athletes have shown through blood tests that the benefits of tart cherry juice include faster recovery, improved performance, enhanced muscle oxygenation and decreased inflammation. A glass of tart cherry juice (without added sugar) has 25 grams of sugar, about the same as a glass of orange juice.

The studies that show improvement included the effect of sugar, but I understand you want to reduce sugar, which means that you will need to be careful elsewhere in your diet if you do start drinking cherry juice.

As far as fructose (most fruit sugar) versus sucrose (table sugar), there is almost no difference in its effect on your health. Sucrose is rapidly broken down into fructose and glucose, and both fructose and glucose are used for energy. Too much of either sucrose or fructose isn’t healthy, and there isn’t a special benefit to “natural” sugar.

Keeping your simple sugar intake to less than 10% of your total calorie intake (roughly 36 grams for most men) is the healthiest option, so a glass of tart cherry juice would be a significant part of your sugar intake for the day.

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

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**top ten**

**MOST-WATCHED TV SHOWS OF 2023**

1. Squid Games: Season 1
2. Wednesday: Season 1
3. Dahmer - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story
4. Money Heist: Season 5
5. Bridgerton: Season 2
6. Bridgerton: Season 1
7. Money Heist: Season 4
8. Stranger Things: Season 3
9. Lucifer: Season 5
10. All Of Us Are Dead: Season 1

Source: Insider Monkey



**MORE READERS**  
**The Island Sun**



## 6 BOOKS TO HELP YOUNG READERS LEARN ABOUT BLACK HISTORY

By Jaclyn Diaz, Aubri Juhasz, Desiree Mathurin

Each February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have shaped the nation. If you're struggling with the best way to educate children about Black history, this month or year-round, experts often suggest turning to literature to assist.

Books can help children engage with all kinds of history, but can be particularly helpful for the nuanced aspects of Black history, said Meg Medina, an award-winning children's author and the 2023-2024 National Ambassador of Young People's Literature.

"I think when we give kids really rich texts, and trust them with the information, trust them to be curious, allow them to follow their curiosity, we do them an enormous service," she said.

And 2024 is a wonderful time to find the best texts to do this, Medina said.

"I tell people we are in a golden age of children's books. So many incredible people are producing really meaningful work that respects kids intelligence, respects their curiosity," she said.

Here are six picks for Black History Month reading, recommended by authors, librarians and book shop employees, appropriate for a range of ages from toddlers to teens.

As the Librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden oversees the national library of the United States, which contains a collection of approximately 164 million items. For Black History Month, she has two recommendations for children — firstly, *A Library* by Nikki Giovanni, with colorful illustrations by Erin K. Robinson.

"It's a book that I would recommend for anyone, and particularly though, in Black History Month because it features a young African American girl and she takes so many adventures through books. And to have a young African American child having those adventures in a library at this time is very significant when so many things are being challenged," Hayden said.

"Books can do so much. And during Black History Month, I think we owe it to the young people in our lives to introduce them to that free resource: The library," Hayden said. "I'm a little prejudiced."

She said *A Library* also reminded her of her second pick, a lifelong favorite book of hers, *Bright April* by Marguerite de Angeli.

The book, published in 1946, is about a

young African American girl named April who experiences racial prejudice for the first time. The main character has pigtails and is a Brownie — a Girl Scout in the second or third grade of elementary school — which blew the mind of a young Hayden, who also was a Brownie with pigtails.

Bright April "even now makes me smile, because it was the first time I saw myself in a book," she said. "I thought that I was April."

She now owns a well-worn copy of the book, which serves as an important reminder: "It's important during African American History Month, too, that we present materials, especially for children, where they can have windows on the world, of course, but also mirrors and they see themselves."

"I didn't know what being the first really meant until the day I arrived," Ruby Bridges writes in *I Am Ruby Bridges*, channeling the voice of her 6-year-old self.

Brittini Robertson Powell, program director for the New Orleans bookstore Baldwin & Co., said she picked the picture book to highlight her hometown's not-so-distant history.

"Ruby is younger than my mom," Robertson Powell said. "How is that possible?"

Robertson Powell said she and her 10-year-old son regularly drive past the New Orleans elementary school Bridges integrated in 1960 in the wake of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

"I told him, 'This is where it happened.' He cannot fathom that," she said.

They recently read Bridge's book together, and since then, he's been applying the story to his own life, she said. When someone didn't want to play with him recently, "He was like, 'I wonder if that's how Ruby felt?'" she said. Robertson Powell likes the lessons the book teaches — among them, to be confident, be kind and accept people who are different from you.

"I'm glad she's penned it because it's being told by her, as opposed to other individuals who want to tell her story," she said.

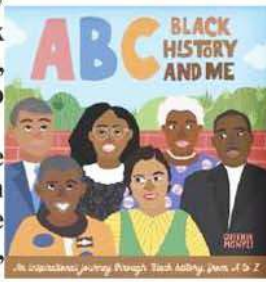
The importance of telling your own story, she said, is an important lesson for kids, too.

Picture books aren't just for little kids, said Meg Medina.

That's partially why she chose Carole Boston Weatherford's book *Schomburg: The Man Who Built A Library*.

"Even though it is a picture book, I think we should think about picture books as everybody books, especially a book like this," she said.

The book tells the story of Arturo



Founded in 1962

by Carlos and Esme Downing  
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Schomburg, a historian, writer, book collector and activist who lived during the Harlem Renaissance.

As a child, he asked a teacher why the class wasn't learning about the contributions of Black men and women to their country. The teacher told him that Black culture had nothing worthy to preserve.

"And that horrible statement stayed with him and fueled his lifelong passion for discovering, documenting and collecting proof and evidence of Black greatness across the globe," Medina said.

Schomburg's initial collection of around 5,000 items eventually led to the creation of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a research library within the New York Public Library which now holds about 11 million items.

The book highlights some of the many people that Schomburg collected books and other items about, including Frederick Douglass and Phillis Wheatley, who is considered the first African-American author of a published book of poetry. He was also from Puerto Rico, born of African and German descent, so the book highlights Afro-Latino history and identity as well.

"I love the idea of intersecting identities, which sometimes get cast aside when when we're forcing people to sort of think of their identity as one thing or another," Medina said.

Medina said the book is a springboard for learning about a man who wanted to discover the truth about his culture and its contributions. From there, the reader can learn about the many other people Schomburg highlights in his collection.

The depth of contributions of Black Americans to the country's history and greatness are vast, Medina said. "I think kids deserve to know those things and deserve to learn about it and at least have the information so that they themselves can become little Arturo Schomburgs."

The *Black Kids* by Christina Hammonds Reed follows a Black teenager named Ashley, who attends a predominantly white high school in Los Angeles and has lived a fairly cushioned life.

Then, her world is upended by the Rodney King riots, which broke out in 1992 after four L.A. policemen, three of whom were white, were acquitted for the brutal beating of King, a Black man. Afterwards, Ashley is left questioning her life, identity and her position in society.

"I feel like it's kind of an untold story because it talks about the intersection of race and class," said Juno Kling, a teen librarian at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Denver.





# PUBLIC NOTICES

## DRAGONS 418 DIRECTOR LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1967597

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204(1)-(b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that **DRAGONS 418 DIRECTOR LIMITED** is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 29 January, 2024. The Liquidator is **Alfredo Caruci** addressed at **Flemming House, P.O. Box 662 Wickhams Cay, Road Town, Tortola VG1110, British Virgin Islands**

Dated 26 day of January 2024  
(Sgd.) **Alfredo Caruci**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/1]

## DRAGONS 516 DIRECTOR LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1928877

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204(1)-(b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that **DRAGONS 516 DIRECTOR LIMITED** is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 23 January 2024. The Liquidator is **Alfredo Caruci** of address **Flemming House, P.O. Box 662, Wickhams Cay, Road Town, Tortola VG1110 British Virgin Islands.**

Dated 26 day of January 2024  
(Sgd.) **Alfredo Caruci**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/2]

## Ford Valley Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 340769

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 6 December 2023.

Dated 11 day of December 2023  
(Sgd.) **Mr. Alfredo Caruci**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/3]

## La Boh-me Investments Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1836448

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 6 December 2023.

Dated 11 day of December 2023  
(Sgd.) **Mr. Alfredo Caruci**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/4]

## HHJL Holdings Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1908876

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 30 November 2023

Dated 5 December 2023  
(Sgd.) **Mr. Alfredo Caruci**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/5]

## MARZANTE LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company Number 1604695

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 2nd day of February, 2024. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2024  
**Sgd. Brian Jackson**  
  
**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/6]

## UNION PLUS LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company Number 566239

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 1st day of February, 2024. The Liquidator is **Brian Jackson of Mandar House, 3rd Floor, Johnson's Ghut, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated this 1st day of February, 2024  
**Sgd. Brian Jackson**  
  
**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/7]

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

**TUDACOR INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1744403

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 February 2, 2024.

Dated: February 5, 2024  
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/8]

## Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act. Stadford Development Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1413207

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 February 2, 2024.

Dated: February 5, 2024  
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/9]

## Hedgehog Capital Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company Number 1764030

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, Subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004, that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from the 5th day of February, 2024.

Dated this 5th day of February, 2024  
**Sgd. Brian Jackson**  
  
**Brian Jackson**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/10]

## Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act. 2004 FQ Education Holdings Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 2043678

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 5th day of February, 2024. The liquidator is **Philippa V O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: 5th day of February 2024  
(Sgd.) **Philippa V O'Sullivan**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/11]

## Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act. Weekes & Co Ltd

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company Number: 1996978

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204(1)(b) of the BVI Business Companies Act that the Company is in voluntary liquidation.

The voluntary liquidation commenced on 5 February 2024. The Joint Liquidators are **Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape of Conyers Dill & Pearman, Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1, P.O. Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands.**  
Dated: 5 February 2024  
**Rachael Pape**  
For and on behalf of **Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape**  
As Joint Liquidators [37/12]

## Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act. Emeri Group Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1693953

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 February 5, 2024. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean, with address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: February 5, 2024.  
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator [37/13]

## Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Companies Act. 2004 Costa Verde Equity Co Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1713527

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 5th day of February, 2024. The liquidator is **Philippa O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, Blackburne Highway (PO Box 116) Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: 5th day of February, 2024  
(Sgd.) **Philippa O'Sullivan**  
Voluntary Liquidator [37/14]

## Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act. Trophy Imaging Technology Co. Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1949520

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 5th February 2024. The liquidator is **Philippa O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: 5th February 2024.  
(Sgd.) **Philippa O'Sullivan**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/15]

## Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act. 2004 CHANSON PRIVATE EQUITY INC.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1880949

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 6th February, 2024.

Dated: 6th day of February 2024  
(Sgd.) **Philippa V O'Sullivan**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/16]

## Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act. Promargent Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1577721

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 February 6, 2024.

Dated: February 6, 2024  
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/17]

## Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act. Blakstead Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1577716

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 February 6th, 2024.

Dated: February 6th, 2024  
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/18]

## Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act. Drastrend Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1577718

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 February 6th, 2024.

Dated: February 6th, 2024  
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/19]

## Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act. VALHALLA BUSINESS LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation) Company No. 1868467

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. Voluntary liquidation commenced on February 6th, 2024. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean** with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Dated: February 6th, 2024  
(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/20]



# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

CLAIM NO. BVIHPB2024/

IN THE ESTATE OF FLÁVIO EDUARDO LOPES, LATE, OF RUA  
CORONEL QUIRINO NO. 870, APTO. 161, CAMBUI, 13.025-001,  
CAMPINAS-SP, BRAZIL, DECEASED

ADVERTISEMENT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Guilherme Da Costa Vicente Lopes of Rua Coronel Quirino No. 870, Apto. 161, Cambui, 13.025-001, Campinas-SP, Brazil for a partial Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate at Hospital Vera Cruz -Casa de Saude, Campinas-SP, Brazil on 7 September 2021.

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

Dated this 5th day of February 2024

Filed by McW. Todman & Co, Attorneys-at Law for the Administrator whose address for service is:  
McNamara Chambers, 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands; email: [nstjean@mctodman.com](mailto:nstjean@mctodman.com)

[38]

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

CLAIM NO. BVIHPB2024/

IN THE ESTATE OF FLÁVIO EDUARDO LOPES, LATE, OF RUA  
CORONEL QUIRINO NO. 870, APTO. 161, CAMBUI, 13.025-001,  
CAMPINAS-SP, BRAZIL, DECEASED

ADVERTISEMENT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Flávia Da Costa Vicente Lopes of Rua Boaventura Do Amaral No. 1107, Apto. 81, 13.015-192 Campinas-SP, Brazil for a partial Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate at Hospital Vera Cruz -Casa de Saude, Campinas-SP, Brazil on 7 September 2021.

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

Dated this 4th day of February 2024

Filed by McW. Todman & Co, Attorneys-at Law for the Administrator whose address for service is:  
McNamara Chambers, 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands; email: [nstjean@mctodman.com](mailto:nstjean@mctodman.com)

[38]

NOTICE  
BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT  
WEB CAPITAL INC.

("the Company")  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
NOTICE is hereby given that on the 6th February, 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 [37/21]

Notice of Appointment of a  
Liquidator under Section 204 of the  
BVI Business Companies Act, 2004  
Chatswood Investment  
Holdings Limited

(the "Company")  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1956913  
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 February 2, 2024. The Liquidator is **Dauna George-Mubangizi** of Geneva Place, 2nd Floor, #333 Waterfront Drive, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Dated: February 8, 2024  
**Dauna George-Mubangizi**  
Liquidator [37/22]

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

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 1837681  
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 February 7th, 2024. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean** with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Dated: February 8th, 2024  
**(Sgd.) Nelcia St. Jean**  
Voluntary Liquidator [37/23]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator  
under Section 204 of the BVI  
Business Company Act  
China InnoTech Holdings  
Inc.

(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)  
Company No. 1999698  
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 5th February 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 5th February 2024  
**(Sgd) Myron Walwyn**  
Voluntary Liquidator [37/24]

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

In the ESTATE OF TAN SEK MENG late of 40  
Nassim Hill, #02-42 Nassim Mansion,  
Singapore, 258474, deceased

FORM P16: ADVERTISEMENT RESEAL GRANT  
OF PROBATE

Notice is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the grant of probate of Tan Sek Meng late of 40 Nassim Hill, #02-42 Nassim Mansion, Singapore, 258474, deceased, granted by the Family Justice Courts of the Republic of Singapore on 10 October 2023.

Filed by: **Conyers Dill & Pearman**  
Attorneys-at-Law for the Executor

Whose address for service is: Commerce House, Wickhams  
Cay 1, PO Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola VG1110, British  
Virgin Islands

[37]

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

CLAIM NO. BVIHPB2024/

IN THE ESTATE OF FLÁVIO EDUARDO LOPES, LATE, OF RUA  
CORONEL QUIRINO NO. 870, APTO. 161, CAMBUI, 13.025-001,  
CAMPINAS-SP, BRAZIL, DECEASED

ADVERTISEMENT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Solange Da Costa Vicente Lopes of Rua Coronel Quirino No. 870, Apto. 161, Cambui, 13.025-001, Campinas-SP, Brazil for a Partial Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the widow of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate at Hospital Vera Cruz -Casa de Saude, Campinas-SP, Brazil on 7 September 2021.

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

Dated this 5th day of February 2024

Filed by McW. Todman & Co, Attorneys-at Law for the Administrator whose address for service is:

McNamara Chambers, 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands; email: [nstjean@mctodman.com](mailto:nstjean@mctodman.com)

[38]



# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**In the Estate of Lo Chung Fai Kenneth late of  
House A, No.34 Island Road, 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 Lo Chung Fai Kenneth late of House A, No.34 Island Road, Hong Kong, deceased, granted by the High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Court of First Instance on the 9th day of May 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: Allana-J. Joseph@conyers.com

[37]

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

BVIHPB2024/0024

**IN THE ESTATE OF JUNIOR WELLINGTON ROMNEY,  
LATE OF WEST END, TORTOLA, BRITISH VIRGIN  
ISLANDS, DECEASED**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Magarita Penn of Belmont Park, West End, Tortola, British Virgin Islands for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named deceased who died on the 15th day of January 2024 without revoking a Will bearing the date of the 12th day of January 2024 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 1st day of February 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.

[38]

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

**LE ROYAL HOTEL  
MANAGEMENT COMPANY  
S.A.**

(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)  
Company No. 541552

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 5th February 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 5th February 2024  
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[38/25]

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

**Vinach Holdings Inc.**

(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)  
Company No. 1768719

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 5th February 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 5th February 2024  
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/26]

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

**0xPartners Sino, SPC Ltd.**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No: 2098944

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 2nd day of February, 2024. The liquidator is Philippa V O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Dated: 2nd day of February, 2024  
(Sgd.) Philippa V O'Sullivan  
Liquidator [37/27]

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

**0xPartners Global, SPC Ltd.**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No: 2098943

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 2nd day of February, 2024. The liquidator is Philippa V O'Sullivan of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Dated: 2nd day of February, 2024  
(Sgd.) Philippa V O'Sullivan  
Liquidator [37/28]

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

**IN THE ESTATE OF GHASSAN ABDULLAH A  
AL NEMER, DECEASED**

**In the estate of GHASSAN ABDULLAH A AL NEMER,  
otherwise GHASSAN ABDULLAH AL NEMER late of 15 Al-  
Ahil Street, POX 3056, Dammam, Saudi Arabia, deceased.**

Notice is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the Grant of Probate of the Deceased granted by the District Probate Registry at Cardiff, High Court of Justice of England and Wales on the 11th day of July 2023 to Satwinder Singh Sidhu of Studio 7, Phoenix Square, 7 Burton Street, Leicester, LE1 1TB, United Kingdom with power reserved to another executor.

Dated the 29th day of January 2024

Filed by Satwinder Singh Sidhu, Propounder whose address for service is c/o Harney Westwood & Riegels, Craigmuir Chambers, PO Box 71, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands.

[37]

**CREDITOR'S NOTICE  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS  
(PROBATE)**

**IN THE ESTATE OF TSUI YIN HING DECEASED**

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 28 of the Trustee Ordinance of the Laws of the Virgin Islands Revised Edition 1991 (Cap 303) that any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of TSUI YIN HING, deceased, late of Unit 3, 2nd Floor, Block A, Belleve Garden, No. 53 King Lok Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong and who died on the 8th day of March 2021 in Hong Kong, is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his/her claim or interest to Harney Westwood & Riegels (**Attention Matthew Howson**)

of Craigmuir Chambers, P. O. Box 71 Road Town, Tortola British Virgin Islands the Solicitors acting for HOY SO YUET ALISON, the administrator, whose address is Unit 3, 2nd Floor, Block A, Belleve Garden, No. 53 Kung Lok Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong and to send such particulars not later than 25th day of March 2024 after which date the said HOY SO YUET ALISON will distribute the estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which she has had notice and will not, as respect to the property so distributed, be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have notice.

[37]



# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 256474  
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on the 07th day of February, 2024. The liquidator is **Philippa V. O' Sullivan** of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.  
Dated: 07th day of February, 2024.  
(Sgd.) **Philippa V. O'Sullivan**  
Voluntary Liquidator  
[37/29]

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

BC#680046  
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)  
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 5 February 2024. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St Jean** of 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.  
Dated 6 February 2024  
**Nelcia St Jean**  
(Liquidator)  
[37/30]

**Notice of Intention to Make an Application for the Cancellation of a Licence under Section 38 of the Financial Services Commission Act THYBO STABLE FUND LTD.**

Company Number: 1041499  
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 38(7) of the Financial Services Commission Act (the "Act") that the Company intends to make an application to the Financial Services Commission for the cancellation of its professional mutual fund licence under Section 38(1)(c) of the Act as the Company shall shortly cease to have any investors.  
Dated: 7 February 2024  
[37/31]

**Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 203 of the BVI Business Company Act. HUAMEI TIMBER CO., LTD.**

(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 239343  
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 203, subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 7 February 2024. The Liquidator is **Harry J. Thompson** of Harbour House, P.O. Box 4428, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.  
Dated 8 February 2024  
(Sgd.) **Harry J. Thompson**  
Voluntary Liquidator(s)  
[37/32]

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

BVIHPB 2024/0032

**In the Estate of MARIA LUCIA ALALOU of Alameda Casa Branca, 578, 13 Andar, Jardim Paulista, Sao Paulo, Brazil, deceased**

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **FELIPE ALALOU** of cidade de São Paulo, Alameda Franca, 579 apartamento 41, Brazil, **GEORGE ALALOU** of cidade de São Paulo, Rua Quatá, 746 apto 83 - Vila Olímpia, Brazil and **JOSÉ EDUARDO ALALOU** of cidade de São Paulo, Rua dos Limantos, Brazil for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicants who are the children of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 28th February, 2023 at Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, Avenida Albert Einstein No 627, Neste Subdistrito, domiciled in Brazil, a widow.

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

Dated this 8th day of February, 2024.

**Filed by:**  
**SAMUELS RICHARDSON & CO**  
Legal Practitioners  
whose address for service is  
**Wattley Building, 2nd Floor**  
**PO Box 3410**  
**Road Town, Tortola**  
**British Virgin Islands**

[38]

**GSM GAS APPLIANCE INC.**  
(In Voluntary Liquidation)  
Company No. 540192

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 25 January 2024.  
Dated 8 February 2024  
(Sgd.) **Harry J. Thompson**  
Voluntary Liquidator(s)  
[37/33]

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## Inter-Secondary School Debates Commence



Photos from the first two Inter-secondary School Debates on Thursday, 8 February (Photo credit: GIS: F. Skerritt)



Six schools across the Territory will compete in the Ministry of Education's annual Inter-Secondary School Debates which begins today February 8. Participating schools in this year's debates are: Bregado Flax Educational Centre – Secondary Division, Cedar International School, Ciboney Centre for Excellence, Elmore Stoutt High School, St. Georges Secondary School, and Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies.

Education Officer, Mrs. Heida Selwood said the purpose of the debates is to encourage students to improve their public speaking skills. Additionally, the debates encourage students to explore different viewpoints on issues, promoting tolerance, open-mindedness, and an appreciation for diversity.

She said, "The debates serve as a platform to foster the development of crucial skills among students; these are the skills that the Ministry hopes that every student will adopt."

The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports is committed to providing students with opportunities that extend beyond traditional classroom learning, focusing on holistic development and preparing them for the challenges of the future. The Inter-Secondary School Debates not only promote healthy competition but also serve as a valuable educational tool, fostering skills that are essential for success in both academic and real-world scenarios.

The schedule for the remaining preliminary round of the debates is as follows:

- Preliminary Round
- Debate #3
- Date: Friday, 9th February
- Time: 10:00 a.m.
- Venue: The New Testament Church of God, International Worship Centre
- Activity Hall, Baugher's Bay, Tortola
- Moot: The BVI is ill-prepared to address the health challenges posed by an ageing population.
- Proposition: Elmore Stoutt High School
- Opposition: Bregado Flax Educational Centre
- The winner of each debate and the losing team with the highest score will advance to the semi-final round and the winners of each semi-final debate will face off in the final debate.
- The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports acknowledges the hard work of all the debaters, their coaches and schools.



## VIRGIN GORDA EASTER FESTIVAL ABOUNDS WITH ACTIVITIES FOR 57TH YEAR Festival will Highlight Food, Culture, Feting and Pageantry from 2nd March to 1st April 2024



Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, 29th January 2024 – The unique Virgin Gorda Easter Festival Celebration will kick off the annual celebration when a bevy of beautiful and talented teens vie for the title of Miss Teen Virgin Gorda Easter Festival on Saturday,

2nd March 2024. The Virgin Gorda Easter Festival, now in its 57th year, is an annual event that culminates over the Easter Weekend and showcases BVI culture in pageantry, cuisine, musical entertainment, exhibitions and pure revelry.

The pageantry continues

with the Prince and Princess Show on Saturday, 16th March and the Miss Virgin Gorda Show on Saturday, 23rd March. The action begins to heat up from Saturday, 30th March, with a car show, a cultural food fair and the opening of the Festival Village

featuring live entertainment, mouthwatering local cuisine and beverages. Action continues Sunday, 31st March, with the family-friendly Ralph T. O’Neal Hat Parade and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The evening concludes with Village Entertainment and a Wet Fete. The Virgin Gorda Easter Festival will culminate with revelry in high gear on Easter Monday, 1st April with the Rise and Shine Tramp, Easter Festival Parade and the Last Lap with the final night of entertainment at the festival village.

Extending an open invitation to the festival, British Virgin Islands Director of Tourism Clive McCoy said, “The BVI Tourist Board is pleased to work in tandem with the community of Virgin Gorda

to host the 57th Virgin Gorda Easter Festival Celebrations. We will soon announce an exciting lineup of regional and local entertainment which, combined with pageants for all ages and other activities, will make this an Easter Festival to remember. We look forward to welcoming visitors from our neighbouring islands and beyond the region to come and join our Easter celebration. Book now, as rooms are already starting to fill out.”

For more information on the Virgin Gorda Easter Festival visit Facebook: VirginIslandsFestival and for information on BVI events visit [bvitourism.com/events](http://bvitourism.com/events).

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**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

**STOP**

problem — thinking — solution

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture

unicef

Funded by UK Government

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



# JAMAICA TO HOST 2ND GLOBAL TOURISM RESILIENCE CONFERENCE IN ITS TOURISM CAPITAL

*Plans In High Gear for Staging at the Montego Bay Convention Centre February 16-17*



*Pictured: Founder of the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) and Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Edmund Bartlett, addressing the audience at the first Global Tourism Resilience Conference held in Jamaica last year at the University of the West Indies.*

KINGSTON, -JAMAICA (Thursday, January 25, 2024) - Plans are in high gear for the highly anticipated second staging of the Global Tourism Resilience Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Taking place over a two-day period February 16 and 17, the Global Tourism Resilience Conference-will-include panel discussions-networking opportunities,-presentations and lively debates on matters of building resilience in tourism. This group of experts in their collective fields will collaboratively discuss issues that are central to future-proofing travel and tourism to disruptions.

"Global tourism resilience will once again take center stage with key experts speaking about building resilience in the industry. As tourism destinations continue to recover, it is critical that resilience be a focus of planning and development to future-proof the industry from any potential shock," said the Hon. Edmund Bartlett Founder of

the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) and Minister of Tourism, Jamaica.

Some of the topics that will be discussed include 'Building Tourism Digital Resilience,' 'Building Tourism Infrastructure Resilience,' and 'Women in Tourism Resilience' along with other critical topics. Among the speakers will be the Most Honorable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, and HE. Zurab Pololikashvili,-Secretary-General of the UNWTO. As part of the conference agenda, on February 17, Global Tourism Resilience Day will be celebrated for the second time, recognizing the official adoption by the United Nations on February 6, 2023, of the resolution to observe the day each year. There will also be a tourism resilience awards gala to recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to building tourism resilience globally.

"I am truly pleased that tourism resilience will be top of mind

over the two-day period where we will get more insights into how destinations can better equip themselves in the face of disruptions. COVID-19 proved that tourism resilience is even more urgent, and we must act on this," said Professor Lloyd Waller, Executive Director of the GTRCMC.

It is anticipated that over 200 delegates from across the globe will be in attendance in the heart of Jamaica's bustling tourism capital.

"We are preparing to give attendees a warm Jamaican welcome which will leave a lasting positive impression, said Donovan White, Director of Tourism, Jamaica Tourist Board. "There is truly no better backdrop than Jamaica to host this mega conference."

The first Global Tourism Resilience Conference was held at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, last year.

#### ABOUT JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), founded in 1955, is

Jamaica's national tourism agency based in the capital city of Kingston. JTB offices are also located in Montego Bay, Miami, Toronto and London. Representative offices are located in Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Amsterdam, Mumbai, Tokyo and Paris.

In 2023, the JTB was declared 'World's Leading Cruise Destination' and 'World's Leading Family Destination' for the fourth consecutive year by the World Travel Awards, which also named it named "Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board" for the 15th consecutive year, "Caribbean's Leading Destination" for the 17th consecutive year, and the "Caribbean's Leading Cruise Destination" in the World Travel Awards - Caribbean.' In addition, Jamaica was awarded six gold 2023 Travvy Awards, including 'Best Honeymoon Destination' 'Best Tourism Board - Caribbean,' 'Best Destination - Caribbean,' 'Best Wedding Destination - Caribbean,' 'Best Culinary Destination - Caribbean,' and 'Best Cruise Destination - Caribbean' as

well as two silver Travvy Awards for 'Best Travel Agent Academy Program' and 'Best Wedding Destination - Overall.' It also received a TravelAge West WAVE award for 'International Tourism Board Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support' for a record-setting 12th time. TripAdvisor® ranked Jamaica the #7 Best Honeymoon Destination in the World and the #19 Best Culinary Destination in the World for 2024. Jamaica is home to some of the world's best accommodations, attractions and service providers that continue to receive prominent global recognition and the destination is routinely ranked among the best to visit globally by prestigious international publications.

For details on upcoming special events, attractions and accommodations in Jamaica, go to the JTB's website at [www.visitjamaica.com](http://www.visitjamaica.com) or call the Jamaica Tourist Board at 1-800-JAMAICA (1-800-526-2422). Follow the JTB on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and YouTube. View the JTB blog at [visitjamaica.com/blog](http://visitjamaica.com/blog).

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

## DO's

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



## DON'TS

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



## IMPORTANT NOTE IN CASE OF LEAKAGE

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



A message from the Department of Disaster Management and Sol

## ANGUILLA ENJOYS A SURGE IN TOURISM ARRIVALS FOR 2023

### Minister outlines strategic plans to ensure sustained future growth

The Valley, Anguilla, February 5, 2024: Anguilla's Minister of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing and Tourism and the Honorable Haydn Hughes proudly announced a remarkable surge in visitor arrivals to the island for 2023. Emphasizing the island's steady growth in arrivals and sustained.

Hughes highlighted the unprecedented success in his statement: "The total number of stopover arrivals has reached an extraordinary high of 95,944, surpassing the previous record set in 2019." He further noted the overall visitor arrivals, including day trippers, revealing that Anguilla is rapidly closing the gap and surpassing figures from the pre-pandemic year 2019. The recorded total of 155,732 visitor arrivals in 2023 represents only a 6% decrease compared to 2019.

The Minister commended the private sector and the Anguilla Tourist Board for their role in this achievement and shared, "The government has also dedicated resources to enhance Anguilla's infrastructure, focusing on providing tangible benefits to the local population and creating an inviting environment for visitors and investors. This commitment is exemplified in the development of the terminal at Blowing Point, which aligns with the goal of delivering a top-notch travel experience for Anguillians and, consequently, positively influencing the overall visitor experience".

Minister Hughes further stated, "Ongoing improvements at the Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport have yielded a product that has garnered favorable feedback from the international carrier American Airlines. These enhancements address their customers' specific needs and preferences and underscore the government's unwavering commitment to cultivating a positive and enjoyable travel environment for both Anguillians and visitors".

"We are expanding our air services to sustain this upward growth trajectory. Intra-regional connectivity has expanded with the introduction of new routes linking Anguilla, Antigua, and St. Barths. Anguilla Air Services now offers scheduled flights between Anguilla and Antigua thrice a week from Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday until April 2024. Tradewind Aviation unveiled a codeshare partnership with British Airways, facilitating interline bookings. Flights connecting Antigua and Anguilla are scheduled to operate on Saturdays and Sundays from mid-January 2024 to early April," he continued.

Looking ahead, the Minister spoke of the development at Altamer Resort, a 118-berth marina designed to cater to yachts of up to 250 feet in size. Accompanying this is a luxurious 62-room 5-star hotel featuring 58 branded residences, including 20 beachfront villas and 48 resort condominiums. The comprehensive amenities include a state-of-the-art fitness center, a spa, and duty-free shopping. Notably, the resort will have its port of entry equipped with customs and immigration clearance facilities. Phase 1 will concentrate on completing the marina infrastructure by Q4 2025, followed by the Yacht Club Boutique Hotel component scheduled for completion in Q4 2026, he concluded.



## VI School Counsellors Unique Contribution In Focus

The Ministry of Education will be focusing public attention on the unique contribution of school counsellors within the Virgin Islands this week.

National School Counseling Week 2024 (#NSCW24) is observed from February 5 to 9 under the theme, "Standards Based; Student Focused" and highlights the impact that school counsellors have in helping students achieve success and plan for their future careers.

Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports Honourable Sharie DeCastro, joins in congratulating all school counsellors. Honourable DeCastro said, "This week provides us with a special opportunity to recognise and honour the invaluable contributions of our dedicated school counsellors across the Virgin Islands. The theme emphasises the unwavering commitment of our counsellors to uphold standards while remaining deeply focused on the well-being and success of our students."

The Minister for Education added, "National School Counsellors Week provides us with a moment to reflect on the impact counsellors make daily. The week provides the opportunity to show gratitude to school counsellors who implement school counselling programmes, which are a vital part of the educational process for all students as they meet the challenges of the 21st century."

Acting Chief Education Officer Mrs Orlandette Crabbe said counsellors play an important role in fostering a positive and nurturing environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. She said the impact they make on the lives of school communities cannot be overstated.

Mrs. Crabbe said, "The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports thanks all school counsellors for being actively engaged in assisting students to examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents."

The Acting Chief Education Officer said, "Counsellors work in partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today's world. They significantly contribute to the development of positive school environments by focusing on ways to enhance students' academic, career and their social and emotional development."

The counsellors in focus this week are Mrs. Sharon Leonard (Primary Coordinator), Mrs. Desiree Chinnery Gomez, Mr. Jacob Edwards, Mrs. Tarrieha Dawson, Mrs. Lovina Jones-Henry, and Mrs. Trisha Smith Gomes in Primary Schools. Secondary school Counselors are Ms. Bisa Smith (Secondary Coordinator), Ms. Kimra DeWindt, Ms. Keriann Malone, Ms. Amy Gordon, Mrs. Chonda George, Mrs. Liana Taylor, Ms. Donalin Michel, and Ms. Eldrina Gerald.

The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports continues to provide high quality educational services, as well as facilitate access to and participation in sports and recreation, in order to enrich the lives of all residents of these Virgin Islands.

### Before you discipline a child

**S** - stop! Calm yourself and your child

**T** - take a few deep breaths

**O** - observe the needs of your child

**P** - proceed in a kind but firm manner



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

## PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Peter Island Resort seeking to fill the following vacancy:

### Financial Controller

#### Duties/Responsibilities

- Provide leadership, vision and direction to the Spa team to accomplish resort and department goals and cultivate a strong team atmosphere focused on guest and team member engagement and satisfaction. Lead with trust, respect and by example.
  - Manage accounting and purchasing staff.
  - Month-end accounting duties include closing the books and issuing financial statements in a timely manner.
  - Work closely with operating departments to make sure guest billing is handled correctly.
  - Review vendor and client contracts, as necessary.
  - Maintain internal controls for cash handling, accounts payable and accounts receivable.
  - Review and approve weekly vendor payments.
  - Monthly G/L account reconciliations.
  - Review A/R aging reports on a weekly basis. Discuss problems with General Manager and Sales managers.
  - Review financial statements with hotel management and Amway Hotel Corporation.
  - Coordinate the annual operating budget process. Present final budgets to Amway Hotel Corporation.
  - Monitor annual capital spending to ensure budget limits are not exceeded.
  - Financial analysis provided to operating managers as needed. Emphasis on problem solving and cost savings.
  - Work closely with AHC accounting team and provide support as necessary.
- Handle and manage confidential information.

#### Specific Technical/General:

- Previous Caribbean/international experience helpful, but not mandatory.
- Strong 4-5-star Resort experience.
- Must possess exceptional, "full rounded" experience.
- Must be a self-starter, energetic, & motivated.
- Due to the small island environment, must be a team player who enjoys challenges and working with others.
- Must have at least 5- 8 years' experience in accounting, resort experience preferred.
- Candidates must have at least a bachelor's degree in accounting or finance required. MBA preferred.
- Must be creative; however willing to work with existing core resort philosophy and style.
- Should have a strong background in computers.

**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](mailto:cjames@peterisland.net) or call: 284-495-2000.**

[s38]



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# STAFF WANTED

Join our Yo Mama Team. Open positions :  
**SERVERS**  
**COOKS**  
**KITCHEN HELPER**  
**CASHIER**  
 Part time & full time positions.  
 Must be friendly, a team player and have a good attitude and work ethics a MUST.  
 Telephone (284) 345-2766 [s42]

De La Santa Bakery and Restaurant Plus is seeking a hard-working individual to fill the position of a full-time Kitchen Assistant.  
 The qualified applicant must be able to prepare and season meat, fish and chicken. Must be able to work flexible hours and on shift. Must be friendly and customer service oriented.  
 Please call 4994308 or 3430603 for further information. [s37]

BERT'S AI CONSTRUCTION NOW SEEKING :Full time positions: THREE MASONS, THREE CARPENTERS AND THREE - MARINE CONSTRUCTION LABOURERS-FOR-ON GOING DOCK PROJECT. CALL 284-543-9651 [s38]

STHOMAS RESTAURANT AND NIGHT CLUB is looking for full time;  
**KITCHEN ASSISTANT**  
**BARTENDERS**  
**WAITRESS**  
**COOK**  
**DISHWASHER**  
 APPLICANTS MUST BE A GOOD TEAM PLAYER WITH GOOD ATTITUDE.  
 CALL 443-2271 [s37]

CAPTAIN JACK'S SEAFOOD & SUPPLIES seeks full time staff for commercial fishing operations.  
 Fisherpersons, Fish Cleaners, one Mechanic and Fish Pot-Maker are needed urgently.  
 Call:-284-547-4735-for information. [s38]

SERIE 48 CAR WASH is looking for a CAR WASH ATTENDANT. MUST be hardworking with-a-GOOD ATTITUDE.  
 Call 346-2271 [s37]

**VIRGIN-GORDA SECURITY**  
 (VGS) is looking for Part-time and Full-time SECURITY OFFICERS. We are searching for individuals willing to perform various tasks in a Security environment. Previous experience in Security is a plus, however, it is an excellent opportunity to gain experience with on the job training. Please don't hesitate to contact us for further details by calling the following numbers (284) 499 0530, (248) 499 0520 or (284) 441-6001 [38]

**CLEAN - VIRGIN ISLANDS** now seeks three (3) full time: professional Cleaners to assist with ongoing cleaning projects at several marinas. Call-284-547-4735-for information [38]

**BALBUENA PLUMBING & - MAINTENANCE SERVICES** seeks to hire two (2) full time Maintenance Helpers Please call 284-543-9651 for more information. [37]

Sean's Service is seeking a professional and reliable personal/office-assistant. Please email resume to seanltdvi@gmail.com or call 340-2363 for more information. [s37]

Home Sweet Home Cleaning Service is seeking two (2) cleaners for full time positions here in the Virgin Islands territory. Please Call 284-543-9651.[s37]

**CONVENIENT - STORE** needs one full time - H A N D Y M A N . Telephone:284-443-8489 [s37]

**S N S - E X P R E S S SHIPPING and CARGO SERVICES** NEEDS one full time SALES CLERK. TELEPHONE 443-8300 [s37]

**WANTED:** A full time LIVE-IN NANNY. You must have experience and love for children. A driver's license is essential. Kindly send resume to [lawyeredryan@gmail.com](mailto:lawyeredryan@gmail.com) or contact number 546-0439 [s37]

**SAID-DEPARTMENT STORE** one full time SALES CLERK. Telephone 494-2686 [s37]

Connor Maintenance seeks to hire a Part Time Painter to start work immediately. Please contact 284-442-0806. [s37]

**JOELLE-BARBER SHOP-needs-one-full-time-BARBER.** Please call 284-346-2615 for further information [s37]

Emizia Vante Gift Shop located at Craft Alive is seeking one (1) full time Sales Person to assist with the sale of items, five to seven days each week. Please call 284-543-9651 for details. [s38]

**VIRGIN ISLAND MOTORS LIMITED** is looking for a CAR WASHER. MUST be flexible and willing to work on weekends and holidays. Can work with minimal supervision. A valid BVI Driver's License is required. BVIslanders or Belongers preferred. Interested persons may drop off application at VI Motors office in Duff's Bottom. [s38]

**LOWER ESTATE INTERIOR SHOP** needs one full time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Telephone 344-3820 [s38]

**KE VILLAS** is seeking two part time and two full time COOKS, Telephone 542-2000 [s38]

Full-time-LABOURER/HANDYMAN job opportunity in Anegada. Contact 496-0961 for information [s38]

**COCONUT LOUNGE** is seeking to fill two (2) positions: KITCHEN HELPER and SERVER. To register your interest, please send resume to [coconutloungevi@gmail.com](mailto:coconutloungevi@gmail.com).

The successful candidates must be willing to work late evening shifts, especially on weekends. Requirements: Relevant qualifications with at least three (3) years of experience in-the-hospitality industry.-Applicants with BVI belonger status preferred. [s38]



**ISLAND DEPARTMENT STORE**

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



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