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No. 3241 * 62nd Year * Tortola * British Virgin Islands * Saturday * 9 March 2024

JULIAN WILLOCK FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY-BUILDING EFFORTS...p2

SHORTAGE OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS AFFECTS EDUCATIONAL...p3

BVI PRESENCE AT CARICOM SUMMIT MAY LEAD TO GREATER INTERACTION WITH BRAZIL

With a forward-thinking vision that can result in the expansion of the Territory's tourism industry; as well as enhance regional cooperation, Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Hon Natalio Wheatley announced at a press conference last week that the British Virgin Islands

is eyeing a potential partnership with Brazil and supportive of CARICOM'S transportation efforts

During the 1 March press conference, regarding the outcomes of the 46th Regular Meeting of the Heads of Government of CARICOM meeting, the Premier disclosed that

discussions were held with the President of Brazil, His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

While highlighting the significance of the Brazil dialogue, Hon. Wheatley underscored the British Virgin Islands' interest in establishing tourism links with Brazil, particularly

focusing on sailing and the broader marine sector. He said: "Importantly, I also participated in a special session between CARICOM Heads and our highly respected Latin American partner the President of Brazil... Both sides committed to strengthening the partnership between Brazil and CARICOM."

The BVI Leader in his general overview of his participation at the CARICOM meeting noted that key areas of cooperation were identified during the discussions that were held in Guyana. Hon. Wheatley noted that these included regional security, transportation, infrastructure, -sustainable development, climate change, global governance, and trade.

"The British Virgin Islands are particularly keen on establishing links with Brazil, especially sailing and the wider marine sector as

Brazil is the biggest market in Latin America and there is a need to tap their market as the BVI diversifies our tourism source markets," Dr. Wheatley stated.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

Highlighting the transportation aspect, Premier Wheatley mentioned discussions within CARICOM regarding the launch of LIAT 2024 and the implementation of an inter-island fast ferry service among member states. Hon. Wheatley stressed the importance of these initiatives, especially for the BVI, to improve connectivity within the Caribbean region.

"Traveling from the Virgin Islands to other parts of the Caribbean, especially going south, can be very difficult, and these types of solutions are desperately needed to improve transportation connectivity," Dr. Wheatley remarked.

Continued on page 2



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(More on page 4 - GIS PHOTO)



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BVI PRESENCE AT CARICOM SUMMIT...from page 1

In addition to transportation, the Premier noted that climate change and sustainable development were prominent topics of discussion at the CARICOM meeting. The Premier said that he lent his voice in advocating for greater international support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including the adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index as a metric for considering concessional financing.

"It remains unfair that the British Virgin Islands and

other countries and territories in CARICOM categorized as middle or high-income are locked out of this international support because of GDP per capita that does not capture high vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change," Dr. Wheatley reiterated.

As the British Virgin Islands aims to diversify its tourism sources and enhance regional cooperation, the establishment of links with Brazil and the focus on transportation development are anticipated to play pivotal roles in the

region's economic growth and resilience against global challenges. Further efforts in advocating for support to SIDS and fostering partnerships with international allies are expected to remain at the forefront of the Virgin Islands' agenda.

"More advocacy work must be done in the lead-up to the next COP Meeting, including gaining international acceptance for the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index as a new metric in considering concessional financing to SIDS," the Premier added.



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- must have good communication and client handling skills

To apply please email your cover letter and resume to:

ismith@sabalslaw.com

BVI Islanders or Belongers preferred.

The deadline for submission of applications is 22 March, 2024.

[s42]

JULIAN WILLOCK FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY-BUILDING EFFORTS IN 3rd DISTRICT



Former Speaker of the House of Assembly Julian Willock,

Amidst community engagement efforts in the Third District, media owner and former Speaker of the House of Assembly Julian Willock, is clarifying that his endeavors are not aligned with electoral ambitions for the upcoming general election.

Mr. Willock has been actively collaborating with private sector entities to organize various events including back-to-school fairs and job fairs within the Third District, currently represented by Hon. Julian Fraser, for whom Willock had worked closely with as Permanent Secretary in a previous administration.

During an appearance on the Morning Braff show, host Floyd "Heritage" Burnett acknowledged Willock's community-building efforts, hinting at potential electoral aspirations. However, Willock maintained that his involvement in the Third District transcends political motivations. In fact, despite speculations linking his initiatives to a potential candidacy for the Third District seat in 2027, Willock has firmly refuted such claims.

"Our work in District Three goes back 10 years and has nothing to do with any election," Willock asserted. "We have a five to six-year plan for District Three, and that's even beyond the election so we're not caught up in any election."

Emphasizing a commitment to community service and the continuation of Julian Fraser's legacy, Willock stated: "When we say we're building on the legacy of Hon Julian Fraser, he has done a lot of these things. These are not anything new, and we're just building on what he has started."

Regarding unconfirmed reports suggesting Fraser's withdrawal from the 2027 District Three seat contest, Willock reiterated his focus on community welfare, saying: "We are not obsessed with any election, our obsession is what we can do for people – the love for people, the love for District Three."

Hon. Julian Fraser is a seasoned and skilled legislator serving his seventh consecutive term since 1999.

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SHORTAGE OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS AFFECTS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The BVI is facing a concerning shortage of healthcare workers – which has spilled over to the absence of on-campus nurses at two of the Territory’s largest public high schools, Elmore Stoutt High School (ESHS) and Bregado Flax Education Centre (Secondary Division). It was stated that the absence of these school nurses is now significantly impacting students.

The matter was brought up during the recent House of

Assembly sitting held on 5 March by Deputy Speaker and At-Large representative Hon. Stacy “Budda” Mather. Hon. Mather raised the issue with Minister of Education Hon. Sharie de Castro to seek updates on efforts to address the absence of nurses in such prominent educational institutions.

In response, Minister de Castro disclosed challenges faced by the Health Ministry in tackling the ongoing nursing shortage, particularly in the aftermath

of the 2017 calamities. She explained that while the Ministry of Health had previously collaborated with the Ministry of Education to assign nurses to ESHS, staffing challenges within the Health Ministry have prevented the provision of necessary support since 2017.

Hon. de Castro emphasized the urgency of filling the vacant nursing posts at both schools, underscoring the priority her Ministry places on addressing the matter

to ensure the welfare of students. She expressed readiness to take proactive measures to alleviate the impact of the nursing shortage affecting the education sector.

The shortage of healthcare workers in the BVI has been attributed to lower salary packages compared to other jurisdictions, making it challenging for the government to attract and retain qualified professionals. -Health Minister Vincent Wheatley recently highlighted the trend

of healthcare professionals, particularly nurses, leaving the BVI in search of better opportunities abroad.

The Minister of Health noted that countries such as the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Canada, the UK, and the United States offer more attractive working conditions and significantly higher salaries, contributing to the departure of BVI healthcare workers. Starting salaries for nurses in these jurisdictions can be nearly double that of the BVI

NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS CHALLENGED IN MEETING RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

A new Belonger Status and Permanent Residence Policy, was unveiled more than a week ago and since then concerns have emerged among non-English speakers regarding potential challenges in meeting the residency criteria outlined in the policy.

The policy, which delineates the eligibility criteria for Residency and Belonger status, includes language proficiency as one of the metrics. This stipulation has prompted apprehension among individuals whose primary language is not English, but includes Spanish, French, and speakers of other languages. During a recent airing of the government’s “Table Talk” program on 29 February,

host Karia Christopher raised questions about accommodations for non-English speakers who may struggle with language proficiency requirements while fulfilling other criteria for residency status.

Responding to these concerns, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sustainable Development, Joseph Smith-Abbott, revealed ongoing discussions with the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College to address the needs of non-English speakers. “We are actively engaged in dialogue with the college to explore avenues for supporting language learning and development to meet the requirements outlined in

the policy,” Smith-Abbott stated.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration with educational institutions to provide tailored support for non-English speakers, facilitating their integration into the BVI community.

As the BVI conducts its Territorial census, the exact percentage of non-English speakers remains unknown. However, the 2010 census indicated a significant presence of Spanish speakers, with a perceived increase in their numbers since then. Additionally, French speakers from Haiti and individuals from various non-English-speaking regions in Asia contribute to the cultural diversity of the BVI.

Amid the implementation of the new policy, there is a growing call for inclusive measures to ensure equitable opportunities for all residents, regardless of their linguistic backgrounds. Collaboration-between

government entities and educational institutions is crucial in addressing the concerns of non-English speakers and supporting their efforts to obtain residency status in the British Virgin Islands

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PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Position: Assistant Director of F&B & Banquet

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership, vision, and direction to the 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.
- Ensures the Food and Beverage operation runs effectively in compliance with the operational standards.
- Demonstrates good judgment and discretion in decision making for the entire operation, in conjunction with the Restaurant Manager.
- Establishes and implements short- and long-term planning processes.
- Monitors operating standards, Policies and Procedures.
- Maintains and documents up-to-date Policies and Procedures to keep pace with changing needs of the resort and work force.
- Holds employees accountable towards achieving operating standards, Policies and Procedures.
- Ensures the operation is profitable in accordance with operational budgets.
- Achieves or outperforms company objectives and financial goals.

Essential Traits:

- Strong desire to lead and motivate employees.
- Judgment and speed in decision making.
- Professionally handle multiple tasks and demands simultaneously.
- Attention to detail.
- Attentive and friendly listener
- Sincere desire to provide exceptional customer service.
- High ethical standards
- Availability and dependability in meeting a work schedule.

Specific Technical / General:

- Must have exceptional, "full-rounded" Food and Beverage experience and working knowledge of all hotel operations.
- Should have eight (8) to (10) years Food & Beverage experience.
- Strong financial and inventory management skills with exceptional experience in managing food costs.
- Must have high quality menu / wine list development experience and abilities.
- Previous Caribbean/international experience helpful, but not mandatory.
- Must possess excellent communication, planning, and organization skills.
- Should have a strong background in computers / Food and Beverage systems.
- Strong 4-5-star Resort 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 be creative; however willing to work with existing core resort philosophy and style.
- Property location makes it important that applicant be in good physical shape.
- Must be able to read, write and communicate effectively.
- Ability to work at a physically demanding pace.
- Ability to lift fifty (50) pounds to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
- Ability to remain standing for lengthy periods of time; climb steps and stairs; stoop, bend, and kneel; push.
- Ability to climb ladders and work at high heights.

BVIlanders or Belongers preferred. To apply, send resume to: Chad James,
Director of Human Resources
P.O. Box 211, Road Town, Tortola, BVI
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Phone # 495-2000

Learning Institute.

The educators gathered at the Eileene L. Parsons Auditorium from February 14 to 16, and engaged in presentations tailored to their work in the education sector.

Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Sharleen DaBreo-Lettsome, MBE addressed the attendees on the benefits of serving as a public officer, the role of the Public Service, and the classification of Public Offices.

Mrs. DaBreo-Lettsome also spoke on the role of Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments, and the Separation of Powers. The presentation aimed to provide a foundation for public officers to understand their roles and how the Public Service functions as an organisation.

Deputy Governor, Mr. David D. Archer Jr., was the event's final presenter and spoke of the importance investment in public officers. He said, "We have a responsibility to provide opportunities for the consistent learning and development of all public officers, including our educators. As they work year after year to build the minds of our future, we must, in turn continue to invest in them. This is a tangible representation of that commitment."

Public Service 101, is aimed at educating public officers

on how the Government operates, presenting knowledge of all departments, systems and procedures within the Government. The course allows individuals to hear from a cross-section of experts in various fields within the Public Service and voice their suggestions on these systems and procedures.

A featured offering, the "Permanent Secretaries Panel," afforded educators the opportunity to hear from Senior Managers on their journey in the Public Service.

Panellist, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Marcia Potter provided the teachers with valued knowledge as an experienced educator.

Dr. Potter said, "Educators play a critical role in the development of the Territory and we must never lose sight of this. The discourse and questions asked during Public Service 101 showed a genuine interest in their profession and this will certainly assist them in charting their way forward."

The Virgin Islands Public Service Learning Institute has hosted over 600 public officers for Public Service 101 in four sittings since its launch in 2023, reaffirming the commitment of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the learning and development of all public officers.



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Experience the Culinary Delights of Virgin Gorda at "Taste of Virgin Gorda"

Taste of Virgin Gorda, A BVI Food Fete Event to be held on Saturday, 16th March 2024

Valley, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands, 29th February 2024 – The British Virgin Islands

Tourist Board & Film Commission is excited to announce the "Taste of Virgin Gorda," the second Food Fete event for the year, a spectacular culinary event that will take place at the Nail Bay Sugar

Works Virgin Gorda National Park (Ruins at Nail Bay) on Saturday, 16th March, from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Set against this historic backdrop of breathtaking views, the event promises to be a



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)



gastronomic journey like no other.

"Taste of Virgin Gorda" will feature a selection of the island's renowned restaurants including Winnie's Steakhouse, Island Pot, Chez Bamboo, Coco Maya, Jerk Pit, Top of The Baths, Rock Café, MOKA, The Village Café, Lee's Roadside Bar & Grill, and Sugarcane Restaurant; each serving sample-sized plates of their signature dishes. Attendees will have the opportunity to indulge in a variety of delectable flavours, highlighting the island's vibrant culinary scene.

To complement the culinary experience, the event will feature an open wine bar that will allow patrons to sample a wide variety of wines as they savour the flavours of Virgin Gorda.

Tickets for this unforgettable event are priced at \$100 per person and includes convenient roundtrip ground transportation between the St Thomas Bay Jetty on Virgin Gorda and the Nail Bay Sugar Works. Tickets can be purchased at the BVI Tourist Board's booths at

the BVI Ports Authority Building, St. Thomas Bay Jetty, and the Road Town Jetty. Proceeds raised from this event will go towards a tourism education grant to support deserving students in the territory. To complement the evening, premium entertainment will be provided by saxophonist Issa Alexander, Final Faze, VI Groove Project and DJ Dre.

"Get your tickets while they are still available, as you don't want to miss out on this extraordinary culinary event, where guests not only get to enjoy an evening of culinary excellence and entertainment under the stars, but also have the pleasure of contributing to the education and future of deserving students," said an excited Clive McCoy, Director of Tourism.

For those travelling from Tortola, a special round trip ferry rate of \$25.00 on Speedy's has been secured, with proof of event ticket purchase.

For more information, please visit the BVI Food Fete Facebook page or call 284-852-6020.



PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Position: Room Rooms Manager- Front of House

Duties/Responsibilities:

Provide leadership, vision, and direction to the 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.

1. Ensures all guest service operations are consistent at the highest level.
 - a. Monitors training programs and maintains quality and service levels to Preferred Hotel and AAA standards.
 - b. Researches and implements industry “best practices” to improve all aspects of guest services.
 - c. Manages the Rooms Division in accordance with BVI Government regulations.
 - d. Implements and oversees resort Safety, Emergency, and Sanitation Programs.
2. Responsible for guest relationship management.
 - a. Maintains an active presence in all resort areas.
 - b. Promotes positive guest relations.
 - c. Resolves guest complaints as appropriate, ensuring guest satisfaction and hotel profitability.
 - d. Ensures repeat and VIP guests are recognized.
 - e. Oversees Guest Comment Card Program.
 - f. Increases positive and reduces negative guest feedback.
 - g. Ensures communication, follow through, and resolution of issues.
 - h. Develops and monitors manual and system procedures for tracking and reporting guest issues.
 - i. Ensures performance feedback is communicated to the appropriate persons.
3. Manages Rooms Division’s annual budget.
 - a. Manages monthly profit and loss statement, forecast for revenues, and meeting or exceeding profit objectives from revenue down to the bottom line of all room’s areas..
 - Perform any related duties as assigned by supervisor. Assisting all other employees in their duties when required.

Essential Traits:

- Strong desire to lead and motivate employees.
- Judgment and speed in decision making.
- Professionally handle multiple tasks and demands simultaneously.
- Attention to detail.
- Attentive and friendly listener
- Sincere desire to provide exceptional customer service.
- High ethical standards
- Availability and dependability in meeting a work schedule.

Specific Technical / General:

- Must have thorough knowledge of Revenue Management and Inventory Control.
- Should have at least five years experience in progressive Rooms Division (Front Office, Reservations, Guest Service, Maintenance, Laundry and Housekeeping), in a 4–5-star Resort environment.
- Strong Front Office leadership skills and a working knowledge of Housekeeping and Maintenance standards and controls.
- Must present positive leadership style and possess a desire to develop team members.
- Must demonstrate team building skills and promote teamwork.
- Must have excellent communication and motivational skills.
- Must possess strong problem solving and excellent guest service and sales skills.
- Must possess strong computer literacy and good understanding of Property Management Systems.
- Must maintain a high level of professional appearance and demeanor.
- Must be a self-starter, energetic, & motivated with multi-task capabilities.
- Must be creative and willing to work with existing core resort philosophy and style.
- Previous Caribbean / International experience helpful, but not mandatory.
- Property location makes it important that applicant be in good physical shape.
- Ability to work at a physically demanding pace.
- Ability to lift fifty (50) pounds to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
- Ability to remain standing for lengthy periods of time; climb steps and stairs; stoop, bend, and kneel; push.
- Ability to climb ladders and work at high heights.
- Ability to load and unload supplies

BVI Islanders or Belongers preferred. To apply, send resume to: Chad James, Director of Human Resources P.O. Box 211, Road Town, Tortola, BVI or email: hr@peterisland.net or www.peterisland.com/careers.

Phone # 495-2000

PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Position: Retail Manager

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership, vision, and direction to the 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.
- 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.
- Shop staffing levels are scheduled and assigned.
- Receive stock and store all gift shop articles arriving at the Resort.
- All goods received are to be entered into Counterpoint in accurate and timely fashion.
- Training and development of current and new staff to ensure guest service and restocking is done in a timely manner.
- Preparation of and adherence to an approved buying plan.
- Utilizing Counterpoint reports as a buying tool.
- Development of Budget to include financial reports, stocking, and accountability of goods.
- Maintain established boutique inventory par stocks.
- Maintain logo integrity.
- Maintain all inventories in a clean and organized fashion.
- Ensure all shop attendants are using proper sales reports at the end of the shift.
- Sales trips are to be planned with purchasing objectives.
- Purchasing objective to include vendor relationships, maintaining existing relationships and development of new.
- Invoice integrity is important as goods will not ship without proper invoicing.
- POs are to be used with all purchases getting prior approval from the Financial Controller and General Manager.
- Ensure merchandise turn over using sales techniques.
- Set Sales objectives for staff ensuring incentives are in place.
- Perform any related duties as assigned by supervisor. Assisting all other employees in their duties when required.

Essential Traits:

- Judgment and speed in decision making.
- Professionally handle multiple tasks and demands simultaneously.
- Possess extreme Attention to detail.
- Attentive and friendly listener
- Sincere desire to provide exceptional customer service.
- High ethical standards
- Availability and dependability in meeting a work schedule.

Specific Technical / General:

- Should have at least five years' experience in boutique management.
- Must possess excellent guest service and sales skills.
- Must have excellent articulation and communications skills.
- Must possess strong computer literacy and good understanding of Boutique systems.
- Must maintain a high level of professional appearance and demeanor.
- Must be a self-starter, energetic, & motivated with multi-task capabilities.
- Strong 4-5-star Resort experience.
- Must be a team player who enjoys challenge and working with others.
- Ability to work at a physically demanding pace.
- Ability to lift fifty (50) pounds to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
- Ability to remain standing for lengthy periods of time; climb steps and stairs; stoop, bend, and kneel; push.
- Ability to climb ladders and work at high heights.
- Ability to load and unload supplies.

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P.O. Box 211, Road Town,
Tortola, BVI
or email: hr@peterisland.net or www.peterisland.com/careers.

Phone # 495-2000

[s41]

Additional Path To Citizenship Addresses Historical Unfairness

The Civil Registry & Passport Office is notifying the public of an additional citizenship pathway for adults who were excluded from obtaining citizenship as British Overseas Territory and British citizens, due to historical legislative unfairness in British nationality law.

The path allows for persons to be eligible to apply to become both a British Overseas Territory citizen (BOTC) and British citizen (BC) through registration having met the following requirement:

The individual was born outside a British Overseas Territory before 1 January, 1983 to a mother born in a British Overseas Territory or before 1 July, 2006 to an unmarried BOTC father.

Persons are allowed to register as a BOTC and a BC simultaneously, by accessing the website www.gov.uk and downloading the appropriate forms. They will also have the option to apply for only one of the two citizenships, if preferred (where applicable).

Applicants are asked be familiarised with the eligibility guidance provided on the UK Government website for more information on applying for citizenship under historical unfairness.

Only paper application forms will be accepted. Applicants are to ensure that paper application forms, including original supporting documents, are mailed to the designated address listed on the website.

It is also recommended that applicants forward a full-colored copy of a valid passport, as they may need to use their passport while the application is being processed.

U.K. Home Office will communicate with applicants directly via email, regarding their application for registration as a British Overseas Territory and/or British citizen.

The application form for applicants claiming citizenship from a BOTC mother can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-as-a-british-overseas-territories-citizen-form-botcm>

The form for applicants claiming citizenship from an unmarried BOTC father can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/registration-as-a-british-overseas-territories-citizen-botcf/botcf-registration-as-a-british-overseas-territories-citizen-andor-a-british-citizen-accessible>

Upon receiving notification from U.K. Home Office, applicants will be required to enroll their biometric details to verify their identity as part of the registration process. As such, the Civil Registry & Passport Office has been designated as a Biometric Center to assist with biometric enrollment for such citizens.

Applicants will be required to present a copy of their application form to the Civil Registry & Passport Office upon biometric enrollment. Failure to fulfill this requirement, will render applications invalid.

The Civil Registry and Passport Office is committed to creating and managing the civil records, nationality matters and passports of residents in the Territory of the Virgin Islands.

For more information, please contact the office by email at infocris@gov.vg.



Semi-Final Round Ends in Inter-secondary School Debates

The semi-final round of the Ministry of Education's annual Inter-Secondary School Debates concluded after a face-off between three winners and the losing team with the most points from the preliminary round.

The first debate saw the proposition team of the Bregado Flax Educational Centre Secondary (BFEC) debating the opposing team from St. Georges Secondary School on the moot, "The use of artificial intelligence dilutes the learning experience in the Virgin Islands".

The second debate saw the proposing team from Elmore Stouff High School (ESHS) debating against the opposition team of the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies (VISTS) on the moot "The Virgin Islands education system should separate Junior High School from Senior High School".

Acting Chief Education Officer in the Ministry of Education Youth Affairs and Sports Mrs. Orlandette Crabbe congratulated the students, teachers, and parents who worked behind the scenes to produce the competitive debates.

Mrs. Crabbe said, "I completely enjoyed listening to our young people debate topics that are relevant not just to education but to our community. As an educator, I look at them and those who have been involved over the years, see the development of crucial skills like critical thinking, problem solving, articulation, and the ability

to communicate their position very clearly."

The Acting Chief Education Officer added, "I believe the objective of the debate series is to do exactly that, to bring our secondary schools together to have a competition that is academic based, that drives research, that helps our students to understand the importance of being informed, and knowing how to develop an opinion based on the information that they have gathered."

Deputy Chief Education Officer Mrs. Heida Selwood stated that the 2024 Inter-Secondary School Debates got off to a great start and that the ministry was proud of the work that went into preparing the students with the research for the moots.

Mrs. Selwood said, "This year, the competition was of a very high standard, we continue to say that we are improving every year and we are pleased with the performances by the debaters this year. Congratulations to all the students, coaches and schools for a job well done."

Mrs. Selwood added that the ministry continues to look at topics that are topical in the community, region, and the world to bring awareness to what is happening in the community.

"I am happy to know that the students were able to talk about the health and educational issues in the Virgin Islands. I encourage the community to continue to

support our students as they debate and become very proficient communicators," the Deputy Chief Education Officer stated.

The full video of the semi-final round of the Inter-Secondary

School Debates can be viewed on the Government's Facebook page at BVIGovernment.

The final round of the debates will take place on Wednesday, March 13 and will see the St.

Georges Secondary School versus the Elmore Stouff High School (ESHS) on the moot "All students exiting secondary school should attain a technical qualification".



PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS Position: Spa Supervisor

Duties/Responsibilities:

- The Spa Supervisor provides a professional service for our guests while acting as a model that our Spa team follows. The Spa Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Spa facility, ensuring exceptional service delivery, and maintaining high standards of cleanliness and professionalism. Leads a team of spa staff, coordinates schedule and assists in developing and implementing strategies to enhance our guest's satisfaction and maximize revenue. The general responsibilities include monitoring stock, promoting the different lines of products and spa services to our guests.
- Perform any related duties as assigned by supervisor. Assisting all other employees in their duties when required.

Essential Traits:

- Strong desire to lead and motivate employees.
- Judgment and speed in decision making.
- Professionally handle multiple tasks and demands simultaneously.
- Attention to detail.
- Attentive and friendly listener
- Sincere desire to provide exceptional customer service.
- High ethical standards
- Availability and dependability in meeting a work schedule.

Specific Technical / General:

- Help management keep the maintenance list updated. Broken, dirty, old, or missing parts on machines, building, soft goods (i.e., drapes, linens, blinds, etc.).
- Ensure the room assignment chart is completed daily.
- Make sure that all treatment rooms have fresh decoration daily.
- Monitor employee's uniforms and inform management, in confidence, when uniform code is not being practiced. Management will then approach the therapist.
- Qualified to perform Massages, Facials and Body Treatments at least.
- Experience in a 5 Star Resort, destination or luxury Spa is a plus.
- Good command of the English language, oral and written.
- Work flexible day and evening hours, weekends, and holidays.
- Experience with standard Spa equipment, i.e., facial equipment, hot cabbies, Vichy, hydrotherapy tubs, etc.
- A high standard of personal presentation.
- Must be a self starter, energetic and motivated.
- Training or knowledge in Aromatherapy theory/philosophy is preferred.
- Previous 2 years' experience working at a Spa as Spa Supervisor is required.
- Ability to work at a physically demanding pace.
- Ability to lift fifty (50) pounds to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
- Ability to remain standing for lengthy periods of time; climb steps and stairs; stoop, bend, and kneel; push.
- Ability to climb ladders and work at high heights.
- Ability to load and unload supplies.

BVI Islanders or Belongers preferred. To apply, send resume to: Chad James, Director of Human Resources
P.O. Box 211, Road Town,
Tortola, BVI or email: hr@peterisland.net or www.peterisland.com/careers.
Phone # 495-2000

Update On The Recently Concluded 46th Regular Meeting Of The Conference Of Heads Of Government Of Caricom

STATEMENT PREMIER OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS HONOURABLE DR. NATALIO D. WHEATLEY
1 MARCH, 2024

Good afternoon to the Press Corps and the people of the Virgin Islands.

I am holding this press conference today to update you on my recent attendance at the 46th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in

Georgetown, Guyana from 25th -28th February.

However, before I provide my update, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family of the late Dr. Quincy Lettsome who will be laid to rest tomorrow.

Last year during our National Heroes Day celebration,

we honoured Dr. Lettsome alongside other educators for his tremendous contributions to the Virgin Islands in the field of education. Among other things, Dr. Lettsome served as Chief Education Officer, Principal of the BVI High School, and was a veteran teacher of many years.

Dr. Lettsome was also an accomplished author whose books and publications capture a great deal about our history, culture and progress as a people.

Not only was he one of this Territory's stalwarts in education, he was also a very close relative of mine and someone I knew all of my life as a very dear cousin of my mother and the father of his son, my friend Sym.

Dr. Lettsome will be greatly missed by the East End Long Look Community and wider Territory, for his staunch commitment to nation-building.

On behalf of my wife Carolyn and I, and the Government and people of the Virgin Islands, I again extend deepest condolences to his children Tracy, Stacy and Sym, and all of his grandchildren who survive him.

Now in terms of the recent meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government in Guyana, let me provide some context for my attendance. The Heads of Government of CARICOM's full members and Associate Members gather twice a year to advance the regional agenda for growth and development of the Caribbean.

I am obliged to participate in these meetings as one of the Heads and take my responsibility very seriously, as do the other Heads.

On this most recent occasion, we addressed a number of critical issues.

The first was Haiti. CARICOM Heads - and - high - level representatives from the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), France, Canada and United Nations (UN), discussed the deteriorating situation in Haiti and agreement was subsequently found with the Prime Minister of Haiti Ariel Henry on holding a General Election no later than August 2025.



Dr. the Hon. Natalio D. Wheatley

Unfortunately, the situation in Haiti has since deteriorated even further, even as international efforts are being redoubled to mobilise an international force to help stabilize security on the ground.

Everyone is agreed that the situation must be urgently addressed to stop the suffering of the Haitian people. That very suffering is what has caused so many Haitians to flee from their home by very dangerous means in the hope of finding a better life. Many have made the dangerous journey across the waters right here to the Virgin Islands. Sadly, in the process some of our Haitian brothers and sisters lost their lives along the way.

We must all recognize that until conditions on the ground are stable in Haiti, the Virgin Islands and other places throughout the Caribbean will have to cope with the outflow of Haitians fleeing Haiti for safety, security and a livelihood by which to survive. Here in the Virgin Islands we must treat our Haitian brothers and sisters with the humanity they deserve.

My administration will remain engaged with CARICOM, the UK and other Overseas Territories on the situation in Haiti that affects the Virgin Islands and other CARICOM Associate Members.

Importantly, I also participated in a special session between CARICOM Heads and our highly respected Latin American partner the President of Brazil, His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva who is

Continued on page 11

PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Position: Pastry Chef

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Manage the pastry section of Peter Island's resort operations liaising with the Executive and Sous Chefs to ensure a successful working environment.
- Ensure pastry section of Peter Island's resort operations adhere to all HACCP procedures relating to food safety.
- Strong leadership skills and an ability to provide clear instructions to team members.
- Excellent communication skills and an enthusiasm for teamwork
- Certificate in culinary arts, pastry making or relevant field.
- Extensive knowledge of contemporary baking and pastry making techniques
- Ability to develop new and contemporary desserts/baked goods for our fixed and seasonal menus.
- Meet with clients to discuss custom-made desserts and pastries for special occasions such as weddings and birthdays.
- Experience as a pastry chef, pastry sous chef or chef de partie in a resort or hotel setting of a 100 resort or better.
- Identify staffing needs, supervise and train new pastry assistants and bakers when necessary.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including weekends and evenings when necessary.
- Perform any related duties as assigned by supervisor. Assisting all other employees in their duties when required.

Essential Traits:

- Work independently and efficiently.
- Listen attentively and follow directions exactly.
- Strong attention to detail
- Operate and control necessary equipment and machines.
- Availability and dependability in meeting a work schedule.

Specific Technical / General:

- Ability to work at a physically demanding pace.
- Ability to lift fifty (50) pounds to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
- Ability to remain standing for lengthy periods of time; climb steps and stairs; stoop, bend, and kneel; push.
- Ability to climb ladders and work at high heights.
- Ability to load and unload supplies.

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Director of Human Resources
P.O. Box 211, Road Town, Tortola, BVI
or email: hr@peterisland.net or www.peterisland.com/careers.
Phone # 495-2000

Update On The Recently Concluded 46th Regular Meeting Of The Conference...from page 10

currently the Chair of the G20. The deliberations with President Lula were warm and friendly and both sides committed to strengthening the partnership between Brazil and CARICOM. The areas identified for cooperation were regional security, transportation, infrastructure, sustainable development, climate change, global governance, and trade. For the Virgin Islands, we are particularly keen on establishing tourism links with Brazil, especially sailing and the wider marine sector. Brazil is the biggest market in Latin America and we need to tap their market as we diversify our tourism source markets.

CARICOM Heads also discussed regional transportation. I am very pleased that progress is being made toward the launch of LIAT 2024 and inter-island fast ferry service between CARICOM Member States to help address the regional transportation challenge that we face in the Caribbean. Traveling from the Virgin Islands to other parts of the Caribbean, especially going south, can be very difficult and these types of solutions are desperately needed to improve transportation connectivity.

Of course we also discussed climate change, sustainable development and the need for greater support to Small Islands Developing States from the international community to support our response to these issues. More advocacy work must be done in the lead up to the next COP Meeting, including gaining international acceptance for the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index as a new metric in considering concessional financing to SIDS.

It is unfair that the Virgin Islands and other countries and Territories in CARICOM categorised as middle or high income are locked out of this international support because of our GDP per capita that does not capture our high vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. CARICOM is concerned that 2024 is forecasted to be a highly active hurricane season so the region has to be vigilant in preparing.

Food security was also discussed and it was agreed that all of CARICOM has to continue taking steps to boost food security in the ways in which they can.

In the margins of the CARICOM meeting, I participated in a trilateral meeting with UK Overseas Territories Minister Hon. David Rutley and Canada Minister for International Development Ahmed Hussen. We discussed cooperation between the Virgin Islands and UK and Virgin Islands and Canada in the areas of tourism, trade, infrastructure, research and development cooperation, which was very positive.

I will be following up on these discussions to see where there are opportunities from which the Virgin Islands can benefit.

Finally, I held a bilateral meeting with Minister Rutley in which we further discussed governance reform, among other things. Our talk was positive and I will remain engaged with him on relevant issues, including exploring where the UK can support my administration as we pursue sustainable development, climate resilience, and diversification of the economy.

In closing, I want to state again that the annual CARICOM Heads of Government meetings

is an important meeting for the Virgin Islands. CARICOM is a pillar of our international affairs and regional cooperation. It is

in our interest to be engaged with our neighbours on the peace, security and prosperity of the region that benefits us as

a part of the Caribbean. Thank you for your attention and I am happy to take any questions you may have.

PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Position: Restaurant Manager

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership, vision, and direction to the F&B 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.
- Assist the Food and Beverage Director in developing and training restaurant service staff and to ensure high quality guest experience.
- Supervise, train and develop new and existing restaurant staff.
- Manage food, beverage and labor costs.
- Manage food, beverage and service quality.
- Perform associate Performance Reviews
- Assist the Food and Beverage Director with other related.
- Perform any related duties as assigned by supervisor. Assisting all other employees in their duties when required.

Essential Traits:

- Strong desire to lead and motivate employees.
- Judgment and speed in decision making.
- Professionally handle multiple tasks and demands simultaneously.
- Attention to detail.
- Attentive and friendly listener
- Sincere desire to provide exceptional customer service.
- High ethical standards
- Availability and dependability in meeting a work schedule.

Specific Technical / General:

- Should have at least 2 years management experience, strong leadership skills, and good knowledge of hotel operations.
- Candidate has a desire for challenge and a talent for building high performance teams.
- Must possess strong problem solving and excellent guest service skills.
- Must have excellent articulation, leadership and communications skills.
- Must possess good computer literacy and basic understanding of Property Management Systems.
- Must maintain a high level of professional appearance and demeanor.
- Must be able to organize, motivate and lead the team, and direct the work of others.
- Assess ability to train and develop employees.
- Must be a self-starter, energetic, & motivated with multi-task capabilities.
- Strong 4-5-star Resort experience.
- Must be a team player who enjoys challenge and working with others.
- Must be creative and willing to work with existing core resort philosophy and style.
- Previous Caribbean / International experience helpful, but not mandatory.
- Ability to work at a physically demanding pace.
- Ability to lift fifty (50) pounds to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
- Ability to remain standing for lengthy periods of time; climb steps and stairs; stoop, bend, and kneel; push.
- Ability to climb ladders and work at high heights.

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GLOBAL NEWS BRIEF

STORIES SELECTED BY **GIORGIO MIGLIAVACCA**

RUSSIA - The mother and mother-in-law of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny were among mourners who brought flowers to his grave in Moscow on Saturday, a day after thousands turned his funeral into one of the largest recent displays of dissent.

Police kept a heavy presence at the cemetery but the situation was calm, Russian independent TV channel Dozhd (Rain) reported.

"The police let those wishing to bid farewell to the politician pass through and do not rush anyone," the outlet wrote on the Telegram messaging app, quoting one of its readers on the scene.

Dozhd also reported that "spontaneous memorials" to Navalny had been destroyed in several Russian cities. Flowers were removed in cities including St. Petersburg and Voronezh, it said.

Under a heavy police watch, thousands bid farewell Friday to Navalny after his still-unexplained death two weeks ago in an Arctic penal colony. The crowds who thronged to honor Navalny outside a church and cemetery in a snowy southeastern suburb of the capital chanted slogans for him and against Russian President Vladimir Putin and the war in Ukraine.

Police did not act against them, but at least 106 people were detained at events across Russia in Navalny's memory, said OVD-Info, a rights group that tracks political arrests. It said most were stopped while trying to lay flowers at monuments dedicated to victims of Soviet repression.

Navalny was buried after a short Russian Orthodox ceremony, with vast crowds waiting outside the church and then streaming to the fresh grave with flowers.

Navalny's widow, Yulia, was not seen at the funeral. She has vowed to continue his work, lovingly thanked him for "26 years of absolute happiness." [El Pais]

BITCOIN - Bitcoin is back on everyone's lips. It hit a two-year-high over the past week, while the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has authorized the listing and trading of certain Bitcoin ETFs. After a long slump, institutional investors and international banks are showing a growing commitment towards cryptocurrencies.

Enthusiasm has resurfaced for an instrument that's difficult to understand: it's almost inexplicable when coming at it from the conventional theory of financial assets, nor are there new theoretical foundations

that allow us to understand the demand for Bitcoin and its surprising valuation.

Regulators and economists have every reason to issue warnings. The last relevant notice was posted on the blog of the European Central Bank (ECB) - entry dated February 22, 2024 - by Ulrich Binseil and Jürgen Schaaf, two of the directors of Market Infrastructure & Payments. They point out that Bitcoin has failed in its promise to be the global decentralized digital currency: it's rarely used for legitimate transfers and payments. The two experts indicate that - despite the approval of Bitcoin ETFs by the SEC - it doesn't change the fact that it's inappropriate as a means of payment or investment. [El Pais]

ITALY - credible alternative to the parties of the right exists and centre-left groups will prove it in June's European elections, Democratic Party (PD) leader Elly Schlein told the 2024 Congress of the Party of European Socialists' (PES) in Rome on Saturday.

"We see a window of change beginning to open in the country, we see that the alternative exists," said Schlein, whose party teamed with the populist 5-Star Movement (M5S) to win last week's regional elections in Sardinia and end a long string of victories for Premier Giorgia Meloni's ruling right/centre-right coalition.

"Change is possible, we have

already demonstrated it and together we will demonstrate it in Europe in June.

It will be a crucial election campaign for the fate of our continent. [ANSA]

ABORTION RIGHTS - American drugstore chains CVS Health and Walgreens said they will soon begin dispensing the abortion pill, mifepristone, in states where abortion is allowed.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in January 2023 finalized a rule to allow greater access to mifepristone, including by extending its availability across major pharmacy stores.

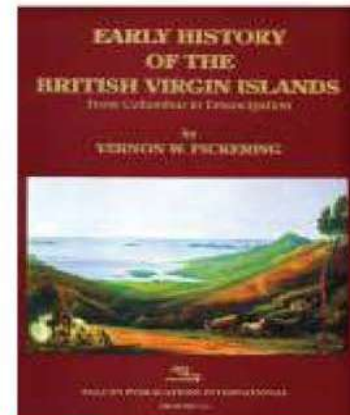
The FDA labeling had previously limited availability owing to safety concerns. CVS Health and Walgreens have now completed the procedure in keeping with the FDA rule change that will allow them to sell mifepristone.

The drug, along with a second pill, misoprostol, is used for medical abortions, a term used to describe a method where a pregnancy is terminated with the help of the two pills instead of surgery. More than half of pregnancies are terminated by way of medical abortions in America, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights. [Deutsche Welle]

MOVIE MAKING - Italian Film producer Andrea Iervolino is in discussions with the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus to establish a program tailored for students aspiring to enter the film industry.

The proposed program holds the promise of providing budding filmmakers with the chance to hone their craft and gain hands-on experience in the dynamic world of filmmaking.

This collaboration between Iervolino and the university signals a significant step forward for aspiring filmmakers in the Caribbean and beyond. During a recent meeting, Iervolino, who has obtained Antigua and Barbuda citizenship through investment, engaged in discussions with Justin Robinson, the chancellor of UWI Five Islands. Iervolino expressed his enthusiasm for the project and offered selected students the chance to travel to Italy for firsthand experience in filmmaking. [CNW]



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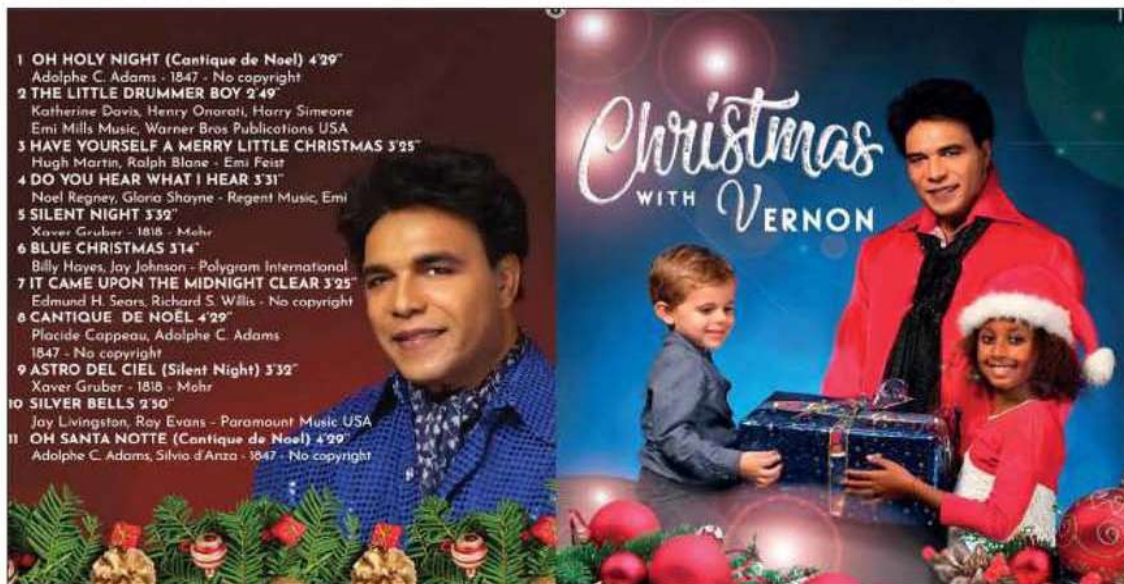
CANCER - As people commemorate Black History Month and reflect on the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history, it is crucial to acknowledge the health disparities that persist within the Black community. Against this backdrop, February 4, 2024, marked World Cancer Day, providing an opportune time to explore the intricate intersection of cancer and race, particularly the disproportionate impact on the Black population.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black and African American individuals face higher rates of both cancer incidence and mortality compared to other racial groups.

CDC further states that Black people have the highest death rate for cancer overall, coupled with a lower overall 5-year cancer survival rate than their white counterparts.

Among the myriad of cancers, prostate cancer stands out as a particularly ominous threat to Black men.

According to an article by Zero Prostate Cancer, Black and African American men are more likely to develop prostate cancer. [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, Gloria Shayne - Regent Music, Emi
- 5 SILENT NIGHT 3'39"
Xaver Gruber - 1818 - Mohr
- 6 BLUE CHRISTMAS 3'14"
Billy Hayes, Jay Johnson - Polygram International
- 7 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR 3'25"
Edmund H. Sears, Richard S. Willis - No copyright
- 8 CANTIQUE DE NOEL 4'29"
Placide Cappeau, Adolphe C. Adams
1847 - No copyright
- 9 ASTRO DEL CIEL (Silent Night) 3'32"
Xaver Gruber - 1818 - Mohr
- 10 SILVER BELLS 2'30"
Jay Livingston, Ray Evans - Paramount Music USA
- 11 OH SANTA NOTTE (Cantique de Noel) 4'29"
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A BVI Food Fete Event to be held on Saturday, 16th March 2024
(more on page 6-Photo Credit Tourist Board)

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

DR. NORWELL HARRIGAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Hon. Natalio Wheatley spearheaded a delegation to St Thomas USVI to attend the Dr. Norwell Harrigan Memorial Scholarship Luncheon. The event, which took place on 3 March celebrated the legacy of Dr. Norwell Harrigan while honoring

outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities. This year's Memorial Scholarship program recognized several distinguished honorees for their outstanding achievements and commitment to service.

Among the recipients were Mr. Aaron Parillon, Ms. Janice Stoutt Esq, Ms. Marjorie Smith, Mr. Clayton Emmanuel, and Mr. Carvin Malone, who was honored posthumously. Their dedication to improving their communities and fostering positive change

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16





Ladyburd Talks...

Dear Readers: Fun Easter Egg Hunt Ideas That Guarantee an Eggscellent Time (2 of 3)

Veggie Egg Hunt:

Plop these cute, crafted eggs in the veggie patch. They will blend right in and make for an interesting challenge.

Easter Egg Busy Bag Scavenger Hunt.

These busy bags will keep kids busy long after the initial egg hunt ends. They have a card attached to them that prompts the player to find Easter-themed objects.

Hanging Easter Egg Hunt

Don't be afraid to hide eggs in branches to make it more challenging for the hunters.

Indoor Easter Egg Hunt

If weather rains on your Easter parade, find clever ways to hide eggs indoors. Candlesticks make a fun hiding spot and double as a festive decoration.

Easter Egg Hunt Relay Race:

It's just like a traditional relay race, but this one involves eggs! We love that this cute idea fosters teamwork.

Hunt for Lunch:

Turn lunch into an adventure by hiding snacks inside eggs and having kids hunt for them.

[Continue next week]

<https://www.countryliving.com/entertaining/g4083/easter-egg-hunt-ideas/>



LIGHT BULB MOMENTS

"Scarcity of self-value cannot be remedied by money, recognition, affection, attention, or influence."

— Gary Zukav

"Do something wonderful, people may imitate it."

— Albert Schweitze

Poetry Corner

In Honor of Happy Women's Day

Women's Day
It becomes a secure and congenial home
When a woman is around,
bonny circle..
If you treat them well
They bless your heart
with
love and arouse
your intrinsic glow
Dear women..
You are strong and comely
May this day allay the extreme heat
and assemble serene skies

© Buven Thepoet

Tickle My Funny Bones



Them Women Drivers. Grrrr

This morning on the motorway,
I looked over to my right and there was a
Woman

In a brand new car !!
Doing 90mph
With her face up next to her
Rear view mirror
Putting on her eyeliner!

I looked away
For a couple seconds
And when I looked back she was
Halfway over in my lane,
Still working on her makeup.

As a man,
I don't scare easily..
But she scared me so much I dropped

My electric shaver,
Which knocked
The sausage roll
Out of my other hand.
In all the confusion of trying
To straighten my car
Using my knees against The steering wheel,
It knocked
My Mobile phone
Away from my ear
Which fell
Into the coffee

PUN INTENDED

"I'm going to stand outside,
if anyone asks where I am tell
them I am out-standing."



Ladyburd's Mail Box

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delseitaliburd@msn.com
or
islandsunnewsp@gmail.com

Dear Ladyburd My husband and I are together for a few years now and during the second year of the marriage I found out that he fathered a child. He did not bother to let me know about it, his excuse was that he did not want to hurt me, so he kept quiet, I accidentally found out and I was upset, I told him to get out of my life I never want to see him again, anyhow, he apologized to me and told me that he loves me and it was a one night affair, and I forgave him. My main problem is that I cannot bring myself to love the child, every time I see the child I remember that he cheated on me and I get enraged. What can I do? *Enraged Wife*

Ladyburd...Dear Enraged Wife: The first thing you must remember is that the child is not at fault, and you cannot blame him for coming into the world, try to address your feelings with your husband as well as going and getting some counseling.

You might also be feeling that way because you have not really forgiven him for cheating on you, you have not put it behind you, so you will have to let it go and move on, and to do that, you will have to forgive your husband, not in words, but in deeds. The question to ask, is he being faithful to you now? or is he still cheating on you?.. These are some questions you will have to ask your husband in a serious discussion.

(repeat by request)

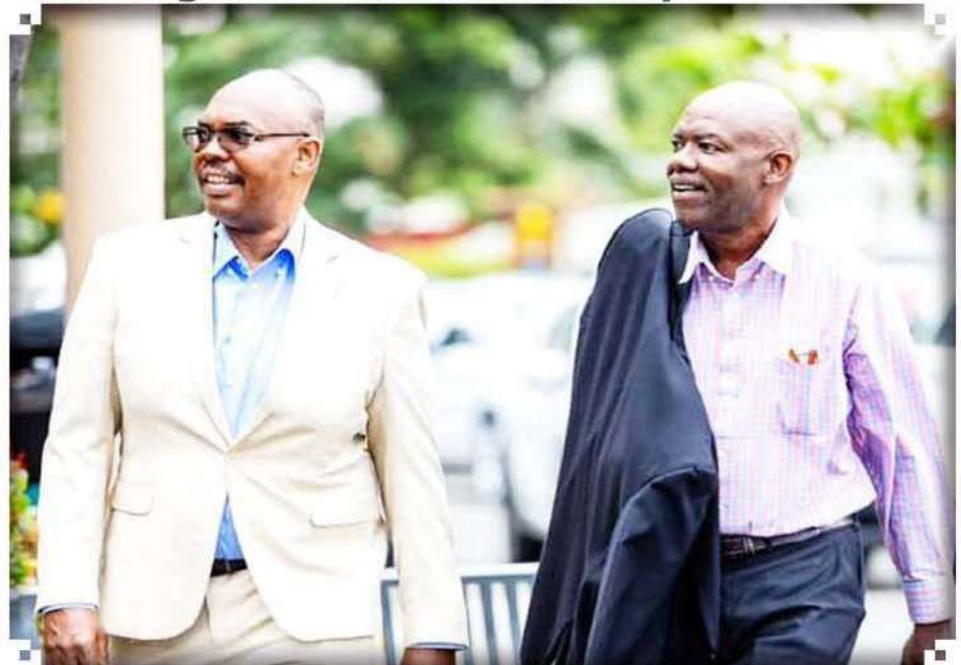
DR. NORWELL HARRIGAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

has left an indelible mark on the Virgin Islands. The Dr. Norwell Harrigan Memorial Scholarship Luncheon is organized annually by the League of British Virgin Islanders, a non-profit organization based in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The League is dedicated to enhancing the Virgin Islands community through initiatives such as scholarships, cultural exchange programs, and community engagement activities.

Premier Natalio Wheatley expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the event, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and supporting individuals who are committed to making a difference. The Dr. Norwell Harrigan Memorial Scholarship Luncheon not only celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding individuals but also serves as a platform for fostering unity and collaboration within the Virgin Islands community.





Meatball Mania: Celebrating National Meatball Day!

Roll out the red (sauce) carpet, because it's that time of the year again -- National Meatball Day is upon us! This coming Saturday, March 9, 2024, we commemorate the humble meatball.

The meatball stands as a beacon of convenience, flavor and thriftiness in the kitchen. From ancient Chinese recipes to Arabic delights and Roman feasts, meatballs have graced tables across civilizations for millennia, each culture adding its own unique twist.

Whether nestled in a bed of spaghetti or adorning a sub sandwich, let's dive into the delightful world of DIY meatballs. This recipe can utilize any ground meat that happens to be on sale this week, making it budget friendly and flexible. You can vary the seasoning to complement your sauce of choice.

VERY VERSATILE HOMEMADE MEATBALLS

Yield: 4 to 5 servings

Total Time: 22 to 35 minutes

1 pound ground meat (beef, pork, turkey, chicken, sausage or combination)

- 1/2 cup seasoned breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 large egg
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning (or another seasoning blend)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- Olive oil (for cooking)

Preheat your oven to 375 F (190 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or lightly grease it with olive oil.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the ground meat, breadcrumbs, Parmesan cheese, milk, egg, minced garlic, Italian seasoning, salt and black pepper. Use your hands or a spoon to mix until well combined. Be careful not to overmix, as this can result in tough meatballs.

Shape the meat mixture into meatballs about 1 to 1.5 inches in diameter. Place them on the prepared baking sheet, evenly spaced apart.

If baking, lightly brush or spray the meatballs with olive oil to help them brown and crisp up in the oven. Alternatively, if frying, heat a large skillet over medium heat and add a tablespoon of olive oil.

If baking, bake the meatballs in the preheated oven for 20-25 minutes, or until cooked through and browned on the outside. If frying, cook the meatballs in batches, turning occasionally, until browned on all sides and cooked through, about 10-12 minutes.

Once cooked, remove the meatballs from the oven or skillet and let them rest for a few minutes before serving.

Serve the meatballs hot with your choice of sauce. They pair well with marinara sauce, barbecue sauce, creamy Alfredo sauce, sweet and sour sauce or any other favorite sauce of yours.

Freezing meatballs is a smart way to save time and ensure you always have a delicious meal on hand. Once cooked, cool the meatballs completely, then transfer them to a freezer-safe container or resealable bag and store in the freezer for up to 3 months.

Meatballs are incredibly versatile and can be served in a variety of delicious ways. Here are some ideas beyond spaghetti and subs:

Meatball Sliders: Serve meatballs on mini slider buns with your favorite toppings like cheese, lettuce, tomato and a drizzle of sauce.

Meatball Bowls: Serve meatballs over a bed of cooked grains like rice, quinoa or couscous, and add your favorite veggies and sauce for a customizable and nutritious bowl.

Meatball Soup: Add cooked meatballs to a pot of broth along with vegetables and pasta or rice for a comforting and hearty soup. Top with fresh herbs and grated Parmesan cheese before serving.

As we celebrate this savory occasion, let's embrace the culinary marvel that is the meatball by inviting your friends and family and hosting a meatball party!

You'll be everyone's favorite person for at least a week.

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

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Homemade meatballs in marinara ready to tantalize taste buds and warm hearts.

POLICE NEWS

JOINT OPERATION YIELDS LARGEST SEA SEIZURE

Wednesday, March 6 – In a joint operation on Tuesday, March 5, after 8 pm, the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, US Customs Border Control achieved a significant milestone by successfully intercepting a Go-Fast vessel just off Hodges Creek, Tortola. This united effort has resulted in the most substantial sea seizure to date.

During the operation, officers discovered sixty bales of cocaine and various other belongings on the intercepted vessel. The occupants abandoned the vessel at Hodges

Creek Marina and escaped on foot, and despite an extensive search in the area, they remain at large. The Go-Fast vessel is now securely in police custody, and investigations are ongoing.

Commissioner of Police, Mark Collins emphasized the significance of the joint operation and the unprecedented sea seizure stating “This commendable-joint operation-resulted in the largest sea seizure to date. The successful interception underscores our unwavering commitment to

eradicating illicit activities in the region.”

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force is urging the public to provide any information related to the incident. Persons are encouraged to confidentially call the Crime Stoppers line 800-8477 (TIPS) or overseas call 1-284-800-8477 with the relevant information; or contact the RVIPF Intelligence Unit at 368-9339. Every piece of information, no matter how seemingly insignificant, could prove crucial in advancing the ongoing investigation.

UPDATE: THREE CHARGED FOLLOWING SEARCH OPERATION

Monday, March 4 – Officers of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force have charged three persons in relation to the firearms, ammunition, and drugs found on Friday, March 1, in Purcell Estate. Seantroy Hanley, 36 and Jahkeema Charles, 32, both of Fat Hog’s Bay, were jointly charged with two counts of Keeping a Firearm without a License, two counts of Unlawful Possession of Explosives, two counts of Possession of a Controlled Drug and two counts of Possession of a Controlled Drug with intent to supply. Quentin Noel, 19, of Purcell Estate, was charged with Possession of a Controlled Drug.

Charles was granted bail in the sum of \$40,000 to appear at the Magistrate’s Court on April 18, 2024. Hanley and Noel remain in custody until the next available sitting at the Magistrate’s Court. Previous Release:

Saturday, March 2 – On Friday, March 1, Officers of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force conducted an extensive search after 5 pm in the vicinity of the basketball court in Purcell estate, During the search, two firearms, several rounds of ammunition, a large quantity of marijuana, and a quantity of crack cocaine were found. Three persons have been taken into custody for questioning concerning the items found.

The RVIPF is urging persons who may have knowledge of persons in possession of illegal firearms to confidentially call the Crime Stoppers line 800-8477 (TIPS) or overseas call 1-284-800-8477 with the relevant information; or contact the RVIPF Intelligence Unit at 368-9339.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FOUND ON VIRGIN GORDA

Thursday, February 29 – Officers of the RVIPF found eleven illegal immigrants at an abandoned building on Virgin Gorda in the early morning hours of Thursday, February 29. Subsequent investigations uncovered an additional three immigrants at the same location and further inquiries suggests that there are more that have not yet been found.

The RVIPF seeks assistance in identifying and apprehending these persons; if you notice anyone unfamiliar, please contact the Virgin Gorda Police Station at 368-5690 or the Immigration Department. The apprehended immigrants will be handed over to the Immigration department. Investigations into this matter is ongoing.

ARRESTS MADE FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING OPERATION

Tuesday, February 27 – On February 27, following investigations into the recent shooting incident in Cane Garden Bay on February 4, and the robbery at Aladdin Store on Flemming Street, Road Town on February 9, officers of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Forces conducted a targeted early morning operation resulting in the apprehension of multiple individuals.

The arrested individuals have been taken to the Road Town Police Station and will undergo thorough questioning. Investigations continue into these matters. The RVIPF remains dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of our community. The coordinated efforts of our officers demonstrate our commitment to resolving criminal matters promptly. The RVIPF is urging witnesses to come forward with any information regarding these matters.

Anyone who can provide details, no matter how seemingly insignificant, is encouraged to contact the RVIPF Intelligence Unit at 368-9339. Alternatively, information can be shared anonymously through Crimestoppers at 800-8477.

Little Amaris Daycare

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Opening Hours:
7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
 Evening Services Available Upon Request

Located in Pasea Estate, 100 ft. past the Tortola Sports Club

284-494-3669

Postal Address: P.O. Box 3169, PMB 196, Road Town, Tortola VG 1110, British Virgin Islands

PLAYING CARDS

Bicycle Playing Cards may be the most recognizable brand by the United States Playing Card Co. The brand has been around since 1885. One look at this store counter display advertising Bicycle Playing Cards will tell you that it's not from the late 1800s.

The large center scene shows a lively, colorful scene with two men and two women in formal dress around a card table. Changes in men's formal wear since the 19th century are much less dramatic than changes in women's clothes. The women in this picture have short hairstyles and low-neck sleeveless dresses that weren't seen until the 20th century. This display sold for \$1,375 at a Potter & Potter auction, and its description dated it to "circa 1930."

Q: In 1967, as a 14-year-old, I lived in Sebastopol, California, with Charles Schulz as a neighbor. I was friends with his sons. One day, as I was visiting his place, I got several discarded sketches on 4- by 6-inch notepad paper. When Mr. Schulz was formulating ideas for his strip, he would sketch out his ideas on notepads before he finalized them in his strip. Then he would crumple them up and toss them away. Many years ago, I framed them with copies of the actual comic strips that they inspired, which were published a month or so later. I have always wondered what value these sketches could have.

A: Charles Schulz created the comic strip "Peanuts" in 1950. It originally ran from 1950 to 2000 and has been in reruns since then. Original art for popular comic strips sells for high prices. The record price for original art for "Peanuts" was \$192,000 for a four-panel, black-and-white daily strip from 1950. It sold at Heritage Auctions in 2020. Individual sketches have sold for a few hundred dollars to over a thousand dollars. Subject, size and condition help determine the value. The artists' signature also adds value. Your small, unsigned sketches will be of interest to collectors if they are in good condition. Contact an auction house that sells comic art to find out the value of the sketches.

Original art for popular comic strips sells for high prices. The record price for original art for "Peanuts" was \$192,000 for a four-panel, black-and-white daily strip from 1950. It sold at Heritage Auctions in 2020. Individual sketches have sold for a few hundred dollars to over a thousand dollars. Subject, size and condition help determine the value. The artists' signature also adds value. Your small, unsigned sketches will be of interest to collectors if they are in good condition. Contact an auction house that sells comic art to find out the value of the sketches.

TIP: Keep old, worn vintage doll accessories. Even if you substitute new accessories, save the old ones. They add value.

CURRENT PRICES

Bucket, candy, Sovereign, King of All Toffees, lid, beach scenes, red, yellow and blue, bail handle, metal, early 1900s, 8 x 7 inches, \$83.

Doll, walking, pushing red pram with baby, blond hair, blue checked dress, repaired, Goodwin, 13 inches, \$250.

Sampler, alphabet, bird, flower basket, deer, panels of stitch patterns, frame, Gisey Burns, 1832, 14 x 14 inches, \$595.

Silver flatware spoon, Queen Anne style, dome end, finial, marked, Royal Irish Silver, Dublin, 16 x 3 inches, \$820.

Poster, travel, Pennsylvania Railroad, "Plan Your Vacation Trip By Train," man and woman carrying suitcases, W. Walter Calvert, c. 1953, 40 x 26 1/4 inches, \$1,190.

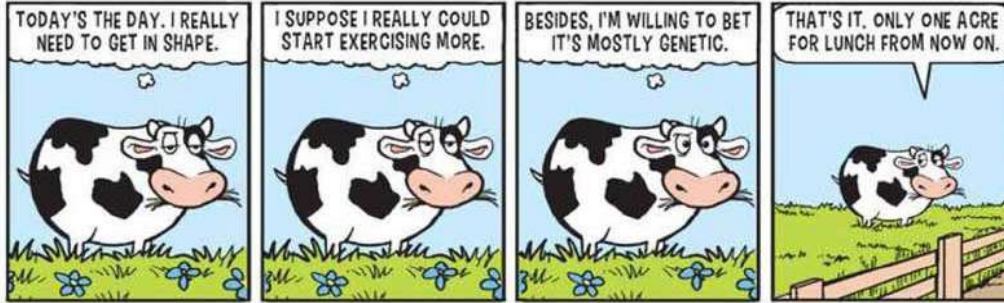
For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Manhandle
- 5 Annex
- 8 Trig function
- 12 Within (Pref.)
- 13 "Ben- —"
- 14 Toledo's lake
- 15 "Sure, of course"
- 17 Bakery buy
- 18 "Yippee!"
- 19 Apple music service
- 21 Pride parade initials
- 24 "Let me think ..."
- 25 Valley in California
- 28 Indy event
- 30 Wall climber
- 33 Rocker Rose
- 34 Plains grazers
- 35 Formerly known as
- 36 Earth (Pref.)
- 37 Stink
- 38 "It's — real!"
- 39 Texter's "Enough!"
- 41 Bring up
- 43 Tell
- 46 Pink hue
- 50 Lena of "The Reader"
- 51 Sake, e.g.
- 54 Curse
- 55 Greek mountain

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

- 56 Zilch
- 57 Rosebud, to Kane
- 58 Camp bed
- 59 Flag feature
- 8 Blood part
- 9 Ore source
- 10 Aswan's river
- 11 Congers
- 16 Sailing hazard
- 20 Subsequently
- 22 Party cheese
- 23 Stunning gun
- 25 Pester
- 26 Chopper
- 27 Story thread
- 29 Pepsi rival
- 31 Victory sign
- 32 Longing
- 34 Telly watcher
- 38 Cleveland
- 40 Like lions
- 42 Expert
- 43 Filches
- 44 Israeli carrier
- 45 Guitarist
- 47 Clapton
- 48 Funny person
- 49 Visitor to Siam
- 52 Altar affirmative
- 53 Jazz lover

DOWN

- 1 Calico's call
- 2 "My Way" writer
- 3 Beehive State
- 4 Jesuit university
- 5 Sushi fish
- 6 Press for payment
- 7 Zwei follower

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. Car door is different. 2. Rear tire is missing. 3. Side mirror is added to car. 4. Teddy bear is moved. 5. Naming is moved. 6. License plate is missing.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

W	A	H	O	O	H	O	S	
R	O	L	L	E	R	I	E	
S	I	N	E	R	E	R	I	
L	A	V	E					
L	A	V	E					
L	A	V	E					
L	A	V	E					
L	A	V	E					
L	A	V	E					

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which large U.S. city is nicknamed Rip City?
2. MOVIES: Which movie features the quote, "She doesn't even go here!"
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which national capital city is the northernmost in the world?
4. TELEVISION: Which long-running sitcom features a dad named Phil Dunphy?
5. GAMES: In chess, how many knights does each player have at the beginning?
6. GEOLOGY: What natural phenomenon is associated with igneous rock?
7. LANGUAGE: How many official languages are in the United Nations?
8. MUSIC: David Grohl was a drummer in which band before he became the frontman for the Foo Fighters?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of alligators called?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of meat is used in Hasenpfeffer, a traditional German stew?

**MORE READERS:
THE ISLAND SUN**

Trivia Test Answers
1. Portland, Oregon.; 2. "Mean Girls"; 3. Reykjavik, Iceland.; 4. "Modern Family"; 5. Two.; 6. Volcanic eruption.; 7. Six.; 8. Nirvana.; 9. A congregation.; 10. Rabbit.

Hakim T. Creque Is Virgin Gorda's First Full-Time Magistrate



Mr. Hakim T. Creque has been appointed Magistrate by His Excellency, the Governor Daniel Pruce with effect from March 5, in accordance with Section 95 of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007.

As the Territory's newest Magistrate, Mr. Creque, who is a native of Virgin Gorda, will sit as a full-time Magistrate on the island, as well as attend to certain matters on Tortola. This is the first appointment of a Magistrate to the sister island.

Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Sharleen DaBreo-Lettsome, MBE highlighted the importance of having a Magistrate fully appointed to Virgin Gorda.

Mrs. DaBreo-Lettsome, MBE said, "As we work to fulfil the vision for an advanced court system in the Territory, a key component is ensuring that we are adequately staffed to meet the growing needs of those we serve. Mr. Creque's appointment to sit as Magistrate on Virgin Gorda is a representation of our commitment to this advancement, and

his expertise is sure to be an added benefit to the Magistracy."

The new Magistrate is a seasoned barrister, having completed his Bar Professional Training Course in 2014 from the University of Law and subsequently admitted as a Barrister to the Bar of England and Wales in July 2014 by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. Mr. Creque was then admitted to practice law in the Virgin Islands in December 2014.

The Magistrate will hear and pass rulings in all civil, criminal and quasi-criminal matters filed in the Magistrate's Court and oversee the operations of the Court in an efficient and competent manner to ensure a professional and fair judicial service is provided within the Court and to the public.

Mr. Creque earned an Associate of Arts in Human Services from the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (International Relations), both from the University of Central Florida in 2006. He has also completed a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Law in London and a Master of Law in Corporate and Commercial Law from Queen Mary University in 2019.

The Magistrate's Court is the court of lowest jurisdiction in the British Virgin Islands. The Court mainly hears criminal

matters with summary jurisdiction, minor civil claims, and certain family law matters. The Magistrate also has limited jurisdiction in relation to salvage and wreck.

The Government of the Virgin Islands remains committed to the fair and equitable administration of justice in the Territory.

(GIS Photos_)



Caribbean News / Regional News

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 46TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) HELD IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

25-28 FEBRUARY 2024 (1 of 3)



Greater Georgetown, Guyana - Friday, 1 March 2024 - The Forty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held from 25 - 28 February in Georgetown, Guyana. Chair of the Conference, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, presided over the Meeting.

Members of the Conference in attendance were: Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Honourable Gaston Browne; Prime Minister of Barbados, Honourable Mia Amor Mottley; Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Honourable Philip Davis; Prime Minister of Dominica, Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit; Prime Minister of Grenada, Honourable Dickon Mitchell; President of Guyana, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali; Prime Minister of Haiti, His Excellency Dr. Ariel Henry; Premier of Montserrat, Honourable Joseph Taylor-Farrell; Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew; Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Honourable Philip Pierre; Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves; President of Suriname, His Excellency Chandrikapersad Santokhi; and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley.

Belize and Jamaica were both represented by their Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Honourable Francis Fonseca and Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson-Smith, respectively.

Associate Member States represented were Bermuda by Premier, the Honourable Edward David Burt; the British Virgin Islands, by Premier, Dr. the Honourable Natalio D. Wheatley and the Turks and Caicos Islands, by Honourable Arlington Alexander Musgrove, Minister of Immigration and Border Services.

OPENING CEREMONY

CARICOM Secretary-General, Dr. Carla N. Barnett, welcomed the Community and Guests to the Opening Ceremony at the National Cultural Centre in Georgetown. She noted that it was fitting for another Regular Meeting to be held in the home of one of the four Signatories to the Original Treaty of Chaguaramas, as celebrations continue for CARICOM's landmark 50th Anniversary.

The Secretary-General said that significant technical and policy work by the Secretariat and Member States has led to accomplishments in various areas. She also pointed to the Region's influence in key international forums where Member States have a voice in addressing complex and multi-faceted global issues. "CARICOM speaks loudly and clearly in the international community. Our determined advocacy has helped to spur positive change for critical hemispheric and global issues," she said.

The Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica and Outgoing Chair, pinpointed signing of a Double Taxation Agreement to ease trade and investment within the Community; continued calls toward raising climate change awareness; deepened engagement with international partners to secure crucial support for our development priorities; efforts toward a lasting solution to the challenges faced by Haiti; and regional collaboration to defuse the Guyana/Venezuela border controversy, as signal achievements over the past year.

"These achievements are not merely footnotes; they represent the collective spirit of the Caribbean. They represent the unwavering commitment of our governments, the dedication of our people, and the power of regional collaboration," he emphasized.

His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Chairman, stressed the importance of accountability to the people of the Region and of ensuring the fulfilment of commitments made. He highlighted initiatives in areas including Food Security, Climate Change, Regional Digitalization and Youth, and Regional Transport.

On Haiti, the CARICOM Chair emphasized, "Our Region has one interest when it comes to Haiti - that is the people of Haiti. We will not deviate from that interest."

He also underscored the "brilliance of culture" in the Region. "In this Region, culture is our staple. Culture is that common thread that brings us together," he emphasized.

A highlight of the Opening Ceremony was the presentation of a drumming corps comprising performers from host country Guyana, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Their spirited, lively performance, "Sounds of the Caribbean", and other cultural performances by Guyanese young people added colour and energy to the ceremony.

The Ceremony can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZRii9kvmllk>

Presentations are available at <https://hgc.caricom.org>.

CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)

The Conference received an update from the Prime Minister of Barbados, Chair of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (PMSC-CSME), on progress regarding its implementation.

The Conference noted the report of the PMSC-CSME on the status of important CSME objectives and agreed on urgent steps to expedite several of them. These include intensified work towards free movement, speeding up reviews to facilitate harmonization of certain Business Laws and Mutual recognition. They stressed the importance of digital transformation with respect to companies' registries and agreed to establish a regional committee of information technology experts to help with this digital transformation, under the leadership of Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell as Lead Head responsible for ICT and Incoming Chair.

The Conference noted the work underway to complete initiatives such as the establishment of a Regional Securities Market by July 2024.

WORK TOWARDS FREE MOVEMENT OF ALL COMMUNITY NATIONALS

The Conference received a report on the work of the Reconstituted Inter-Governmental Task Force (ITGF) to implement the Decision of the Conference of July 2023 to work towards Free Movement of

all Community Nationals.

They agreed that draft amendments to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas should include basic guarantees to be afforded to all CARICOM nationals exercising the right of free movement and directed the IGTF and Legal Affairs Committee to complete their work for the consideration of a meeting of the Conference to take place on 15 March.

THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AGENDA- FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

Heads of Government received a report from the Chairman, Lead Head of Government with responsibility for Agriculture and Agriculture Development in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet, and from the Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana and Chair of the Ministerial Taskforce on Food Production and Food Security.

The Meeting was updated on efforts towards achieving the 25 by 2025 Food and Nutrition Security Initiative, including policy approvals; removal of barriers to intra-regional trade; agricultural trade promotion; cross-border investments; human resource development and capacity building; increased production and productivity; and transportation and logistics.

The Agriculture Minister noted that there has been increased awareness and buy-in to improve Food and Nutrition Security in the Region, and outlined that more than 73 projects and programmes which support the 25 by 2025 initiative are being implemented by over 13 regional partners and donors. Another 20 or so initiatives are at different stages of formulation.

The Conference commended the Chairman's leadership on this critical agenda item. They encouraged Member States to take advantage of the agricultural insurance product being offered to the sector and encouraged greater collaboration among Member States. They noted cooperation projects with the Community's external partners, including Cuba, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Conference further observed that the upcoming pilot regional ferry service would be a key component of the Region's food security efforts.

They agreed that Member States

would develop a Pre-Clearance/Regional Export Trade Mechanism for agricultural produce for endorsement and approval by the Conference at its 47th Regular Meeting in July 2024, and requested that the MTF accelerate the identification of additional investor-friendly policies and programmes for implementation under the 25 by 2025 food security initiative.

Heads of Government also strongly encouraged the regional private sector to take advantage of the proposal from Suriname, which is making available 300,000 Ha of land for regional agricultural development. They underscored the private sector's role in taking urgent action to invest in the production of agricultural items for which frequent suspensions of the CET are granted.

DEVELOPMENTS IN REGIONAL AIR AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

The Meeting received a report from the CARICOM Private Sector Organisation (CPSO) on efforts to address the Region's air and maritime transportation issues. The CPSO noted that opportunities exist for maritime solutions in agro-food products requiring cold chain including fresh produce, meat and poultry and to supplement the movement of persons. They also noted that container-shipping capacity exceeds demand and purpose-specific interventions are needed to connect opportunities.

Heads of Government expressed appreciation to the regional Private Sector for their work to complete "Commercial Assessment Phase 1" and encouraged the CPSO to place greater emphasis on re-engineering routes. They reiterated the need for the Private Sector to capitalise on the myriad investment opportunities in regional air and maritime transportation.

REPLENISHMENT OF THE CDF CAPITAL FUND

Heads of Government consulted on the replenishment of the CDF Capital Fund for the 3rd Contribution & Subvention Cycle. They agreed on the baseline period of 2016 -2021 for the formula for the replenishment of the CDF based on a capitalization of US\$80 million, and to review and revise the contribution formula before the next replenishment cycle.

(Continue next week)

VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS VOA NEWS

US Vice President Harris Meets With Israel's Gantz Amid Calls for 'Immediate Cease-Fire' in Gaza

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris condemned the brutal October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas and the taking of hostages, including American citizens, during a meeting Monday with Israeli war Cabinet member Benny Gantz at the White House.

Harris, who met with Gantz in a push for a six-week cease-fire in Gaza and a hostage deal between Israel and Hamas, expressed U.S. support for Israel's right to defend itself in the face of ongoing Hamas terrorist threats and underscored Washington's unwavering commitment to Israel's security, a White House readout said.

Harris urged Hamas to accept the terms of the agreement, in which the release of hostages

would result in an immediate six-week cease-fire and allow a surge of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

She addressed the recent tragedy in northern Gaza where civilians swarming an aid convoy for food supplies were killed by Israeli forces, calling it a "horrific tragedy."

According to Gaza's Health Ministry, at least 16 children have died of malnutrition in recent days as "famine spreads" to the north of the enclave.

Harris also discussed the urgency of achieving a hostage deal.

"It is important that we all understand that we're in a window of time right now where we can actually get a hostage deal done," she told

reporters before the meeting. "We all want this conflict to end as soon as possible, and how it does, matters."

Harris and Gantz also discussed Israel's looming military operation in Gaza's southern city of Rafah, where over a million people are sheltering. She said a viable humanitarian plan has to be implemented there before Israel decides to launch any major offensive against Hamas and expressed fears what such an operation would pose on civilians.

The U.S. has said Israel has signed off on the parameters of the cease-fire, but details have yet to be worked out in Cairo negotiations with Hamas.

Harris used a speech Sunday to issue her cease-fire call, one of the strongest appeals yet from

the Biden administration to halt the war.

"Given the immense scale of suffering in Gaza, there must be an immediate cease-fire," Harris said to loud applause at a gathering to commemorate a major civil rights anniversary in Selma, Alabama.

"The conditions are inhumane, and our common humanity compels us to act," she said. "The Israeli government must do more to significantly increase the flow of aid. No excuses."

Harris also told the crowd that the "threat that Hamas poses to the people of Israel must be eliminated."

The administration has been working with Egypt and Qatar to mediate a six-week pause in the fighting to get the remaining



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris

hostages held by Hamas out and to get scaled-up aid into Gaza, where the United Nations has warned that famine is looming.

Haley Suspends Campaign as Biden, Trump Move Toward 2024 Rematch



NIKKI HALEY

Nikki Haley, former U.S. President Donald Trump's last remaining challenger for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, suspended her campaign Wednesday after he defeated her decisively in Super Tuesday party primary elections across the country.

Haley, Trump's one-time United Nations ambassador, congratulated Trump but did not endorse him. But she acknowledged the almost certain likelihood that he will be the Republican standard bearer in the November 5 election against President Joe Biden, who also swept to victories over token opposition in Tuesday's Democratic party primaries.

Haley said she wished Trump well but said it was up to him "to earn the votes of those in our party and beyond it who did not support him."

She often won a quarter to more than 40% of the vote in party primaries against Trump but

captured only two contests since voting started in January, in Washington, D.C., last weekend, and in the small northeastern state of Vermont on Tuesday.

Trump, on his social media site, said "Nikki Haley got TROUNCED last night, in record setting fashion, despite the fact that Democrats, for reasons unknown, are allowed to vote in Vermont, and various other Republican Primaries."

Biden, already looking to grab some of Haley's votes in the national election eight months from now, said in a statement, "Donald Trump made it clear he doesn't want Nikki Haley's supporters. I want to be clear: There is a place for them in my campaign."

"I know there is a lot we won't agree on. But on the fundamental issues of preserving American democracy, on standing up for the rule of law, on treating each other with decency and dignity and respect, on preserving NATO and standing up to America's adversaries, I hope and believe we can find common ground."

Haley said she had no regrets about running for president and said she would continue to speak out on public issues, immediately noting it is "a moral imperative" for Congress to approve more aid for Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan.

But continued assistance for the Kyiv government's fight against Russia's two-year invasion of Ukraine has divided Republican lawmakers and an aid package

captured only two contests since voting started in January, in Washington, D.C., last weekend, and in the small northeastern state of Vermont on Tuesday.

Democratic lawmakers have solidly lined up to support Biden's reelection, and most Republicans have weighed in for Trump as well.

One key lawmaker, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, often at odds with Trump during his presidency from 2017 to 2021, said Wednesday, "It is abundantly clear that former President Trump has earned the requisite support of Republican voters to be our nominee for President of the United States. It should come as no surprise that as [the] nominee, he will have my support."

The 52-year-old Haley, a former South Carolina governor, had for months told voters that it was time for the U.S. to elect a new generation of leaders. She contended that neither Trump at 77 nor Biden, 81, was fit to run the country in a new four-year term starting next January.

But Trump, even as he faces an unprecedented four criminal indictments encompassing 91 charges, holds large support among his Republican followers. He easily defeated Haley in 14 of 15 states that held party presidential nominating elections in the Super Tuesday voting.

Biden was equally as dominant in Democratic contests, losing only in a party caucus in the U.S. territory American Samoa.

Neither Trump nor Biden officially clinched their respective

Republican and Democratic presidential nominations for the November election but are on track to do so in party primaries in other states in the next few weeks. Both would then be officially nominated at national party conventions this summer.

But the voting Tuesday unofficially set off what will be one of the longest U.S. presidential campaigns ever, eight months ahead of Election Day.

In a statement, Biden said Tuesday's "results leave the American people with a clear choice: Are we going to keep moving forward or will we allow Donald Trump to drag us backwards into the chaos, division, and darkness that defined his term in office?"

"My message to the country is this: Every generation of Americans will face a moment when it has to defend democracy," Biden said. "Stand up for our personal freedom. Stand up for the right to vote and our civil rights. To every Democrat, Republican, and independent who believes in a free and fair America: This is our moment. This is our fight. Together, we will win."

Trump said on his social media platform, "TOGETHER, WE ARE GOING TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, GREATER than EVER BEFORE!"

"November 5th is going to go down as the single most important day in the HISTORY of our COUNTRY!," he exclaimed. "We are going to win this election,

because we have no choice ... if we lose the election, we're not going to have a Country left!"

Trump won the presidency in 2016 but lost his reelection bid to Biden in 2020 and to this day falsely says he was cheated out of another term in the White House by voting and vote-counting irregularities.

He also is facing the four criminal indictments, dozens of them related to his efforts to upend his 2020 election loss.

While three of his trials have been delayed, one of them starts March 25 in a New York state court, where he is accused of hiding a hush money payment to a porn star just ahead of the 2016 election to keep her from talking about a one-night tryst she claims to have had with him a decade earlier.

Trump has denied the affair, as well as all 91 charges he faces.

Trump's victories Tuesday included contests in the populous states of Texas and California, and also in Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Virginia and North Carolina. He rolled up huge margins against Haley in state after state.

The Republican Party holds its convention in July, with the Democratic Party following in August.

National polling currently shows Trump with a narrow edge nationally over Biden and in several key battleground states that are likely to determine the national outcome.

SPORTS

Dawson gets redemption in winning JUCO Long Jump crown

By Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway

TRACK & FIELD

On his first Long Jump attempt at the National Jr. College's Indoor Championships in 2023, New Mexico Jr. College's Khybah Dawson collapsed in agony and disappointment, when he was injured on the jump that measured 5.94m (19'4¾"). He later recovered and went on to finish second in the outdoor championships, with a personal best leap of 7.84m (25'8¾").

Instead of joining fellow BVI athletes at home for the Christmas holidays, he stayed in New Mexico to train and the sacrifices have paid off.

On Friday, in route to becoming the 11th BVI athlete winning a National Jr. College Championships individual crown, Dawson broke the facility record when he cut the sand at a season's best 7.73m (25'4¼"). He capped off his championships by collecting the

Western Field Athletes of the Year award, after being tied with 7.71m (25'3½") for the best Jr. College mark heading into nationals. He became the 16th BVI athlete who has combined to win 27 Jr. College All American honors since 1996.

Dawson, whose contribution helped New Mexico to a second place finish behind Indian Hills with 84 points, described going to nationals as a 'business trip.'

"I went into nationals knowing what happened last year when I got injured and I wanted to go out there and get some redemption," Dawson told Island Sun Sports. "It was like I had a chip on my shoulder going into nationals, knowing what I came to do."

He described his 7.50m (24'7¼") opener that led the competition as a 'bad performance' because he knew what he could do, then proceeded to foul the next three jumps, and was passed by Pima's Raekwon Weatherspoon.

"I think I lost momentum when I fouled the three jumps back to back and me and my coach were trying to figure out how to fix it," he explained. "When I was passed, it really put a lot of pressure on me, but we kept moving back my mark

by a step every time I fouled. On the fourth jump, he said not to move back and 'fix it.' Hitting that jump, (7.63m 25'0½") made me feel good but I didn't feel comfortable, because I knew he had to jump after me on my last attempt, so I had to put more pressure on him."

Witherspoon fouled his last two attempts while Dawson closed his series with a season's best 7.73m (25'4¼").

"It means a lot, like I actually worked towards what I wanted to do this year, although it's not finished," he said of the national title. "I had that chip on my shoulder going in as all I wanted to do was to win, so it feels amazing to actually go into the event and win."

Before heading to the track on Saturday morning, Dawson received a text from his coach that we would be collecting the Jr. Colleges Western Division Field Athlete of the Year Award.

"It was a really big surprise to me because I forgot about the award," he noted. "It proves that I've been putting in the work. All the sacrifices I made during the off season and in the season, it shows

that it's paying off."

Heading into the outdoor season, Dawson said he now has a 'target on his back.' "My mentality has already changed to that," he pointed out. "I have to outwork everybody because now, everyone's trying to outwork me, to be able to beat me. I can't be comfortable. I have to still push and not be okay with what I have right now. I still want more."

Also at nationals, Barton's Wanyae Bell, recorded non advancing times of 6.85 and 21.60 seconds respectively in the 60 and 200m. Indian Hills CC's Kenyatta Grate, a 2023 Carifta Games U20 Girls 200m silver medallist, ran an indoor personal best of 24.64 seconds in her specialty.

Competing in the NAIA Indoor Nationals, Khamauri Crabbe, Malik John and M'Khorri Crabbe, combined with Maxwell Maeisis to finish 3rd in the 4x4 relay in 3 minutes, 11.88 seconds and earn All American honors for St. Thomas University. In the 400m, Khamauri recorded a time of 49.21 seconds and John ran 1:26.56 in the 600m, but neither advanced.



New Mexico Jr. College's Khybah Dawson, displays his Western Field Athlete of the Year award, after winning Jr. College's Long Jump title

Rikkoi Brathwaite advanced to his second World Indoor Championships 60m semi-final, where he ran a season's best 6.60 seconds, after running 6.62 to advance. Beyonce DeFreitas had a non-advancing 7.44 time in her 60m prelim.

55 kicks off Trident Trust 5K Series City Circuit opener

By Dean "The Sportsman" Greenaway

ROAD RACING

Jermaine "JJ" Ricketts had a gate to wire victory in Saturday's Trident Trust 5K Series race that kicked off with the City Circuit.

Ricketts covered the course from the A.O. Shirley Grounds to the Hospital, up Main Street, through Lower Estate and back to the grounds in 16 minutes and 36 seconds.

"Well, it wasn't a bad race. It was very cool, a little bit of wind but we managed," he said. "It was a quick race but it was a good run."

Ricketts was coming off running in the 9.81 miles Prison Break tune up race for the April 20 Tortola Torture, that had 3,400 feet of

elevation on Feb 25. He told Island Sun Sports that it was a different race in terms of pace.

"I always try to keep a fast consistent pace—only on the hills you start to slow down a little bit—but it's not much of a difference in speed, but in time," he said.

For Shanaïne Avancena, it was her first 5K race on Tortola. "It was a good time to take a break after a busy week at work for me and I wasn't looking forward to this but I'm happy that I came," she said. "I haven't been training. I'm not a runner but I like to run from time to time, but because of the busy season, I can't really do it consistently, but this one really forced me to wake up so it's good."

The next race in the series that runs through May 25, is the 7 a.m. Carrot Bay Classic on March 23. Final results. Men: 1. Jermaine "JJ" Ricketts, 16:35. 2. Julius Farley, 16:59. 3. Mark Stephenson, 17:40. 4. James Ramprashad,



Jermaine "JJ" Ricketts, left, (11) and Julius Farley, (17) took the race out and finished 1st and 2nd respectively

19:16. 5. Mark Wells, 20:01. 6. Lennon Dabreo, 20:34. 7. Jose Banay, 21:25. 8. Luke Saltonstall, 22:56. 9. Edward Alvis, 23:05. 10. Ryan Porter, 23:35.

Women: 1. Rosmond "Rose" Johnson, 23:46. 2. Delma Tavernier, 24:03. 3. Jessica Broderick, 24:31. 4. Olga Danilova, 25:03. 5. Samantha

Hollingsworth, 25:21. 6. Louise Henderson, 25:43. 7. Kristal Blackman, 26:05. 8. Kay Reddy, 27:08. 9. Tuneisha Johnson, 28:32. 10. Elizabeth Buratti, 30:07.

SPORTS



Coach Rebecca Nocholds and five Barracudas Swimming Club members lining up at the dock in Cane Garden Bay, to practice their start, since they don't have a pool to train in



Barracudas swimmer Arun Bissoondutt dives off the dock in Cane Garden Bay, while practicing his start



55 participants kicked off the Trident Trust 5K Series in the City Circuit race on Saturday at the A. O. Shirley Grounds



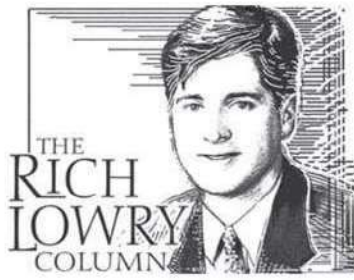
Students in the Eslyn Henley Richiez Learning Center, compete in the bottle and lime race during Friday's sports day



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Russia is a civilizational adversary

The poet Robert Frost once said that a liberal is someone too broad-minded to take his own side in a fight. What would he say about those on the right who seem to be confused about the same question?

Over the last few days, Donald Trump told a rally about how he'd supposedly warned the leader of a NATO nation that he'd encourage the Russians "to do whatever the hell they want" against countries that weren't spending enough on defense, while the former Fox News personality Tucker Carlson broadcast videos from Moscow praising its grocery stores and subways as superior to those in the United States.

For its part, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives is refusing to approve another tranche of aid to Ukraine as it runs short of artillery shells in a defensive war against Russia.

What's notable about all of this is that people who, in other contexts, are fierce about the need to defend West-ern civilization are unenthusiastic about a core institution of the modern West — namely, NATO — and feel little urgency about checking the aggression of a Russia that is an avowed and long-time civilizational adversary of the West.

There are legitimate policy disagreements about NATO and the Ukraine war, but there shouldn't be any doubt about the larger significance of Vladimir Putin's challenge to the West's interests, values and resolve.

In his classic book "The Clash of Civilizations," the late social scientist Samuel Huntington wrote of an "Orthodox civilization, centered in Russia and separate from Western Christendom as a result of its Byzantine parentage, distinct religion, 200 years of Tatar rule, bureaucratic despotism, and limited exposure to the Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, and other central Western experiences."

There's some ambiguity about this, as Russia has always had a conflicted

relationship with the west. In the early 18th Century, Peter the Great grabbed his country by the neck and forced it to adopt more Western ways. He built St. Petersburg as a European-style city, and pursued a dizzying array of military, administrative, educational, legal and cultural reforms. Peter's mode of Westernizing, though, was profoundly Russian — an exalted ruler wielding brutish, centralized power.

It also caused an anti-Western reaction — as the historian Orlando Figes points out in his book "The Story of Russia" — among the so-called Slavophiles who believed Russia had turned away from what should be its true, distinctive path.

For his part, Putin made a nod toward the Petrine tradition initially upon taking power. He stated his ambition to become "part of western European culture." But this gave way, under the pressure of NATO expansion and of Russia's traditional resentments and insecurities, to a determinedly anti-Western view that draws on Slavophile thought.

Putin believes in authoritarianism, in a strong Russian state, in the rehabilitation of the country's Soviet past, and in a Russian civilization that is superior to a West corrupted by secularism and individualism.

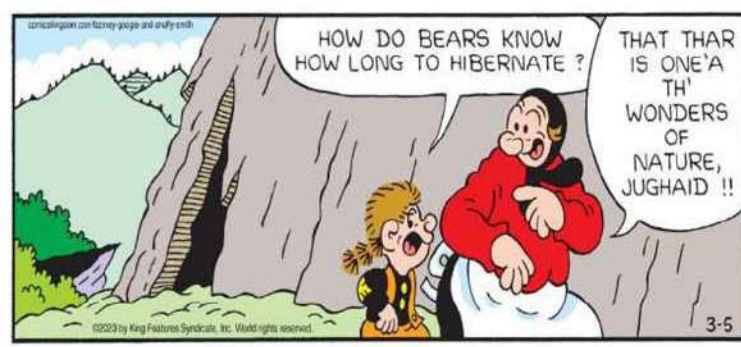
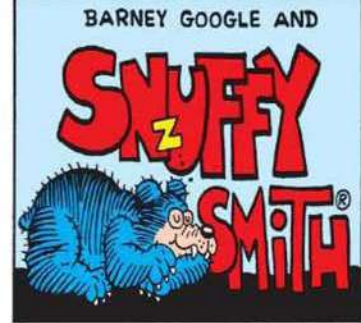
He seeks to reunite "the Russian world," a concept, according to Figes, he got from the patriarch of the Orthodox Church. He wants to protect the "family" of Slavs and the "tens of millions of our citizens" lost to the Russian state after the supposed disaster of the fall of the Soviet Union.

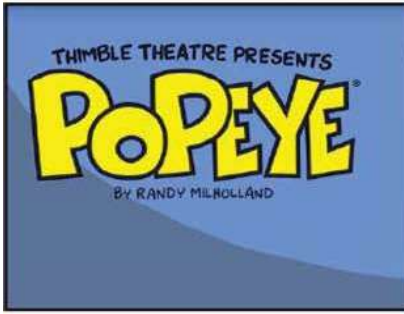
It's the misfortune of Ukraine, which straddles the line of Western and Orthodox civilization, to use Huntington's terms, to be in the firing line of these grandiose ambitions. Ukraine's desire to be a sovereign state of its own and, in particular, to align itself with the hated West is intolerable for Putin. He's explained at great length why he believes Ukraine has no legitimacy as an independent nation, and his model of a neo-tsarism where elections are fake and opposition leaders die in Arctic prisons would be threatened by a Ukraine that successfully embraced a version of the Western model.

Give Putin this — at least he's defending what he considers his civilizational birthright of despotism and illiberalism. Any true friend of our own should be appalled.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

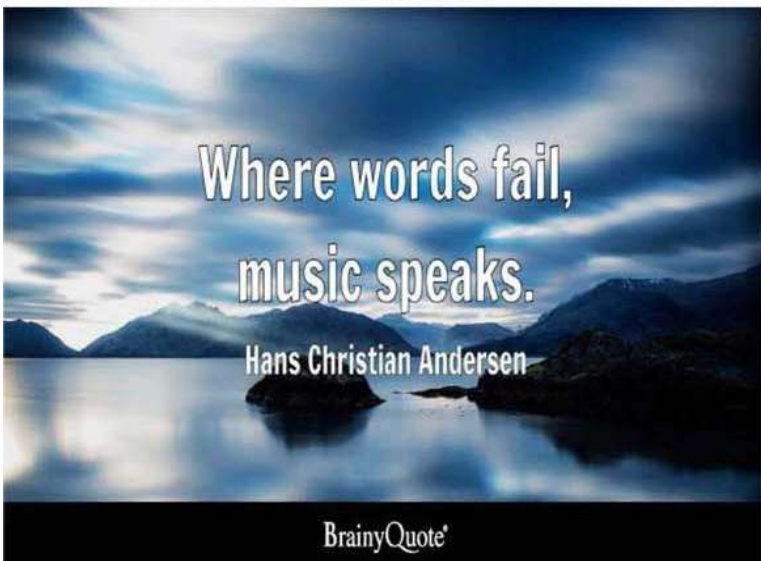
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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



top ten

Countries with the Most Natural Resources

1. Russia
2. United States
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Canada
5. Iran
6. China
7. Brazil
8. Australia
9. Iraq
10. Venezuela

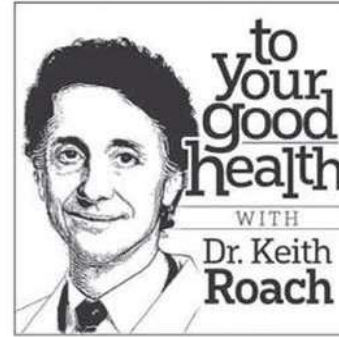
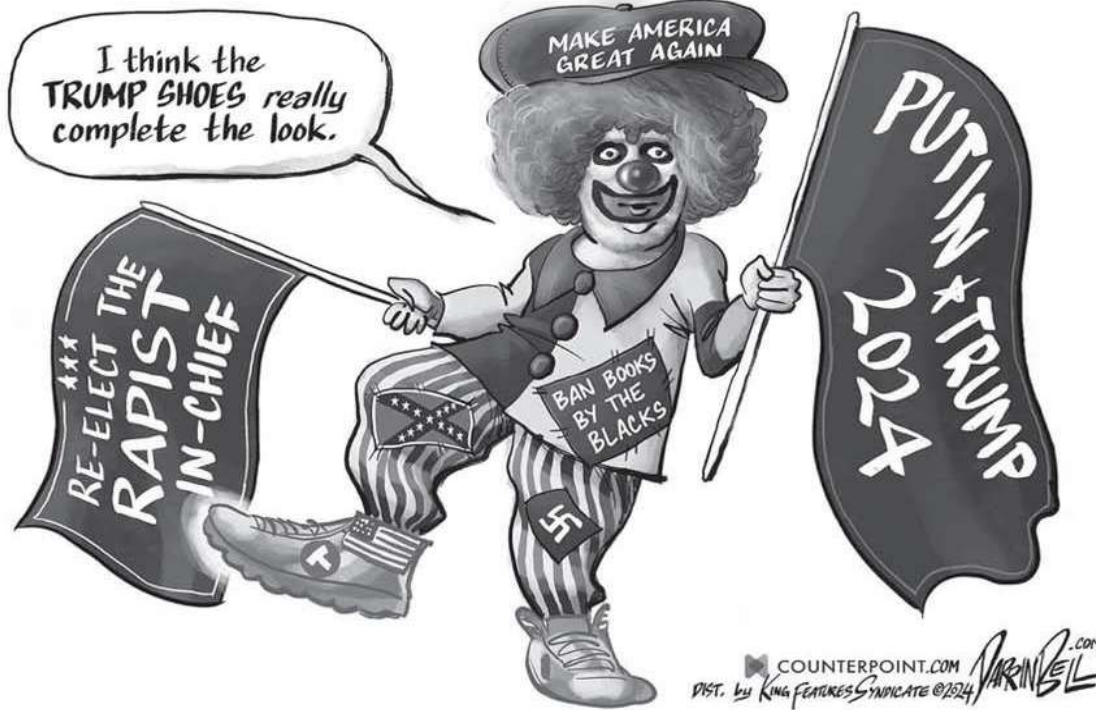
Source: Investopedia

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- A double rainbow occurs when sunlight is reflected twice inside a raindrop. Look closely, and you'll see that the colors of the secondary rainbow appear in reverse order.
- In an 897 A.D. event known as the Cadaver Synod, Pope Stephen VI had the corpse of a previous pontiff, Formosus, exhumed, perched on a throne and questioned about his "crimes," which were mostly about being on the wrong side of a political struggle.
- Blood makes up about 8% of your total body weight.
- Floccinaucinihilipilification — one of the longest words in the English language — is the act of estimating that something is worthless.
- According to a Japanese study, looking at cute animal pictures can boost your focus.
- We hate to break it to you, but Wendy's chocolate Frosty is actually half chocolate and half vanilla, because owner Dave Thomas thought an all-chocolate treat would be too overpowering when paired with the chain's burgers and fries.
- At the Gettysburg reunion in 1913, two men purchased a hatchet, walked to the site where their regiments had fought, and buried it.
- An Oscar trophy has a raw value of about \$600.
- In a move that many may appreciate, if not take the trouble to emulate, a British man changed his name to Tim Ppppppppprice to make it harder for telemarketers to pronounce.
- A 1907 ad campaign for Kellogg's Corn Flakes offered a free sample of cereal to any customer who would wink at their grocer.
- The cubicle derives its name not from its shape, but from the Latin "cubiculum," meaning bedchamber.
- It once took 27 hours to create a single Peeps Marshmallow Chick. Today, it takes six minutes.

Thought for the Day: "Very often, a change of self is needed more than a change of scene." — A.C. Benson



to
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good
health
WITH
Dr. Keith
Roach

Treatment Given for Dry Eyes Fails to Improve Condition

DEAR DR. ROACH: I developed chronic dry eyes after having cataract surgery on both eyes. I consulted an ophthalmologist who specialized in treating dry eyes. She prescribed Restasis, but my condition didn't improve after three months of use. She then switched me to Xiidra and instructed me to use it for two more refills, which lasted for nine months.

At the end of my conversation with the dry eye specialist, she said that she had done everything she could for me. I inquired about the Miebo drug that was recently approved or the LipiFlow procedure. She mumbled something, then said "goodbye" and "good luck." Was she openly admitting her incompetence? — K.J.W.

ANSWER: It's hard for me to believe that a dry eye specialist wouldn't know about the new treatments available in their area of expertise, and I can only guess that there was some kind of miscommunication. As a generalist, I have to know at least a little bit about a whole lot of conditions, rather than a specialist who knows a whole lot about just a few conditions.

For most people with dry eyes, starting with artificial tears is usual and effective, but I certainly have had patients use artificial tears many times daily and still have unpleasant symptoms. I also recommend trying to avoid dry areas, especially with high airflow.

Most people with dry eyes have blockages in the meibomian glands, which secrete an oily substance that helps prevent the eye fluid from drying. It also

forces the lacrimal glands to make more tears. (This leads to the paradox of people having red, watery eyes when they really have dry eye disease.) Trying to unblock the meibomian glands with baby shampoo and warm water is another treatment generalists like me often try. But when these therapies aren't working, an ophthalmologist is essential.

An ophthalmologist can do an exam to be sure if the meibomian glands are blocked. Among the treatments they have available are the ones you tried: cyclosporine (Restasis), which works well for a minority of people; lifitegrast (Xiidra), which decreases inflammation; varenicline (Tyrvaya), which increases tear production; and Miebo (perfluorohexyloctane), which works by reducing evaporation.

If the problem really is the blocked glands, doctors can also consider more powerful treatments to unblock them. One of these, LipiFlow, is a heat-based treatment. My colleagues in ophthalmology, to whom I refer, tell me that this is often successful, although the process may need to be repeated — sometimes every six months and sometimes longer. Ophthalmologists can also place plugs to reduce the loss of tears through drainage.

DEAR DR. ROACH: We're told to wash our hands with soap and water for 20 seconds to kill the COVID-19 virus. How long should we wash our hands to kill bacteria and other viruses? — C.C.

ANSWER: 20 seconds is the right amount of time for bacteria and viruses. An alternative is an alcohol-based handrub, which is fast and effective. Of course, you should wash your hands before and after eating — and after using the restroom. Bacterial spores cannot be easily killed, but they are effectively washed off with soap and water. In cases where spores are a concern (Clostridioides difficile is a big one), then hand-washing is essential, as alcohol is ineffective.

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

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top ten

LONGEST Sea Creatures OF ALL TIME

1. Lion's Mane Jellyfish
2. Blue Whale
3. Sperm Whale
4. Whale Shark
5. Basking Shark
6. Giant Squid
7. Giant Pacific Octopus
8. Oarfish
9. Ocean Sunfish
10. Japanese Spider Crab

Source: TreeHugger.com

top 10 movies

1. **Bob Marley: One Love** (PG-13) Kingsley Ben-Adir, Lashana Lynch
2. **Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba - To the Hashira Training** (R) Natsuki Hanae, Kengo Kawanishi
3. **Ordinary Angels** (PG) Alan Ritchson, Hilary Swank
4. **Madame Web** (PG-13) Dakota Johnson, Sydney Sweeney
5. **Migration** (PG) Kumail Nanjiani, Elizabeth Banks
6. **Argylle** (PG-13) Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard
7. **Wonka** (PG) Timothee Chalamet, Gustave Die
8. **Drive-Away Dolls** (R) Margaret Qualley, Geraldine Viswanathan
9. **The Beekeeper** (R) Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman
10. **The Chosen: S4.E4** (NR) Shahar Isaac, Paras Patel

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, and lay up His words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up; you will remove iniquity far from your tents.

JOB 22: 21-23

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CELEBRITY EXTRA

By Dana Jackson

Q: Is it true that next season's mystery on "Only Murders in the Building" will be set in Los Angeles instead of New York? I love the old apartment building they live in on the show. It won't be the same if it's in California. -- D.D.

A: I agree, but apparently only part of the season will be filmed in LA. According to TVLine, Craig Erwich, who oversees Hulu, loves the Big Apple but doesn't want the show to become too insular. However, he assures fans that the Arconia apartment building will always be part of the show.

Season three ended with Oliver's (Martin Short) girlfriend, Loretta (Meryl Streep), moving back to LA, and it's been confirmed that Streep will return for the new season. Joining them will be Charles (Steve Martin) and Mabel (Selena Gomez), who I'm assuming will tag along to LA to escape the seemingly cursed Arconia after last season ended with a cliff-hanging murder. Jane Lynch is also expected to return in some capacity as Charles' stunt double.

The announcement of two more big names joining the cast should help alleviate the disappointment of those who aren't pleased with the change of scenery. Molly Shannon ("The Other Two") will play a high-powered businesswoman, and Eva Longoria ("Desperate Housewives") will also recur. No details have been given yet about her character.



Meryl Streep in "Only Murders in the Building"
Photo: Patrick Harbron/Hulu

Q: What happened to the boxer on the new season of "The Traitors?" I don't recall him being voted out, and now he's gone. -- A.M.

A: Former World Boxing heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder was one of only two contestants on Peacock's "The Traitors" who didn't have reality show experience. He told the press that he chose to leave after three episodes because the show was bringing up emotional trauma from his childhood that caught him off-guard. The final straw was when he accused another innocent contestant of traitorous behavior. Wilder exited with his conscience intact.

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

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The adventurous Arian won't be disappointed when taking on a new challenge, despite some initial misgivings. Look for this move to open up other opportunities down the line.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Let that beautiful Bovine smile not only put you at ease, but also show that you're ready, willing and more than able to confound the naysayers around you. Meanwhile, a new admirer has important news.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be careful how you handle a relationship that you're hoping to save. You already have the facts on your side. Avoid weakening your position by embellishing it with dramatics.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Taking definitive stands isn't easy for the often-wavering Moon Child. But you not only need to stay with your decision, but also reassure others that it was the right thing to do.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) As a proud Lion, you're right to be upset about those who might be lying about you to others. But the best revenge is proving them wrong by succeeding at what you set out to do.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Caution is still advised before making a financial commitment to a "promising" project. Look for the facts behind the fluff. Devote the

weekend to loved ones.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A Taurus offers comfort and advice as you deal with an upsetting event. Use this as a learning experience that will help you avoid similar problems in the future.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A romantic situation creates some chaos for single Scorpions, but it's well worth the effort to work things out. A trusted friend can offer some helpful advice.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Expect to make new friends as your social circle expands. Also, remember to tell a certain family member how proud you are of their achievements.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) New ventures continue to be favored. And with your self-confidence rising all the time, you'll want to see how well you can do with a new challenge. So, go toward it.

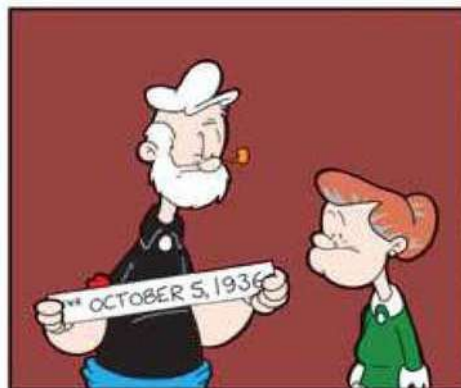
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This is a good time for the usually serious-minded Aquarian to let loose and enjoy some fun times. Expect to get good news about a workplace issue.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Changed plans might upset some people, but your needs should be respected. Offer explanations when necessary. But don't let yourself get talked into changing your decisions.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for bringing people together. You would make a fine judge or counselor.

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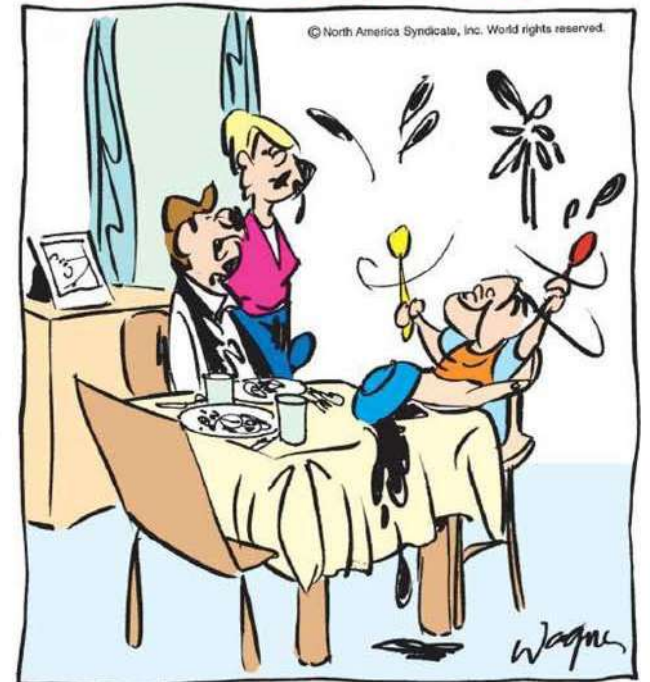


Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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"Otis really seems to enjoy the dining experience."

THE INDISPENSABLE NEED FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

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.)

In 2024, a series of general elections in Latin American countries, including the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, are pivotal events that will shape the internal dynamics of these countries. Because these elections will determine the future stability and prosperity of these influential countries, they are important to the region as a whole, emphasizing the importance of free and fair electoral processes that will command the endorsement of their citizens and the wider hemispheric community.

In the English-Speaking Caribbean, the principle of free and fair elections has long been a cornerstone of democratic practice. It is a standard that is not only expected but also respected by its citizens, including those with allegiances to competing political parties. There were two exceptions to this general experience: Guyana and Grenada.

Guyana experienced a series of rigged elections between 1968 and 1992, leading to social and political instability, massive migration, decline in investment and the classification of the country as the second poorest country in the Hemisphere after Haiti.

Free and fair elections in 1992 created a period of stability and economic recovery up 2020 when attempts were made to rig elections in favour of the ruling APNU party. This situation was rectified after the votes were recounted under the supervision of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of American States (OAS). Since then, the general acceptance of the validity of the currently elected government, and the foreign investment in exploitation of large reserves of oil and gas, have transformed Guyana into the fastest growing economy in the Western Hemisphere.

In Grenada, in 1979 an unpopular government, known for corrupt election practices, was overthrown in a coup organized by a combination of the opposition New Jewel Movement and the army which, together, formed the government. A period of internal unease and discomfort by neighbouring

states continued until 1983, when the government imploded, and the Prime Minister and members of his Cabinet were assassinated. This led to an invasion of the country by the United States, supported by several Caribbean countries, principally Grenada's closest neighbours. Since then, elections in Grenada have been judged to be free and fair and the country has progressed steadily.



The peaceful transition of power, a hallmark of stable democracies, is contingent upon the universal acceptance that election processes were free and fair, resulting in the election of a valid government. Acceptance of the validity of the government is crucial for maintaining democratic institutions, ensuring civil and social stability, attracting investment, creating jobs, reducing poverty, and fostering economic growth.

Conversely, in nations where the sanctity of free and fair elections is compromised, the result is instability, characterized by authoritarian control measures that lead to an exodus of citizens, a scarcity of investment, and a rise in unemployment and poverty.

The case of Venezuela currently illustrates a concerning trend where the erosion of electoral integrity threatens not only the domestic fabric of democracy but also poses a challenge to regional stability.

The unravelling of an agreement, signed in Barbados in October 2023, between the government of President Nicolás Maduro, and a group of Opposition parties, called the Unitary Platform, threatens the possibility of free and fair elections sometime this year.

The government has sidelined the opposition from crucial decisions regarding the proposed elections. It has also excluded its most popular and credible rival, Maria Corina Machado, who was elected by a significant margin in Venezuela's opposition-led presidential primary, receiving approximately 93% of the vote.

This decisive victory positioned her as the clear winner, garnering strong support among voters who showed a keen desire for her to run against President Maduro. In response, she was accused of corruption by the Maduro government, and the government-appointed Supreme Justice Tribunal banned her from participation in the elections. A U.N.-



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backed panel investigating human rights violations in Venezuela has noted the government's intensified efforts "to curtail democratic freedoms".

As the time for Venezuela's presidential election approaches, it is crucial that efforts to ensure that elections align with international standards of transparency and fairness.

The disqualification of opposition candidates, the lack of judicial independence, and the manipulation of electoral conditions by the ruling government underscore the challenges facing not just Venezuela but democracy itself in the region. If the electoral process in Venezuela is not regarded as legitimate, the resultant government will enjoy no validity, worsening the economic and social conditions in Venezuela, including an increase in its people fleeing to already overburdened neighbouring states.

For its part, the Venezuela's government and its allies have announced a proposal to hold the presidential election on any of 20 potential dates. They have also said that the proposal will be presented to the government controlled, National Electoral Council, whose members will choose the date. The opposition parties have objected to this arbitrary process. All this sets the stage for a controversial election and a contentious result.

Caribbean nations, which themselves undergo democratic elections where debate and dissent is crucial, have a vested interest in the integrity of elections throughout Latin America. The erosion of free and fair elections in any one country is a threat to democratic stability everywhere. Free and fair elections serve as the bedrock of democratic governance, enabling the peaceful transition of power.

Legitimate and democratically elected governments, responsive and accountable to their citizens, are fundamental to successful development efforts. The right to choose leaders, to influence government policy, and to hold those in power accountable is not merely a democratic right, it is a prerequisite for sustainable development and peace.

That is why Caribbean political parties and citizens must champion the cause of electoral integrity, both within their borders and beyond, recognizing that the health of democracy in their neighbourhood is intrinsically linked to their own.



PUBLIC NOTICES

ORIONBEST HOLDING LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 1659369
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 208, Subsection 3 of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004, that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from the 29th day of February, 2024.
Dated this 29th day of February, 2024
Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/1]

Final Notice of Dissolution under the BVI Business Company Act. VALHALLA BUSINESS LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1868467
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 29th, 2024.
Dated: February 29th, 2024
(Sgd.) Nelia St. Jean
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/2]

NOTICE BVI BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT QUAD Solutions Corp ("the Company") (In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 29th February, 2024; under the terms of Part XII of the BVI Business Companies Act the Company has commenced the process of liquidation.
The Liquidator is:-
Joan Johnson
Nerine Chambers
P.O. Box 905 Quastisky Building
Road Town, Tortola, VG 1110
British Virgin Islands
[41/3]

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

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 2085723
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 29th, 2024. The Liquidator is *Nelia St. Jean* with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.
Dated: March 1st, 2024
(Sgd.) Nelia St. Jean
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/4]

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

Tetrascopie Holdings Limited
(the "Company")
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No.: 1820556
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 29th, 2024. The Liquidator is *Meade Malone* of Geneva Place, 2nd Floor, #333 Waterfront Drive, Road Town, Tortola British Virgin Islands.
Dated: March 1st, 2024
Meade Malone
Liquidator
[41/5]

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

Refined Standard Holdings Limited
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1934958
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 1st March 2024. The liquidator is *Philippa O'Sullivan* of Sea Meadow House, P.O. Box 116, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.
Dated: 1st March 2024
(Sgd.) Philippa O'Sullivan
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/6]

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

Metropolitan Dawn Holdings Limited
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1934952
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 1st March 2024.
Dated: 1st March 2024.
(Sgd.) Philippa O'Sullivan
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/7]

EASY SPEED INC. (In Voluntary Liquidation) Company Number 1974801

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 1st day of March, 2024.
Dated this 4th day of March, 2024.
Sgd. Brian Jackson
Brian Jackson
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/8]

UNION PLUS LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 566239
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 1st day of March, 2024.
Dated this 4th day of March, 2024.
Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/9]

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

Brito Directors Ltd
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 1642907
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 22nd August 2023. The Liquidator is *Myron Walwyn of Travers Thorp Alberga*, 2nd Floor Jayla Place, P.O. Box 216, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, VG1110.
Dated 22nd August 2023
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator [41/10]

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

ELITE CONCORD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 687604
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th 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 28th February 2024
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/11]

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

MAGGISTAR EXIMP LTD.
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 175412
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th 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 28th February 2024
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/12]

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

Fecon International Corp.
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 1788517
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th 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 28th February 2024=
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/13]

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

Fecon One Holding Ltd
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 1788601
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th 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 28th February 2024
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator [41/14]

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

Fecon Two Holding Ltd
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 1791084
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th 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 28th February 2024
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/15]

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

Fecon Three Holding Ltd
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 1796910
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th 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 28th February 2024
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator [41/16]

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

HINDAN UNIVERSAL S.A.
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 560680
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th 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 28th February 2024
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/17]

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

TS Group International Ltd.
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 1715117
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th 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 28th February 2024
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator [41/18]

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

SAVAHRA LIMITED
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No. 53731
NOTICE-is-hereby-given pursuant-to-section-204, subsection 1 (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in Voluntary Liquidation. The Voluntary Liquidation commenced on 28th 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 28th February 2024
(Sgd) Myron Walwyn
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/19]

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

OxPartners Sino, SPC Ltd.
(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No: 2098944
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 29th day of February, 2024.
(Sgd.) Philippa V O'Sullivan
Liquidator
[41/20]

PUBLIC NOTICES

Final Notice of Dissolution under The BVI Business Companies Act, 2004
OxPartners Global, SPC Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No: 2098943
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 29th day of February, 2024.

(Sgd.) **Philippa V O'Sullivan**

Liquidator

[41/21]

Notice of Intention to Make an Application for the Cancellation of a Licence under Section 38 of the Financial Services Commission Act

THYBO ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Company Number: 391044
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 mutual fund licence under Section 38(1)(c) of the Act as the Company shall shortly cease to have any investors.

Dated: 6 March 2024

[41/22]

Notice of Intention to Make an Application for the Cancellation of a Licence under Section 38 of the Financial Services Commission Act

THYBO LEVERAGED FUND LTD.

Company Number: 1006169
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: 6 March 2024

[41/23]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under section 88 of the Limited Partnership Act (the "Act")

Vitalife Partners (Overseas) L.P. (the "Partnership")

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Limited Partnership Number: L.P.143
Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 88 of the Act that the Partnership has commenced the process of liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on March 5, 2024. The Liquidator is **Rachael Pape of Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1, P.O. Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated: March 5, 2024

Rachael Pape

Voluntary Liquidator [41/24]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
VIRGO-LIBRA LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1398457

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

Dated: March 6th, 2024

(Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**

Voluntary Liquidator

[41/25]

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

KTB/NHN China Ventures I Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 1703630

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 6 March 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: 6 March 2024

Rachael Pape

For and on behalf of Anton Goldstein and Rachael Pape

As Joint Liquidators

[41/26]

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

Ideas International Services Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1554403

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204 (1) (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The-voluntary-liquidation commenced on the 29th day of February 2024. The Liquidator is **Ray A. George of Long Trench, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.**

Dated this 29th day of February.2024

Ray A. George

Voluntary Liquidator

[41/27]

KW Angel Investments Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 2061959

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 March, 2024.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2024

Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson

Voluntary Liquidator

[41/28]

Jacob Angel Investments Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 2061960

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 March, 2024.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2024

Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson

Voluntary Liquidator

[41/29]

BonRock Investments Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 2061958

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 March, 2024.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2024

Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson

Voluntary Liquidator

[41/30]

LZD Angel Investments Limited

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 2061961

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 March, 2024.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2024

Sgd. Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson

Voluntary Liquidator

[41/31]

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

VIRGIN ISLANDS
(PROBATE)

BVIHPB2024/0043

IN THE ESTATE OF MADLENE BLYDEN ALSO KNOWN AS MADLENE PENN-BLYDEN LATE OF TOWERS, WEST END, TORTOLA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, DECEASED

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Devon Valentine Blyden of Towers, West End, Tortola, British Virgin Islands and St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant, one of the children of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate the 9th day of January 2020.

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

Dated this 23rd day of February 2024.

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

[41]

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
(PROBATE)

CLAIM NO. BVIHPB2024/

IN THE ESTATE OF SUZANA VERA MAMESAH, LATE OF 33, TANGLIN ROAD, #16-05, SINGAPORE 247913, DECEASED

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the Probate of Suzana Vera Mamesah, of 33, Tanglin Road, #16-05, Singapore 247913 granted by the Family Justice Courts of the Republic of Singapore on the 8th day of November 2023.

Dated 27 February 2024

[41]

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

BVIHPB 2024/

In the Estate of RALPH TELFORD O'NEAL also known as RALPH TELFORD O'NEALE late of Mc Namara, Tortola, British Virgin Islands

ADVERTISEMENT

OF

APPLICATION FOR A GRANT OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by RALPH TELFORD O'NEAL, JR. of The Valley, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands and 559 91st Ave. N, Naples, Florida, 34108, United States of America and CHRISNEAL ABIGAIL O'NEAL of Mc Namara, Tortola, British Virgin Islands two of the lawful children of RALPH TELFORD O'NEAL also known as RALPH TELFORD O'NEALE, the deceased having died intestate on 11th November, 2019.

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

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2024.

Filed by Dancia Penn & Co., Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is 49 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Telephone (284) 494 4197. Email: paralegal.support@danciapenn.com

[42]

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
VIRGIN ISLANDS
PROBATE NO. 0040 OF 2024**

In the Estate of KENRICK ALFRED THOMAS (also known as KENRICK ALFRED TOMAR AND/OR KENRICK ALFRED THOMAS LETTSOME AND/OR HENRICH ALFRED THOMAS LETSSOME) late of 1-143-37 Estate Wintberg, St Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, Deceased

FORM P7: ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by ARTHURLYN CHRISTENE THOMAS of 1-143-37 Estate Wintberg, St Thomas, United States Virgin Islands for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant, who is the lawful window and intended administrator of the Deceased, the Deceased having died intestate on 30 March 2023.

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 26 day of February 2024

Filed by Conyers Dill and Pearman, Legal Practitioners for the Applicants, whose address for service is 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: Jerry.Samuel@conyers.com

[41]

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

Kawa SBA Opportunities I, Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 1904175

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 March 2024. The Liquidator is Rachael Pape of Conyers Dill & Pearman, Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1, P.O. Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands. Dated: 7 March 2024

Rachael Pape
As Liquidator
[41/32]

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

Kawa SBA Opportunities Offshore Feeder 1, Ltd.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 1889159

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 March 2024. The Liquidator is Rachael Pape of Conyers Dill & Pearman, Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1, P.O. Box 3140, Road Town, Tortola, VG1110, British Virgin Islands. Dated: 7 March 2024

Rachael Pape
As Liquidator
[41/33]

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

VEDADO PADERNE LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 204, subsection (b) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company is in voluntary liquidation. The voluntary liquidation commenced on 6th March, 2024. The Liquidator is Ms. Adenike Sicard, with address at 2nd Floor, O'Neal Marketing Associates Building, P.O. Box 4493, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Dated: 6th March, 2024.

(Sgd.) Adenike Sicard
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/34]

STRUCK OFF

**Liquidator's Final Notice
JAMORIL LIMITED**

("the Company")

(In Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No. 1757296

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section (208) (3) of the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004 that the Company was dissolved and struck off the Register of Companies with effect from 28th February 2024. Dated 5th March 2024

Carmine Bailey
Voluntary Liquidator
[41/35]

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

BVIHPB2024/0046

In the estate of Alberto Daniel Imperial Garré, late of N° 1238, Pedro Berro St., Apartment 701, Montevideo, Uruguay, deceased

TAKE NOTICE that DR. LAUDELINO VÁZQUEZ FRAGA of Juan Benito Blanco 870/102- Montevideo, Uruguay, the Testamentary Executor named in the Last Will and Testament (the Will) of ALBERTO DANIEL IMPERIAL GARRÉ, deceased who died on the 5th day of May, 2022 domiciled in Montevideo, Uruguay (the Deceased), has applied to the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in the Probate Division for Probate of the Will bearing the date 15 April 2021.

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



Solicitors for the Executor

[41]

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

CLAIM NO. BVIHPB2024/

IN THE ESTATE OF SIN, WAI KIN DAVID, ALIASES SIN WAI KIN DAVID; DAVID WAI-KIN SIN; SIN WAI KIN; SIN DAVID WAI KIN; WAI KIN DAVID SIN; DAVID W. K. SIN; LATE OF HOUSE NO. C, NO. 26 BLACK'S LINK, DEEP WATER BAY, HONG KONG, DECEASED

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the Probate of SIN, WAI KIN DAVID, aliases SIN WAI KIN DAVID; DAVID WAI-KIN SIN; SIN WAI KIN; SIN DAVID WAI KIN; WAI KIN DAVID SIN; DAVID W. K. SIN, late of House No. C, No. 26 Black's Link, Deep Water Bay, Hong Kong, granted by the High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Court of First Instance in Hong Kong on the 25 day of July 2023. Dated this 01 day of March 2024

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

[41]

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
BRIGHT COSMOS INVESTMENT LIMITED
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 576803

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

Dated: March 6th, 2024
 (Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [41/36]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
BYNUM CONSULTANCE LTD.
 (IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
 Company No. 247435

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 6th March 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 6th day of March 2024
 (Sgd) **Myron Walwyn**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [41/37]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
MEER INVESTMENTS INC.
 (IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
 Company No. 247435

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 6th March 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 6th day of March 2024
 (Sgd) **Myron Walwyn**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [41/38]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
MELQUISEDEK LTD.
 (IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
 Company No. 660742

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 6th March 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 6th day of March 2024
 (Sgd) **Myron Walwyn**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [41/39]

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

Asteroid Global Limited
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 2099598

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 March 6th, 2024. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean** with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Dated: March 7th, 2024
 (Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
 Voluntary Liquidator
 [41/40]

Notice of Appointment of a Liquidator under Section 204 of the BVI Business Company Act.
Vaporwave Global Limited
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)
 Company No. 2096059

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 March 6th, 2024. The Liquidator is **Nelcia St. Jean** with an address at 116 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Dated: March 7th, 2024
 (Sgd.) **Nelcia St. Jean**
 Voluntary Liquidator [41/41]

FORM P16: ADVERTISEMENT (RESEALING) Rule 30 (2)

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

In the Estate of **Lei Sio Heng** late of No.7, Building 14, No.3 Community, Lilai Garden, Tianshu, Shunyi District, Beijing City, China, deceased

Notice is given that after the expiration of 8 days, application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the grant of probate of the estate of **Lei Sio Heng** late of No.7, Building 14, No.3 Community, Lilai Garden, Tianshu, Shunyi District, Beijing City, China granted by the High Court of Hong Kong at LG1, High Court Building, 38 Queensway, Hong Kong dated the 23 day of January, 2024.

BGA Law (BVI) Limited
 Attorney-at-Law for the Executor

[42]

Senior Structural Engineer



CSE (BVI) Ltd are seeking a Senior Structural Engineer. As well as a minimum of Graduate Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers status, the successful candidate must have at least a BEng in Civil Engineering from a reputable University and a minimum of 10 years' office-based design experience, with a good understanding of design in reinforced concrete, structural steel, timber and masonry to British Standards. The suitable candidate should have been in a Senior/Principal Engineer or Director role for at least 10 years.

The candidate must be able to produce hand calculations and be proficient in the use of Tekla Tedds, Tekla Structural Designer or equivalent FE software, AutoCAD and Autodesk Revit.

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[s42]

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WONDERS

VI Mental Health Services Unit Recognised Internationally



Hon. Vincent O. Wheatley

The Mental Health Services Unit of BVI Health Services Authority (BVIHSA) has been recognised at an international level for its work through its 'Mindful Campaign'

Minister for Health and Social Development Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley told the House of Assembly that the team has been thrust on to the international stage and has been invited to present its campaign at two international conferences.

Honourable Wheatley said, "The opportunity to present means that the report was considered significant enough to be engaged with by the foremost minds in the arenas of mental health, anti-stigma, and public

health."

The first conference is the Sixty-Eighth Annual Health Research Conference to be held by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) in Castries, St. Lucia in April followed by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) summit at the beginning of June in Reykjavik, Iceland under the theme, 'Together against Stigma'.

The Health Minister added, "I am actively seeking to ensure delegates attend these conferences; capitalising on the opportunity for exposure and shared expertise and resources, and of course proudly showcasing the VI's success to the world."

The Mindful Campaign, spearheaded by Dr. Virginia Rubaine was implemented in the latter half of 2023 and sought to advance mental health awareness in the Territory by combatting the stigma faced by those with lived

experiences.

The mental health team also had a competition with the local primary and secondary schools to design mindfulness murals as part of its campaign.

Honourable Wheatley extended commendations to Dr. Rubaine and her team at the Mental Health Services Unit as well as their consultancy firm O'Neal Alexander Consulting Group for their endeavours to promote mental health awareness in the Virgin Islands.

Honourable Wheatley said, "With my continued support, mental health will remain a foremost priority of the portfolio of health and social development through the extension of campaigns like this and other dynamic initiatives currently in the works. We will invest in a quality of preventative and remedial care that rivals global leaders in the space and our people will be stable, productive, and happy beyond measure."

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

Statement By Hon. Kye M. Rymer On Developing A Business Case For T B Lettsome Airport



Hon. Kye M. Rymer

Madame Speaker, I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of developing the Business Case for the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport. In line with the recommended Green Book five-case model, utilised by His Majesty's Treasury, KPMG has been chosen as the successful bidder for this vital project, with a tendered cost of \$264,035.00.

Upon formalizing the contract between the BVI Airports Authority and KPMG, a steering committee was promptly established. This committee comprises representatives from various sectors within the Virgin Islands, including the BVI Tourist Board, The Attorney General's Chambers, Town Planning, the private sector, other ministries within the central government, and professionals from the BVI Airports Authority.

This diverse committee ensures a thorough and inclusive approach to developing the Strategic Outline Case (SOC), which serves as the crucial initial phase in the five-case model. The SOC will lay the groundwork for the subsequent Outline Business Case.

Recently the KPMG team visited the Virgin Islands and engaged with the steering committee to gather crucial insights into the specific requirements for airport development in the region. They also comprehensively assessed the existing airport facilities during a familiarisation tour.

The steering committee is on track to finalise the Strategic Outline Case in the coming weeks. This phase will thoroughly explore various development options and the selection of a preferred alternative to establish a robust and sustainable outline business case for the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport.

To ensure inclusivity and transparency, the KPMG team will conduct a series of public consultations to collect feedback, insights, and concerns from stakeholders. These consultations will not only inform the public about the airport development plans, but also provide them with an opportunity to voice their opinions and have them considered in the business case formulation process.

Furthermore there are plans to enhance and align the Airport's Master Plan with all relevant documents to ensure coherence and efficiency in project execution.

Madame Speaker, in conclusion, the collaborative efforts between KPMG, the steering committee, and stakeholders aim to pave the way for a well-informed and community-supported airport development strategy that meets the unique needs of our Beautiful Virgin Islands.

Madame Speaker, I thank you.

**MORE READERS:
THE ISLAND SUN**

International Women's Day 2024: The Economy Has a 'Female Face'



FILE - Women sing and dance during the International Women's Day celebration at the Mobolaji Johnson Stadium in Lagos, Nigeria, March 8, 2023

International Women's Day, an annual United Nations campaign to publicize efforts to create gender equality worldwide, this year celebrates on Friday, March 8, the theme "Invest in women: Accelerate progress."

The idea is that enabling women's economic stability can go a long way toward achieving equality efforts.

Jemimah Njuki, chief of the economic empowerment section at U.N. Women, said this year's theme is pressing because "the world is actually at a crucial crossroads for gender equality."

She noted that globally, women's rights are increasingly coming under threat, or being rolled back, even in places where leaders thought they had made progress. According to U.N. Women, one in every 10 women today lives in extreme poverty. Their studies show that about 340 million women and girls — 8 percent of the world's female population — will not have moved out of extreme poverty by 2030 if trends continue.

A core tenant of this year's IWD is "implementing gender-responsive financing," an economic strategy that considers and analyzes the diverse needs of every person, including the historical

underinvestment in essential services for women and girls, to ensure a fair distribution of resources.

Women often bear the brunt of caretaking and budgeting duties in a household — especially in periods of crisis — when there is increased pressure on care systems and governments. According to the U.N. Women's Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals snapshot for 2023, there is a \$360 billion funding gap from governments for organizations and programs that support women.

Ambassador Keisha McGuire, the Special Envoy and Special Adviser on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for the United Nations General Assembly President, discussed how the president of the GA is working to "mainstream gender" in the assembly's work to build a space where both men and women can thrive. McGuire noted there are major barriers in the international system because it was not built with a gender lens, making the prioritization and funding of gender equality efforts all the more imperative.

"Implementation largely depends on what? The funding to be able to implement," McGuire said. "So, you can talk about gender mainstreaming,

you can talk about policies that are gender responsive, but if you don't make the necessary investments for that to become reality, you really, truly are not bringing it over the finish line."

Some nongovernmental organizations work to bridge that gap by funding programs or providing loans to women.

Robyn G. Nietert, the president and co-founder of the Women's Microfinance Initiative, which provides microloans to women in poor, rural areas of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, said giving women loans to start their own businesses results in improved household living standards and support for families.

"People are economically active, otherwise, you're dead," Nietert said. "If you're not economically active, you've got to be doing something to get enough money to eat food, to get water, to have some place to live. So, virtually every time you make a loan, you are creating a success story because you're giving [to] somebody who has nothing, and it's still managing to survive a financial resource where they can start a business."

The Women's Microfinance Initiative also provides financial literacy training to teach women how to manage their money once they have it.

"It makes people feel like they have control of their lives," Nietert said, while also acknowledging the ability for exploitation by organizations that claim they want to provide loans.

"It's not a big mystery, what exploitation is in the lending world," Nietert said. "It's outrageous — interest rates, outrageous fees, huge amounts of collateral having to be pledged, not giving grace periods, taking the collateral, which then, of course, prohibits

anybody from getting out of debt."

She also noted that working in smaller, rural communities creates trust and social collateral that is enforced by the communities of women themselves to ensure people repay their loans.

From Nietert's perspective, the loans eliminate uncertainty, which gives women the freedom to pay attention to other aspects of their lives, such as childcare and health care.

Beverly Francis-Gibson, the CEO of Together Women Rise, a group that gives grants to organizations that empower women and girls in low-income countries, shared an anecdote about her experience visiting four organizations TWR funds in India that work with young girls.

"The girls shared with us that, in their community, they're seen as heroes," Francis-Gibson said. "Every single girl had a dream of changing the world for not only her family, but for herself. We had girls in this program who want to be members of parliament or go into international business. We had girls who were interested in becoming attorneys."

Based on her observations, her experience emphasized her belief that when society invests in women and girls, they are empowered, which creates a healthier, safer, more peaceful and economically just world.

International Women's Day advocates for governments to be fully engaged to meet the diverse needs of women worldwide, using connections with the private sector and civil society to make the best choices to support women.

"We know that ... uplifting the world, uplifting communities comes one girl and one woman at a time," Francis-Gibson said.

"But we also recognize that in order for us to be impactful, we also have to address the root causes, or the systemic barrier theory, that prevent women and girls from living their fullest potential.

Like other committees and U.N. events, International Women's Day serves to bring people together to prioritize these issues as part of the broader Sustainable Development Goals for international partnership.

"So, what are we doing? We are creating the space, we're advocating, bringing the thought leaders," McGuire said. "The U.N. itself has huge convening power, and we need to, in every moment, every opportunity ... bring those thoughts together, distill them, and really, truly get the buy-in and push for the sorts of investments that are necessary."

Njuki, of U.N. Women, noted that in order to make sustainable changes to create equality, the global community first needs to fully recognize the essential role women play.

"What the world needs to realize is that all those crises actually have a female face," Njuki said. "Climate change has a female face, conflicts have a female face. We are seeing more and more women living in conflict, and so we cannot address these issues — we cannot address this crisis — without investing in women. Because if we invest in women, we see much more progress in society, we see a more peaceful society."



BVI Heritage Dancers to Illuminate the Stage in Celebration of 45 Years of Cultural Excellence

Thursday, February 28 - The heart of the Virgin Islands will beat to the rhythm of tradition as the BVI Heritage Dancers announces their 45th-anniversary celebration. The special concert, titled "Preservation and Innovation," will take place on March 17 at the Eileene L. Parsons Auditorium. Founder of the group, Eileene Parsons, OBE expressed her excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to mark this 45-year journey of preserving and promoting the cultural tapestry of the Virgin

Islands through the art of folk dance. This concert is not just a celebration of our past, but a testament to the enduring spirit of our community and our commitment to passing on the legacy to future generations."

The landmark event will feature vibrant choreography, traditional-music, and a celebration of the cultural legacy passionately preserved by the BVI Heritage Dancers for-four-and-a-half-decades.

The group's President,

Varisse-Hodge encouraged the community to attend the anniversary concert, highlighting the diverse repertoire of folk dances that will reflect the unique stories, traditions, and history of the Virgin Islands.

Tickets for this cultural extravaganza are priced at \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children aged 4-16. They can be purchased from members of the group or at the door on the day of the event.

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Forty Four Percent Of VI Primary School Children Overweight

Minister for Health and Social Development Honourable Vincent Wheatley has stated that 44% of primary school children in the Virgin Islands are overweight or obese.

Honourable Wheatley in a statement on World Obesity Day observed on March 4 stated that it is time for the community to have conversations about obesity as its impact on Virgin Islanders is a topic that calls for our immediate attention and collective action.

Honourable Wheatley said, "According to the country's last assessment – STEPS Risk Factor Survey, almost 40% of adults between the ages of 25 to 64 years are obese, while

according to a 2023 school health assessment 44% of primary school children are overweight or obese.

The minister said that obesity is intricately woven into the fabric of the Virgin Islands society.

"Our traditions are rich in several of the risk factors that contribute to our high obesity rates," Honourable Wheatley said. He added, "The manner in which we prepare our meals, our choices of ingredients, our portion sizes and even the beverages we consume all contribute to potential risks. This is also coupled with our sedentary lifestyles."

Honourable Wheatley said that it is time to talk openly about the impact of obesity and envision a

healthier, more resilient future for the people. "We must recognise that tackling obesity requires a multi-faceted approach. It involves reshaping policies, promoting access to nutritious foods, and creating environments that encourage physical activity," the minister said.

Honourable Wheatley said his ministry is working assiduously to promote awareness and prevention through the Public Health Unit. This he said includes the upcoming launch of the Food Based Dietary Guidelines and the Eat Well Guide for the Virgin Islands.

The Minister for Health work is also underway to

develop a protected food basket that will ensure that even low-income households will have access to nutritious food while there are other nutrition initiatives including public education in alcohol, salt and sugar reduction as well as understanding food labels.

Honourable Wheatley is encouraging the community to do their part to reduce the impact of obesity locally by amplifying voices, share stories, and learn from each other.

"By doing so, we can pave the way for a BVI that thrives with vitality and health, where the impact of obesity is minimised, and the well-being of our people takes centre stage," he said.

World Obesity Day is observed annually on March 04 and this year's observance was held under the theme, "Let's talk about obesity and..." The theme is a call to action for the community to engage in conversations that go beyond the numbers on a scale, and urges persons to explore the myriad of dimensions that obesity touches.

For more information on collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Social Development, persons can contact the Public Health Unit at 468-2878.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development is committed to improving the health of the people of the Virgin Islands.

CONTINUE TO PAGE 39



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1 Bartender minimum of 6 years experience
1 waitering staff minimum of 5 years' experience.
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BVI Islanders or Belongers preferred. [s42]

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 [s43]

Statement By Honourable Sharie B. De Castro Minister For Education, Youth Affairs & Sports on Education Month 2024

Madam Speaker, it is with a profound sense of pride that I announce to this honourable house the declaration of March as Education Month in the territory. In a departure from previous practices where the celebration of educational progress spanned a week, the Ministry, recognising the significance of this endeavour, has decided to amplify its impact by extending this commemoration to an entire month. This strategic extension aims not only to showcase the strides made in education but also to actively engage and secure the robust support of our community. This transformative shift underscores our commitment to elevating the status of education as a paramount priority deserving of sustained recognition and celebration throughout the month of March.

Madam Speaker, as we commence Education Month 2024, the theme, "Reimagining Education: STEAMing Ahead with Innovation," underscores our steadfast commitment to cultivating a dynamic and progressive education system that equips our students to become critical thinkers, leaders and innovators. Over the past year, transformative changes have unfolded in alignment with our vision for an education system that not only imparts knowledge but also ignites a passion for learning and creativity. The introduction of a STEAM-focused paradigm in our classrooms has sparked a revolutionary leap, reshaping the landscape of teaching and learning. This is not merely an introduction; it signifies a paradigm shift where innovation, creativity, and critical thinking converge to redefine academic engagement.

Madam Speaker, the STEAM-focused approach, centred on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics, fuels intellectual curiosity, fostering ingenuity and illuminating the path toward a future where interdisciplinary thinking becomes second nature. This transformative approach beckons students to explore uncharted territories, seamlessly blending the worlds of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. The positive impact witnessed is not anecdotal; it's a testament to the empowerment of young minds, preparing them for a world where adaptability and innovation are paramount.

Yet Madam Speaker, the monumental task of reimagining education has only just begun. To forge enduring change, our commitment must extend beyond rhetoric, demanding unwavering investments in crucial pillars such as school infrastructure, teaching resources, teacher training and certification, and school leadership. Now is the time for a comprehensive examination of our education system, delving into the curriculum's relevancy, students' preparedness, and the urgent provision of resources that bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. In essence, impactful change beckons us to invest in the foundations underpinning our education system. Only through resolute commitment to enhancing infrastructure, refining teacher expertise, and empowering school leaders can we usher in an era of education that transcends the conventional. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Education Month 2024, we invite the community to join us in shaping a future where every student is not just equipped with knowledge but is nurtured into a powerhouse of potential and capability. We beckon one and all to participate in the Education Round Table on March 12th, attend the Science and Innovation Fair on March 15th, participate in Teach for A Day, if you missed today, you are invited to take part on March 19th, visit schools during their Open House on March 21st, Rep Your College on March 22nd, view the Youth Symposium on March 25th and support the Pre-Primary Sports on March 27th. Madam Speaker, I thank the community in advance for their engagement as we collectively lay the foundation for a vibrant and thriving Virgin Islands through the reimagining of education. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA
 BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Position: Back of House Manager) Housekeeping & Laundry

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership, vision, and direction to the 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.
- Responsible for the cleanliness and orderly appearance of the guest rooms, public areas, linen closets, and laundry areas of the resort. Coordinate and assist in the hiring, training, and supervising of the housekeeping staff. Ensure that cleaning and laundry products are used safely and properly. To minimize labor and other costs to ensure maximum profitability of the rooms department. To lead the daily operations of the Housekeeping and Laundry Departments, including the leadership and management of all staff within the department. To ensure a high standard of laundry services is always provided to the Resort within a compliant, safe, and inclusive environment.
- Responsible for inspections, scheduling, public areas, deep clean schedules, ordering, inventory.
- Assures consistency among room attendants in cleaning guest rooms and public areas.
- Schedule regular basic mattress turning, carpet shampooing, complete housekeeping of rooms, window washing, etc.
- Manage the control, ordering and issuing of all stock to laundry staff and other departmental staff at the resort, maintaining accurate records and ensuring that all stock is returned at the appropriate time.
- To ensure that all equipment is always maintained in a good and safe order, notifying relevant authorities of any defects or malfunctions.
- Comply with all necessary regulations concerning the use of machinery and materials.
- To work with payroll to provide up to date records of timesheets including absences and holidays to ensure accurate and timely pay.
- Ensuring that prescribed uniform standards for laundry staff are always adhered to.
- Perform any related duties as assigned by supervisor. Assisting all other employees in their duties when required.

Essential Traits:

- Strong desire to lead and motivate employees.
- Judgment and speed in decision making.
- Professionally handle multiple tasks and demands simultaneously.
- Attention to detail.
- Attentive and friendly listener
- Sincere desire to provide exceptional customer service.
- High ethical standards
- Availability and dependability in meeting a work schedule.

Specific Technical / General:

- Must have thorough knowledge of Revenue Management and Inventory Control.
- Should have at least five years' Management experience in progressive Laundry and Housekeeping), in a 4-5-star Resort environment.
- Must present positive leadership style and possess a desire to develop team members.
- Must demonstrate team building skills and promote teamwork.
- Must have excellent communication and motivational skills.
- Must possess strong problem solving and excellent guest service and sales skills.
- Must possess strong computer literacy and good understanding of Property Management Systems.
- Must maintain a high level of professional appearance and demeanor.
- Must be a self-starter, energetic, & motivated with multi-task capabilities.
- Must be creative and willing to work with existing core resort philosophy and style.
- Previous Caribbean / International experience helpful, but not mandatory.
- Property location makes it important that applicant be in good physical shape.
- Ability to work at a physically demanding pace.
- Ability to lift fifty (50) pounds to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
- Ability to remain standing for lengthy periods of time; climb steps and stairs; stoop, bend, and kneel; push.
- Ability to climb ladders and work at high heights.
- Ability to load and unload supplies

BVI Islanders or Belongers preferred. To apply, send resume to: Chad James, Director of Human Resources
 P.O. Box 211, Road Town, Tortola, BVI or email: hr@peterisland.net or www.peterisland.com/careers.
 Phone # 495-2000

[s41]

THE ISLAND SUN CLASSIFIED ADS



FOR BEST RESULTS

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

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

STAFF WANTED

BK C-Store Fashion & Auto Stop : Hiring :
Cashier/Store-Attendant FULL-TIME and PART-TIME.
Cleaner / Store Attendant - Formal inquiries only -
 Email: bkcstore@yahoo.com or WhatsApp: 284-442-1842.
 Absolutely no Telephone nor Walk-in enquiries.
 Belongers Preferred.
 [s41]

Greenland plumbing and construction are seeking the following: steelmen, masons, -carpenters- interesting persons please call 284-541-3036 or 284-394-3866.
 [s41]

S&S AUTO SALES & REPAIRS seeking two (2) full time Mechanics to hire. From Monday through Saturday, call 284-543-9651 for more details.
 [s41]

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]

Javelin Security is staffing for full-time Security Guards. We are searching for serious individuals willing to perform various tasks in a security environment. An excellent opportunity for training and to gain experience in the security environment. Contact us at javelinbvi@gmail.com or (284)543-4060. [s41]

SAPPY'S BAR & GRILL needs one full time **BARTENDER**.-Telephone 441-4329 [s41]

Jamal Moving Services is seeking a welder, please call 499 4325 for an interview
 [s41]

VIDAL K. DICKSON "NO WORRIES ON CALL VEHICLE MAINTENANCE needs full time **AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC**. Please call 341-8902 [s41]

Juan Carlos Maintenance & Repair Shop has a need for employees in the capacity of a **Carpenters, Joiners and Finishing Carpenters**. Please-call-343-6003 for more information.
 [s41]

GEORGESMITH,SETTLING POINT, ANEGADA needs one full-time-**HANDYMAN**. Telephone 344-1229
 [s41]

Spring ghut Barn and Orchards are seeking farmers interesting person please call 284-541-3036 or 284-394-3866.
 [s41]

Chase Law & Co. have an opening for a full time Receptionist/Secretary. Application closes in the next two weeks.
 Phone: (284) 345-5775
 email: info@chaselawandco.com
 [s42]

BLUE HOUSE BEAUTY SALON in VIRGIN GORDA seeking full time **NAIL TECHNICIAN,-BARBER, HAIRDRESSER - and BRAIDER**. Please call (284) 343-5122
 [s42]

BERICK'S AND SONS POULTRY requires full-time **FARM WORKERS**. Telephone(284) 345-413
 [s42]

Morrell & Co Limited dba TICO is looking for a **Brand Manager, Marketing - Events** with 5+ years experience with related roles in CPG or hospitality industry. This is a creative role that requires out-of-the-box thinking and ideas, including the ability to design and construct event and display materials.

Skills required include but are not limited to:
 Management skills are essential. Must be a proactive, innovative problem solver who thrives in a collaborative team environment as well as competent in executing promotional activities. Design oversees the creation of advertisements and posts. Possess excellent communication skills, will be responsible for overseeing and leading team with brand building and training, technical training skills also required to implement brand promotions. Web design / development, SEO, graphic design, social media management are essential to this role. Maintain accurate and timely brand reporting and analysis. Implement and manage promotions with accounts that increase sales and brand visibility. High proficiency in use of POS / Inventory Systems, MS Office Suite, Adobe CC, cross-platform competent and cloud workspace required.

Work in conjunction with Managing Director, General Manager and Brand Manager of Product and Innovation. Maintain regular on and off-island account visits and with the ability to work independently. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Ability to work nights, weekends and holidays is required. Sampling of alcoholic drinks required. Individuals who meet the criteria will be contacted for an interview. Send CV, portfolio examples and 2 reference letters to neliag@ticobvi.com 284-494-2211.
 [s42]

The Garden Restaurant, located in Carrot Bay is seeking to hire four full time positions. Two (2) Servers/ Cashiers
 Two (2) Kitchen Helpers
 BVIsbelonger/BVIIslander preferred - please call 284-543-9651 for information.+
 [s42]

MINE - SHAFT ENTERPRISE LTD seeking full time **HANDYMAN, BARTENDER, KITCHEN HELPER, and CHEF**. Please call (284)-343-5122
 [s42]

CORNER-RESTAURANT and **BAR** need one full time **BARTENDER** and **PIZZAMAN**. Persons must have at least five years- experience. Please call 284- 499-7952.
 [s43]

EGS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES seeking full time **CARPENTER, PLUMBER, ELECTRICIAN, STEELMAN, MASON and FOREMAN**. Please call (284) 343-5122 or (284) 346-8466
 [s42]

REAL ESTATE

PROPERTY FOR SALE:
 Registration Section: East Central, Block: 2439B
 Parcel 38 Lot Size: 0.92 acres
 Selling Price: US \$1,100,000. Interested Belongers please contact Mouzaya Dabboussy from **MLS Realty** 284-442-4200 or email: mouzaya@mlsbvi.com. [s42]

ISLAND DEPARTMENT STORE

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



**APPLIANCES
 HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
 FURNITURE
 GIFTS**