Confused by the Ever-Changing Airport? Us Too!

Last hurricane season brought many changes to our island. One of the most significant was that of the Princess Juliana International Airport, located on Dutch St. Maarten. What was once a very modern, large and full of many amenities, is now an airport that operates utilizing the bare necessities. As you may have noticed when flying into our airport, there have been many changes ranging from cosmetic to structural that are awaiting their restoration to full glory. Our island has gone through many amendments throughout the last year regarding how the airport has operated, and it has become prudent to know what to expect when leaving our paradise.

When you arrive at the ‘departure area,’ you should still plan to be a minimum of two hours early for international flights. Look for the white semi-permanent popup tent with chairs set into tidy rows underneath; this will be your first point of check-in.

After providing your name, airline and proof of identity, you will then enter another air-conditioned tent to check in your luggage, print your boarding passes and complete the check-in process. However, there is a minor potential hassle to be aware of. If the check-in counter area is full, you will have to wait outside under the popup tent. Which may mean, you do not have a place to sit and wait in the shade as chairs are scarce.

Why Can't All Blood Draws Be This Easy?
The moment the doctor tells you that you need to have some blood work done to confirm or rule out a diagnosis, you usually are filled with dread and exasperation. More often than not, a trip to the laboratory means that you will be poked, prodded and countless vials of blood are drawn from your body; your arm if you are lucky. And if you are someone who is a difficult draw, this experience is even more painful...

When In Doubt, Ask a Sailor
The standard hurricane advice is repeated annually by most media and hardly ever contains new information. By now we all understand the basics of cyclone survival. But after Irma, we learned the hard way what it means to live without utilities for a long time. Today we want to explore how the days or weeks after a major storm could be passed in acceptable level of comfort, and without a massive financial investment...

Continued on Page 12
Continued on Page 13
Continued on Page 15
Letter From the Editor

June 22, 2018

We hope you have been enjoying reading the ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekend Edition. With articles ranging from favorite beaches and restaurants, to interesting people on island that you might meet; we are always looking for that next entertaining article idea that you will appreciate reading.

In this issue, we are eager to share stories of some astonishing people that make our island so special, a history of what lies on our sea’s floor and even some unique ideas on how to prepare for hurricane season!

As always, tune into Island 92 for live on-air demonstrations of cocktails created for the ‘Cat 5+’ Cocktail Contest; we are confident it will inspire you to get out of your comfort zone as it pertains to drinking and try some new inventions! Please see page 19 for more details.

Have a great start to your summer, and enjoy our 12th issue!

Hilary Grant
Editor

Online Portal

For in-depth information about our island, consult ST-MAARTEN.COM - the official online portal. Please use the convenient QR codes with any smart phone to access individual pages directly.

Emergency Phone Numbers

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Hospital: 910 or +1 721 543-1111
Police: 911 or +1 721 542-2222
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ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekend Edition

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Sunken Treasures Off the Island's Coast

By: Leslie Hickerson

To understand the history of St. Maarten below the surface you would have to go back in time. The reef system began thousands of years ago and has withstood all of Mother Nature’s effects and only now meeting its greatest obstacle, mankind. While the reefs have been in place well before humans originally set foot on the island, we have been making our mark underwater as well as above. Of the more than 30 dive sites on the Dutch Side of St. Maarten there are several wrecks. Some added intentionally to become popular dive sites, and some very unintentionally lost to the sea. One such site is Prosclyte Reef, named after the British Warship that sank over 200 years ago.

Originally launched years before as a Dutch Frigate, ‘Jason’ had come into British control after a mutiny of the crew and was subsequently renamed. In 1801, The HMS Prosclyte, ran aground in what is now the Man-O-War Shoals Marine Park of St. Maarten. The ship was being captained by Lieutenant Henry Whiteby on delivery from St. Kitts (St. Christopher) just over 50 miles (80.5 km) off the island’s Dutch coast. When the crew did not heed the local maps of the shallow reef, the ship became immovable and started to sink. In an effort to save the boat, the crew threw the heaviest objects overboard, including the cannons, anchors, barrels and weaponry. Their efforts proved futile and The Prosclyte sank, scattering her pieces near the reef. The entire crew was however, rescued by the people on St. Maarten. Over the years due to storms and natural decomposition there is nothing left of the wooden ship. But her anchors and cannons now lay on the sea floor encrusted with coral and teeming with marine life. The vibrant colors and active nature make this one of the most sought after dive sites for divers visiting the island.

If you are a diver visiting the island book your trip today with a local dive center. Know that your guides will choose which dive site to visit based on the weather conditions and the group’s experience; every site on St. Maarten has an amazing experience to offer! If you are worried about the effects of last year’s Hurricane Irma you can put your mind at ease. While some sites saw damage from the storm the coral and marine life are still healthy and getting stronger! Do your part to protect these sites by limiting plastic waste and helping to prevent pollution of the beaches and sea!
Painter, Poet Earth Mother: The Life Affirming Ruby Bute

By: Chris Morvan

To spend an hour in the company of Ruby Bute is to be entertained by a character so full of life and talent that you can see how her paintings come to be as they are. What she commits to the canvas (or whatever material she is working on) is vivid, colorful and redolent of the full 75 years she has enjoyed on this planet.

A painter, poet and storyteller, Bute is something of a throwback to the characters of yesteryear and it is not hard to imagine her in a previous century, entertaining a group of family and friends around a camp fire. In fact we are at her house on a large lot near Friars Bay.

Family is very important to Bute, who refers to her late mother repeatedly throughout the conversation.

The Butes left St Martin in the 1930’s along with many people keen to take advantage of the oil boom in Aruba and Curacao. Her father found work as a fireman in Aruba and the family settled there.

“My mother was a refined woman, very educated,” Ruby tells me. “We lived in a small house and the biggest thing in it was a bookcase. She used to read me stories by Hans Christian Anderson and that sort of thing, and she would tell me about life in St Martin. I would ask her things like ‘how big are cows?’ because there were none where we were. Then eventually she became ill and wanted to go home.”

The parents headed back to St-Martin, but Ruby stayed in Aruba. Already married and divorced, with two children, she had – and still has – an independent streak. But her father wasn’t happy for her to be so far away, bringing up the kids on her own, and in time he persuaded her to join the family in its spiritual home.

She found a place to live in Marigot and began to paint, on pieces of wood from a joinery shop. She took them to a little shop called L’Aventure, where the owner agreed to sell them, and to Ruby’s surprise they flew off the shelves.

Then came a commission from Le Bistro Nu, to paint t-shirts... *Continued on Page 10*

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**ST-MAARTEN.COM Weekend Edition**

Issue 12, 2018
Do You Know St. Maarten?

Cheating? Find solution to the puzzle on Page 14

Please enjoy the eleventh edition of our crossword puzzle. You will notice that all of the questions are rooted in the Caribbean hemisphere and might take a bit of research to answer if you haven’t spend much time here. It also means: the answers are valid for St. Maarten/St-Martin, but could also be for neighboring islands.

For example, if we are asking for an island to the North of our location, it can only be Anguilla.

If you try to solve the puzzle as a visitor to our island and you get stuck: don’t be shy! Approach a local and ask! You might find they struggle to answer as well. Or strike up an interesting conversation and learn a bit about our very unique region.

Correction: There was a spelling error in last week's puzzle for Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. Our apologies for this oversight.

ACROSS
2 Location of 3 Amigos
4 Jamaican restaurant in Maho named after city
7 Who named Anguilla?
9 Beauty salon almost at the end of the alphabet
11 What used to be the industry of Simpson Bay?
14 Sailboat with several masts
15 Caribbean vegetable
19 Ferry to Saba and St. Barth
20 Sub-urb of Philipsburg
22 Thorny bush with purple flowers
23 Home improvement center
24 Capital of Curacao

DOWN
1 Where is the Netherlands' tallest mountain?
3 Island nation to the south-east
5 Card game at Hollywood Casino
6 Bistrot in Porto Cupecoy
8 This casino has a royal title
10 Popular name for hemp
11 Which bird can stay aloft for months?
12 Fuel brand named after a star
13 Shipwreck giving name to diving site
16 This bird likes sugar
17 Lost his leg in battle for St. Martin
18 What does AUC teach?
21 Correct spelling of Amsterdam airport

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Packed Bars and Restaurants for World Cup: Everyone Wins!

By: Chris Morvan

Sunday lunchtime in a cool, dark bar in Simpson Bay. This particular bar is full of Mexicans, because the bars and restaurants of the resort are Mexican-owned. Their country is playing Germany in the early stages of the World Cup, but there is no sign of Germans in here. It’s all dark-haired men and women wearing green football shirts and getting excited in a loud, optimistic Latin way as their boys pile the pressure on the Germans.

They’re shooting from long range (the Mexican players, that is), they’re running as if their lives depended on it and the fans greet every hopeful shot as if it were a 24-carat chance, rather than a speculative effort. As it is, they’re up against opponents who don’t seem fully awake.

Germany is among the favorites to win the tournament and it would be unfair to say they’re not trying, but they’re certainly not giving it their all. And then suddenly Mexico scores a goal and the bar goes bananas, or maybe burritos.

It’s a scene that is happening all over the world and all over the island. Some of the bar owners I spoke to reported a massive upturn in business since the football started, and that’s got to be a good thing any time, but especially now, considering the tough times such places are experiencing.

What might otherwise be a quiet, boring shift for the bar tenders and waitresses is alive with the energy and enthusiasm only a top sports event can create. While the Mexican restaurant just along the way may be ticking over quietly, this sports pub, as it calls itself, is rocking.

And the bars are rocking in Philipsburg, in Marigot, in Cole Bay, Cupecoy and at other public locations we don’t know about (and please contact us if your bar’s name is not on our list).

There is plenty of time to go in this fiesta of football, and it remains to be seen if Los Mexicanos can sustain their momentum throughout the group stage and go on to surprise everybody. Will the Germans shake off their lethargy and show their true colors?

We’ve already had five-star performances from Spain and Portugal in their 3-3 draw, while a nervous England scraped through against Tunisia.

Cristiano Ronaldo has scored a hat trick and Lionel Messi has missed a penalty. Russia poured scorn on their lowly rating by putting five past Saudi Arabia. Switzerland held Brazil 1-1. Belgium stuffed debutants Panama 3-0.

And that was just the first four days.

One thing is for sure: there is nothing like the atmosphere of watching a game in public, and as we swill a few beers in the traditional manner, everyone’s a winner.

For a list of where to catch the World Cup, please see page 8 for all the island’s hot-spots on both the Dutch and French side!
Where to Watch the World Cup

**Legend For Top Game watching!**
**++ First Place Picks!**
**+ Second Place Picks!**

**Madame Estate:**
1. Rembrandt Café: BIG SCREEN TVs, INDOOR. All games ++

**Philipsburg:**
1. Holland House Beach Hotel: BIG SCREEN TVs OUTDOOR & SHADED. All games! +
2. St. Rose: BIG SCREEN TVs OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games after 9 AM.
3. Jump Up Casino
4. I love SXM Beach Bar

**Cole Bay/Simpson Bay:**
1. Buffalo Wings: BIG SCREEN TVs INDOOR. Games from 10AM! ++
2. Pineapple Pete: TV SCREENS OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 10AM
3. Rhythm & Booze: PROJECTOR, TV SCREENS INDOOR. Games from 2PM +
4. Topper's:
TV SCREENS: OUTDOOR SHADED. Games from 9 AM
5. Marty's: PROJECTOR, TV SCREEN OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games fr. 11 AM

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**Pic Paradis/Rambaud:**
1. Loterie Farm: BIG SCREEN TVs OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 10 AM

**Pelican Key:**
1. Replay Sports Bar: BIG SCREEN TVs INDOOR.
2. La Patroina

**Maho:**
1. Taco Macho: BIG SCREEN TVs, OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 10AM
2. 3 Amigos: BIG SCREEN TVs INSIDE / OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 10AM
3. Rusty Rocket

**Marigot:**
1. La Main a la Pate, Marina: BIG SCREEN TV OUTDOOR - SHADED. Games from 10AM
2. Le Sous Marin (snack bar), Marina: TV SCREEN. Games from 9AM
3. Chez Dounce, Rue de Hollande: BIG SCREEN TVs. All games +
4. Arawak, Blvd de France: BIG SCREEN TVs OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 9AM +
5. Bruno’s Place, Blvd de France: TV SCREEN OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 11AM
6. Chez Raymond: BIG SCREEN TV OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 9 AM
7. Wine Bar: BIG SCREEN TV OUTDOOR & SHADED. Games from 11 AM

**Grand Case:**
1. Le Snack Shack: PROJECTOR & BIG SCREEN TV. All games ++
2. Max Place: BIG SCREEN TV. Games from 10 AM
3. Blue Martini: BIG SCREEN TVs.
4. Tony’s Snackbar: BIG SCREEN TVs. All games ++

**Hope Estate:**
1. Bacchus L’Express: BIG SCREEN TVs. All Games ++
2. Chez Maguy: TV SCREEN. Games from 10 AM

**Cul de Sac:**
1. Stachy’s Hut: PROJECTOR & BIG SCREEN TV. All games ++

**Orient Bay:**
1. SAO: Projector & BIG SCREEN TV. All games from 7 AM ++
2. CODA BAR: BIG SCREEN. All games from 7 AM ++
3. Bikini Beach: PROJECTOR. All games from June 20th after grand reopening.
4. La Plantation: All games. *after game pool party! ++
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Painted, Poet Earth Mother: The Life
Affirming Ruby Bute

Continued from Page 5

She stretched the black garments over a conventional canvas on an easel and painted in acrylics. Again, they immediately proved popular and became the t-shirt artist of St-Martin. Incidentally, an important tip for budding garment painters: Ruby recommends using 100% cotton, because the natural material absorbs the paint, while manmade fibers resist it.

So, established initially as a rather quirky artist with a penchant for thinking outside the box, Ruby gradually became more mainstream and her vivid, colorful paintings can be found all over the island and all over the world.

Her mother’s stories still find their way into her work. She introduces me to an almost-finished life-size painting of a distinguished, caramel-skinned woman painted on a tall, narrow closet door.

“This is Juliette.”

Irma’s debris has inadvertently provided Ruby with fresh projects, as people bring her broken shutters, doors etc. and ask her to breathe new life into them through her art.

Distinguished dark-skinned women crop up a lot in Ruby’s work, often carrying things on their heads, as her mother used to tell her they did in the days when St-Martin was a distant, magical place she had only heard of in stories.

Ruby’s own writing has been published in two slim volumes, one by the House of Nehesi and the other by a publisher in the US. Although she reproaches herself for not having written any poetry lately, she says she has enough of it kicking around the place to make another book.

She reads me “Bring Forth Children” from the first book, and makes it real in her natural, expressive way. The poem is fluent and relaxed, unfettered by structure or rhyme.

And now, now they try to study the past
And tell each other “you remember when”
And ask each other “You remember how?”
And some who don’t know anything at all
About S’maatin
Shorten her history just in Johnny cakes
And fish.

Painting, though, is what Ruby Bute does every day, on her own or with friends, encouraging others to develop their talent and, no doubt, regaling them with stories as they go.
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Why Can't All Blood Draws Be This Easy?

Continued from Page 1

and maddening especially when done in a laboratory that feels more like a swap market than a sterile business.

Efficient, affordable with access to sophisticated technology is what one would hope for regarding having any sort of blood work panel done. Filling a void in the market, Health Care Laboratory is the answer to the question we hoped someone would ask: why is getting blood work done so difficult and how can we remedy that?

When you walk through the doors of this modern facility, you will be greeted into the sizeable waiting room by the receptionist donning a smile. The thought to every detail in the space is a welcomed one, right down to the private rooms to complete your blood draws. With a plethora of tests available ranging from simple and routine, to elaborate and obscure; Health Care Laboratory maximizes the testing procedure by acquiring the least amount of blood needed to perform each and every test. Where at other labs you might need several vials to complete five basic exams; Health Care Laboratory can get it done with less vials than their competition.

What types of tests are performed? CBC’s (complete blood count) with differentials, lipid panels, thyroid panels, HIV testing, STD assessments, urinalysis and markers for different types of cancers (including breast and ovarian) can all be done discreetly and professionally. With top of the line computerized equipment, the results are fast and reliable. We would be remiss to mention that the phlebotomists are trained, proficient and licensed; so those afraid of needles can feel comfortable in knowing that you will be well taken care of!

Are you afraid to have a test done because you do not want someone knowing your results aside from your health care professional? Dr. Fey P.L. van der Dijis has thought of every detail. Mirroring the Dutch and US model of barcoding the samples, your name and pertinent private information stays private. Your blood or urine sample is assigned a barcode and number, so any person running the tests will not know whose sample it is! That is what we call unobtrusive.

Walk in appointments are welcome, and they work with all major insurance companies on the Dutch side of island like Nagico, Ennia and SZV. They also take cash patients, so if you are an island visitor or do not have local health insurance you can still get your blood panels done! Cash and credit cards are welcome.

And perhaps even more importantly, for some basic tests like a diabetes check, CBC or STD checks; you do not need to see your general practitioner first. Stop by, get your blood work done and if anything serious pops up; Health Care laboratory will discuss with you that you need to get medical advice.

Having this high-level facility with a modern and competent way of conducting business is what this island has been lacking in the medical field while moving into the twenty-first century.

We applaud the efforts of Dr. Fey P.L. van der Dijis for having the foresight and knowledge to bring a level of professionalism and expertise to phlebotomy in St. Maarten.

Health Care Laboratory is located at the Orange Grove Shopping Center, Cole Bay. Their hours of operation are:

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But once you are checked in, the trip through metal detectors and immigration is pretty smooth sailing. Just be sure to follow typical instructions, and have your travel documents in order.

Once in the secure area of the ‘new’ airport, there are seven gates of which all require boarding the aircraft via stairs; we no longer have jet rides as they were destructed during the hurricane. While waiting, there are several eateries to grab some grub before you leave St. Maarten. Be sure to bring cash with you, as many vendors have a US $15 minimum to use a credit card. Options range from Domino’s Pizza to Carousel gelato, and even Le Bistro by Bacchus.

Restrooms are available, but remember this a temporary setup. This means that these are still portable toilets, although some may say they are the ‘chicest’ you’ll ever see! When a lot of people are waiting for flights, it can be quite warm in this area despite the numerous fans on full blast. So, dress in layers, grab a cold bottle of water (or beer!) and nab a seat while you wait.

We hope the next time you arrive in Dutch St. Maarten that we have yet another version of the airport for you to enjoy.

Princess Juliana (or in short SXM) has a little sister airfield on the French side with L’Espérance Airport in Grand Case, working with the code SFG.

This charming island airport has been virtually untouched by last year’s ‘weather event’ and is a viable alternative to travel from and to our island.

There are frequent connections to the larger French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique at relatively modest fares. From these larger islands, there are excellent connections between numerous North American and European destinations. Airfares for flights through SFG are often only a fraction of tickets on the same dates to the Dutch side airport.

L’Espérance Airport is small in size, comfortable, modern, air-conditioned and there will never be long lines for check-in.

If a stress-free travel experience is essential to you, this might be the best alternative over the larger international airport.

---

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Marco Ferrante: One of Italy's Finest Chefs Brings Authentic Italian Cuisine to St. Maarten

When you have the opportunity to pick the brain of a talented chef, you take it. Marco Ferrante, Manager at Isola Ristorante located in Pelican Key, hails from Italy. His unique skill set has proven masterful; as this restaurant is consistently packed with tourists and residents alike.

We started by asking Marco about his culinary journey, and how he landed in St. Maarten.

"Since I was a kid, I always wanted to be in the restaurant business. It’s the only thing that I always want to be: a chef. I followed that dream, and pursued my five-year study at the SAN PELLEGRINO Culinary Institute in Italy, right where they bottle the best sparkling water known worldwide! I worked for a few years in Italy at five star hotels, as well as one and three Michelin starred restaurants. It was time to travel abroad and see the world.

Destiny made me find a job opportunity that lasted 14 years and spanned over three of the very best Italian restaurants that St. Maarten has to offer; I got to know the demands of the local and tourist clientele which is unique to St. Maarten.

Today I’m wrapping up all I’ve learned and I use it for Isola Ristorante and its guests to provide a truly Italian experience adapted to the St. Maarten market."

His sentiment is reflected in the food. Bringing in authentic Italian ingredients just for Isola, Marco has created a divine menu that will always keep you wanting more. Wondering what Marco would select as his perfect meal at Isola? We were curious too!

“There are so many choices, but I certainly have my favorites! My ideal appetizer would be either the Burrata or the Roasted Octopus.

Both are crazy good, but really belongs to two different worlds. So, I would start my answer with only one perfect meal would not be enough to satisfy my idea of ‘perfect’!

I’m a carb guy, so my favorite main would be one of three choices: the Spaghetti Isola with seafood in a garlic marinara sauce, a traditional Lasagna (just like my grandma used to make), or the Black Squid Ink Risotto which is a sauté of squid and shrimps...

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When In Doubt, Ask a Sailor

Landlubbers are blind to the fact that there is a community among us which has mastered the art of 'living off the grid' to perfection: cruising sailors! Almost all sailboats feature technology which offers all comforts of home without the attachment to utility suppliers. Even better, sailors know some tricks of the trade regarding longer term food storage without refrigeration.

**Let's start with water:**

Filling the bathtub (if you have one) is not sufficient. Get yourself a good number of collapsible 10 or 20 liters (or 2 to 5 gallon) jugs - they sell for less than $5 on eBay each. Check Budget Marine or Island Waterworld for similar items.

Get over the need for bottled drinking water! This marketing scheme by water bottling plants convinced two generations of consumers that drinking water must come in a bottle and not out of a faucet, or, even simpler, from the sky in the form of rain. Bottled water is only filtered city water! Get yourself a Brita filter or similar product and wear yourself from plastic bottles. Once you have such a filter, you can easily remove impurities out of rainwater and drink it. If you are of the worried kind, you could boil the water for five minutes before consumption to remove any bacteria. But again: rainwater is usually safe to drink. Many sailors rely on rain for all water needs and don't show ill effects for it.

If the situation is real rough and you can't spare water for personal hygiene, bathe in the ocean. Use Joy dishwasher liquid: it lathers up in saltwater and you can even wash your hair with it.

To have enough water after a storm, you need to find a way to collect rain. Some hurricanes suck up salt water through embedded tornadoes and run off salty water and thus contaminate cisterns! Also, gutters of a house might be gone after a storm - don't rely on roof and gutters for water collection. Have tarpaulins ready to rig a collector system. To be prepared, buy immediately a) collapsible water jugs, b) Brita filter or similar c) tarpaulins.

**Food:**

Hurricane season is not the time to stock up on frozen goodies - everybody knows this. Canned food is the way to go. But if the cans get wet during a 'weather event', the descriptive labels will fall off. A famous problem on sailboats where a bit of water in the bilge is common; that's why cruisers mark the top of each can with a pen to list content. This avoids that each meal is a surprise. Keep pasta and rice in waterproof containers.

Unrefrigerated eggs can stay fresh for months! Buy your eggs on the French side and not from American producers. Reason: in America, the eggs' exteriors are chemically cleaned, which removes a natural protective layer, allows air to creep in and the eggs spoil faster. European producers don't do this and no refrigeration is needed for a while. Now, rub the eggs with Vaseline as ocean-crossing sailors do and they will stay fresh for an even longer time.

Gas stoves are the way to cook; if you have an electric range installed, get a simple camping burner to be able to cook without power.

If we talk about real creature comforts, we have to crush the dreams of a completely 'green' dwelling: Refrigeration, air conditioning, hot water, washing machine use massive amounts of power. To keep a real-world household fully functional while off the grid, you need an expensive diesel generator - not even a lightweight gasoline machine will do. An 8 to 12kw diesel will set you back about 6 to 8 k - not a viable solution for most.

What about 12-volt solutions, charged through solar panels? Nope, not as easy as you might think. Only lamps can be powered this way, because any DC appliance for 12 or 24 Volts is absurdly expensive. Go to the marine stores and you'll find small 12 volt fans selling for over $100 - crazy! Refrigeration is possible because this is how yachts do it, but you are looking at $1,100 for a small system. There are also DC powered tiny air condition units on the market which might cool your closet; they cost close to $3,000 - not an option for a house.

With a sufficient number of solar panels, you could feed a large bank of car batteries or (even better) golf cart batteries. You could convert the 12 Volts stored in these batteries through the opposite of a transformer: an inverter, delivering household current. But you would be surprised how fast you bleed these battery banks with regular use. To get through a night with AC, you would have to fill the floor of your living room with batteries - just to give an idea... Another disadvantage: how will super expensive solar panel installations survive in a storm? For the same reason (plus cost) we don't want to get into the details of wind generators.

What is the budget solution? Get a cheap gasoline generator, invest about $500 to have at least 5kw. Hook up several car batteries parallel, connect a simple inverter. Run the generator a few hours per day. Don't run all appliances at the same time. Forget about AC in most cases, 5kw won't cover it if other stuff is running. Keep the batteries connected to the charger always. Keep the fridge running for a few hours and try to freeze water bottles for later use. Most importantly, do not open and close the fridge repetitively, this will let all the cool air escape! Have a plan when you open it and hurry. Lastly, do not start the generator with loads connected - this kills the electric end.

With a decent-sized battery bank alone and the gasoline generator turned off, you will be able to power laptop computers, charge phones and you will have light. And very important: you can use standard household fans to cool you at night.

Store enough fuel. And more. Do not store it inside the house. Now the unfortunate part: Gasoline has a short shelf life of (officially) only about 90 days. If you keep it much longer in the tropical heat, petrol fuel spoils and gums up carburetors. This is the reason why back up equipment like generators and chainsaws need to be frequently started and serviced. So, once hurricane season comes to a close, use up the fuel with your car. Buy fresh next June.

If you are interested in creating a true hurricane comfort package for your home, pay a visit to the marine stores to find inspiration for solutions not offered in home improvement centers. And don't be shy, ask a sailor! They have a whole bag of tricks of how to keep going in rough circumstances.
Here's What's Happening SXM!

By: Maartha St. Maarten

**Hole-y Friday with Ronny Santana and Bobby Jagger**
WHEN: Friday June 22
TIME: 8 PM
LOCATION: Hole in the Wall, Maho Village

**Movie Night: "The Fisher King" starring Jeff Bridges and Robin Williams**
WHEN: Friday June 22
TIME: 8 PM - 10 PM
LOCATION: Jimbo's Rock and Blues Cafe, Simpson Bay
Cost: Free Admission, Free Movie, Free Popcorn

**Gianfranco & Lee Hardesty DUO**
WHEN: Friday June 22
TIME: 7:30 PM - 11 PM
Lagoonies, Cole Bay

**Bankie Banx Folk and Blues Festival**
WHEN: Friday June 22 - June 24
TIME: 5 PM
LOCATIONS:
Friday-June 22
Opening Party - 5 PM - Paradise Cove

**Saturday June 23**
Blues Picnic and Bonfire (The Dune Preserve, Anguilla): 2 PM - Midnight

**Sunday June 24**
Blues Picnic and Jam Session (The Dune Preserve, Anguilla): 2 PM - Midnight

Main line-up includes Solomon Hicks, Kirk Yano, Mario Staiano, Eli Cook, Leo Lyons, Johnny Cement, Innes Sibun, the Sheriff & the Deputy: Bankie Banx!!

**Kids Camp by Desiree hosted by Fitness Coaching**
WHEN: Saturday June 23
TIME: 5 PM to 7 PM
LOCATION: Kim Sha Beach, Simpson Bay
Cost: $12 per child

**Yoga "Free Class"**
WHEN: Saturday June 23
TIME: 4 PM
LOCATION: Orient Bay
Cost: Free Class

**Alban Charton Smooth Jazz Night**
WHEN: Saturday June 23
TIME: 8 PM
LOCATION: Lagoonies, Cole Bay

**SXM Best "Nightclub Night Out"**
Lotus Club, Jungle Club, Rhythm N' Booze, Q-Lounge
WHEN: Saturday June 23
TIME: Midnight til...
LOCATION: Simpson Bay

**Reggae Music by Percy Rankin**
WHEN: Saturday June 23
TIME: 9 PM - Midnight
LOCATION: Blue Martini, Grand Case

**Buss di Chains, Cooler Fete 2018 - "The Warm Up"**
WHEN: Saturday June 23
TIME: 10 AM - 3 PM
LOCATION: Kooyma

**Latin Sugar Live Band & DJ Mr. Perfect**
WHEN: Sunday June 24

**TIME: 6 PM**
LOCATION: Sunset Beach Bar, Maho

**Caribbean Pop with Jeremy and Yvel**
WHEN: Sunday June 24
TIME: 6 PM
LOCATION: Marty's Bar, Simpson Bay

**The Official After Party with DJ EM and Friends**
WHEN: Sunday June 24
TIME: 10 PM
LOCATION: 3 Amigos, Maho

**Church on Mondays**
WHEN: Monday June 25
TIME: 9 PM - Midnight
LOCATION: Red Piano, Pelican Key

**Live Latin Music by Cacao Band**
WHEN: Tuesday June 26
TIME: 8 PM
LOCATION: Pineapple Pete's, Simpson Bay

**Workshop: Modern Drugs and the Influence of Music**
WHEN: Saturday June 27
TIME: 7 PM
LOCATION: University of St. Maarten, Philipsburg

**EPIC Sunset Kayak Fundraiser**
WHEN: Thursday June 28
TIME: 5 PM - 7 PM
LOCATION: Kim Sha Beach, Simpson Bay
Cost: Price per adult: $25
Price per child: $15 (16 years or under)

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People are afraid of the dark color but the taste is very delicate and pleases any seafood lover!

My favorite dessert is of course our **Tiramisu.** Our chef incorporates Baileys in the mascarpone cream to give it an extra touch of richness. The classics never disappoint me.

Or, if my dinner date is in the mood, we would share a **Calzone alla Nutella,** which is our crispy pizza crust filled generously with super rich Nutella and a scoop of vanilla gelato on the side. It certainly deserves some belly-space to be left for it! I have a saying: “I do not trust anyone who does not like Nutella!”

St. Maarten is lucky to have someone who enjoys creating and cooking as much as we love enjoying the creations! To dine at Isola Ristorante located in Pelican Key, make reservations by calling:

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Nine months ago we had the largest hurricane to ever hit the Atlantic basin, Hurricane Irma. Our island was forever changed.

Who could blame the bartenders for naming their concoctions ‘Category Five Plus’? Now we have too many Cat 5 drinks on the island and we need a contest to decide which one is the public favorite.

The Category 5+ Hurricane Irma is now part of our history. We made it through and we don’t mind Irma being memorialized as a drink causing a horrific hangover.

Here is how it works:
Go on a bar crawl and visit the participating bars and restaurants from all around the island and order each different version of Category Five Plus. (Please make sure that you have a designated driver for the occasion!) Happy drinking!

To view the list of contestants and to vote, visit ST-MAARTEN.COM by using the QR code to the right:

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Photo right: Victor of Buffalo Wings at Island 92
Radio mixing his hurricane cocktail

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