Celebrations Day and Night
Welcome to the Party Capital of the Caribbean

This is the week of the much anticipated SXM Festival for electronic music. We urge our local readers to explore the amazing atmosphere of this international event. Go and listen to some of the world’s best DJ’s and party hard with like-minded friends of this musical genre.

And if you just traveled to our island to partake in The Festival, this article has been written for you. You will be impressed with the amazing stage at Happy Bay, and the multitude of festival events. But if you have a few hours and some extra energy to spare, break out of the festival routine and immerse yourself into a Caribbean party. After all, you traveled far; you owe it to yourself to take new experiences home.

Saturday night starts the official kick-off event for the Sint Maarten (Dutch side) Carnival, the great Causeway Jumpup. Late during the night, huge trailer tractors with massive sound equipment blasting out Soca tunes will guide a dancing crowd counting into the thousands through Simpson Bay and Cole Bay. All will culminate in the wee hours of the morning at the iconic Soggy Dollar waterfront club with a huge after party.

But this is not where St. Maarten-style entertainment has to stop. Maybe you’d like to explore the sexy side of island life a bit more, especially after experiencing the frenzy of a carnival Jump Up. Just so you know; adult entertainment is licensed, supervised and legal here.

Why Do We Drink on St. Patrick’s Day?

Most would assume that March 17th, St. Patrick’s Day, is not a really holiday; rather an excuse to drink green colored beer or cocktails.

Diving for Sunken Caribbean Treasures

Shipwrecks have always held an interest for people all over the world. Finding undiscovered treasures and exploring the history of these vessels enthralls us all.

Full Article on Page 8

Full Article on Page 15

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Letter From the Editor
March 15, 2019
I hope everyone got lots of rest over the last week because from this weekend onward until May, the island will be buzzing with parties galore.

Welcome to SXM Festival attendees! We are thrilled that you chose our island to vacation on, especially for such a prestigious musical event. I hope that you not only enjoy the festival, but that you take time to explore St. Maarten/St-Martin as we have so much to offer.

It’s also St. Patrick’s Day weekend! I don’t know if it is the shamrocks or the green beer, but I look forward to this holiday each year. Please be sure that if you are partaking in the SXM Festival, Jump Up or a St. Patty’s party that you do so responsibly. If you have a beer in each hand, make sure to have a sober driver.

If you enjoyed our publication and would like to continue to read from home, please use the QR code to the right to access our digital publication on our website.

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.

Visit Us Online for
FREE Business Directory

What does the number on each advertisement stand for?
Please refer to the map on Pages 10/11. Regions of the island are marked with a number which corresponds to the number you see on ads.

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Jewelry Sizing
By Hilary Grant, GIA Graduate Gemologist

Jewelry sizing seems a difficult task, especially when you just purchased a lovely new bauble that you are excited to wear right away. Unlike many establishments in North America, when you purchase jewelry here on the island there are talented goldsmiths available to make your piece ready to wear in a mere few hours. So, what should you look for when it comes to sizing? Here is a guide for the most common jewelry purchases. Happy Shopping!

Bracelet:
When it comes to bracelets, size isn’t as mission critical as with other types of jewelry. The industry standard diameter for women’s bracelets is 7 inches, while for men the customary size is 8 inches. Most manufactured jewelry has an adjustable clasp, or links that can be removed to make that perfect fit.

Of course, there are always exceptions to the rule as wrists come in a variety of sizes! If your wrist is tiny, the style of bracelet will be important. Select something with links, or rest assured with our exchange policy: we will be happy to exchange for you within 30 days of receipt.

If you have a larger wrist, some companies offer bracelets in different sizes: don’t fret! Measure your wrist and try different styles of bracelets on, you might find that cuffs or adjustable bracelets are the way to go.

Ring:
Rings are usually cast in the following standard sizes: size 7 for women, and size 10 for men. Most manufacturers produce rings in half and whole sizes to get that perfect fit. A ring should fit snugly over the knuckle to ensure it doesn’t fall off, but not be able to slide on and off easily. You also don’t want to have to use butter to get the ring off your finger!

Lots of “lifestyle changes” can impact the ring size; for instance, warm weather, pregnancy and hardcore gym workouts. With age, knuckles tend to swell; so often using a half size is required to get the proper fit.

Lastly, you should know that resizing a ring is only possible for certain styles of rings, so getting as close to the ideal fit as possible is important.

Necklace and Chain:
Necklaces and chains come in industry standards lengths, but keep in mind that these necklaces are based on average heights and neck size! Hint: If you like options, purchase a longer chain, and ask the jeweler to add a jump ring at a shorter interval so you can wear it at different lengths. This is commonly done to 18 inch chains with a jump ring at 16 inches.

Here are the standard sizes and about where they should hit on the body:

Women
- 16”- Choker Length
- 18”- Collarbone
- 20”- A few inches below collarbone
- 22”- At or above neckline
- 24”- Below the neckline

Men
- 18”- Base of the neck
- 20”- Collarbone (this is the most common for men!)
- 22”- A few inches below the collarbone
- 24”- Just above the sternum
SXM DOET Celebrates Five Years and Partners with Musical Extravaganza - SXM Festival

By Leslie Hickerson

This weekend marks the fifth edition of SXM DOET, a nationwide volunteer event held on St. Maarten/St-Martin and throughout the Dutch Kingdom. Project DOET originated in the Netherlands and spread through the Dutch Caribbean shortly after with Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Eustatius, and St. Maarten all participating.

SXM began participating in 2015 with the Be the Change Foundation, implementing and managing the entire project which receives funding from Oranje Fonds in the Netherlands. Each year the charity supports projects throughout the island that anyone can register to join. Residents and visitors are both welcome to come together to take part this weekend and contribute something to the island. This year’s event takes place on March 15th and 16th.

“The response to SXM DOET has been amazing. Last year with the help of our many collaborating organizations, volunteers and business partners, we completed 108 community-orientated projects within the two SXM DOET days. This year we have approximately 115 registered projects, and some exciting new partners. Our fifth anniversary is going to be great!” says the SXM DOET Project Management Team: Melanie Choisy, Fleur Hermanides and Laura Bijnsdorp. In 2018, over 1800 volunteers participated in projects all around St. Maarten/St-Martin. This year there will be even more projects to sign up for throughout the two-day event.

“Every year there are more projects, and thus more choices for volunteers to help out with. SXM DOET provides a great opportunity to help out your community for a few hours, get to know great NGOs, in a fun and beneficial way. The organization you are helping out will make sure their volunteers are taken care of with drinks, snacks and above all, a lot of gratitude! Karma points are guaranteed. And who knows, you might make a few new friends and acquire a new skill,” says the management team.

This year the SXM Festival has taken the projects to a new height by donating an additional $10,000 to the funding for SXM DOET. The SXM Music Festival is held the same week as project DOET.
SXM DOET Celebrates Five Years and Partners with Musical Extravaganza - SXM Festival

opening on March 13th and concluding March 17th. This year will be the third annual SXM Festival, which prides itself on being a top destination festival for underground electronic music. The Festival chose to go above and beyond to give back to the island that has become its home.

According to Festival management, “Artists like house and techno phenom Blond:ish have committed to participating in initiatives like an island-wide scavenger hunt focused on collecting reusable waste. The artist is known for advocating the importance of giving back and the necessity of conscious partying; leaving the host location cleaner than the festival found it. Fellow volunteers who contribute the most to this clean-up will receive prizes hand picked by the artist and festival. ‘Get Physical’ label boss M.A.N.D.Y., will be doing similar activities at a playground cleanup and restoration project.”

They have secured additional funding by working with Tito’s Vodka to ensure that $1 from every sale at the festival events goes towards SXM DOET to support their current and future projects.

With the additional funding and support each year this event will be able to grow and benefit more and more people and businesses on the island, but this is only possible with volunteers.

Whether you are living on SXM or just visiting, participating in these events will make a lasting difference for those that need it most. To find projects and sign up visit the SXMDOET webpage at SXMDOET.com.

Some of the future projects that will be available in 2019 include:
- Schools, day cares and afterschool programs, catering to youth of all ages, that are in need of a new layer of paint, fencing, benches, gardening and more.
- Playgrounds and sports fields in various communities could use your help for much-needed upgrades and renovations.
- Environmental projects that aim to make recycling bins, conduct cleanups, clear trails and collect waste-material for upcycling purposes.
- Persons who prefer the social-aspect of volunteering can help out with food and clothing drives, HIV-testing and health awareness sessions, as well as help during fun outings with groups such as elderly, foster-kids and persons with disabilities.

And many more. There is something for everyone!
The Unique St. Maarten/St-Martin Crossword Puzzle

Find out if you are a truly knowledgeable about our region and its culture, history and geography

ACROSS
1 Discoverer of St. Martin
3 The unspoiled queen
5 Casino card game
7 Gelateria
10 Eel island
14 National tree
15 Small islet to reach by ferry
18 Path along the beach in Philipsburg
20 Shrub growing in saline coastal water
21 Patrick’s status
23 Nightclub
24 What animal races in the Caribbean for money?
25 Not a goat

DOWN
1 Cruise line named after celebrations
2 Rum brand distilled on island
4 Jamaican fruit, to eat with saltfish
6 Capital of St. Barth’s
8 Wings, not of a cow
9 Owning a week
11 Caribbean home decoration
12 Gasoline and fuel brand on Dutch side
13 Home town of SXM Festival organizer
16 Central instrument in famous bar
17 Non-stop flight destination SXM to Europe
19 A farm with pool
22 Italian restaurant in Pelican

Careful! This week’s crossword puzzle has a couple trick questions. You will notice that all questions are rooted in the Caribbean hemisphere and might take a bit of research to answer if you haven’t spent much time here. It also means: the answers are valid for St. Maarten/St-Martin and the neighboring islands. For example, if we ask for an island directly to the North of our location, it can only be Anguilla.

If we are using compound words in the answer, they do NOT have spaces!

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.

Mistakes do happen, even though our puzzle is produced right here on the island. If you detect an error, drop us a line at SXM@EMAIL.COM.

Puzzle Solution on page 22
THE RED PIANO GOES GREEN! St. Patrick’s Day
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Most would assume that March 17th, St. Patrick’s Day, is not a really holiday; rather an excuse to drink green colored beer or cocktails. But, for some, the origin of this holiday holds a special significance. The day that we dedicate to leprechauns, rainbows ending in pots of gold and four-leaf clovers all started with the Irish patron saint, Saint Patrick.

Saint Patrick is one of the most recognized patron saints, but shockingly- he isn’t Irish! Born in Great Britain, he was kidnapped at the age of sixteen and forced into slavery in Ireland looking after livestock. When he was finally able to escape some six years later, he returned to his home where he became a cleric and subsequently a bishop.

Around this time, the Irish were polytheistic pagans, which meant that they worshipped many different gods and deities. meaning they worshiped many different Gods and deities. Saint Patrick thought it was his mission to bring Christianity to Ireland.

So, that is a quick history on Saint Patrick himself. How does drinking tie into this story?

St. Patrick’s Day first started to honor Saint Patrick on the anniversary of his death. The Christian people held a fantastic celebration, which alcohol and Lent restrictions and were temporarily removed for the day. That is why drinking has become synonymous with the holiday. This tradition remains; Catholics choose to set aside Lent restrictions just on March 17th.

As years passed by, the day became less about Saint Patrick and more about generalized Irish traditions and history. In the 1840s, the tradition made its way to the United States, when thousands of Irish emigrated to America during the potato famine- and afterwards held a parade each year on Saint Patrick’s Day. Irish potato on St. Patty’s Day, anyone?

Now that Americans have embraced the holiday, continuing to add their own takes on its own continuously changing traditions, including wearing green.

If you attend any St. Patrick’s Day celebration on the island, you can expect to see most revelers decked out in their best green ensembles. While some may think the green is simply a reference to Ireland’s famed rolling green hills, the color stems from another iconic St. Patrick’s Day symbol—the shamrock.

According to legend, Saint Patrick used three-leaf clovers as a teaching tool to illustrate Christianity's Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Partygoers originally wore shamrocks on their clothing in honor of Saint Patrick, and eventually that tradition evolved into wearing green from head to toe.

Regardless of if you are following tradition, or are honoring Saint Patrick, this Sunday make sure to visit one of our many bars to partake in some Irish libations like Guinness, Jameson or Bailey’s. Visit page 14- dining and party hotspot page, for ideas of where to go to celebrate!
Mambo Beach Club opens on Baie Lucas

Continued from Page 1

Getting away from the maddening crowd and finding a beach of one’s own is very possible on this island in the Caribbean Sea. One place offering just that tranquil atmosphere is the newly opened Mambo Beach Club on Baie Lucas (commonly called Coralita Beach) just across the border on the French side of Oyster Pond.

At Mambo Beach Club restaurant and bar, lounge on beach chairs under shades instead of umbrellas for the right amount of sun for tanning and shade for a snooze.

The restaurant has an expanding menu to catering to the discerning beach goer’s needs. The food has already brought first-timers back as repeat customers.

A signature dish is the Mambo Burger. This whopper of a burger is built on a grilled-to-perfection beef patty topped with a slice of pineapple, lettuce and tomato and a drizzle of teriyaki sauce. Not a carnivore? Sink your teeth into a veggie burger dressed in Mambo’s secret house sauce.

Hotdogs are not very common on beach menus, but Mambo Beach has one! The chili dogs are made from premium chicken franks and covered with generous helpings of ground beef chili, cheese and onion. Is your mouth watering yet?

Fellow restauranteur Desmond Culbert said in his recommendation on Facebook, “Loved their freshly grilled chicken sandwich … and it’s only 5 bucks, cheapest lunch I’ve eaten in a long time. Their homemade hot pickles marinated in oil and vinegar is out of this world. Great job.”

“I loved the view and the hospitality! Beatrice made us feel so welcome and her fries were amazing,” said Pamela Crowe Craven, another diner. The “Beatrice” in her comment refers to Beatrice Roux who also had a famed snack bar just up the road that had built up a loyal following over the years.

Beatrice and team set out to create a place on the beach where reading a book, having a meal or sunning can all happen together but without feeling clustered. What makes this formula works is this section of Baie Lucas is essentially a private beach. Just imagine (well, technically) a beach of your own.

And, the best part is, says Mambo Beach Club’s drinks menu, is the beers are colder than your ex’s heart (ouch)! But an ice-cold beer at the beach is a must! There are classic cocktails such as Guavaberry Colada and Sex on the Beach, but, of course, non-threatening liquids – water and soda, and more.

Baie Lucas is kissed by the waves of the Atlantic Ocean and offers a view to St. Barths. It is a good beach to swim; just float as you contemplate the journey of the clouds or to sit just where the waves hug the shore.

There is ample parking just steps away from the restaurant and bar cutting out the need for a lengthy walk to get your toes in the sand.

The newly opened beach club, next to Coralita Beach Residences, welcomes guests daily from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
Celebrations Day and Night
For Adults Only

Continued from Page 1

In the Maho area, there is the Platinum Room, an elegant club where scantily clad ladies dance the night away on a stage built over a lit swimming pool. Cover charge is minimal, and the club is close to a selection of excellent restaurants and the famous Casino Royale.

In Simpson Bay, which is presently the entertainment center of the island, there is Red Diamond, also surrounded by a considerable number of bars and restaurants and in walking distance to Lotus, which happens to be one of the Festival locations.

Similar to the Platinum Room, the ladies present at Red Diamond are not shy about removing some clothing if you feel entertained by it and are willing to reward them accordingly. Across the street from Red Diamond and above McDonald's, there is the Q Lounge. Initially, a pool billiard location, owner Kennedy Artsen developed his place into the late, late night after-party spot of the area. Check it out if you are not tired after 3 AM.

Not sexy enough, the recommendations above? Okay, we have to send you 'over the hill', close to Philipsburg, where the establishments are located that specialize in more comprehensive sensual services.

Check out Empire, the former Club Defiance, which is now under new management. A club like Empire provides a low-pressure environment and it's perfectly fine to just go there for a drink (and you might find out that the drinks are modestly priced). You will find it on Hulda B. Richardson Road. If you go by taxi, tell the driver it's the old Defiance.

And for our female readers, don't despair. Women are certainly welcome into all establishments, and are a large percentage of clientele. As for our couples, lots of fun is to be had as well. Dancers may offer a couple's dance, so don't be shy.

Now a few hints to assure that your sexy evening is not cut short by uniformed officials without a party sense: Grass is not legalized on this island yet. This is the reason why it's still a bit pricey, and the distribution channels are... well, not legal. Also, watch out for the Gendarmes on the French side if you drive a rental car. As the driver, stay sober. They really check for alcohol and other stuff as well.

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16. **Centre Commercial de Mont Vernon**
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Visit the Island's Party and Dining Hot Spots

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2. **Taco Macho**
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3. **St. Maarten’s Best International Restaurant**
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   - **Website**: SXMTopper's.com
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7. **mélange**
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    - **Contact**: +1 721 596 0978

10. **Pollos Permanentes**
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    - **Website**: www.pollospermanentes.com
    - **Open**: from 9am for breakfast, lunch & dinner
    - **Location**: #66 Corner Road, Airport Road, Simpson Bay

11. **Karakter Beach**
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    - **Contact**: Info@karakterbeach.com

**Composite Offer**: 10% off coupon valid for one week only.
Diving for Sunken Caribbean Treasures

Continued from Page 1

Shipwrecks have always held an interest for people all over the world. Finding undiscovered treasures and exploring the history of these vessels enthralls us all. Throughout all the oceans of the world vessels can be found resting at the bottom. From the most famous like the RMS Titanic to the smallest sailboat each of these wrecks holds it’s own personal history.

When you think about the people that lived on board, raising the sails, walking the deck, protecting the treasures carried on board the wrecks it gives the wrecks even more meaning that timeless sunken boats.

“Diving on a wreck is seeing a piece of history for yourself. Whether it is from 1800 with the time of pirates or from 20 years ago and it carried around beer, ship wrecks had people living and working on board and now you see fish, sharks, and turtles in the place of those people,” says Maria Merrin a scuba diving instructor.

Throughout all the oceans of the world and their inlets you can find boats large and small that have either lost their way during storms and battles or been intentionally added after damage to act as dive sites for recreational divers.

St. Maarten is no exception. All around our island, and those nearby, you can find wrecks both purpose and unintentionally sunk. To explore most of these wrecks you need a basic dive certification as their depth exceeds the maximum depth limit for noncertified divers (12 meters/40 feet) but there are a few you can visit even as a first time diver.

Little Bay is home to one of the more popular dive sites for beginners and those going through course-work. Settled right next door to Great Bay/Philipsburg this area is calm and protected meaning beginners can spend some time getting comfortable on the surface.

Beneath the calm waters wait an underwater park perfect for new divers and snorkelers to explore. You can find there a sunken helicopter, an old tourist submarine, and even original cannons from Fort Amsterdam. You can enjoy this 6 meter/20-foot dive site as a snorkeler, freediver, scuba diver, or in a bell-style helmet dive with Sea Trek St. Maarten.

Another popular shallow dive site is Tug Boat Annie. This fully intact tug sits in Simpson Bay in 6 meters (20 feet) of water surrounded by sand and sea grass. Its location has made it a haven for sea-life to live and hunt. While these two locations are perfect for first-time divers, students, and snorkelers the more advanced sites can offer an amazing experience for those already certified.

The historical Proseleye Reef is a favorite for divers of any level. This site is located in the heart of the Man of War Shoal Marine Park. The protected area provides the perfect place for marine life and coral to thrive. The deepest point is just over 14 meters (45ft) yet the most shallow is 5 meters (15ft). This shallow depth is part of what makes this site so famous. In 1801 the H.M.S. Proseleye ran aground on the shallow reef while entering St. Maarten’s port. The crew tried to save the vessel by tossing everything heavy overboard, but the ship sank. All the crew were rescued and brought ashore. Over the centuries the wooden ship broke up but divers that visit the area can find giant coral encrusted anchors and cannons.

Another deep dive site that is a favorite for local and visiting divers is Carib Cargo. This 50 meter (150ft) long cargo ship used to haul Carib Beer between the islands. Then in 1995 Hurricane Louis Carib Cargo was badly damaged and it sat anchored in Great Bay unusable.

The rest of Carib’s history is hard to verify but the common story is that as Hurricane Bertha approached in 1996 it became a fear that the boat would break free and cause substantial damage to the boardwalk and Philipsburg.

To keep this from happening a commercial diving company was contracted to “get rid of” the cargo ship before the storm. In their haste and discretion the exact location where she sank was unknown. It took dive shops over a year to find her sitting up right in 18 meters of water (60ft) surrounded by sand.

Now this dive site is a favorite for local dive companies as it houses a huge variety of marine-life and the conditions are normally favorable. When diving here it is common to find Caribbean reef sharks, turtles, sting rays, and hundreds of schooling fish.

These wrecks and their stories are just a tip of the iceberg when it comes to the history in our island’s waters. There are several more surrounding the island, Anguilla, St. Barths and St. Kitts. The best way to learn about these sites is to visit them for yourself. There is nothing quite like swimming up to a wreck beneath the waves and watching the underwater world claim a ship for it’s own.
The Hideaway- Hidden Away in Pelican Key

Continued from Page 1

It is a bit hidden, and therefore the name describes this restaurant pretty well. The Hideaway Restaurant is part of the cozy La Vista Resort, right at the beginning of the Pelican neighborhood and about three hundred meters away from the Hollywood Casino.

The open-air dining terrace overlooks the resort's infinity pool and the Caribbean Sea below.

For anyone staying in the area, from the Simpson Bay Resort to the vacation rentals in Pelican, The Hideaway Restaurant offers a pleasant break from the hustle and bustle of Simpson Bay and is - if there is the desire and this applies to island residents as well - most certainly the right spot to hide away for a romantic candlelit dinner. On Saturday evenings, the soft sound of a live steel band adds to the mellow mood.

Breakfast and lunch are served daily from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Dinner is served Tuesday to Saturday from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM.

The menu presents a selection of international dishes with the occasional Caribbean specialty added. There is a full bar and an extensive wine selection.

To find this gem of a dining spot on the Dutch side, take Billy Folly Road past Hollywood Casino and The Red Piano. As you go up the hill, La Vista Resort is on your left, at the corner of Zircon Road.

The La Vista Resort is a boutique size, family operated resort. The restaurant is located in the original resort with panoramic views. Further down is the second phase right on the beach. If you consider returning to St. Maarten, ask about their vacation ownership options.
Adventures in Sex and Dating in St. Maarten
A Regular Column by Leslie Hickerson

I honestly thought the tactics used in this week’s story were a thing of the past. Surely we have moved on to more sophisticated and less time-consuming games?
A local girl named Jax has always been the same when it comes to dating. She doesn’t fool around with one-night stands or immature boys. Since she knows how people act on the island Jax has made it a habit to lay this out for men as soon as they start to date.
When Jax met Luuk she kept to her normal routine, telling him that she was happy to either date consistently or be friends and Luuk assured her that he was a serious guy (not one to play around). The couple started to date and take things slow. Over the next few months they went out several times, Luuk was always a gentleman and finally Jax decided she was happy to spend the night with him.
Cut to the next morning- Jax is woken by Luuk saying that it’s late and he has to be somewhere so they need to get moving. While Jax is getting ready, Luuk sits on the edge of the bed and starts with the old classic, “We need to talk.” He asks her to please make sure to not mention to anyone that they had slept together. When Jax asks why, he waffles around a bit saying, “it’s no one’s business.” Blahblablah.
Then he tries to throw in an off-hand comment about a friend coming to visit the island.
Jax tells him that is fine and she is happy his friend is coming, wondering- has he mentioned them before? Turns out not, because this isn’t just any old friend- this is an ex-girlfriend. A little weird but no big deal. So, they part ways and over the next few days he goes MIA.
By this point Jax has realized this guy was just playing the long game and she made a mistake trusting him, but she was still surprised by what trash he turned out to be.
After about a week of his ‘friend’ arriving, Jax saw on social media that Luuk had proposed to his ‘ex’-girlfriend while she was visiting.
Poor girl, we hope she found out before it was too late that he was not the guy for her!!
Sudoku Puzzles

Try your skills on our Sudoku. Ranging from easy to difficult, giving you the opportunity to see if you are a puzzle master.

Need help or want to see if you got it correct? Find the Sudoku solutions on Page 22. Good Luck!

Easy

Medium

Difficult
SXM Festival Renews Sponsorship with CC1 to Deliver Favorite Drinks to Festival Goers

CC1 St. Maarten is the exclusive distributor of Coca-Cola products on the island; which also happens to be the number one beverage in the world. CC1 proudly extended a partnership to SXM Festival in 2017 providing Corona, Tito’s Handmade Vodka and Patron Tequila to be available for sale throughout the SXM Festival weekend.

These iconic adult beverages happen to fit within the identity of the SXM Festival, and were chosen specifically for these reasons. Here is why Corona, Tito’s and Patron will be on the menu at the weekend festivities.

Corona is a brand synonymous with the beach. It exists to inspire the world to disconnect from their daily routines and drift off into a dreamland filled with sunshine and sand. As a brand that celebrates all life outdoors and calls the beach home, connecting with SXM Festival was the perfect partnership of embodying the lifestyle of the Corona name.

This year, Tito’s Vodka spreads the love with its Tito’s Mule as part of the “Love, Tito’s” program. The goal: turn spirits into love and goodness; find your passion, and get involved. Part of the proceeds from purchases at SXM Festival will be donated to the St. Maarten charity, Be the Change. Look for the Tito’s Mule on the menu.

Patron Spirits has set out to craft the highest quality of spirits in the world, since inception in 1989. Taste is of the utmost importance, but they are also committed to quality. Patron looks forward to providing excellent tasting and crafted tequilas to SXM Festival goers.

1 LIVE!

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Businessman, Musician, Storyteller
Renaissance Man Don Clayton talks to Chris Morvan

Hands up everyone who originally wanted to be a pop star. Yep, me too. The world is full of us. But unfortunately, in the vast majority of cases it isn’t meant to be, and so we reluctantly drift into some other area and the guitar stays in its case under the bed for years on end while we get on with making a living.

However, it doesn’t have to be just one or the other: some people make a success of both.

Take Don Clayton, for instance. A well-known figure in business circles in St. Maarten, Don is a former owner of The Atrium Resort in Simpson Bay and still owns a penthouse apartment there. But he is also a musician whose passion is for writing songs, and he has enjoyed considerable success over the years, without becoming a household name.

So, does he consider himself a businessman or a musician?

“..."In my heart I’m 100% a musician," he says as we sit in his eyrie, with the blue umbrellas of Kim Sha beach lined up like an orderly flower bed down below and the Caribbean stretching into the distance. “But I also have to be a businessman to support the habit.”

The “habit” he refers to is his music.

Always a pragmatic person, Don told himself in his idealistic twenties that if he hadn’t made it big as a singer and songwriter by the time he was 30, he would make his fortune some other way.

He duly began to find his feet in the world of resorts, timeshares etc, in the US and the Caribbean and simultaneously graduated from writing advertising jingles to producing albums of his own songs.

Born in Florida although he has spent more time in North Carolina, Don says his family is very much from the Deep South. As a young child, he began playing harmonica before taking piano lessons, but he preferred, and still prefers, to play by ear and, having long since switched to guitar, that’s how does it. However, being a member of a marching band, he studied music at university and gained a degree in Music Education with the aim of being a band’s Music Director – although that never actually happened. Instead he found himself writing the aforementioned advertising jingles, the sheer variety of which is a discipline in itself.

As for influences, Don is vague and detailed at the same time, mentioning the southern rock of his youth (Lynyrd Skynyrd, Allman Brothers) along with Hank Williams, Led Zeppelin and Johann Sebastian Bach. He doesn’t even subscribe to the view that his music should be called country, although to these ears there is an unmistakable element of that.

As we speak, Don is about to release his latest project, a music video called Smooth Sailing, which was filmed here just before Irma in 2017. The song is aimed at the sailing crowd as they settle down for their “sundowner” cocktails as the day cools a little and everyone relaxes.

He is also bubbling about the success of Pray Me Over, winner of Best International Music Video at the London International Short Film Festival.

And then there’s It’s Like Valentine’s Day, which has been played extensively on the radio in St Maarten, particularly Island 92, where DJ Dr Soc has been prevailed upon to give it an airing, even though, Don says, “He’s not a Valentine’s kind of guy.”

Don Clayton, though, is not just a Valentine’s kind of guy, devoted to wife Alexandra, he’s a multi-faceted guy who has achieved success in some very different spheres. But the word he seems to value most refers to his songwriting: he’s a storyteller. Check him out at: www.donclaytonmusic.com
This Saturday March 16, Jimmy Lucero will be repeating his stellar performance at Nocorart Studio, providing a live portrait demonstration from 5 PM to 8 PM. The experience was well-attended on the first go-around and it is sure to be a hit success this weekend.

Sharing his passion for the arts, Jimmy Lucero is a St. Maarten resident, hailing originally from Santa Barbara, California (a stone’s throw away from my hometown in Ventura County, California). A naturally gifted artist, Jimmy was studying oil painting by the age of 10.

In college, Jimmy was interested in Mexican Muralists and in figure drawing. During this time, Jimmy volunteered and taught mural painting at La Casa De La Raza, a center for Latino youth. He had no idea that thirty years later, he would be doing similar mural paintings with youths on the island of St. Maarten at the American University of the Caribbean (AUC).

During those thirty years, Jimmy obtained a B.S. in Biology, worked in science labs at UC Davis and Stanford University, got married and had two children. Jimmy obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in June of 2001 at the University of Utah. He taught painting and drawing at both the University of Utah and Westminster College. Jimmy is painting full time in St. Maarten. He grew into his present role as a social activist during the 18 months he spent researching immigration issues and producing 16 pieces for his controversial show entitled “La Migra” which focused on the plight of undocumented workers, their families, and the construction of the wall between the US and Mexico.

Since moving to St. Maarten in December of 2012, Jimmy has begun a series of paintings depicting the immigrant workers on the island. “I choose to give voice to the people who have none and to help people see those who invisibly work among us,” he proudly says.

Jimmy currently has an exhibition called “The Wave” at Axum Café on Front Street in Philipsburg that will continue through April. Through his work with AUC, Jimmy became involved with the Player Development Program in Philipsburg and wants to support it through a fundraiser this weekend.

At the event, tickets will be sold for $50 as a fundraiser to support Player Development, a charitable organization in Philipsburg under the direction of Coach Tom that provides reading, tutoring and baseball for children. If your name is chosen, you will get the opportunity to sit for your very own portrait painting - and yes, you get to keep it.

So, who is Coach Tom? Arriving on the island in 1989 from the United States after buying into Trade Winds Dive Center, in the then Great Bay Marina, Coach Tom operated the establishment from the 1990s into 2000s. It was the only dive shop on the island with a perfect safety record. After more than a decade of spending hours underwater every day, he got out of the scuba business and devoted his energies to more land-based work.

Armed with a degree in journalism from Rutgers University, he began working at St. Maarten’s The Daily Herald as the Sports Reporter in 2002, where he met many coaches, both volunteer and professional, especially those in the Little League and the Pony League baseball associations. He ‘caught the bug’ right away.

Coach Tom started Player Development in 2002. This organization provides a safe environment where children can have fun and after reading, doing homework and activities as well as play baseball.

To attend the event or for more information, please see their ad on page 11.
Crossword Puzzle Solution

Sudoku Solutions:

Easy

Medium

Difficult

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