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Vol. 2, #1108 --- Monday, 7/31/2017
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source
of Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book
to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address.
For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#)
at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' **St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News**, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). **You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by nearly 300,000 people around the world...**

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in.

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

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- **Maho Beachgoer Throws Ball at Aircraft**
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- **If It Happens, Airport Traffic Rerouting Will Take Time**
- **Alegria's Ray Sidhom Demolishes "Back Pool," -- W/O Notifying Timeshare Owners?**
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- **255-million-Euro Marigot Revitalization Project "On Track"**
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- Enter Our Prime Summertime SXM Giveaway
- Traveling This Fall? How To "Beat" SkyMed's 90-day Pre-Existing Conditions Exclusion
- SkyMed's 10-Year Price Guarantee on Five-Year Ultimate Memberships
- Enter Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway
- Guaranteed Lowest Rates for Car Rentals & Hotels Worldwide
- A Great Villa Vacation That's Within Your Reach

=====**Last Call for Our "Prime" JMB Membership Sale - 300+ SXM Discounts**=====

25 news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete [Table of Contents](#)

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 12/23/2017 1/6/2018 51 & 52 Royal Islander Club La Plage 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom sleeps 4 maximum. Beach front property with gorgeous view of large swimming pool & world famous Maho Beach. Located in the Maho complex with numerous quality restaurants, food store, night clubs, casino & retail stores within 5 minutes walking distance. Rental car not necessary as local bus makes frequent stops in front of complex. Govt. \$50 per week occupancy tax must be paid when checking out. edmisiph@comcast.net \$1,400 per week Ed -- 781-953-6799 edmisiph@comcast.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/19/2018 1/26/2018 Week 3 Royal Palm Beach Resort Oceanfront - Two Bedroom/two bath condo with oceanfront terrace. 4th floor away from the noisy pool area and bridge. King size beds with flat screens plus sofa bed and flat screen in living room Sleeps 6. Oceanfront and see the bay from the second bedroom Renovated bathroom and kitchen set up for eating in and cooking. Gym, free wifi, restaurant, shopping on the property. A short walk to the bigger market and many restaurants. We own this week, not points so you are guaranteed to get Week 3 at Royal Palm every year or you can use your 7,000 points and swap it to go somewhere else for a vacation but you own the week. This is the best of all worlds. \$3,500.00 Jane 203-733-2272 yessinj@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents.](#)

This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Facebook Site:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive:list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

www.linkedin.com

Get a growing group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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See "**Pearl of China**" Story, #11

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 12/31/14)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret

B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)
(Revised 12/31/14)

How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 230+** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a total of a growing list of 200+ additional major travel benefits, including reduced-cost access to

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 260+ benefits... and more coming soon.

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. Storminess May Jump Bigtime Starting Next Week

As we mentioned last week, meteorologist Rob Lightbown of [Crown Weather](#) has been saying that hurricane activity will pick up markedly starting in roughly another week. He's not saying that simply because we're moving into August and hurricane activity typically does get busier during August... He's saying that because the *Madden Julian oscillation* is telling him it's going to happen.

The Madden *who*?

Quickly . . . our interpretation of the Madden Julian oscillation is it's something like a whip circling the earth near the equator. Weather conditions conducive to storm development migrate along the whip. Last week, storm conditions were perfect for the genesis of hurricanes in the Eastern Pacific, and typhoons in the Western Pacific. Now, those same conditions are migrating Eastward into the tropical Atlantic because of this "oscillation." When that happens, watch out.

Already, storms are building over Africa and are moving East to West. Once they hit Africa's west coast, the Madden Julian oscillation — within the next week or so — will give them much better conditions in which to grow. In lay terms, according to our own understanding, we've just explained what's coming — something which Rob Lightbown expressed far more eloquently and scientifically to his subscribers over the last couple of weeks.

Bottom line, storminess should start popping a week or so from now in the tropical Atlantic. If you live in an area which gets hit by hurricanes — whether it's St. Maarten, Florida, the US Gulf Coast, or any part of the US East Coast from the keys to the northern tip of Maine — be sure your hurricane preparedness is now at its zenith.

Even more important, we urge you to spend the very short sum to subscribe to Crown Weather's remarkably inexpensive but critically important hurricane heads-up mailings. They offer the best guidance we've found about what hurricanes are going to do, where, and when, with a greater degree of accuracy than we have found from others. If you could possibly be in the path of a storm, his words could be extremely important to you.

See [Crown Weather](#) for more info.

2. Maho Beachgoer Throws Ball at Aircraft

Photographic evidence is hard to deny.

This past week, an individual was seen at Maho beach throwing a ball at a low Boeing 767 widebody jet freighter of Amerijet airlines. Police are seeking the individual, but as far as we know they have not yet found him.

Pictures of the incident were quickly posted on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#).

A number of years ago, a Canadian threw a football at an arriving passenger plane. Seeing him, the pilot radioed the tower which contacted police who arrived, arrested him, fined him, and deported him to Canada -- never to return.

It is illegal and dangerous to throw anything at any airplane. Hopefully this individual will soon be caught, tried, convicted, and sentenced.

More is [here](#).

3. Where Have The Megayachts Gone?

Megayachts have a winter home in St. Maarten. But when summer comes and hurricane season ramps up, they take off.

Although megayachts carry insurance against damage from serious tropical weather, that insurance excludes exposing the ships to hurricanes and tropical storms at the height of hurricane season. So, as the season progresses, megayachts take off.

If weather allows, some start to return toward the latter half of November. But if the season is busy, expect them to return later, when things calm down.

4. "Today's SXM Weather" & Four Sources of Current SXM Weather Info

Check our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) each day for daily weather updates. You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops.
- 3) Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

See significant National Hurricane Center Outlooks and Advisories as they relate both to SXM and to the US East and Gulf coasts on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

5. **Guaranteed** Lowest Rates for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals Worldwide

SkyMed Travel offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations. You can't lose with this, so read this article, sign up free and make your travel reservations directly through *SkyMed Travel*.

What it Is - How to Join (free for Our Readers & JMB Members):

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 110% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for **Weekly News** readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. ***If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number here to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.***

You won't be disappointed.

Changing Your Email Address?

Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email and Sign Up Your New One for your SXM Weekly News subscription Quickly and Easily at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc.

6. A Great Villa Vacation That's Truly Within Reach...

In a special mailing to all JMB Website Supporters members a couple of months ago, they were notified in detail of the special low JMB members-only rates now available for stays at Villa Onyi in Point Blanche through April, 2018.

If you are a JMB Website Supporters member and didn't receive the mailing, go [here](#) to get a copy of the rates PDF. Your username and password are not required for this download. Again, prices apply to JMB Website Supporters members exclusively and are not available to the general public. *If you're still not a member, see the story at the beginning of the next section and join now. Our Prime Summertime Sale ends Monday 7/31/17.*

Villa Onyi is the hilltop villa in Point Blanche with stunning views of the Caribbean and of St. Barths, St. Kitts, and Nevis in the distance, affording residents and guests unmatched serenity and spectacular views of the Heineken Regatta and other Regattas both in St. Maarten and in St. Barths. It is an ultra-luxurious two-bedroom, two-bathroom villa with its own private pool and full gourmet kitchen. It's quite gorgeous inside and out and loaded with amenities. See much more [here](#) and [here](#).

To contact the owner's representative, use these numbers: 1-721-524-7503 or 580-8909 or 1-721-553-1404. Or email them at onyinyechi.llc@gmail.com. Have your current, active JMB Website Supporters Membership Card

ready.

**Your Business
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.**
We do them: www.websitesthatworkusa.com

7. Go To Simpson Bay Resort's Owner Orientations

Simpson Bay timeshare owners should sit in on the Monday orientations there. Not only is the pastry delicious, but a surprise mystery guest will be there (in person or by video) and you might want to hear what he has to say and take a free brochure with you.

8. Reserve Extra Vacation Days Easily On Our Site

In addition to offering hundreds of timeshare weeks for sale and for rent, the Timeshare page of our EverythingSXM.com website offers direct links to sources of additional days for timeshare renters.

In an increasing number of cases, people wish to fly midweek — or, in fact, any day but Saturday or Sunday, when the airport can be a bit hectic. Before buying fares for midweek travel — which are almost always lower in cost than weekend travel — timeshare owners may also need to reserve a few days at other resorts.

On our Timeshare page on everythingxsm.com, we now have links to daily rentals at Simpson Bay Resort, which offers a number of beautiful, newly renovated units through much of the year in convenient Simpson Bay. For those who prefer a smaller property, we also provide easy links to Baker's Suites in Simpson Bay which also just finished renovations. Simpson Bay Resort has restaurants on site and beaches on the property, while Baker's Suites has many restaurants nearby and is within walking distance of attractive beaches.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

9. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

This section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB.

We now offer about 300 discounts (including those now being rolled out). We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value. Please check this section in the coming weeks when we roll out many entirely new discounts and benefits.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, click the links in the next article. Our PRIME Summertime Membership Sale ends 7/31; see below for info.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

Ends Monday July 31

Our "Prime Summertime" JMB SXM Island Discount Program Sale

MUST END Monday 7/31/17 ***

About 300 SXM discounts & benefits. Learn lots more by clicking the links below.

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

10. SXM Weekly News Has Changed...

For those who missed it the last few of weeks...

Three weeks ago we debuted a new format for *SXM Weekly News*. Here's what's new:

-- We've switched to the first in a series of new mastheads, reflecting some of the most breathtaking scenes on SXM.

-- Each newsletter section has been renamed to include all the types of news it covers. You'll find the new names both in the Table of Contents and atop each newsletter section.

-- All news is in the first several stories in each section, getting the priority it deserves. Island features follow, then regular stories like "Restaurant of the Week." Features will appear as space allows; we hope to have two in most issues. This change should enable you to find stories you seek faster and more easily in every *SXM Weekly News* issue.

-- Sponsor stories, delivering information of value to all readers, will usually be limited to two per issue. As you may know, SkyMed is our chief sponsor. SkyMed members "get home free" when they become critically ill or injured when traveling. *The story about SkyMed shows you why what they do is so important to you and your family.*

-- After 40 years of spending time on SXM, we know a ton of useful stuff about the island -- way more than we can put here or on our site, everythingxsm.com. So we developed our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#) which enables you to ask questions in real time, get or give answers, post pictures, and much more. *Even if you have never been interested in Facebook, this site will make it highly worthwhile.*

-- Your JMB Website Supporters membership makes this newsletter possible. If you're not a member, please join today. See what you get by clicking below:

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
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JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Hear Jeff Live On Island 92 Radio (91.9 FM or
www.island92.com)
Now Every Monday
Between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m. Island Time;
(same as EDT)

11. Pearl of China May Wind Up on Bel Air Beach -- Sort of

This story is getting about as confused as the floor of a puzzle factory after an earthquake. The latest: part of it may wind up on Bel Air beach after all.

Pearl of China, a 776-unit cinder-block shaped apartment monolith with roughly 200 hotel rooms, did not meet the requirements of the purchase and sale agreement for what could be built on Bel Air beach.

The government tried to figure out where to put the development next. But not everyone is jubilant about having this behemoth in their back yard, especially since its occupants appear most likely to be traveling sales people from China -- not tourists who support SXM's economy. There was supposed to be a small "showroom" -- but apparently nothing resembling a conference center or real convention facilities, which SXM truly needs.

The first place the government talked about putting the behemoth was on Mullet Bay beach, one of the most popular beaches for island locals. That went over like a lead balloon. Then some people on the development team apparently leaked, on purpose, that they were talking to Sudi Ozkan, the Turkish billionaire who owns the undeveloped property between Ocean Club and Shore Pointe condominiums overlooking Cupecoy beach. They apparently wanted people to think that Cupecoy was a potential site for their hotel. We made several phone calls to confirm this and were unsuccessful.

Now they're saying the project might be broken up, with part of it staying on Bel Air beach and part of it going elsewhere.

Construction was originally slated to begin a few months ago, but nobody has any idea at this point when "Pearl" may be built. Many are rallying against it.

We'll keep you posted, as always. More is [here](#).

SXM Weekly News
Depends on
JMB Memberships
To keep on publishing ...

Help us continue to bring you
all the SXM news of interest to Tourists.

Sale must end this Monday, July 31, 2017.

* * * * *

Please join JMB today & Benefit from Hundreds of Island Discounts:

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

12. If It Happens, Airport Traffic Rerouting Will Take Time

Dutch side government officials continue to talk about the need to do something to "protect people from themselves" — specifically people who hold onto the fence at Princess Juliana airport as planes rev up and take off not nearby.

A vacationer from New Zealand was killed recently at the airport when 100 mile-per-hour jet exhaust flung her away from the fence and slammed her into cement in the road.

Although millions of people have been watching planes over the years, causing thousands of minor injuries and some major injuries, this was the first death at the site — compared with many drownings over the years at island beaches which have no lifeguards.

Overwhelmingly, the sentiment on the island is to leave things alone and hope common sense prevails.

Instead, the government is apparently focusing on building a road *on Simpson Bay Beach* along the southern side of the airport runway apparently where the Karakter Beach Bar is now located. The road would connect the area near Bada Bing and Mary's Boon Beach Plantation with Beacon Hill, the residential area where Alegria resort, formerly Caravanserai, is the dominant feature.

Hundreds of residents live on Beacon Hill and for them, closing the road would be a huge inconvenience with dubious benefits. If some kind of permanent detour is to be made, closing the road near the beach, it may make it far more difficult for emergency crews to get to an aircraft accident short of the runway — not to mention fire and police and ambulance crews could be hampered in an effort to quickly get either to Maho beach or to Alegria and to Beacon Hill itself.

And of course, were a road to be built on the beach, it may well be washed away in a hurricane, stranding residents and tourists and making Beacon Hill access almost impossible for emergency crews.

To us, this alternative does not appear to be well thought out...

13. GEBE Strikes Again -- Literally

GEBE is the Dutch side's electric and water company — providing, when things work, water and electricity to businesses and residents.

But things don't always work, and in low season lights sometimes go out, often without warning and in some cases for hours. Water stops too, sometimes without warning and with no clear turn-on time.

Everyone, including the Dutch side government, roundly criticizes GEBE. Trouble is, the government owns GEBE. It

just doesn't seem to have the knack for getting it to operate properly.

Last week was a bad week for GEBE. Power went out over much of its service area, water stopped in some areas and GEBE seemed perplexed. Adding to the misery, some employees claiming unpleasant working conditions walked off the job at one point.

We don't blame them for GEBE's problems: outages and maintenance are management's responsibility.

Hopefully at some point the government will forcefully take control of its company and kick it into the 21st century.

The French side rarely has any power or water generation issues at all.

13a. Alegria's Ray Sidhom Demolishes "Back Pool" -- Allegedly Without Notifying Timeshare Owners

You may need to scroll down a bit on our [Everything SXM Facebook Site](#), but that's where you'll find a post of the demolished pool and related info. The posting alleges that Mr. Sidhom demolished the entire pool and did not tell litigating timeshare owners, who have a lien on the property *which we believe prohibits any changes*.

Our guess is that Mr. Sidhom may soon wind up in hot water in court in SXM.

We'll keep you posted.

See many examples of people who were traveling like you and unexpectedly / suddenly needed an emergency medical evacuation from SkyMed -- www.getskymed.com
You'll see exactly what SkyMed does and how it works.

14. How SXM Is Handling That Seaweed

Sargassum seaweed from the Sargasso Sea continues to wash up overnight on most East-facing beaches. The area that is less hard-hit on the island's East Coast is Club Orient, protected a bit by the reef.

On all widely used East-facing beaches near resorts and beach clubs, seaweed is picked up daily by mechanical devices or by people raking, or both.

On some areas of the beaches, seaweed is left in place and there, it tends to help the beach replenish itself. Where there are known nesting sites for endangered sea turtles — where hatchlings may emerge and head toward the ocean, the area is marked off and seaweed is mitigated to help expedite the trip of the hatchlings from nest to sea.

If you see any sea turtle activity, please stay away: doing anything else is illegal and counterproductive to the survival of the turtles. This is still their nesting season.

Thanks to favorable currents, the West side of the island is virtually unaffected by seaweed.

15. Update on Chikungunya, Zika, and Dengue Fever

Thanks to extensive mosquito eradication efforts, right now there is no significant issue with Chikungunya, Zika, or Dengue Fever on SXM.

The island continues to exhort its citizens to do everything possible to make sure mosquitoes are controlled. [See local coverage](#) here.

Meanwhile, Saba is doing some interesting. Look [here](#).

We'll keep you posted.

16. 255-million Euro Marigot Revitalization Project On Track, Officials Say

The French side government has been talking about a major revitalization program for downtown Marigot and its waterfront for years, but nothing visible indicates any progress in moving the project from concept to reality.

Nonetheless, the French Side government says everything is fine, the project continues to be of vital importance to the Collectivite, it's "on track" (whatever that means), and it will be accomplished in stages.

Here's [that story](#).

17. Now: Just \$59/month for SkyMed's Best Medevac Protection

How about SkyMed for \$59 a month for your family?

You probably know by now that SkyMed medical evacuation programs protect your pocketbook and your health when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. They protect your health because SkyMed takes you home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill while traveling. They protect your pocketbook by making it unnecessary for you to pay for a medical evacuation in cash in advance — which is the only way to get this level of protection without being a SkyMed member.

Those out-of-pocket costs are huge: upwards of \$45,000 in many cases, and often far more. Now, you can get a five year SkyMed Ultimate membership and pay for it monthly at just \$59 per month for your family, which makes it easily affordable to practically anyone (even retirees and AUC students).

Of course, if you prefer, you can prepay for five years at the sharply reduced rate of \$2495 for JMB Website Supporters members. When you apply, you can get a 10 year price guarantee as well simply by noting on the application that you want an automatic renewal. That's the equivalent of paying \$499 per year for 10 years — an extraordinary price guarantee in times that are tumultuous politically worldwide.

You can also pay the \$59 a month for a month or so then convert to the prepaid Ultimate membership to grab those prepayment savings. For more, call Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only). He can answer all your questions and help you get signed up.

Learn more at www.getskymed.com.

Your Business
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.
We do them: www.websitesthatworkusa.com

18. A Look Back at "Old" Restaurants: Story #33

Over the years, St. Maarten/St. Martin has been home to many restaurants of varying descriptions. This series briefly describes a number of restaurants from both sides of the island that have passed into history but have not left our memory.

Crocodile Cafe: Dutch St. Maarten's first and by far its largest timeshare resort was Pelican, later Pelican Resort Club and now totally renovated and under new ownership as Simpson Bay Resort. Years ago, Crocodile Café occupied what amounted to an extended deck that went around part of the Hollywood Casino building -- where Marco Ferrante's Isola Restaurant now is located (yes, the same Marco Ferrante who was Restaurant manager at IZI for years). At Crocodile, an experienced waitstaff served delicious breakfasts and lunches. The view was terrific and the food was quite good. The owners were the late Dr. Marvin Rich and Jean Rich, who also owned and operated Pelican Reef Restaurant which served lobster, delicious Argentinian beef, and much more.

Readers - What's Your Suggestion? We're looking for your suggestions about other restaurants; let us know your past-era SXM favorites so we can feature your complete reviews. Email your suggestions with detailed information please to susan@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Look Back." **Please be sure to include as many details as you can; you may well be the sole source of info for a future column.** Do check below first -- we've already featured over two dozen former SXM restaurants.

Check next week for another article about another former SXM restaurant.

Featured previously in this series (D=Dutch F= French):

- 1- West Indian Tavern D
- 2- Sam's Place D
- 3- Turtle Pier D
- 4- Scavenger's D
- 5- Surf Club South F
- 6- Laguna D
- 7- Le Perroquet D
- 8- Ric's Place D
- 9- La Raviolina F
- 10 - Da Livio D
- 11 - La Gondola D
- 12 - L'Alabama F
- 13 - Andy & Cheryl's F
- 14 - La Calanque F
- 15 - La Diva F
- 16 - Antoine D
- 17 - Sambuca D
- 18 - Peg Leg Pub & Steakhouse D
- 19 - Tutta Pasta D
- 20 - Wendy's (D)
- 21 - Risdon's Drive-In (D?)
- 22 - Dawn Beach Hotel Restaurant (D)
- 23 - Paradise Cafe (Contributed by Laurence Aiello) (D)
- 24 - Callaloo (D)
- 25 - Mario's Bistrot (Marigot) F (updated name and moved to Dutch Side, D)
- 26 - Pinocchio's (D)
- 27 - Cugini (French Side) (F)
- 28 - Zachary's (D)
- 29 - Sweet Tooth (D)
- 30 - Saratoga (D)
- 31 - Frigate (D)
- 32 - The Deli at Mullet Bay Beach Resort (D)
- 33 - Crocodile Cafe (D)

Note: You can read about all of these past restaurants by checking back issues of *SXM Weekly News* on our PDF archives page. A link to it is near the beginning of this issue.

19. Restaurant of the Week

For years, one of St. Maarten's busiest and largest restaurants has been Pierre Ferland's Pineapple Pete restaurant in the heart of Simpson Bay directly across the street from iZi Ristorante Italiano. Every evening, especially during high season, Pineapple Pete entertains hundreds of guests with a spectrum of delicious food. Gourmet it's not — but it's great home cooking, delicious from beginning to end, very reasonably priced, with high quality and talented, attentive service to boot. You just can't go wrong here. Probably the most popular single dish is their lobster thermidor: during high season it's not unusual to see a conga line of wait staff members exiting the kitchen to bring these big, delicious culinary treats to dozens of waiting patrons, while scores of others try the rest of their big menu.

Pineapple Pete has received our Everything SXM Award of Excellence every year since we began awarding them in 2013; in fact, you'll find them prominently displayed on the wall in their small original dining room. Definitely make Pineapple Pete one of your stops during your next SXM vacation.

The article we published about SXM's Top Seafood Restaurants is on its own page on our website — see a complete list of [top seafood restaurants here](#).

The article we published about SXM's Top Italian Restaurants is on its own page on our website -- see SXM's [top Italian restaurants here](#).

And we recently updated our SXM dining page on www.everythingsxm.com -- check it now, and again before you go.

Sill not a JMB member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see www.everythingsxm.com.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 5/1/17)
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/6/17)
Busby's Chicken Rotisserie (featured 6/5/17)
Isola Ristorante Italiano (featured 5/29/17)
Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/6/17; added 2/17)
Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 4/10/17)
Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 3/13/17
SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 7/17/17)
Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16)
Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 3/25/17)
La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/30/17; added 1/17)
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16)
Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 5/21/17)
The Boathouse, <https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777> 10/3/16
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16)
Stone Restaurant, www.thestonerestaurant.com (featured 9/2/14)
Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17)
Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)
Temptation, <http://www.temptation-sxm.com/> (featured 7/5/17)
Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 7/10/17)
Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/26/17)
Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 6/19/17)
Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/31/17)
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16)
Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path the turn near Shore Pointe to get there). (featured 4/17/2017)
FIG, Maho complex at Le Terasse
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17)
Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 1/9/17)
Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/27/17)
Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15)
Bylbos, Simpson Bay
Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 2/13/17)

20. Enter Our SXM Summertime Vacation Giveaway

Our Summertime SXM vacation giveaway is underway and you can now enter. *SXM Weekly News* readers (NOT pass-along readers) can enter up to 10 times per subscribed email address. The drawing will be late in October, 2017. Here is our current prize list. Since this giveaway promotes non high-season visits to SXM, most of these vacations are yours from mid April to mid December, 2018. All vacations are subject to availability.

- an 8-day, 7-night vacation at La Vista Resort, May through December 2018.
- a 5 night stay (based upon availability April 10-Dec 18, 2018) in an ocean front room at the Westin St Maarten Dawn Beach Resort, Spa, and Casino.
- a 4-day, 3-night stay at the beautiful Oyster Bay Beach Resort.
- Dinner for Two at Davide Foini's legendary IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay (One winner)
- Dinner for Two at Marco Ferrante's Isola Ristorante Italiano next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort. (One winner)
- Dinner for Two at Spiga, the highly acclaimed Italian Restaurant in Grand Case. (One winner.)

More may be coming.

Enter here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml

21. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. Most issues for the past few years are now online.

22. Traveling This Fall? "Beat" SkyMed's 90-day Pre-Existing Conditions Exclusion

On its annual and multiyear memberships, SkyMed, the medical evacuation membership company, has a 90 day exclusion on pre-existing conditions; after that, they're covered in full. To solve this issue, simply obtain your SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of the date your vacation begins. Jeff can answer all your SkyMed questions and can help you through the brief application process and even submit your application electronically. There is no upper age limit to apply, and pre-existing conditions should not deter you from applying either. Going to SXM or anywhere else in October, November, or December? See www.getskymed.com for more information or call Jeff directly weekdays during normal East Coast business hours at 508-747-8281. (SkyMed calls only.) You can learn more about SkyMed online as well at www.getskymed.com. Email jeff.berger@skymed.com.

23. Answers to Your SkyMed Medevac Questions

We've divided this article into a few sections. They are:

- About SkyMed
- Types of SkyMed Memberships
- Ten-Year Price Guarantee on New Five-Year "Ultimate" Memberships**
- Best Bang for the Buck
- JMB SkyMed Bonus
- Answers to a Frequently Asked Question
- See Many Examples of People Who've Needed Emergency Medical Evacuations and Were Taken Home by SkyMed: www.getskymed.com**
- Detailed Features of SkyMed Memberships & Detailed FAQ

-- Contact Jeff About SkyMed

About SkyMed:

What SkyMed Does: SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. *SkyMed is your free ticket home* aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with an ICU-certified medical attendant on board to help make sure everything goes as it should.

How SkyMed Works: Like clockwork, you're taken from the hospital by ambulance to a waiting aircraft at SkyMed's expense; SkyMed makes all the arrangements and pays all costs for the medical evacuation jet and for the ambulance at the destination which takes you to a waiting team at your destination hospital, which already has your medical records and is ready to start helping you. There are no co-pays, no reimbursements, and no deductibles for SkyMed services, ever. SkyMed arranges everything and pays for all the services it provides.

Anything can happen — but you can trust SkyMed to take you home when you need it most.

What's It Cost? *Without* SkyMed, you'll need \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance to pay for an emergency medical evacuation — if you can make the dozens of calls necessary to set it up in an emergency. SkyMed does all that for you, for a small membership fee; you simply make one phone call 24/7/365 to get things going.

Why Buy Now? We're offering SkyMed now at very special pricing *for JMB Website Supporters members only — but if you're a nonmember and care to join SkyMed now through us*, we'll enroll you in JMB Website Supporters at the same time (five-year SkyMed memberships only). This offer is available only by phone; email jeff.berger@skymed.com and give Jeff your phone number so he can call you. He'll be happy to answer your questions, tell you about the different types of programs available, and their respective costs. He'll also be happy to fill out your application for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership by phone and at the same time you can set up a JMB Website Supporters membership (required to get the biggest multiyear SkyMed discounts). Americans, Canadians, and ExPats only.

See www.getskymed.com or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com (use the subject "SkyMed inquiry") to learn more and get your questions answered.

Types of SkyMed Memberships:

First, short term memberships are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- over 30 countries total. Short-term memberships are very inexpensive, about \$9 per day per person, maximum of about \$15 per day per family. *The disadvantage is that they only cover you for the short term you are traveling: when they expire, your protection disappears, and when you're ready to travel again, you must reapply for a new short-term membership. The process is quick, but **you still must be medically approved** and at some point, that may be impossible. Bear in mind that many people travel more than once or twice a year, even if it's only a few hundred miles from home. We recommend annual or multiyear SkyMed memberships instead of short-term memberships when you make multiple trips because the cost is about equal. More important, **annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of changes in your health or advancing age. You do not want your protection to end just when you may need it most.***

Second, both annual and multiyear SkyMed memberships are essentially permanent coverage. Once you've been approved and as long as you continue to pay your membership fee on time, **your membership cannot be cancelled as a result of advancing age or declining health** — two critically important advantages that ensure you have coverage when you may need it most.

Third, Ultimate memberships cover multiple years and provide protection worldwide. The only exceptions are places like Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, North Korea — places you won't visit anyway. (Ask before going anywhere dangerous/unusual.) Ultimate memberships also offer the greatest breadth of coverage. You can see a complete list of all the features and benefits of these coverages [here](#).

Fourth, if you're an American or Canadian ex-pat living in St. Maarten / St. Martin or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SkyMed protection in the form of an **ex-pat** membership. Email us (see next paragraph) and we can tell you how it works and answer your questions.

In addition to everything else, Jeff Berger has been a SkyMed rep -- and now a SkyMed Ambassador -- for over 15 years. He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com. He generally returns messages within 24 hours, weekdays. To see [online frequently asked questions, go here](#). You can also see his SkyMed site at www.GetSkyMed.com.

JMB members get serious discounts on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. If you're not already a JMB member, join today and take advantage of those discounts.

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available.
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml>

Ten-Year Price Guarantee on New Five-Year "Ultimate" Memberships

SkyMed is now offering a remarkable 10 year price guarantee on its best memberships, the SkyMed five-year Ultimate. SkyMed ultimate memberships cost only \$499 per year when you pay for their full five year duration at inception. When applying, if you indicate on the application that you want to renew automatically, that renewal will be charged at the same \$499/year rate (prepaid for five years at \$2495) that you had paid *for the full five year new membership at its inception.* All SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable regardless of health or attained age: *this ten-year price guarantee is remarkable especially considering what you get: see the details [here](#).*

The best way to get your questions answered is to call Jeff directly on his SkyMed line, 508-747-8281. He can also take your application by phone and send it to SkyMed electronically. Most applications are processed within a few business days. Get it today, before you need it — make your next trip worry-free.

Best Bang for the Buck

SkyMed's biggest bang for the buck comes in its five year Ultimate memberships, which offer the broadest selection of benefits and features of any SkyMed membership as well as the lowest price per day of any membership — roughly \$1.30, or \$499 yearly total for your family when you pay for the five-year term at inception.

JMB SkyMed Bonus: Now, when you purchase a SkyMed five-year Ultimate through us either by phone or by visiting www.getskymed.com, notify us as soon as you receive SkyMed's letter of acceptance and we'll extend your current JMB membership by five full years on us. (JMB members only.) If you're not a JMB Website Supporters member, join now — the savings for our members on all Multiyear SkyMed memberships are very, very substantial.

Answers to a Frequently Asked Question:

What's the upper age limit to join SkyMed? There isn't any: apply today regardless of age.

What's the upper age limit to renew your existing SkyMed membership? *There isn't any.* Just pay your SkyMed renewal on time and your membership will continue regardless of your health or age at the time of your renewal. There is no membership cutoff for advancing age or declining health, unlike so-called competitive programs. *And the price of your renewal membership will not increase due to declining health or advancing age.* We know we repeat this... we do it for very good reason.

SkyMed Takes You Home® -- what else matters?

Detailed Features of SkyMed Memberships:

Read it for yourself: it beats every would-be competitor hands-down. Look:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2015SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

This is an Adobe Acrobat PDF Document. Your system most likely already has a PDF Reader (free) but if not you can get one here: [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

Contact Jeff About SkyMed:

He'll be happy to answer questions; email him at Jeff.Berger@SkyMed.com. He generally returns messages within 24 hours, weekdays. You can also phone him, about SkyMed only, at 508-747-8281 during normal business hours, Eastern time.

**Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership
and keep the current low price on a future 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... *same price.***

Ask Jeff for details -- see preceding article.

24. ... Plus The SkyMed JMB Membership Bonus -- and More Info...

When you join SkyMed through us with a five-year Ultimate membership (SkyMed's lowest cost per day but its most feature-rich medevac membership), notify JMB Website Supporters [at [support\[at\]jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support[at]jmbcommunications.com)] upon approval and we'll give you a five-year extension of your JMB Website Supporters membership on us. Got questions? Call Jeff at (508)-747-8281. SkyMed calls only, please.

Join today at www.getskymed.com.

***** LAST === CALL: *****

**Our "Prime Summertime"
JMB SXM Island Discount Program Sale**

***** MUST END Monday 7/31/17 *****

New JMB memberships: Three years, \$89; Five years, \$109 Sale Prices Other durations available.
http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Five years, \$109. Other durations available.
<http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Email Jeff now: jeff.berger@skymed.com

SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling, saving you upwards of \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance (if you aren't a SkyMed member) to set up an emergency medical evacuation yourself. Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it. Email us today.

SkyMed emails only. Visit www.getskymed.com.

*When applying at www.getskymed.com, you must approve an automatic 5-year renewal. When you do, your renewal will be at the same price you paid when buying your five-year Ultimate through us. Applies to new SkyMed 5-year Ultimate memberships purchased through us only.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 7/2017

See www.everythingsxm.com.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact **support@jmbcommunications.com**

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com** with the subject *Free Newsletter Recipient,* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

7/31/17 #V2-1107 7/28/17 6:00 pm 8.8

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