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Vol. 2, #1132 --- Christmas Day, 2017, 12/25/2017
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin

*****Merry Christmas*****



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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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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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 more than 300,000 people around the world...**

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



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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.

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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

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- **For US/Canadian Expats Living on SXM**
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- **Now: Just \$59/month* for SkyMed's Best Medevac Protection**

35 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://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.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 8/18/2018 9/1/2018 Week 33, 34 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Deluxe two bedroom (sleeps 6) beach front penthouse suite with fully equipped kitchen. Corner unit in the Flamboyant building overlooking the ocean. Newly renovated, two bedroom suites have two independent bedrooms with ceiling fans and air-conditioning and two additional murphy beds. Expansive living and dining area with full kitchen. Unit has two private bathrooms. Walk out the front door and you are directly on the beach. Marina pool and bar are only a few steps away as is on property resort dining. Minutes from Princess Juliana airport. Available weeks run back to back. \$1500 per week Frank 516 425 6714 f1leichtle@optonline.net

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/17/2018 2/24/2018 7 The Towers at Mullet Bay A beautiful 4 star Crown resort located between Maho and Cupecoy. Fifth floor, 1 bedroom suite, sleeps 4. Fully equipped kitchen, living and dining areas, balcony with 2 chaises and breakfast table (2 chairs) overlooking the Caribbean Sea., Mullet Bay beach and the golf course. Immaculate unit, grounds, pool and pool bar. Very short walk to Mullet Bay beach and the only golf course on the island. \$6,000 Bev 203-966-2670 bev2ab@yahoo.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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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How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 300+** 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 growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

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

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. 10,000 Cruise Passengers Due Today / Tomorrow

Cruise ship travel to St. Maarten is surging as the Dutch side of the island continues to recover faster than expected from hurricane Irma.

Today and tomorrow, Christmas Day and Boxing Day on the island, will see an expected 10,000 passengers visiting SXM. Here's [the full story](#).

2. SXM Airport Open, w/ Arrivals / Departures; Terminal Closed

There seems to be some confusion among tourists contemplating a return to the island about the status of SXM Airport.

The airport is open, capable of handling arrivals and departures during the day and at night. The roof of its main terminal building was seriously compromised by hurricane Irma, which had sustained winds of 185 mph with recorded gusts up to 240 mph. When hurricane Maria brushed the island not too many days later, it dumped lots of rain through open roofs, causing even more damage including mold.

At SXM Airport, that has necessitated internal demolition which is now underway. Temporary tents were put up to handle arrivals and departures after the airport reopened at the beginning of October. Those tents were capable of handling the limited flight operations that were taking place at that time.

Now, flights frequencies are increasing and, particularly on weekends, the small tents are overwhelmed. Consequently SXM Airport has started to erect to new, much larger temporary structures to handle arrivals and departures until the main terminal reopens, which is tentatively scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2018. Photography of the inside of the main airport terminal, which is off limits to passengers, was posted on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) on Sunday afternoon, as were photographs of steel beams for the temporary new structure now being erected. For more, continue to follow *SXM Weekly News* and see more information in our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

3. Crowds, Confusion at Airport Saturday Before XMas

Late Saturday afternoon was not a fun time for departing passengers at SXM Airport. Here are comments from Andy F, who left very late on Saturday and who advises no one else to do the same:

"Air France came with the 350. Caribbean came with a 330 and a 737. American with a fully loaded 737. PAWA had two here simultaneously. All on the ground at the same time. Departures was overloaded. Three hours from arrival at the airport to Immigration. We're still on the tarmac and should have left an hour ago."

See story 2; relief is coming.

4. Supersonic Jet Coming?

When Concorde supersonic jets stopped flying with British Airways and Air France, supersonic commercial air transport was moribund. That may all be changing, with heavy research underway moving toward development of a new supersonic passenger jet which would transport well-heeled passengers. Proof of concept appears to be coming with a smaller supersonic business jet and our guess is that ultimately, both of these could wind up visiting SXM under private ownership or as charters. We'll see. Here's [the story](#).

5. Weather Center Upgraded: Get Current SXM Weather Info

Last week, we upgraded the Weather Center on everythingSXM.com, preparing it for the 2018 hurricane season and anything that may happen out of season this winter.

As you may remember, early in 2017 a tropical storm formed in the central Atlantic well before the official start of the 2017 hurricane season. Our Weather Center always has up-to-date conditions on the island in detail. To use it, go to everythingSXM.com and click Weather.

6. Sources of Current SXM Weather Info

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 and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 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. They were knocked off the air by Irma but are now back.

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

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

7. Thinking About Family? This Is The Week To Get SkyMed Peace-of-Mind

SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Exclusively for Americans and Canadians, basic SkyMed coverage protects you throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage (via Global Emergency Transport Services, or GETS) is standard on all "Ultimate" memberships and an inexpensive option on basic memberships.

Without SkyMed, you will have to pay upwards of \$35,000 to \$50,000 or possibly much more **in cash, in advance**, to set up an emergency medical evacuation home if you know who to call and what to ask in a huge emergency. But with SkyMed, you make one toll-free call to SkyMed 24/7/365 and SkyMed makes all the arrangements related to the medical evacuation and pays for all its services. No deductibles, no claim forms, no reimbursements necessary.

It's like fire insurance -- get it before you need it. Call Jeff at his office (Eastern Time, regular office hours) 508-747-8281 or email him at jeff@jmbcommunications.com and he'll be happy to answer all your questions.

Double Bonus in effect only until 12/31/17:
Big, All-New SkyMed Double Bonus Available Thru 12/31

Buying a new annual or multiyear SkyMed medical evacuation membership, or upgrading an annual membership to a multiyear Ultimate? This news will make you happy that you waited:

An all new SkyMed double bonus is available through www.getskymed.com or by calling Jeff when you buy a new SkyMed membership from us -- or upgrade to a multiyear SkyMed membership from an annual membership you bought from us.

The Double SkyMed bonus is simple. Once you've bought or upgraded your SkyMed membership through us, you forward to us by email your SkyMed acceptance email. (Use the subject "SkyMed Bonus".) Once we verify it, we extend your JMB Website Supporters membership by the same number of years as you purchased coverage from SkyMed.

Now, with the double SkyMed bonus, we will also give you a certificate good for a \$25 discount on a future JMB Website Supporters membership renewal. The certificate is valid for two years from the date of issue. That's in addition to the years extension: That's quite a double bonus.

The double bonus offer comes only with SkyMed memberships purchased from us through 12/31/17. See story 24 in this issue for much more on SkyMed.

8. **Guaranteed Lowest Rates** for Hotel Rooms & Car Rentals **Around The World**

SkyMed Travel offers you a 110% Lowest Rate Guarantee for both hotel and car rental reservations worldwide. 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.

9. Evacuees: Where to Recover Your Missing Luggage (Repeat)

Read this, regardless of the resort you were evacuated from after Irma:

"Simpson Bay Resort (SBR) was contacted by the US State Department to let SBR know there were a bunch of bags held in 'a secure area' at the airport. We had been previously advised that all of the bags left at the airport had been donated already, and that none were left, but apparently they just lost track of them for a little while. Anyway, Trinity Houston went to the Airport to retrieve luggage for SBR members, but it turned out there were hundreds of bags there that had been left behind by people from all over the island.

"On her own time, without pay, she took it upon herself to sort through the bags that are held in an area without air conditioning (and with a bunch of standing water, mosquitoes, etc.) and tracked down every single person she could find to arrange for their bags to be sent back to them (if they wanted the bag back; some people donated them). She did this for everyone, whether they were Simpson Bay Resort members or not...."

Got questions? Contact Trinity via Facebook.

More about reclaiming your luggage left in SXM is on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) in the Files area.

10. About Winter Fares; Summer Fares Dropping

Current fares to SXM are high because of low supply and high demand. Increased flights from some non-US carriers are crowding the currently limited arrival and departure facilities in SXM, particularly on weekends. The lack of thousands of hotel and timeshare rooms still limits the island's ability to accommodate more visitors, though that will start to change in about a month when timeshare resorts start to come back online. So... between February 1 and March 1 the number of flights from the US, and perhaps Canada, should increase. Hopefully prices will moderate.

Meanwhile, early fares for next summer appear to be lower than in quite some time. For several months, we've been

saying how great summer travel is to the island particularly in June, July, and early August. The island is relatively quiet, the weather is gorgeous, prices are low, and there are no significant crowds. See our story (#33) about our summertime giveaway which you can still enter.

The big news here, of course, is those fares; check them out. Some are under \$400 round trip from key US gateways.

[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.

11. Susan Heller, Former Belair Beach Director, Passes Away

This message is from Belair Beach Hotel:

"The Belair Beach Hotel regrettably announces the passing of our dear family member Susan Heller. The former Director of Belair Beach Hotel became a part of the hotel's family in 1989 as Head administrator working under Mr. Jerry Rosen in timeshares and sales. She eventually became the director of Belair in 1996, a position that she held until November 2017. During her time here at Belair Susan held several key positions on various boards such as the US Navy League, The St. Maarten Yacht Club and the St. Maarten Timeshare Association. Her love for helping her community of St. Maarten through service was only over-shadowed by her love for children and animals. Susan will be dearly missed by our staff, their family members and guests who have learned to call her Grandma, Mom, Sister and friend. We wish the family and friends of Susan much strength and comfort during this difficult time and know that we are truly grateful that she was a wonderful part of our lives. May her legacy live on in the hearts and minds of all those who she touched in so many amazing ways."

Ms. Heller had only recently retired from Belair Beach. If you wish to send messages of condolence to her family, please address them to Jeffrey "Dr. Soc" Sochrin, Island 92 Radio, 64 Welfare Rd., FedEx Building, 2nd Floor, Cole Bay, St. Maarten, Dutch Caribbean, SX. Please use +1721-544-3377 if you need a phone number for overnight mail service.

12. Flamingo, Royal Palm Likely To Be Closed Through 2019

Although a significant number of SXM timeshare resorts will be coming back online during the first quarter of 2018, nonetheless some others won't be back quite so fast.

Currently, both Flamingo resort and Royal Palm resort are not expected to be back online anytime before late 2019. Both are operated by Diamond Resorts. The future of Ocean Club remains unclear, although Eric, its owner, has pledged to rebuild. That resort suffered extreme damage from Irma.

As previously announced, Summit Resort Hotel was completely destroyed by Irma and has closed permanently. To the best of our knowledge, all other resorts are working to reopen as quickly as possible. Much more information is in

the FILES area of our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

13. SXM Villa Rentals

Lots more has been added and hundreds of villas are now becoming available. Fly with friends or extended family for outstanding rates. See [our Villa page](#) for info.

14. SXM Timeshare Rentals

With several timeshare resorts coming back online soon — first Sapphire Beach Resort and Atrium Resort early in 2018, with others soon to follow -- timeshare owners are now posting units available for rent on our timeshare rental site on everythingSXM.com. Check it out.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

15. "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 months as we restart rolling out a number of entirely new discounts and benefits.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

DON'T MISS IT!

LAST CHANCE!

HOLIDAY SALE MUST END

NEXT TUESDAY JAN. 2 2018

**Get About 300 SXM Discounts
& Many Other Benefits Through Our Exclusive
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**

Join, Renew, or Reinstate Now - Don't Wait:

New JMB memberships: One year \$29; Two, \$49; Our Best Offer: Five years just \$99

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Two years, \$39; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$89

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the **Membership Renewal Center**

JMB Membership Reinstatements:

Two years, \$39; Our Best Offer: Five Years just \$89

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

In Addition To Those 300 Discounts
& Other Benefits,
Your JMB Membership
helps keep

SXM Weekly News
Publishing for You,

Every Week!
Please Join Today!

16. Christmas Eve Earthquake, 5.2

For people on St. Maarten, Anguilla, St. Barts, and St. Kitts, late Sunday morning was a bit unsettling as a 5.2 earthquake rocked the area. Most felt the shaking, but some who were outside didn't notice it. There was no confirmed damage and no tidal wave, even though the tremor was centered roughly 17 miles east of SXM. Tremors are not infrequently felt in SXM, though this one was a bit stronger than many.

We always keep an eye on this and of course we'll keep you posted. News about quakes goes out instantly on our

[Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site.](#)

17. Quit Freezing: How To Go To SXM Now

We know that the temperatures in the Northeast US this week will feature lows near zero Fahrenheit and highs in the teens — with wind chills below zero or well below zero.

We know a storm is expected to hit the Northeast Christmas Eve night and during the morning of Christmas day. And another, potentially bigger storm may affect much of the country a week from now, to welcome the new year.

Since the average daytime temperature in St. Maarten at this time of year is about 82, with nighttime temperatures plunging to a bone-chilling 76 or 77, the only ice you're going to find in SXM is in your drinks.

Even though winter just began last Thursday, if you really want to come to St. Maarten (and can bank your timeshare week for some point when you can use it in SXM), you *can* get down here. Although it's not open for timeshare owners thanks to a lack of usual vacation amenities, Simpson Bay Resort nonetheless is open and it's available for reservations right now; you just have to sign a paper agreeing that you understand that services are limited.

If you're already tired of the cold, go to our site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals. Mixed in with our 2018 listings you will find links enabling you to make reservations at Simpson Bay resort. You can use those links or call the resort directly to make reservations. Although you won't be able to ask for specific rooms you can ask for specific types of rooms that are available. There are plenty of rooms, car rentals are available, and lots of restaurants are open now both in Simpson Bay and several in Grand Case.

The number of flights to SXM is increasing too. Why freeze?

18. Back to Normal; GEBE's First Huge Post-Irma Blackout

It's official: SXM is back to normal.

How can we tell? GEBE, the Dutch side's electricity and water company, traditionally has Dutch side-wide blackouts during December. This season's first Dutch side-wide blackout occurred earlier this week and within the usual number of hours it was blamed on something obscure and the lights came back on.

There were complaints about a year ago that Dutch side SXM's electricity generation reliability was somewhere in the same neighborhood as that of Zimbabwe. That is not a distinction that should be relished by GEBE. It would be nice if they were a bit more dependable.

19. The Time Warp That Is Orient Beach

Increasingly, both tourists and locals walking on Orient beach, where all the businesses disappeared in Irma's immense storm surge, are actually liking what they see -- a huge, natural, pristine beach.

Granted, they do believe there should be places for drinks and bathroom facilities. But the reaction of most people seems to be that Orient had become overbuilt, and that the resulting clutter hurt the attraction which brought people to the island in the first place.

Not everyone who had a business on Orient beach before Irma is expected to come back. We know that a number of people have returned to France and are going to stay there, unwilling to chance going through anything like Irma again.

What's going to happen is not finalized, although the Reserve Naturelle has said that it would like future structures on Orient to be collapsible and removable before oncoming storms. Facilities, in addition, don't necessarily need to be on the beach; they could simply be behind it.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

20. Spiga Reopens for Lunch, Dinner

Spiga Restaurant in Grand Case has now reopened for its 2017/2018 season. The restaurant is open for both lunch and dinner. It has long been one of the top restaurants on the island, and we strongly recommend you visit it during your next SXM trip -- you won't be disappointed.

Here's a quick rundown:

Lunch 12-2pm. This is new; Spiga has never before served lunch. Great salads, fresh homemade pastas, and more.

Dinner 6-10 pm. Closed Sundays. New menu -- a bit lighter and also a bit lighter on your pocketbook. Open Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinner only, and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day dinner only.

Spiga is now Cafe Spiga: a new concept with a new bar area to enjoy their delicious cocktails and bar snacks.

Comment: Spiga is always changing and always doing the seemingly impossible: becoming even better than they were before. Try them soon.... you won't be disappointed. See "Contact Us" on www.spiga-sxm.com to make your reservations. Their site has not yet been updated to reflect Cafe Spiga, lunch, or their new menus. You can also phone them at 721-520-3363 or use the phone number on their site.

21. Lal's Is Open for Lunch & Dinner

Regardless of whether you've ever tried Indian food, Lal's in Simpson Bay has food you will like. Whether you're carnivore or vegetarian, whether you like spicy or bland, whether you like big meals or lighter bites, Lal's is perfect. The setting is a simple one on Simpson Bay lagoon just south of the causeway. Its central, quiet, and attractive. The prices are very cheap for St. Maarten and the food is plentiful.

Lal's hours: Open for breakfast & lunch serving local food from 7.00/3.00pm. Indian cuisine from 4.30/10.00pm.

Lal returns from a few days away on January 5. Tell him we sent you....

22. Le Pressoir Said to be Closed, For Sale

Le Pressoir in Grand Case, long one of the island's top restaurants and a consistent award winner, was savagely hit by hurricane Irma, the most powerful storm in Atlantic basin history. Although its website remains up, based upon information from other restaurateurs in Grand Case we believe that Le Pressoir is closed and for sale.

It's hard to imagine that one storm can do so much damage to some of the island's best restaurants, but it has happened. Temptation, in Cupecoy beach, was also destroyed by Irma; chef Dino Jagtiani is now running the new Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson Estate/Rainforest Adventures near the new Carrefour on the Bush road. See next story.

23. Grand Marche Rebranded Carrefour -- But There's More

Le Grand Marché, the supermarket that for many years was the island's biggest and busiest, is no more. But, that's a good thing: Grand Marché owner Anil Sabnani had converted his other supermarket in Cole Bay from Grand Marche to Carrefour a few years ago. Here's what he says:

"We changed it because Carrefour works very well. We were able to renovate the store in Bush Rd allowing 40

percent more products so not only do we have everything we always had in Bush Rd but we have been able to add all Carrefour products as well."

Happy shopping...

24. SXM's Top Restaurants: "Restaurant of the Week" Returning

Our Restaurant of the Week feature, long a staple in *SXM Weekly News*, returns next week. It has been modified to reflect restaurants which have not yet reopened or which have closed permanently, and continues its fully descriptive stories on one top restaurant per week.

25. No Fireworks on New Year's Eve

For years, SXM has presented fireworks in a number of island locations. But with comparatively few tourists on island now, the island will forgo that tradition this year.

If you're on island and crave fireworks, you might consider going to Anguilla or St. Barths which will have fireworks. Or, watch US New Year's Eve celebrations on TV.

As usual, there will be many special New Year's Eve menus at area restaurants. Check the *Daily Herald* for ads this coming week.

26. Our Thanks To You...in a Tangible Way

Many hundreds of you in November and December have written to us online and in letters to thank us for our extensive coverage of Irma here, on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) (where we had more than 50,000 interactions with you following the storm), and for our help in answering thousands of phone calls from JMB members in the six weeks immediately after Irma struck.

From Jeff: *I've been a journalist / marketing writer since finishing college, working in radio, TV, newspapers, and magazines. **But your "thanks" messages mean far more to me than the cardboard box of awards we keep somewhere in the cellar.** It's great to know how you rely on us to keep you connected, and that you like what we're doing for you. We truly love doing it as much as you enjoy reading it.*

How You Can Help Us Make SXM Weekly News Even More Useful to Its Readers.

As seasoned journalists, we take great pride in *Weekly News*. We keep our eyes and ears open all week long and on every Friday, decide what's going into *Weekly News*. We write on Friday and Saturday morning, then send *Weekly News* on its way.

Here's how can you help us make **SXM Weekly News** even better -- three key ways:

1) When on the island, keep your eyes and ears open and let us know what you see that's of significant interest to our tourist audience. We might already have it ... then again we might not. (In some cases, what you give us will already have been covered in *Weekly News* -- but when you have a story idea, email it to jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "Weekly News Idea." We welcome every idea.)

b) Spread the word about *Weekly News*. Let others know they can subscribe "free" anytime on our site, sxmweeklynews.com.

c) The crucial word is **free**. Quite frankly, we need your help -- now more than ever, thanks to Irma -- to be able to continue to research, write, and distribute *Weekly News* every week. It takes a lot of time to research and write **Weekly News**, and "bandwidth costs" for emailing 300,000+ copies weekly (and sometimes more often) does not come cheap.

There are several ways you can help; we'd be grateful no matter which you do:

- Contribute. Any contribution amount is very much appreciated. If you want to use PayPal, send it to jeff@jmbcommunications.com . Or send a check (payable to JMB Communications) to us at JMB, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812.
- Join, renew, or reinstate your membership in JMB Website Supporters. This is the best option since it gives you over 300 benefits and island discounts that are good as long as your membership is active. (See the story at the end of this email please.) Many businesses have already reopened on SXM, and more open every week. Boat owners whose tour boats sank have bought new boats and are readying them right now. SXM is welcoming more tourists every single day. To re-join just click the page curl on everythingxsm.com -- all the info is there. You can also call the office and leave the info there; our numbers are 508-830-3456 (main) or 508-747-8281.
- Join SkyMed. It's the best medevac protection you can buy, in our view; you've likely read about in *Weekly News* and you know you should have it; it covers traveling Americans and Canadians in the USA, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and in every nation of the Caribbean including Cuba. If you want global protection, that's available too. (It won't cover you in places like North Korea, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia....) See getskymed.com for much more, or call Jeff directly at 508-747-8281. He can answer all your questions and get you going.
- Even get some of our exclusive copyrighted SXM Euro Oval stickers. They're two for \$10 or five for \$15. You can order them via PayPal (include your shipping address) or by check (US checks only drawn on US banks). Our address is below. The PayPal pay-to email address is jeff@jmbcommunications.com as you saw above.
- Check Out Our Extensive Website Design / Content Creation / Website Hosting Services. See websitesthatworkusa.com or our broader jmbcommunications.com, with even more services. Hosting info is at jmbwebhosting.com.

Our Tangible Thank-You for Helping Us:

For the rest of December only -- while our Holiday Membership Sale (still with Black Friday / Cyber Monday prices) continues -- we'll give you a full extra year on top of whatever JMB membership you buy (new, renewal, or reinstatement). Buy via check, through our online site (click the page curl on everythingxsm.com for links), or by phone at either of the numbers above.

To get the extra year, when ordering you must simply put "Extra Year Too" in the "Notes/Comments" area on PayPal [our online links take you to PayPal]; put it in the "Memo" area of your check; or say it in your message when you call our office to order. *This "Thank You" includes military memberships / military renewals as well but does not apply to any transactions you've already initiated.* (If you have one in progress, do another and you'll get the extra year with your new transaction.)

Thank you. We appreciate your membership...we thank you for being a JMB Website Supporters member...but most of all we simply appreciate *you for your membership and your ongoing support.*

27. In P-Burg, Missing Bollards Create a Mess

Bollards — those stanchion like green things that were all along the side of Front St. in Phillipsburg — were taken away a while ago because they made it difficult for parents with strollers to navigate sidewalks when Town was busy.

Unfortunately, some motorists took the lack of bollards as a sign that they should park their cars on the sidewalks. Our comment on such lunacy is that it should have been met with force — that is, any car not reported stolen that was illegally parked on the sidewalk in Philipsburg should have been towed, crushed, and melted at the owner's expense with a large metal cube that was the car left in the owner's driveway — again at the owner's expense.

Anyway ... it looks like the bollards will soon return.

28. SkyMed On Sale: All-New Double Bonus Ends

12/31/17

Thinking of buying a new annual or multiyear SkyMed medical evacuation membership, or upgrading an annual membership to a multiyear Ultimate? This news will make you happy that you waited until now:

An all new SkyMed double bonus is available through getskymed.com or by calling Jeff when you buy a new SkyMed membership from us -- or upgrade to a multiyear SkyMed membership from an annual membership you bought from us. Great pricing is available now, too.

First, what is SkyMed? Scottsdale Arizona based SkyMed International takes its members home when they become critically ill or injured while traveling. Basic "Takes You Home" memberships cover you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global memberships (provided by SkyMed affiliate GETS) cover you in the rest of the world with a few exceptions — like Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan, North Korea and possibly a few others. As you understand, that list may change as world events unfold.

The Double SkyMed bonus is simple. Once you've bought or upgraded your SkyMed membership through us, you forward to us by email your SkyMed acceptance email. Once we verify it, we extend your JMB Website Supporters membership by the same number of years as you purchased coverage from SkyMed. Now, with the double SkyMed bonus, we will *also* give you a certificate good for a \$25 discount on a future JMB Website Supporters membership renewal. The certificate is valid for two years from the date of issue. That's in addition to the years extension: That's quite a double bonus.

The double bonus offer comes only with SkyMed memberships purchased from us from now through 12/31/17.

SkyMed medical evacuations take you home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust — where your health insurance works. You call SkyMed, and SkyMed makes all the arrangements. There are no deductibles, no claim forms, and no reimbursements since SkyMed pays for all the arrangements it makes.

Without SkyMed, if you or a covered loved one needs a medical evacuation, you must make the arrangements yourself in the middle of an emergency and you must pay for everything upfront in cash — ambulances, aircraft, flight crew, jet fuel, medical personnel, etc. With SkyMed, by contrast, SkyMed makes all the arrangements and you pay \$0 for the evacuation. SkyMed *Takes You Home*® — what else matters?

For more information, see www.getskymed.com or contact Jeff any business day (including this week) Eastern time at 508-747-8281 (fastest) or email him at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Include your return telephone number and time zone. He'll be happy to answer your questions and can even take an application by phone.

29. For US / Canadian ExPats Living on SXM:

As a US/Canadian ex-pat living on SXM at least six months per year, you understand the need to get home where your US or Canadian health insurance works if you become critically ill or injured while living on SXM. That's exactly what SkyMed ex-pat coverage does; it covers the ambulance from the local hospital to the airport, the medical evacuation flight home, and the ambulance at the arrival airport that takes you to the hospital, to which SkyMed has transferred your record; waiting there is a bed for you; and a team that has your medical records and is prepared to start working with you.

Don't take chances about being able to get home in a hurry in case of a serious personal medical emergency. SkyMed takes you home. What else matters? Read about the double SkyMed bonus in effect from now until the end of December in article 24, then see www.getskymed.com or call Jeff at 508-747-8281 during normal East Coast business hours.

Do it now — the double SKYMED bonus will end December 31, 2017.

30. Traveling Anywhere Soon? SkyMed Takes You Home®

More Info: No matter where you go, take SkyMed medical evacuation protection with you: SkyMed Takes You

Home(R) to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Without SkyMed, that medevac trip home could easily cost you upwards of \$45,000 payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that?

Get SkyMed protection now, before you need it. See www.getskymed.com. Got questions? Phone SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 weekdays during regular office hours, Eastern time. Email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com or jeff@jmbcommunications.com.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

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

SkyMed Bonus: See info on the all-new SkyMed Bonus in story # 24 in this issue.

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. What else matters? Global coverage is available. Call Jeff for details & answers to questions. .

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

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

SkyMed medical evacuation programs protect your pocketbook and your health when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. That's 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 --- 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 two then convert to the prepaid Ultimate membership to grab those prepayment savings. For info, call Jeff Berger at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only). He can answer all your questions and even help you get signed up. *Please also see the next story.*

Learn more at www.getskymed.com.

32. Get Our SXM Euro Ovals: Order Now

Printed with green ink on durable bright white stock, varnished for long life, our copyrighted SXM euro ovals have been adorning cars on SXM and around the world for more than 15 years.

You can now get two for \$10 or five for \$15 (ten for \$30) mailed first class to your home in the US or Canada. You can pay for them by PayPal. If you pay by PayPal, make sure US dollar funds are sent to Jeff@JMBcommunications.com and in the comments section be sure to tell us what you're buying — two for \$10 or five for \$15, 10 for \$30, SXM euro ovals, and include your current, correct mailing address.

If you pay by check, we accept US dollar checks only drawn on US banks — sorry, no Canadian checks. You can mail them to SXM euro ovals, care of JMB Communications, PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Make the

check payable to JMB Communications. Check orders are NOT likely to be received before the holiday. PayPal orders made this week will be shipped this week but arrival by December 23 (Saturday) can not be guaranteed.

We have a decent supply but we suggest you order quickly. No shipping charge.

We periodically publish pictures of these on our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#).

More stories follow.

Your Business
**Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.**

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

33. Still Time: 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 has been deferred now until at least March, 2018.

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, though for obvious reasons those dates are subject to change. 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.)

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

Dates for all vacations subject to change thanks to Irma....

34. 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.

35. Enter: When Will Our FB Site Have 20,000 Members?

When will our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#) have 20,000 members?

We want you to guess, and the person closest to the date / time will get a prize from us (prize TBA). Here's how:

1. First, you ***MUST*** be a member of the site (free). Go to it, answer the vetting questions, add that you read SXM Weekly News, and you'll be added w/in 24 hours.

2. See what our current membership is (closing in on 19,000). We've added about 2000 in the last month and a half or so. If you want to add people, they must be SXM tourists or US/Canadian ExPats living on SXM, locals who own tourist-focused businesses, AUC students, or yachties who work out of SXM. Our focus: *by* tourists, *for* tourists.

3. Decide on one good guess. It must be date and time, am or pm.

4. Get a PICTURE POSTCARD of your area and mail it (regular postal mail) with your exact 20,000 guess to JMB Communications 20,000 Contest, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. Include your email address, your full name, your Facebook name as it appears on our FB site, your physical mailing address, and your exact date / time guess.

5. You may send one card per FB member only; if you send more, they'll all be thrown out. We'll store them in chrono order and pick the winner once we hit 20,000. In case of duplicate entries, the one with the prettiest picture wins. Your entry must be closest to the date without being past the date/time when we hit 20,000.

5. Got questions? Don't ask, just punt. We think the above directions should be enough....

As usual, JMB employees, their families, and JMB contractors are not eligible. You must be at least 21 years old to enter.

[Get The Current Low Price](#)
[on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)
[and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.](#)
[That's a 10-year price guarantee.](#)
[More benefits... same price.](#)

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See getskymed.com.

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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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

Contact Us (Revised 8/21/17)

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com .

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

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