Recipes, Gift Ideas, Inspiration, Practical Tips, Christmas Deals, Events & Entertainment, And a Little Holiday Cheer,

All in time to prepare for a wonderful Christmas

The Christmas Special is a publication of The Daily Herald
A Confident Christmas

The COVID-19 pandemic that characterized 2020 continued throughout 2021, and the dominant local tourism industry is only now recovering from the coronavirus-related devastating impact on travel in earnest. As a result, this year’s celebration of the holiday season will understandably be marked by some concern over the current socioeconomic situation and a measure of uncertainty about the immediate future.

But therein too lies a noble challenge to surpass this major setback and make things better going forward, also where it pertains to what by now can safely be called the global environmental crisis, with still partly unknown consequences including the full effects of climate change. This newspaper in any case chooses to look ahead with hopeful confidence.

Let the Christmas story, apart from its religious aspect, serve as inspiration regarding the resilience and perseverance people are capable of. Here’s a simple carpenter doing his civic duty in the bitter cold with his wife about to give birth and nowhere to go. They end up in a manger and are still able to nurture a baby whose life and the tales it produced changed much of the world forever.

We should not allow today’s problems — as daunting as they may seem — to diminish our faith in humanity, our ability to reason, or ultimately our sense of what is wrong and right. For that, more than anything else, is after all what separates us from beast.

Happy Holidays
The Publisher

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM DANIEL GIBBS
President of the Territorial Council of Saint Martin

My dear fellow citizens, happy holidays!

It is the season to share special moments with family and loved ones.

During this time, I have a special thought for the families that have lost a loved one this year and for those who are going through difficult times. I extend to them my sincere support and warmest regards.

Despite another challenging year for all of us, we persevered, overcame obstacles and managed to protect our unity. It is the only way to surmount the many crises we are going through.

I have confidence in the upcoming touristic season, which is looking encouraging for the economy of our island. We must have faith in the future and join our efforts in making 2022 a successful and prosperous year.

The Council members and the employees of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin join me in wishing you and your family peace, love and joy this holidays season and throughout 2022.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I am a man who looks ahead and always sees the positive side of things.

The Season’s Joy

The world has grown weary through the years, but at Christmas it is young. — Phillips Brooks

Christmas now surrounds us, Happiness is everywhere. Our hands are busy with many tasks as carols fill the air.— Shirley Sallay

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. — Agnes M. Pharo

Christmas magic is silent. You don’t hear it — you feel it. You know it. You believe it. — Kevin Alan Milne

The joy of brightening other lives becomes for us the magic of the holidays. — W.C. Jones
Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule
St. Martin of Tours Catholic Parish

December 16-24: Aurora Novena
6:00am: Risen Christ Church, Reward

Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve
7:00pm: Children’s Mass at Risen Christ Church, Reward
10:00pm: St. Martin of Tours Church, Philipsburg

Saturday, December 25: Christmas Day
8:30am and 11:00am: Spanish Mass at St. Martin of Tours Church, Philipsburg
11:00am: Risen Christ Church, Reward
5:00pm: Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Simpson Bay

Sunday, December 26: Feast of the Holy Family
8:30am and 11:00am: Spanish Mass at St. Martin of Tours Church, Philipsburg
11:00am: Risen Christ Church, Reward
5:00pm: Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Simpson Bay

Friday, December 31: New Year’s Eve
9:30pm: Holy Hour, followed by Mass at 10:30pm, at St. Martin of Tours Church, Philipsburg

Saturday, January 1, 2022: Epiphany of the Lord
5:00pm: Vigil Mass at St. Martin of Tours Church, Philipsburg

— May the Lord Jesus bless you and your family with lots of love, joy and peace this Christmas Season and all through the New Year.

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  food, shopping, entertainment!
Coconutty Christmas

Coconut Johnny Cakes
Yield: 5 or 6 Johnny cakes

*Ingredients*
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 4 tbsp butter
- 1 cup coconut milk
- Oil to fry

*Instructions*
Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl.

Rub butter into the flour mixture to combine well.

Add coconut milk and mix into dough. Cover and set aside for an hour.

Roll into balls and use hands to shape (or, use a glass to cut into disks). Optional: make a small slit in the centre with a knife.

Fry in hot oil until golden brown

*Picture credit: Simply Caribbean (blog)*

Chewy Coconut Cookies
Yield: 12 cookies

*Ingredients*
- 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cups sweetened coconut
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter – melted and cool to the touch
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 large egg

*Instructions*
Pre-heat oven to 350° F,

Whisk all dry ingredients together.

Add white and brown sugars to the cooled, melted butter and mix with hand mixer for 1 minute, or manually for 3-4 minutes until the mixture becomes light.

Add egg and vanilla and whisk until just incorporated.

Add the wet ingredients to the dry, and stir to mix.

Cover the bowl and chill for 30 minutes.

Roll dough into balls, with around 2 tbsp dough each. Place on baking sheet, about 2 inches apart.

Bake for 9 minutes, cool and serve.

*Picture and recipe by: Crunchy, Creamy, Sweet (blog)*

Coconut Fudge with Macadamia Nuts
Yield: About 46 small pieces

*Ingredients*
- 3 cups white chocolate chips
- 1 can (14oz) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup sweetened coconut flakes, with a little set aside for the topping
- 1/2 cup chopped macadamia nuts
- 1/2 cup coconut extract

*Instructions*
Line an 8x8 pan with aluminium foil. Lightly spray with non-stick baking spray and set aside.

Add the white chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk into a microwave safe bowl.

Microwave in 15-second bursts and stir, repeating until the mixture is melted and smooth.

Add remaining ingredients and stir to incorporate.

Spread evenly into prepared pan and smooth out with a spatula, and sprinkle extra coconut flakes on top.

Refrigerate for at least two hours, until set. Keep in the fridge to store, and until a few minutes before serving.

*Picture and (adapted) recipe by: Delightful-E Made (blog)*
**Make your own Ponche Crema**

**Ingredients**

- 5 egg yolks
- 2 cans of sweetened condensed milk (14oz/400grams each)
- 8.5 oz (or 250ml) aged rum
- ¼ tsp grated nutmeg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Optional, according to preference:

- 1 tsp strong coffee, or
- A dash of Angostura bitters, or
- ¼ tsp cinnamon

**Instructions**

Beat the egg yolks in a large bowl with an electric mixer, until they turn light to a pale yellow colour and their volume has almost doubled. This may take 10-12 minutes.

Add condensed milk and whisk until fully incorporated. Then add rum, nutmeg and vanilla, and any optional flavourings. Mix well.

Using a funnel, pour into clean bottles with lids that can be closed tightly. Keep refrigerated. Best made a few days in advance. Finish within about five days of opening.

Don’t worry about the raw egg, the alcohol kills any potential bacteria. However, there is an alternative method if you still prefer to use heat: Take the milk and beaten egg mixture and heat it over a gentle heat on the stove for about 12-15 minutes. Stir constantly to avoid clumping or sticking. With this method, you can also flavour it with a cinnamon stick while it’s being heated. Remove the mixture from the heat and let it cool before adding the other ingredients, then bottle and chill for at least two hours. This method gives you a thicker drink, that can be enjoyed the same day.
FUN AND FREE CHRISTMAS E-BOOKS FOR KIDS!

Membership at the Phillipsburg Jubilee Library is free for kids, and they'll have access not just to paper books, but also to thousands of e-books through two programmes: Libby and the Royal Dutch Library.

We found some great Christmas-themed e-books for the little ones, some complete with audio, to get them extra excited about the stories and encouraging them to read along. The library is full of classics as well as new books — sign up so that you can benefit from everything they have to offer!

Nickelodeon’s Dora the Explorer celebrates the holidays in this charming Christmas storybook. This festive storybook is the perfect stocking stuffer for kids ages 3-7. This Nickelodeon Read-Along contains audio narration.

In the same feel-good style of I Got the Rhythm, this exuberant picture book explores the joys of the holiday season, once again illustrated by award-winning artist Frank Morrison. It’s the most wonderful time of the year, and a mother and daughter are enjoying the sights and sounds of the holiday season. The little girl hears sleigh bells ringing and carolers singing. She smells chestnuts roasting – CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH! – and sees the flashing lights of the department store windows – BLING! BLING! BLING! She spreads the spirit of giving wherever she goes. And when she reaches Santa, she tells him her Christmas wish – for peace and love everywhere, all the days of the year.

Read along with Disney! It’s the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring... Then a mysterious noise wakes Olaf. Read along as Olaf investigates the sound and finds a truly magical surprise. With word-for-word narration by Olaf himself, this book is sure to make your Christmas unforgettable.

Feel free to browse the selection at www.stmaartenlibrary.org, by selecting “e-books” under the “library info” tab. A passport picture is required to sign up for a membership card.

PAW Patrol is Nickelodeon’s new animated action-adventure series starring a pack of six heroic puppies led by a tech-savvy boy named Ryder. This book is perfect for boys and girls ages 3 to 7. This Nickelodeon Read-Along contains audio narration.

Christmas can be a very confusing holiday. Just what are sugarplums anyway?? This collection of silly poems show classic Christmas carols and traditions reimagined through the eyes of a very confused kid. With illustrations from the hysterical Marty Kelley, this is a perfect pick for a holiday full of belly laughs.

Supporting the library, a non-profit organisation, helps to keep important educational and entertainment resources available to all. Feeling generous this Christmas season and want to donate to a good cause that benefits society as a whole? Contact info@sxmlibrary.org to reach out for more information.
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The Impact of K1’s Christmas Angels and Project Hope

From Chiaira Bowers, K1 Britannia Foundation

During the holiday season, the focus is on love, caring, family and sharing. K1 Britannia Foundation has two projects focused on making Christmas special for vulnerable groups and organizations during this time of the year: one program is the “Christmas Angels” program, where we have seen the local community come out for the past eight years to make Christmas special and memorable for a child, teenager, adult or elderly person, by purchasing gifts for them in exchange for handmade angels. The second is Project Hope.

Project Hope is a newly established project with the aim of helping struggling families enjoy a very special holiday season. Right before Christmas, K1 along with the Dutch Marines and the Royal Netherlands Marechaussees visit the families that have been chosen and give them a special food box with extra additions including chocolate, candies and much more goodies. Besides this, they also provide the Christmas gifts for their children, diapers, and needed electronics for their teenagers, to aid them in school work.

The community has shown up to support these projects and the recipients and we wanted to share firsthand from the organizations and families what this experience and support mean to them.

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Foundation Judicial Institutes St. Maarten
(for children in protective custody/foster care)

“What we enjoy about the program is that we can put a smile on the faces of the kids and make them feel that there are people that care about them and wish them well.”
—Cynthia Filemon, Acting Director, Foundation Judicial Institutes St. Maarten

“The response of the clients – from what I’ve seen when they receive the gifts – is that they are very, very happy, as some of them don’t even receive a gift for Christmas because their parents can’t afford it, and they will get more spending money to buy gifts because they prefer to buy food and other needed items.

“The children see all their friends are getting a gift, so they would want one too. By doing this program, it makes a difference because now the child won’t feel badly because they didn’t receive anything because only other children can afford gifts. In this way, you don’t see the difference between parents who can and can’t afford gifts, because all the children receive a gift – so thanks once more.”
—Meredith Concincion, Senior Social Worker, Foundation Judicial Institutes St. Maarten

Player Development

“The children love making the angels. But for most, the idea of buying a gift is awesome. Particularly now with food not being a given, the thought of getting a gift they will like is very exciting. They love the party as it is a happy time with friends.”
—Thomas "Coach Tom" Bumett, Founder / Coach, Player Development

UJIMA – Dr. J Foundation

“Children look forward to getting creative while making their angels; they get excited about it. Most of our clients don’t have a stable home; their parents can’t afford it or they are in foster care. It brings them joy and happiness when they hear about K1’s Christmas Angels Program as they are certain that they can get a gift of their choice. They really enjoy and look forward to the Christmas Party K1 does every year.”
—Lakeisha Amdell, Supervisor, UJIMA – Dr. J Foundation

Transitional Shelter – Dr. J Foundation

“Our team and the children truly enjoy the program and look forward to the Christmas activities very much. We look forward to making the angels with the kids and they love to receive their gifts for the holidays. It’s a joy to see the excitement and happiness on the children’s faces during these Christmas activities. For the parents at the transitional shelter, they share the excitement of the children. Most of the parents cannot afford to buy Christmas gifts due to the lack of funds.”
—Dr. Judith Amdell, Founder, Dr. J Foundation

St. Basilia Center

“Just like everyone else, our clients love receiving gifts. They especially appreciate it when K1 is present, and dressed up for the occasion. It is always a positive, grateful and joyful response.”
—Mireya Tomorega Maia, Staff Member, St. Basilia Center

“The response from the clients is that they are very much pleased, happy and excited, because some of these clients don’t even have a Christmas tree at home, or wouldn’t even get a gift, as their families will help with their basic needs.

“The most important thing is just the fact that they can put down the item that they really want, really need – and that counts a lot for them. One of the clients mentioned that those are the best gifts they have ever gotten.

“The clients are grateful. They do appreciate the giving back from the community and that plays a role because a lot of times there is a stigma against mental health and that’s something they deal with. The fact that the community is choosing the angel, which has Mental Health Foundation behind it, brings self-awareness. We are very thankful.”
—Giselle Codrington, Msc - Faraja and Short & Long Coordinator, Mental Health Foundation

Families hard hit due to COVID

“Just wanted to say thank you, from the deepest part of my heart.” –Recipient

“I mean everything to me because I am not working; I am a single mom and I would not be able to buy them any gifts this Christmas.” –Recipient

PROJECT HOPE

“Thank you so much for everything you guys have done. You guys made me so happy and made dreams come true.” –Recipient

When we reflect on the responses from the various organizations and families, we realize that as a community, we are making an impact in the lives of so many children, adults and elderly persons during the holiday season. It’s not only a wonderful experience when they receive their gifts, but it’s a reminder and motivator that they too matter, and that someone, who they may never meet, thought and valued them, and cared about them to get a gift or support them during the holiday season. It brings people from all walks of life together for a common purpose, and that in turn builds stronger communities.

There is still time to support these programs. You can contact K1 by calling +1(721) 553-8166/543-3332, emailing contact@k1britanniafoundation.org, or sending a message to the foundation on Facebook or Instagram @K1SX.
A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH MADE SIMPLE

Christmas morning should be about enjoying time with family. Let Zee Best handle the hard work so that you can enjoy a beautiful Christmas breakfast or brunch together, without having to first master the art of making French pastries.

With Zee Best, you can add freshly baked croissants and pain au chocolat to the table – made locally and with love by the team at the Bake shop. All you need to do is place the frozen pre-cooked pastries on a sheet pan with parchment paper, let them proof overnight in the refrigerator (or an air-conditioned room) and bake for a few minutes. And voilà, you’ve got Pinterest-worthy pastries.

Available at the Bake shop on Airport Road and at all four Carrefour locations, you can easily pick them up on your next grocery run and be prepared for the busy holidays. At US $1 or less, these are no-brainers when it comes to affordable, delectable and easy treats for the family. The pastries are available in bags of six or 35. There are also mini versions of both items available, as well as a small range of cookies: coconut cranberry, chocolate chip, and gluten-free chocolate chip! Try to save those for guests a bit later on in the day.

We asked Kara Sanchez Lapierre, Chef extraordinaire at Zee Best, what she’d recommend pairing with the croissants and pain au chocolat for a festive brunch spread. She likes the idea of having lots of selections like strata, a nice fruit platter, yogurt, and granola. By the way, Zee Best prepares their own granola with almond and coconut flavours. Serve with some fresh fruit juice or mimosa – champagne/prosecco and juice (traditionally orange, but you can add your favourite type).

What’s strata? Don’t worry, we had to ask too. It’s a baked Italian breakfast casserole, with dried bread cubes and lots of egg. Kara likes to include prosciutto, bacon, and brie, and top it with rosemary. This is the only other item of the brunch that would need to be cooked; however, it’s easy and you can prepare all of it the night before so that all you have to do in the morning is bake it.

To place orders for any items from Zee Best/Kara’s Cakes, send a WhatsApp message to +1 (721) 553-6863, or email kara@zeebestrestaurant.com. Visit the bakery on Airport Road #100 (next to Thrifty’s) between 7:00am and 4:00pm Monday through Saturday or from 7:00am to 3:00pm on Sunday. Open during the holidays except for Christmas Day, and open until noon on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

Zee Best has you covered…
From our production table to your holiday spread. Our frozen line of raw croissants and pain au chocolate are now available at all 4 Carrefours!

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Brought to you by
#100 Airport Rd., Sint Maarten (next to Thrifty’s Car Rental) www.zeebestrestaurant.com
With the holidays approaching, we want to thank all our sponsors, participants and pensioners for the support during the past year. We value our opportunity to serve you and look forward to keep doing so in the future.

From the Vidanova family to all of you and the entire community of Sint Maarten: Happy Holidays filled with health and peace.
What’s a festive season without some green & red?

Visit the Heineken Station this Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19, at the Clem Labega Square in Philipsburg!

As a partner of the “Koop Avond x Philipsburg becomes Magical” event, Heineken (as distributed by Divico Distributors) would like to give back to the community this festive season. Take advantage of the opportunity of having your gifts wrapped for your loved ones by volunteers of our community, signed off with a beautiful Heineken ribbon with a small reminder of what the initiative means...

So what is that reminder? After your gifts are wrapped, you can make a donation which will go to one of two foundations: (1) Freegan Food Foundation, a local foundation that has been combatting food waste on St. Maarten and (2) Nancy Nurse Foundation, a foundation being run by a retired nurse to assist the homeless on our island. But Heineken is not done giving back yet!

With your donation, you will receive a redeemable coupon for one free Heineken or Heineken 0.0 (non-alcoholic beer) at partnered accounts between Dutch Blonde Bar and Holland House! Among the accounts you can redeem your beer at are Dirty Sanchez, Big Wood, Kahls, Hen Hon Hon, Pirates Paradise, and more! Look out for the Heineken signage to find out where you can enjoy a cold one.

“There is no better brand to enjoy the holidays with, and the iconic green bottles and red star, Heineken has always been a popular choice around the holidays. With this activation, we’re aiming to build on that brand’s affinity and help our community while driving traffic to our customers on the boardwalk that have been waiting for the bustling time of the year,” said Tanvi Goklani, Brand Activation Manager at The HEINEKEN company.

That’s not all, visit the station for additional surprises you don’t want to miss.

Here’s to enjoying the holiday season on a refreshing note – Cheers!

Welcoming family home for the holidays?

How to make sure they are up-to-date on travel requirements

It’s holiday time and lots of us can’t wait to see some special loved ones. For those of us that have family flying in, you’re bound to be asked about travel requirements connected to COVID-19. Do they need to be tested even if they got vaccinated? What types of tests are accepted…do self-tests count? What about kids?

Besides being hard to remember, travel requirements continuously change. The only thing you really need to remember is the acronym “EHAS”, and that travellers need to fill out a mandatory form on the EHAS website ahead of time. If not, they can be denied boarding. EHAS stands for the “Electronic Health Authorization System” of St. Maarten (website: https://stmaartenehas.com/).

The website shows detailed and up-to-date information, and links to the mandatory application form. This must be filled out by all arriving passengers, even those in transit (unless it is a same-day transit to Saba, as Saba has its own EHAS system). The process of receiving pre-authorization after filling out the form can take up to 12 hours. It should be filled out as soon as travellers meet the vaccination requirements or have received their test results. Once pre-approved, they will receive the pre-authorization PDF document via e-mail which must be presented at check-in. Original proof of vaccination/test results should also be kept on hand.

According to the latest update on December 6: Testing (RT PCR/Antigen) is required for the non-vaccinated travelling from the USA/Canada, and “high risk” or “very high risk” countries, as well as the vaccinated travelling from “very high risk” countries. Refer to the website for details on timing of the tests, boosters, and other details.

Testing requirements and the list of countries considered high/low risk will keep changing, and more changes can be expected soon, especially in the face of the new variant of concern, Omicron. Omicron has already been detected in the Netherlands, Florida, and New York, amongst other places with frequent flights to-and-from St. Maarten.

The full list of countries and how they are categorised can be found under the “travel requirements” section. Right now, Aruba, Curacao, and neighbouring Saba, St. Barths and St. Eustatius fall under the “low risk” countries, while the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany are currently considered “very high risk” countries.

Flying back out

Many people will need to provide a negative COVID-19 test before flying back out (consult governmental websites of the respective countries for up-to-date information). This may be the case, even for those that are fully vaccinated.

PCR and Antigen tests are available at a number of facilities on the island: St. Maarten Laboratory Services (Cay Hill), Health Care Laboratory (Orange Grove), BioPole Antilles (Hope Estate), Medwork (Simpson Bay), and Health Care Laboratory (Philipsburg). Both St. Maarten Laboratory Services and Health Care Laboratory (Philipsburg) accommodate walk-ins. Their opening times, addresses, pricing, and contact information can be found at https://stmaartenupdates.com/testing-on-island/.
Best selection for Christmas!

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VENDREDI 24 & 31 : ouverts de 8h00 à 18h00

Thiriet Saint Martin : ZI de Hope Estate - Tel 0590 52 85 57
A St. Martin based make-up artist, Magali Beauvüe, launched her namesake make-up line this year. Inspired by artistic design, it is meant to suit any look and occasion. Her feature product, a high-pigment eyeshadow palette comprising 16 colours – both shimmer and matte – is called Sunset in St. Martin.

The brand is all about seeing make-up as a form of art, and provides both the tools and products for women of a wide range of tones and shades to create their own look.

You can purchase a full set of 20 beautifully designed make-up brushes, available in print or classic black hard tutes. Or opt for a smaller, eight-brush travel set, which comes in a flat carrying kit – perfect for tucking into your handbag.

Both sets cover you for a full set of make-up, from concealer and highlighter to eyeshadow. All brushes are vegan and cruelty-free, made with high quality synthetic bristles.

The line offers concealer in 10 different shades, ranging from very light to very dark, and shimmer highlighter in two shades. Lipsticks are bold, vibrant and waterproof – six colours are available, all very different from each other, from the true red “amour” to the vividly golden “trésor” and deeply rich “secreta”.

Magali Beauvüe products are sold at the Mahe and Philipsburg pharmacies. However, there are three special packages on offer for Christmas – available directly from Magali. Package one ($32) includes a highlighter and lipstick of your choice. Package two ($85) includes the eight-brush travel set, a lipstick of your choice, and the Sunset in St. Martin eyeshadow palette. Package three ($145) includes the full fashion set of 20 brushes in the classic black case, with a concealer and a lipstick of your choice.

To order any Christmas package, or for more information, send a WhatsApp message directly to Magali at +1 786 922-9798 or email makeupmagbeauvee@outlook.com. Contact hours: Monday through Saturday between 10:00am and 6:00pm.
DA Drugstore and BENU Pharmacy join forces

DA Drugstore and BENU Pharmacy are joining forces and have entered into a collaboration regarding the BENU Pharmacy stores in St. Maarten, Aruba and Curacao.

The organisations expect to be able to offer a wider product range at sharp prices, and a better shopping experience. DA is (on the ABC islands) part of Super Retail Holding, and BENU is part of the Visser Pharma Group. The Visser Pharma Group has been active as a pharmacist on the islands for more than 50 years and has grown into an important player in the healthcare sector with two pharmaceutical import and distribution companies and 11 pharmacies.

Super Retail has been active in retail in the ABC islands for more than 21 years with eight different retail store formulas and a total of 17 retail stores. The collaboration means that BENU will take care of all prescription drugs and that DA will take care of all personal care items, including the DA private label.

“This creates a DA shopping area and a BENU pharmacists’ area in store. In addition, the DAs participate in the brochures and purchases are made jointly. In this way, the two formulas complement each other flawlessly and are able to offer a better shopping experience.”

There are now four BENU-DA store combinations open in Aruba and one in Curacao. The first DA-BENU store combination in Philipsburg is located on Bush Road 79 right next to Mark’s Place in the Carrefour Market complex.

DA is a Fun Miles partner and up until December 24, cardholders will be able to save two times their Fun Miles on all purchases, and they will also have a chance to win 20,000 Fun Miles.

GRAND OPENING MONDAY DECEMBER 13th
LOCATION BUSH ROAD 79, NEXT TO CARREFOUR!

BENU & DA join forces in SXM!

Double Fun Miles

Until December 24th 2021 at BENU-DA Bush Road!

Have a chance to win 20,000 Fun Miles

Our brochure is out now with great offers*. Come and check us out. We hope to see you soon!

*See 15% Discount

*See 20% Discount

*See Double Fun Miles

Bush Road 79 • Mon-Fri 8AM–6PM | Sat 9AM–5PM • +721 542 4900

Fashion Boutique
First floor on the left in West Indies Mall
Tel: +590 690 90 35 70 05
stephanie.million@gmail.com

DS BOUTIQUE wishes you a wonderful holiday season and a very fashionable year 2022.
Aqua Mania relaunching its Boutique at Royal Palm Beach Resort

Aqua Mania Adventures is proud to announce the reopening of its boutique at Royal Palm Beach Resort – just in time for the holidays. Aqua Mania has also established boutiques at Divi Little Bay Beach Resort; and Simpson Bay Resort, Marina & Spa. The boutiques don’t just cater to tourists making the most of their beach holidays, but are troves for some lovely gifts.

The boutiques feature “West Indies Lifestyle”, their own unique line of items including jewellery, bags and shirts; as well as popular brands such as Spirit, West Indies Wear, Jams, and Sketchers.

Hunting for some gift ideas, we asked Manager Debby Lind-Steyn for a few suggestions. West Indies Wear light cover-ups and sarongs are a top choice, and Sketchers shoes are also hot ticket items.

Unique jewellery by West Indies Lifestyle also comes highly recommended. The beautifully designed sterling silver pieces are handmade in St. Maarten, and incorporate the charm of the tropics with natural elements, such as shells and crystals.

Check it out for yourself! The boutique is slated to open this Friday, December 17, at Royal Palm Beach Resort, located at Welfare Road 115, near the Simpson Bay Bridge. Opening hours are 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, including Sunday. Also open on Christmas Eve. Call +1 721 544-2640 for more information.

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Christmas Eve Menu

**Appetizer**
- Goat cheese salad
- Mini truffle lettuce dry prawns, dried fennel bread, balsamic vinaigrette
- Coconut Shrimp (2)

**Main Course**
- Roast Beef
- Roast Turkey
- Honey Mustard glazed Ham

Served with:
- scallop potatoes, parmesan Brussels sprouts, green bean casserole (Crabmeat sauce —Mushroom gravy)
- Apple Pie

**Dessert**

**$44.95**

For reservations call +1 721 544-7000. Visit us@theboon restaurante or send us a request on our Facebook page.
The Christmas fairs have begun

Christmas fairs are popping up all over the island and ringing in the holiday cheer. Keep your eyes open for more fun fairs where you can enjoy music, food and drink; browse local products; and let the kids play fun games – all while supporting artists and small business owners.

Here are a few impressions of the recent fairs at Sister Regina School, at Emilio Wilson Estate by Kitchen Garden club, and Orient Bay by Our Land Matters.
YOUR CUSTOM-MADE FURNITURE SPECIALIST

-50% ON KITCHENS
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-35% ON BATHROOMS

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Promotion until December 24th, 2021

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Perfect Detox $170
3 Electrostimulation training @HOPFIT
+ 1 manual lymphatic drainage Renata Franca

Perfect Body $340
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FREE CHRISTMAS READS FOR ADULTS

~ Drama, excitement, and a little steam ~

Libraries aren’t all about the classics. You can have access to thousands of e-books, from romance novels to thrillers, on the Libby app via Philipsburg Jubilee Library. Access is free with membership. You'll also gain access to the Dutch Royal Library.

**Christmas on 4th Street**
By Susan Mallery

There’s nowhere better to spend the holidays than with *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Mallery in the town of Fool’s Gold, where love is always waiting to be unwrapped... Noelle Perkins just got a second chance at life, and she intends to make the most of every minute. That’s why she ditched a frustrating legal career to open her own store in Fool’s Gold, California. The Christmas Attic celebrates everything that’s magical about her favorite season. Business is booming and, as a bonus, gorgeous army doctor Gabriel Royden has offered to help out during the holiday rush.

Gabriel’s memories of Christmas past contain more sour grapes than sugar plums – thanks to a drill sergeant father who ran his home like a boot camp. Spending the holidays with his family while he recovers from injury sounds as appetizing as last year’s eggnog. Still, there are some enjoyable distractions in town, including sunny, sexy Noelle... and the red-hot mistletoe kisses they can’t stop sharing.

Gabriel didn’t think he was made for happily-ever-afters. But when fate hands you a love as sweet and surprising as this, only a fool could refuse....

**My Only Christmas Wish**
By J.M. Jeffries

All Darcy Bennett wants for Christmas is for her family's upscale Atlanta department store to stay in the family. No man, especially a stubborn – and deliciously sexy – Scrooge is going to edge her out without a fight. Bent on vengeance, new store owner Eli Austin has no problem using power to get his way. But is Darcy's feminine charm and a dash of holiday cheer enough to convince Eli to let her keep her legacy?

In a world full of mergers and takeovers, Eli does what it takes to stay in control. However, he doesn’t count on the irresistible urge to unwrap Darcy like a holiday surprise. And he definitely isn’t prepared to compromise with a woman whose family destroyed his own. With the magic of Christmas surrounding them, will Darcy and Eli be able to put aside their differences and realize that love is the only gift worth wishing for?

**Remembrance**
By Mary Monroe

In this moving, unforgettable novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Mary Monroe, a successful, happily married mother suddenly finds herself feeling far from joyful. But Christmas brings an unexpected chance to rediscover herself, and what happiness really means...

For Beatrice Powell, the holidays are usually an extra-special time to celebrate. With her twenty-year-plus marriage, beautiful home, and three wonderful adult children, she has everything she could desire. But change-of-life doubts are making Beatrice a stranger to herself and her bewildered family. She only finds peace volunteering at the local soup kitchen, especially helping out homeless Charles Davenport. And his sensitivity and honesty soon comfort her in ways she’s never imagined...

Charles thought he had it all — until a devastating betrayal and the shattering loss of his family drove him to living on the streets. Beatrice is the first person who truly cares about him in a long time. And little by little, he’s finding reasons to care about rebuilding his life – and risking a sudden, courageous choice...

**Supporting the library, a non-profit organisation, helps to keep important educational and entertainment resources available to all. Feeling generous this Christmas season? Contact info@sxmlibrary.org to reach out for more information.**
“Switch & Save”
Home for the Holiday
Now at WIB, you can save and benefit from great specials when you decide to bring your mortgage to us. When you switch, WIB will offer:

- Payment of Penalty Fees up to three months' interest
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Win Back “1 year of Interest Payments”
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Visit our Mortgage Specialist and benefit from WIB’s “Switch & Save Mortgage Offer” campaign.
Campaign has been extended until end of December 2021.
Your Partner in Progress
www.wib-bank.net

Christmas Phone Special
The perfect gift to connect with family and friends

- iPhone 12, 128GB:
  - $1,350
  - $830
- iPhone 12 PRO, 128GB:
  - $1,575
  - $1,350
- iPhone 12 PRO MAX, 128GB:
  - $1,600
  - $1,050
- Samsung Note 20:
  - $1,050
  - $950
- Samsung Note 20 Ultra:
  - $1,350
  - $1,200

Free gift with purchase:
- SIM Card
- $10 Credit
- 5GB Data

*Conditions apply.
This promotion is only available at the Philipsburg branch.
Promotion only applies on featured phones.
Valid while supplies last or until December 23rd, 2021.
This weekend, Philipsburg will be purely MAAGICAL!

Xtraight Entertainment is back at it again! “Philipsburg Becomes MAAGICAL” is slated for Saturday, December 18, from 11:00am to 10:00pm and Sunday, December 19, from 1:00pm to 8:00pm on the boardwalk in Philipsburg.

With its objective being to foster local entrepreneurship growth, create business opportunities, bring a sense of cheer and normalcy during the festive season, create an economic injection and bring life back in to Philipsburg, Xtraight has made “Philipsburg Becomes MAAGICAL” the sister event of Kaopavoud.

Both days will be filled with lots of local entertainment such as Sweet Pan Entertainment, Goudingers Steel Pan, New Generation Status, SMS Band, Bottle Neck Blowing Stars, Connisan Vanterpool and String Band, with King T-Mo headlining Saturday’s event and Benjamin Bell headlining on Sunday with fireworks to end the event with a bang.

Bring the entire family as there will also be a Kiddies Corner – courtesy of Speks and Juntopia. It is going to be MAAGICAL!

Timothy Renee Van Heyningen, who goes under the sobriquet of King T-Mo, stormed into the St. Maarten Calypso and Road March arenas in 1991 when he swept the St. Maarten Road March from all contenders with his hit song “Push out your bottom”.

T-Mo was already in the musical field as the lead singer of the then Creole Stars, with whom he made his first recording. After winning his first Road March crown in 1991, T-Mo went on to recapture the Road March title the following year, 1992, with “Wale It”. By then, it was evident that T-Mo was a force to be reckoned with, locally and internationally, when it came to Calypso and Road March.

Although the calypso judges never crowned him King of St. Maarten Calypso Monarch, T-Mo is considered by many to be an uncrowned Calypso King. He went on to win the St. Maarten Road March crown in 1999, 2006, 2007 and 2009 – thus giving him six Road March crowns, a record still unmatched.

After winning the first two Soca Monarch competitions held in St. Maarten in 2013 and 2014, T-Mo went on to win St. Maarten’s first Soca Rumble competition in 2015, and as he put it – “I left it for the younger fellows”.

He is dubbed the “King of the Double Entendre” for obvious reasons – songs like Vicks, Aunty Man, Sticker Garden, Everybody for King Beau Beau, The Lumber Man, Kiss your Mother’s Son, They Focus, Fish Head and many others testify to this. Even some of his Christmas songs entail a taste of double meaning.

While T-Mo has earned the title “King of the Double Entendre”, he has produced many nation building, political and inspirational songs during his career. One such song is “Bring back we white head driver”, in which T-Mo urged for the return of the now deceased Dr. Claude Wathey, who had been at the head of the political arena in St. Maarten for over 40 years. His “Never betray your country” encourages citizens not to turn their back on their native land.

His inspirational songs include “Give Thanks”, “Only Jehovah” and “A Dash of Paint”.

Without any doubt, T-Mo can be referred to as St. Maarten’s hardest working musical artist, which is evident from the number of recordings he has produced over the years, including a number of Christmas CDs dating back to 1993, which are still played on airwaves throughout the Caribbean during the Christmas season. He masters all genres, which can be seen in his works which include calypso, soca, zouk, compa, rhumba, dancehall, merengue, reggae, ragga and string band music.

Name it and T-Mo can perform it. This accounts for why he is St. Maarten’s most sought after single artist on the international scene, having performed in all corners of the world: New York, Miami, Boston, Canada, Aruba, Trinidad, Barbados, France and Africa. Over the years, he has shared the stage with international soca and calypso artists such as The Mighty Sparrow, Ajamu, Crazy Shadow, King Obestute, Destra and bands such as Byron Lee and the Dragonaires, Ellie Matt and the G.Lis Brass and Kassav.

To conclude with a brief history of the man we have all come to know and love as King T-Mo, I hope to put an end to the question asked by many: “Who is this musical icon we talk about?”

Timothhee Renee Van Heyningen was born in St. Martin F.W.I. on January 21, 1964, to a hard working family now residing on the seashore in Nettle Bay in Sandy Ground. He went to primary and secondary school in St. Martin and served in the French Army during his youthful years. T-Mo, a father of one son and five daughters, is a chef by profession. He worked for years in the kitchen at Mullet Bay Hotel, which was destroyed by the 1995 Hurricane, where his love for music quickly became noticeable to all who worked with him. He is remembered by his former colleagues for always singing, mostly calypsos, while working.

T-Mo, a former football player, loves the sea, whether it is swimming, fishing, sailing or just spending time with the family on the shore. He is a self-made, hardworking, no-nonsense man, who likes to get to the point and move on.

T-Mo will best be remembered for the many songs he has blessed us with. As previously mentioned, his Christmas music resurfaces every year. His music has touched the people of St. Maarten, the Caribbean and many parts of the world in a positive way. Keep on bringing them!!!
EASY WHITE CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT BARK

* Adult supervision required: Let an adult handle the microwave and crush the candy.

Try this simple and delicious holiday dessert recipe. It’s sweet, rich and refreshing and we’re sure everyone will love it. It’s easy and fun to make (with mom or dad) – just melt, stir, spread and set!

You’ll need the following:

Ingredients:
2 pounds of white chocolate (either bars chopped into small pieces, or bought in the form of chocolate chips)
12 large candy canes (or you can use regular peppermint candies instead)
⅛ teaspoon peppermint oil

Equipment:
Large, microwave-proof mixing bowl
Small mixing bowl

\[
\text{Spatula}
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\text{Measuring spoons}
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\[
\text{A cookie sheet (covered with parchment paper)}
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\[
\text{Large knife}
\]
\[
\text{Meat tenderizer or rolling pin (to break up the peppermint candy)}
\]

Instructions:

Make sure to have your cookie sheet with parchment paper ready. Set aside.

Have an adult break up the candy cane / peppermint candy into small pieces. This can be done with a large knife, meat tenderizer or rolling pin. Set aside in a small bowl.

Put your chocolate (it’s already in small pieces) into your microwave-safe bowl. Microwave in 15-second increments, then stir. Do this until completely melted. You need to do this in short bursts because microwaves heat very unevenly, and you might burn the chocolate otherwise.

Pour the candy pieces into the melted chocolate, add the peppermint oil, and stir.

Pour the mixture onto the prepared cookie sheet, and chill in the fridge until firm (at least 30 minutes). Store in an airtight container in the fridge, and keep cool until it’s time to serve.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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MERRY • JOLLY • FAMILY TIME • JOHNNY CAKE
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P U D D I N G • G U A V A B E R R Y • P U N C H
C A R O L S • M I D N I G H T M A S S • N A T I V I T Y
G I F T S • S A N T A
KIDS COLOURING
AND PUZZLES
Philipsburg becomes Maagical

Saturday, December 18th, 2021
11:00 hrs - 22:00 hrs

Sunday, December 19th, 2021
13:00 hrs - 19:00 hrs

Philipsburg Square and Boardwalk

ST. MAARTEN

ACTIVITIES • KIDDY CORNER • SANTA • GIFT STATIONS • THEMED SURPRISES

THIS IS NOT AN EVENT, IT’S A MAAGICAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EXPERIENCE!