



s noted in this issue of The Weekly, the island's beaches are swimming in sargassum seaweed. You can see it from the air, you can see it washing toward the shore as you overlook your favorite bay. Some parts of the island are harder hit than others, due to changing currents and wind direction (one assumes).

And this is not a new problem, or one that is going away any time soon. It's been on our radar since at least 2015, at which time experts noted: "This new phenomenon is a cocktail comprising three ingredients: The warm waters in the tropical and equatorial oceans which are favorable to seaweed; an increasing level of nutrients and organic materials coming from the major rivers in South America including the Amazon and the Orinoco, as well as the larger rivers in Africa such as the Congo. These nutrients nourish the sargassum."

Marine biologists point out that some marine life like the sargassum, and it provides an essential habitat for shrimp, crabs, and certain fish, as well as endangered species, white marlin, porbeagle sharks, and dolphinfish who can hide from predators, or camouflage themselves to ambush their prey.

So, while this invasive seaweed might be a necessary part of the earth's biodiversity, keeping it off the beaches is a bigger and bigger challenge. Fertilizer, compost, building bricks, paper pulp... all kinds of things have been tried. If you have an idea, please let us know, you could become the island's next hero!

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

SAINT-BARTH COMMUTER EARNS NEW INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION

Great news for the local airline, Saint-Barth Commuter, has been awarded ISSA certification—IATA Standard Safety Assessment—by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), becoming the first European company to obtain this certification. At this point in time, only 12 small airlines in the world are ISSA certified, a program that concerns airplanes of less than 5.7 tons. "We wanted to obtain this as it is a marketing advantage vis-à-vis our clients, showing them that we meet international standards," explains Stéphanie Magras, who is responsible for operations, safety, and conformity for the airline. To obtain this certification, Saint-Barth Commuter was subject to an evaluation, in the form of an audit, that lasted four days and was run by a specialized company mandated by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). All of the different activities and aspects of the company (from operations to management) were rigorously inspected and evaluated. "In addition to the marketing aspect, this certification should mean we no longer need an audit every 24 months by Air Caraïbes, as part of our partnership," notes Stéphanie Magras. At least during the validity of the ISSA certification, as it must be renewed on the basis of a new audit every 24 months.

Saint-Barth Commuter flies between 9,000 and 10,000 flights per year, transporting approximately 40,000 passengers between Saint Barth, Saint Martin, and Guadeloupe, as well as charter flights for various Caribbean destinations between the Dominican Republic and Saint Vincent and The Grenadines. In addition, the company is regularly solicited by the Hospital de Bruyn for medical evacuations of patients.

SNSM RECRUITS PUT TO THE TEST

On Saturday, February 18, the Saint Barth station of the National Society For Rescue At Sea (SNSM) organized a training session for its new recruits. An important session as it prepares them for the SNB1 exam (first echelon swimmer and lifesaver). The swimmers (Camille, Lucie, Ewan, Jean Remy, François), the trainer (Steeve), and the captain (Julien) all met the challenge. They started on the beach in Public for a swim to Corossol, a distance of 500 meters. "They were all under the time required to pass that test," noted the SNSM on social media, pleased with the results. The second test, after swimming back to Public, consisted of rescuing a person in difficulty 100 meters from the shore. "An exercise done in teams of two, and once again everyone succeeded," says the SNSM, which notes: "The nature of the test was to coordinate the efforts of two rescuers and safely bring the victim back to shore by practicing the proper means of rescue." Positive preparation for these future rescue-at-sea volunteers.

« Nothing compares »

St. Barth | Sotheby's

Contemporary style | Hillside and sunset views | 3 parking spaces



Villa | St. Jean

3 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms Located in Saint-Jean, a very popular area of the island, the villa So is a contemporary villa with 3 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Recently built, its orientation allows you to enjoy a very open view towards the surrounding mountains and the sunset.

Offered at: €4.250.000

Gustavia Office: +(59) 0590 29 90 10

USA: +1-508-570-4481

Contemporary one bedroom condo | Huge swimming pool



2 separate one bedroom bungalows | Walking distance to the beach



Apartment | St. Jean

1 Bedroom | 1 Bathroom Offered at: €1.500.000

Gustavia Office: +(59) 0590 29 90 10 I USA: +1-508-570-4481

Villa | Anse des Caves

2 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms Offered at: €2.350.000

Gustavia Office: +(59) 0590 29 90 10 I USA: +1-508-570-4481

Breathtaking sea view towards the beach of Saint-Jean | Heated pool



Sumptuous villa | 70 ft solar-heated infinity pool



Villa | Lurin

5 Bedrooms | 5 Bathrooms

Price upon request

Gustavia Office: +(59) 0590 29 90 10 I USA: +1-508-570-4481

Villa | Pointe Milou

5 Bedrooms | 5 Bathrooms

Offered at: \$23,900,000

Gustavia Office: +(59) 0590 29 90 10 I USA: +1-508-570-4481

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The Keys Of Excellence

In Saint Barthélemy, there are only three members of the Clefs d'Or (Golden Keys,) a global concierge association that fosters high standards of service in luxury hotels. Meet these three masters of the golden keys.

n films about Paris, the concierge is often a bit of a busybody who lives on the first floor of an apartment building. It goes without saying that this profession, when found in a luxury hotel, does not at all correspond to that description. And even less so when it comes to those who wear the Clefs d'Or insignia on their uniforms. In France, they number close to 400. In the world? Close to 4,000. In Saint-Barthélemy, for the moment, there are but three. One woman: Olivia Vidal, deputy chief concierge at Rosewood Guanahani since November 2021, and two men: Stéphane Carou, chief concierge at Rosewood Guanahani, and Benjamin Carrara, chief concierge at Le Carl Gustaf. Three members of the global association whose daily goal is to ensure excellent standards of service, as close to perfect as possible.

The most recent to earn her "stripes" is Olivia Vidal, in 2022, a distinction of which she is rather proud. As becoming a member of the Clefs d'Or requires experience, knowledge, and determination. "One must have been in the hotel business for five years, and three as purely a conciergerie," explains Vidal. "You also need three sponsors who already have their golden keys and are active." But that is just the point of departure.

"They bombard you with questions about your motivation, the history of the Clefs d'Or, and about Saint Barthélemy," says



Stéphane Carou and Olivia Vidal, Clefs d'Or, respectively chief concierge and deputy chief concierge at Rosewood Le Guanahani.

Vidal with a big smile. A few weeks later she had her golden keys pin. "I felt a difference in my relationship with the clients, and I feel more legitimate in the profession," she adds. After hotel school and her first jobs in France, she also worked in Australia, Canada, and Saint Barth... first at Le Guanahani, then at Cheval Blanc, and Le Carl Gustaf, before returning to Le Guanahani for its re-opening in 2021. "I was very happy when she came back," exclaims Stéphane Carou.

Carou is often considered an oldtimer in Saint Barth. Not because he is old, but because he has worked on the island since 1996. "I came here by chance after working in Méribel and in Provence," he explains. He started at Le Guanahani. "I climbed the ladder and even created the conciergerie," he recalls. "First alone, then we were two, three, and now four. For me, the conciergerie is here!" Which now means Rosewood Guanahani.

The third Clefs d'Or, Benjamin Carrara, works at Le Carl Gustaf in Gustavia. He has been in Saint Barth since 2007, "November 16," he notes. "They asked the Clefs d'Or office in Paris if they had someone available immediately; they called me on a Friday to start the following Thursday. On Monday I said yes." That is how he found himself at Le Guanahani.





MBO, Lorient

2 100 sqm of land!
Property to renovate or rebuild
Possibly to build 2 separate villas.
Superb sea view. To seize!

Price on request

A view to call one's own





MCS, Marigot

This authentic 3 bedroom and 3 bathroom villa offers a partial seaview and a beautiful atmosphere of relaxation with the tropical garden. Fully renovated

C 3,465,000



SRG, Camaruche

Stunning view over Marigot bay and Tortue islands (St Barts). Composed of three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a fully equipped kitchen and a heated infinity pool. 401 M2.

€ 5.895.000



CDL, Anse des Lezards

Creole style property composed of 2 separate units of 1 bedroom and private entrance each, Ideal rental investment or staff housing.

€ 2.350.000



ADA, Petite-Saline

Four bedroom Carribean style property located in Petite Saline, panoramic and sunset views over the mountain and sea. 3 bedrooms and an independent studio.

€ 8.800.000

Contact Lionel (FR) at 06 90 49 10 40 or at <u>Igaraix@wimcorealestate.com</u> Contact Doug (US) at +1 (508) 221 55 27 or at <u>doug@wimcorealestate.com</u> He started as concierge, before being sponsored by Carou, to get his Clefs d'Or in 2012. "I worked at Le Guanahani for 11 years, until November 2018." notes Carrara. "Irma (the category 5 hurricane that slammed Saint Barth in Septem-2017) really her impacted me."

After he left, he decided to "breathe" a little. "I spent Christmas with my family for the first time in 15 years," he smiles. After working in several prestigious places in France, he returned to Saint Barth in March 2019, this time at Le Carl Gustaf.

"I like being a hotel concierge," he admits. "What I enjoy is providing quality service, to see clients return, and to make things possible that may seem impossible. I can't see myself doing anything else at the moment. And I am very attached to the island.

For Olivia, Stéphane, and Benjamin, excellence rules. And if all goes well, there could be a fourth member of the Clefs d'Or in Saint Barth in the next few months.

Benjamin Carrara, Clefs d'Or, chief concierge at Le Carl Gustaf.



SAINT BARTH AND ITS BIODIVERSITY

The Island Least Gecko

Each week, the Journal de Saint-Barth, in partnership with the Territorial Environment Agency (ATE), presents a species (fauna or flora, terrestrial or marine) that populates the vast biodiversity of the island.

This week, the Island Least Gecko (sphaerodactylus sputator).

Where does it live?

This little lizard generally lives hidden under vegetation, most of the time under dead leaves, but it does not object to concealing itself under living plants.

What does it eat?

Like most other lizards, it feeds primarily on insects of all sorts, whenever it can catch them.



Did you know?

A myth, "evidently false," confirms the ATE, says that this cat-eyed reptile secretes and spits black saliva when confronted by a predator. A myth that comes from its name since part of its Latin appellation signifies "spitter."

- ACTUAL OVERHEAD PROBLEM IN SAINT-BARTH

ST BARTH UNLISTED PROPERTY SPECIALISTS

Bad Business Practices

A complaint lodged by tourists against a restaurant, an inspection of the repression of fraud that sanctions "deceptive business practices"... The 2023 tourist season may well tarnish the image of Saint Barthélemy.

he 2023 season began with a warning by Pascale Minarro-Baudoin, president of the Tourism Committee

(CTTSB). In an open letter, she sent out a wake-up call, and a call for vigilance, to the tourism sector in Saint Barth. Following the example of her predecessor, Nils Dufau, she called attention to abuses in certain businesses on the island. Especially restaurants and the issue of tips She declared: "May I remind you once again that an additional service charge or automatic adding of a tip is illegal. A tip is left at the discretion of the client." She also warned that "surprise controls" would be conduction by the fraud prevention services. Clearly, there are those who did not heed the warnings by the CTTSB president. They were wrong.

Forced Tips

There is one incident that stands out as the most serious, first for the restaurant concerned, but also for others that could be in their shoes. In late January, a complaint was registered at the gendarmerie by some tourists. When their bill was presented at the end of a meal in a restaurant, they were told that a tip less than 30% was not acceptable in Saint Barth. A practice reported by various testimony gathered by Le Journal de Saint Barth, which explains certain restaurants "force their hand to get more than 20% in tips." Intimidated at the time, they did not discuss it, but paid the bill and the amount of



the "illegal" tip. They had the presence of mind to save the bill, and give it to the gendarmerie when they lodged their complaint. "This complaint raises the question of tips and service included," comments Pascale Minarro-Baudoin, Certain clients do not find it normal that such tips are requested, but they pay and it doesn't go any further. But now, we have the testimony, the bill, the complaint. It must be followed up on. The more we have instances of this kind and official complaints, the better we can deal with the issue."

Thirteen Violations Reported

At almost the same time, the Office of the Economy, Employment, Work, and Solidarity (DEETS) ran its own controls between January 31 and February 2 in 40 different places in Saint Barth, including 28 restaurants. A fight against the repression of fraud that resulted in 13 violations reported and the observation of "deceptive business practices;" Plus ten administrative reports for lack of information given to consumers; a ticket for not respecting the do-not-sellafter date: and two others for deceptive business practices. St Barth Weekly n°476

These "concern significant differences between the printed prices and those paid by the consumer," writes the DEETS.

In addition, the DEETS remarks that certain cases can "mislead the consumer to agree to leave a larger tip when paying the check when there is a tip line to fill in, without being told in advance that the service is already included." An observation in conjunction with the problem of tips already evoked.

"Don't take the clients for fools"

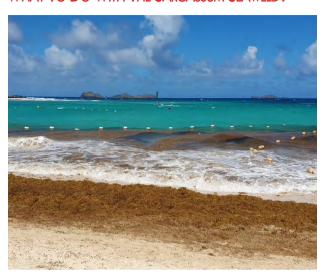
At the same time, the DEETS notes than many of the violations are essentially due to the lack of available information in many different sectors that were controlled. For example, in the restaurant sector, they "deplore the frequent absence of listing" allergens, the county of origin for meat, the actual volume for the sale of wine by the glass, exterior posting of the wines or other beverages frequently served, the mention of service included on the menu, and finally, an itemized bill that must be presented at the end of the meal.

Contacted by Le Journal de Saint Barth, the island's restauranteurs association did not want to comment "at this time." The president of the CTTSB notes that she "is not surprised at the results" of the controls. "We have worked hard with the restaurateurs and the hoteliers, and it's good that this inspection took place," she adds. "And it should happen regularly so that they don't take their clients for fools. We know that certain restaurateurs don't play by the rules." And the tourists know it as well.

"We have been coming to Saint Barthélemy for many years," says a New Yorker who likes fine dining. "Today, we know that we have to pay attention when the check comes. Because of that, there are places we no longer go." When multimillionaires start to check every detail on their bill, it's undoubtably time to pay attention.

News briefs

WHAT TO DO WITH THE SARGASSUM SEAWEED?



After the first meeting a few weeks ago by the committee to fight against sargassum seaweed in Saint Barthélemy, the question of the recurrent invasion of algae has been brought up several times in Le Journal de St Barth. A recent article mentioned predictions by Météo France, which announced waves of seaweed washing up on the shores of the island; a prediction that has become a realitv. As a result, the massive amount of sargassum, in the height of tourist season, continues to test the brainpower of the territorial council and various committees. Primarily as they seek the most efficient means to defend our beaches against this invasive seaweed.

What is the actual impact on Saint Barth? The invasion is essentially due to changing currents (which will be part of a study started at the same time by the committee to fight against the seaweed

invasion and the Collectivité), as well as the specificities of each bay. In any case, considering the quantity of sargassum collected every year (12,000 tons according to the Collectivité's annual report), it is likely that the current methods may not be very effectives.

In fact, one man armed with a pitchfork and a small dumpster to collect the seaweed washed up on a beach seems more like a bandage on a wooden leg than a modern solution for an island that survives on luxury tourism. It goes without saying that the Collectivité is fully aware of this difficulty. And worse, that the problems caused by the seaweed do not seem to be confined to a short period of the year, but seem to now be a phenomenon, which if not constant, is in any case, ongoing.

GASTRONOMY

Gustavia		Lurin	
Arawak Café	05.90.27.53.23	Santa Fé	05.90.27.61.04
Atelier de Joël Robuchon	05.90.77.30.30		
Bagatelle	05.90.27.51.51	Corossol	
Bar de l'Oubli	05.90.27.70.06	Le Régal	05.90.27 85 26
Bête à Z'Ailes (BAZ Bar)	05 90 29 74 09		
Black Ginger	05.90.29.21.03	Public	
Burger Palace	05.90.51.27.74	Sella	06.90.56.15.22
Bonito	05.90.27.96.96		
Café Gloriette	05.90.27.13.71	Anse des Cayes	
Casa	05.90.27.63.77	Le Manapany	05.90.27.66.55
Eddy's Restaurant	05.90.27 54 17	1 7	
Fouquet's Saint-Barth (Carl Gustaf)	05.90.29 79 35	Lorient	
Fish Corner	05.90.51.36.33	Buns	05 90 51 34 33
Kaz A Juice	05 90 29 36 64	Jojo Burger	05 90 27 50 33
Kinugawa	05 90.51.13.55	Le Bouchon	05 90 27 79 39
L'Entracte	05.90.27.70.11	La Bohème	05 90 27 52 52
L'Isola Ristorante	05.90.51.00.05	La Licorne	05 90 87 37 93
L'Isoletta	05.90.52.02.02	Le Portugal à St Barth	05 90 27 68 59
La Crêperie	05 90 27 84 07	De l'ortagur a ot Barar	03 70 21 00 37
La Cantina	05.90.27.55.66	Toiny	
La Guerite	05.90.27.71.83	Le Beach Club (Le Toiny)	05.90 27.88.88
La Petit Plage	05.90.27.73.00	Le Toiny Restaurant	05.90 27.88.88
La Quintessence	05.90.27.63.61	Le Tomy Restaurant	05.70 21.00.00
Le Repaire	05.90.27 72 48	Le Rivage	
Le Select	05 90 27 86 87	Al Mare (Le Sereno)	05.90.29.83.00
Marius	05.90.77.80.12	Amis (Le Barthélemy)	05.90.77.48.48
Martini	05.90.01.02.60	Le Rivage	05.90.27.16.35
Quarter Kitchen & Cocktail Lab	05.90.27.51.82	Rosewood Le Guanahani	05.90.52.90.08
Shellona	05.90.29 06 66	Ti Corail	06.90.41.78.59
Sin Garden	05 90 87 21 24	Yo Sushi Mania	06.90.62.69.83
Planand		10 Susiii Walila	00.90.02.09.03
Flamand	05 00 05 51 40	Saint-Jean	
Chez Rolande	05.90.27.51.42	L'Envole (Airport)	05.90.27.71.40
Food Locker	05.90.27.23.10	Kiki e Mo	05.90.27.71.40
La Case (Cheval Blanc)	05.90 27 61 81	La Guérite beach	06.90.34.50.45
La Cabane (Cheval Blanc)	05.90 27 61 81		05.90.77.53.01
La Langouste	05.90.27.63.61	Gyp'Sea La Terrasse	
		Le Glacier	05.90.27.52.21
Pointe Milour			05 90 27 71 30 05.90.29.21.97
Rivyera (Christopher Hotel)	05.90.27.63.63	Le Diamant	
Ti St Barth	05.90.27.97.71	Le Jardin	05 90 27 73 62
		Le Piment	05.90 27.53.88
Colombier		Nao Beach	05.90.77.47.48
Les Bananiers	05.90.27.93.48	Nikki Beach	05.90.27.64.64
Dolce Vita (Villa Marie)	05.90.77.52.52	Peter MC Cool Irish Pub	05 90 52 08 36
		Pearl Beach	05.90.52.81.33
Saline		Romi (Tropical Hotel)	05 90 27 55 67
Esprit Jean-Claude Dufour	05.90.52.46.10	Sand Bar (Eden Rock)	05.90.29.81.64
Grain de Sel	05.90.52 46 05	Sayolita	05.90.27.13.30
Tamarin	05.90.29.27.74	So Cuisine	05.90.77.15.70
		Zion	05.90.27.63.62

TIME OUT

Where to go dancing? See an art exhibit? Listen to live music? Time Out keeps you up to date on local happenings. Let's party!

Cabaret

- ▶ From Tuesday to Saturday
- Dinner cabaret show at 9pm @ Ti St Barth

Live Music

- **Thursday March 2**
- Welcome to the 80' & 90's Music by Crisologo at Bagatelle, Gustavia
- Sunset Lounge, Music by Sébastien Roche 5pm - 7pm @ Christopher
- Live Music with Soley from 7pm at Arawak Café, Gustavia
- Live Music with Laura de Shamans for dinner at Le Barthélemy 7pm-10pm.
- Friday, March 3
 Live Music with Willy Caïd from 7 pm @ Pearl Beach
- For Her, music by Crisologo @Bagatelle
- Dj Set Laura de Shamans for the lunch 12pm-4pm at Le Barthelemy
- Live Music with Laura de Shamans for dinner at Le Barthélemy 7pm-10pm.
- Apero is French. Special DJ Set with Sébastien Roche from 7pm at Arawak Café
- Mixology workshop from 6:30 pm at Arawak Café
- Saturday, March 4
 Bikini Day @ Pearl Beach
 Live music from 7pm by
- Feed Back 2.0 at Arawak Café, Gustavia
- Chess Hour, 3pm-6pm with Jeff Follner @ Arawak - Let the music take you
- away with Saturday Live. Dj Resident 12pm to 7pm. @ Nikki Beach
- Live Music with Laura de Shamans for dinner at Le

Barthélemy 7pm-10pm.
- Dj Set Laura de Shaman 12pm-4pm at Le Barthélemy

Sunday, March 5

As Sunday, March 5 is the first Sunday of the month, it means that the Saint Barth Street Market will take place in Rue Général-de-Gaulle from 8am-12pm. Merchants sell food, clothing, jewelry, and baked goods, etc.

- Amazing Sunday. A journey through the rhythm of live music under the sun! 12pm - 7pm @ Nikki Beach
- Brasero Lunch animated by our DJ Stephane Gentile, 12pm-3 pm, @ Manapany
- Live Music with Laura de Shamans for dinner at Le Barthélemy 7pm-10pm.
- Dj Set Tata Lolo 12pm-4pm at Le Barthélemy.
- Monday, March 6
 Sunset Lounge, Music by
 Sébastien Roche. 5pm 7pm
 @ Christopher
- For an Italian Aperitivo, Soley will be entertaining us with lyrics and guitar like. 07.30pm-10.30 pm at
- 0/.30pm-10.30 pm at Al Mare Ristorante, Sereno . - Hora Feliz, come dance
- Salsa, Bachata, kizomba and other dances cubaines from 7pm @ Arawak café,
- <u>Tuesday, March 7</u>
 Chill Out Live music fr
- Chill Out. Live music from 7pm @ Arawak
- Wednesday, March 8
 Unplugged Live Music at Bagatelle
- Playful Party at Arawak Café

Night Club

- @ Modjo St-Jean
- @ Casa Night Club @ Ti St Barth
- ≝ 11 St Bart⊓ From Tuesday
- From Tuesday to Saturday
 After-dinner dinner party,
- 11pm-4am, with DJs, dance on the tables and fancy dress room @ Ti St Barth

Fashion Show

- **Daily Fashion Shows**
- Fashion Show with Monbarth every lunchtime
 Pearl Beach, St Jean
- Fashion Show every lunch @ Nikki Beach

Exhibitions

- @ Space Gallery St Barth, Winter Exhibition: Valdes, Boetti, Tony Cragg, Christo, Vera Lutter and Hunt Slonem
 Group exhibition: Victor
- Group exhibition: Victor Matthews, Marco Glaviano, Christopher Martin, Hannah Polskin and more
- @ Les Artisans, Gustavia
 Paintings: Jérémy Kraft,
 Alain Le Chatelier, Karoline

- Arcana, Gery Langlais, Tony Caramanico, Stanislas Defize, Peter Car, David Wegman Sculptures: Dave Stevenson and Rosamond Fields.
- Hélène Roger-Viollet at Rémy de Haenen Airport.
- Preserve the Heritage and History of St-Barthélemy @ Le Brigantin, Gustavia. Free entry
- Bronze Sculptures @ The Collectivity

Artist's Collection

- Hannah Moser, Cul de Sac
- Kay Quattrocchi, Pointe Milou

Art Galleries

- Antoine Heckly ArtGallery
- Camaruche Gallery
- Clic Gallery, Gustavia
- Eden Fine Art St Barts
- Fergus McCaffrey
- Galerie Asie, Gustavia
- Les Artisans, Gustavia
- Space Gallery St Barth
- Spirit Space Gallery
- Untameable Gallery

MASTHEAD

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Les Mangliers, St-Jean - BP 602 -97133 St Barthélemy - France Phone. : +590 590.27 65 19

 $www.stbarthweekly.com ~ \verb|iournalsbh@orange.fr| \\$

- Director: Avigaël Haddad avigaeljsb@wanadoo.fr
- Editor : Thomas Fetrot redactionisb@orange.fr
- English Texts & Translations : Ellen Lampert-Gréaux
 Print Worker : Prim Services

Stay in touch WHEREVER YOU ARE stbarthweekly.com

