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TRADEWINDS

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St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Jaime Elliott

While offering remarks, Senator Louis Hill, below standing, confronted controversy which arose during the Legislature's construction which he oversaw as Senate President of the 28th Legislature as current Senate President Ronald Russell, seated next to Hill, looks on.



Senators and Residents Celebrate Opening of New Legislature Annex

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

About 100 residents, six sitting senators and two former senators celebrated the grand opening of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands' St. John annex on Friday evening, February 3.

The pale yellow building had been a point of controversy during the more than 12 months of construction, as Senator Louis Hill pointed out in candid terms during the official opening ceremony.

"I was lambasted by a senator sitting here tonight who misguided the population about what we were doing in this building," said Hill, who launched the project to construct a new St. John Legislature building when he was President of the 28th Legislature.

"I'm not being politically correct here," said Hill. "I have waited to say this in public. There are people here who misguided this community without recourse."

"I still have the emails from people who reacted to that misguided information telling me all

sorts of nonsense," said the senator.

Hill seemed to be pointing a finger at Senator at Large Craig Barshinger, who had circulated several photographs of the building during construction, which showed a lack of adequate public meeting space.

Despite the public elbow rubbing, the meeting site issue seemed to have been hammered out by last Friday, as the first floor of the new legislature building is slated for conversion into a public meeting space, explained Pamela Samuel, executive director of the V.I. Legislature.

"The lower level of this building is intended to be developed into a meeting site," said Samuel. "The next level contains offices for the at Large Senator and visiting senators and the top floor here is the Legislative meeting hall," said Samuel.

The Legislative hall is equipped with cameras capable of streaming hearings live on the local government TV channel,

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Expect Shorter Lines and Faster P.O. Box Service Soon, Says USPS District Manager

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Since closing the parcel pickup trailer at the U.S. Post Office in Cruz Bay, residents have complained about standing in lines for more than 45 minutes at a time.

The move, however, is just one step in an on going process of "improvements" planned for the Cruz Bay Post Office, according to USPS District Manager Steven Hernandez.

"I will be glad to share an abbreviated list of improvements that are planned for the Cruz Bay Post Office," Hernandez wrote, in an email to *St. John Tradewinds*. "As you know, we have already made some changes with our processes to improve the efficiency. We have moved the package pick up service from the trailer on the side of the building to the pick up door inside the building."

"This allows us to use employees once assigned to work at the trailer to perform other tasks, such as distributing mail for post office boxes, when they are not assisting customers with package pick ups," Hernandez wrote.

While painting the trailer closure in a positive light, Hernandez explained that a "misunderstanding" led to the long lines seen last week.

"Unfortunately, there was a misunderstanding during our first few days of operation under this new process," wrote the USPS District

Manager. "Our intention was to keep the package pick up separate from the retail window queue. A 'package pick up-only' line helps us to quickly serve customers without impacting those who are at the retail window to purchase stamps and other postal services."

"During the first few days of the new process, the two queues were combined, but that has been corrected," Hernandez wrote. "By placing the package pick up within the building instead of outside in the trailer, we will insure the security of our packages while providing our customers shelter from the heat and rain. We still have to work out a few glitches, but we will get them resolved quickly."

Being able to use additional USPS manpower inside the Post Office, will allow the office to fill P.O. Boxes quicker, Hernandez added.

"Also, by increasing the efficiency of the package pick up process, we can also redirect our resources to another timely customer requirement of the office: the completion of post office box mail by 11 a.m. everyday," he wrote. "It is important that we attain that target daily to meet our customer expectations for reliable, regular delivery of mail through this premium service."

The Cruz Bay Post Office is also slated for a new high-tech upgrade this week which should cut down on manual mail processing and ac-

tually improve service.

"We will expand our high-speed, computer-aided sorting of letter mail for the Cruz Bay Post office — in a process known as Delivery Point Sequencing — next Tuesday," the USPS District Manager wrote. "Our DPS process uses the mail processing equipment here in San Juan to put letter mail in the order in which it is to be delivered. This will reduce the handwork needed to sort post office box mail significantly."

"Again, this new automation process will help us insure that all post office box mail will be boxed up by the 11 a.m. cut-off and keeps our trained personnel dealing with customers in the office," wrote Hernandez. "I am confident this, too, will aid in relieving the congestion in the office."

Hernandez is aware that customers were not pleased with the recent changes at the Cruz Bay Post Office and pledged his commitment to improve service at the island's sole USPS Post Office.

"You have the commitment from our employees at Cruz Bay and the entire Caribbean District to improve service and customer satisfaction," Hernandez wrote. "We believe these steps will move us in the right direction."

Residents can share their complaints or compliments on Cruz Bay Post Office service with Hernandez himself by emailing steven.hernandez@usps.gov.

Island Homes in Harmony Will Be Featured at February 9 IGBA Meeting

The Island Green Building Association will host a free public seminar on Thursday, February 9, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the second floor of The Marketplace.

Renata Platenberg of the U.S. Division of Wildlife will share her knowledge and passion for protecting wildlife around new and existing island homes.

Conserving wildlife habitat in the island's many residential areas can stabilize healthy ecosystems and ensure a beautiful environment for the future — an important aspect of "green building." Immediate benefits include enjoyment of native wildlife watching, lower landscaping costs, less excavation costs and less water usage.

Come learn how to be a good neighbor to all island wildlife. Gail Karlsson's book, "The Wild Life in an Island Home," will be available at a discount to attendees. The public is welcome to this free seminar. Call 227-1110 for more information.

Sen. Millin-Young Speaking at Rotary

Senator Janette Millin-Young will be the featured speaker at the Rotary Club of St. John meeting on Friday, February 10. Stop by the Beach Cafe at the Westin Resort and Villas at 12:15 p.m. to give the senator a warm St. John welcome.

Larsen Speaking to SJHS February 14

Please join the St. John Historical Society on Tuesday, February 14, at 7 p.m. at the Bethany Moravian Church Hall as preservationist, artist and architect Gerville Larsen presents "How and Why We Need to Preserve and Conserve the Built Cultural Heritage of the USVI."

10th Annual Vow Renewal Is Feb. 14

The public is invited to Trunk Bay on Tuesday, February 14, for the 10th annual Celebration of Love where St. John barefoot minister Anne Marie Porter will lead a vow renewal ceremony starting at 5 p.m.

"All couples are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day in a most meaningful way," said Porter. "It's free and fun. Over the years, about 800 couples have renewed their marriage vows at this annual Celebration Of Love."

Annual Plant Sale Set for February 18

The V.I. Audubon Society is hosting its 15th annual plant sale on Saturday, February 18, in the Nazareth Lutheran Church yard in Cruz Bay from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Eleanor Gibney Leading SJHS Tour of Estate Bellevue Cultural Landscape

On Saturday, February 18, at 9 a.m., naturalist and St. John Historical Society Historian Eleanor Gibney will offer an informative glimpse into the shifting cultural landscapes of St. John from the grounds of the historic Estate Bellevue great house.

Agriculture of the past, including the sugar era and the many decades that followed, will be discussed. Everyone is invited to meet at the St. John Community Foundation's Bellevue property, at the beginning of the unpaved road just past the Bellevue housing development. Parking is limited, so carpooling is suggested.

TRADEWINDS PUBLISHING LLC

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER

MaLinda Nelson
malinda@tradewinds.vi

NEWS EDITOR

Jaime Elliott
jaime@tradewinds.vi

WRITERS

Andrea Milam, Mauri Elbel

ADVERTISING

advertising@tradewinds.vi

CIRCULATION

Rohan Roberts

COLUMNISTS & CONTRIBUTORS

Chuck Pishko, Yelena Rogers,
Tristan Ewald, Maggie Wessinger,
Andrew Rutnik, Craig Barshinger,
Bob Schlesinger, Jack Brown

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Tel. (340) 776-6496
Fax (340) 693-8885
www.tradewinds.vi
editor@tradewinds.vi

MAILING ADDRESS

Tradewinds Publishing LLC
P.O. Box 1500
St. John, VI 00831

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo File

Three St. John men were arrested last week in connection with robbing Merchants Commercial Bank, above, of more than \$40,000.

Three St. John Men Arrested for 2011 Robbery of Merchants Commercial Bank

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

The presence of Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents at the V.I. National Park dock in Cruz Bay early Thursday morning, February 2, sent rumors flying across the island.

The droning of a black helicopter which landed in the Sirens area of Cruz Bay around 11 a.m. that morning added to the island-wide speculation.

When the dust settled, federal agents had nabbed three St. John men charged in connection with robbing Merchants Commercial Bank in Estate Chocolate Hole just over a year ago.

Kevin Fessale, 22, Shevaun Browne, 24, and Kadeem Thomas, 22, were nabbed by federal officials at various locations on St. John on February 2 and charged in connection with the January 11, 2011 armed robbery of Merchants Commercial Bank, according to a press release issued by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The three men were advised of their rights in federal court on February 2, and charged with robbing the bank of \$47,529.38, according

to the release.

The robbery occurred around 2 p.m. on January 11, 2011, when two masked men walked into the bank with three firearms and ordered everyone to the ground, according to a V.I. Police Department prepared statement issued at the time.

After sifting through drawers and collecting cash from several desks at the bank, the two fled in a blue GMC Jimmy and had remained at large until last week.

A federal grand jury returned a four-count indictment charging the men with Conspiracy to Interfere with Commerce by Robbery, Bank Robbery and firearm violations. The indictment was returned on Thursday, January 19, and unsealed on February 2, when the three St. John men were arrested, according to the U.S. DOJ release.

The indictment charges Fessale and Thomas with conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery, aiding and abetting bank robbery and carrying and using a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence. Browne was charged with conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery and aiding and abetting bank robbery.

Surveillance video cameras

recorded the men arriving at the bank, recorded the actual robbery as it was taking place and recorded the robbers leaving Merchants Commercial Bank in a blue Chevy Jimmy, which belonged to Browne, according to the DOJ press release.

Fessale, Browne and Thomas were also charged with Hobbs Act conspiracy, according to a report in the *V.I. Daily News*.

Hobbs Act conspiracy allows the federal government to try robbery cases involving firearms in U.S. District Court, according to the report.

Thomas was arrested in Estate Bethany and Browne was nabbed in the Estate Bellevue affordable housing development on Gifft Hill, while Fessale's arrest location was not detailed in court documents, according to last week's *V.I. Daily News* report.

The defendants are scheduled to be arraigned on Wednesday, February 8, at 9 a.m. before U.S. District Magistrate Ruth Miller, according to the report.

The case is being investigated by the FBI and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nelson Jones, according to the US DOJ press release.

Senators and Residents Celebrate Opening of New Legislature Annex

Continued from Front Page

just like on St. Thomas and St. Croix, Samuel added.

The old St. John Legislature building, located next to St. John School of the Arts, was mold-infested and prone to flooding, according to Hill, the current senate vice president.

"When I took over as senate president many of the government buildings in the territory were in states of total disrepair," he said. "The St. John building in particular was in the worst mess. The staff was working in mold; in a totally mold-infested building."

"Whenever it rained, entire offices flooded completely like there was a river running through the building," said Hill.

Thanks to property owner and landlord Robert O'Connor, a former Senator at Large, the government was able to secure use of the new legislature building at 1D Estate Cruz Bay as a new annex.

O'Connor also offered remarks during last week's grand opening, as did former Senator at Large Carmen Wesselhoff, and Senators Hill, Jeanette Millin Young, Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly, Terrence Nelson, Barshinger, St. John Administrator Leona Smith and Senate President Ronald Russell.

With construction of the stately building complete, the senators were in a mood for celebration, not solemnity, explained Russell.

"This is a happy moment for the Virgin Islands," said the Senate President. "Tomorrow we deal with things that are sad. Tonight we are happy."

"This is a wonderful edifice and this begins a new era of democracy in the territory," he said. "Let's be happy and enjoy this."

Bethany Moravian Church Pastor Vankys Isaac led the crowd in a Litany for Blessing the building, Shawn Auguste sang the National Anthem and the V.I. March and Libya Callwood sang a moving and motivational a capella number during the ceremony as well.

2012 RAIN DATA at Trunk Bay

JANUARY

2.96 inches

AVERAGE

3.12 Inches

TOTAL Y-T-D

2.96 Inches

AVERAGE Y-T-D

3.12 Inches

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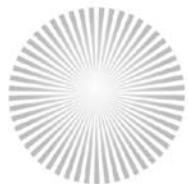
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Two Men Arrested in Frank Powell Park

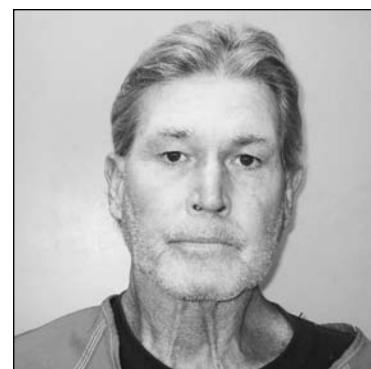
St. John Tradewinds

V.I. Police Department officers on St. John arrested Steven Dean Reichel and Scott Chamberlain and charged them Aggravated Assault and Battery, Disturbance of the Peace, Threats and other charges.

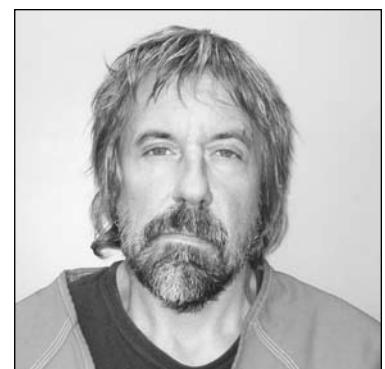
One man was arrested after a police officer asked him not to sleep on the benches of the Franklin Powell Park in Cruz Bay and not to have his personal possessions strewn about in the area.

Just before 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 28, a VIPD officer approached a man, later identified as 47-year-old Steven Dean Reichel, who was reclined and appeared to be sleeping on a bench on the north eastern side of Frank Powell Park, according to a VIPD report.

The officer asked Reichel not to sleep on the benches and to pick up the personal property that was strewn about and Reichel began to use profanity and be aggressive, according to the VIPD report.



Scott Chamberlain



Steven Dean Reichel

and the officer were standing and started to pick up the personal property that was in the area, according to the VIPD report.

Reichel and Chamberlain began arguing and Chamberlain threatened to physically harm Reichel and was arrested for Disturbance of the Peace and Threats, the VIPD report continued.

At the same time a man later identified as Scott Chamberlain, came into the area where Reichel

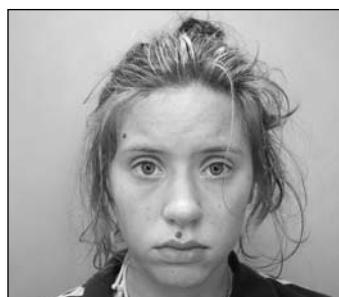
Woman Arrested on St. John on Ohio Warrant

St. John Tradewinds

V.I. Police Department officers on St. John arrested 19-year-old Katarina Bogus Bennet after she was identified by U.S Customs and Border Patrol officers as the subject of an arrest warrant originating from Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Bennet arrived on St. John on Monday, January 30, on a boat from the BVI. A routine Customs and Border Patrol inspection revealed that Bennet was wanted on drug charges in Ohio and she was detained. VIPD arrested Bennet at about 7:30 p.m. the same day.

According to the Ohio arrest warrant, if located, Bennet is to be arrested and returned to face charges in that state.



Katarina Bogus Bennet

VIPD Arrest Two for Domestic Violence

St. John Tradewinds

V.I. Police Department officers on St. John made two arrests on Friday, January 27.

VIPD officers arrested 45-year-old Juana Reynoso, also known as Shabella, and 41-year-old Courtney Matthias at about 1 a.m. on Friday, January 27, after they were involved in a domestic dispute.

VIPD officers said Reynoso caused a disturbance and threw rocks at the home of Matthias, who is her ex-boyfriend. Police also said Matthias assaulted Reynoso with a machete, cutting her left and right forearm.



Courtney Matthias



Juana Reynoso

Both suspects were arrested and held without bail due to the do-

mestic violence law pending their court appearance.

DPW Preparing Bids To Repair Portions of Centerline Road

Portions of Centerline Road Were Damaged in 2010 Hurricanes

By Jaime Elliott

St. John Tradewinds

After almost 15 months, St. John residents can expect to see repairs to the undermined portions of Centerline Road by the end of March, according to Wystan Benjamin, Federal Aid Program Manager with the Department of Public Works.

"We are getting ready to put out the bid packages right now," said Benjamin. "There are quite a few projects that are part of this program. Those funds just became available and we're working on the scope of the projects now."

DPW has been awarded about \$1.2 million for the St. Thomas/St. John District from the Federal Highway Administration for repairs to roadways and infrastructure damaged in Hurricanes Otto and Tomas, which blew through the territory in October 2010, according to Benjamin.

The St. Croix District was awarded about \$800,000 in federal funds to repair roadways damaged by the 2010 hurricanes, Benjamin added.

"There are a bunch of sites that are approved as part of the damages from Hurricanes Tomas and Otto," said Benjamin. "There are a lot of locations that need some clean up and sites that have been washed out and collapsed."

Heavy, sustained rains from Hurricane



St. John Tradewinds News Photo File

Hurricanes Tomas and Otto inundated St. John with heavy rains and washed out many portions of Centerline Road, above.

Tomas and Hurricane Otto pounded St. John in October 2010, causing severe mud slides and undermining quite a few portions of Centerline Road. Several neighborhoods on Bordeaux and along the southern shore were even cut off from the rest of the island when the roadways were blocked by mud slides, forcing neighbors to dig themselves

out.

Since October 2010, the various undermined portions of Centerline Road which were damaged during the storms have been marked with orange cones and lane delineators; but that is basically the extent of work which has been done to date.

DPW crews buried two large drain-

age pipes under Centerline Road last year, but the parts of the road which have been washed out underneath, have only been marked with cones for the past 15 months.

There has been no large-scale work done to improve the condition of Centerline Road which is the sole thoroughfare across the island and the only road to and from Coral Bay.

By the end of next month, however, residents can finally expect to see crews starting repair projects, according to Benjamin.

"The way we're doing it, all of the washouts on Centerline Road will be packaged together in one contract and there may be a separate package for repairs to Kings Hill Road," said the Federal Aid Program Manager. "The scopes are pretty much ready and Federal Highway will need to take a look and approve them and then they'll go out for bid."

"Right now we're working to get the notices out and I'll say probably we will receive bids in the end of February and sometime in March," said Benjamin. "If all goes well, we should be seeing some activity to repair those sites within 60 days or so."

Benjamin did not share specific information about the scope of work planned for the undermined portions of Centerline Road, how long the work will take or how the work will affect the flow of traffic.

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Jason Moody and Woody Anderson tug on lines to bring the "patient" up the side of the hill.

SJR and EMTs Brush Up on Rappelling Skills

St. John Tradewinds

St. John Rescue First Responders and EMTs received training on rappelling skills by veteran mountaineer Greg Wingate on Sunday, January 29.

SJR is the only agency on St. John with the equipment and skills for rappelling and the group trains frequently to hone its skills, explained Bob Malacarne NR-EMT, SJF training officer.

"Since rappelling down a steep slope is the most dangerous operation we perform we must be always practicing the safest possible techniques," said Malacarne. "Not only are we responsible for rescuing an injured person; we must also be able to ascend steep embankments or cliffs ourselves."

SJR volunteers and EMTs who participated in the training were First Responders Rudell Callwood, Randy Fish, Rob Vahling and EMTs Jason Moody and Malacarne.

Anyone interested in joining St John Rescue should visit the website www.stjohnrescue.org for more information or for an application.

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St. John Rescue Hopes To Improve Emergency Response with Oxygen Generator for Island

By Jaime Elliott

St. John Tradewinds

When an emergency occurs, most people don't think about things like the island's stockpile of oxygen — which is where St. John Rescue comes in.

The group's 14 active responding volunteer members make it their business to know exactly how much oxygen is on island because they are the ones who have to go to St. Thomas each time more is needed, explained SJR training officer Bob Malacarne.

"Currently the only source we — and that includes SJR, Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center, EMS, Fire Service and V.I. National Park — have for oxygen is on St. Thomas," said Malacarne. "The oxygen originates in Miami and is shipped to St. Croix, where it is converted into a gas and shipped to St. Thomas. Each time it is needed, we must travel to St. Thomas to purchase oxygen for medical applications on island."

"If there is a problem in Miami or on St. Croix, we are out of oxygen," Malacarne said. "A natural or man-made disaster can deplete our oxygen supply in short order."

SJR is hoping to change that, and improve emergency response by eliminating the chance of running out of emergency oxygen. The group has written a grant proposal for the purchase of an oxygen generator for St. John, which would be capable of producing oxygen and filling high-pressure oxygen cylinders for all emergency response agencies on the island, according to

Malacarne.

While SJR, VINP and EMS always try to keep oxygen in stock, refilling tanks often proves both costly and time-consuming.

"All emergency services agencies need to replenish oxygen supplies as quickly as possible since St. John is an island with no mutual aid assistance available in case of natural or man-made disaster," according to SJR's grant proposal. "If we run out of oxygen there is no readily available source of medical oxygen to replenish our supply. Our only source of medical oxygen is located on St. Thomas."

"This privately owned business is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays only," according to the grant request. "If we require oxygen refills we must wait until the supplier is open for business. The procedure for refilling oxygen bottles takes at least four hours and can take up to 24 hours or more if the vendor has several tanks to fill or if he has run out of oxygen."

SJR, which responds to about 150 emergency calls each year, projected the total cost of the oxygen generator at \$55,865, according to the group's grant. That cost breaks down to \$52,000 for the system and then several hundred more for cylinders, manifolds, wall mount brackets and transfill hoses.

After the initial investment, however, the oxygen generator would reduce oxygen supply costs by 80 percent for the island's first responders, according to the grant.

"This system produces medical grade oxygen in accordance with

the USP specifications and will reduce oxygen supply costs by at least 80 percent," according to the SJR grant request. "Less than one kilowatt-hour of energy is required to fill one 'M' size oxygen cylinder and all transportation, handling, and labor costs involved in transporting tanks to St. Thomas — including a \$50 round trip fee for the barge — will be eliminated."

The generator would also eliminate the uncertainty related to obtaining oxygen from St. Thomas, via St. Croix and Miami.

"Making oxygen and having the capacity to fill our own tanks on site eliminates the uncertainty and logistics of traveling to St. Thomas for oxygen replenishment," according to the grant proposal. "With this system in place emergency responders are also assured that in the event of a disaster — we are located in an earthquake and hurricane zone — our oxygen supply will not be in jeopardy. The system itself can also be transported for use at a disaster site."

SJR does not have the funds to purchase the oxygen generator; the group already relies on donations to cover the \$11,000 difference between its annual expenses and government funding. With VINP, EMS, Fire Department and MKSCHC operating in similar cash-strapped circumstances, the island's emergency equipment is quickly deteriorating, according to SJR's grant proposal.

For more information about St. John Rescue or the group's oxygen generator grant proposal check out www.stjohnrescue.com.

**ROBERT CRANE
ARCHITECT, A.I.A.**

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Why Cancer Survivor O'Connell Will Walk in 2012 Relay for Life

Annual St. John Relay for Life is this Saturday, February 11

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Abigail Schnell O'Connell didn't know about the American Cancer Society's resources when she was diagnosed with stage three melanoma cancer in 2006, but looking back, she wishes she had.

"American Cancer Society is a great resource for people, especially for people who seek medical attention off-island," said O'Connell. "There are so many facilities to choose from, it's hard to figure out where to go and how to get there. My doctor told me to 'Do a little research,' and I thought, 'My god, I don't know what to do.'"

"One thing ACS does is offer support to people and I think just having someone explain the options would have been a huge help," she said.

O'Connell and her Team Live Strong is just one of the more than 30 teams expected to pack the Winston Wells ball field starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 11, for the second annual St. John Relay for Life ACS fundraiser.

The event will run for 18 hours before wrapping up at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning, February 12, with the expectation that at least one member from each team will keep to the make-shift track in the ball field all night long.

Relay for Life events, which are hosted across the country, serve as reminders to communities that "Cancer never sleeps," while raising funds for the organization. The funds raised at the St. John event remain in the St. Thomas/St. John ACS Chapter and help cancer patients finance off-island travel for treatments while supplying the support which O'Connell missed during her ordeal.

O'Connell's cancer was first discovered when she found a mole on her leg which had changed shape and color.

"I had a mole on my leg that would change in color and texture at times and it was something I went to my local doctor for," said O'Connell. "They did a biopsy on it and it came back that it was ma-



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Cancer survivor Abigail Schnell O'Connell, above with daughter Olivia, will walk on the Relay for Life track with her Live Strong team Feb. 11 and 12.

lignant melanoma and I ended up going off-island for surgery."

With the mole removed, O'Connell thought her problem was solved. Just about a year later, however, she noticed problems with her lymph nodes.

"About 14 months later the melanoma returned to my lymph nodes," said O'Connell. "I noticed my lymph nodes in my groin area were enlarged. It started out the size of a golf ball and within a month's time it quickly progressed."

"I suspected that something was wrong and I went to my local doctor for a consultation," she said. "He pretty quickly advised me that I needed to go off-island to have a scan and seek additional care."

It was 2006 when O'Connell was diagnosed with stage three melanoma. She underwent a lymph excision at a Miami area hospital, which removed most of her lymph nodes on one side of her groin, but she still faced the question of which follow up treatment to pursue and where to have it done.

"After my surgery it was recommended that I have follow up treatment done and that is when I came back to St. John," said O'Connell. "There was time between having surgery and figuring

out what treatment was the right treatment for me and that is where I could have really used help from an organization like ACS. No one in my immediate family or circle of friends had ever experienced this and they didn't really have any idea what to do."

"There is not one specific treatment that is recommended post-surgery and they are still researching what is really right for melanoma patients," she said. "The hospital I went to in Miami told me to 'Do some research,' which was not a help. It was so hard to figure out where to go."

Faced with daunting confusion about post-surgery treatment, it was a family friend who actually helped out in the end, O'Connell explained.

"This small community of St. John is amazing and a good family friend put me in touch with a young man who had the exact same surgery which I did," she said. "It still would have been very nice to talk to someone about my options and where I could go which is where ACS would have been a big help."

After being directed to the NYU Cancer Center in New York,

Continued on Page 15

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“Broadway Comes to St. John” Fundraiser Brings in More Than \$45K for St. John School of Arts Programs

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

After a month of intense training, rehearsals and production meetings, when the curtain in the Westin Resorts and Villas ballroom rose on Friday evening, January 27, it was show time for “World of Dreams.”

The St. John School of the Arts fundraiser show brought in more than \$45,000 for the school and amazed audiences who raved about the original musical production.

Five Broadway actors, Michael Shawn Lewis, John Tartaglia, Laura Barnao, Rhonda Miller and Donna Drake, donated countless hours of their time and paid for their own travel expenses — which included several trips back to New York City for gigs — to support the second annual SJSAs fundraiser, Broadway Comes to St. John.

While last year’s Broadway Comes to St. John was a success, this year’s show brought in about \$10,000 more in fundraising for SJSAs.

The brainchild of SJSAs board of directors member Ronnie Lee, the fundraiser brought together top Broadway actors with fourth grade students at all three St. John schools to work in a collaborative, not competitive, atmosphere.

The actors spent about 40 hours each week for three weeks at Guy Benjamin, Giff Hill and Julius E. Sprauve Schools working on the original musical production “World of Dreams.” After three weeks of intense work, the students wowed the audience at both the 6 and 8 p.m. performances of the musical.

Audience members at the 6 p.m. show paid \$200 for angel tickets, which included dinner at one of Cruz Bay’s top restaurants and a champagne reception following the show. SJSAs sold 101 angel tickets and 150 raffle tickets, at \$100 each, for the chance to win a three-night stay in New York City, with theater tickets and dinners.

The 8 p.m. performance of “World of Dreams” drew more

than 230 people, who offered donations of their choice, which totaled \$1,800 by the end of the night. In total, the Broadway Comes to St. John fundraiser brought in \$45,417 for the island’s arts school.

The fundraiser was a success on several levels. First of all the students’ performances were impressive, bringing the audience to its feet several times during the production.

“My favorite part of the whole project was definitely watching the show,” said SJSAs acting director Kim Wild. “It was really magical to see it all come together in an amazing performance. I had been seeing pieces of it and then sometimes I went to rehearsal and things weren’t going as smoothly as I would have liked.”

“But then all of a sudden, it’s lights, camera, action and the audience is there and the atmosphere changes,” said Wild. “It’s just magical. There is really no other word for it.”

Lee agreed that Love City’s fourth graders more than rose to high standard which was expected.

“I’m more than gratified that the audience reaction was a resounding success and that the children made us all so proud,” said Lee. “In short, the kids were amazing.”

While the audience and SJSAs officials enjoyed the production, the real success of the night was the \$45,000 raised which will allow the school to continue its classes and expand a mentoring through music program, explained Wild.

“The funds raised through Broadway Comes to St. John will allow us to keep on doing what we’re doing and even try to expand,” she said. “The Mentoring Through the Arts of Music which was started by Dion Parsons on St. Thomas last year was one program that needed funding. The program is now territory-wide and our director of music education Eddie Bruce is our instructor.”

“It’s basically a youth band for kids who show proclivity and com-

mitment to music,” said Wild. “In March Dion Parsons and Victor Provost, who are both members of the 21st Century Band, will be here to give a week-long workshop and that program needed funding too.”

Broadway Comes to St. John also offered the island’s fourth graders an amazing opportunity to work with world-renowned actors, dancers, singers and choreographers. While the next Baryshnikov might not have been discovered, many students raved about the program being fun, while also honing their concentration, memorization and collaboration skills.

With so many positive outcomes from Broadway Comes to St. John, residents can expect SJSAs to bring the program back for a third time next year, but this time with a twist on angel and raffle tickets, explained Lee.

“Although the date isn’t set yet, you can count on a sparkling new production of Broadway Comes to St. John, in February or March, starring next year’s 4th grade students,” he said. “A new twist on the dine-around is being considered. Stay tuned for more news.”

Instead of a St. John Goes to London raffle — which Susan and Miles Stair won this time — next year’s raffle prize will send one lucky winner to London, Lee added.

“With a St. John Goes to London raffle already planned for next year, we expect to set a new fundraising record,” he said. “The value of the package will be in the neighborhood of \$10,000. You can anticipate round-trip air fare for two from any city served by American Airlines from the Continental U.S. or St. Thomas, an outstanding, luxury Starwood Hotel for seven nights in London, theatre tickets and a dinner for two at one of London’s top restaurants and other enticing goodies.”

No one will want to miss opportunity!

For more information about SJSAs or to find out how to support the school, call 779-4322 or check out their web site at www.stjohn-schoolofhearts.org.



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St. John Tradewinds News Photo

The St. John youth sailing program Kids and the Sea is hosting a fundraiser sunset sail aboard s/v *Roseway*, above.

Historic Grand Banks Schooner *Roseway* Sailing to St. John March 31

St. John Tradewinds

The historic Grand Banks schooner *Roseway* is coming to Coral Bay, St. John!

Don't miss the chance to sail on this 137-foot pilot boat built in 1925, one of the last of her kind cruising the world's oceans.

Join the non-profit youth sailing organization St. John Kids And The Sea (KATS) on Saturday night, March 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for a sunset sail aboard this registered U.S. National Historic Landmark. Departure will be from the KATS dinghy dock directly behind Skinny Legs at 5 p.m.

Tickets, \$75 which includes light refreshments, are available at Connections in Coral Bay and Cruz Bay. Don't miss this amazing opportunity and support youth sailing on St. John. The number of passengers is limited, so don't wait to buy those tickets!

For more information call Jennifer Robinson at 340-514-3718.

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Maho Bay Camps Staffers Remove 14 Bags of Trash from Oppenheimer

St. John Tradewinds

On Wednesday, February 1, 10 Maho Bay Campground staff members decided to spend a couple of their off-hours picking up trash around the Oppenheimer Building on Gibney Beach.

The goal was to pick up as much trash on the beach and the surrounding area, the parking lot, the driveway, and the community center near the beach.

In two hours the staff members collected 14 bags of trash, one tire and one rusted folding chair, filling the back of a Ford Ranger.

The most common item collected were glass bottles! There were so many Heineken and Coors Light bottles. About up to 5 percent of the trash collected was from the beach with the vast majority of trash found in the woods surrounding the community center and driveway to the beach.

The idea of collecting trash at Oppenheimer Beach came from Stephen Rinaldi, a cook at Maho Bay Camps.

Rinaldi started the season with a goal of collecting trash at each beach on St. John before the end of the season. The idea has certainly spread, as he was able to gather support from nine other co-workers for the Oppenheimer clean-up.

"People who litter are trash," was the best quote of the day.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Maho Bay Camps staffers are all smiles after cleaning litter from their favorite North Shore beach.

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo

The grand entrance at Orion's Hill beckons.



On the Market

A feature dedicated to special homes on the market listed with *Tradewinds* real estate advertisers

Orion's Hill: Majesty Atop Ajax Peak

By Andrea Milam

St. John Tradewinds

Imagine sitting high atop Ajax Peak, and experiencing a feast for the senses: you can't believe your eyes as you gaze upon the jaw-dropping 360-degree view that stretches for miles, from Bordeaux to Coral Bay and down the BVI island chain to the north shore, Jost, and even to St. Thomas; you smell the fresh island breeze as it rustles through the trees; off in the distance, you hear a pleasure cruiser heading into Maho Bay.

Permeating it all is a feeling of complete solitude and privacy. There's no better place to delight the senses than Orion's Hill, located high on Ajax Peak on what one local surveyor called the "best piece of land on St. John."

This beauty and solitude is thankfully not hard to come by — accessing the property is easy, explained Orion's Hill listing agent Jane Kelly of Islandia Real Estate.

"Ajax Peak is all paved and it just meanders to the top where Orion's Hill is," said Kelly. "It's such an easy drive, and there's lots of flat land up there. Ajax Peak is so close to Maho, and so easy to get to from Cruz Bay and Coral Bay."

The home was built to last, ensuring minimal maintenance for future owners. Masonry construc-



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Orion's Hill boasts impressive views and an expansive pool.

tion, poured concrete cisterns and epoxy coated rebar, to minimize rusting, mean that Orion's Hill will stand strong for decades to come.

An historic "welcoming arms" Danish staircase invites visitors inside the more than 2,000 square foot main house, which features vaulted ceilings and two master bedrooms, each with its own en suite bath. There are also two half baths in the main home.

A one-bedroom, one-bathroom guest cottage offers
Continued on Page 15



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Dan Boyd's *Seabiscuit*, above, offers day sails around St. John with fantastic snorkeling stops.

See a Different St. John Aboard *Seabiscuit* with Lovango Charters

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Instead of gazing out at the Caribbean Sea from one of the island's overlooks, get out on the water and see the island from a new perspective.

Dan Boyd's Lovango Charters is ready to take passengers on full and half day cruises aboard his 40-foot Liberty dive boat *Seabiscuit*, which features a fresh water shower and easy boarding swim ladder.

Boyd, who grew up on the water in Massachusetts, has had his captain's license since he was 18 years old. He's called St. John, and now Lovango Cay, home for 24 years and is excited to be back out on the sea.

"I used to fish and do charters, but I stopped for a while and I always missed it," said Boyd. "I grew up on the water and all of my family are fishermen in Nova Scotia. I love the water."

Trying to phase out of the construction business which has kept him busy for the past few years, Boyd is ready to get back out on the water. Lovango Charters offers twice weekly circumnavigations of St. John or can tailor a special trip, but Boyd is determined to keep his charters in U.S. Virgin Islands waters, he explained.

"For starters we will be doing circumnavigations of St. John on Tuesdays and Thursdays and *Seabiscuit* is available for private charters any other days," said Boyd. "We will be doing only US Virgin Islands charters. To be truthfully honest the boat has all the gear to do BVI trips but I am getting sick of spending money, clearing in, to go spend more money at their bars and restaurants and boutiques."

"I would like to see more money spent here in the US Virgin Islands," Boyd said. "The money that goes to the BVI never comes back here. If we support our

local businesses — restaurants, bars, T-shirt shops and boutiques — we are supporting our island."

The boat captain might be a bit biased, but he has another reason for wanting to remain in local waters.

"Also I believe we have much nicer beaches here on St. John, much more undisturbed land and much less over-development," said Boyd. "St. John is gorgeous from the water. We are also available to do trips to Big and Little Hans Lollick, Water Island, Hassel Island and most all of the out lying cays."

Boyd's St. John circumnavigation trips depart from the V.I. National Park Visitors Center in Cruz Bay at 9 a.m. and head along the island's North Shore where the captain shares his knowledge of local sights and history.

The captain makes one snorkeling stop along the way, usually at Flanagan Island, an off-shore cay with impressive corals and fish populations. Then it's time for lunch at Miss Lucy's, perched right on Friis Bay in Coral Bay harbor.

"Miss Lucy's is awesome," said Boyd. "There is a big sandy spot where we are able to anchor right there and then dinghy in to shore and have lunch. We usually sit outside under the big sea grape tree."

After lunch, guests cruise along the island's south shore and take one more snorkel stop before returning to Cruz Bay around 4 p.m. *Seabiscuit* can carry a maximum of 24 guests, but Boyd likes to keep the head count for the circumnavigation trips to about 18 people.

The trip costs \$100, which includes complimentary soda, water and beer and use of snorkel equipment, but not lunch at Miss Lucy's. *Seabiscuit* is also available for private charters. For more information, call Boyd at 340-626-9685.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH**

Keeping Track of Crime

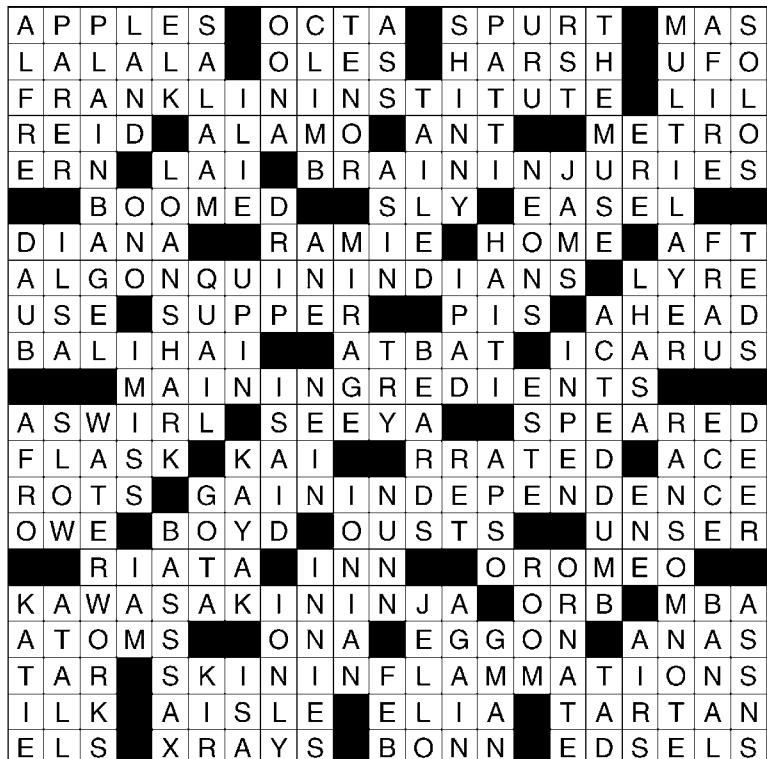
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Shootings: 0
Stabbings: 0
Armed Robberies: 0
Arsons: 0
1st Degree Burglaries: 2
2nd Degree Burglaries: 8
3rd Degree Burglaries: 51
Grand Larcenies: 58
Rapes: 1

2012-TO-DATE

Homicides: 0
Shootings: 0
Stabbings: 0
Armed Robberies: 1
Arsons: 0
1st Degree Burglaries: 3
2nd Degree Burglaries: 0
3rd Degree Burglaries: 10
Grand Larcenies: 7
Rapes: 0

Crossword Answers — Puzzle on Page 16



Letters To St. John Tradewinds

A Few Simple Ideas To Improve Service at Post Office

Regarding the package trailer closing at the U.S. Post Office, how much imagination would it take for the USPS Regional Administrator, Steven Hernandez, to instruct our Postmistress to put two clerks on duty at the main counter at all times, now that the trailer is closed.

And if Information Officer Maureen Marion wants to lower the standard of service and information given to the taxpaying public by the USPO, she is succeeding admirably.

Perhaps she wasn't at the public meeting convened

by the same unit, with at least two mainland USPO officials in attendance, two or three years ago, when we were informed that the new Post Office facility to be built in proximity of Enighed barge dock would be ready "within six months."

How easy and sensible it would be for St. John residents to be able to park legally and walk in to get our mail at a new facility built with adequate space. An improved facility and better service might even improve the financial picture for the USPO.

Name Withheld Upon Request

SJSA Thanks All Supporters of Broadway Comes To St. John

St. John School of the Arts wishes to thank all who came to "Broadway Comes to St. John — World of Dreams" and/or bought "St. John Goes to Broadway" raffle tickets.

There were 101 Angel ticket holders; 30 senior citizens; more than 230 audience members for the second show; and 150 raffle ticket holders.

SJSA would not have had the success that it was without the support of Donald Sussman, those who donated money specifically for this event and the many people who bought angel and/or raffle tickets.

In-kind services are vital to ensure the highest quality and professional output.

Thanks to:

The Broadway actors: Laura Barnao, Donna Drake, Michael Shawn Lewis, Rhonda Miller and John Tartaglia. Without these extraordinary artists, we would not have had the high caliber, collaborative effort leading to the amazing experience and production,

The St. John restaurants that participated in giving 10 dinners each as part of the Angel ticket fundraiser were insurmountable in their support and success of this event; da Livio, Fatty Crab, Fish Trap, La Tapa, Lime Inn, Morgan's Mango, Ocean Grill, Rhumb Lines, Spyglass, and ZoZo's;

Bougainvillea Leasing and St. John Car Rental for giving the actors a way to get to all four schools for rehearsals.

Cheryl Geller, in designing SJSA's new logo, was able to transpose a fresh new concept as well as create highly visual artwork for this event;

The Westin St. John, its staff and manager Mike Ryan allowed us to house this production in a space where the magic could happen;

MaLinda and Jaime at St. John Tradewinds Newspaper for expert coverage of this event and all SJSA events;

Ronnie and Pat Lee, who have started "growing wings," provided a home for the actors for the entire time on St. John;

Steve Deisher, Jeff Crokin, Craig Roub and the crew for constructing the stage and creating a "theater-like" space.

Supporters and Volunteers to this event are numerous. Their contribution is immeasurable and we thank them for the success of Broadway Comes to St. John in 2012:

Lori Barlas, Donald Becker, Eddie Bruce, Concert Works, Connections, Elana Daneau, Paul Devine, Luba Dolgopolsky, Epiphany Theater, Teresa Fraguada, Rob Glabach, Alesia Georgiou, Tim Jackson, Andrea Leland, Mindy Michtner, Sesyle Moorhead, Karen Ovcina, Lucinda Parsons, Andrew Penn, Carli Powell, Prestige Winegroup/West Indies Corporation, Puff's Taxi Service, Dr. Bern Putnam, Steve Simonsen, Starfish Gourmet, St. John Printing, St. John Rescue, Earl Thomas, Tall Ship Trading, Jonathan Werbel

And...

SJSA "Angel" Committee: Carol and Jim Furneaux, Donna Joyce, Ronnie Lee, Michael Weinman, Glenda and Harvey Werbel.

Thank you to those persons/businesses participating in the St. John Goes to Broadway Raffle:

Jim and Carol Furneaux, Etcetera Etcetera, Sardi's, theater tickets furnished by the producers of "Chicago" and "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," Alecia Parker, GM and W New York - Downtown;

Our biggest thank you is to the 4th Grade class at Gifft Hill School, Guy Benjamin School, Julius E. Sprauve School, and the Principals and Teachers

And students at St. John School of the Arts: Kaitlyn Cummings, Chloe Jarvis, Tiareh Schaub, Lineek Williams and Zoya Otto.

With your support and participation, the community had the enthusiasm and anticipation of watching it all come together like magic; making SJSA's Broadway event a fundraiser that brings the community together while instilling the importance of the arts for all of us...

....and last but not least, the Board of Directors of SJSA would like to give a hearty thanks to Kim Wild and Kazumi Schaub for their tireless efforts in keeping it all together and making it happen.

**Board of Directors and Staff
St. John School of the Arts**

SEND LETTERS, GUEST OPINIONS & OBITUARIES: editor@tradewinds.vi

ACC Thanks Many for Snow Ball Help

By Elaine Campbell
Special to St. John Tradewinds

The directors, staff, and volunteers of the St. John Animal Care Center thank the myriad donors and workers who made the group's January fundraiser gala Snow Ball the most glorious event in ACC history.

"Chris [Wegener] and I thought that the Snow Ball was the ACC's best event ever," wrote Eileen Duffy, founder and former long-time owner of Catered To. "The villa was beyond gorgeous, and I do have a nodding acquaintance with gorgeous villas! How generous of the owners to donate it for the gala!"

"The food was delicious and plentiful and was out and well distributed early — a boon for those of us who no longer keep late hours," Duffy wrote. "We felt it was the best food ever at an ACC event, the participating restaurants and caterers will find it hard to top next year, but we are looking forward to 2013!"

First thanks go to the owners of A La Mer, the Great Cruz Bay villa that was the setting for the evening. Backing up owners Janet and Martin Marshall was Chuck Siebert's St. John Savvy, A La Mer's property management company. And very special thanks go to Marianne Giovanna, A La Mer's house manager, who made sure that the cleaning crew had the villa cleaned and ready for the gala.

The departing villa guests left Saturday morning and Giovanna's crew had the villa ready for the ACC set-up crew who arrived at 2 p.m. with icicle lights, yards and yards of cotton snow, a snowman, a snow dog, and sparkle wands, to name some of the winter wonderland decorations.

The set-up crew included ACC board members as well as faithful volunteers; all deserve a nod of appreciation for working hard and quickly to prepare for the party. Zac Hales, Brenda Hooper, John Fuller, Oriel Smith, Monica Munro, Bruce Munro, BJ Harris, Karin Schlesinger, Jayne Kaiser, Denise Walker, Diana Ripley, Nancy Grayhek, Brian Ust, Bob Schlesinger, and Rob Upham of St. Johnimals completed their task just in time to race home to change into party attire and hurry back to greet early party guests.

Behind the scene workers and donors included Zac Hales of St. John Properties who worked the phones for weeks before the event, canvassing St. John caterers and chefs, Karin Schlesinger who created the concept and posters for the event, Susan Pratt who donated the glass vases, Debbie Duplisea used for raffle tickets, and The Marketplace who lent the snowman presiding over the buffet area.

ACC's Shelter Administrator Sally Nelson recruited over a dozen volunteers to work in the kitchen and to circulate with trays of finger foods. She was assisted by ACC's Kennel Technician Kimber Marnen who never ceased bringing replacement platters of food to the huge circular buffet table and who took time to collect empty paper plates and plastic glasses.

Debbie Duplisea and her daughter Alisha Duplisea worked tirelessly before the event to solicit the many raffle prizes. Jason Corley assisted with raffle prize organization, and Elaine Campbell donated 72 feet of icicle lights and light-up snowflakes from post-Christmas sales.

Very much on the scene were the Welcome Table

greeters Maia Mongie, Cynthia Einstein and Lavender Hill's Brian Ust. As guests passed beyond the Welcome Table, volunteers at the Favor Table helped guests choose from among the sparkling party favors: twinkling snowflake necklaces; blue light-up power rings; clear plastic blinking bracelets; ropes of faux pearls; and light sticks. Champagne flutes were next offered to arriving guests before they even passed into the great room of A La Mer on their way to the pool and gazebo area.

The ISH band under the baton of Jared Warren was already playing when early arriving guests entered the main party scene, and the two open bars were already dispensing a wide choice of bottled water, sodas, and alcoholic beverages. Among the busy bartenders were Mary Heath, Stephanie King, Dana Heuschkel and Kevin Baker.

Fabulous Foods

Snow Ball's main attraction was the enormous circular buffet table loaded with finger foods. Lorna Nichols and Laura Nichols Samms from Passion Fruit Chefs coordinated the kitchen and also donated food. Throughout the evening, the impressive working kitchen, located indoors right behind the outdoor buffet table, was a beehive of activity.

In addition to the various chefs who were on the scene were many kitchen helpers including Mark Horgan, Mark Harvath, Mia Dixon, Jill Dray, Laurie Damron, Nancy Grayhek, Nancy Carrieri, Kimber and Sally. BJ Harris was ACC's lead on the food committee, and Julie Van Pelt from East/West Catering advised Harris on finger food and dessert solicitations.

ACC is indebted to the generosity, creativity, and willingness of the following restaurants and chefs. ACC hopes that no one has been left out of the list of donated foods.

Baked in the Sun for coconut macaroons, Banana Deck for brownies, Westin Resort for assorted desserts, Queen of Tarts for veggie and cheese tartlettes and for assorted desserts, Barefoot Cowboy Lounge for pulled pork sliders, Chateau Bordeaux for cheese and fruit platters, DaLivio for Italian pizza, East/West Catering for miso shrimp and veggie summer rolls, Fatty Crab for veggie tea sandwiches, Iguana Grill for spinach taquitos, Katylady for seafood ceviche, Lime Inn for shrimp cocktails, Passion Fruit Chefs for assorted pizzas, Rhumblines for veggie samosas, Spyglass for beef sliders, Starfish Gourmet for a deli platter, St. Thomas Seafood for shrimp scampi, Sundog Café for crabcakes, Woody's for chicken fingers, Shipwreck Landing for ceviche and smoked salmon canapes, Skinny Legs for crabcakes, Donkey Diner for salmon wrapped cream cheese with dill, Mathayom for assorted delicacies.

And, concerned that there wouldn't be sufficient food at Snow Ball, BJ Harris donated fourteen pounds of shrimp for the shrimp scampi!

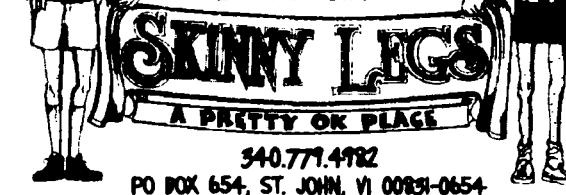
Fantastic Entertainment

When ISH took a well-deserved band break, Pyros of the Caribbean took over entertaining the guests. Once again, the Pyros team donated their extraordinary talents to Snow Ball's ultimate purpose: the care and feeding of St. John's homeless, hungry, and sometimes abused companion animals.

Continued on Page 14

WWW.SKINNYLEGS.COM

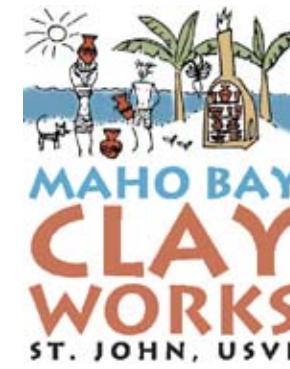
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 The English Potter Feb 9-12
 Potter's Wheel 2/14, 21, 28 3/6
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Ferry Schedules - Cruz Bay and Charlotte Amalie**CRUZ BAY TO RED HOOK**

Every hour on the hour from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

RED HOOK TO CRUZ BAY

Every hour on the hour from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m.

CRUZ BAY TO DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTE AMALIE**Leaves Cruz Bay**8:45 a.m.
11:15 a.m.
3:45 p.m.**Leaves Charlotte Amalie**10 a.m.
1 p.m.
5:30 p.m.**StJohnWeddings.com Wins Wire Award****St. John Tradewinds**

WeddingWire, the nation's leading wedding Marketplace, announced last week that StJohnWeddings.com has been selected to receive the prestigious WeddingWire Bride's Choice Awards™ 2012 for Officiant!

The esteemed annual awards program recognizes the top local wedding vendors from the WeddingWire Network who demonstrate excellence in quality, service, responsiveness and professionalism within the wedding industry. While many industry awards are selected by the organization, StJohnWeddings.com was selected based on its stellar reviews from past newlywed clients.

St. John Tradewinds Business Directory

Accommodations

Caribbean Villas & Resorts
tel. 1-800-338-0987
or locally 340-776-6152

Island Getaways
888-693-7676,
islandgetawaysinc.com
kathy@islandgetawaysinc.com

Suite St. John Villas/Condos
tel. 1-800-348-8444
or locally at 340-779-4486

VIVA Vacations
tel. 779-4250
P.O. Box 1747, STJ, VI 00831

Architecture
Crane, Robert - Architect, AIA
tel. 776-6356
P.O. Box 370, STJ, VI 00831

Barefoot Design Group, LLC
tel. 693-7665 fax 693-8411
P.O. Box 1772, STJ, VI 00831

Banking
Firstbank
Located in downtown Cruz Bay
340-776-6881

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#1 Mortgage Lender in the VI
The Marketplace (340) 776-6552

Beauty/Spa
Westin Resorts & Villas
Spa Services
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776-6403; pgunow@gmail.com

Theodore Tunick & Company
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www.theodoreturnick.com

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Real Estate
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www.stjohnvirealestate.com

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Islandia Real Estate
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info@islandiarealestate.com

Restaurants

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Dinner 6-8:30pm Tues-Sat

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and Seafood Market**
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www.skinnylegs.com

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Raffle Donors
Michael Banzhaf for a necklace, The
Pampered Pause's Kim, Krista, and Caro-

ACC Thanks Many for Snow Ball Help*Continued from Page 13*

Performing on the far side of A La Mer's gorgeous, large free-form pool, Gina Wellner, Fuego, and Sandwich — recruited by ACC volunteer Michelle Fage — fire-danced into the darkness. With torches, fire wheels, and multi-branched candelabra, the three Pyros, separately or ensemble, displayed their unique skills to the silent admiration of Snow Ball's guests. Ending with an awe-inspiring act of "fire-eating," Pyros' donation of time and talent won the ovation of everyone present. ACC cannot sufficiently express its appreciation for Pyros' generous contribution to the success of its fund-raising event!

Prizes and Raffles

After a second interlude of ISH's danceable music, the tempo of the party again changed pace. At nine o'clock the action changed to the announcement of the Grand Door Prize winner and the raffle winners. The Grand Prize winner was Forrest Hall who won a sunset sail for 40 guests. This extraordinary prize was donated by Claire and Jamison Witbeck, owners of the sailboat *Kekoa*. ACC thanks the Witbeck's for their amazing generosity and sends its best wishes to Forrest Hall for a joyful party aboard *Kekoa*.

Nancy Carriere had single-handedly gathered all the raffle prizes for the event, and Debbie Duplisea and her daughter Alisha sold the raffle tickets at the beginning of Snow Ball with the aid of Joe Zackary and Katie Peterman who had come from St. Thomas to help with the raffle. While some raffle donations were offered as single units, a large number were "bundled" together into small lots. Since there were so many raffle donations, the bundling helped cut down the possibly over-long time for winner announcements with the result that Snow Ball could be ended at ten o'clock as promised.

ACC thanks all the following donors of raffle prizes for Snow Ball and sincerely hopes that no one has been left unrecognized.

Raffle Donors

Michael Banzhaf for a necklace, The
Pampered Pause's Kim, Krista, and Caro-

lyn, Seaborne Airlines roundtrip to SJU, LaPlancha del Mar, Kalina sunset sail, Asolare, High Tide, Ocean Grill, La Tapa, Bamboula, Best of Both Worlds, Big Planet, Nest, Portico, Sun Dog Café, St Johnimals, Bougainvillea Shop, Just Beach, Gerry Hill's cutting board, Arawak Expeditions' dry bag, Caravan Auto, Kaleidoscope Video for five free videos, St. John Hardware, Tap Room, Barefoot Cowboy Lounge, Low Key Water-sports, Driftaway Dave's, Kathy Depree for a will, Liv Hitchcock for an animal portrait, Ritz massage, Ritz facial, Frenchman's Reef for two nights for two, String of Pearls two nights, Waterfront Bistro, Grapevine Salon massage, Val Donohue for one month gym, Gypsea Girl Charters, Skinny Legs, Beach Bar, Computer Express for assistance, tutoring, repair, St. John Dental whitening, St. John Dental exam, Two Fish flying boat charter, Drift Away Spa, Mathayom dinner for four with wine included and Big Blue Boat charters.

Raffle winners included Vicki Becker, Ellie Wasson, Calvin George, Diana Beam, Jason Corley, BJ Harris, Cindy Rutnik, Carrie Clark, Nancy Louis, Bob Schlesinger, Lisa Etra, Judith Whitley, Tiff Thomas among others.

"One of the most special parts for us was how well attended the gala is by the St. John community," said Duffy. "We always know that we will have the opportunity to reconnect with friends and acquaintances in a lovely setting with good food while supporting a cause dear to our hearts — critters!"

As for the "critters," they in their quiet manner, sometimes silence, sometimes little meows or purrs or barks, are the most grateful of all to the myriad of supporters who donated to or attended Snow Ball.

ACC's small shelter is overflowing with adoptable kittens, cats, puppies, and dogs, all hoping for "forever" homes, either here on St. John or as an "Off-Island Adoption" by some of our island visitors. Please stop by Tuesday through Saturday after ten a.m. to visit our formerly homeless creatures. One or two may capture your heart and go with you to bring happiness and companionship into your home.

Why Cancer Survivor O'Connell Will Walk in 2012 Relay for Life

Continued from Page 7

O'Connell connected with a dermatologist and oncologist who were facilitating a trial treatment for melanoma.

"NYU was facilitating a trial at that time for monoclonal antibody treatment which teaches your natural antibodies in your system to attack and kill cancer cells," said O'Connell.

Although O'Connell's treatment was only one dose, she had side effects for months afterwards and spent several months in New York. Today she continues to meet with her New York doctors every six months for scans and follow-up visits, but is usually kept busy running around after her six-month-old baby girl Olivia.

"I had Olivia in July 2011, which was just a couple of months

before my five year mark of when I was diagnosed," said O'Connell.

While Olivia might not make it for the entire Relay for Life, O'Connell will certainly be on the track all night long, she explained.

"I will be out on the track for Relay for Life," said the cancer survivor. "My motivation is really just for awareness. I'd love to help anyone who might be in a similar situation to myself."

It's not too late to get involved with the second annual St. John Relay for Life. Luminary bags are available for purchase in The Marketplace most afternoons, stickers are also for sale around the island and on February 11, be sure to be at the Winston Wells ball field for 18 hours of fun, music and entertainment while raising much-needed funds for local cancer patients.



Breathtaking views abound from Orion's Hill.

On the Market: Orion's Hill

Continued from Page 10

an additional 1,120 square feet of space, and underground utilities are in place for the addition of a second guest cottage, should the new owners desire.

The home has been utilized as a short-term rental, generating great income for its owners. Families with small children appreciate the fact that the two bedrooms are located in the same building, and couples traveling together rave about the privacy the layout affords.

It would also make a fantastic second, or even permanent home, for someone looking to make the move to St. John, Kelly added.

The widow's walk, dubbed the "Happy Hour Tower," is the per-

fect place to kick back after a day of beaching it and watch the sky come alive with the fiery oranges and pinks during sunset – with a frosty tropical beverage in hand, of course.

Orion's Hill, listed at \$1.65 million, has been on the market since the end of November 2011, and Kelly has stayed busy showing the property to prospective buyers. So, if you think this could be your home away from home, give Kelly a call today, before Orion's Hill is gone!

Kelly can be reached at Islandia at 340-776-6666 or on her cell phone at 941-544-5855. To view photos of Orion's Hill, or to see other St. John real estate listings, visit www.islandiavi.com.

Police Log

Friday, January 27

12:05 p.m. - An Innovative Corporation employee r/ damage to a company truck. Damage to a vehicle.

12:00 p.m. - An Estate Adrian resident r/ a burglary. Burglary in the first.

1:40 p.m. - A citizen p/ requesting police assistance. Police assistance.

3:30 p.m. - An Estate Bethany resident r/ a burglary. Burglary in the third.

3:38 p.m. - An Estate Bethany resident r/ a burglary. Burglary in the third.

5:00 p.m. - An Estate Enighed resident r/ a missing vehicle. Unauthorized use of vehicle.

No time given - An Estate Glucksberg resident c/ requesting police assistance to remove his girlfriend from his residence. Police assistance.

Saturday, January 28

1:10 p.m. - A Calabash Boom Apartments resident r/ an assault. Assault and battery, D.V.

5:54 p.m. - Badge #720 p/ at Leander Jurgen Command with two individuals under arrest. One John Doe was placed under arrest and charged with Disturbance of the Peace. One Steven Reichel was placed under arrest and charged with aggravated assault and battery. The men were detained at Leander Jurgen Command and later transported to the Bureau of Corrections on St. Thomas.

10:15 p.m. - An Estate Bethany resident p/r a disturbance. Disturbance of the peace.

Sunday, January 29

3:20 a.m. - A citizen c/r hearing gun shots fired in the area of Estate Contant and Enighed. Illegal discharge of firearm.

2:15 p.m. - A citizen p/r a disturbance of the peace and threats. Disturbance of the peace, threats.

4:16 p.m. - A citizen r/ an auto accident on North Shore Road. Auto collision.

5:54 p.m. - A citizen p/r a lost wallet. Larceny.

Monday, January 30

11:18 a.m. - An Estate Susanaberg resident c/r hearing shots fired. Illegal discharge of firearm.

1:35 p.m. - A New Jersey resident r/ his phone was stolen from a bar in Cruz Bay. Grand larceny.

4:01 p.m. - A resident r/ an assault in The Marketplace. Assault and battery.

5:48 p.m. - The manager of Dolphin Market r/ a larceny. Petit larceny.

8:07 p.m. - Badge #729 p/ at Leander Jurgen Command with one Katarina Bennett Bogus who resided on M/V *Dreamweaver* in Cruz Bay harbor. She was placed under arrest and charged with drug possession on a warrant issued from the Sheriff of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. She was denied bail and transported to the Bureau of Corrections on St. Thomas.

Tuesday, January 31

12:17 a.m. - A citizen r/ hearing shots fired in the area of Battery Hill. Illegal discharge of firearm.

6:58 a.m. - The manger of Paradise Lumber c/r a disturbance at the business. Disturbance of the peace.

11:35 a.m. - A citizen p/r an auto collision on Bordeaux Mountain Road.

5:40 p.m. - A Calabash Boom Apartments resident p/r that her brother pointed a handgun at her head and punched her in the face. Assault in the third.

Wednesday, February 1

6:33 p.m. - A citizen c/ requesting police assistance. Police assistance.

Thursday, February 2

10:00 a.m. - A citizen c/r an auto accident on Rock Ridge Road. Auto collision.

11:24 a.m. - A citizen c/r a black helicopter landing on an adjacent property in the area of Sirensusa. Police assistance.

Friday, February 3

2:46 a.m. - A citizen p/r a robbery at knife point. Robbery in the first.

CRIME STOPPERS U.S.V.I. Organization Seeks Information on Crimes

Crime Stoppers needs the community's help to solve the following crimes. If anyone knows something, they should say something, as law enforcement cannot control crime without help. Even the smallest bit of information may be just what law enforcement needs to solve these cases.

On January 9, 19, 22, and 24, residences in Estate Enighed and Pocket Money were burglarized. The suspects in these burglaries were armed with knives or handguns and gained entry via screen doors, glass doors, and unlocked doors, while the victims were either sleeping or getting ready to go to bed. The burglars demanded or stole money,

electronics, and iPhones. Tell what you know, and please lock your doors.

Please continue to help make the community a safer place to live by submitting information on these or any other crimes at www.CrimeStopperSUSVI.org or by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

All tips are completely anonymous, and the stateside operators speak several languages. If a tip leads to an arrest or the recovery of stolen property, illegal drugs, or weapons, the tipster receives a cash reward to be paid according to their instructions. The minimum reward for the arrest of a murder suspect is \$1,500.

Community Calendar

St. John Tradewinds welcomes notices of community-oriented, not-for-profit events for inclusion in this weekly listing. Call 776-6496, e-mail editor@tradewinds.vi or fax 693-8885.

Thursday, February 9

The Island Green Building Association will host a free public seminar on Thursday, February 9, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the second floor of The Marketplace.

Friday, February 10

— Senator Janette Millin-Young will be the featured speaker at the Rotary Club of St. John meeting on Friday, February 10. Stop by the Beachfront Cafe at the Westin Resort and Villas at 12:15 p.m. to give the senator a warm St. John welcome.

Saturday, February 11

— Relay for Life at the Winston Well Ball Field on Saturday, February 11, at 4 p.m. for 18 hours of friendship, food and fun and help to make a difference!

Tuesday, February 14

— The public is invited to Trunk Bay on Tuesday, February 14, for the annual Celebration of Love. St. John barefoot minister Anne Marie Porter will lead a vow renewal ceremony at 5 p.m.

— Join the St. John Historical Society on Tuesday, February 14, at 7 p.m. at the Bethany Moravian Church Hall as pres-

ervationist, artist and architect Gerville Larsen presents "How and Why We Need to Preserve and Conserve the Built Cultural Heritage of the USVI."

Saturday, February 18

— The V.I. Audubon Society is hosting its 15th annual plant sale on Saturday, February 18, in the Nazareth Lutheran Church yard in Cruz Bay from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

— On Saturday, February 18, at 9 a.m., naturalist and St. John Historical Society Historian Eleanor Gibney will offer an informative glimpse into the shifting cultural landscapes of St. John from the grounds of the historic Estate Bellevue great house.

Friday, March 9

— Virgin Islands music lovers are invited to come out and enjoy a unique aural experience as Ashu performs classical saxophone music beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, March 9, at Tillett Gardens on St. Thomas. Tickets are \$30 each.

Saturday, March 10

— Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center is offering free HPV Vaccines on Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ALCHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Alcoholics Anonymous meets as scheduled: Sundays, 9:45 a.m. at Hawksnest Bay Beach; Closed meetings for alcoholics only at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cruz Bay at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays; Open meetings on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 p.m. at Nazareth Lutheran Church; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 6 p.m. at Moravian Church, Coral Bay.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

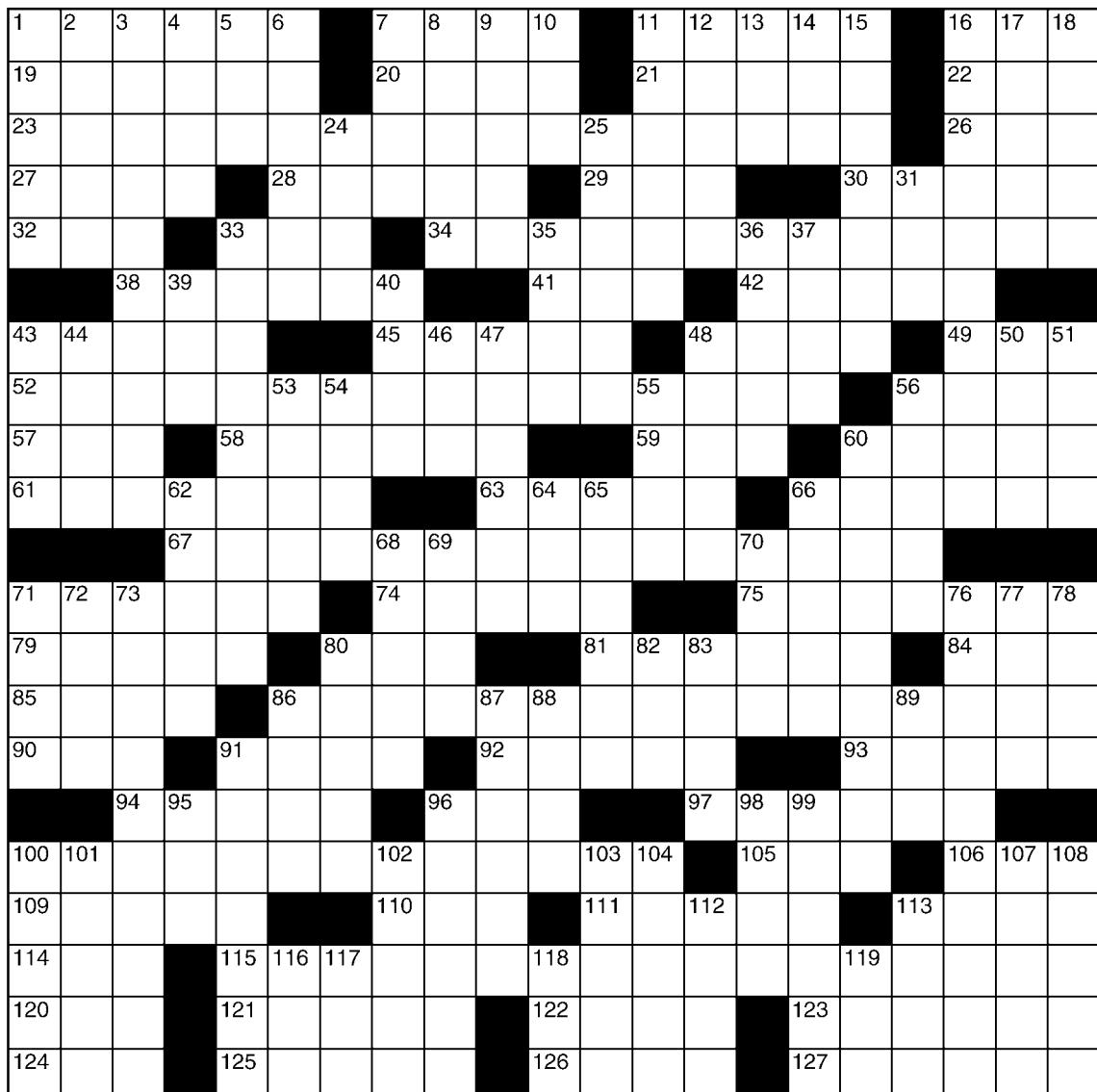
Narcotics Anonymous has open meetings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Saturday at St. Ursula's Church.

AL-ANON MEETINGS

Al-Anon meets on St. John every Monday at Scandic Executive Service's meeting room in Mongoose Junction from 6:30 to 7:30pm; and every Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. at the VINP ball field bleachers. Warm line: 340-642-3263.

PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo



IN TWO

ACROSS

- 1 Edible gifts for teachers
- 2 Quadri-times two
- 3 Sudden gush
- 4 Partners for pas
- 5 Lead-in to "I can't hear you!"
- 6 Corrida yells
- 7 Quite severe
- 8 ETs' carrier
- 9 Philadelphia museum since 1824
- 10 Rapper — Jon
- 11 Tim or Tara of acting
- 12 1836 Texas siege target
- 13 Morsel for an echidna
- 14 The first "M" of MGM
- 15 Suffix with west
- 16 Chou En- —
- 17 They may result in amnesia
- 18 Sounded like an explosion
- 19 Surreptitious
- 20 Picture prop
- 21 Ross of pop
- 22 Strong, lustrous fiber
- 23 Habitation
- 24 Not fore
- 25 Native Americans living along the Ottawa River
- 26 Apollo's instrument
- 27 Capitalize on
- 28 Evening meal
- 29 Letters before rhos
- 30 In first place
- 31 Song from "South Pacific"
- 32 Turn to hit, in baseball
- 33 Wax-winged flier of myth
- 34 Base components of a
- 35 dish
- 36 Eddying
- 37 Bye-bye!"
- 38 Stuck with a harpoon
- 39 Beaker's kin
- 40 Chiang — -shek
- 41 Like very gory films
- 42 Great pitcher
- 43 Turns bad
- 44 Get liberated
- 45 Be in the red
- 46 William of "Hopalong Cassidy"
- 47 Banishes
- 48 Al of Indy
- 49 Rodeo rope
- 50 Pay-to-stay place
- 51 Start of a line by Juliet
- 52 Line of Japanese sport bikes
- 53 Round body
- 54 Many a yuppie's deg.
- 55 Molecule's makeup
- 56 Go off — tangent
- 57 Prod
- 58 Santa — (hot desert winds)
- 59 Road goo
- 60 Conditions of dermatitis
- 61 Class
- 62 Church path
- 63 Charles Lamb's pseudonym
- 64 Clan cloth
- 65 City trains
- 66 Chest pictures, perhaps
- 67 City in west Germany
- 68 Collectible Ford cars
- 69 Rick's love in a classic film
- 70 Hex-ender
- 71 Desert illusion
- 72 Voodoo land
- 73 Munich Mrs.
- 74 "Bill & — Excellent Adventure"
- 75 State bird of California
- 76 Curl — bed
- 77 2010 Apple release
- 78 With 83-Down, terrier from Tibet
- 79 Behaved like a bone-head
- 80 Woodard of Hollywood
- 81 Peeling knife
- 82 Deli item with no top
- 83 Short mo.
- 84 Small bit
- 85 "Did — something?"
- 86 Take a shot
- 87 Goat hangers?
- 88 Using ink, as a signature
- 89 See 95-Down
- 90 No, in Essen
- 91 Noble Italian family name
- 92 Picked hairdo
- 93 Snaillike
- 94 They're turned on when one starts crying
- 95 A kidnapper may write it
- 96 Behold!, to Brutus
- 97 Elk's cousin
- 98 Canoe type
- 99 Like emerit: Abbr.
- 100 See 56-Down
- 101 Ray Charles' "I — Woman"
- 102 Sea off Sicily
- 103 Former senator Sam
- 104 Detroit-to-Toronto dir.
- 105 Large reed instrument
- 106 With 68-Down, 1971
- 107 Neil Diamond hit
- 108 Some navels
- 109 Hotel unit
- 110 Very fancy
- 111 Couric of ABC News
- 112 In any way
- 113 Had a Heart"
- 114 Jiggly food
- 115 From the top
- 116 Mundane
- 117 Clubs: Abbr.
- 118 Fed of a sort
- 119 Snootiness
- 120 Dry white wine apéritif
- 121 "This — test ..."
- 122 Short mo.
- 123 Small bit

Classifieds

Employment

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- Cruz Bay Apartments:
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 - One bedroom, one bath in Cruz Bay \$1400
 - One bedroom, two bath on Gift Hill \$1500
 - Two bedroom, one bath, washer in Fish Bay \$1800
 - Two bedrooms, two bath on Gift Hill \$2000
 - Two bedroom, one bath, furnished, A/C, w/d in Cruz bay \$2200

- Coral Bay Apartments:
 - One bedroom, one bath \$900
 - One bedroom, one bath \$1200

Check out www.stjohnlive.com for more details.

Three bedroom, one bath house for rent fully furnished, Gifft Hill, some water view. \$2,100 month. 779-6418 or 227-0547.

Wanted

Looking to buy used weed whackers, chainsaws, pole saws, leaf blowers and other landscaping equipment. Call 340-643-2998.

Public Notice

Boat *Peter Bay* found in Coral Bay. Vessel is 8'10" x 32'. Registration #VI9428TA Serial #XAU0500SJ293. Contact Irvin Stevens 340-201-3862.

A 22-foot by 7.7-foot boat found in Coral Bay. Registration # VI9449TA. Call Irvin Stevens at 340-642-2044.

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For Rent

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A/C, Washer/Dryer, balcony, clean, great location next to Westin, 1BR @ \$1,250, 2BR @ \$1,650-\$1,750, Security & 1st mo. Month to Month lease available. Call Laurie at 779-1804 or 227-6688

Large 2 BR Apartment in Bethany overlooking the Westin. Great views, A/C; Call 690-1104

Chocolate Hole Apartment for Rent:
Furnished, one-bedroom apartment for rent in Chocolate Hole. Long breezy deck, quiet and private. \$1,000 includes electricity, laundry room, Wi-Fi. One person, non-smoking. 12-month lease, monthly afterward. \$1,000 security and first month. Call 693-7093 or email palomacat@earthlink.net.

Coral Bay, Carolina Long Term, Furnished 2 Bed 2 Bath, Full Upper level, A/C in Bedrooms, Large covered deck, W&D, \$1650/mth. Call Ron 715-853-9696

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"Little Plantation" - A developer's dream - Seven acres of sub-dividable land with beautiful views over Coral Bay, Hurricane Hole and the British Virgin Islands. This property faces east to catch the cooling breezes, sun rise and moon rise. Walk to Cocoloba Shopping Center. A preliminary subdivision plan is in place and a road has been cut to the top of the property with the entrance already paved. **\$2.4M**

"Brisas del Mar" has beautiful panoramic views from every room looking over Coral Bay & Hurricane Hole to the BVI. There is an open floor plan with custom kitchen, 2 bedrooms on the main floor and a spiral stair case to the third bedroom suite, which has its own balcony. The pool & spa decks face the cooling easterly trade winds and rising sun and moon. This home is great for a family or for short term rental. **\$1.45M**

"Casa Tua" Waterfront! Another great house by Jim Phillips. New, beautiful, masonry home located on the water at Lagoon Point near beautiful Salt Pond bay & Lameshur. Two bedrooms in the main house & a separate guest house. Spectacular water views over the East End to the BVI, sound of waves breaking on the reef, and an easy, paved path to the water. Excellent snorkeling, bonefishing and beachcombing. Priced to sell at just **\$2.4M**



"Surfside" - This is a rare chance to own a home in the exclusive Reef Bay enclave. Surfside is a beautifully appointed Mediterranean style three bedroom, three bath pool villa situated on the edge of undeveloped park land with fabulous ocean views and breezes. Stroll via pathway to secluded white sand beach from this oversized lot. Very successful rental home with plans for another 2x2 villa with separate entrance. Price reduced to **\$1,495,000**



"St. John Livin" - Enjoy the fabulous views and the St. John lifestyle in this furnished villa built in 2006. Big views of Coral Harbor, BVI, and the Caribbean Sea, a paved driveway with easy access, underground utilities, photovoltaic solar system, bamboo floors, over 700ft. of trex decking, and room for a garden. Successful short term rental! Buyer to honor current reservations and some owner financing possible. This picture perfect home is your next right choice. **\$699,000**



"Bo Atabey" - a new solid masonry pool home in a quiet and private location on Seagrape Hill. The spacious, open style floor plan features a central great room, kitchen and dining area flanked by a master suite on each side for guest privacy. A roughed-in 784 square foot space below is for a proposed one bedroom apt. for expansion. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with stone walls and lush gardens surrounding the sunny pool & entertainment deck. **\$1.175M**



"Peter Bay Land" - BUILDING PROCESS HAS BEGUN! Driveway excavated and partially paved, main foundation has been excavated & poured with cisterns & pool in place. Spectacular one acre parcel (sub-dividable) located in prestigious Estate Peter Bay with stunning views overlooking St. John's North Shore. This parcel is not part of the Peter Bay association but does have right to use the Upper Peter Bay association road for access and has deeded beach access. **\$999,000**



Mango Terrace Villas - Brand new and spacious condos on a hillside overlooking the turquoise waters of the Caribbean. All units have spacious interiors, ample decks from which to enjoy the cool easterly breezes & expansive water views. Amenities include private laundry, private decks, granite counters, tile floors, large shared pool and deck. Only six units in two buildings with proximity to Cruz Bay Town & Frank Bay beach. Financing available. Priced to sell at under recent appraised value. **\$499,000 to \$900,000.**



"Palm Terrace Villas" - Some of the most spacious condos to be found on St. John. Completed in 2005 with beautiful views, generous balconies, common sun deck & pool area, walk to town & Frank Bay Beach. The 3 bedroom penthouse has cathedral ceilings. All feature granite countertops, stainless appliances, private laundry and ample storage. These condos have it all. **\$599,000 to \$999,000.**

DEVELOPMENT/COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES: Hansen Bay 7A is an 18 acre parcel with studies done and a 15 lot sub division permit. All lots have water views and breezes and 4 lots are on the flat top of a ridge with almost 360 degree views. Reduced from **\$3.18M to \$2.99M**; Estate Zootenvala 20 acres overlooking the marine preserve at Bork Creek just east of Coral Bay **\$7M**; Adjoining 4.5 acre parcel with 4 cottages and white sand beach also available. **Group Dwelling permit for 6 apartments** and a driveway permit have been issued for this 0.9 acre lot in Estate Rendezvous & Ditleff. With sunset and water views to St Thomas from this gently sloping lot, this is a perfect parcel for development or for a single family home with lots of privacy. **\$549,000**

Estate Pastory - near Cruz Bay. Three adjoining lots at Estate Pastory with possible water views and gentle grades. Great spot for a contractor to build some spec homes or a family compound with several homes. Seller financing possible. **Starting at \$200,000 each or \$375,000 for all three!!!**

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JESS Hosts Health Fair



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Jaime Elliott

Julius E. Sprauve School officials opened the school's cafeteria on Monday, January 30, to a number of health care providers who offered vision tests, blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests and more.

Text of Governor deJongh's State of the Territory Address

St. John Tradewinds

As I deliver this State of the Territory Address, we find ourselves in the most difficult period our generation will face. We face a moment in time that requires nothing less than for each and every one of us to acknowledge the change thrust upon us and to rise up and work together if we are to ensure our survival as a government and as a community.

One year ago — almost to the day — I delivered my fifth State of the Territory Address, I emphasized then that our territory was at a Tipping Point. I stressed then that it was still within our grasp to decide the type of future, the kind of community we wanted to build.

This state of affairs — our Tipping Point — was a result in part of actions we had taken as well as actions taken by others who came before us, but it was predominantly driven by global and national forces that had undermined our economy and ripped apart our finances.

The sharp decline in our tax revenues that we have experienced is a simple and straight-

forward measure of an economy that fell off a steep cliff, as tourism, manufacturing and investment declined, and world markets collapsed.

We acted aggressively when we borrowed to maintain public employment and government spending during the early years of the recession. Had we not, the recession would have devastated what was left of our business community and compromised our future. The social safety net of our community would have become unglued, placing untold stress on our families and communities.

We hoped that the nation's economic recovery, and our recovery, would have come more quickly, but it has not. And our ability to fully insulate our people from its effects has run its course.

We began 2011 confronted by the strong likelihood that public sector employee dismissals — like those that had already been experienced by our private sector workers — would be needed as we adjusted governmental expenses to the reality of our revenues.

I met — and you also met — with union

Continued on Back Page

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CATHERINEBERG'S RIDGE 5 bedroom villa on 1+ private acre, bordered by National Park, features stunning north shore views, pool w/waterfall, spa, easy access to Cinnamon Bay beach.

\$4,900,000

"CINNAMON RIDGE" 5 bedroom villa on 1+ private acre, bordered by National Park, features stunning north shore views, pool w/waterfall, spa, easy access to Cinnamon Bay beach.

\$3,999,000

"MOJO RISING" is a 4 X 5 stone and masonry home of stunning quality and style in Estate Chocolate Hole. Light and airy, every room enjoys sweeping views to the east and west. The finest décor, amenities and grounds complement this elegant villa.

\$3,249,000

"VISTA CIELO" Completed in 2010, this elegantly furnished, 3 bdrm villa in classic Caribbean architecture with privacy in a quiet gated community. All rooms have water views and open onto a large verandah surrounding a sunny pool with great views.

\$2,350,000

"VILLA SERENDIPITY" - spectacular 270° views to St. Thomas/St. Croix w/ a quiet hilltop location & great rental history. 4 spacious bdrms each w/ their own bath. Great pool deck! AC or open windows & sliders to the Caribbean breezes.

\$1,850,000

"VILLA FAR NIENTE" Turn-key 3 bedroom, 3 bath villa in Pt. Rendezvous offers big views, breezes & great rental history. Beautifully-appointed, fully furnished, infinity-edge pool, interior staircase, artistic lighting and super sun and moonrises!

\$1,695,000

"STONE COURT" is a 3 bedroom haven. 1 acre of privacy with sweeping views from Rams Head to St. Thomas. Island inspired architecture of stone and wood.

\$1,400,000

"PARADISE ON THE ROCKS" Tropical living, big views & masonry home-centrally-located on Ajax Peak. Two units: - 2 bedrooms, 2 baths & Great Room upstairs; private entry 1 bedroom apartment downstairs. Rent one, live in the other!

\$1,150,000

"SEABISCUIT" is a winner! Charming 2x2 Caribbean style masonry villa with panoramic views, very private pool & hot tub. Breezy location convenient to Coral Bay Walk to shoreline watersports.

\$895,000

"VILLA MIMOSA" IS A BEST BUY! 4 bedroom private rental home- awesome down island & Coral Bay views! Turn key! Originally \$1,700,000 now priced to sell.

\$864,990

"TREE HOUSE" offers spectacular views from Upper Carolina's ridge top. This gentle parcel features a 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home which is bordered by National Park.

\$685,000

"UPPER CAROLINA COTTAGE" 2 bdrm-2bth well-built & maintained home. Nice mountain views & breezes, comfortable wrap-around deck. Adjacent view parcel also available. Live in cottage while building main house. Deeded access to common beach parcel.

House alone \$609,000.
With land \$825,000.
\$590,000

"3 UNIT INCOME PRODUCER!" Near town, all masonry. Top floors each 3 bedrooms with decks, A/C, plus lower studio. Renovated 2003: Corian counters, new appliances & tile floors.

\$540,000

"TREE FROG COTTAGE" Charming 1 x 1 home, surrounded by lush tropical forest with views of Coral Bay and the BVI. Close to shopping and restaurants, but very private. Good short term rental history.

\$535,000

"FISH BAY" 4X2 INCREDIBLE VALUE! Huge panoramic views and a quiet, private, breezy location that borders Nature Conservancy property make this home a must see!

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"CORAL BREEZE" Well kept 2br, 2ba condo live in or continue successful short term rental. Beautiful views of Great Cruz Bay & beyond. Convenient to town & recently added common pool and deck make Bethany Condos unit 6 a great investment.

\$210,000 & \$185,000

"CONCH VILLAS": Why pay rent? Opportunity to own a 2br, 1ba &/or a 1br, 1ba condo close to Cruz Bay! Purchase one for yourself and stop throwing money away on rent or purchase both for additional income.

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\$210,000 & \$185,000

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Governor John deJongh's State of the Territory Address

Continued from Page 19

leaders who requested we take this path, only to have them then sue us for having honored their request. We remain certain that we acted then, and must continue to act now, in a manner that is best for the greatest number in our community.

We ended 2011 without resolution to our financial problems, and last month we began the process of employee dismissals and reductions in some services. This was not something I wanted to do, but it was caused by your inaction last year and your continuing unwillingness to deal with the problems we face.

And now, in the first month of a new year that we all wished would mark a time of recovery, we are confronted by a new tsunami, the announcement that the company that has been the largest private employer in the territory ever since its plant construction in the 1960's is closing its oil refinery and terminating the employment of its employees and its subcontractors.

This is a catastrophic decision that will effect workers and their families, support to community organizations, the sales of local businesses and all they support; quite frankly, our entire territory. The HOVENSA announcement has caused a universal shudder of fear and anxiety to pass through our islands, not unlike the emotions that we all experience with the coming of a hurricane.

The news of HOVENSA's closing is causing many of us to fear for our future. We feel uncertain of the next step, uneasy about the payment of the next bill, worried about how we will meet our children's needs, and worried about our future.

And while this impact will be felt more immediately on St. Croix, it will reverberate throughout the entire territory because we are a community connected each and every day by links of family, business and politics. If you did not believe so before — accept it now.

So, as we embrace this new reality, as we work to stabilize our economy and achieve diversification and growth going forward, we have been rocked by these recent announcements, we have been tipped to one side.

The State of our Territory tonight can best be described as troubled. These are, indeed, the times that try men's souls.

We have made great progress in many areas that will serve us well going forward. We have 100,000 more airline passengers flying into our territory and three new air carriers. We have rationalized and streamlined licensing and permitting. Our outreach programs are reaching displaced workers, and citizens will no longer have to go office to office to determine their eligibility for social programs. We are investing more than \$100 million to assure all have access to high-speed Internet. And for the first time in two decades, we will be building new senior housing on St. Thomas.

However, tonight I must speak to you in this chamber, and on this occasion to the people who put us in public office, in our positions of public trust, on where we are as a community not just as a result of the shock of the announcement of the closure of HOVENSA, but as a result of the actions — and inaction — of the 29th Legislature over the past year, your inaction in the Special Session I called a month ago, and your votes of last Tuesday.

I think by now it is clear to all Virgin Islands voters that there is a block in this Legislature whose politics requires them to oppose each and every action I propose, be they large or small, whether the approval of a new rum distillery, the merger of government agencies to reduce long-term costs or a vote to raise the revenues necessary to support a borrowing so that we could pay our bills and maintain government services and personnel.

So, where are we now? Had we not had the announcement from HOVENSA that 2,000 people were to be put out of work. Had we not learned of this drastic action the night before it was announced publicly, and if we had not already come to appreciate how these terminations will affect so many other businesses of all kinds on St Croix, we would still know that our budget crisis was dire. We knew that actions we thought were to be taken last week might not prevent all cutbacks, all future dismissals, but we knew we had to act and we knew

that time was not on our side.

We do not yet know the full impact of HOVENSA's actions. But we do know that the taxes paid by HOVENSA and its subcontractors total more than \$50 million.

And we know that the payroll of HOVENSA and its subcontractors causes over \$30 million of payroll withholding taxes to be paid into the treasury of the territory. And we know that the past income taxes we collected when they were profitable will not be collected if they are not operating and operating profitably. And we do know that the gross receipts taxes paid by the businesses that serve HOVENSA and its workforce will go down.

We know that the gap between our revenues and our expenditures is widening, and we have a duty to make every effort to meet these challenges head on.

Limited resources require us to terminate areas of service that are no longer critical to our mission — that we do more with less and for our departments and agencies to find ways to save and accomplish their goals and mission with fewer resources.

Now, we will have to take ever more drastic steps to bring our revenues and expenditures into balance. And we will have to take those steps to reduce spending that I can order as Governor, as it has become clear that the Legislature has made its decision and new revenues will not be part of their solution.

Accordingly, I shall act as I must, because all know that it is unlawful to issue checks that cannot be covered, and we will not break the law. On top of the 8 percent salary reduction and the dismissals which have already taken place, we must turn to the narrower range of options available to us, including: more dismissals; shorter work weeks; additional school closures and classroom consolidations; shorter hours at senior centers, public health clinics and recreational facilities.

We also know that we must begin to acknowledge and address the real costs of what we owe and what we want to do. This is true about GERS, that is unfunded by over \$1 billion dollars. This is true about our Medicaid program, where we

risk losing more than \$300 million if we fail to set aside our local match. This is true about the Waste Management Authority, where proposed plans would require tens of millions of dollars beyond what we currently spend. And this is true about the costs of uncompensated care at our hospitals.

And we do not know how much worse the situation will be because of HOVENSA. But we know it will be worse, and we know that we cannot wait and see. We must take steps now in what we can reasonably predict will be a dramatic further reduction in our revenues.

And everyone who is listening to me tonight or who reads this later needs to know that we will come through this economic crisis and move forward to the future that we all wish for ourselves, our families, and most keenly for our children.

The people of the Virgin Islands have endured much in our history and we will come through this crisis as well.

Visit www.tradewinds.vi for a more complete excerpt of Governor deJongh's Monday, January 30 State of the Territory address.

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