

ST. JOHN TRADEWINDS

The Community Newspaper Since 1972 • St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands

Happy New Year 2016!



St. John Tradewinds News photo by Yelena Rogers

New Year's Eve revellers packed DrInk on the Cruz Bay waterfront on Thursday night, December 31, to ring in 2016 in style. The party featured music by DJ Top Notch, a Love City "ball drop" and a midnight performance by fire dancers Flights of Fire and Island Fire, above.

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VIPD St. John Officers Honored for Outstanding Work

St. John Tradewinds

On Thursday, January 7, at 11 a.m., officers attached to the St. John Leander Jurgen Command hosted their Quarterly Recognition Presentation, providing acknowledgement to those outstanding officers covering the period of October through December 2015.

VIPD St. John Deputy Chief of Police Arlene Chalwell continues to build the moral of the officers under her command, by continuously sharing sincere words of encouragement and presenting each officer chosen with a Plaque of Appreciation along with a hearty round of applause for their dedication.

VIPD Officer Thompson Alexander received the Officer of the Month Award for October, for exemplifying great potential for leadership, as he's always reliable and reports for duty on time. While on duty, Officer Alexander is able to take charge and lead others by carrying out the duties of a supervisor in their absence. Officer Alexander was also tasked with heading up the New Year's Eve Initiative and recording the Action Plan.

VIPD Officer Josiah Angol received the Officer of the Month Award for November, as he continues to always lend a helping hand when needed. Officer Angol reports for duty on time and has always shown initiative by being an officer who is dedicated and dependable.

VIPD Officer Mitsy Prescod received the Officer of the Month Award for December, for always being ready to assist her fellow officers and exemplifying outstanding dependability by always being ready to take on a second shift when manpower fails. Her impeccable service contributes to a positive work environment. Officer Prescod went above and beyond her duty as she transformed the Front Desk Operations by implementing a more direct and simplified method to operate the Front Desk.

The presentation was at the St. John Legislative Building in Cruz Bay and was very enjoyable as each officer selected felt appreciated for their service.

St. John Tradewinds News Photo courtesy of VIPD



St. John VIPD Recognition Presentation

V.I. Police Department officers took time out to recognize the great work done by several St. John officers at a January 7 ceremony at the Cruz Bay Legislature Building.

CBCC Forum on Sirius Marina Project is Jan. 11 at JFLI

St. John Tradewinds

The Coral Bay Community Council will host a Forum on the development plans for the Moravian Church Conference Sirius (T-Rex) Marina project on Monday, January 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the John's Folly Learning Institute in Coral Bay.

Currently the Army Corps of Engineers has its public comment period open to receive comments from the public and federal agencies on the pros and cons, and consequences of this 92 slip marina development, if it were built. There will be several short informal presentations about the marina plans, environmental impacts, economic and other factors.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussion. The developer has been invited to participate too. Access The Army Corps Public Notice at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices/tabid/6072/Article/633665/saj-1982-05019sp-jcm.aspx> or on CBCC's cloud: <http://1drv.ms/1NuTRnP>.

Also check www.CoralBayCommunityCouncil.org, for more information as it becomes available. Comment letters are due by January 25, and can be sent via email. For more information on the meeting, call the CBCC office at 776-2099.

GHS Community Cafe Set for Jan. 15

St. John Tradewinds

Giff Hill School is pleased to announce that the second Community Cafe event of the school year will be on Friday, January 15, at 5:30 p.m. at the Upper Campus.

This exciting event will feature delights created by Giff Hill School's Culinary Arts and Farm to Table classes under the direction of Chef Lori Dudkin and Dr. Dave Minner. This dining experience will include passed appetizers preceding a three-course dinner, served family style. Garden tours will also be available. Tickets are \$30 per person. There is a 50 person maximum, so this event is sure to sell out!

Dr. Gary Ray to Speak at VI Audubon's Jan. 19 Meeting

Dr. Gary Ray, proprietor of Virgin Islands Nursery, former professor of biology at the University of the Virgin Islands and lifetime conservationist will speak at the Virgin Islands Audubon Society monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 19, at 7 p.m. at The Marketplace, second floor just around the corner from the Mail Center.

Join VI Audubon members to hear Dr. Ray's talk on native plants and their importance to the environment as well as the connections they have to wildlife. An update on the results of the Christmas Bird Count will also be presented.

ST. JOHN TRADEWINDS LLC

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T-Rex Marina Comment Period Open till January 25

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

The Coral Bay Community Council is hosting a forum Monday to educate the community on the impact of a proposed marina in Coral Bay.

The proposal for the marina is the only portion of a larger project that has been submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers(ACOE) by T-Rex St. John, LLC in partnership with the Moravian Church V.I. Conference which owns the land. The project has been under development since 2006.

T-Rex St. John, LLC is the lessee, and Sirius Development, LLC is the managing member of the project, and so the proposed development is referred to as T-Rex, Sirius, or the Moravian Church Project. The Emmaus Moravian Church in Coral Bay is a member of the conference, but it is not the entity in partnership with T-Rex.

The ACOE has set aside 45 days for the public to weigh in on the proposal.

“The standard is 30 days,” said Sharon Coldren, president of the Board of Directors of the Coral Bay Community Council (CBCC). She speculated that the extra time was to allow for the holidays and because “there are a lot of members of the community who will want to look at this.”

The comment period ends on January 25. The plans for the project can be found on ACOE’s website www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices/tabid/6072/Article/633665/saj-1982-05019sp-jcm.aspx, but readers may find it easier to access the plans by clicking on the CBCC website (www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org) or from the website of Save Coral Bay, a community group created to facilitate information about development plans for Coral Bay (www.savecoralbay.com).

There have been two major development proposals to build marinas in Coral Bay, and members of the public who don’t follow the news very closely may rightly be confused.

This proposed marina is an entirely different project from the marina proposed by the Summer’s End Group, LLC, for Coral Bay harbor.

The Summer’s End Group

(SEG) marina would be located on the shore opposite to the marina proposed by T-Rex. SEG’s plan, which calls for dock space for 144 boats, including mega yachts, generated more than 15,000 letters to ACOE during its comment period.

The T-Rex marina would be located on the protected northeast shoreline of Coral Bay harbor near Skinny Legs restaurant and the historic town dock. The current plan calls for construction of a dock with approximately 90 slips for boats up to 70 feet in length.

The plan also calls for a marine service area, which will include a travel lift or other machinery for hauling boats, a fuel dock, and sewage pump-out station for boats. It will also include a reverse osmosis water plant, fuel storage tank, generators, and parking.

Although some reports have said that the services area will include a building for dry storage, Rory Calhoun, the developer of the project, said that was not correct, at the moment.

“Right now that’s not part of the plan,” Calhoun said about boat storage. “We’re not excluding boat storage for the future.”

Coral Bay Marine currently supplies marine repair service in the proposed site area and Calhoun said he hoped they would continue to do so.

“I’d like them to be part of the future,” he said. “They’re experienced in the community, and we take direction from them.”

T-Rex intends to construct some shops including a provisioning center, but “there will be changes around us and reflect input from the community,” said Calhoun.

“It is truly a work in progress,” he said. “We have all the agencies to answer to. We may have to make further modifications.”

Calhoun and some other members of the development team will be on hand to answer questions at a January 11 community meeting hosted by CBCC at John’s Folly Learning Institute, he said.

A survey completed in April indicated that nearly 120 boats were anchored or moored in Coral Bay, according to Coldren. Of those, approximately 90 were registered, and at least 70 had mooring permits for Coral Bay; several others had applied for mooring permits

and were on a waiting list.

Coldren estimated the number of “live-aboards,” — boats which serve as a primary residence — at about 30. Many who live aboard are working members of the community, teachers, construction workers, restaurant workers, and small business owners, she said.

The construction of a marina raises a number of questions. Where will all these boats go during construction? Will the boats be displaced permanently?

As for the relocation of the boats in the present mooring field, “one of the government agencies is addressing that area,” Calhoun said.

Boats would be able to lease space on the docks once construction is completed, but there are currently no plans to give them priority, he said.

The historic town dock in Coral Bay is critical to the boating community, and boaters are questioning what access to land will be available during construction and after the marina is completed.

“Until we have constructed a public dinghy dock, as I understand it, the present dinghy dock will remain open to the public,” Calhoun said.

The property that T-Rex hopes to develop includes nearly 10 acres of waterfront land owned by the Moravian Church V.I. Conference and comprises land extending from the intersection of Routes 10 and 107 to the shoreline, including the ball field, to just past Skinny Legs Restaurant.

“Parcel A, where Skinny Legs is, is not part of the project, nor is the school, nor is the firehouse,” Calhoun said.

The current proposal on file with ACOE is only for the marina portion of the development, but Calhoun said the project has always been contemplated as a marina resort.

Preliminary drawings call for the construction of approximately 90 hotel-condominium units. The one and two-story buildings will be built into the landscape as it slopes down to the shore so that the view from the Moravian Church will be preserved, Calhoun explained.

“We intend to leave the ball-field, to a large degree, open space for recreational, community, and

church use,” he said.

The Save Coral Bay coalition has used renderings from these preliminary drawings to imagine several views of the hotel portion of the project.

“These images are based on our best available information regarding design, elevations, and location,” according to information on www.savecoralbay.com. “Because of the lower elevation of the roadway, the two-story hotel units will completely obscure the view of the water. At the slightly higher elevation of the church it will be possible to see the water over the rooftops of the hotel units, but the dominant feature offshore of the hotel will be the proposed marina.”

Only the marina being proposed at this time because the process for approving a marina and resort development is complex. The V.I. National Park and the territory’s departments of Planning and Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, and Public Works will all weigh in. The proposal must be approved by the St. John Coastal Zone Management Committee and the federal ACOE. Once approval from these agencies is obtained, the proposal has to be passed by the Virgin Islands Legislature and then signed by the governor.

In order to develop the “upland portion”— the hotel-condominium portion of the project — T-Rex has to have a portion of the property rezoned.

“Presently, we are zoned largely for waterfront recreational, and some waterfront industrial and residential use,” said Calhoun. “Essentially, we want to extend waterfront recreational into an area that is now residential, and restrict the marine industrial to the service area.”

The Virgin Islands Legislature has to approve any changes in zoning.

“We’re awaiting a rezoning hearing meeting,” said Calhoun.

A meeting on St. Thomas had been scheduled several months ago but was cancelled when it became clear many St. John community members would be unable to attend because of the location.

Any development in a harbor raises environmental concerns, but the proposed marina’s location in Coral Bay requires additional scrutiny because the area has been

an active habitat for numerous marine species and has a population of mangroves nearby which are federally protected.

“Boat bottom paint is highly toxic to marine life and we have strong concerns the digging of 400 pilings for the docks could result in restricting water circulation, resulting in heavier concentration of toxins,” said Coldren.

In order to achieve a depth of six feet for boats in the marina, nearly one acre of the harbor must be dredged, and 3,890 cubic yards of material — about 400 truck-loads, according to the Save Coral Bay website — must be removed.

The proposed disposal site is on the southwest corner of “the triangle” at the intersection of Routes 10 and 107, adjacent to Pickles restaurant. Calhoun has suggested that the present ball field would be relocated to this spot. Coldren noted, however, that this area is considered wetland and is federally protected from development.

SEG’s proposal to build a 144-slip marina is still active. It would be located directly across from T-Rex’s marina, and it’s worth taking a look at the T-Rex’s application to ACOE to see how the two marinas will line up with each other. If both were built as proposed, Coral Bay would have marinas with a total of more than 230 slips.

Calhoun did not want to discuss SEG’s project.

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NEXT DEADLINE

Thursday, Jan. 21st

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Holiday Reunion Brings Siblings Together Again After More Than 20 Years



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of the Mongie Family

The Mongie, Van Den Berg and Tinghe families celebrated a long awaited reunion with lunch at Shipwreck (at left). (Above L to R) Yvonne Van Den Berg, Henry Mongie and Linda Tighe, together again after more than 20 years. The siblings enjoyed some beach time (above right).

**By Andrea Milam
St. John Tradewinds**

The holiday season was a time of warmth and togetherness for families across the island, but in the Chocolate Hole home of Henry Mongie, a special kind of magic was happening.

Henry and his two sisters, Yvonne Van Den Berg and Linda Tighe, spent the holidays together, marking the first time the siblings had all been under one roof in more than two decades. All in their 80s, they acknowledged with a calm and assured sort of solemnity that it was likely also the last time they would all be together.

Linda's husband Peter Tighe, Yvonne's son and daughter-in-law Rory and Linda King, and Henry's son Jonathan Mongie and his wife, Eva Mongie and their children, Savannah and Wyatt, rounded out the crew, filling Henry's home with love and laughter.

Henry, a South African native and 52-year resident of St. John, sailed to the Caribbean in 1963. It was a tumultuous time in his native country, where the system of apartheid reigned, so Henry set off in search of something different. He departed from Mozambique, skirting the African continent's southern coast, with stops in Durban, Port Elizabeth, Hermanus, and Cape Town before making the nearly 2,000-mile crossing to Saint Helena, a remote volcanic British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic. From there, Henry made the long crossing to Trinidad and then up the island chain to St. Thomas, where he dropped on anchor on July 4, 1963.

Henry quickly assimilated to life in the Virgin Islands; not long after his arrival, he started Tradewinds Charters. Over the years, Henry ran several businesses on St. John including the At Your Service travel agency and Pine Peace Liquors. He made occasional trips back to South Africa before the busyness of life made the journey infeasible. His sisters, both mired in their own daily routines in South Africa, traveled to St. John a handful of times to visit Henry.

Despite the distance, the siblings kept in touch with occasional letters, phone calls, and even a Skype chat. As Henry approached his twilight years, he realized it was time to bring his family together under one roof for the last time.

"It's wonderful to see them again," Henry said from the terrace of his home with the waves rolling in gently below. "I wanted it to happen and it happened. It's probably the last time we'll ever see each other again."

The planning started months before the siblings' December 18 arrival, which involved Linda King, Yvonne's daughter-in-law, traveling from her home in Qatar to South Africa to accompany Henry's sisters and brother-in-law on their journey to the V.I.

"I was packing for nine months," Yvonne said of her excitement.

"Mum packed her suitcase 10 times," echoed her daughter-in-law Linda with a smile.

Gathered around the table on Henry's terrace, the conversation flows so easily between the three siblings and their extended family, it's easy to forget they haven't seen each other for decades. Their rapport with one another is friendly

and convivial, their exchanges interspersed with light teasing, a testament to the strength of their familial bond. The time Henry and his sisters spent together triggered old memories, shared with much joy and laughter.

"From the moment they got off the taxi in Red Hook, it's just been an amazing time," said Jonathan of seeing his dad and aunts together. "The stories that have come out — I've been learning more about the family. It's like these memories have woken up. Some of the stories were told after they were plied with alcohol."

Henry and his family celebrated his 82nd birthday with a lunch at Shipwreck, and they spent many days beach hopping together. They attended Miles Stair's holiday party and Henry hosted his own Christmas dinner party, complete with two legs of lamb and two turkeys.

"It's almost like we knew we were on limited time, so staying together was critical," says Jonathan. "We had a ton of beach time, a ton of talk time, lunches, dinners, night-times together. It's been truly amazing."

While old memories were shared, new memories were created, and the three-week visit, which came to an end January 10, is something Henry and his sisters will surely cling to and reminisce upon with joy in their hearts.

"You can't explain the feeling you get when you get up in the morning and see the family together," said Linda. "It's hard to put into words. The first few nights I sat here and said, 'I can't believe it!' It's just been beautiful."

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Lloyd Prince & Dave Queeley Clean Pine Peace Dumpster Area

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

Remember how the Pine Peace garbage collection site looked a few years ago?

The dumpsters sat in perpetual mud puddles which no one wanted to step in, so people threw their trash as they passed — and often missed. The wind scattered aluminum cans and plastic bags, and the heavier debris lay in the mud, putrefying in the sun.

One passerby finally decided to do something about it. Nearly four years ago, Lloyd Prince took it upon himself to start picking up the trash, collecting the cans, and piling up the rocks that separated the collection area from the adjacent mangrove swamp.

“I like to compartmentalize stuff,” said Prince. “I started piling up rocks, putting them in a straight line. Then someone came along and knocked them all down.”

Discouraged at first, Prince soon found he had a secret ally. Dave Queeley Sr., a master of dry rock wall construction, came by and said to himself, “I’m going to rebuild it so that no one will knock it down.” Soon the two met at the dumpsite and quietly took on the area as a community beautification project.

Queeley had already worked with the St. John Community Foundation collecting and sorting aluminum cans gathered by community members. For a short time the Waste Management Authority provided funding for the project, and when that ran out, he continued to volunteer.

“The Waste Management Authority doesn’t have the money or manpower to keep the dump sites area clean,” said Prince. “They say it’s the job of Penn Trucking, which has the contract to remove the bins. But cleaning up all that trash is time consuming.”

“The guys from Penn help when they can, and so does Lance Sonson [who often walks by], but imagine what it would be like if everyone who passed by did their share,” Prince said. “We need other ones doing the same.”

As a teenager, Prince was inspired by Don Wilford, a long-time St. John resident who would walk down Jacob’s Ladder through Pine Peace picking up trash as a form of exercise. Wilford continued this practice until he was 88 years old and moved to the states.

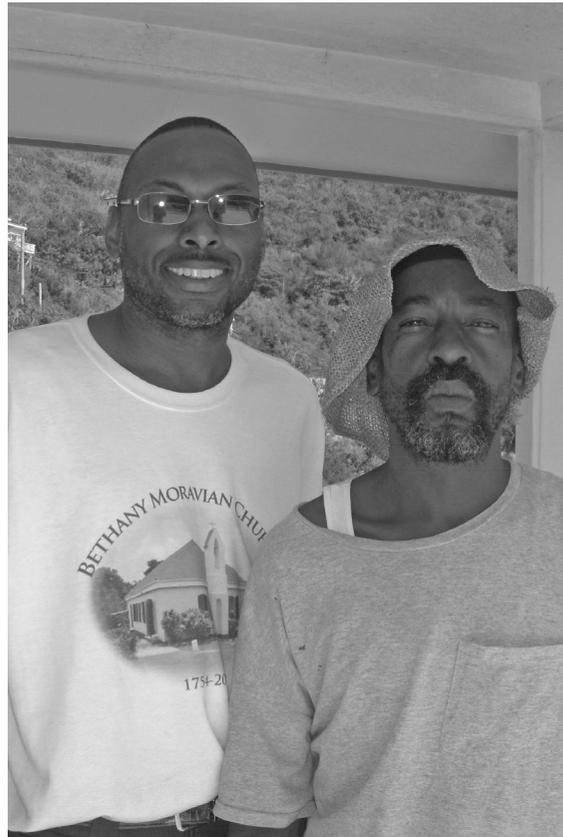
Another source of inspiration was Martin Nicholson, the general manager of Caneel Bay from 1986 to 1995.

“I was working at Caneel, and I saw Mr. Nicholson bend down and pick up a piece of trash, and I said, ‘If he can do that, I can do that,’” Prince recalled.

Prince now drives a taxi, and he says sometimes another driver will pass him by while he’s picking up trash and say, “Why aren’t you down at the taxi stand making money?”

His typical response is direct.

“Because this is a road to a hotel,” he said. “There’s no reason we have such a beautiful island and show the tourists things like this. I do it for locals, too. We have to show respect.”



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Amy Roberts

Lloyd Prince, at left, and Dave Queeley Sr., have taken it upon themselves to clean up the Estate Pine Peace dumpster area and make sure it stays that way.

“V.I. people have a misconception,” added Queeley. “Government, government, government; the government is supposed to do everything. We have to maintain ourselves.”

“We live here, and every day we have to pass by,” Queeley said. “We don’t want to pass by and see everything looking so garbage-y.”

Illegal dumping at the bin sites is another problem, according to Queeley.

“If a person dumps a stove at Pine Peace, you know he had to bring it in a vehicle,” he said. “Why not just bring it to the waste transfer station at Susannaberg? It takes the same amount of energy and time to take it where it belongs.”

Prince and Queeley agree that the amount of trash at Pine Peace has gotten worse since closing of the bin site near the barge exit. They’re hoping that the site there will be re-established.

They’re also hoping to inspire others to come out for a cleanup day in the mangroves.

“There’s a lot of trash in there because of the wind,” said Prince. “We’ve already been in there to clean up three or four times. We’d like to run a fence between the dumpsters and the mangroves to catch the trash.”

“It’s the time of year when we’re supposed to do a little thing to show our love,” he added. “We need to set a standard in Love City to show this is who we are.”



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Dave Queeley Sr. Has Changed

St. John Tradewinds

Dave Queeley Sr. was not always such a constructive member of society.

“I was a miscreant, a thief,” he said. “I could have stolen the sugar out of your coffee, and you would take a drink and say, ‘What happened to my coffee?’”

After serving time in Alabama for crimes he committed there, Queeley resolved never to go back.

“It’s no place for a human being; after you’ve been there one time, you’re supposed to know better,” he said.

In addition to his other activities, Queeley takes the time to mentor at-risk youth on St. Thomas where he grew up.

“Negativity plays a trick on our kids’ minds,” said Queeley. “And our black males, when they go to jail, don’t find anything to replace the negative energy.”

When he goes and speaks to the kids, Queeley often carries what he calls his “mobile graveyard.” It’s a poster board with newspaper clippings of local youth who have died by violence. Too often, the youngsters he counsels know four or five of the people on the poster board, he explained.

Queeley has also worked with Mario Francis, an environmental activist on St. Thomas, teaching young people to build traditional rock walls without cement, a trade he’s been practicing for 40 years.

The secret is starting with a flat surface and finding flat rocks that match each other.

“I know about rocks,” said Queeley. “I can build a wall, and you can walk back and forth on it; it won’t fall down.”

Every Wednesday Queeley volunteers at the St. John Community Foundation.

“That’s my church!” he said. “It shows the kids that everything you do in life, you don’t have to get paid. Every day we get up, we’re paid by whatever-you-want-to call-Him for another day of life.”

Queeley has written thousands of oratories, publishing them in more than 40 collections which he sells.



Connecting with Nature

by Gail Karlsson

With eBird, Every Day Can be a Bird Count Day

St. John Tradewinds

It sounds pretty geeky to post your bird sightings on the Internet, but I recently decided to give it a try. It turns out to be a pretty special and relatively easy way for ordinary nature lovers to make a contribution as citizen scientists.

One reason I decided to try eBird was because I was disappointed to be missing the Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird count. It's always fun to spend a morning roaming around the neighborhood marking down the birds you can identify on the VI checklist.

All the Christmas bird count reports collected from St. John, and everywhere around the US, are sent to the National Audubon Society and used to help scientists track long-term population numbers and migration trends. This information is important for conservation efforts as well as scientific research.

I often go on the Friday morning bird walks around Francis Bay led by V.I. National Park Ranger Laurel Brannick to see what types of birds come to St. John at different times of the year. When I told her I would be away on the official Christmas bird count day this year, she suggested that I do my counting early, before I left town, and post the results on eBird.

I usually find the idea of "e" or "i" anything pretty daunt-

ing, but I was also interested in trying out eBird because I recently saw a presentation by a representative of the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology who was involved in developing it. He is currently working on tracking annual migrations using millions of bird sighting reports posted by volunteers across the country.

He cross-references their data about where specific birds are being seen with radar images that indicate mass movements of birds, and sound recordings of the nighttime flight calls of migratory birds. This sophisticated merging of different information sources means it's becoming a lot easier to find out about the seasonal movements and ranges of different birds.

My interest in bird migration has so far been pretty much focused on identifying local versus transitory herons and egrets in the Virgin Islands. I have wondered if any of the birds I see in the northeast over the summer wind up in the Caribbean, and got excited about using eBird to explore the Virgin Islands database of sightings.

But when I looked on eBird, I found that there wasn't actually all that much data specifically about St. John.

Now I'm thinking it would be great if more bird watchers in different areas of St. John could take the time and make the effort to figure out how to use eBird too, so we (and



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Gail Karlsson

A short billed dowitcher & lesser yellowlegs.

people who are visiting) can have a better idea about which birds are coming and going, or staying put.

Here's how to get started: Go to eBird.org; Click on Submit Observations; and Create an account – name and password.

Identify a location for your observations. Enter VI in the box and a map will come up. Use the map to choose an existing site on St. John. Or you can create a new one by clicking on the magnifying glass icon, moving it to your spot and clicking, and then naming the spot.

Check off "how" you went birding — walking a trail, sitting in one place, etc — and the time and duration.

Use the checklist page provided to report the types and numbers of birds you are confident saw or heard. If you can't find the species you're looking for on the checklist, use the "Add a species" box.

Add a photo or confirming information if asked to. The checklist is monitored by regional experts, and if a sighting seems unusual they may request additional info

Check off whether or not it is a complete list of all the birds you observed. It is much more useful if you put in all the birds you could identify rather than just the unusual ones.

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Gail Karlsson

Year-round residents (right to left) a Brown pelican and a Brown booby.



ISLAND GREEN LIVING

by Lovango Cay resident Dan Boyd

Let's Talk About Litter

St. John Tradewinds

It's disgusting, it's gross, and it's out of control. Walk down the streets of Cruz Bay in the early morning, and you will see all sorts of litter scattered about all over the place!

Who's to blame?

The tourists?

The locals?

The businesses?

The truth is, we are all to blame.

We all walk by it like it's none of our business, when really, it is everyone's business.

When tourists stop coming here because St. John looks unkempt due to litter all over the place, we will not have anymore business!

What can we do?

We can ask businesses that sell products like drinks, sodas, beer, candy bars, cigarettes, bottled water, take-out containers, and plastic grocery bags to install trash receptacles outside their stores. If you sell a consumable product, you should give your customer a place to dispose of it on your premises, preferably in a convenient location.

We can ask our public officials to install more trash barrels throughout town and empty them daily. (Call our St John Administrator - Mr. Camille Paris 340-776-6484)

If you see someone littering, call them on it and ask them to pick it up — the world is not their trash can!

Boaters coming ashore need somewhere to dispose of their trash. Maybe the dumpster that was in the Customs parking lot could be returned ?

We can all support Get Trashed St. John. This group hosts regular volunteer gatherings to help pick up trash around the island. Check out their Facebook page for event details. They have also placed a trash can down by the ballfield that needs to be emptied by a volunteer anytime it is full.

We can all show more community pride by simply picking up trash we see lying around. You can carry a spare plastic bag in your pocket or bag so you don't even have to get your hands dirty.

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. But we all need to do our share to keep it beautiful.

Take pride in St. John!

For a Greener Tomorrow

Dan Boyd of Island Solar is a Virgin Islands Energy Office authorized vendor. For more information call Boyd on his cell phone at 340-626-9685 or by email at islandsolarvi@gmail.com.

T-Rex Marina Project Comment Period Open Till Jan. 25 con't.

Continued from Page 3

Change is something that has often been met with resistance in Coral Bay. The community has prided itself on its unspoiled environment even as it has grown during the past 30 years.

On January 7, *The New York Times* named Coral Bay as number four in its listing of "52 Places To Go in 2016," advising its readers, "visit before a proposed outlet mall and mega marina, expected to engulf the bay, transforms the laid-back atmosphere of this little corner of the United States Virgin Islands." (http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/01/07/travel/places-to-visit.html?_r=0).

Many community members have said they'd be happy to see development if it included a gas station, a pump-out facility for boats, a laundromat, and other facilities. Other residents have called for more extensive development that will provide employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, especially for native Virgin Islanders.

"There are a lot of people who would like a 'small scale' marina with services, but neither of these developers [T-Rex or Summer's End Group] have indicated interest in providing services at this level," said Coldren. "The Coral Bay Community Council has asked the Department of Planning and Natural Resources for a Coral Bay water use plan for a mooring area. This vehicle, the plan, is the place for the community to decide what uses should be provided for, what services they want, and what access the community will have."

The lack of a plan for Coral Bay is part of a bigger issue, the lack of a territory-wide Water and Land Use plan. Several have been proposed over the past 40 years, but the V.I. Legislature has never approved one.

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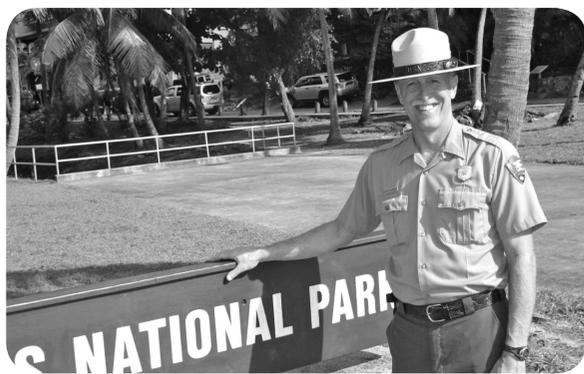
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ATTENTION!

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is *Thursday, January 21*



NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Ranger Programs:

Perfect Ways to "Find Your Park" in 2016

by Virgin Islands National Park & Coral Reef National Monument

Superintendent Brion FitzGerald

St. John Tradewinds

As we enter the busy winter season, we are very excited to be celebrating the National Park Service Centennial in 2016. Over the past 100 years, more than 400 park sites have been established to protect a rich variety of natural, cultural and historical resources reflecting the heritage of the American people.

Moving into our second century, we are focused on connecting the next generation of stewards to national parks and promoting the role of park lands in supporting public health and happiness. We encourage all visitors to document and share their experiences in national parks on social media using the hashtag "#FindYourPark" and to can visit <http://www.findyourpark.com>.

A great way to discover a "sharable" experience in the park is through any of our ranger-led programs; a few are highlighted below.

Take the Reef Bay guided hike and immerse yourself in both the natural and cultural history protected within the park. This excursion provides visitors with opportunities to think about the different groups of people who have journeyed down the former Danish cart road years before hikers were enjoying it.

An additional guided hike offered every Friday is L'Esperance. This trail will take you from the moist tropical forest to arid, desert-like terrain while you discover some of the earliest plantations on St. John. The island's only baobab tree, an African species imported by enslaved Africans, grows at the Seiben Plantation midway down the trail.

There is no need to hike back up when you take one of these guided hikes— a boat awaits at the beach and will ferry you back to Visitor Center. You can make a reservation for either hike by calling (340) 693-7275. We are recruiting volunteers to assist with these hikes, so if you enjoy hiking and want to support your national park by volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator Corinne Fenner at (340) 776-6201 ext. 252.

Enjoy the new exhibits at Cinnamon Bay warehouse and learn more about the Danish Colonial Period on an interpretive walk through the Cinnamon Bay sugar factory ruins. Spend some time with our knowledgeable and friendly docents and cultural history demonstrators at Annaberg.

Improve your physical and mental health in 2016 by joining us for an exciting new program, "Yoga in the Park" on February 6 and March 5. Hike one mile to Salomon

beach for a calming one hour yoga session with local instructor Thais Taylor. We'll discuss the benefits of spending time in nature and the role of the National Park Service in promoting health.

This is a sentiment that NPS Director Jon Jarvis shares. "Our national parks have always been loved for their symbolism and scenery, but we aim to increase the awareness and recognition of their efficacy for health prevention, medicine and therapy," Jarvis said recently.

And stay tuned for a new evening program at the Cinnamon Bay Amphitheatre that explores the history of National Parks. Bird walks and night sky viewing are also among the ranger-guided offerings that will continue this winter.

Be sure to follow Virgin Islands National Park on Facebook and visit our web page (www.nps.gov/viis) for park news, program schedules, photos and upcoming special events.

Please come "find your park" and help us celebrate this milestone year, either on your own or through one of our ranger-led programs.

Thanks— I hope to see you out in the park.

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This project is funded in part by the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts.

Full Slate of Entertainment on Tap for St. John Cancer Fund's Light Up the Night Jan. 23-24



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of St. John Cancer Fund

From the luminary ceremony, at far left, to the chance to connect with friends and support fellow community members, Light Up the Night is a special St. John event..

**By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds**

Secure some fundraising dollars, join a team or at least mark those calendars for January 23-24 when St. John Cancer Fund's Light Up the Night will take over Winston Wells ball field in Cruz Bay.

The organization's main fundraiser, Light Up the Night will feature 18 hours of entertainment while participants raise money to help St. John residents battling cancer.

The event will kick off on Saturday afternoon, January 23, at 3:30 p.m. when the Ivanna Eudora Kean Marching Rays lead a parade from Mongoose Junction through Cruz Bay onto the Winston Wells ball field and lead the first lap around the makeshift track.

After an invocation and opening ceremony, Pan Dragons will take the stage to get the night rolling. The Avengers Band, DJ Seneca, Koko, and Visions Combo Reggae Band will keep the crowd entertainment un-

til the 8 p.m. luminary ceremony. Lights in the field will be dimmed during this time as volunteers light candles in little bags, each one a donation in memory of someone who has battled cancer.

It's not too late to purchase a luminary. Jessica Daigneault is heading up this portion of the night, which also includes photo luminaries that will be projected on a screen. Drumming by Ital and Eddie Bruce will accompany this segment of the evening.

"There is going to be music and entertainment all night, so it's definitely festive," said Mary Bartolucci, a St. John Cancer Fund board member. "But the event is also a somber time, especially during the luminary ceremony and the survivor's lap which give people time to reflect, and mourn, and celebrate."

Music will continue after the luminary ceremony all night long with Ian Samuel, DJ Top Notch, Shipwreck Criminals, In the Sand Band, CMK Plus, Broheem, Bounc-

ers, Wire to Wire, DJ Adonis, DJ Icon, St. John Women's Ensemble and Harmonic Rays slated to keep the music going until the 8 a.m. closing ceremony.

St. John Cancer Fund was launched about three and a half years ago in order to help local residents facing the daunting bills that come with a cancer diagnosis.

The fund is overseen by a board of advisors and managed at zero overhead by the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. One hundred percent of the money raised by St. John Cancer Fund goes to St. John cancer patients, on an anonymous basis, who request financial help.

To date, the group has raised about \$250,000 and awarded about \$200,000 to residents who have requested assistance, explained Bartolucci.

The over-night event Light Up the Night is the major fundraiser for St. John Cancer Fund and St. John residents are coming out strong to support the group.

There are already about 27 teams registered with space for only a few more. Anyone interested in forming a team should contact Tim Hanley at tim@stjohnbrewers.com.

Anyone who is not on a team, can pay a \$10 entrance fee at the gate and join the community event, which, while full of entertainment, also serves as a reminder of how many people's lives are affected by cancer.

St. John Cancer Fund volunteers are also hosting an exciting raffle drawing in February. The group will only sell 250 "Golden Tickets," for \$150 each, giving buyers a good chance to win some fabulous prizes like a five night stay at Caneel Bay, airfare and dinner at Zozo's worth about \$7,900.

Golden Tickets will be available at Light Up the Night and the drawing will be at St. John Cancer Fund's 8 Tuff Recovery Party on February 28.



St. John Teens Clean Hard Labor Ghut



*St. John Tradewinds News Photos
courtesy of Sean Richardson*

A total of 10 students took part in the Youth in Action event over the Christmas school break. One activity had the students cleaning Hard Labor Ghut, at left.

**By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds**

It's hard enough to get teenagers to clean up their rooms, much less a ghut — a gully on a hillside which becomes a natural path for rainwater.

But that's exactly what Coral Bay Community Council officials were able to accomplish in cooperation with youth groups from Calvary Baptist Church and the Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.

Ten St. John teens showed up to collect trash in the Hard Labor Ghut on December 29 as part of the three-day Youth in Action on St. John event.

"We're here to clean up Coral Bay," "To save the world," "By starting small in our community," the teens chimed in when asked why they were spending their Christmas vacation trekking through the bush to collect trash.

Some of what they found was expected — plastic bottles, the bones of dead animals, diapers, broken glass and a toothbrush. But there were some surprises, including an old-time sewing machine and a kitchen sink.

How did all of that trash get there?

"People threw it there," the teens explained, because they're "lazy" and "nasty."

And why does it matter?

"Because whatever we throw away ends up in the ocean," they said.

"It's been shown that the trash we're throwing away can affect the ecosystem," said Tyric Reggie, a junior at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School. "Anywhere in the ocean, plastic residue has been found ingested by fish, and we eat the fish."

The Youth in Action event was part of a grant en-

titled "Empowering Youth Messengers to Reduce Illegal Dumping," funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice project.

Clearly, the teens got the message.

"We have to learn to recycle and create less trash," said Reggie. "And we have to work in St. John to spread the word throughout the territory,"

Under the direction of Kai Frett, the teens spray painted a garbage can located on Johnson Bay with the likeness of Oscar the Grouch and the inscription "Feed Me!" They also shot video footage for a public service announcement on illegal dumping with the assistance of St. John videographer Franklin Tulloch.

Other activities included a crime prevention workshop with V.I. Police Officer Marilyn Laware and, on the last day, a chocolate éclair baking session with Sarah O'Neil at the Calabash Boom Center.

The event served as an introduction to the Environmental Justice Movement, which began in the 1960s as part of the Civil Rights Movement and developed in the 1990s to engage low-income and minority communities on environmental issues, according to Sean Richardson, the Environmental Programs Associate with the Coral Bay Community Council.

"All people, regardless of income, status, religion, or color, should be involved in discussions that impact their communities from an environmental standpoint," Richardson said.

Richardson particularly wanted to thank the young people who participated in the cleanup: Shekinah Abraham, Linique Dagou, Deshawna Davis, Monique Edward, Patrick Hendrickson, Jr., Ahkil Luke, Ilon Monsanto, Tyric Reggie, and Kitori Thomas.

UVI's St. John Student Center to Scale Down & Relocate to DPNR's Enighed Office

**By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds**

A new partnership between the University of the Virgin Islands and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources has been reached in time to preserve the St. John Academic Center.

A shared space arrangement with DPNR will allow the university to continue serving St. John students enrolled in courses through a technology based distance learning center, according to UVI President David Hall.

DPNR St. John Office Closed for Renovations Starting Monday

A spokesperson for DPNR said the agency's St. John office will be closed for renovations as of January 11.

"We are now under construction allowing for the expansion of the building and the services to the residents of St. John," said DPNR spokesman Jamal Neilsen.

Expanded services in the DPNR office at the foot of the Elaine I. Sprauve Library in Estate Enighed will include establishment of a cashier's desk and an interactive center where residents and DPNR inspectors can meet via teleconference.

The UVI St. John Academic Center was created with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. That five-year grant recently expired, said Hall.

Center Funded with Title III Grant

"The Academic Learning Center on St. John was made feasible by a grant that was part of our Title III program from the US Department of Education," said Hall. "All HBCU's are able to secure funding for various new programs from the DOE that fit within the legislatively allowed categories. This was a five year grant and the cycle concluded in September 2015."

"We were able to obtain a small amount of funding through the Title III for an additional cycle but not at the level originally obtained," said the UVI President. "Therefore, we could not afford to maintain the operation in the prior location in The Marketplace because of the cost of the leased space."

Now, with help from a smaller grant the university obtained, UVI students living on St. John can continue attending classes and lectures on their home island by way of teleconferencing.

The original academic center had a dedicated teleconferencing room, a meeting room, a study hall and a classroom. The new, smaller center has the advantage of being located next to Sprauve Library — a brick and mortar study hall of sorts — which operates through DPNR's Division of Library and Archives.

DPNR Hopes to Reopen St. John Office Jan. 18

Neilsen said he did not know how long the renovations to the DPNR office would take but it's hoped that work on the new agency office/academic center will be complete by January 18.

Hall gave completion of the work a longer projection, and thanked DPNR for its willingness to help sustain a valuable learning asset.

"During the last five years, the Academic Learning Center has made an important educational contribution to UVI students who live on St. John and to the community," said Hall. "We are very grateful that Commissioner Henry and DPNR has made it possible for us to continue this meaningful service in a different location."

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Westin St. John Sale to Miami Timeshare Group Pending

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

The Westin St. John Resort and Villas is expected to change hands in a sale scheduled for spring 2016. A top executive at the Great Cruz Bay resort said the pending sale will reduce the stock of available hotel rooms while promoting greater profitability.

The formal transaction is expected to occur in the second quarter of the year. The acquisition of the St. John Westin will bring to five the number of luxury vacation villa resorts acquired by the ILG group, based in South Miami.

According to a top executive at the Westin, the deal came after the board of the Westin's parent company changed its mind about including the St. John property into a plan to spin off its worldwide business in vacation time shares.

Once the sale is finalized, Westin will convert half of its available hotel rooms to time shares, leaving 45 rooms available.

Westin Operations Manager Samuel Hugli said the decision by the board of directors at Starwood Hotels & Resorts will sustain profitability by attracting well heeled visitors investing in real estate.

There was a shift in the original acquisition plan to make the St. John Westin part of a broader plan, Hugli explained. Under the original plan Starwood would have shifted its time shares to a newly created company — Vistana Signature Experiences — with its own listing on the stock exchange.

Hugli said the ILG acquisition became possible when Starwood changed its plan and sold the newly created company — Vistana Signature Experiences — to ILG in October. By that time, the Securities Exchange Commission was already notified of the formation of Vistana.

The pending sale in the second quarter of 2016 will become the latest destination property to change hands in the St. Thomas/St. John district.

Most recently, St. Thomas' Dreams Sugar Bay Resort and Spa parent corporation, AMResorts, announced it had ended its management agreement as of December 31.

There are 22 resorts being managed as part of the Vistana brand, according to travel industry reports. A total of 220,00 vacation time share owners are included. The pending merger will make the units available to travelers partnering with three major hotel corporations; Westin Vacation Club, Sheraton Vacation Club and Hyatt Residence Club.

It is estimated that the merger will more than double the number of privately held vacation properties managed under the merger between ILG and Vistana.

A spokesperson for the VI Department of Tourism said some aspects of the pending deal have been known for some time. DOT Public relations director Luana Wheatley said local officials knew the Westin was culling the number of available hotel rooms.

The trend towards non-traditional accommodations is apparent in the deal, according to Wheatley.

"There is a significant uptick in rentals through AirBNB, VRBO and other villas," Wheatley said. "By the way, the Westin was planning that move in inventory way before the sale."

Westin's operations manager explained that luxury time shares are more desirable than hotel rooms because they represent more predictable income streams. Instead of hoping for a steady flow of visitors traveling to a given destination, the units are already paid for through time share memberships.

Currently the St. John hotel-villa complex has 90 percent occupancy through the Christmas and New Years holiday period, with portions of that time showing 100 percent bookings, Hugli said.

High occupancy rates are expected to continue through the end of the 2015-2016 tourist season, with projected occupancy at 88.5 percent through mid-May, according to the Westin Operations Manager.

The luxury vacation destination in Great Cruz Bay began its life in 1988 as the Virgin Grand Resort. It was acquired by the Hyatt Regency in 1991 and remained under Hyatt management until the passage of Hurricane Marilyn in 1995.

The hotel was acquired by Westin Resorts in the mid 1990s, after which the property acquired adjacent land and began developing villas and time share units.

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Historical Bits & Pieces

by Chuck Pishko

Fortsberg Trek Continuati

St. John Tradewinds

This is a continuation of my article on the Fortsberg Trek which was published in *Tradewinds* issue December 14, 2015.

The final plantation visited on November 27, 2015 was Annaberg. The Annaberg Plantation is referred to as James Murphy's property even though he only held it for 10 years. Murphy's Annaberg claim to fame is that he combined a number of plantations into one "super" plantation. He developed an economy of scale including specialized teams of workers (e.g. slaves) who would be moved from plantation to plantation to concentrate and refine their efforts. Murphy, a former notorious slave trader, built a super-killing machine that worked scores of enslaved Africans to death.

Annaberg is a stellar attraction within the Virgin Islands National Park and is noted for the size and relative completeness of the factory complex. Murphy constructed a state-of-the-art processing facility. The laborers' village is said to offer a rare glimpse at the lifeways and living conditions of the "individuals of African descent" who physically constructed the complex, cultivated the fields, and operated, serviced and maintained the factories (D. Knight, Annaberg, p 50). N.B. "Individuals of African descent" would better read "enslaved Africans stolen from their homes and lifeways." While it's true that all the physical structures we saw were developed under Murphy's tenure, it doesn't tell the whole rich story.

For example, not much has been reported on Owen Sheridan, the "overseer" of Annaberg. He was, in fact, the Manager. Sheridan was wealthy in his own right, owning a plantation in Botany Bay, St. Thomas, which he willed to Janus Murphy, the son of James Murphy. He was also a principal in the auction sale of Haulover Estate. Sheridan purchased Haulover for Seth Smith, Jr. He referred to James Murphy in his will as "my worthy friend." (WI Test. Book 1802-07. P. 785). An interesting bequest in the will was "100 pieces of eight (\$100) yearly to John, son of wench Martha belonging to James Murphy, Esq. until his apprenticeship

is out when he will receive 1,000 pieces of eight."

Park employees should speak to the ownership of Judge H. H. Berg, who married James Murphy's widow for two reasons. One, Berg is said to have built his home on St. Thomas by the "blood, sweat, and tears of St. John"; in other words, the profits from Annaberg. Judge Berg soon became Governor of St. Thomas/St. John. His home on Denmark Hill is now the official residence of the Governor, if only a name.

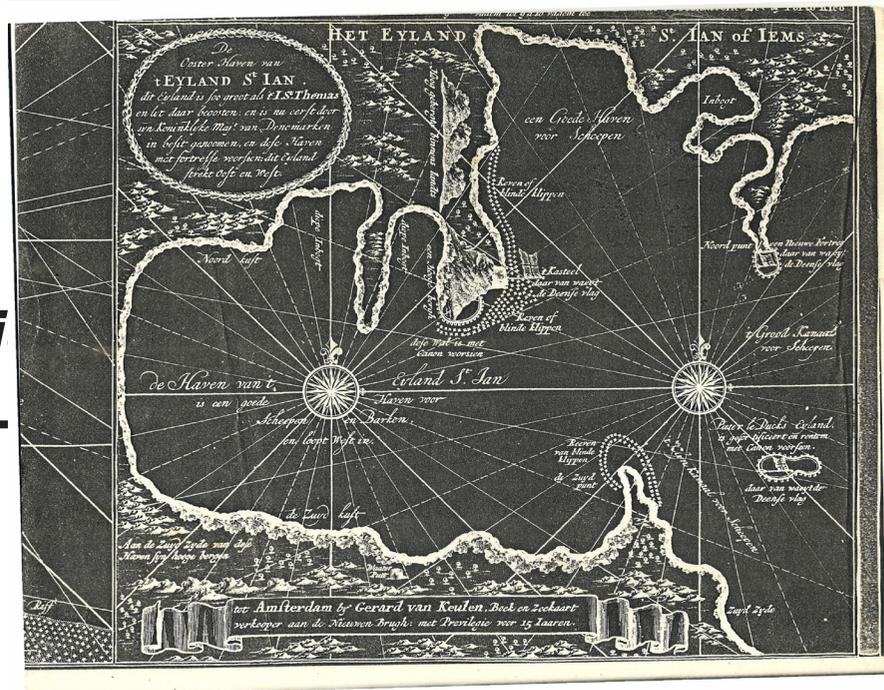
Second and truly noteworthy is the following provision of Judge Berg's will: "To George Francis, administer of the Plantations Leinsterbay, Annaberg, etc., I give 2 acres of land, and to each of my well-worked people on these plantations, as far as they are the head of a family or are specially recommended by George Francis, that is one acre of land each to be laid off along the plantation's border and on condition that they enroll." (St. Thomas Probate Court the 16 April 1862, Rosenstand)

Berg provided that 19 one acre parcels and one two acre plot of land on his Estate Annaberg and 16 one acre parcels on Estate Leinster Bay, and he further ordered that his overseer George Francis be assigned the 2 acre plot and the other parcels be provided to his workers.

This was an unprecedented move. Pieces of estates were not broken off and never given to workers. With the exception of some marginal lands on East End, this was the first time that formerly enslaved Africans could become landowners, the basis of a new society.

Also the Francis family story always deserves retelling. George Francis eventually purchased the entire plantation and his son, Carl, became a church leader as well as a government official. The park needs to expand its interpretive staff to provide full time official interpretation of Annaberg.

The main focus of our day was a visit to Fortsberg, the site of the 1733 Slave Revolt. In 1718 St. John was settled by the Danish West Indian and Guinea Co., mostly by Dutch and Danish planters who were liv-



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of Chuck Pishko

Fortsberg, which commanded the entrance to Coral Bay, can be seen on this 1720 van Keulen map, reproduced above.

ing on St. Thomas. In 1733, long periods of drought, two hurricanes, and a plague of insects destroyed the island's crops. The enslaved Africans suffered the hardest and the longest. Conditions became unbearable and on November 23, 1733 they revolted, seizing the fort under the guise of delivering wood and killing the Danish soldiers manning the fort.

In the Dane's rush to get St. John in full production, they enslaved African warriors (Akwamu) who were more interested in establishing a new nation in the Caribbean rather than in grubbing out plantations for the white man. Their fore bearers had had similar experiences in Africa where they seized a fort from the Danes using a similar ruse. They held most of the island, except for the Durloo plantation, for six months.

The revolution was the first of its magnitude in the New World and signaled to all that slavery would not be tolerated. At the time of the revolution, Fortsberg was a stone breastworks. It was rebuilt after the revolution as a typical 18th century citadel fortress which we find today. When the population shifted to the end of the island closer to St. Thomas and safety, two walls of the fort were blasted.

During the Napoleonic Wars, the fort was rebuilt and occupied by the British (1807-1815). Therefore, we have a site that not only is sacred to the cause of freedom from slavery but also one of the few New World military sites associated with the Napoleonic Wars.

For over the past 30 years, marches have

been conducted to Fortsberg to commemorate the valiant efforts of the enslaved Africans to win their freedom. The march is conducted the Friday after Thanksgiving to maximize attendance. Prayers and libations are offered and the freedom efforts that were begun here are celebrated by the St. John African Slave Revolution Commemoration Committee and the Pan-African Support Group, African and American scholars, and most importantly students who are learning of their African heritage. African griots, poets, drummers, and youth help tell the epic story.

The story of this fort and its association with the Napoleonic Wars, which is a subject not covered by this article, requires extensive archeology and historic interpretation.

Virgin Islanders need to know and understand their rich history and, most importantly, to avail themselves of opportunities like the Fortsberg hike. Here, they walk the same paths their ancestors walked with heavy loads of supplies for their Danish oppressors and the same paths taken by the determined men who in 1733 made the journey up as slaves and came down as freedom fighters.

The march always end with a special Thank You for the Samuel family for allowing the group to enter their lands, to share this sacred ancestral place, and for their efforts to preserve this world class site for all people of goodwill.



Wine Talk with Paul

by Paul Tsakeres

Beaujolais: Fabulous Wine

St. John Tradewinds

Beaujolais, found in southeast central France, enjoys a special magic due to its unique terroir. Neither in Burgundy nor in the Rhone, it consists of a mosaic of appellations called Crus, which are a designated quality zone. A ride back in time would find this area on an ancient Roman trade route that followed the Saone and the Rhone Valleys.

It may not be surprising to learn that Benedictine Monks developed vineyards there as early as the 7th century. It is amusing to note that, even back then, Beaujolais had a reputation of being merely the southern neighbor of the Great Burgundy, a concept that persists into today with some interesting footnotes to follow.

In fact, it was Philip The Bold, that Bon Vivant of the Bourbonnais, who issued an edict prohibiting the growth of Gamay (the grape of Beaujolais wine) in Burgundy proper. He knew it grew much better on the granite hillsides of Beaujolais than on the steep limestone slopes on the edges of the plateaus of the Cote D'Or. Philip, it seems, was well aware of the importance of "place."

Another distinguishing characteristic of the wines of Beaujolais is the wine making method called Carbonic Maceration. Whole bunches of grapes are dumped into the fermentation tank. Quality control is maintained without destemming and both cement and stainless steel vessels are used. The bottom 10-30 percent is crushed from the weight above and the proportion soon increases.

The carbon dioxide given off by the fermentation rises to the top and envelopes the grapes, causing intracellular fermentation to occur. The whole grape bursts from within and induces what are called secondary characteristics in tasting wine; those aromas and flavors that arise from the fermentation processes, which in this case means aromas of pear drops and even banana.

There are 10 Crus of Beaujolais, small village productions of exceptional quality. Here some cask ageing is involved and mostly, they are meant to be enjoyed young.

Julienas is one such Cru located in the far north of the region and is named for the Emperor Julius Caesar. Far from simple, these wines have real backbone. While light in body, they have considerable clean fruit and spectacular aromatics. Because they are low in tannin, have medium plus acidity and are light in alcohol, these wines are very food friendly and quite quaffable. The dominant flavors and aromas are of huckleberry, raspberry, violet, potting soil and banana.

Chenas is the smallest of these Crus with only 700 acres and Moulin-a-Vent provides the biggest style, that is to say the taste is more concentrated. They can even age more than their neighbors. Incidentally, Moulin-a-Vent means "windmill" in French and is named after the windmill of the local village. People who have been there write about it in the wine journals I read and tell of breathtaking landscapes, of rolling hills and pink and blue earth.

Although the wines of Beaujolais have been known for cheerful reds, the region's top wines are far more nuanced and complex, and so is the land. In the past four to six years, a tremendous level of attention has been given to these small parcels of land. These plots have been discovered to be far more complex than ever thought of before, and they have drawn the interest and the money of the great northern neighbor Burgundy.

The wines have been on a rebound for some time. Gone are the days of ultra-association with the Nouveau Beaujolais as the land is reclaimed, nurtured and improved. There has been a big shake up in Beaujolais and positive change is in the air. Many of the personalities remain the same and many have sold to others who have very good intent for the land.

Now that the world is reconsidering its relationship to big, ripe, powerful oaky reds, the 100 percent Gamays of Beaujolais, that are bright, fresh and well-crafted, are finding their way towards yet another generation who appreciates them. Look for a new and exclusive line of the wines from Beaujolais at Island Cork in the short weeks ahead.

Cheers!

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CBCC Derelict Vessel Removal Project Kicks Off Monday

St. John Tradewinds

The Coral Bay Community Council's Derelict Vessel Removal project will begin on Monday, January 11, weather permitting, and continue for about two weeks.

Boaters are asked to help CBCC prepare for this project by removing their "valuable junk" stored on or around the dinghy dock, concrete ramp or parking area. Any broken down, unregistered dinghies, trailers or boat parts in this area are likely to be taken to the landfill as part of this clean up. Residents and boaters are also asked to be mindful of where they park near the dock area and KATS area during this time. Do not block access for the large waste bin trucks and the trackhoe. Don't risk getting a vehicle in harm's way.

This project is funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program and donations from the community. For further information, call the Coral Bay Community Council office at 776-2099.

Tax Refunds Soon Come

St. John Tradewinds

Virgin Islanders can look forward to receiving their income tax refunds as early as this week as a result of the closing of the ratified operating agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Limetree Bay Terminals LLC.

Governor Kenneth Mapp directed the immediate release of \$22 million for the payment of income tax refunds. The governor also directed Finance Commissioner Valdamier Collens to pay \$50 million on the government's line of credit; pay \$11 million to the Water and Power Authority for outstanding streetlight obligations; pay up to \$20 million for legal and professional fees for the tax litigation claims and the operation

agreement transaction costs.

In addition, the governor has directed OMB Director Nellon Bowry to use an amount up to \$25 million to restore the five percent allotment reduction to every executive department and agency.

At closing, many of the transactional provisions of GVI-Limetree Bay Terminal agreement were executed. The government's escrow agent received the cash payment of \$220 million. The deeds to the real estate, land, housing, community center, and vocational school were filed with the Office of the Recorder of Deeds on January 5, 2016; and the keys and security codes will be transferred to the Government as well, the governor added.



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Letters to *St. John Tradewinds*

Thanks for Supporting Youth in Action Event

St. John Tradewinds

We want to thank everyone who participated in the “Youth in Action in St. John Event” Monday, December 28 to Wednesday, December 30, at the Calabash Boom Center. The event was a success. It was made possible through the US EPA Environmental Justice grant that the Coral Bay Community Council received this year.

A special thank you to the two church youth groups that participated: the Mount Carmel Catholic Church and the Calvary Baptist Church.

Thank you to the youth group leaders, Julie Vazquez, Simonia Dagou, Digna Dowey, and Raquel South of the Mount Carmel Church.

Thanks to Pastor Luke and Mrs. Marie Luke of the Calvary Baptist Church. She

was a key participants in the youth event, and we are truly grateful that she took time out of her busy schedule to contribute, along with Ms. Rosette Lewis.

Of course, we thank the youth who participated: Tyric Reggie, Shekinah Abraham, Deshawna Davis, Linique Dagou, Patrick Hendrickson, Jr., Kitori Thomas, Monique Edward, I’Lon Monsanto, and Ahkil Luke.

We especially want to thank all of the volunteer presenters:

VIPD Officer Marilyn Laware, for her presentation about neighborhood watch and crime prevention and for her overall participation all three days.

Mr. Kai Frett for his presentation and his leadership at the Hard Labor ghut cleanup. He also led a color spray painting of a litter message on a garbage can with the youth.

Mr. Abel Phillips for his circus trick teaching and demonstration.

Mr. Franklin Tulloch, for the video training and recording and taking photos of the ghut cleanup and other activities.

Ms. Sarah O’Neill for teaching the youth how to bake delicious chocolate eclairs and for the pleasure of eating them.

Ms. Amy Roberts for wrapping up our session, discussing community, environmental issues, and journalism.

We are truly grateful for everyone’s participation in our program and look forward to working with many of you to complete the Environment Justice project’s public service announcement video on the problem of illegal dumping in Virgin Islands guts.

Also, thank you to Ms. Celia Kalousek, Ms. Michelle Welk, and Mr. Dean Thomas

for arranging the Dial-A-Ride transportation service for the youth.

Thank you to the staff and management of the Calabash Boom Housing Development, Medina Kingsley, Trina Hastings, and Cecil Chinnery for letting us use their facility. It was a great venue for this event.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Lauren Hunter, Executive Director, and Ms. Sharon Coldren, CBCC’s President, for coming up with this idea and for the hard work they shared putting this three-day program.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this youth event a success.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Sean Richardson

**Environmental Programs Associate
Coral Bay Community Council**

Moravian Conference Stance on Homosexuality

St. John Tradewinds

As a frequent visitor to St. John and Coral Bay, I was disheartened to hear about another permit in the works for an environmentally unsound marina and 89 room resort; this time by Sirius Development LLC, on land leased from the Moravian Conference. I will leave the environmental arguments to those who are more qualified as I take issue with the lessor, The Moravian Conference itself.

Coral Bay to me has always been a place where you “come as you are.” Its diversity and charm is what makes it unique. I was researching where I could find a copy of the 99-year lease agreement between the two parties (Sirius/T-Rex and Moravian) and came across some surprising information on The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province website (www.moravians.net) which the Moravian

Church in Emmaus is a member of.

The Church released a Statement on Homosexuality after a meeting on July 4-6, 2014 reminding the province of their position on homosexuality. This reiterated the same subject matter that was passed at their Synod in 2009.

Examples contained in their Statement on Homosexuality included: “we remain unconvinced that homosexuality is genetic in origin,” “we stand opposed to the marriage of persons of the same sex;” “...leads us to conclude that the practice of homosexuality is not to be condoned.”

Another statement from a “MCRC Meeting” responded to homosexuality as a “social phenomenon” and lumped it together with other sins like “fornication, drunkenness, gambling, dishonesty.”

In trying to be fair and in reading the attached “Statement

on Homosexuality” they also have kind sentiments such as “we are called to love and care for all humanity” and “we stand opposed to violence against homosexuals which include gay bashing.”

Good for them. I sincerely hope we all share those views.

I am a believer in free speech and freedom of religion and acknowledge that people are entitled to believe whatever they choose to. They have their rights and I have mine. But would I spend my vacation dollars with the Sirius Resort and Marina? A company who has a 99-year lease, with financial payments supporting the Moravian Conference that holds these beliefs. My answer is a resounding NO.

Respectfully,

Jim Winkowski

Crossword & Cryptoquote Answers (Puzzles located on Page 20)

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Answer to Jan. 10 Cryptoquip:
AFTER THE CROOKED WRITER COPIED AN ENTIRE LEAF FROM SOMEBODY ELSE’S BOOK, HE WAS CHARGED WITH PAGE-ARISM.

Let Barking Dogs Bark?

St. John Tradewinds

I would say good morning, but I have not slept well for the past few months. Most people would agree that we all need some good sleep at least once and a while. Which quickly brings me to the point of this letter.... Dog owners that leave there dogs barking all day long, or worse all night long, should be arrested for cruelty to a dog.

When a dog is howling or continually barking it is a sign of need and should be addressed if you have any love for your dog at all. Apparently the people that “own” these dogs do not.

People who ignore this (and you all know who you are) do not deserve a dog or even a cat because you are ignorant and apparently have no love or time for a dog.

St. John is a peaceful island and we all love living here. Lets keep it peaceful.

P.S. Some loving peaceful people will be sending around a petition to help these dogs and take them from their “owners.”

Thank you,

Anna Nomis

Letters to *St. John Tradewinds*

The Most Important Road on St. John

St. John Tradewinds

The time has come, the Governor said, to rebuild the most important major road on the "good island of St. John." It is only eight and a half miles long and will take a couple of years to complete and will cost many dollars. It's name is "Centerline Road," Route 10.

The road was adequate 40 years ago, but times have changed like the rest of this world. Today with all the heavy traffic, buses, heavy concrete and water trucks and all the cars, it is not adequate for the good people and all the tourists we have on this island today. The road currently has 135 corners, of which 47 are dangerous. So let the road be rebuilt in a smooth and simple manner.

Here are two ways to start this project:

#1. The heavy use of this road is from Cruz Bay to the turn off at Route 104. This is two miles. This road is part of the Old Danish route, and has a 40 foot "right of way" under the

laws of the USA. The government does not have to pay for that land. But will have to pay for other lands that are required.

#2. Start to rebuild the road from Coral Bay to Route 20, this is about two miles. This road was built about 50 years ago, so "right of way" might be only 30 feet. Part of this road was built last year and the plan was to build more this year, so the rebuilding of this road has already begun.

The first part of this project should be to survey the existing roadway that is under consideration. Next, hire a qualified road engineer to redesign the roadway to be 24 feet wide, with gutters on both sides and with a three foot wide sidewalk. The roadway below level should be redesigned as required by federal law.

Norm Gledhill
Austin Dalmida

Musings from 2015

St. John Tradewinds

Tell us, oh tell us,
Thou great and knowing Muse
About all the great issues
You plan to peruse.

Has Coral Bay been rescued
From sailboats with sails so high
When you gaze across the bay
It would look like laundry day?

And maybe some great ocean ship
With aliens that plan to stay
Hoping to reach St. Thomas
and find a green card lying in the roadway.

Ah, yes, I see it now.
On 8 Tuff Miles Day
300 runners racing to Coral Bay
With 3,000 aliens marching the other way.

The Muse must really admit
Our attention would be distracted
From the South Shore Road washout
As the wait continues to be protracted.

Who will it be, we all wonder,
When the road gives way and goes?
Perhaps a local or a tourist,
No one really knows.

That washout is now years old.
It left a dangerous site.
Time will soon come
When an accident turns deadly at night.

Oh, the Muse knows what you think.
We can wait another day,
But procrastination and inaction
Must finally end...today?

The Muse of Reef Bay

Yard and Bake Sale for "Donkey" Dana is Jan. 16

St. John Tradewinds

Upon returning to beautiful St. John a few weeks ago, I went to go visit Dana at the Carolina Corral and met her latest residents, two male donkeys from Caneel Bay, along with Suzie Q's baby, Julian or "JuJu."

You may remember Suzie Q was the pregnant donkey at the bottom of Upper Carolina in Coral Bay in February that was missing a hoof and bleeding very badly. Dana gave her pain medication and spent the night beside her before she could arrange for Bucky of "Digital Dudes" and his pickup truck to bring Suzie to the corral the next morning for treatment. Suzie's hoof has successfully grown back and she and JuJu are doing very well, thanks to Dana!

Dana also recently took in the oldest donkey on the island for several months during the dry spell. She named her Sadie and has known her since 1996. She also took a baby donkey off Centerline Road who's mother's milk had dried up. She named the baby Fiona or "FiFi," after a captain on a charter boat who brought her guests riding at the corral.

The two donkeys became attached to one another and are good companions. This summer Dana received a call about another baby donkey that was chased out into the ocean by a male donkey. That baby found a home in St. Thomas with a family who had an older donkey.

Dana realizes she cannot continue her rescue work alone for the donkeys and other wild animals of St. John, so she has been filing the necessary paperwork to become a non-profit organization. Until that process is complete, however, I am helping her organize a couple of fundraisers.

The first will be a yard and bake sale across from Pickles on Saturday, January 16, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thanks to Pickles' owner, Bev, and her generosity, we will be selling house hold items and baked

goods to help Dana move the former mobile vet van across the road from the corral where she will be making her new home.

Come have breakfast or lunch at Pickles and shop for some great items! We will also have a refrigerator, a gas stove, a solid slat wood king bed frame, misc. furniture and a like-new hot tub for sale. If you would like to donate any items for the yard and bake sale, please call me at 978-509-2203 or email beachmosaics@gmail.com.

Dana been helping donkeys since 1993 when she brought Pepe in from the wild and later a female she named Juanita. Later that year, the National Park along with the VI government, allowed a group of people from St. Croix to round up 19 donkeys. Pepe was tame, so she thinks the people would have taken him and his life would have been much different, with yearly races to raise money for a local organization.

As Dana is the only hands-on, all-volunteer donkey rescuer on St. John, her animals are always in need of feed, hay, medical supplies and general maintenance materials. Donations of any stable supplies or items for the yard and bake sale would be greatly appreciated! She is also trying to secure a trailer and a pickup truck to more easily transport an injured donkey. She had to return the one she found earlier for various reasons, one being it was too small.

If you would like to make a contribution to help sponsor Suzie Q, JuJu or any of the other rescued animals, you can visit her website at www.horsesstjohn.com or Facebook page. General contributions can also be made via PayPal at the Carolina Corral's email, info@horsesstjohn.com.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see you at the yard and bake sale on January 16!

Pamela Holmes

Community Calendar

St. John Tradewinds welcomes notices of community-oriented, not-for-profit events for inclusion in this weekly listing. Call 340-514-300 or e-mail editor@tradewinds.vi.

Monday, January 11

— The Coral Bay Community Council will host a Forum on the development plans for the Moravian Church Conference Sirius (T-Rex) Marina project on Monday, January 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the John's Folly Learning Institute in Coral Bay.

Friday, January 15

— Giffit Hill School will host the second Community Cafe event of the school year on January 15, at 5:30 p.m. at the Upper Campus.

This event will feature delights created by GHS Culinary Arts and Farm to Table classes under the direction of Chef Lori Dudkin and Dr. Dave Minner. This dining experience will include passed appetizers preceding a three-course dinner, served family style. Tickets are \$30 per person.

Tuesday, January 19

— Gary Ray, proprietor of Virgin Islands Nursery, former professor of biology at the University of the Virgin Islands and lifetime conservationist will speak at the Virgin Islands Audubon Society monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 19, at 7 p.m. at The Marketplace, second floor around the corner from the Mail Center.

Join the group to hear Dr. Ray's talk on native plants and their importance to the environment as well as the connections they have to wildlife. An update on the results of the Christmas Bird Count will also be presented.

February 4, 2016

— The Sis Frank Concert Series kicks off at St. John School of the Arts with Parter Quartet starting at 7:30 p.m. Future concerts are Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues on Feb. 19, Sweet Plantain on April 8, and Victor Provost on April 15.

February 6, 2016

— The Animal Care Center of St. John will host its Winter Gala Fundraiser on Saturday, February 6, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. The venue will be the beautiful setting at Sirensa, and the theme is Venetian Carnival.

March 5, 2016

— Save the Date for the 30th Annual Giffit Hill School Auction on Saturday, March 5, at The Westin Resort.

March 26, 2016

— Don't miss the Third Annual St. John Blues Explosion in Winston Wells ball park in Cruz Bay. This night is going to be full of amazing music!

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

All meetings are now open. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 6 p.m. Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cruz Bay; Thursday 7 a.m. Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cruz Bay; Sunday 9:45 a.m., Hawksnest Bay Beach; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 6 p.m. at Moravian Church, Coral Bay

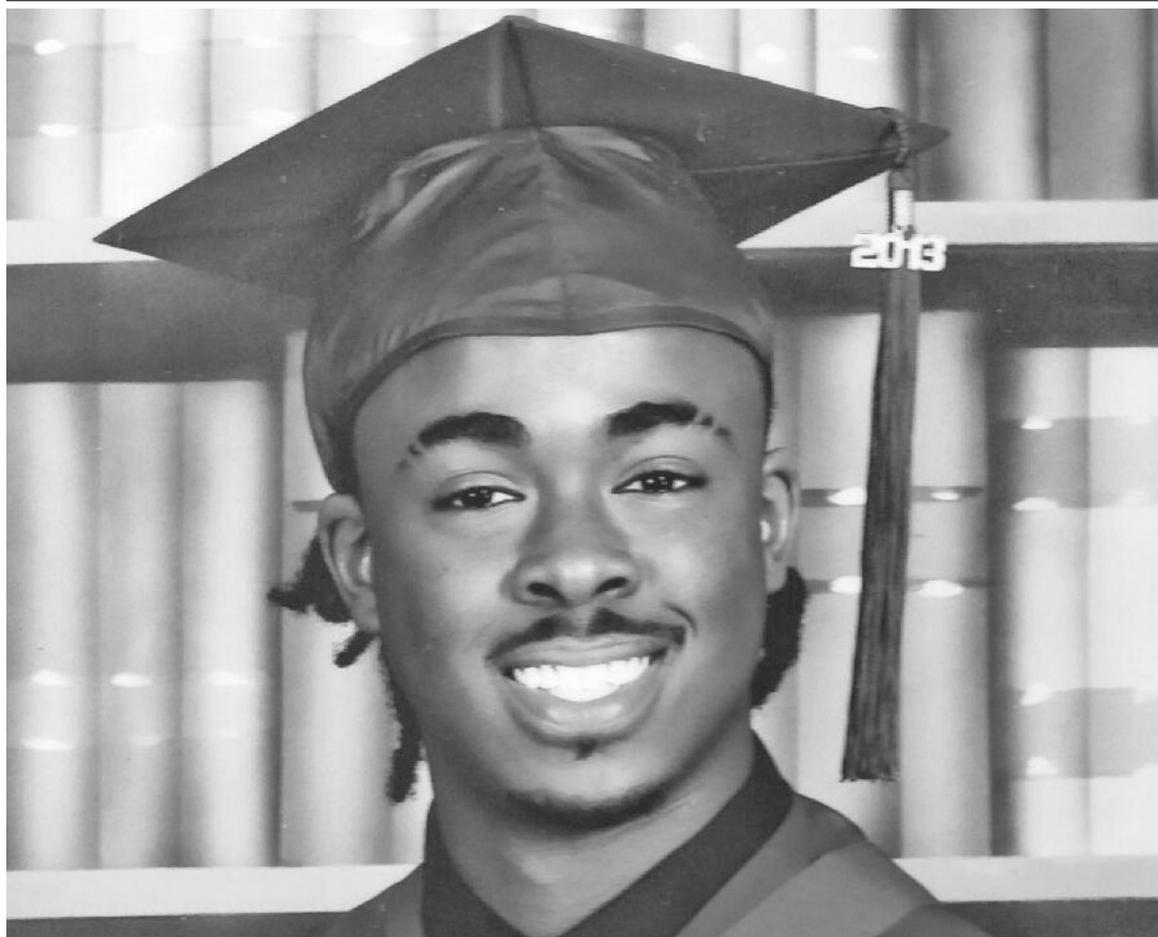
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

AL-ANON MEETINGS

For Al-Anon meeting location and times, please call (340) 642-3263

Obituary



Quane' Jelani Richards, 20, Dies

St. John Tradewinds

Around 6 a.m., Sunday, January 15, 1995, Quane' Jelani Richards started making his entrance into the physical world. His mother, Jessica Richards, was excited and by 11:38 a.m. Quane' entered the world in St. Thomas US Virgin Islands. He was joyfully greeted by his great-grandmother, Patricia Richardson (Ms. Patty), his mother Jessica Richards and soon followed by his father, Gingo Olivieri, and Aunt Jessima Richards.

At birth Quane' weighed 6lbs. 7oz, however, as he grew into a toddler, he was no longer tiny and was affectionately known as "Q".

Quane's Virgin Islands roots span many families and generations which include but are not limited to: the Richards, Samuel, Smith, Thomas and Bastian families. Although Quane' and his mother Jessica relocated to Florida, his summers and school vacations were always spent on St. John.

Q loved his family passionately and he always looked forward to spending time with his cousins; especially Phillip Jackson, Eric and Marcus Andrews, or just hanging out with his grandfather Jesse Richards, Sr.

Quane's early education began at the Julius E. Sprauve School and then at Giffit Hill School; both located on the Island of St. John, US Virgin Islands. Throughout his academic endeavors he acquired several awards and recognitions and ultimately graduated in 2013 from Dolphin High School in Mirimar, Florida.

Q had a passion for music and videography. He was employed by Macy's Department Store and lived in Florida with his parents, Alfred and Jessica Richards-Daley, and his brothers AJ and Sean.

On December 31, 2015, after reminding his family that he was looking forward to moving back to St. John on January 4, Quane's life came to a tragic end. As 2016 ushered in, Q left to mourn:

Parents: Jessica Richards-Daley, Gingo Olivieri and Alfred Daley;

Brothers: Alfred Jr., Sean Richards-Daley and Gingo Olivieri Jr.;

Sisters: Shamika Francis, Lydia and G'lique Olivieri;

Grandparents: Cecile Thomas-Richards, Shela Liburd, Jesse Richards Sr. and Hector Olivier Torres;

Step-Grandmothers: Shirley Robinson and Hilda Olivieri;

Aunts: Jessima Richards, Amelinda Olivieri, Ashana and Keewana Richards;

Uncles: Jesse Jr., Juriel and Jeremeih Richards, Edwaldo, Juan, Felipe, Felix and Julio Olivieri;

And many more relatives too numerous to name.

Funeral Services are scheduled for January 16 at the Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cruz Bay. Viewing is at 9 a.m. with the service following at 10:30 a.m. Internment is at the Cruz Bay Cemetery.



On *the* Market

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

Coral Haven is a “Must See” Opportunity on Seagrape Hill

St. John Tradewinds

Enjoy dual bay views over the serene Hurricane Hole area, quaint Coral Bay harbor and beyond from Coral Haven, a “must see” property with tons of potential.

Coral Haven features a frame guest house on a solid concrete foundation with two studio apartments and a main house — where most of the difficult work has already been completed — for sale for \$595,000, explained Lynn Giovanna of Islandia Real Estate.

“Don’t be confused,” said Giovanna. “This is not a ‘handyman’s special,’ but a ‘carpenter’s dream,’ as the hard part has been done already and the fine art of carpentry can now being, or really, continue.”

The home is perched on a 0.396-acre parcel of land with mature landscaping and beautiful stone terraces at 8-9 Estate Emmaus on Seagrape Hill, just across the street from the Skinny Legs complex. Coral Haven is only a short drive from the white sand beaches of the island’s famed North

Shore. The ruggedly beautiful South Shore beaches are also not far from this ideally situated home.

The guest house at Coral Haven was completed in 2007 with meticulous construction, excellent craftsmanship and attention to detail. The two level structure boasts expansive covered tiled decks taking full advantage of the stunning water views. Coral Haven’s guest house consists of a one bedroom, one bathroom studio apartment on each level.

“The guest house offers different options for use,” said Giovanna. “An owner could occupy the upper level and rent out the lower apartment on a short term or long term basis. Or, an owner could occupy both levels while finishing the main house.”

The main house, located next door to the guest house, has already been started, Giovanna explained.

“The main house site is ready to go vertical with a concrete cistern and work shop already in place,” said the Islandia Real Estate sales agent.

Coral Haven’s main house site boasts a 22,000 gallon concrete cistern already poured, a large workshop and expired plans for a two bedroom, two bathroom structure.

“These plans are available for review upon request,” said Giovanna. “A new owner could use these existing plans or redesign the home to their specifications. There are many options with this property for a new owner.”

The Coral Haven property also features a two car concrete parking pad with a gated stairway to the guest house. There is ample storage area below the parking pad, which could easily be enclosed to offer dry storage.

“It’s time to get to work,” said Giovanna. “You really must see this property to fully appreciate the fine craftsmanship, mature landscaping and multi-island sunrise views. And it’s really well priced at \$595,000.”

For more information, call Giovanna at Islandia Real Estate at (340) 776-6666 or on her cell phone at (340) 344-1825.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of Islandia Real Estate.

Enjoy dual bay views over the peaceful and beautiful Hurricane Hole area, at left, from Coral Haven. The guest house, above on right, is already completed and features studio apartments on each of the two levels. The hard work for the main house, seen above at left, is already completed as well.

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OBITUARY NOTICES & COMMUNITY
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

TO:

info@tradewinds.vi

**Got a Hot News Tip?
Got a Great Photo?**

email us at:

editor@tradewinds.vi

Church Directory

Baha'i Community of St. John

For Devotions and Study Circles, call 714-1641
7:30 p.m. Fridays; Study Circles 9 a.m. Sundays
776-6316, 776-6254

Bethany Moravian Church

Sunday School 9 a.m., Divine Worship 10 a.m.

Calvary Baptist Church

13 ABC Coral Bay, 776-6304
Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday evening 6 p.m., Thursday 7 p.m.

Christian Ministry

Cinnamon Bay Beach
Inter-Denominational, Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Sun. 9 a.m., on St. Thomas . 776-2379
Sun., 5 p.m., STJ, Lumberyard

Cruz Bay Baptist Church

Sunday 11 a.m., 6 p.m. 776-6315

Emmaus Moravian Church

Coral Bay, Divine Worship 8:30 a.m., 776-6713

Freshwater Church

Freshwater Church St. John USVI
Sunday Worship 10 am at Hawksnest Beach
Follow us on Facebook, 340.514.6578

Jehovah's Witness

7:30 p.m. Tuesdays; 7 p.m.
Saturdays (Español), 10 a.m. Sundays, 340-715-053

Missionary Baptist Church

9:30 a.m. Sunday Services, 10:45 Worship,
Tuesday 7 p.m. Bible Study 693-8884

Nazareth Lutheran Church

Sunday 9 a.m., Sunday School 8 a.m. 776-6731

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

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at the John's Folly Learning Institute & 6 pm. in Spanish;
Mondays: 12:15 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 7 a.m.
& Fridays: 7 p.m. Call 776-6339 for more information.

Prayer House of Faith

Sunday Morning Service at 8 a.m; Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays
Prayer services at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays; 340-690-3820

St. John Methodist Church

Sunday 10 a.m, 693-8830

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturdays, 779-4477

St. John Pentecostal Church

Sunday 11:05 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays Prayer 7:30 p.m.,
Thursdays Bible Study 7:30 p.m. 779-1230

St. Ursula's Episcopal Church

Sunday Church Service, 9 a.m.
Bible Class on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. 777-6306

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sunday, 776-6332

District-wide Power Outage Knocks Out Pastory Phone Hub

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

A district-wide power outage in late December brought additional headaches for St. John subscribers to Innovative Telephone service. A spokesman for the phone company blamed part of the problem on a faulty battery backup.

About 3,000 Innovative customers were affected when a problem at the Water and Power Authority's Randolph Harley Power Plant sent St. Thomas and St. John into a seven hour blackout on December 30.

The Pastory Central Office was one of the phone company's distribution hubs affected by the power loss, said Innovative Public Relations Vice President Jennifer Matarangas-King.

The power problem also highlighted flaws in the equipment distributed to customers as part of a territory-wide system conversion. Instead of keeping telephone service up and running through the power outage, batteries used in Innovative's EVO phone system failed.

Innovative began changing out its land line system in 2011. The EVO system allows customers to access telephone and Internet through a single system. But if the power goes out, the system works on a battery which only has several hours of life.

The battery problem has perplexed phone company technicians for the past four years, according to Matarangas-King.

Shortly after the power and phone problems were resolved, the company official encouraged all customers with failed batteries in their EVO system to exchange them at the nearest Innovative customer service center.

On St. John, the center is located on the second floor of The Marketplace in Cruz Bay.

ACC Annual Meeting is Jan. 19

St. John Tradewinds

Animal Care Center of St. John Annual Meeting will be January 19 at 6 p.m. Location confirmation will be available later. Please call the shelter at 340-774-1625 with any questions.

Allen Wells Speaking at Jan. 17 & 24 UUF Meetings at GHS

St. John Tradewinds

Join the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. John, at 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 17, at the Giff Hill School lower campus to hear Rev. Allen Wells speak on, "The Legacy Of Dr. Martin Luther King."

Rev. Wells had the honor of having been arrested with Dr. King and sharing his cell block. He will explain what this experience has meant to him and discuss how Dr. King's message has been "sanitized."

On Sunday, January 24, Rev. Wells' topic will be: "No Need To Succeed." Service will be at GHS lower

campus at 10 a.m. Despite failures, lack of success does not invalidate the worth and rightness of one's actions. As C.K. Chesterton once observed: "If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly."

Rev. Wells is a UU Buddhist psychotherapist. He continues a Mindfulness-based consultation practice of psychotherapy and spiritual direction, holding a postgraduate degree in counseling from the Institute of Religion and Health in NYC, and a certificate of study at the Integrated Study Practice Program at the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies in Barre, Mass.

REAL ID Issues Must be Resolved

St. John Tradewinds

Senator Novelle Francis last week urged speedy action to bring Virgin Islands' drivers licenses into compliance with REAL ID standards, in light of the Department of Homeland Security's intention to restrict the use of driver's licenses for domestic air travel if the license is not REAL ID compliance.

Since taking office, Francis, the Chair of the Committee on Homeland Security, Public Safety and Justice, has monitored the REAL ID issue. He recently met with Lawrence Olive, Director of the

Bureau of Motor Vehicles, to receive a status update of the territory's efforts to achieve compliance.

Francis called the territory's failure to achieve compliance "problematic," particularly as it stands to affect the many Virgin Islanders who use their driver's licenses for domestic air travel.

"In December 2014, Virgin Islanders witnessed the roll out of what we were told were REAL ID compliant licenses, yet here we are no closer to having this system in place," Francis said. "It's a slap in the face to the people of this territory, considering how much time

and money have been spent so far. While I understand that Director Olive inherited this problem, we no longer have the luxury of time."

The Department of Homeland Security has indicated that it will soon make a decision on whether the Transportation Security Administration would enforce the REAL ID standards. If announced, there would be a 120 day window before the law is enforced. If the Virgin Islands is not in compliance before the end of the 120 day period, residents would not be able to use their driver's licenses for domestic air travel.

Meet New *Tradewinds* Publisher Nick Van Assche

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

November 2015 was a pretty intense month for Sea Glass Properties partner Nick Van Assche for two reasons.

First, he became the new publisher of *Tradewinds*, the leading community paper on St. John since 1972.

As if that wasn't thrilling enough, Sea Glass Properties also bought Holiday Homes, the island's oldest real estate agency.

Since word about the changes in ownership of these two venerable businesses rippled through the community, St. John residents have been asking, who is Nick Van Assche?

Actually, as the 2015 president of the St. Thomas Board of Realtors and a partner in what is now the largest real estate firm in the territory, Nick is well known on St. Thomas.

On St. John, he's kept a relatively low profile although he's been commuting to the island from St. Thomas on a daily basis since 2014. That's when Sea Glass Properties quietly bought Islandia Real Estate from Merry Nash, and Nick set up an office in the Islandia building in Cruz Bay.

"When we acquired Islandia, we weren't public about it," Nick said.

Sea Glass Properties was interested in establishing a presence on St. John, but wanted Islandia to keep its brand intact, he explained.

"With Holiday Homes, it's separately operated," said Nick. "Miles [Stair] and Christie [O'Neil] are still the brokers there. We thought this was a new opportunity to work with them."

"It's all about creating greater exposure for our clients," he said. "Holiday Homes was established in 1960, Islandia in 1965. They both eclipse how long Sea Glass, which was established in 2007, has been around."

Tradewinds has long relied on advertising from real estate brokers to keep the paper in the black, so it made sense that Sea Glass Properties consider buying it when the paper's sale to another potential owner fell through in September 2015.

Until then, Nick's experience as a media owner was limited to *Island Living* (formerly known as *Homes V.I.*), a publication that primarily features real estate listings.

"Marketing is something I've always been excited about," he said. "When the story came out that the sale had fallen through, I was joking with someone, saying 'Maybe

we should take it over?'" So I reached out to MaLinda [Nelson], publisher of *Tradewinds*."

"She was so easy to work with," said Nick. "I'd hoped to do a thank you to [editor] Tom Oat and MaLinda for all those years. It's easy to sit back and criticize, but it's not easy to put out a newspaper."

For now, Nick and his partners own *Tradewinds*, but, "the intent is to bring in other interested parties," he said. "I don't want *Tradewinds* to be viewed as Sea Glass."

When Sea Glass Properties acquired the paper, Jaime Elliott, who had edited *Tradewinds* for a number of years, was named managing editor.

"Sitting and talking to Jaime, we agreed that we wanted to have a paper that supported the community," said Nick. "It's important to keep the community aware of crime and corruption, but we also want to focus on the positive."

Nick hopes to see the paper celebrate the achievements of community members. He remembers how his family was featured in the local paper when they moved to Montana and opened a grocery store. The family later moved to Washington State.

As a participant in the Running Start Program, Nick graduated from high school in Wenatchee, Washington with more than a year of college credits, and then attended Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho.

"They offered a business program with a heavy emphasis on student leadership," he said.

In his second year of college, Nick did an internship with a real estate agency and got his license that year. After graduating with a degree in marketing, he went to work for an agency in Boise, Idaho.

In 2008, when he was still in his early twenties, Nick visited the Virgin Islands on vacation and met Kirsten McConnell, who had launched Sea Glass Properties in the Yacht Haven Grande complex the previous year.

"She invited me to dinner with her and her husband," Nick said. "I was going to be here for a couple of weeks, then a couple of months — you know how that goes."

As a young entrepreneur, Nick found that his interests were different from most others in his age group who come to the islands to have fun before moving back to the states and settling down.

He did, however, meet his significant other, Alexis Armenteros, on the island, and they now are expecting the



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of Sea Glass Properties

Nick Van Assche, above, credits commitment, passion and hard work for his business successes.

birth of their first child as this issue goes to press.

As for his partnership with Kirsten McConnell at Sea Glass, Nick said, "We've been lucky, but we work our butts off."

"We're creative," he said. "We have commitment, and passion. Some people down here have hobbies of boating or fishing."

"I enjoy golf, but my real hobby is business," said Nick. "I enjoy putting together great people who are doing a good job, and then asking, 'How can we tweak it to make it better?'"

Board of Elections Connects with St. John Youth at Outreach Workshops

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

As the start of the 2016 election year gets underway, the St. Thomas/St. John District Board of Elections is making the rounds at public, private and parochial high schools.

On January 13, elections board officials plan to bring their voter education and outreach campaign to Giff Hill School on St. John.

According to Angel Bolques, administrative assistant to the board and a former Giff Hill instructor,

Voter education is an obligation to be performed by all elected officials serving

the elections board, according to Angel Bolques, board administrative assistant and a former GHS instructor.

This particular outreach, is directed towards first time voters who are still in school, Bolques explained.

About 24 GHS students are expected to view the presentation, have a chance to ask questions and register to vote. Those who are 18 or will reach age 18 before November are eligible.

"The board is mandated by law to go out to different schools and perform registration of kids who are of age," said Bolques.

Students attending the workshop get a

history lesson on voting practices through the ages. They also receive a step by step explanation of the voting process as it is conducted in the St. Thomas/St. John district. There is also a demonstration planned on how to operate the voting machines used in the Virgin Islands.

GHS Advance Placement History and Government teacher Mary Willens expects to work with her students on Monday, preparing them for the Jan. 13 workshop, she explained.

"I'll be doing it at the beginning of this week," said Willens. "We've been talking to the students. Angel Bolques is coming

on Wednesday to show them how to use the voting machines and to register them if they are eligible."

Since the beginning of the year, Board of Elections outreach workers have conducted educational outreach and voter's registration at Antilles School and the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School on St. Thomas. Officials estimate 130 students took part in those activities.

The St. Thomas/St. John Seventh Day Adventist School has also been approached about hosting a workshop, but no date has been set, said Bolques.

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, JAN. 10, 2016

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

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ACROSS

- 1 Tuna salad ingredient
- 5 Remove by vaporizing, as impurities
- 12 Tough guy's display
- 20 Holiday preludes
- 21 One heralding a new era, say
- 22 Refusing to face reality
- 23 Game with sticks and wheeled skates [#17]
- 25 Differs in opinion
- 26 Choke up
- 27 Settled up
- 28 Suffix with minimal
- 29 Flatten
- 30 See 16-Down
- 31 Public sale of seized property, maybe [#19]
- 37 Bother
- 38 Le dernier —
- 39 Rock music genre
- 40 Communist Mao — -tong

- 41 Keyword that helps people find an online video [#2]
- 46 Economic divides [#24]
- 52 Bar, legally
- 53 Parcels
- 55 Foe of Frodo
- 56 Tahiti, e.g.
- 57 Free TV ad, for short
- 59 Bills or Jets
- 62 Started the poker pot
- 63 Largest city in Yemen
- 66 La — Jackson
- 68 What G-rated films are suitable for
- 71 Old cloth
- 72 What awards may be laid out on [#6]
- 75 Last stage [#1]
- 77 Despite this
- 78 Sommeliers' bottles
- 80 Partakes of
- 81 Ogles
- 82 Self-help book
- 84 Shrewish
- 86 Pitcher's stat
- 88 Potpourri

- 89 Old flier over the Atl.
- 91 K.P. veggie
- 93 Efface
- 97 Antiterrorism legislation of 2001 [#9]
- 101 Combat vehicles in a hobby shop [#4]
- 103 Felony hated by MADD
- 104 Road service gp.
- 106 Neither here — there
- 107 In-favor vote
- 108 Bell Labs, for one [#22]
- 116 Gen. Pershing's conflict
- 117 Trebek of TV
- 118 Wahl of TV
- 119 Fuentes of baseball
- 120 Arthur of tennis
- 122 Atomic group
- 125 Things hidden in nine answers in this puzzle
- 129 Did surgery
- 130 Gruel base
- 131 Cookie often taken apart

- 132 Cuddled-up couples
 - 133 Flourish
 - 134 Couples up
- ### DOWN
- 1 French sea
 - 2 Fatty fruits
 - 3 Shouts
 - 4 Nobel city
 - 5 Rough husk
 - 6 —Kosh B'Gosh
 - 7 "God willing!"
 - 8 Old Renault
 - 9 Terminix rival
 - 10 "I need grub!"
 - 11 Cook in fat
 - 12 Center
 - 13 Cartoonist
 - 14 PC inserts
 - 15 — So Fine"
 - 16 With 30-Across, neon or xenon
 - 17 Exodus peak
 - 18 Seder staple
 - 19 NFL Hall of Famer Merlin
 - 24 Holders used during breakfast
 - 28 Privy to
 - 30 Soul's Marvin
 - 32 Bard's eye

- 33 Jostled (for)
- 34 British music co.
- 35 Pyle's org.
- 36 So-so grade
- 42 November gem
- 43 "Taxi" cabbie played by Danza
- 44 Forage crop
- 45 Styling goop
- 47 Oversaw jointly
- 48 Gimlet liquor
- 49 Errant
- 50 Make glad
- 51 Fen plants
- 54 RR stop
- 58 — boy!"
- 60 Goblin, e.g.
- 61 Unknown by Nile reptile
- 63 Whale's half-rise out of the water
- 64 Iris ring
- 65 Bonehead
- 67 Sculling item
- 69 Gang gun
- 70 Different of Famer
- 73 Lead-in to friendly
- 74 Brain test, for short
- 76 "... — pin drop"
- 79 NCO in the 35-Down

- 83 Rocky top
- 85 — so sorry"
- 87 Sanctuary
- 89 Acerbic
- 90 Unyieldingly insistent type
- 92 Big name in lens care
- 94 In whatever location
- 95 Like kebabs
- 96 Morales in movies
- 98 Ore- —
- 99 Son of Adam
- 100 Ecu or fawn
- 102 Slew
- 105 Stellar
- 108 Novarro of "Ben-Hur"
- 109 Split to hitch
- 110 Monica of tennis
- 111 Apply
- 112 Listens to
- 113 Link up with
- 114 Agenda bits
- 115 Puffs
- 121 Tuck away
- 123 Ripken of baseball
- 124 Pickup's kin
- 125 Soft lump
- 126 Northern Thai
- 127 Stately tree
- 128 Distress call

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1-10 CRYPTOQUIP
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IO EDR HIDVPOC ESKI MDPO-DVSRL.

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BROADWAY COMES TO ST JOHN

GHS Play "Bugsy Malone Jr." Thrills Audiences



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Jaime Elliott

With a cast of only 14, but a large crew of set designers, musicians, costume designers and tech support, Giff Hill School staged impressive performances of "Bugsy Malone Jr." last weekend to enthusiastic audiences. All of the cast members — many of whom personified several different roles during the show — wowed the crowd with their comedic timing, dancing and singing talent. A few stand-outs, however, included Alex Raymond, who was undaunted in his role as the dialog-heavy lead narrator Bugsy; the angelic-voiced Nadia Dudkin, who played down on her luck Blousey Brown (center photo on far right); the powerhouse Angela Frazer, who commanded the stage as speak easy star Tallulah (above center at center); and Tyreke Morton (above right), who seemed born for the stage. Amelia Ray, playing slapstick gangster Knuckles, among other roles, stole more than a few scenes. A strong supporting cast consisted of Ananda Hernandez, Caila Kelley, Emily Murrill, Liliana Farrell, Lloyd Joseph, Naima Krigger, Siena Wilkie, Vela Culbert, Zohar Sofer-Green, Marina Scheer and Lily Margo Francis. The production was presented in collaboration with the New England Youth Theater.

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