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TRADEWINDS

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

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Photo by Eliza Magro and Courtesy of St. John Magazine

Eco-Tourism Leader Seeks Buyer To Finish Vision

Stanely Selengut, the eco-tourism guru who closed Maho Bay Campground at the end of its lease last year after almost 40 years of operation, is looking for the right buyer to bring his vision for his 42-unit Concordio Eco-Resort to fruition. **STORY ON PAGE 5**

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo

The six buildings of the Harmony Studios, closed since the sale of the former Maho Bay Camp on adjacent property on the north shore of St. John, are offered for sale as a renovation project or tear-down on two adjoining building lots with million-dollar views.

Selengut Negotiations To Sell Harmony To Maho Campground Buyer Stalled

By Tom Oat
St. John Tradewinds

Almost a year after closing his world-renowned Maho Bay Camps, eco-tourism pioneer Stanley Selengut is having a hard time leaving St. John

After “about 40 years” on St. John, Selengut, 85 years old and almost blind, is trying to sell his remaining properties on St. John

– including the 12-unit Harmony Studios on one acre above the former Maho Camps and the Concordia Resort on the southeastern tip of the island. *(See related story on Page 5)*

Selengut was forced to leave behind most of the structures and infrastructure of his world-renowned Maho Bay Camp property above Little Maho beach between

Maho Bay and Francis Bay in 2013 when the underlying land lease he held expired.

Now, Selengut is trying to sell his remaining property at Maho, two lots he owns which contain the former Harmony Studios above the Maho Camps property. Negotiations with the purchaser of the Maho Camp property to pur-

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Future of GBS and JESS Will Be Discussed at Monday, Feb. 3 Meeting

Senator Donald Cole will host an education meeting on the future plans of Guy H. Benjamin Elementary and Julius E. Sprauve Schools on Monday, February 3, at 4:30 p.m. at the Legislative Annex in Cruz Bay.

All parents are urged to make great effort to attend this important meeting to have their voices heard and to understand the future of their children and their education on St. John.

Next SJHS Meeting Set for Feb. 11

The St. John Historical Society membership meeting is on Tuesday, February 11, at 7 p.m. at the Bethany Moravian Church, where SJHS member Eleanor Gibney will share a slideshow featuring images from an album of more than 70 rare early 20th century photographs. The pictures document a trip to the islands from Europe on the Danish steamship *SS St. Croix*, as well as a lengthy stay on all three islands.

The presentation will feature extensive photos of St. Thomas and St. Croix, and a few never-before-seen images from St. John. The pictures reveal the strong contrasts often noted among the islands, with many glimpses of landscapes and daily life in the years leading up to the 1917 transfer of the islands from Denmark to the U.S.

Clearing Annaberg Country School Grounds Scheduled for February 15

Join the St. John Historical Society on Saturday, February 15, from 9 a.m. to noon as the Society completes its annual clearing of the Annaberg Country School grounds.

The Society has invited local schoolchildren in need of earning community service hours to help with the effort. Complimentary taxi service for the students will depart from the Cruz Bay ferry dock at 9 a.m. SJHS member Weldon Wasson, who has led the stewardship effort for the past several years, will welcome volunteers. SJHS board member David Knight will give a brief historical background of the Annaberg School, one of the vonScholton Schools that provided compulsory education for all children in the Danish West Indies. Refreshments will be provided. Please bring a hat, sunscreen, gloves, and simple gardening tools.

Residents of the Virgin Islands Reminded To Pay Individual, SE Taxes

Claudette Watson-Anderson, CPA, Director of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue, reminds all bona fide residents of the Virgin Islands that they are required to file their individual income tax returns in the Virgin Islands with the Bureau.

Self employed taxpayers are required to file two tax returns. The individual income tax return (Form 1040) and the self-employment tax return (Form 1040SS). The self-employment tax return should be submitted to the IRS. Please do not include payment of self employment taxes on your Form 1040, which is filed with the Bureau.

Director Watson-Anderson reiterates that there is no electronic filing in the Virgin Islands. Taxpayer must submit the paper return to the Bureau for processing or mail the returns to the Bureau.

For more information about filing requirements for bona fide residents, please call the Office of Chief Counsel at 715-1040, ext. 2249 or 714-9312.

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Residents Fearful Amid Report of Suspect Released in Murder

Boatman Point Road residents hear reports of release of Malfetti murder suspect

By Tom Oat
St. John Tradewinds

The residents of the Boatman Point neighborhood were breathing easier in late January amid reports that a suspect has been identified and detained in connection with the murder of young man in an apartment in the exclusive south shore neighborhood, but their anxiety soon returned.

Unconfirmed reports of a suspect in custody for the stabbing death of James Malfetti, 41, started Saturday night, January 25, according to one neighbor "by Sunday night it was spreading like poison ivy."

By Friday, January 31, residents were once again concerned for the safety of their neighborhood amid reports the suspect had not been arrested.

"We have heard he was questioned and released," said the resident who was trying to reach government officials for further information.

Several neighborhood residents identified the purported suspect as a 22-year-old resident of an adjoining neighborhood with a history of arrest and conviction after a "series of break-ins three years ago."

"He was convicted here and served time on the mainland," the resident told

Tradewinds.

Another south shore resident identified the same suspect as having been questioned by police and said the police linked the young man to the crime by the way the perpetrator gained entry to Malfetti's apartment, which was similar to incidents for which the suspect previously had been convicted.

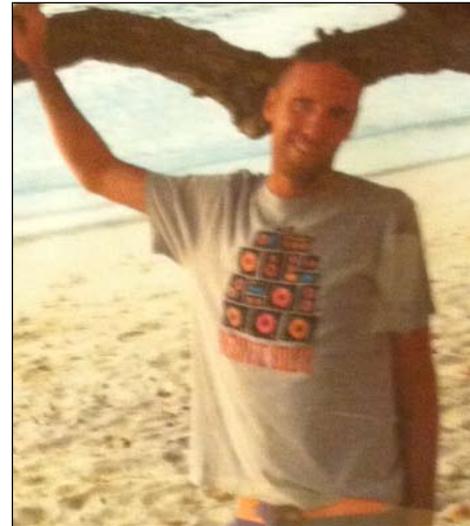
VIPD Has No Information on Arrest

Despite the neighborhood reports of an arrest, there was no information on any arrest or the detention of any suspect, according to V.I. Police Department spokesperson Melody Rames.

"The detectives continue to actively investigate the Malfetti case and follow all leads," Rames said. "However no additional information can be released to the media on this case at this time."

St. John Deputy Police Chief Maria Jones had confirmed Sunday afternoon, January 19, that police were investigating a suspicious death at an apartment on Boatman Road. 911 Emergency Dispatch notified police of the case at 9:55 a.m. that morning.

Malfetti may have been killed after the attempted robbery of the owners of the house in which his apartment was located in the days before his body was found, sources



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

James "Jim" Malfetti

have told Tradewinds.

The VIPD reported one week after the discovery of Malfetti's body that their investigation was continuing. This case was being investigated by the VIPD Major Crime Bureau and Intelligence Agents. Forensic technicians collected and are processing evidence.

"It is an ongoing investigation," Rames said.

Malfetti had lived and worked on St. John for several years as a computer consultant, according to friends.

Friends of Malfetti gathered at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Cruz Bay on Friday, January 24, for a memorial service. Malfetti's parents traveled to St. John from New Jersey and returned their son's body to the states after the memorial service.

VIPD Seeks Public Assistance

The investigators are urging anyone who can assist them in determining the circumstances surrounding this death to call 714-9834, 715-5522, 911 or you can call Crimes Stoppers USVI at 1-800-222-TIPS.

The murder was the first homicide of the year on St. John and the first since August 2012. It was the third homicide in the territory this year.

The most recent murder on St. John was that of Tiny Jah Jarvis, 31, who was shot to death in the Bellevue Village housing community on August 17, 2012. Ralph Titre, 23, was charged with murder, and a 17-year-old later was charged in connection with the case for being in possession of the murder weapon.

Former VIPD Commander Angelo Hill To Be Sentenced for Cocaine Trafficking

By Tom Oat
St. John Tradewinds

Sgt. Angelo Hill, the former commander of the V.I. Police Department's Leander Jurgen Command on St. John has retired from the department and will be sentenced April 17 for his role in a major inter-island cocaine distribution enterprise.

Sgt. Hill, a veteran police officer, was serving as VIPD St. John Commander and in his unmarked VIPD vehicle on May 17, 2013, when he delivered 7.72 kilograms of cocaine to Roberto Tapia, the then-director of the Environmental Enforcement Division of the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources in an early-evening rendezvous.

Hill pleaded guilty to drug conspiracy in December 2013. Tapia had pleaded guilty to racketeering in September 2013 for using his official status to engage in the criminal enterprise of drug trafficking. Tapia's sentencing is set for February 13.

Facing 10 Years To Life

"Both are facing potentially statutory life in prison with a mandatory minimum of 10 years," according to one law enforcement official.

Both Hill and Tapia have retired from government service and qualified for their pensions, according to government officials.

Other defendants in the case who have pleaded guilty face fines of up to \$10 million, but there was no information from the U.S. Attorney as to what fines Hill and Tapia face in addition to prison sentences if convicted.

Hill, his partner and his family have significant real estate assets around St. John including a car rental agency, a guest house and apartment buildings in Cruz Bay, Pastory and Pine Peace, and at least one vacation rental home on the south shore of the island.

Federal officials have not commented on whether they are seeking the seizure or forfeiture of any proceeds from the drug trafficking

of Hill and Tapia.

Four co-defendants from Puerto Rico changed their plea before U.S. District Court Judge Curtis Gomez and pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to related charges for their roles in the conspiracy to traffic in cocaine on Wednesday, January 29. All four were remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending their sentencing June 5.

Three of the men face federal prison sentences of 10 years to life and fines of up to \$10 million. One faces up to 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$5 million.

Drug Exchange in Downtown Cruz Bay

Tapia was arrested by federal agents in Red Hook, St. Thomas, after disembarking the St. John ferry on Friday night, May 17, 2013, carrying a backpack containing 7.72 kilograms of cocaine he had received from Hill. The exchange was made in Hill's unmarked police vehicle which was parked in sight of the VIPD Jurgen Com-

mand in downtown Cruz Bay.

Tapia had arranged to pick up the cocaine from Hill and deliver

it to two men from Puerto Rico while federal authorities were

Continued on Page 20

**2014
RAIN DATA
at Trunk Bay**
(Courtesy of Rafe Boulon)

**MONTH:
JANUARY 2014**

2.34 Inches

**AVERAGE
JANUARY**

3.12 Inches

TOTAL Y-T-D

2.34 Inches

Y-T-D AVERAGE

3.12 Inches

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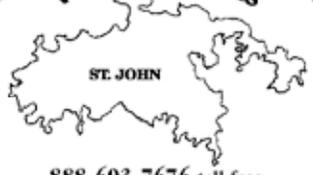
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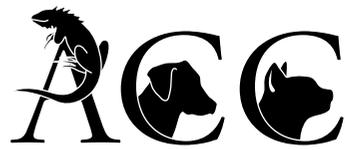


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DPW's Smalls "Anticipates" New Ferries Will Be in Service "Within Next 30 Days"

By Tom Oat
St. John Tradewinds

After missing a hoped-for deadline of the end of 2013, Department of Public Works Commissioner Darryl Smalls is pushing to get the new Cruz Bay to Red Hook ferries in service in February.

The ferries, which were built in Louisiana and cost \$3.5 million each, were paid for with federal funds. They will be owned by the government and leased to Transportation Services and Varlack Ventures, which have the franchises for ferry service between Red Hook and Cruz Bay.

The ferries underwent sea trials in late October and, after initial U.S. Coast Guard inspections in Louisiana, the vessels arrived in the territory in November and were spotted in Cruz Bay in early December before being docked in Crown Bay, St. Thomas, where they have sat ever since while waiting to be put into service.

DPW hosted an official dedication ceremony, complete with champagne christening, December 6.

DPW, Franchisees Working Out Details

The government and the two franchise operators are working out the details of the two private franchises operating vessels owned by the government, according to DPW.

"Public Works Commissioner Darryl Smalls met recently with representatives of both ferryboat franchises, Transportation Services and Varlack Ventures, to discuss the time-line for placing the two recently acquired ferryboats for the Cruz Bay-Red Hook route into service," according to a DPW press release dated January 29.

The discussion centered on insurance policies for the new ferries, the Management Service Agreement

and the final inspection and certification requirements which must be completed prior to the maiden voyages of *Red Hook I* and *Cruz Bay I*, DPW officials said in the January 29 press release.

"I am anticipating that once these requirements have been met, the vessels will be placed into service... within the next 30 days," said Smalls who met January 22 with representatives of both ferryboat franchise.

"While the initial plan was to have these vessels in service by December, 2013, obtaining the requisite insurance and securing the necessary approvals from the regulatory agencies took longer than anticipated," Smalls said Wednesday, January 29.

DPW and the operators remain committed to ensuring the timely completion of all of the prerequisite requirements to obtain full compliance and certification that will ensure the safety of passengers and crew as well as the vessels, Smalls added.

USCG Awaits Inspection Requests

U.S. Coast Guard officials told *Tradewinds* in mid-January they were awaiting a request from DPW and the ferry companies to conduct final inspections for certification and crew training – which "won't take long – once we get word," according to Lt. Commander Bryson Spangler.

"We will also be doing safety drills, but we can't do that until the crews are identified," Lt. Cmdr. Spangler said.

Hopefully, the only stumbling block remaining is determining which of the operators gets the vessel named *Cruz Bay I* and which one gets the one commissioned *Red Hook I*.

Maybe the government officials and the ferry company owners can agree on a coin flip.

Monica Boyd-Richards Pursues Lawsuit Against Chocolate Hole Gas Station Project

By Tom Oat
St. John Tradewinds

Superior Court Judge Kathleen Mackay, could not hear St. Johnian Monica Boyd-Richards' lawsuit against the developers of the gas station in the Power Boyd section of Estate Bethany, but Judge Mackay made it very clear why she was recusing herself from the case and returning it the Clerk of the Superior Court for reassignment to another Judge.

Boyd-Richards, an attorney with a Doctorate in Community Law from Howard University who no longer practices, is representing herself in the current action, has been in a property dispute with the developer of the gas station on South Shore Road on the hillside overlooking the Westin Resort since the start of the years-long construction project.

The daughter of late Edward Power Boyd has been battling the developer over the alleged encroachment of the long, narrow construction site on



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

The towering wall behind the excavation on South Shore Road for a service station encroaches on land which appears to have been probated by the heirs of Edward Power Boyd, according to a probate court judge.

Continued on Page 20

Stanley Selengut Seeks Someone To Complete Vision for Concordia Resort

By Tom Oat
St. John Tradewinds

Eco-tourism guru Stanley Selengut, the founder of the Concordia Resort and the former Maho Bay Camps may be losing his eyesight, but he hasn't lost his vision.

Like Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Selengut's Concordia eco-resort on the southeast corner of St. John is either too big or too small

Recent national publicity for Concordia has been great, but it can't increase occupancy at his eco-tourism laboratory overlooking Salt Pond Bay.

"We're totally booked," Selengut says of the current season. "February occupancy is 98-point-something percent. Some people are moving every night to a room vacant between bookings."

In a January "Today Show" television appearance, a *Travel and Leisure* magazine representative mentioned Concordia "and we got 16,000 hits the next day," Selengut told *Tradewinds*.

"Two weeks ago we were written up in the *Boston Globe*," added Selengut who said the resort had only one opening in March. "We have 20,000 people who are repeat customers."

With Plenty of Customers, Seeking a Buyer

Selengut doesn't need publicity to sell his loyal clientele on Concordia, but it might help him find someone to buy the resort and complete his vision.

"It's too small," Selengut said. "It's only 42 units. We didn't start to make money at Maho until we had about 60 units."

Rather than focus on making more money on each guest, the eco-tourism developer



Photo by Eliza Magro and Courtesy of St. John Magazine

Eco-resort pioneer Stanley Selengut, above, overlooking Ram's Head at his Estate Concordia Preserve.

wants the future Concordia to be affordable rather than exclusive.

"Smaller resorts usually get by by charging reasonable rates," Selengut explained. "I've always tried to stay affordable. I'd hate to have a place just for the wealthy."

Selengut knows Concordia probably will never become the new Maho Bay Camps, which was popular with "people of like minds, but not like pocketbooks,"

"It just all worked," he said. "Concordia could work as a more expensive luxury resort, but it's just not what I have in mind."

Selengut says Concordia has the staff to

support 60 units, but he doesn't want to go through the development process and red tape that would be required for any expansion at the resort.

Although the resort originally had Coastal Zone Management (CZM) approval for the construction of 106 units, there was a time limit and, after two extensions during the recent economic downturn, the permits now must be renewed, according to Selengut.

"I'm 85 years old and blind," Selengut said matter-of-factly. "Realistically, I really can't go through the process."

Sustainable Development Showplace

Since Selengut started Concordia on land he owns about 20 years ago – about 20 years after he had opened Maho Bay Camps on leased land on the northeast shore of the island – the newer resort has become a showplace for sustainable development as much as Maho Bay Camps was for eco-tourism.

"We're still sort of working on it," the eco-tourism guru said of his experimentation with new sustainable materials and building methods at Concordia.

Selengut, who lives in New York City and Florida, also owns 14 one-acre-plus building lots around Concordia and "about five acres nearby" which was seen as a commercial development site for the isolated community.

Selengut donated neighboring Nanny Point to the V.I. National Park to preserve the property from development as a building site for one large, exclusive home – and to preserve the views to the British Virgin Islands from the residential building lots adjacent to Concordia.

Working on Business Plan for Sale

Selengut said he has not listed the Concordia properties for sale but is working with "a few" potential buyers who would continue his work.

"We have someone working on a business plan to come up with a realistic value," Selengut said.

"It's as much up for adoption as it is up for sale," Selengut said matter-of-factly of the resort which was going to be the ultimate manifestation of his vision of eco-tourism and sustainable development.



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Medical Center Finance Chief Takes New Look at Myrah Keating Clinic

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

Officials at the Schneider Regional Medical Center say they may seek a new designation for the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center (MKSCHC).

Because it operates as a satellite health care facility serving a rural population MKSCHC may qualify as a critical access hospital, according to SRMC'S interim chief financial officer.

Interim CFO Fred Vitello said he has been talking with consultants at the firm CliftonLawsonAllen LLC to explore the possibilities.

"Critical access hospital is a designation where you can receive full cost reimbursement," Vitello explained.

Under the current system, SRMC received payment plus partial reimbursement for outpatient services rendered by MKSCHC.

The difference in revenue levels coming into the medical center, Vitello said, could be significant.

To qualify, the facility would have under 25 beds, have an emergency room and be remote, or 35 miles or away from the nearest hospital.

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Jury Finds Former IRB St. John Supervisor Nealia Sprauve Not Guilty of Fraud Charges

Staff Report
St. John Tradewinds

Former St. John V.I. Bureau of Internal Revenue supervisor Nealia Sprauve was acquitted of all counts of fraud in the U.S. District Court after a one-day trial on Monday, January 27, and a full day of deliberation by the jury on Tuesday, January 28.

A St. Johnian who was a popular official in an unpopular position, Sprauve chose not to testify on her own behalf and her defense called no witnesses.

Sprauve was facing three counts of fraud by a BIR employee for allegedly helping the father of her children avoid paying almost \$90,000 in taxes over three years from 2006 through 2008.

Sprauve simply was being used as a scapegoat and her involvement should have been

considered a personnel matter, Sprauve's federal public defender, Gabriel Villegas told the jury before it began deliberations on Tuesday, according to one published report.

"She was terminated," Villegas reportedly told the jury. "That was the appropriate sentence."

Sprauve was accused of helping Joseph Clendenin Sr. avoid paying income taxes to the IRB. The prosecution also contended Sprauve used her position at the IRB to falsify Clendenin's tax status to help him qualify for a government contract for his company, JC Security Services.

No Authority To Approve Documents

"It (the jury decision) was not guilty," Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Chisholm told *Tradewinds*. "The judge doesn't inquire into the jury's deliberations."

Sprauve did not have the authority to approve the documents that she approved, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelly Lake told the jury, the *V.I. Daily News* reported.

Sprauve had been released on an unsecured bond after her arrest. She was released from the bond after her acquittal.

The case against Sprauve's original co-defendant Clendenin reportedly was dismissed without prejudice, allowing it to be re-filed at a later date, after neurological and psychological tests raised questions about Clendenin's competency to stand trial.

District Judge Curtis Gomez suggested the attorney's organize further competency tests to determine whether Clendenin is competent enough to stand trial, according to a report in the *Daily News*.

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Katilady Catering
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Lime Inn
Miss Lucy's Restaurant
Ocean Erin
Passion Fruit Chefs
Queen of Tarts
Shipwreck Landing
Skinny Legs
Starfish Market
Ted's Supper Club
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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Andrea Milam

Actor Donna Drake, far right, works with Julius E. Spruave School fourth graders at St. John School of the Arts on a "Stars Wars" segment for the upcoming annual "Hooray for Hollywood" Broadway Comes to St. John fundraising event.

Broadway and Hollywood To Join Forces at SJSA Show and Annual Fundraiser

By Andrea Milam
St. John Tradewinds

Fourth graders across the island are rigorously perfecting their pitch and developing their dance moves in anticipation of what will surely be a dazzling show for the St. John School of the Arts' major annual fundraiser, Broadway Comes to St. John on Friday, February 14, and Saturday, February 15.

Although specifics of the show are being kept under wraps, the theme — Hooray for Hollywood — has been announced.

"The show will explore many decades of movies," said SJSA Executive Director Kim Wild. "I don't want to spoil it, but Saturday Night Fever and the Wizard of Oz are just some of the films that will be featured in the show."

The students are being coached by five Broadway actors who have been coming to St. John to work on the SJSA fundraiser for four years now. Actors Donna Drake, John Tartaglia, Rhonda Miller, Michael Shawn Lewis, and Laura Barnao donate their time and energy teaching the students, coming up with ideas for the shows, and transporting and making props in an effort whose idea was originally conceived by St. John resident Ronnie Lee.

"It really started with me being stuck in traffic in
Continued on Page 27



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Jim Furneaux

SJSA Executive Director Kim Wild, above left, with Kazumi Schaub hold the "Golden Conch" award, which will be given to the evening's best "Oscar" dressed male or female.

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GHS EARTH Turns Focus to Farm to Table Culinary Effort

By Andrea Milam
St. John Tradewinds
The Giffit Hill School's Edu-

cation and Resiliency Through Horticulture program recently welcomed its biggest group of interns yet, and EARTH director Dr. Dave Minner looks forward to using the interns' diverse abilities

to work directly with newly hired GHS chef and culinary arts teacher La'Shanda Francis in developing the school's lunch program.

New Interns Welcomed

Four Iowa State interns — landscape architecture senior Jessica Abiwijaya, culinary science/hospitality management junior Shane Brewer, dietetic sophomore Macy Mears, and landscape design senior Maia van Holsteijn — will combine their talents to bring GHS's goal of a farm to table-style lunch program to fruition.

"This program gives me a chance to come down here and develop a menu for the school," said Brewer. "I also work in food service at Iowa State, so this is where I'm comfortable being."

"I thought I could help with menu development and making sure we eat a lot of healthy produce here," added Mears.

In addition to developing the school's lunch menu, the gardens at the Giffit Hill home where the interns are residing will be designed, a project that van Holsteijn said she's looking forward to.

When the students aren't working on the lunch menu or their home's gardens, they spend time with students in grades K/1, and 4-12 teaching them to develop a love of, and appreciation for, the art of horticulture.

"As the younger children are exposed to this program, we're going to see the fruits of this as they get older, because they're being brought up learning how to grow and harvest their own food," said GHS Interim Head of School Beth

Knight. "Personally, I think it's a very unique program and I don't believe there's any other school in the territory that offers a program like this."

The benefits of EARTH, which is now in its fourth year at GHS, are already being observed. Even students as young as kindergartners are enjoying their part in growing fresh foods, Knight explained.

"The kindergartners have a purple garden — they wanted everything to be purple, and they lovingly care for it," she said. "It's really interesting to hear young kids who are excited about bok choy. When you hear little five-year-olds saying, 'I can't wait to eat the bok choy,' or 'Let me eat some kale,' it's refreshing to hear."

The program, which also benefits Iowa State students by giving them hands-on experience for a full semester, is growing in interest at the midwest university. This is the first year that Minner was able to be more selective about choosing interns for the program, even turning some away, he explained.

"This is the first time we've had four interns," he said. "Their talents are getting more diverse. Now that we're getting into the culinary side of things, I'm happy to have an architect, a designer, a chef, and a human nutritionist — that's a pretty diverse group."

The four interns have enjoyed themselves so far in their first few weeks on island, they explained.

"I've worked them hard," said Minner. "They're responding very well, bringing their own talents to the program."



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Andrea Milam

Iowa State EARTH interns Macy Mears, Maia van Holsteijn, Jessica Abiwijaya and Shane Brewer with director Dr. Dave Minner.

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St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Andrea Milam

IGLA board members, including Doug White, Rob Crane, Dan Boyd and Dr. Barry Devine, along with Gary "Buddha" Emmons, were on hand at the 70,000 thanks fundraiser to greet the many supports that came out on Saturday, February 1.

St. John Shows Its Support for IGLA at 70,000 Thanks Fundraiser Party

By Andrea Milam
St. John Tradewinds

The Island Green Living Association hosted its most successful fundraiser yet on Saturday, February 1, at its 70,000 Thanks party at the ReSource Depot.

Celebrating 70,000 pounds of waste kept out of local landfills, the party welcomed more than 100 residents who enjoyed free food, soda, beer, and live music by the Stangerz. Party-goers browsed the shelves of the ReSource Depot's eight containers of new and gently used building materials and home decor items, and several won prizes in the event raffle.

"So far it's been really well-attended," said IGLA board member Doug White.

The support shown for IGLA at the event is a reflection of the non-profit's recent PR efforts, and is promising as IGLA prepares to achieve some of its biggest goals yet, explained IGLA Executive Director Barry Devine.

"We are making people enormously more aware of who we are and what we do than ever before," said Devine. "It's

setting the stage for change. Our island's environmental issues won't go away before getting bigger and bigger, and we need to protect our quality of life and our investments here."

In addition to expanding the hours at the ReSource Depot, which will now be open Tuesday through Saturday, IGLA is launching its Green Villa Program aimed at reducing the impact of vacation villas on the island's environment. The non-profit also hopes to purchase a glass crusher for the purpose of recycling the island's glass.

The fundraiser's organizer Nancy Louis said she received a lot of positive feedback on the glass crusher effort during pre-party sales of raffle tickets.

"Everybody's like, 'Yes, we need to eliminate waste,'" said Louis. "Glass bottles are a huge part of that."

IGLA is also launching a fundraising campaign called Preserve St. John, as well as a membership drive, headed by Nancy Stromp.

"It's time for St. John to unite together and get our recycling projects for the entire island on the right track," said

Stromp. "IGLA is committed to doing this over the next few years. Joining our organization will make you a part of this valuable cause."

Stromp urged anyone who's interested in becoming an IGLA member to visit their website, www.iglavi.org.

Some party-goers were exploring the ReSource Depot for the first time, while others were seasoned Depot shoppers.

"I've bought stuff here in the past, and decided to come to the party today," said Kathy Guidi. "The ReSource Depot is very necessary because it keeps things out of the landfill while serving our small community."

The Depot has expanded greatly from its humble beginnings two years ago, explained White.

"We've got eight containers now organized by products," he said. "There's a tremendous amount of inventory now."

To donate to IGLA, become a member of the organization, or learn more about the glass crusher effort or the Green Villa Program, visit www.igbavi.org.

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo

*Clyde Murphree, above,
joins Brion Morrisette and
Raf Muilenburg, right.*



Morrisette and Muilenburg Expands To Meet Growing Island Legal Needs

St. John Tradewinds

As part of its "on-going expansion", the St. John law firm of Morrisette and Muilenburg LLP announced in January that St. Thomas Attorney Clyde Murphree is joining the firm in an 'Of Counsel' capacity.

"The 'St. John Law Firm' that we've been building for the last several years is now evolving into a territory-wide practice, and beyond — always attentive, however, to our deep roots in St. John," said the firm's founding partner, St. Johnian J. Brion Morrisette.

"We are expanding the firm to meet the growing demands of the St. John community for excellence in a broad scope of legal services," Morrisette said. "We also are enhancing our ability to serve even the most complex of litigation needs of our clients in the Virgin Islands as well as in Florida."

Murphree Bring 25 Years Experience

The firm hosted an evening reception for its clients at the firm's offices at Estate Lindholm overlooking Cruz Bay to celebrate its first five years and to introduce Murphree to their clients on Saturday, January 25. Murphree brings more than 25 years of civil litigation experience representing corporations and individuals in both plaintiff and defense matters with many major cases in both commercial and tort litigation, according to Morrisette.

Raf Muilenburg, the firm's St. Johnian managing partner who joined Morrisette in founding the firm five years ago, praised the addition of Murphree.

"We have been working closely with Clyde on several recent matters — including the front-page WAPA class action helping ensure WAPA's cooperation with the public's right to use solar power, as well as certain environmental and permitting issues related to the problems at the highly visible and controversial Ingrao /Dennis Bay project," Muilenburg said.

"I'm really looking forward to working more with the St John community, as well as having reasons to spend more time on this beautiful island." Murphree said, thanking his associates for the warm introduction to the community.

The firm's expansion also includes the assistance of another St. Thomas attorney, Mike Sheesley, and a paralegal on St. John, Eric Morvant.

"Our firm endeavors to serve both the individual needs of our clients, as well as the broader interests of the St. John and V.I. community," said Morrisette. "We are looking forward to continuing our work serving the needs of St. John and the VI, staffing our matters appropriately for maximum efficiency."

Expanded Florida Presence

As of March, Muilenburg, who grew up on St. John and sailed the world with his family on the boat he helped his father build in Coral Bay, will be establishing a part-time residence in the Fort Lauderdale area to better assist his wife Thia's aging parents, as well as his own parents, according to Muilenburg.

"I will be working full-time on all St. John matters via remote when in Florida with the same telephone number and e-mail, and I will be going back and forth frequently between Florida and St. John," Muilenburg said. "I expect to be down here a week or more of each month, as well as back here with my family for most of each summer."

Muilenburg and Murphree also expect to be working together in Florida, where Murphree also has a practice, including for many matters based on St. John such as stateside financing for St. John projects.

Long-term Focus on St. John

The firm expects its committed long-term focus on St. John to bring continued success.

"There is great opportunity to expand the firm's practice areas here and in the states, including business consulting and project financing for companies and individuals relocating to the islands, along with our existing practices in real estate, land use, probate, trusts, corporate entities and litigation, among others," Muilenburg said.

"St. John has some truly exceptional entrepreneurs who are bringing their creative ideas to our island and developing successful businesses here," said Morrisette. "Not only does the economy of St. John benefit from them, but everyone living here does as well due to the thriving community that results."



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DeJongh Receives Update on Coral Bay Marina Project



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Governor John deJongh gets an update from principals of The Yacht Club at Summer's End, the developers of the marina planned for Coral Bay, St. John, during a Thursday, January 30, meeting at Government House.

"The developers informed me that they are in the process of completing their feasibility and environmental reports prior to undertaking the permitting process with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," deJongh said.

The Yacht Club at Summer's End principals Chaliase Summers and Rick Barksdale, above left, met with deJongh, who was joined by St. John Administrator Leona Smith and Government House Deputy Chief of Staff /Principal Advisor Nathan Simmonds. In his State of the Territory Address on Monday, January 27, deJongh described the marina project and several hotel development projects in the territory as part of the foundation that his administration has laid for new growth in the territory.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Tom Oat

WORK CONTINUES ON THE CRUZ BAY PUMP STATION: After months of inconvenience to residents looking for parking in downtown Cruz Bay and to travelers using the U.S. Customs office, the pumps connecting downtown to the wastewater treatment system were in place and the contractor is now working on completing the electrical work for the installation.

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V.I. Audubon Society 16th Annual Plant Sale Set for Saturday, March 1

St. John Tradewinds

If you're looking for a great variety of plants and trees at reasonable prices come see us at The Marketplace (2nd level parking lot) from 9 am to 2 pm on Saturday, March 1st. Once again the VI Audubon Society will offer a wide variety of plants and trees; most obtained from various VIAS members and from local growers/landscapers who generously donate plants for the groups annual fundraiser.

If you're looking to add palms, bay trees, mahogany trees, some natives, desert rose, agaves, ornamentals such as Joseph's Coat, lantana, ruellia, plumeria, periwinkle and other garden favorites to your landscape make sure to stop by. Vegetable plants will also be available including tomatoes, lettuce greens, eggplant, sweet and hot peppers, kale, collards, edamame and banana root stock. We will also have many diverse herbs for sale including cilantro, parsley, dill, basil, mint and garlic chives. This list is only a portion of what will be available. If you love orchids we will have those for sale, too.

This event is the major fundraiser for VIAS. Money raised is used to sponsor programs for school children and to continue efforts to, preserve, restore and enhance the wildlife sanctuary at the Small Pond at Frank Bay, a Virgin Islands designated Wildlife & Marine Sanctuary. For further information contact co-chairs Dave Spoth at (716)472-6888 or Mary Moroney at 779-8091.

Dr. DeBonis Offers Healthy Life Tips

St. John Tradewinds

Dr. Bob DeBonis, a St. John chiropractor, graced St. John Rotary Club's weekly meeting last month and offered some important suggestions to live long and healthy:

Dr. Bob's Life Suggestions

1. Take responsibility for your health, focus on prevention not treatment
 2. You become what you eat (God made the apple, man made fast food); wise choices and moderation are good
 3. Exercise thirty minutes each day, if you sit a lot, stand up and turn around. We live on an island--SWIM
 4. Sleep enough, nap or meditate. Listen to your body
 5. Add large portions of laughter and love.
- Chiropractic can help your body communicate with itself and one might just live forever.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Thank You Poster: St. John Rotary Club displayed the thank you poster they received from St. John Christian Academy students for school supplies.



An opening reception on February 7 will feature new works by Deborah St. Clair, at left, and Mandy Thody, above

Bajo el Sol Feb. 7 Show To Feature Exquisite Painting and Ceramics

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Don't miss the chance to check out the latest work by two of the island's most talented artists at an opening reception on Friday evening, February 7, at Bajo el Sol in Mongoose Junction from 5 to 8 p.m.

This month's opening will feature new works by painter Deborah St. Clair and ceramicist Mandy Thody, combining whimsical hand sculpted pieces and striking modern canvases.

For this show, Thody has been focusing on the many and varied animals of the Caribbean, the artist explained.

"From human to goat to iguana; most of the pieces are glazed matte with oxides and very simple glazes in natural colors," said Thody. "I have wanted to do more domestic or farm animals for a long time and it finally happened."

In addition to Thody's charming and varied animal collection, her show will also feature a series of masks which nod to African and tribal traditions, Thody explained.

"The masks are also a new style, in heavily embossed and carved surrounds with elements of African and other cultural motifs," she said.

Thody, who loves strong colors and interesting glazes, has been creating pieces ranging from palm-sized to 18 inches tall. Don't miss the chance to check out what this talented ceramic artist has been hand-crafting lately.

While working in a very different medium, long-

time St. John painter St. Clair has been using her considerable talent to investigate instinct, she explained.

"These current paintings are a progression in the work I am doing using instinct and chance," said St. Clair. "The technical knowledge is there to call upon, but the painting is to have free reign."

It is through taking chances and opening herself to the possibility of failure which has allowed St. Clair a new freedom in her paintings, the artist explained.

"I use a process of creating a painting by taking the chance of destroying it," she said. "I paint over it, into it, or scrape away from it. As a result of this process, there are many layers of under paintings."

This process also allows the paintings to literally lead the way for the artist, St. Clair added.

"Often the painting will diverge from my original idea which affords me the opportunity to explore the new and unexpected direction," she said.

St. Clair's work is often striking, always vibrant and has the ability to engage viewers while they reflect on color, composition and emotion.

Don't miss the chance to enjoy the latest works by Thody and St. Clair on Friday evening, February 7, at Bajo el Sol in Mongoose Junction from 5 to 8 p.m. The evening will also feature classic guitar music by David Laabs.

Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information about the show or Bajo el Sol, located up the stair at Mongoose Junction, check out bajoelsolgallery.com or call (340) 693-7070.



On *the* Market

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

Fish Bay House Stands Out from the Crowd with Unique Custom Details

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

From the flowering mango trees to the custom bamboo cabinets, the unique details at Fish Bay House set this home apart while its price tag will have you booking a visit.

The Fish Bay House is a two bedroom, two bathroom home set on a third of an acre in Estate Fish Bay and is for sale for \$695,500, explained Holiday Homes sales associate Sandra Mohler.

"The owner/builder has added many unique tile mosaics to the interior and exterior, which makes this house special," said Mohler.

Nestled in the desirable Estate Fish Bay neighborhood, the home is only a few minutes away from the shopping and nightlife of Cruz Bay while the alabaster beaches on the island's famed North Shore are only a short drive.

The beautiful hidden gem of Reef Bay beach is even closer, Mohler added.

"The home's location is great because it is close to the V.I. National Park and the beautiful white sand Reef Bay beach," she said.

Even before you enter the house, the lush tropical landscaping will have you dreaming of Caribbean fruit salads.

"This well-built home is in the quiet neighborhood of Fish Bay and is surrounded by gardens with many varieties of fruit trees, including olive, mango, avocado, pomegranate, banana and more," said Mohler.

Inside find a flexible floor plan with the two bedrooms spread over two separate living spaces, offering privacy to visitors or potential income from renters, explained the Holiday Homes sales associate.

"There is a separate apartment downstairs for a caretaker or renter, with lots of room to upgrade to increase that rental income," Mohler said.

The standout at the Fish Bay

House might just be the stunning kitchen. The lovingly constructed room features custom bamboo cabinets, granite tiled countertops and stainless steel appliances.

With an open concept floor plan, the kitchen flows into a cozy great room and beyond to a screened-in porch which brings in plenty of light and air, explained Mohler.

"The custom cabinets in the kitchen are all bamboo," she said. "And the comfortable layout flows well with an open concept kitchen and living area opening to a screened porch across the front of the house."

There are even more surprises as you continue walking upstairs at this Fish Bay house.

"The roof at this home has multiple solar panels which are net-metered for low electric bills," said Mohler.

In addition to the practicality and eco-friendliness of solar panels on the roof, there are creature comforts found up there as well, Mohler added.

"A screened rooftop gazebo is the perfect place from which to enjoy the views and al fresco dining," she said.

All of the windows in the Fish Bay Home feature roll-down shutters making hurricane preparation a snap, Mohler added.

Other details at this Estate Fish Bay home include tile floors, solid mahogany doors, aluminum railings and gates and drip irrigation.

If you can imagine yourself nibbling on a piece fruit plucked from the tree outside your new concrete home, this home might just be for you, according to the Holiday Homes sales associate.

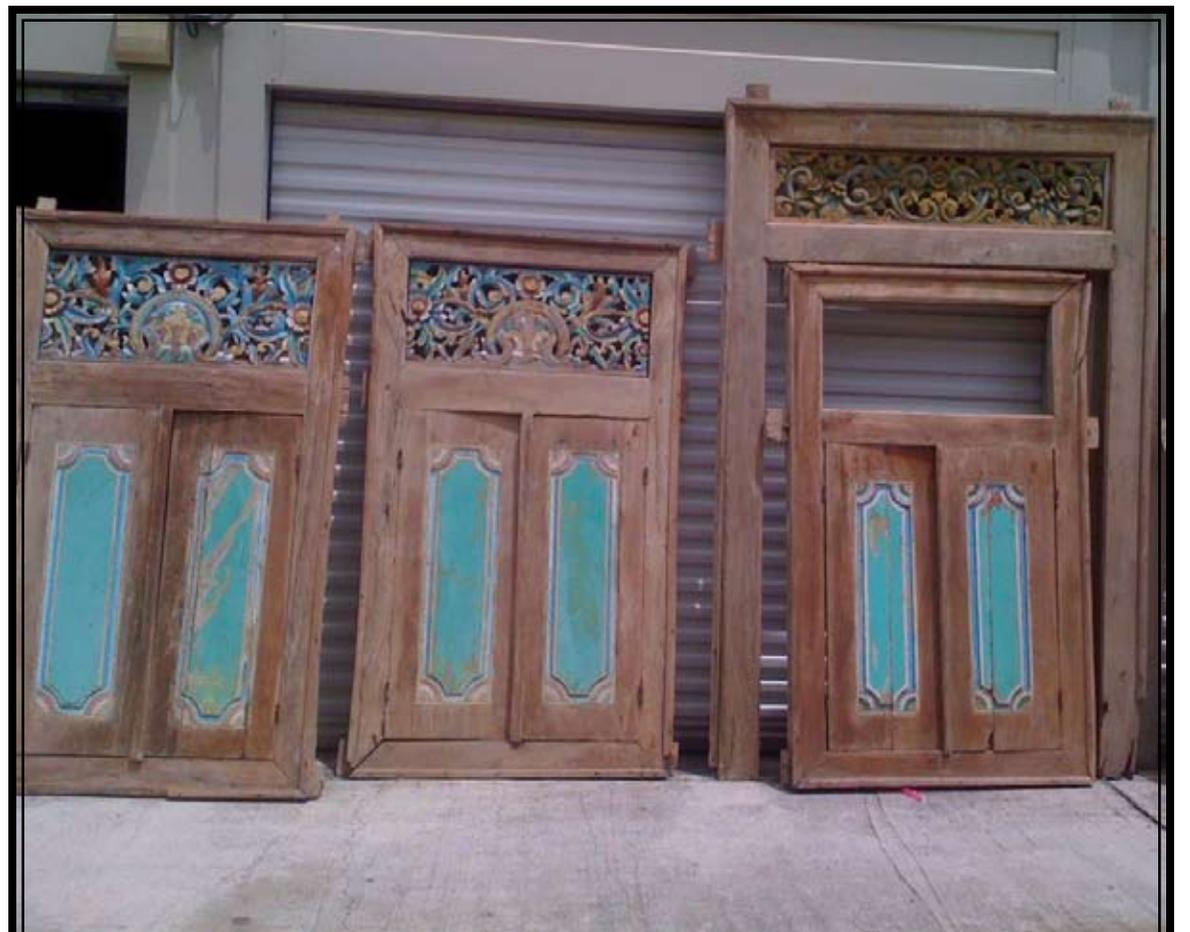
"This would be a great place to enjoy the fresh fruit from the garden, while saving money on energy, and have room for friends or family to visit, or a renter," she said. "The buyer will enjoy easy living and tasty fruits in this

charming home."

For more information about this Fish Bay home, call Mohler at (340) 776-6665 or (340) 514-5968.



The inviting entrance to the Fish Bay House is charming.



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St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Yelena Rogers



Caribbean 2 Exhibition Entertains Crowd

The second floor of The Marketplace was packed with island residents Friday, January 31, for an evening of art and entertainment at Kimberly Boulon Fine Art Gallery, featuring works by the gallery owner and other artists, Casey Giakas, Kaye Thomas, Gail Van de Bogurt and George Hollander, and a moving performance by St. John School of the Arts dancers and singers.



14th Annual St John Arts Festival To Start Saturday, Feb. 15

St. John Tradewinds

It doesn't seem like fourteen years ago that the fledgling annual Festival was started, but since then, we have seen it steadily take root with visitors and islanders alike looking forward to it. St. John is unique in that respect.

Many different events have been sponsored in the past: from Puerto Rican mariachi bands, arts and crafts from Ghana and Kakuta of the Maasai from Kenya, to name just a few, bringing a variety of other cultures to this small island, widening its vista while providing a platform for displaying the special music, arts and crafts of the people of St. John and the U. S. Virgin Islands.

Although staffed by enthusiastic volunteers, the consistent sponsorship of the Virgin islands Council on the Arts, the Department of Tourism, and the local businesses has been, and still is, crucial to providing a high standard of

professional artists and performers.

This year's program, centered in Franklin Powell Sr. Park, Cruz Bay, kicks-off at noon on Saturday 15th February — "Children's Day," — with the "Love City Pan Dragons," a children's steel pan band, followed by a children's Choral Concert, and finishing with a performance by the "Love City Leapers," a children's jump-rope team.

On Sunday at 2 p.m. there will be a Gospel Concert with choirs from local churches, followed by traditional island Quadrille Dancers. Then, on Monday (President's Day) the very colorful and talented Caribbean Ritual Dancers, with children Moko Jumbies, performs in the Park followed by Koko and the Sunshine Band playing classic old-time scratch band songs.

To keep things lively, on Tuesday afternoon, St. John's own, first-class reggae band, the Inner Visions, will be play-

ing in the Park followed by the South American Sambacombo Band on Wednesday to round off the Park events.

All the while, there will be a select exhibition of handmade island crafts in both the Dept. of Tourism's little park and the main park.

A show of children's art will be on the 2nd floor of the Market Place, as in past years.

On Tuesday evening at 7.30pm at the Giffit Hill School auditorium (upper school building) there will be a special showing of the film "Chasing Ice," in association with the St. John Film Society. This film is a must-see to actually witness, in time-lapsed filming, the dramatic effects of global warming on the Artic Ice Cap.

That's just a brief sample of the program at this point. The full program will be published in a week or so.

Enjoy this little jewel of St. John.

St. John Racquet Club Celebrates Martin Luther King Day



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Tom Oat

St. John tennis players welcomed competitors from St. Thomas for the St. John Racquet Club's Martin Luther King Tennis Fun Day, on Monday, January 20, under the direction of Dr. Gilbert Sprauve, top photo at left.



Villa owners and managers!

- * **Want a competitive edge in the rental market?**
- * **Want to lower your energy costs?**
- * **Want your villa to be featured in popular tourist magazines, newspapers, travel blogs, and more?**
- * **Want to help establish St. John as an ecotourism destination while preserving the natural beauty of our island?**

Become a member today of the Island Green Living Association's Green Villa Program!



"Green up" your villa to earn various rewards and incentives. You'll be improving your villa's operations while helping to promote St. John as a green island.

Learn more at www.igbavi.org.





St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Yelena Rogers

Residents Support Annual Friends of VINP Gala

St. John residents came out dressed to the nines on Saturday evening, February 1, for the 10th Annual Friends of V.I. National Park Gala at Presido del Mar, the Peter Bay home of Steven and Pamela Deckoff.





Connecting with Nature

by Gail Karlsson

How 'Intelligent' Are Trees?

St. John Tradewinds

With all the rain recently, the trees have been closing in around our house in Fish Bay. We left most of the native trees on the property, and planted Arica palms and bougainvillea in the yard. When they all get bushy they block the path and the view. Definitely time to sharpen up the machete and get out the clippers.

Sometimes I feel a little badly about chopping back the native trees, but most of them don't seem to mind a trim. The invasive trees I wish would disappear, like the false tamarinds, often grow back even more aggressively no matter how much I cut them.

I mentioned my tree-trimming work to a friend in the city, and she recommended that I read a recent article in the *New*

Yorker Magazine on 'The Intelligent Plant' by Michael Pollan. www.newyorker.com/reporting/2013/12/23/131223fa_fact_pollan.

Back in 1973 a book called *The Secret Life of Plants* had suggested that plants could feel stress when people even thought about harming them. I wondered if she viewed me as a tree mugger.

In the article, Pollan reported that the claims about plants having feelings have not been substantiated. However some scientists have documented plant behaviors that "look very much like learning, memory, decision-making and intelligence" as plants respond to a wide variety of information about their environment — including available levels of light, water, and nutrients, as well as temperature and soil conditions.

Even in the 1880s, Darwin's research led him to believe that there was a type of intelligence in the root tips of plants that allowed them to process sensory information and in that way adapt to their environment.

More recent studies have shown that plants also communicate through chemical and electrical signals, and even share and information through widespread underground webs of fungi. Although most scientists do not conclude from this information that trees are 'conscious', it does seem that they may actually be 'intelligent' even though they do not have brains.

In fact, the lack of a brain may make plants more resilient to the impacts of environmental changes and destructive events. They can lose up to 90 percent of their mass and still survive and grow back. (Plus they can make their own food from sunlight and water.)

Rather than viewing plants as insensate, lower life forms, Pollan suggests that their way of adapting to the world could provide a model for our own future, one that is "organized around systems and technologies that are networked, decentralized, modular...and green, able to nourish themselves on light".

It's interesting to think about what we could learn from the trees about survival skills — especially the trees that are well-adapted to island life. In the short term I



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Gail Karlsson

Some scientist believe that plants are intelligent life forms that can communicate and feel stress.

am still planning to cut back the trees in my way, knowing they can manage okay with a few less branches. I'm sure some of them will still be going strong long after I am gone.

*Gail Karlsson is an environmental lawyer and part-time resident of St. John. Her book *The Wild Life in an Island House* is available on amazon.com or from gkarlsson@att.net.*

Mystery Dome Is Cut Up for Painting, Reassembly



St. John Tradewinds News Photos

Neville Samuel finished his mystery project at his Enighed Pond shop on South Shore Road — and then he disassembled it into four pieces for painting — gold — and reassembly on its home island.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send your letter to editor@tradewinds.vi

**NEXT DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, FEB. 6th**

Keeping Track of Crime

2013-TO-DATE

Homicides: 0
 Shootings: 0
 Stabbings: 0
 Armed Robberies: 0
 Arsons: 0
 1st Degree Burglaries: 1
 2nd Degree Burglaries: 2
 3rd Degree Burglaries: 23
 Grand Larcenies: 68
 Rapes: 1

2014-TO-DATE

Homicides: 0
 Shootings: 0
 Stabbings: 0
 Armed Robberies: 0
 Arsons: 0
 1st Degree Burglaries: 0
 2nd Degree Burglaries: 0
 3rd Degree Burglaries: 1
 Grand Larcenies: 5
 Rapes: 2

Crossword Answers — Puzzle on Page 24

I	P	O	D	S		P	R	I	D	E		J	I	B	E		S	A	G	S	
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C	E	N	T	E	R	I	C	E		H	E	N	R	Y	H	U	D	S	O	N	
K	N	E	S	O	C	K	S		O	N	T	O	P		R	E	E	S	E		
Y	A	R	D		B	E	S		C	O	S	T	S		E	N	D	E	D		

Letters To *St. John Tradewinds*

Losing Hope

Recently, a friend of mine asked “Why do people litter?” I believe that one of the reasons is that some folks have given up on life. This could be due to broken dreams, unresolved issues and loneliness. Setbacks in life are meant to test your resolve and strengthen your determination.

However, in many cases, it breaks down the person to the point where they stop caring about themselves, others and the environment. Their existence is then reduced to living for pleasures of the flesh. Anything to dull the pain and get them through the day.

Unfortunately, these actions lead to more despair, confusion and bitterness. When there are similar, like-minded people in an area, you will see signs of decay – abandoned items in the yard, overgrown foliage, unpainted and vandalized structures – which creates an unsafe neighborhood.

So, the question is “How can we infuse hope into people?”

The reality is, for some it is too late.

Years of abuse and neglect have reduced their self-esteem to zero. Not even the warmth of new friend-

ships and dreams can penetrate their coldness.

For others, though, you and I may come along at the right time to assist them in turning their lives around.

We’re at a critical time in our island’s history when the government, businesses, families and individuals need hope. Mounting problems are threatening to erode the last remaining hope that we have in store.

In the Bible, Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land, however God took him up the mountain and let him see the future.

We have a choice, either to climb to the mountain-top or remain in the valley.

There are people on the island who have hope, vision, energy and resources to turn this mess around.

We have to find each other, group ourselves in a positive force and reintroduce hope to the people. Our future depends on it.

**Your hand in mine,
Emmanuel Prince**

Guest Opinion

Virgin Islands Farmers Cultivating the Sun

A buzz word in government circles the last decade has been -- partnerships, especially private-public partnerships. As usual, it is easier to talk about something than it is to do it.

However, one such partnership was pulled off in the Virgin Islands recently that will benefit many residents.

The Virgin Islands Energy Office had been storing 60 solar panels that had been shipped here for another project and not needed. It was decided that it would not be worth the trouble of shipping them back so the Energy Office came into possession of them.

We Grow Food Inc. last year built a new market shelter for the Bordeaux Farmer’s market and began to expand use of the market place. Along with the expanded use, came more electrical use and a higher Water and Power Authority bill.

In the Department of Agriculture’s effort to help the farmers, Commissioner Louis Petersen learned about the Energy Office’s panels. Still there was a problem. Who could install the panels?

This is when James Shaw entered the picture. In discussing other matters at the Energy Office, about his company Solentia West Indies, he learned about the need the Energy Office and the Department of Agriculture had; he volunteered to resolve the problem free of charge.

It was not just a matter of having a couple of guys go on the roof, put in racks, and install the panels.

Transportation was called for, other equipment was needed. A big item – the inverter – was needed and through Shaw; Chint Power agreed to donate it to the project. Shaw also had to call on other professionals for help. Florida Welding, James Adams Electrical donated freely.

All this team work had a special feel. The farmers at Bordeaux chipped in whenever they could with ladders or labor.

The dedicating of solar and other alternative power installation are no longer a big deal in the Virgin Islands. However the dedication of this installation on Jan. 18 at the Bordeaux Farmers Rastafarian Agricultural and Cultural Food Fair was special. There was handshaking, pats on the backs, hugs and applause. The installation was completed with no cost to taxpayers. If, We Grow Food had to install the system, it would have cost over \$20,000.

The sixty, 75-watt panels should provide a savings of \$285 a month to the famers.

The kicker is, not only was this a community partnership, but it was a partnership that had at its core sustainability, alternative energy, and food production.

Shaw said a lot in the few words he said at the dedication. “We decided to give to the farmers today. The farmers give to us everyday.”

**Don Buchanan
VI Energy Office**

Memorial Service

Service Celebrating Life of Guy Walsh Set for February 3

A ceremony celebrating the life of longtime St. John resident Guy Walsh will be on Monday, February 3, at 2 p.m. at Miss Lucy's Restaurant in Coral Bay.

Guest Opinion

In Search of My Hammer

For the past several years I have followed, with considerable interest, the efforts of Mr. Shelley Moorhead and the African-Caribbean Reparations Alliance. Working on behalf of others, even if they fail to see the significance of such an effort, needs to be recognized as a self-less act, and certainly one deserving of support from all those that can appreciate the struggle that always attends the search for justice. The agenda of this organization is quite clearly not a unique one, but has that universal overtone that has so often resounded throughout history among many people and in many places.

Humanity consists of one species and one race, the human race, but as it is far more common to consider the differences among ethnic groups, cultures and societies, the underlying commonality is either ignored, or worse, denied. Our (humanity's) history, whether the focus is on the political, economic or religious associations between groups, has regrettably been recorded as a timeline of wars separated by intermittent periods of peace. Predictably, each conflict that ended with the imposition of punitive measures by the victor(s) rather than the establishment of a mutually determined sense of justice ultimately never resolved the basis of those conflicts and served only as a catalyst to reignite the strife at a later date. In this oft repeated sequence, the search for personal gain has been the hallmark on which many an elaborate myth about ideals or righteousness has been overlaid to mask the truth.

Perhaps the question troubling some is: "how can restitution or reparations at this hour bring closure and justice to crimes committed long ago?" The crimes of slavery, dispossession, rape, murder, discrimination in any of its myriad forms, and perhaps most egregious after such acts have occurred, the lack of legal representation or a judicial forum willing to hear the victim's charges, are all recurring events that challenge the theory that mankind has, over the past several millennia, made great and continuous strides in the search for justice. Strictly by the numbers, if the statistics available on Wikipedia are reviewed on the subject of 'genocide', there are far more victims in recent rather than ancient history.

Patterns of behavior, whether morally good or bad, sanctioned or not, by the color of law, are in the calculus of personal decision making strongly affected by the formula from which the outcome of past actions determine their true risk versus reward. To suggest

that somehow statutes of limitations or simply the passage of time nullifies criminal actions is an indicator that such profitable enterprises are all too adept at influencing the political process that ostensibly is structured to not only represent and protect society, but to guarantee the effectiveness of the Courts, be they national or international. There are events reported on a daily basis that appear to indicate that universal standards of justice are a secondary consideration when countries the world over consider their trade relationships as a greater priority over the much ballyhooed subject of international human rights, which vary somewhat from country to country, are subject to ongoing revisions and lack the clarity of international humanitarian law, applicable during periods of war or armed conflicts.

To change this recurring course of history requires the setting of legal precedents that turn as yet profitable crimes against humanity, evidenced as yet in many parts of the world where minorities struggle to maintain their legal status and safety, into prohibitively expensive violations that cannot be evaded, even with the passage of time. Not to support such measures will instead provide the necessary assurances that history will be a story that will continue to be replayed over and over again.

From one Jewish website I copied a list of 109 events and locations from which Jews were expelled from AD 250 to 1948. After the end of World War II, over 15 million people of Germanic ancestry, some of whom had resided in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania for hundreds of years were expelled, and in that process about 3 million died or were murdered. On April 4, 2004, in accordance to a history column in one of our local newspapers, Slovenes overwhelmingly voted against restoring rights of more than 18,000 mostly Bosnians, Croats and Serbs who effectively lost their right to permanent residency thereby. Over this past year the Supreme Court of the Dominican Court affirmed the taking of citizenship and property rights from thousands of individuals whose parents had emigrated from Haiti. The expropriation of Palestinian lands that began in 1948 continues to this day in Israel, and millions have become permanent refugees throughout the Middle East and elsewhere. This is a random sampling, and any effort to compile a complete list would fill several volumes.

Continued on Page 23

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE NON-PROFIT GROUP AND YOUR ISLAND NEWSPAPER AT THE SAME TIME?

Animal Care Center of St. John
Coral Bay Community Council
Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park
Giffit Hill School
Island Green Building Association
Kids First!
Kids in the Sea (KATS)
Sisterhood Agenda
St. John Audubon Society
St. John Christian Academy
St. John Community Foundation
St. John Film Society
St. John Historical Society
St. John Montessori School
St. John Recycling Association
St. John Relay for Life
St. John Revolving Fund
St. John School of the Arts
STT/STJ Chamber of Commerce - STJ Chapter
Team River Runner
Using Sport for Social Change
(and many more)

Call to add your registered non-profit to this list

**IT'S A SIMPLE SOLUTION:
Underwrite a yearly advertising budget
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St. John Tradewinds supports all registered non-profit organizations with a non-profit advertising rate.
For more information, call 776-6496.

Community Calendar

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

Monday, February 3

— Senator Donald Cole will host an education meeting on the future plans of Guy H. Benjamin Elementary and Julius E. Sprauve Schools on Monday, February 3, at 3 p.m. at the Legislative Annex in Cruz Bay.

Tuesday, February 4

— The St. John Film Society (SJFS) will screen the film “Rican-ing of White Boy” on Tuesday, February 4, at St John School of the Arts, at 7:30 p.m. Jeff Rodriguez, cinematographer and supporting actor, will be present to talk about the film.

Tuesday, February 11

— The St. John Historical Society membership meeting on Tuesday, February 11, at 7 p.m. at the Bethany Moravian Church, where SJHS member Eleanor Gibney will share a slideshow featuring images from an album of more than 70 rare early 20th century photographs. The pictures document a trip to the islands from Europe on the Danish steamship SS St. Croix, as well as a lengthy stay on all three islands.

Saturday, February 15

— Join the St. John Historical Society on Saturday, February 15, from 9 a.m. to noon as the Society completes its annual clearing of the Annaberg Country School grounds.

Saturday, March 1

— If your looking for a great variety of plants and trees at reasonable prices come see us at the The Marketplace (2nd level parking lot) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 1. Once again the VI Audubon Society will offer a wide variety of plants and trees; most obtained from various VIAS members and from local growers/landscapers who generously donate plants for the groups annual fundraiser.

Saturday, March 8

— The 28th Annual Giffit Hill School Auction will be on Saturday, March 8, at Caneel Bay Resort. 776-1735 for more details.

Saturday, March 15

— The American Cancer Society will be hosting its first “Bark for Life” event in the territory at The Emmaus Moravian Church ballfield in Coral Bay, St. John. This event is a fundraiser, and proceeds will be used for cancer advocacy, prevention and education throughout the district. For more information, call 775-5737.

ALCHOLICS 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

Angelo Hill To Be Sentenced for Cocaine Trafficking

Continued from Page 3

monitoring cellphone conversations between Hill and Tapia and others involved in a drug conspiracy under federal investigation.

Tapia, who joined DPNR April 2, 2007, officially retired from government employment May 17, 2013.

Hill was arrested one week after Tapia, on May 24, 2013, and charged with supplying Tapia with co-

caine. Hill subsequently was released on bond.

Hill retired from his VIPD position before pleading guilty and was eligible for his pension, VIPD spokesperson Melody Rames confirmed.

The Division of Personnel informs the VIPD of an officers retirement, according to VIPD’s Rames. Any employee pensions or benefits are applied for through the Division of Personnel, she added.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Monica Boyd-Richards is suing an adjacent land owner in Estate Power Boyd.

Boyd-Richards Pursues Lawsuit Against New Gas Station

Continued from Page 4

her family property in the neighborhood known as “Power Boyd” located behind and above the towering excavation done for the station and its above-ground storage tanks.

Judge Validates Claim in Recusal

The legal action, Monica Boyd-Richard vs. No. 481-1 Chocolate Hole Realty LLC. and Nadal SaLem Race Track Gas is now awaiting reassignment to another judge.

Judge Mackay, however, did provide Atty. Richards with some additional legal validation of her claim of ownership of the parcel involved in her legal action against the development which abuts her family property.

“...the undersigned hereby RECUSES herself from the... matter to avoid the appearance of impropriety as while in private practice she probated the Estates of Edward Power Boyd and Sara Boyd from which remainder Parcel No. 1 (a/k/a Parcel No. 1-W) Estate Bethany, St. John, Virgin Islands, was distributed to Monica Boyd Richards and others...,” Judge

McKay wrote in her recusal order.

Judge Identifies Property as Probated

“... the aforesaid parcel appears to be the precise parcel that Monica Boyd-Richards asserts is being damaged by the Defendants,” Judge Mackay wrote in the order recusing herself from the Action for a Temporary Restraining Order, Injunctive Relief, Declaratory Judgment and Damages, Reversion Trespass and Damages, Civil No. ST-13-INJ-0000001.

“Therefore, (the undersigned) returns same to the Clerk of the Court for re-assignment,” Judge Mackay wrote in her November 22, 2013, Order. The case has yet to be reassigned to another judge

Boyd-Richards, who says she has turned down settlement offers from the developer as their dispute has smoldered during the lengthy excavation and construction project, is not waiting quietly for the legal system to take its course.

“I don’t want his money,” said Boyd-Richards. “This is our family land.”

“I’m not selling,” she continued. “I’m keeping the property in the family.”

2-2

CRYPTOQUIP

R S A O G Z Q C Z I J A W Z H A H Z I D G W M Z W B A O K D
N Z O F B A I Y Z K Z C M Y H A Y O D C I Y F Y K R D Y M Y O F
I Z Z H , D I A G Z Q J Z Z N Y O F G Z Q I A A N W ?

Today’s Cryptoquip clue: G equals Y

Are You “Earthquake Prepared?” Don’t Be Caught Off Guard

St. John Tradewinds

Recent continuous seismic activity in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands has kindled public awareness towards earthquake preparedness. Therefore, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urges residents to become “Earthquake Prepared” by seeking preparedness information and implementing a few safety measures.

“All this seismic activity, especially the recent 6.4 magnitude earthquake felt throughout the islands, reminds us how vulnerable we are to the devastation and destruction an earthquake can cause,” said FEMA’s Caribbean Area Division Director Alejandro De La Campa. “These events convey an important message: we have to be ready for all hazards, including earthquakes, which can occur at any moment. Earthquakes happen without warning and once they do, it’s too late to prepare for them. Taking simple steps, such as reviewing earthquake safety tips and updating your home emergency plan can be life-saving,” he added.

Studies show that most earthquake-related injuries result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects as a result of the ground shaking, or people trying to move more than a few feet during the shaking. Individuals can prevent injuries and protect their property by taking the following steps:

Preparedness Items

- Create a personal or family plan and practice it. Identify things that you will need for 72 hours or more.
- Basic Disaster Supplies Kit – recommended items:
- Three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Three-day supply of water - one gallon of water per person, per day
- Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Sanitation and hygiene items (moist towelettes and toilet paper)
- Matches and waterproof container
- Whistle
- Extra clothing
- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils, including a can opener
- Photocopies of credit and identification cards
- Cash and coins
- Special needs items, such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solutions, and hearing aid batteries
- Items for infants, such as formula, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers
- Copies of important documents such as insurance policies, deeds and property records

Other Necessary Items

Bolt bookcases, china cabinets, and other tall furniture to

wall studs. Brace or anchor high or top-heavy objects. During an earthquake, these things can fall over, causing damage or injury.

Secure items that might fall, such as televisions and computers. Falling items can be a major cause of damage or injury in a quake; install strong latches or bolts on cabinet doors to prevent the contents from flying out during the quake.

Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches, on bottom shelves.

Hang heavy items, such as pictures and mirrors, away from beds, couches and anywhere people sit. Earthquakes frequently knock things off walls, causing damage or injury.

Strap the water heater to wall studs. The water heater may be your best source of drinkable water following an earthquake. Protect it from damage and leaks.

Bolt down any gas appliances. After an earthquake, broken gas lines frequently create fire hazards.

Install flexible pipefittings to avoid gas or water leaks. Flexible fittings will be less likely to break.

Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects. Earthquakes can turn cracks into ruptures and make small problems bigger.

Check to see if your house is bolted to its foundation. Homes bolted to their foundations are

less likely to be severely damaged during an earthquake. Homes that are not bolted have been known to slide off their foundations, and many have been destroyed because they were uninhabitable.

Consider having your building evaluated by a professional structural design engineer who can give you advice on how to reduce potential damage. Ask for strengthening tips for porches, front and back decks, sliding glass doors, canopies, carports and garage doors.

Consider buying earthquake insurance. Ask your insurance agent about adding earthquake coverage to your current policy.

When an earthquake hits, what to do if you’re indoors:

Drop to the ground and take cover by getting under a sturdy desk, table or other piece of furniture. If there is none around to get under, get down near an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms and hands; and

Hold on to the furniture or to your head and neck until the shaking stops.

Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall.

Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.

Stay inside until shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.

Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on.

For more information on earthquake safety, visit www.fema.gov/hazard/earthquake/ and www.ready.gov.

Delegate Meets With Supporters and Constituents



USVI Delegate to Congress Dr. Donna Christensen, sitting at center, spoke with supporters and met privately with constituents in an appearance at The Lumberyard Complex on Friday night, January 31. St. John Administrator Smith, at right, explained a resident’s situation to the Delegate.

St. John Tradewinds News Photo

2014 Seminar Series January 11 – April 15, 2014 Call 340.779.4940 to book today!

JANUARY		
BUILD GREEN • Jan. 11, Sat. • 10:00am – noon Meets: Skinny Legs Restaurant to carpool; Bring: Notebook, building plans, & ideas; Seminar Fee: \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	ETHNIC DRUMMING • Mar. 5, Wed. • 1:00pm – 3:00pm Meets: St. John School of the Arts Bring: A drum, if you have one; Seminar Fee: \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	
CRUZ BAY HISTORY – JULIUS VON ROHR • Jan. 12, Sun. • 12:30pm – 2:30pm Meets: Friends of the Park Store; Bring: Notebook & water; Seminar Fee: \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	KAYAK, HIKE, & SNORKEL • Mar. 7, Fri. • 9:00am – noon Meets: National Park Visitor Center; Bring: Lunch/snacks, water, towel, & sun protection; Seminar Fee: \$60 Mem / \$70 Non Mem • Max Group: 10	
NATIVE ARTS & CRAFTS • Jan. 15, Wed. • 12:30pm – 2:30pm Meets: St. John School of the Arts; Bring: Notebook; Seminar Fee: \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • Max Group: 25	LOVANGO SUSTAINABLE DESIGN TOUR • Mar. 8, Sat. • 9:30am – 1:30pm Meets: Friends of the Park Store; Bring: Sunscreen, hat, lunch, water, & hiking shoes; Seminar Fee: \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	
KAYAK MANGROVES OF HURRICANE HOLE • Jan. 19, Sun. • 10:00am – 3:00pm Meets: Skinny Legs Restaurant to carpool; Bring: Lunch, snorkel gear, water, towel, sunscreen; Seminar Fee: \$65 Mem / \$75 Non Mem • Max Group: 12	ST. THOMAS HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR • Mar. 9, Sun. • 9:00am – 11:00am Meets: Blackbeards Castle, St. Thomas; Bring: Notebook & water; Seminar Fee: \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • Max Group: 25	
MEDICINAL HERBS • Jan. 22, Wed. • 12:30pm – 2:30pm Meets: St. John School of the Arts; Bring: Notebook; Seminar Fee: \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • Max Group: 25	PEPPER SAUCE MAKING • Mar. 12, Wed. • 12:30pm – 2:30pm Meets: St. John School of the Arts; Bring: Notebook; Seminar Fee: \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	
HASSLE ISLAND KAYAK & HIKE • Jan. 24, Fri. • 2:00pm – 5:00pm Meets: Dock at Hook, Line & Sinker, Frenchtown, St. Thomas; Bring: Towel, sunscreen, plenty of water, snack, dry bag, hiking shoes; Seminar Fee: \$69 Mem / \$79 Non Mem • Max Group: 8	COASTAL ECOLOGY • Mar. 15, Sat. • 9:00am – 3:00pm Meets: National Park Visitor Center; Bring: Lunch, water, sunscreen, & snorkel gear; Seminar Fee: \$75 Mem / \$85 Non Mem • Max Group: 18	
NATIVE PLANTS OF ST. JOHN HIKE • Jan. 25, Sat. • 9:00am – noon Meets: Friends of the Park Store to carpool; Bring: Water, lunch, notebook, & binoculars; Seminar Fee: \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • Max Group: 25	FULL MOON HIKE • Mar. 16, Sun. • 5:30pm – 8:30pm Meets: Salt Pond parking lot; Bring: Hiking shoes, flashlight, snack, & water; Seminar Fee: \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	
FEBRUARY		
BIRDS OF THE PARK • Feb. 3, Mon. • 9:00am – 1:00pm Meets: National Park Visitor Center; Bring: Snack, binoculars, notebook, & water; Seminar Fee: \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	LAMESHUR BAY/VIERS TOUR • Mar. 19, Wed. • 10:00am – 2:00pm Meets: Lameshur Bay parking lot; Bring: Notebook & water; Seminar Fee: \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	
EXPLORE THE SHORE • Feb. 5, Wed. • 9:30am – 1:30pm Meets: Annaberg Parking Lot; Bring: Lunch, snorkel gear (optional), binoculars, water; Seminar Fee: \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem	MARINE BIOLOGY SAIL • Mar. 23, Sun. • 9:00am – 3:00pm Meets: National Park Visitor Center dock; Bring: Lunch, snorkel gear, water bottle, towel, & sunscreen; Seminar Fee: \$85 Mem / \$95 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	
LOVANGO SUSTAINABLE DESIGN TOUR • Feb. 8, Sat. • 9:30am – 1:30pm Meets: Friends of the Park Store; Bring: Sunscreen, hat, lunch, water, & hiking shoes; Seminar Fee: \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	TROPICAL LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY • Mar. 24, Mon. • 8:00am – noon Meets: Friends of the Park Store; Bring: Camera & manual, batteries, memory cards, water, & notebook; Seminar Fee: \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • Max Group: 15	
HIKE WITH THE “SUPER” • Feb. 12, Wed. • 10:30am – 1:30pm Meets: National Park Visitor Center; Bring: Lunch, hat, water, & sunscreen; Seminar Fee: \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	LIONFISH BOAT ADVENTURE • Mar. 26, Wed. • 9:30am – 3:00pm Meets: Friends of the Park Store; Bring: Lunch, water, sunscreen, & snorkel gear; Seminar Fee: \$85 Mem / \$95 Non Mem • Max Group: 30	
FULL MOON DRUM CIRCLE • Feb. 14, Fri. • 6:30pm – 8:00pm Meets: Annaberg Ruins; Bring: A drum, if you have one; Seminar Fee: \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	MANGROVE SNORKELING BOAT TRIP • Mar. 29, Sat. • 9:30am – 3:00pm Bring: Lunch, snorkel gear, towel, sunscreen, & snack; Seminar Fee: \$85 Mem / \$95 Non Mem • Max Group: 18	
PEPPER SAUCE MAKING • Feb. 19, Wed. • 12:30pm – 2:30pm Meets: St. John School of the Arts; Bring: Notebook; Seminar Fee: \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	APRIL	
ARCHAEOLOGY BY SEA BOAT TRIP • Feb. 26, Wed. • 10:00am – 3:00pm Meets: National Park Visitor Center; Bring: Lunch, hat, water, & sunscreen; Seminar Fee: \$65 Mem / \$75 Non Mem • Max Group: 28	HIKE WITH THE “SUPER” • Apr. 2, Wed. • 10:30am – 1:30pm Meets: National Park Visitor Center; Bring: Lunch, hat, water, sunscreen; Seminar Fee: \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	
SEA TURTLE SAIL • Feb. 27, Thurs. • 1:00pm – 5:00pm Meets: Charlotte Amalie waterfront, St. Thomas; Bring: Sunscreen, hat, snack, snorkel gear, & swimsuit; Seminar Fee: \$65 Mem / \$75 Non Mem • Max Group: 30	EXPLORE & PHOTOGRAPH LEINSTER BAY • Apr. 5, Sat. • 9:00am – 3:00pm Meets: Annaberg parking lot; Bring: Lunch, water, sunscreen, & snorkel gear; Seminar Fee: \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • Max Group: 15	
BOTANY HIKE • Feb. 28, Fri. • 9:00am – 1:00pm Meets: Friends of the Park Store; Bring: Sunscreen, hat, lunch, water, & hiking shoes; Seminar Fee: \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • Max Group: 25	ECO SPA MUD BATH • Apr. 9, Wed. • 2:00pm – 4:00pm Meets: Salt Pond parking lot; Bring: Old swimsuit, towel, water, & snack; Seminar Fee: \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • Max Group: 15	
MARCH		
TROPICAL GARDEN TOUR I • Mar. 1, Sat. • 10:00am – 3:00pm Meets: Friends of the Park Store to carpool; Bring: Lunch, water, & sunscreen; Seminar Fee: \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	TROPICAL GARDEN TOUR II • Apr. 12, Sat. • 9:00am – 3:00pm Meets: Friends of the Park Store to carpool; Bring: Lunch, water, & sunscreen; Seminar Fee: \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	
	FULL MOON HIKE • Apr. 15, Tues. • 5:30pm – 8:30pm Meets: Salt Pond parking lot; Bring: Hiking shoes, flashlight, snack, & water; Seminar Fee: \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • Max Group: 20	

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

Divine Worship 10 a.m., except second Sundays start at 9 a.m., 776-6291

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.

Christian Science Society

10:45 a.m. Sunday- Marketplace
Wednesday Testimonials
7:45 p.m. on last Wed. of Month

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, Sun. 9 a.m. 776-6713

Freshwater Church

Sunday Service 10 a.m.; Monday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Thursday Women's Bible Study 9 a.m.
Saturday Men's Bible Study 10 a.m.
Follow us on Facebook for Locations or call (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

The schedule is as follows: Saturdays at 6 p.m.
Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 a.m.
Fridays at 7 p.m. Call 776-6339 for more information.

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



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

The platform tent eco-cottages of Maho Bay Camp have been stripped of their canvas leaving the frames exposed to the tropical elements with unobstructed, panoramic views.

Negotiations To Sell Harmony to Maho Camps Buyer Stalled

Continued from Page 2

chase his abutting lots are stalled, he said.

The 12 units of Harmony Studios, in six buildings “on two half-acre lots in the middle of the park,” are not listed for sale, Selengut explained.

Selengut acknowledged his representative has been negotiating with a representative of the purchasers of Maho Bay for the sale of Harmony, but that they are far apart on price.

“The guy wants its as a private retreat for his family,” Selengut said of the former Maho Camps property adjacent to Harmony. “The right of way for Harmony runs right through the (Maho Bay) property.”

“We’re about \$400,000 apart,” Selengut acknowledged. “They’ve made an offer we’re not enormously pleased about. In the fairly

near future I probably will put it up for sale.”

“It’s a wonderful opportunity,” said Selengut of the Harmony property. “You are entitled to have two dwellings on each lot.”

“Someone could redesign them,” said Selengut of the Harmony building, who acknowledged re-purposing the buildings could involve “quite a significant investment.”

“Maho was their umbilical cord,” Selengut acknowledged. Reopening the buildings would require at least a septic system for the lower units and new electrical power service, he added. “They have cisterns; one above and one below,” he said.

While the 12 units of Harmony studios could require “a couple of hundred thousand dollars” in repairs, refurbishment and infrastructure, Selengut said the land

itself is worth the investment.

Two vacant lots just above the Harmony property are up for sale, each for a price tag comparable to what Selengut is asking for Harmony..

“The top one is \$1.2 million,” Selengut said of the neighboring properties listed for sale. “I’m asking \$2 million for 12-units on two, one-half acre lots. I started out at \$2.5 million.”

Undisclosed Purchaser

Selengut acknowledged his representative has been negotiating with a representative of the purchasers of Maho Bay for the sale of Harmony, but that they are far apart on price.

While Selengut said he was not privy to the identity of the buyer of the former Maho Bay Camps property, he said he had heard it was a principal of a major U.S. medical technological company.

Medical Center Finance Chief Takes New Look at MKSCHC

Continued from Page 6

The Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services, a federal oversight agency, would have to grant the designation. An analysis of operations, services provided and patients receiving services is expected to take place when consultants visit the week of February 2.

Clifton Larsen Allen LLC is a top accounting firm based in Minnesota. The firm provides audit, accounting, tax, consulting, outsourcing, and wealth advisory to privately held companies, nonprofits and public sector institutions.

SRMC Chief Executive officer Bernard Wheatley said he also expects a visit next week from representatives of a health care specialty collections firm.

The medical center is engaging Medical Data System and seeking help from an advisory board formed with the company's help.

While in the territory MDS executives will look at ways to improve payment from uninsured patients and those who have insurance but have to pay for services not covered by their insurance plans.

The advisory board is also

expected to examine transactions with insurance carriers and better ways to address instances where procedures are denied for reimbursement.

Wheatley said he expects the visit, "will lay the groundwork for the MDS advisory board and CliftonLarsenAllen to help us through."

Schneider Regional management and governing board are seeking ways to make up for an anticipated \$11 million dollar shortfall in Fiscal Year 2014.

Anticipated shortfalls are expected to impact all aspects of SRMC, including Schneider Hospital, MKS Clinic and the Charlotte Kimmelman Cancer Center.

Vitello said if consultants can help medical center officials better document their efforts to improve revenue capture, they may be able to make a better case for higher reimbursement rates from CMS.

Vitello, who took on the duties of interim chief financial officer late last year, said he expects proper audits and detailed financial analyses could result in up to \$10 million in additional revenue for the medical center.

Op-Ed: In Search of My Hammer

Continued from Page 19

Efforts to restore bank accounts, art work, and the restitution of property claims to Jewish Holocaust survivors or their heirs is laudable and worthy of support by all who consider themselves humanitarians, but it is not enough. Justice must be for all if it is to exist at all. There are many groups deserving of our support, and as a local initiative, the African-Caribbean Reparation Alliance should certainly be considered among them. Its professed purposes are worthy of our encouragement and the weight of favorable public opinion can only serve to leverage the effectiveness of their previous efforts. The dialogue now underway with Denmark should perhaps be considered as a beginning in a process that uncovers the involvement and potentially shared re-

sponsibility of the various African nations in the determination of guilt and liability.

In closing, and in remembrance of Pete Seeger who died the other day, I have decided to include the first and last stanzas of the song he and Lee Hays wrote: "If I had a hammer".

If I had a hammer,
I'd hammer in the morning,
I'd hammer in the evening,
All over this land,
I'd hammer out danger,
I'd hammer out a warning,
I'd hammer out love between
My brothers and my sisters,
All over this land
It's the hammer of justice,
It's the bell of freedom,
It's a song about love between
My brothers and my sisters,
All over this land

— Hugo Roller

Police Log

LAND LINE: 911 CELLULAR: 340-776-9110
POLICE DEPT: 340-693-8880 / FIRE: 340-776-6333

Sunday, January 26

6:30 p.m. — A minor present at Jurgen Command to report that her mother placed all her belongings outside of the residence and told her (minor) not to come back. Requested police assistance in getting back inside of the residence. Police Assistance.

7:02 p.m. — citizen called to report a disturbance involving a machete at Enighed. Third Degree Assault.

Monday, January 27

3:55 a.m. — Man requested police assistance to travel to Myrah Keating Smith Clinic so he can get his medications. Police assistance.

10:33 a.m. — Woman of Estate Chocolate Hole present reporting that she believed someone was walking around on their property, opening the gate of the property and rattling the door-knob. Suspicious Activity.

12:26 p.m. — Woman of Estate John's Folly present reporting that a woman is talking bad about her and telling people she slashed her tires. Police Assistance.

6:25 p.m. — Junior F. Bridgewater is present under arrest and charged with assaulting a male

with a machete. Assault Third.

8:13 p.m. — Woman of Estate Carolina called to report a male walking around her area. Police Assistance.

Tuesday, January 28

3:40 a.m. — Resident present and reporting that he was assaulted by a male in the area of Tamarind Court. Simple Assault.

12:07 p.m. — Woman reporting a parking situation in the area of Hansen Bay. Police Assistance.

7:25 p.m. — Man present reporting that he found a dime bag with an unknown substance inside behind the bed of his truck. Recovered Drugs.

8:22 p.m. — Estate Pastory man reporting an auto collision, hit and run at Caneel Bay parking lot. Auto Accident; Hit and Run.

8:39 p.m. — Citizen reporting a disturbance in the area of Tamarind Court.

10:14 p.m. — Woman of Hansen Bay called to request police assistance with her neighbors and their dog barking. Police Assistance.

11:09 p.m. — Man of Carlsberg, St. John, called to report a

vehicle struck him while he was walking in the area of Giffit Hill.

Wednesday, January 29

4:42 a.m. — Man of Contant called to report suspicious activity at his residence; believed that someone was breaking into his residence. Suspicious Activity.

2:09 p.m. — Woman of Hansen Bay called to report disturbance with her neighbors. Disturbance of the Peace.

3:32 p.m. — Woman present reporting being involved in an auto accident on North Shore Road on January 28. Auto Collision.

8:13 p.m. — ADT called to report an activated alarm at Love City Mini Mart. Activated Alarm.

11:57 p.m. — Officer present reporting an auto collision with PD-481 in the area of the roundabout in Cruz Bay. Auto Collision.

Thursday, January 30

2:18 p.m. — Man present reporting that he was slapped by a female, area of Westin Resort. Simple Assault.

5:45 p.m. — Woman present reporting that a man came to her job creating a disturbance. Disturbance of the Peace.

Crime Stoppers U.S. Virgin Islands

St. John Tradewinds

Crime Stoppers empowers you, the law abiding citizens, to make your neighborhoods, schools and businesses safer by reporting information while remaining anonymous. If you know something, say something as law enforcement needs to know what you know. Even the smallest bit of information may be just what is needed to identify and arrest the criminals involved in the following crimes.

St. John: On January 19th at about 10:00 a.m., officers responded to a call of a male lying dead in his apartment in Chocolate Hole. The victim, 41-year-old James "Jim" Malfetti, had fatal injuries in his neck area. Help police solve this homicide by telling us what you know.

St. Thomas:

On Thursday, January 23rd, Raheem Tasharn Creque escaped from the St. Thomas VI Bureau of Corrections at the Alexander Farrelly Justice complex. He had been arrested for sex crimes involving minors. Mr. Creque has been known to frequent the Hospital Ground and Savan areas. A picture of him can be viewed on our website under the "Crime of the Week" tab.

Let's continue to help make our community a safer place to live by submitting information on these or any other crimes at www.CrimeStoppersUSVI.org, or by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or by texting "USVI" plus your message to CRIMES (274637). Your tips are completely anonymous, and the stateside operators speak several languages.

St. John Tradewinds Business Directory

Accommodations

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

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

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

Architecture

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

Banking

Firstbank
Located in downtown Cruz Bay
340-776-6881

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

Construction

Stronghouse Construction
340-513-4538 or 340-777-7556
The Concrete Specialist

Green Building

Island Green Building Association
check www.igbavi.org for Seminar
Series info and ReSource Depot
inventory

Insurance

PGU Insurance
Located at The Marketplace
776-6403; pgunow@gmail.com

Theodore Tunick & Company
Phone 775-7001 / Fax 775-7002
www.theodoretunick.com

Jewelry

R&I PATTON goldsmithing
Located in Mongoose Junction
776-6548 or (800) 626-3445
Chat@pattongold.com

Landscaping

Alfredo's Landscaping
tel. 774-1655 cell 513-2971
P.O. Box 91, St. John, VI 00831

Coral Bay Garden Center
tel. 693-5579 fax 714-5628
P.O. Box 1228, STJ, VI 00831

Real Estate

340 Real Estate Company, LLC
340-643-6068 or 340-779-4478
340realestateco@gmail.com
www.340realestateco.com

Debbie Hayes, GRI
tel. 714-5808 or 340-642-5995
debbiehayes@debbiehayes.com
www.stjohnvirealestate.com

Holiday Homes of St. John
tel. 776-6776 fax 693-8665
P.O. Box 40, STJ, VI 00831
info@holidayhomesVI.com

Islandia Real Estate
tel. 776-6666 fax 693-8499
P.O. Box 56, STJ, VI 00831
info@islandiarealestate.com

Restaurants

**Fish Trap Restaurant
and Seafood Market**
tel. 693-9994, Closed Mondays

La Tapa Restaurant
tel. 693-7755
Open 7 Days a Week

Skinny Legs
"A Pretty OK Place"
tel. 340-779-4982
www.skinnylegs.com

Services

C4th Custom Embroidery
tel. 779-4047
Located in Coral Bay

Island Solar
"Off the Grid Living for 10 Years"
tel. 340-642-0531

Wedding Services

Weddings by Katilady
www.stjohnweddingplanner.com
www.katilady.com
340-693-8500 - Consulting, Travel
Coordination, Accommodations

Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

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HOO'S HOO

ACROSS

- 1 Nano and Shuffle
- 6 Lion group
- 11 Be in accord (with)
- 15 Loses firmness
- 19 Stairway post
- 20 Eyelid makeup
- 21 Albany-Buffalo waterway
- 23 "The Piano" star
- 25 Like a lens for seeing the big picture?
- 26 Environs
- 27 Goaded (on)
- 28 Clutter
- 29 Southern beauty
- 30 Ignited
- 31 Fetch
- 32 "All the President's Men" actor
- 34 One who designs something
- 36 Barely obtain, with "out"
- 37 "— certainly will not!"
- 38 Lateral or cycle lead-in
- 39 2012-13 American League MVP Miguel
- 42 Warm, as leftovers
- 47 Refinery waste
- 50 Suffix with beat
- 52 Sit-up muscles
- 53 '60s hipster
- 55 Actress Fanning
- 56 — number (speed ratio)
- 57 Prior to
- 58 Teacher's union: Abbr.
- 59 D.C. VIP
- 60 Mille — (Minnesota

- county)
- 61 St. Louis landmark
- 62 Dejected
- 63 Joan of —
- 64 Timid
- 65 Coup d'— (revolution)
- 66 Lecherous guy
- 67 To the — power
- 68 Bites lightly
- 69 Matted earth
- 70 Enjoy Vail
- 73 Whodunit cry
- 74 Greet warmly
- 77 Horseshoe's place
- 78 "This — outrage!"
- 79 Be on TV
- 80 Many an heir
- 81 Very old Olds
- 82 — Domini
- 83 Italy's Villa d'—
- 84 Writing fluid
- 85 Sty animal
- 86 Olive — (Popeye's gal)
- 87 Belgian river to the North Sea
- 88 Be livid
- 90 Gillette tools
- 93 Indigo, e.g.
- 95 Operated
- 97 Mimicker
- 98 Starbucks orders
- 103 Old Los Angeles Times gossip columnist
- 108 Teapot part
- 109 "The Simpsons" merchant
- 110 Phony name
- 111 "I — you so!"
- 112 Parts of hulls
- 113 Alternative to Fox

- Sports
- 114 Hockey face-off spot
- 116 New York Bay explorer
- 118 Shin-covering footwear
- 119 At the acme
- 120 Singer Della
- 121 Fabric unit
- 122 First lady after Eleanor
- 123 Fees
- 124 Was over
- DOWN
- 1 Split 50-50
- 2 Illinois city
- 3 Little birds with big eyes
- 4 Oscar — Hoya
- 5 Cagey
- 6 Connect to get power
- 7 Like some pheasants and ducks
- 8 Former Acura model
- 9 Act
- 10 Slip up
- 11 Gem seller
- 12 From Erin
- 13 Tries to buy at auction
- 14 Fat foot spec
- 15 More stable
- 16 — -Saxon
- 17 Family name in wine
- 18 Lustrous
- 22 Hack
- 24 Main female characters
- 28 Does some modifying
- 31 Storage box
- 32 Depression president
- 33 Noble
- 35 Tycoon on
- 40 Like some kitschy yellow

- phones
- 41 Pumps (up)
- 43 "Airport" Oscar winner
- 44 Joyful feelings
- 45 "Scarface"
- 46 Tries to find diagnostically
- 47 Know-it-alls
- 48 Big name in French lexicography
- 49 Precise
- 51 S&L holding
- 54 "— -la-lal!"
- 70 Vocalized for the doc
- 71 Next of —
- 72 Perturbs
- 74 1992 and '96 also-ran
- 75 180 on the road
- 76 Influx of forty-niners
- 89 Rubs out
- 91 Unlucky
- 92 Chafes at
- 94 Nevertheless
- 96 Observe
- 99 Coral colonists
- 100 Gave lip to
- 101 Fight against
- 102 Soaked up some rays
- 103 — Sack (footbag brand)
- 104 Kagan of justice
- 105 Beanery
- 106 Outmoded
- 107 Pitted scars
- 112 Lotto relative
- 113 Early garden
- 115 Steal from
- 116 On an ad — basis
- 117 Suffix with strict

Answer to Feb. 2 Cryptoquip:
WHEN YOU FORCE SOME MORAYS TO SPEND A LONG PERIOD OF TIME IN A FRIGID WAITING ROOM, ARE YOU COOLING YOUR EELS?

Classifieds

Employment

EXPERIENCED MAINTENANCE PERSON needed for busy real estate company. Some after-hours work. Car essential, references required. Email resume to info@stjohnproperties.com or call St. John Properties, 304-693-8485 for interview.

Tutor Available

READING SPECIALIST AND TUTOR WITH 10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE. MEd SPED certified teacher. Available for short term projects or long term tutoring in reading, writing, homework help. Also experienced in reading level assessment and creating education plans. Extremely patient. Ages K-12, adult learners, ESL and GED prep. Danette Plagge 690-8301 or danettefrancis@gmail.com

TUTOR AVAILABLE: Veteran teacher available for enrichment or remedial tutoring for children 5 to 14 years old. Very experienced in individual learning styles and furthering motivation. 617-688-3818

For Rent

FOR RENT: One (\$1150) and two (\$1600) bedroom apartments across the street from the Westin Resort. Unfurnished except for washer/dryer, stove and refrigerator. Apply at St. John Properties. 693-8485.

Two bedroom, two bath, ground floor unit in duplex for rent. A/C, fans, tile throughout, front door parking, microwave/gas cooking, fridge, W/D, 30 mile views, very quiet, pets. \$1,500/mo. Annual lease. 561-602-9484

SCENIC PROPERTIES 340-693-7777

- Two bedroom house, one bath, large deck, washer, Coral Bay \$1800

Rooms for Rent: Cruz Bay, convenient location, near businesses, safe area, furnished, clean, great for professional. 340-227-8377.

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APTS FOR SALE:
Two apartments in compound located in Cruz Bay Valley.
340-776-3455



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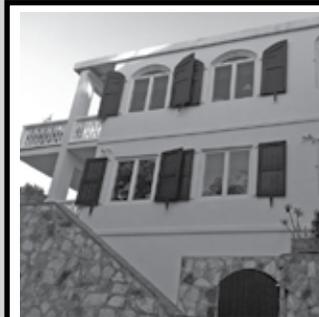
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Broadway and Hollywood To Join Forces at SJSA Show and Fundraiser

Continued from Page 7

New York City,” said Lee, who has extensive Broadway experience from his childhood, when he appeared in the original production of *The King and I* and in *West Side Story*, to his adulthood, when he started his own wholesale theater ticket company. “My mind wandered back to the warmth of St. John, and I wondered what we could possibly do to make things better and healthier at the School of the Arts. I came up with the idea of asking Broadway actors to come down and work with the students, and it’s been a successful partnership since then.”

This year’s show is sure to be better than ever, with the Hooray for Hollywood theme extending to the audience.

“We want to create an Oscar night-style event for our guests,” said Wild. “We’re asking everyone to dress up in their designer wear, either to look like a notable Hollywood star, or like the star that you are. We’ll have a red carpet, and *St. John Tradewinds*’ Jaime Elliott will be the red carpet reporter, asking incoming guests who they’re wearing.”

The fourth graders, who started work on their performances last week, are already feeling the excitement of the show.

“It’s really fun doing all the dances and

the music lessons,” said Giffit Hill School fourth grader Noah Gessner.

“I love the dancing because we get to move a lot,” said GHS fourth grader Safa Monsanto.

Although the actors spend hours each weekday working with students at schools across the island, their enthusiasm for the fundraiser show is unwavering.

“Back in New York, we’ve got work to do and we need to make a living, but this reminds us why we do what we do,” said Tartaglia. “We’re getting to affect their level of self confidence and help them believe in themselves and the way they look at their futures.”

“I’ve had a wonderful career on Broadway, but seeing these children as they go through this process makes me realize this has nothing to do with me,” said Drake. “Art is eternal; you really do pass it on.”

Broadway Comes to St. John will debut with a friends and family night on February 14, when the suggested donation is \$20 per person. The premiere show is set for February 15 at the Westin. Tickets are \$200 and include a champagne reception and dinner after the show. For more information, visit www.stjohnschoolofthearts.org.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Andrea Milan

Broadway actor Michael Shawn Lewis, far left, works with Giffit Hill School fourth graders on a number from “Wizard of Oz” for their upcoming performances on February 14 and 15.

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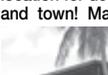
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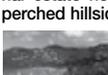
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“CASA MARE”, an exciting new contemporary home! Finished to exacting detail, modern style w/ top end custom kitchen finishes and exotic furnishings. Soaring glass window walls face St. Thomas views and overlook dramatic pool & viewing decks.

MLS 13-481

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“MARIA BREEZE” one of the original estate homes in Great Cruz Bay perched hillside with a 230° view. This masonry 5 bdrm villa with generous wrap-around decks has plenty of room for a family to spread out and enjoy the breezes!

MLS 13-417

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“VILLA DIVERTIMENTO” Newer 2 bdrm/2.5 bth home w/ eastern views and breezes. All masonry, well-designed w/ pool cabana & twin-bed sleeping loft. 30ft pool & spacious deck and swimming. Island stone work, outdoor showers. Solar panels with net metering!

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“WINDCHIME” is a very private 1.4 ac. estate set high atop Giffit Hill. Dramatic views to the east w/ spectacular breezes and sunrises. This 3 bdrm villa has room to expand with an oversized pool facing the terrific view.

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“WHALE WATCH” – Enjoy pristine East End in this lovely, 2 bedroom villa with big water views. Downstairs apartment offers additional living & income space. Hear the sound of the waves lapping below.

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“SAGO COTTAGE” adorable Caribbean style masonry cottage with wonderful down island views and great rental history.

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

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“BORDERS NATIONAL PARK!” EXCEPTIONAL CARIBBEAN CRAFTSMANSHIP masonry home w/ FLEXIBLE FLOORPLAN is a “must see!” Private, end of road FLAT lot with additional cottage. Completed in 2010 by Owner/builder/furniture maker from Santa Fe.

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“GIFFIT HILL” View, quiet area & convenience! Two unit home—Live in one, rent the other! Main level features 2 bdrms, bth & a generous great room w/ sliders to Pillsbury Sound view deck. Lower level studio apartment with porch. Lush, level property with easy parking.

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

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By Jeff McCord, Public Information Contact, St. John: Cell: 540-272-6181; jmccord@crosslink.net

ST. JOHN, FEBRUARY 3, 2014 — Lumber inadequately treated to resist insects, moisture and fungi was sold by Paradise Lumber on St. John and MSI and possible other retailers on St. Thomas in the years following January 1, 2004, according to a lawsuit. The actual party responsible for the substandard wood is Great Southern Wood Preserving, Inc., based in Alabama.

Thus far, about 40 St. John residents have joined a suit seeking damages in federal court against Great Southern. This lawsuit, filed by local counsel Lee Rohn of St. Croix, who is working with the Washington, D.C. based national consumer law firm of Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP, claims that

Great Southern knew the wood was substandard and dumped it in Caribbean markets to escape stateside accountability.

Victims (known as “plaintiffs”) are entitled to recover damages beyond the cost of replacement lumber. Among those damages are labor costs to remove, replace and dispose of the defective wood, replacement and installation of any other materials damaged by the wood, and compensation for diminished property values and suffering and mental anguish.

A forensic wood technologist identified several problems with the defective wood including inadequate penetration depth and incorrect

ratios of chemicals used to treat the wood. The wood does not meet the standards of the American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) or the International Code Council Evaluation Service (ICC-ES).

The expected life of properly treated wood should be 30 years or more, with numerous companies offering lifetime warranties. The substandard wood sold in our islands, however, can fail as early as two-to-three years because it cannot resist wood fungi, termites and other organisms. Degradation of inadequately treated wood can spread to adjacent wood products and threaten the entire structure and electrical, plumbing and gutter systems.

If you believe you have been damaged by substandard wood, please contact:

*Lee J. Rohn
and Associates, LLC*

Lee Rohn, Esq.

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em: lee@rohnlaw.com

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