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ST. JOHN

TRADEWINDS

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

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Circular Rainbow Round the Sun

Sky gazers on St. John were mesmerized around 2 p.m. on Friday, April 10, as a circular rainbow appeared overhead ringing the bright sun and encircling passing clouds. In theory every rainbow is a circle, but from the ground only its upper half can be seen, according to Wikipedia.



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Community Integration Team Plans Fifth Summer Youth Fair at JESS on May 6

St. John Tradewinds

The 5th Annual St. John Summer Youth Fair is Coming Up!

Summer is almost here, and children are looking forward to having fun at the summer camp of their choice while many young people will have their first experience at summer employment.

This year the Summer Youth Fair is coming directly to schools. Participating providers can display their programs at the May 6 monthly Parent Teachers Organization Meeting at the Julius Sprauve School from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This way, parents and students can be fully involved in choosing a summer activity.

The St. John Summer Youth Fair is organized by the St. John Community Integration Team (CIT). CIT is a volunteer organization that assists the Virgin Islands Police Department in recognizing and addressing ways to improve police/community relations.

CIT wants to help organizations that have the programs and employers who have the jobs to connect with the children and their families, maximizing the exposure of your program to a larger audience!

The St. John Summer Youth Fair operates on a simple concept — Gather all the summer camps and youth employment programs

together in one place. Invite the youth and their families to come and view all the programs and then pick their favorite and sign up!

Having youth involved in summer programs is a plus for the entire community. The programs expose youngsters to positive alternatives and they, in turn, receive valuable learning opportunities.

Organizers are looking forward to increased participation again this year at the 5th Annual St. John Summer Youth Fair. Interested individuals or organizations who didn't participate last year, are invited to be a part of this exciting event which is free for all participants.

Senator James Launches St. John Property Tax Taskforce

St. John Tradewinds

ST. CROIX — Senate President Neville James and the Legislature's Secretary, Senator Myron Jackson, are in the final stages of establishing a plenary council of Senators, Government officials and representatives from the National Park Service to discuss, analyze and make recommendations to the Lt. Governor's office for future property tax valuations, James' office announced Tuesday, April 7.

The Senate President plans to appoint these individuals to the "The St. John Land, Heritage and Property Tax Task Force" whose duty will be to provide recommendations and a framework for coming up with assessments and real property valuations on the island of St. John. Senator James said the names of the appointees will be announced by the end of the week.

"Our objective is to get everybody back on the same page as it relates to comfortably paying prop-

erty taxes," Sen. James continued. "We have a situation on St. John where the December 2013 property tax bill is still in dispute."

Sen. James in his statement made reference to a recent case in V.I. Superior Court where St John residents demanded that a temporary restraining order be issued against the local government to stop it from collecting 2013 property taxes.

"The taskforce we are establishing is in no way meant to duplicate the services of the Board of Tax Review," concluded Senator James. "The people of St. John believe the current methodology used to create the valuation models are flawed because they're based on the sale prices of pricy vacation villas that surround them.

"I am inclined to agree with that position, my hope is that this taskforce will develop a fair and accurate model that everybody can live with," the senator concluded.

SJHS End-of-Season Potluck April 14

The St. John Historical Society will wrap up its 2014-15 season with a potluck gathering on Tuesday, April 14, at 6 p.m. at the Bethany Moravian Church Hall. Board member and noted Virgin Islands historian George F. Tyson will present his findings on maritime marronage — a strategy of resistance in which enslaved people permanently fled the plantations where they worked — on St. John.

Before freedom-seeking St. Johnians began escaping bondage by flight to the British Virgin Islands, they fled in numbers to Puerto Rico by a clandestine maritime "underground railroad" operated largely by free people of color. Tyson's presentation, drawing on a rich cache of archival documentation, will focus on events and individuals involved in this little-known dimension of St. John's rich maroon heritage.

Bring a dish to share. All are welcome to attend what is sure to be a fun social event, with a fascinating presentation by George and the election of next year's officers and board representatives. This will be a wonderful evening of fellowship, good food and continued documentation of the rich history of this special island.

April 15th Event on St. John Will Mark 50th Anniversary of Vietnam Conflict

There will be three events throughout the territory recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration throughout the territory in April, the V.I. Office of Veterans Affairs announced. The St. John event is set for Wednesday, April 15, starting at 3 p.m. at the Westin St. John Ballroom

All Virgin Islands Vietnam Veterans are asked to come into the Veterans Affairs office closest to them and submit their names and mailing addresses to make sure they are on the invitation list or call 340-774-6100 on St Thomas.

Next of Kin for deceased Vietnam Veterans are also encouraged to submit their names and addresses so that they can be sent an invitation to this event to be presented a certificate on behalf of their loved one as well. All Virgin Islands Vietnam Veterans that register will receive individual recognition.

Higher Education for Women Health Lecture at UVI Center on St. John

The public is invited to attend a lecture via videoconferencing by Dr. N. Joyce Payne on "The Importance of Higher Education for Women and the Key to Success" on Thursday, April 16 at the UVI St. John Academic Center at 6 p.m.

Dr. Payne is the founder of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and is an authority on women's issues in relation to higher education and labor force participation. The lecture is part of the Alfred O. Heath Distinguished Lecture Series.

The St. John Academic Center is located at the third floor of The Marketplace in Cruz Bay.

5% 2014 Property Tax Discount Period Now Extended Until April 30

The five percent discount period for 2014 property taxes is extended until Thursday, April 30, 2015, Lieutenant Governor Osbert E. Potter advised Virgin Islands property owners.

No additional discounts will be offered for the 2014 Property Taxes after this date.

The Tax Collector's Offices are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Payments can be made on St. John at the Islandia Building.

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VINP Prospectus Offers 15-Year Pact for Cinnamon, Trunk Bay Concessions

By TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

NORTH SHORE — The new owners of the historic Caneel Bay Resort in the Virgin Islands National Park may be poised in the best position to bid for the operating concessions at Trunk Bay — the oftentimes Number One rated Caribbean beach — and neighboring Cinnamon Bay.

But there is expected to be competition for the coveted VINP concessions at Cinnamon Bay Campground at the entrance to the bright white sands of Cinnamon Bay Beach, the common man’s Caneel Bay, and the internationally renowned, photogenic Trunk Bay — operated as concessions since the founding of the V.I. National Park.

Park Issues Prospectus

The National Park Service (NPS) has issued a prospectus for solicitation of offers for a 15-year concession contract to provide lodging, camping, food and beverage, retail, equipment rental and other services at Cinnamon Bay and Trunk Bay areas within Virgin Island National Park, Park Superintendent Brion FitzGerald announced on April 7.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo File

The rustic cottages at Cinnamon Bay are in need of refurbishment.

“Park concessioners play a vital role in serving visitors in national parks,” Superintendent FitzGerald said. “This long-awaited prospectus will lead to issuance of a new concessions contract in 2016 that will offer the much anticipated improvements in visitor facilities and services at Cinnamon

and Trunk Bay.”

The real estate investment company CBI Acquisitions has operated the well-worn albeit internationally renowned tourism properties under extensions of the original lease that coincided with Laurence Rockefeller’s creation of the V.I. National Park.

Financier and philanthropist Rockefeller retained use of the peninsula between Caneel Bay and Hawksnest Bay that encompasses the renowned resort after assembling the predominantly native-owned properties comprising more than 60 percent of St. John and donating the property to the U.S. government to become the Virgin Islands National Park.

Squandered Asset

Squandered under extensions of the original lease and resultant National Park Service bureaucratic inertia and left to molder in legal limbo under the friendly terms of the long-expired original lease, the properties consist of ten screened, four-unit, one-story concrete structures between Cinnamon Bay Beach and the North Shore Road and a collection of 86 tented, platform and bare camp sites of Cin-

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“Grasshopper” in Puerto Rico VA Hospital Starting on Road to Recovery



St. John Tradewinds News Photo File

FRIENDS AND FANS: Friends and fans of St. John music legend Philip “Grasshopper” Pickering and longtime “Taximan” John Anthony were the focus of a lively fundraiser in Pine Peace on Saturday, April 11, sponsored by Caravan Auto and Pine Peace Market. Both popular island icons are experiencing health crises and the public turned out show their support.

By JUDI SHIMEL
St. John Tradewinds

PINE PEACE — Alvin “Jupiter” Pickering says wherever he goes these days, people stop to ask about his brother and band mate to Phillip “Grasshopper” Pickering, lead guitarist for the iconic St. John Reggae band Inner Visions.

Even as he stopped to pick up groceries from Starfish Market, a man on line leaned in to ask, “How’s Grass?”

“He’s stable and he’s in Puerto Rico,” is all that Jupiter can offer.

Puerto Rico and the Veterans Administration Hospital’s intensive care unit is the first stop on the road to recovery for Grasshopper, a military veteran. He was stricken over the Palm Sunday weekend and spent several days in intensive care at the Schneider Regional Medical Center on St. Thomas before being airlifted to Puerto Rico on April 5.

Jupiter didn’t want to say much more, in respect for Grasshopper’s privacy, except that he and his family are grateful for the community’s

concern. The family is touched by the outpouring of expression for Grasshopper, he said.

Inner Visions has been producing and performing memorable reggae music since the 1980s and have grown a fan base from the Virgin Islands across the U.S. mainland with a new generation of fans on the college circuit. The band’s music has appeared in the backdrop of numerous fundraisers and benefits for St. John and St. Thomas.

Now Jupiter is asking those who wish to show their support to do so through generosity. If that can be done, he said, it will help various family members who plan to take turns spending time at Grasshopper’s bedside, watching over him.

“They can pray an they can give money,” he said.

The St. John Revolving Fund is accepting donations at Connections Secretarial Service in Cruz Bay. There is also an online Go Fund Me page on the Facebook page for Phillip Hoppper Pickering that was set up by Inner Vision’s booking agent April Steyert.

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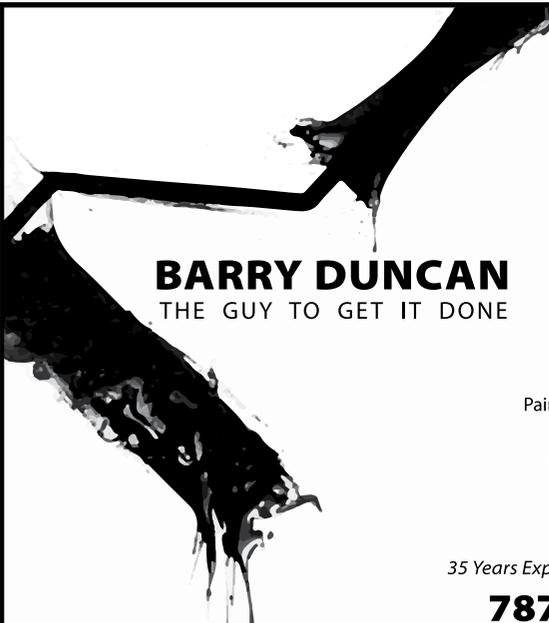
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"We have paid very close attention to what you have said here tonight and we will be following up — particularly on the property tax issue — which I hope my colleagues will work with me to resolve before next year's bills are sent out."

— Sen. Almando "Rocky" Liburd.

Sen. Liburd Hears Concern from Residents And Their Ideas To Improve Life on St. John

St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — Activities for seniors, help for the homeless, improved emergency services, supervised recreation for youth, parking shortages, access roads and fishing rights were among the issues raised during the first in a series of town hall meetings hosted by Sen. Almando "Rocky" Liburd.

More than 50 St. John residents turned out for the informal discussion at the Legislative Annex in Cruz Bay on Thursday evening. Sen. Liburd was joined by three colleagues — Senators Jean Forde, Tregenza Roach and Justin Harrigan. Senator Myron Jackson was represented by a staff member.

Sen. Liburd told those present that it was up to them to set the evening's agenda, however he started off the meeting by providing updates on some of the matters he had been addressing during his first 100 days in office, to include property taxes, the lack of Government services on St. John and the island's complex relationship with the V.I. National Park.

Efforts for St. John Rescue

The Senator-at-Large also provided updates on his efforts to help St. John Rescue, an all-volunteer organization that provides many essential services to the people of St. John — include transporting the deceased to St. Thomas. St. John Rescue was forced to end this service because of liability issues and Sen. Liburd said he had been working with the Justice Department over the last few weeks to find a solution.

"We all know of that recent sad situation where a family had to transport their deceased loved one in their own car — that should never happen," Sen. Liburd said. "The good news is that I spoke to the Attorney General at length again today and she has assured me that this will be resolved by noon tomorrow."



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Almando "Rocky" Liburd
 Senator-at-Large



(There was no word of a resolution at week's end.)

Rocky's Efforts Applauded

Sen. Liburd's pronouncement brought applause from the audience and a thank you from St. John Rescue's Bob Malacarne.

"Senator Liburd has been an absolute treasure for us," Malacarne said. "He has rescued St. John Rescue a number of times."

Malacarne said St. John Rescue performed at least equivalent services as similar organizations on St. Thomas and St. Croix, yet only received a third of the Government funding.

Sen. Liburd pledged to continue to work to help what he considers a vital organization and has been working to identify money for new "Jaws of Life" equipment.

Concern for Poisoning Victims

The Senator-at-Large told residents he had been in contact by phone with the attorney for the visiting family that was sickened last month by pesticides at the Sirenusa property and that he had also sent the family a letter expressing concern for their well being.

"I let them know that everyone in our community feels their pain," he said. "We really need to get to the bottom of how something like this could happen."

Fishing Said Restricted

St. Johnian Melville Samuel told those assembled that six generations of his family had fished off St. John in order to feed themselves but that they are being increasingly restricted by V.I. National Park regulations.

"I'm glad the park is on St.

John, however I have a beef with the park," Samuel said.

Sen. Liburd said he understands the frustration of those dealing with the park as they often feel like they have no recourse. He said he would continue discussions with National Park leadership on fishing and property rights and that he was prepared to take some matters to court if compromises couldn't be reached.

Several residents testified about the need to offer increased services and activities for both island youth and senior populations, particularly in Coral Bay. Sen. Liburd said he supported turning the recently closed Guy Benjamin Elementary School into a multipurpose community center, to include a public computing center offering Internet access and skills training.

Gov. Mapp Briefed on GBS

"I recently spoke to Governor Mapp at length about this," the Senator-at-Large said.

Senator Liburd thanked all those in attendance for what he later described as an "especially constructive" meeting. The Palestinian native said his next St. John meeting will be in Coral Bay.

"We have paid very close attention to what you have said here tonight and we will be following up — particularly on the property tax issue — which I hope my colleagues will work with me to resolve before next year's bills are sent out," Sen. Liburd concluded.

At the close of the meeting the senator provided all those interested with copies of Act 6991, which lays out many of the laws regulating V.I. property taxes.

Four Senators Questioned by Residents on Variety of Subjects at Town Meeting

By JUDI SHIMEL
St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — Four members of the 31st Legislature took testimony from St. John residents at a town meeting held April 9. Testifiers asked Senator-At-Large Almando “Rocky” Liburd and three of his colleagues for their help in addressing a myriad of topics.

Several residents who spoke carried over their concerns about property taxes from the town meeting held the night before by Lt. Gov. Osbert Potter. Other topics raised included an update by Liburd on a long-promised government agreement with St. John Rescue.

Along with Senators Jean Forde, Justin Harrigan and Tregenza Roach, Sen. Liburd heard questions about services to veterans and fishing rights within the boundaries of the Virgin Islands National Park.

The lawmakers also informed the gathering of about 40 residents of a pending restoration of services to island seniors. They listened carefully, took notes and asked questions.

Fishing Rights, Veteran Services

Residents like Melville Samuels asked that he and his friends be



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Judi Shimel

Senators Justin Harrigan, Tregenza Roach and Jean Forde joined St. John Senator at Large Almando “Rocky” Liburd, second from right, at a town meeting to hear from constituents on April 9 at the Cruz Bay Legislature annex.

allowed to continue fishing off the island coast as they have all their lives, without interference from park rangers.

Alvis Christian asked why medical services that veterans used to access at the Myrah Keating Smith Clinic can't be found there anymore. He also raised questions about the lack of recreational facilities for youth in Coral Bay.

Perennial town hall subjects such as road access through the park to private land holdings came up on Thursday night. Sen. Roach offered new thoughts on the matter.

“It would be the local government, creating a formula for an exemption,” Sen. Roach said. Such an exemption would allow for the opening of roads for the local area,

the senator explained.

“It’s an idea I’m fleshing out,” Sen. Roach said.

Sen. Liburd said the Legislature’s legal counsel is exploring the matter now.

“There was an act happening way back in the day, and up un-

til today we were researching as to what was the memorandum of understanding at that time that led up to where we are today,” the St. Johnian senator said.

Recreation, Veterans Affairs

Sen. Harrigan addressed the recreation and veteran’s questions.

St. John services had to be curtailed because there were not enough veterans signing up for services to justify their continuation, Sen. Harrigan said. While veterans can get services on St. Thomas, transportation reimbursement currently doesn’t cover trips from St. John to St. Thomas, or to St. Croix, where many V.I. vets travel for eye care.

That is something that could be addressed about ferry reimbursement in the 31st Legislature, Sen. Harrigan said. He also encouraged Christian to reach out to Pedro Cruz, Commissioner-designee at Sports, Parks and Recreation.

Cruz recently visited St. John and is currently looking for someone to head recreational programs for the island Sen. Liburd added.

Road Safety Concern

Resident Larry Best raised an

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Laurel Hewitt Sewer Is Nominated As St. John Representative to VIPA

St. John Tradewinds

ST. CROIX — Ms. Laurel Hewitt Sewer has been nominated to the Board of Governors of the Virgin Islands Port Authority for the District of St. John by Governor Kenneth Mapp.

“It is my pleasure to ask the advice and consent of the Thirty-First Legislature on this nomination,” Gov. Mapp wrote the legislature. “Your prompt and favourable confirmation will enhance the Board’s ability to meet its busy agenda and serve the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands.”

The appointment announced April 10, is “in accordance with provisions of Title 29, Section 541, Virgin Islands Code, the term is three (3) years, and once Ms. Sewer is confirmed, she will continue to serve until the appointment and qualification of her successor,” according to the statement from Government House on St. Croix.

The announcement of Ms. Sewer’s nomination to fill the seat vacated by former VIPA Chairman Robert O’Connor Jr., did not mention the fate of the previous nominee to fill the position on the VIPA Board legislated to be filed by a St. John resident.

St. John Senator at Large Almando Liburd had written Gov. Mapp in March asking the Governor to reconsider his first nominee for the St. John seat because the nominee was not a bona fide resident of St. John.

The nomination of Ms. Sewer was sent to the Senate President Neville James on April 10, according to the government house release.

GHS Student Alex Ray Is Named Finalist In National Merit Scholarship Competition

GIFFT HILL —Alexander Ray, Class of 2015, has been selected as a finalist in the 60th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program, Gifft Hill School officials have proudly announced.

Alex is one of only three students chosen from the U.S. Virgin Islands and 16,000 academically talented seniors nationwide who have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth \$33 million that will be offered next spring.

To become a finalist, Alex was required to submit a detailed scholarship application including information about his academic record, participation in school and community activities, leadership abilities, and honors and awards received.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2015 will be announced



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Alex Ray is the son of Eleanor Gibney and Gary Ray.

in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 308,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Schol-

ar title.

Alex consistently earns High Honors for his academic achievements at GHS and is a talented actor in Gifft Hill School’s theater program, performing in all collaborations with New England Youth Theatre and participating as part of the winning group of GHS students in the Lana Vento Shakespeare Festival.

Alex plays on the varsity soccer team at GHS, participates on the yearbook committee and is the President of Gifft Hill School’s chapter of the National Honor Society. His college acceptances so far include: Middlebury College and Bennington College in Vermont, the University of Colorado at Boulder, University of California at Santa Cruz, and Emerson College in Boston.

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Delaware Family Poisoned by Pesticide Continue Recovery; Investigation Opened

By TRADEWINDS STAFF
St. John Tradewinds

As the family of four poisoned by the illegal use of a highly-toxic and regulated fumigating pesticide March 20 during their vacation on St. John continued a difficult recovery in Delaware, Federal and territorial environmental officials continued their investigation into the source of the extremely hazardous pesticide gas involved.

"Theresa Devine has been discharged and is doing well. Stephen Esmond is improving and stable," family friend Attorney James J. Maron of Wilmington, Delaware. "The minor boys remain in critical condition."

"They are confident in their medical professionals and are hopeful for a full recovery," Atty. Maron said. "The family asks that their privacy be respected during this period of recuperation."

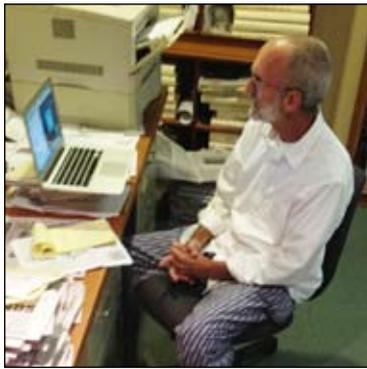
"The family is grateful for the work of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Justice and the local authorities for their investigation of this chemical exposure," the family attorney added. "The family is confident that the responsible parties will be brought to justice and held accountable."

"The Esmond family thanks everyone for their support and concern for their recovery from this unthinkable tragedy of pesticide poisoning during a family vacation in the United States Virgin Islands," Atty. Maron said. "Many questions remain why an odorless pesticide of this level of toxicity could be manufactured, distributed and applied in a residential area resulting in this family's injuries."

Federal and V.I. Investigations

Investigators from the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officially launched a joint investigation into the Methyl Bromide release at the Sirenusa Residences overlooking Cruz Bay on March 23, according to a statement from DPNR Commissioner Designee Dawn L. Henry, Esq.

The joint investigation included air quality sampling for the



Tradewinds News Photo by Judi Shimel

Tradewinds reporter Tom Oat talks to Fox News via Skype about Sirenusa incident which sickened a Delaware family in March.

presence of various compounds of interest, officials said.

A team of investigators and EPA Region II Director Judith Enck visited the site on St. John and subsequently met with Governor Ken Mapp to provide a status update and plan of action going forward.

DPNR's Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) immediately responded to the complaint and deployed staff to St. John to begin its investigation. Jeff Garrison, Environmental Protection Agency-Region II local representative, was in contact with DPNR Commissioner Designee Henry to launch a joint investigation.

Preliminary Investigations Finds Fault

"During the preliminary stages of the investigation, DPNR learned that the suspected Methyl Bromide release was connected to fumigation activities which Terminix International USVI, LLC, (Terminix) conducted in Unit J Lower at Sirenusa Residences on March 18, 2015," DPNR

"On March 20, DPNR-DEP contacted Terminix to inquire about the fumigation activities on March 18, 2015, and confirmed that Terminix used Meth-O-Gas® Q to fumigate the kitchen area in Unit J Lower at Sirenusa Residences on March 18, 2015," DPNR said in a press release.

In addition, DPNR inspected the Terminix offices on St. Thom-

as on March 23, 2015, and interviewed the employees of Terminix International USVI, LLC. DPNR confirmed that Terminix possessed Methyl Bromide and learned of other locations where Terminix used the banned Methyl Bromide products. Consequently, DPNR issued a Stop Use Order to Terminix in St. Thomas and on St. Croix.

Currently, DPNR and EPA are in custody of the quarantined Methyl Bromide canister on St. Thomas and are collaborating to secure the quarantined canisters on St. Croix.

Other Companies Have Chemical

During the weeks of March 23, 2015, and March 30, DPNR performed inspections at the other pest control companies throughout the Territory to determine whether those companies are using Methyl Bromide. As part of that inspection, DPNR conducted an inventory of the pesticide products in storage and requested that the companies provide Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) pertaining to all the pesticides used, stored or sold in the Territory containing Methyl Bromide.

DPNR discovered two extermination companies on St. Croix were in possession of Methyl Bromide and one other company on St. Thomas, according to a DPNR statement. DPNR will determine from the companies' records whether they have used the banned substance and, if so, when and where, officials reported.

Furthermore, as part of the ongoing investigation, DPNR officials announced they also are working with other agencies, including but not limited to, the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, the EPA and the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture to locate the distributor of Methyl Bromide to the Territory.

Commissioner Henry reminds the public that if there any questions or concerns regarding any pesticide use, please feel free to contact the Division of Environmental Protection's Pesticide Program at (340) 774-3320 ext. 5193 on St. Thomas and (340) 773-1082 ext. 2272 on St. Croix.



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(340) 7741655

Federally-Funded East End Medical Center Launches Effort for Mobile Dental Clinic

By **JUDI SHIMEL**
St. John Tradewinds

RED HOOK, ST. THOMAS — The federally-funded medical clinic that serves residents on St. John and the east end of St. Thomas launched a comprehensive health needs survey April 7.

Officials from the St. Thomas East End Medical Center said between now and the end of September they will be calling on families with school-aged children to find out how much health care they are getting and how much health care they need.

STEEMCC Executive Director Moletto Smith said this is the first time in 30 years his agency has sought to gather comprehensive information on community health. The information gathered will be used to justify a request to the U.S. Interior Department to furnish a mobile dental clinic, he said.

\$600,000 Mobile Dental Clinic

The mobile dental clinic has an estimated cost of \$600,000, Smith said. If it is acquired it will allow STEEMCC to offer services to its clients currently not available and serve as a first step towards estab-

lishing a permanent dental clinic.

“For approximately two years, STEEMCC has taken needed steps to implement this comprehensive community health care needs assessment,” said spokesperson Monife Stout. “In 2014, the health center was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior to complete the research.”

Families with students attending east end St. Thomas public schools can expect to hear from workers conducting household surveys and school-based surveys. St. John students attending the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School are included in this set, Smith said.

Clinic managers will also invite the public to town meetings and focus groups at dates and locations to be announced later on. The University of the Virgin Islands Eastern Caribbean Center and UVI’s Caribbean Exploratory Research Center on Health are collaborators in this project.

There are about 125 St. John residents who rely on STEEMCC, located at Tutu Park Mall, for their health care, Stout said.

St. John Singers’ Spring Concerts April 17 and 19

St. John Tradewinds

“It’s a grand night for singing!”

So goes the old tune by Rogers and Hammerstein in the show *State Fair*, and the St. John Singers will try to prove it when they present a tribute to Broadway at their spring concerts on April 17 and 19.

Broadway show tunes are a departure for the choir, which has been known for its classical repertoire.

“We want to showcase our versatility,” said director Janice Ballard. “We’ve done classical, multicultural and spiritual music; this time we’re doing Broadway.”

“Members of the group, as well as members of the audience, have suggested we do a lighter program,” she added.

The choir will sing selections from practically every decade of the 20th century, including songs from *West Side Story*, *Chicago*, and *Rent*.

Students from the St. John School of the Arts will be the special guest performers.

The concerts will be at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cruz Bay on April 17 and at Emmaus Moravian Church in Coral Bay on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. both nights. Tickets are \$20 for adults; children will be admitted for free.

Robes To Receive ISU Honorary Alumni Award

St. John Tradewinds

AMES, IA — The Iowa State University Alumni Association will confer upon Martha Robes of St. John and Round Pond, Maine, the Honorary Alumni Award, the highest honor given by Iowa State University through the ISU Alumni Association to individuals who are not graduates of Iowa State. This award has been presented annually since 1968 to individuals who have made significant contributions to the university’s welfare, reputation, prestige, and pursuit of excellence.

Robes and her husband, Dana ’67, have generously invested in Iowa State University over the years with gifts of time and trea-

sure — including scholarships, faculty support and programmatic support for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Despite their distance from Ames, the Robeses frequently travel back to Iowa State to participate in college events; while on campus, they try to meet with all 130 of their annual scholarship recipients.

The Robeses have worked to bring expertise from Iowa State’s Department of Horticulture to the students at Giff Hill School, a coeducational day-school serving St. John. Through the Robeses’ generosity, the Education and Resiliency through Horticulture program — otherwise known as EARTH — was created, teach-

ing students about growing crops in a sustainable fashion and the ways in which horticulture can enhance and improve their daily lives. More than 30 ISU interns, both undergraduate and graduate, have worked with the EARTH program.

The other recipient of the 2015 Honorary Alumni Award is J. Elaine Hieber of Ames.

Distinguished awards recipients will be honored on campus Friday, April 17, at 1:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information on the 2015 Distinguished Awards Celebration, visit <http://www.isualum.org/dac>.

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Water Too Clean? Sidewalk Too High?



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

The owners of the The Longboard restaurant in downtown Cruz Bay optimistically projected an April 6 opening for the new establishment in the former Joe's Diner on King's Street, also known as Route 105, but final inspections forced a change in schedule, as usual.

Although inspectors consider WAPA water already tested and pre-approved, the water from a privately-installed filtration system must be professionally tested as part of an inspection. Hence, the owners decided to remove the filtration system to speed the process of being approved for opening, according to sidewalk superintendents.

And, speaking of sidewalks, a major summit is in the works to consider the height of the new sidewalk installed in front of The Longboard. Taxi operators reportedly have complained to island officials that the curb is damaging tires on large vehicles trying to get past illegally parked vehicles on the other side of the road.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Melville Samuel

JFLI To Honor Educator Melville Samuel At Annual Program on April 18

St. John Tradewinds

Former John's Folly teacher and long-time island educator Melville Samuel will be returning to one of his former schools to be honored at the annual meeting of the John's Folly Learning Institute on April 18 at noon.

Samuel began his teaching career at the East End School in the early 1950s, according to his daughter Greta. After a year at East End School, Samuel taught at the Horace Mann School in John's Folly, which is now JFLI, before transferring to the then-expanding Julius E. Sprauve School in Cruz Bay.

Samuel's daughter Greta subsequently became a teacher as well and taught at JESS for 18 years before she changed careers and moved into the travel industry with Delta Airlines.

"His religion is the driving force in my father's life," Greta said. "My father is the type of person who will never say no. My parents became Christians and it really is his life."

Melville and his wife Mercedes will celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary in August.



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St. JohnTradewinds News Photos by Judi Shimel

Spelling Bee Champs pose for audience of classmates, family and friends.

Sage Osiris Is Top Finisher



St. JohnTradewinds News Photos by Judi Shimel

ABOVE: Sage Osiris of St. John is congratulated by Department of Education Elementary Programs Coordinator Kalamis Maduro and Deputy Superintendent Michael Harrigan.

BELOW: Liandra Dagou, 9, a student at St. John Christian Academy poses with her mother, Simonia, in the auditorium of the Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School at the District Spelling Bee on April 9. Liandra was named first runner up in her school spelling bee.

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Love City Live! Featuring Junior Reid & Reemah Taking Over Love City April 15-19

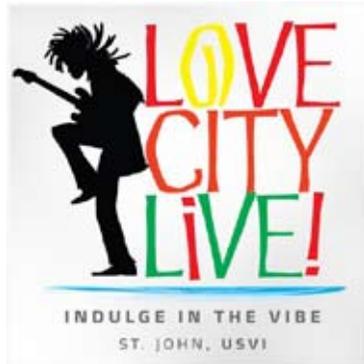
By JAIME ELLIOTT
St. John Tradewinds

Mark those calendars — Love City Live! is set to take over Cruz Bay with positive roots reggae vibes starting this Wednesday, April 15.

Festivities will culminate at the big Crucial Roots Reggae Festival featuring some of the top reggae stars in the world Saturday, April 18, at the Winston Wells ball field and wrap up with a boat trip on Sunday, April 19.

Don't miss the chance to enjoy reggae legend, former Black Uhuru frontman Junior Reid as well as up and coming sensation, and St. Croix native, Reemah. The two are headlining the Winston Wells main stage while the grounds will feature arts and crafts vendors, Ital and local food vendors, fresh coconut and island-style rum bars.

The Crucial Roots Reggae Festival, however, is only one event in a full five days of music and parties during Love City Live! The fun kicks off on Wednesday, April 15, with the exclusive, all-inclusive villa soiree Hush. Party-goers will enjoy an intimate cocktail social



at a private, luxury villa featuring gourmet food and top shelf bars.

On Thursday, April 16, the party moves over to Drink along the waterfront in Cruz Bay for a reggae roadblock. Enjoy music by King Judah at this beach, road and patio party from 5 to 10 p.m.

Get those crisp white party outfits ready on Friday, April 17, for a the Rockers All-White Beach Party on the Cruz Beach starting at 7 p.m. The perfect way to kick off the Love City Live! weekend, the Rockers party will feature

Caribbean style hors d'oeuvres, premium cash bars and plenty of infectious reggae tunes.

Saturday, April 18, is the big concert at Winston Wells ball field with Junior Reid and Reemah. The big event will also feature a live dub session and spoken word performances. Gates open at 4 p.m. and tickets are \$40.

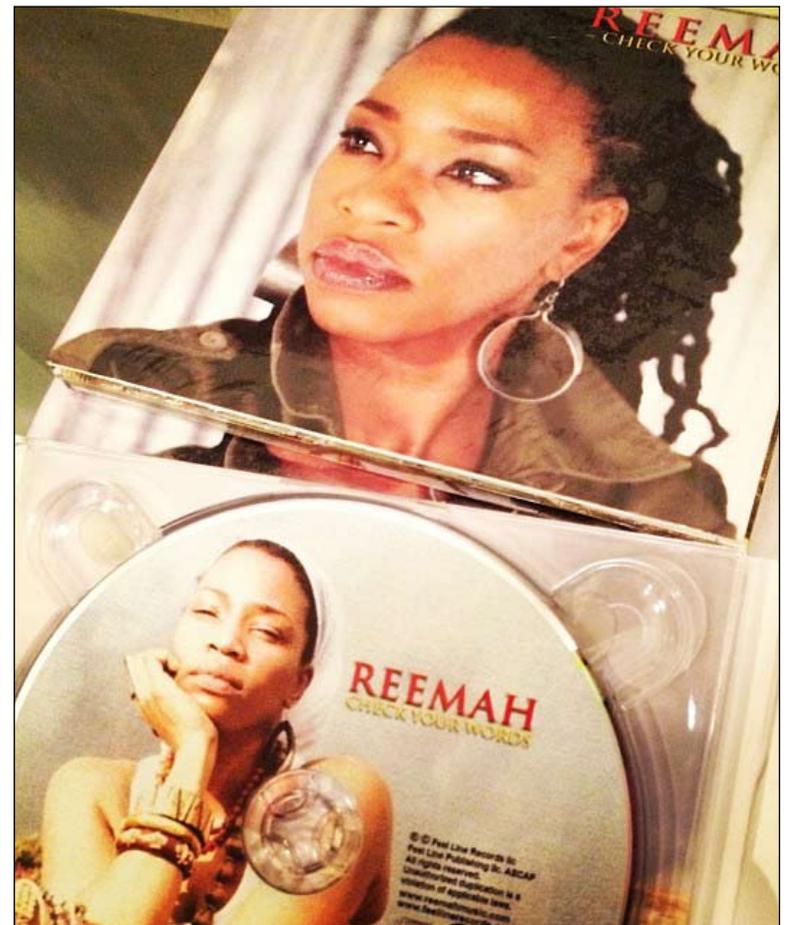
The perfect way to wind down from all the fun in Winston Wells ball field is with a boat trip to Jost Van Dyke. Join the party on Sunday, April 19, at the Love City's Live! Ultimate Power Boat Party.

Spend the day soaking up the tropical sun, swimming in the gin-clear Caribbean water and relaxing at world class boating locations in the British Virgin Islands.

Tickets for the Love City Live! boat trip are \$150 and include a BBQ lunch, open bar on board the boat, custom fees, BVI departure tax, fuel charge and captain's fee.

Tickets for all events are available on St. John at Love City Barbers.

For more information about Love City Live! check out www.experiencelovecitylive.com.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

St. Croix native Reemah will perform Saturday, April 18.

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St. John Tradewinds News Photos

Nathalie Bennett Stars in Cuthbertson's *Tituba*

***Tituba*, Cuthbertson's Story of Witch Trials, At Cinnamon Bay Amphitheater April 14-16**

St. John Tradewinds

CINNAMON BAY — *Tituba*, the story of the Caribbean woman who was falsely accused of witchcraft igniting the Salem Witch Hunts of the 1700s, will be presented at the Cinnamon Bay Amphitheater from April 14-16 at 7:30 p.m.

The critically-acclaimed play was written and directed by longtime Virgin Islands resident Clarence Cuthbertson and features Los Angeles based actress Nathalie Autumn Bennett as *Tituba*. Admission to the play is free and the performance is being presented with the assistance of the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park.

Tituba premiered in the Virgin Islands in 2002 and since then has toured widely throughout the Caribbean and on the West Coast of the United States. The play has been considered a "must see" by the San Francisco Examiner, and Ms. Bennett's performance has been described as a 'tour de force'.

To accommodate theatergoers the Friends of the National Park are providing free shuttle service from Cruz Bay to and from the play.

SOON COME! WAGAPALOOZA

St. John Tradewinds

The Animal Care Center's fundraiser Wagapalooza will be Saturday, May 9, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Winston-Wells Ball Field in Cruz Bay. This family fun event is free to the public. There will be food, beverages, raffles, t-shirt sales, kid's activities and the eagerly anticipated, wild and crazy dog show!

Registration forms, to participate with your dog, can be picked up at the ACC shelter by the library or by calling 340-774-1625. Registration fee is \$20 per class, three classes for \$50 or \$25 per class at the door.

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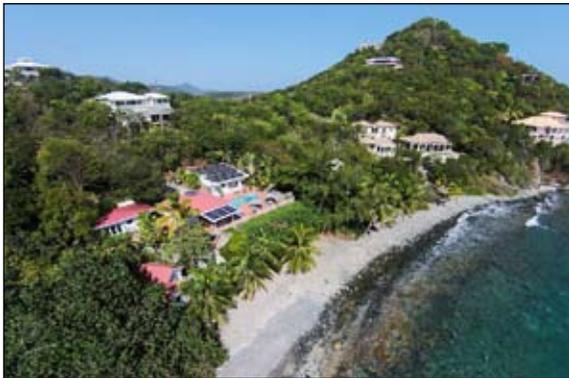
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St. John Tradewinds News Photos

Vida De Mar is at the water's edge on Devers Bay.



On *the* Market

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

Relish in Water Views from Every Window at Vida De Mar

By **JAIME ELLIOTT**
St. John Tradewinds

CHOCOLATE HOLE — Soak up jaw-dropping water views from every window at Vida De Mar as you enjoy the cooling breezes right at the water's edge at this unique St. John property.

A five bedroom, five bathroom beachfront villa in Estate Chocolate Hole, Vida De Mar is for sale for \$2.649 million, explained St. John Properties broker/owner B.J. Harris.

Nestled along the Devers Bay shoreline, you'll enjoy true Caribbean island living at Vida De Mar.

While this luxurious villa is only 10 minutes from the shopping, dining and nightlife of Cruz Bay, you'll feel worlds away from it all as you listen to the waves lapping the coastline while swaying in a hammock between two palm trees.

The famed alabaster sand beaches of the island's North Shore are only a short drive from

Vida De Mar, yet you might have a difficult time pulling yourself away from your refreshing swimming pool. Work on that tan as you stretch out on the expansive, tiled pool deck as you enjoy those stunning water vistas.

You'll never tire of watching tropical sunsets with a cooling sundowner in hand as you let the hot tub work its magic and ease the day's stress.

Inside Vida De Mar, find a spacious great room with traditional vaulted ceilings and plenty of space to both entertain or curl up with a good book. Two sets of sliding glass doors bring those water views inside, filling the great room with light.

The professional kitchen at Vida De Mar opens right onto the great room and boasts stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and a large island.

All five bedrooms are tastefully decorated and boast en suite bathrooms. Additional amenities

at Vida De Mar include native stone showers with skylights and a 20KW solar panel system to help with those utility bills.

With mature, lush, native greenery and luxurious island amenities, Vida De Mar offers a unique opportunity to a home-buyer.

"Vida De Mar offers ocean views from every window," said Harris. "The villa features a traditional great room with vaulted ceiling and a professional kitchen, expansive entertaining areas inside and outdoors, a large pool and a hot tub, all on a quiet beach just 10 minutes from Cruz Bay."

Whether hosting a few friends at an intimate pool-side sunset party or relaxing and revelling in the tranquility of the waves washing along the nearby shoreline, Vida De Mar offers an ideal seaside retreat.

For more information on Vida De Mar, call Harris at St. John Properties at (340) 693-8485 or on her cell phone at (340) 513-4670.

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Letters to St. John Tradewinds

ODE to WAPA

Oh, thank you, Mr. WAPA!
You did it, maybe with a grin
First it was the Super Bowl
We missed it, was a sin!

Monday was right on schedule
A plan for the Final Four?
Ref tossed the ball up
And the crowd all gave a roar!

Alas, that's all there was
As a college basketball fan
I spent the night in darkness
Seemingly according to plan.

I wonder who won the game?
We'll probably never "know it."
Next up is the Master's
Last chance for WAPA to "blow-it."

I just don't understand
Why WAPA's service isn't steady
But come the next big TV event
Our candles will be ready.

– The MUSE of Reef Bay

Pets and Vets Raises \$2,640

The 5th Annual Pets and Vets Yard Sale, recently held in Coral Bay, raised \$2640. \$2,000 has been given to St. John Rescue, \$400 to St. John ACC, and \$240 to Pets2vets.org. This affair is always pulled off with the help of a lot of people, and I would like to publicly thank them.

The donors of all the items were Tim and Sheila Wentling, Mary Anne Smith, Terry McCoy (Sloop), John Gardner, Charlie Evans, Meagan Elliott, Sally Determan, Phyllis and Doug Benton, Laurie Hinson, Lina Guild, Cindy Costanzo, Sharon Couldren, Deborah Ramsey, Monica and Bruce Munro, Diana Maasberg, Leigh Groetzinger, Marie Naisby, Vicky Schafer, Sylvia Kudirka, Ann and Jeff McCrave, and many unknown people who dropped stuff by during the sale. I especially thank Ric Meyer and Jeff and Pat Rosenberg, who donated literal truckloads of great stuff, and Privateer Bay Homeowners' Associa-

tion, who give me year-round free and dry storage for everything.

The lovely ladies who help set up, organize, sell, and keep everything on an even keel all day were Emily Lundberg, Jane Cook, Kay Raimondi, and Caroline Rogers. It's a long day and they deserve a big hand. Bev Melius of Pickles was her usual super-supportive self, donating space, items, and her delicious lunch and drinks to all the people working the sale. And I send a heartfelt namaste to Nancy Stromp for her very generous donation to the day's total.

Last but certainly not least, you can't have a yard sale without customers. Many, many thanks to all of you who came out and bought almost everything. The little left was donated to the St. Thomas Humane Society and IGBA on St. John. Thanks again to all,

Angela Ebner
St. John, VI

DPNR Is Consistent

Really, DPNR?

I'm intrigued that Department of Planning and Natural Resources publicly stated that despite five responsible federal agencies repudiating the CZM decision on Summers End Group's St. John marina, DPNR still believes its approval was correct. I suppose DNPR will next inform us that the world is flat and the sun sets in the east. After all, it's important to be consistent.

Phil Strenger

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Next Deadline: Thursday, Apr. 16th

Crossword Answers (Puzzle located on Page 20)

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Middle East Equilibrium

Due to indecision by the Obama White House to support moderate Sunni rebels in Syria, Islamic terrorists in Syria (ISIS) were able to reposition forces and attack the Iraqi Army, which folded and abandoned its U.S. equipment, including many Humvees and 155mm guns.

The Iraqi government requested air strikes against ISIS, but President Obama ignored the request, referring to ISIS as the "J V Team". The result was ISIS captured our military equipment, and established territory from which they can launch terrorist attacks.

We belatedly decided to send advisers to assist the Iraqi Army, and we launched air strikes against ISIS.

We appear to be fostering equilibrium in the Middle East with Shiites of Syria, Iran, Lebanon, Yemen

and Iraq counter weighted by Sunnis of Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Iraq.

We should continue to conduct air strikes, training, and covert operations in Iraq and Syria to counter ISIS. The Kurds, who are reliable Arab allies, should be well armed. Other Arabs, including so called moderates, should be sold used equipment without spare parts.

With the decrease in our dependence on Middle East oil, containment of turmoil and fighting by Arabs in the Middle East could translate to increased security for the U.S. and other countries.

Donald A. Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

ISLAND NOTES

from the publisher

*Deepest condolences to the Campbell family on the passing of John.
My thoughts are with you and your family during this most difficult time.*

With most sincere sympathy, MN

Guest Opinions

Senate President James Blasts “Reckless” St. John Pesticide Poisoning of Family

Following recent news reports on the pesticide poisoning of a Delaware family vacationing on St. John, Senate President Neville James voiced his outrage over the purported actions of local pesticide company Terminix.

Steve Esmond, his wife Theresa Devine, and their two teenage sons were hospitalized in critical condition in late March after being exposed to the chemical methyl bromide, determined to be a pesticide administered by Terminix while staying at the Sirensa Condominium Resort located in Cruz Bay.

Sen. James expressed deep sorrow for the Esmond family and said he is baffled that the incident occurred when there are several codified regulations to prevent disastrous events such as this from taking place.

Pesticide Control Act

“It is for this very reason that in the 26th Legislature, I proposed, and was successful in getting the body to support the Pesticide Control Act of 2006 – a series of regulations that dealt with the registration, commercial use, purchase and custom application of all pesticides used in the Territory,” Sen. James said.

“Working in conjunction with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, our premise then, as it is now, was to protect the health and safety of our territory’s residents, visitors, wildlife, and habitats,” the V.I. Senate president said.

There are several ways in which Terminix and its Puerto Rico distributor broke the law, to Act 6863,

section 838, which includes the distribution of a banned product, and its unlawful use within the Virgin Islands, according to Sen. James.

“Terminix broke the law, plain and simple – local and federal laws. And in some cases of the federal law, its pesticide provider out of Puerto Rico may have broken interstate distribution statutes as well,” Sen. James stated. “Methyl bromide was banned from use within the U.S. over 30 years ago, and that fact makes their actions even more outrageous.”

The use of methyl bromide is restricted due to its acute toxicity, and was banned from the U.S. in 1984, according to environmental officials. Health effects of acute exposure to this

product are serious, and may include damage to the central nervous system or respiratory system.

“Today, DPNR along with the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have taken custody of the quarantined methyl bromide canisters on all three islands and an investigation is ongoing. Also, a Stop-Use order has been issued to Terminix,” said James. “Moving forward, we need to make sure the laws we create are enforced so visitors like the Esmonds and our local citizens can enjoy a beautiful, safe and healthy Virgin Islands.”

**Senate President Neville James
Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

Seatrade 2015 Demonstrates Industry Trends To Refresh, Renew and Reinvent

Last month, the West Indian Company Limited (WICO) was part of the U.S. Virgin Islands delegation, led by Governor Kenneth Mapp, at the 2015 Cruise Shipping Miami conference, better known in the industry as Seatrade.

Seatrade is the world’s largest gathering of who’s who in the cruise industry. Held every year in March, the three-day event brings together cruise line executives, media, speakers, port representatives, ship builders and vendors to discuss most aspects of cruising.

During the event, our WICO team capitalized on deep and long-standing relationships and access to cruise industry leaders to reinforce our ability to accommodate the increasingly larger cruise ships and changing deployment schedules.

Seatrade is an opportunity for

ports to showcase the features which make them attractive to cruise itinerary planners and travelers. It also sets the tone for where the industry is heading and how ports must prepare themselves for future growth.

This year’s Seatrade reinforced WICO’s strong opinion that our territory must do everything to remain relevant and maintain our lead in the ever-increasing competitiveness in the Caribbean region. Executives and decision makers from Princess Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean International, Carnival Cruise Lines, Disney Cruise Line and others reinforced the dominance of the Caribbean presence as the leading region in the world for cruising.

Emerging Destinations

However, it is abundantly clear that in the wake of the growth of

emerging destinations, more mature ports must reinvent and renew their brand, as well as refresh their product to emphasize a more unique, culturally and historically relevant experience once cruise guests arrive at the destination.

Industry officials signaled the strong emergence of Asia as the second largest cruise destination, discussed the elements of itinerary planning, emphasized the increase in cruise ship size, highlighted an emphasis on the on-shore customer experience, and stressed the need for local infrastructure to be attractive and efficient.

Cruise executives spoke openly about the weight of passenger feedback in their decisions to create itineraries from year to year. Cruise line decision makers also made it clear that they will cruise

Continued on Page 17

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
Giff 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
St. John Youth Coalition
STT/STJ Chamber of Commerce - STJ Chapter
Team River Runner
Using Sport for Social Change
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Call to add your registered non-profit to this list

**IT'S A SIMPLE SOLUTION:
Underwrite a yearly advertising budget
for your favorite community group.**

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.

Thursday, April 16

— The public is invited to attend a lecture via videoconferencing by Dr. N. Joyce Payne on “The Importance of Higher Education for Women and the Key to Success” on Thursday, April 16 at the UVI St. John Academic Center at 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 18

— Former John’s Folly teacher and long-time island educator Melville Samuel will be honored at the annual meeting of the John’s Folly Learning Institute on April 18 at noon.

— The St. John Historical Society will wrap up its 2014-15 season with a potluck gathering at the Bethany Moravian Church Hall. Board member and noted Virgin Islands historian George F. Tyson will present his findings on maritime marronage — a strategy of resistance in which enslaved people permanently fled the plantations where they worked — on St. John.

Thursday, April 30

The five percent discount period for 2014 property taxes is extended until Thursday, April 30, 2015, Lieutenant Governor Osbert E. Potter advised Virgin Islands property owners. The Tax Collector’s Offices are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Payments can be made on St. John at the Islandia Building.

Wednesday, May 6

— This year the Summer Youth Fair is coming directly to schools. Participating providers can display their programs at the May 6 monthly Parent Teachers Organization Meeting at the Julius Sprauve School from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This way, parents and students can be fully involved in choosing a summer activity.

Saturday, May 9

— The Animal Care Center’s Wagapalooza fundraiser will be on Saturday, May 9, from 5 to 8 p.m at the Winston Wells ballfield in Cruz Bay.

Sunday, May 24

— The 12th annual Beach-to-Beach Power Swim will be on Sunday, May 24, in the protected waters of Virgin Islands National Park along the north shore of St. John.

Friday and Saturday, January 29-30, 2016

— Broadway Comes to St. John 2016 has been scheduled for Friday, January 29 and Saturday, January 30!

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

Obituary

John Bruce Campbell Dies at Age 82

St. John Tradewinds

John Bruce Campbell of Sudbury, Massachusetts, and St. John, USVI, (82) departed this life on Tuesday morning, April 7. John was the son of Eleanor Aldridge of New York City and Clyde Bruce Campbell, originally from La Harpe, Illinois. His only sibling, Barbara (Bobby) Campbell Weakley, predeceased him barely a month earlier.

John is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Elaine Josephine (Bauer) Campbell, and is the adored father of three daughters, Jennifer Ann Campbell Vesey of Sudbury, Rebecca Ellen Campbell Gibbel of Brooklyn, and Sabrina Frances Campbell Heine of Lee, New Hampshire. His four grandchildren include William John Vesey, Grace Beatrice and Grant Campbell Heine, and Rowan Campbell Smart-

John attended schools in Floral Park, Long Island, New York and graduated from St. Lawrence University (Bachelor’s degree in Physics) and from Columbia University (Master’s degree in Electrical Engineering). He was a dedicated Boy Scout and Eagle Scout during his youth and played in his high school band. John maintained a strong love of music throughout his life.

Upon his graduation from Sewanhaka High School in 1950, John was awarded the gold Philip J. Christ Memorial Medal for Scholarship. Among the prestigious national honor society gold keys awarded during his post-high school career are Phi Beta Kappa, America’s oldest honor society for liberal arts and sciences, and Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society. In addition, he was the recipient of a Sigma Xi gold key for pure and applied science, the Tau Beta Pi key for honors in engineering, and the Eta Kappa Nu gold key awarded by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He was also inducted into the Association for Computing Machinery as well as the Society for Computer Simulation.

During his professional career, John worked for the General Electric Company, Raytheon Company, and The MITRE Corporation where he served as a Technical Director. John also served as Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at Fitchburg State College and as a member of the Advisory Committee on Computers at the University of Lowell. While living in rural Maryland, he served on several National Government committees and at the Pentagon in an advisory capacity.

During John’s private life, he shared his daughters’ love for various pet animals including homing pigeons, a rabbit, several very large dogs, guinea pigs, a long succession of pet cats, zebra finches, and a horse named “Lucky.” Two of his daughters are veterinarians and one a home health aide. In addition to all his paternal activities, he encouraged his wife to return to graduate school and complete her Ph.D.



Tradewinds News Photo Courtesy of the Campbell Family

John Campbell

degree. He ran the household when she attended academic conferences and credited her with imbuing him with a love for travel. Together John and Elaine circumnavigated South America, visited London multiple times, toured Germany, Austria, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Upon visiting Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, he bought a small home, beginning a fifty year love of the Caribbean, culminating in moving to St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

John will be laid to rest on Monday, April 13, at a private burial in the historic cemetery in Sudbury’s center. His four grandchildren will serve as pall bearers and in honor of his Scottish ancestry, a bagpiper will play “Amazing Grace” as John leaves behind his grieving family. A small, informal reception will follow at St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church in Sudbury.

While flowers are welcome with delivery to Duckett Funeral Home, Boston Post Road in Sudbury, donations in John’s memory to one of his favored charities would be very appropriate. Among these are Defenders of Wildlife, the Animal Care Center of St. John, Nature Conservancy, Kitty Angels of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, St. Lawrence University. Addresses can be found on the organization websites.

SUBMIT LETTERS, OPINIONS & OBITUARIES TO: editor@tradewinds.vi

USCG To Operate Four Special Purpose Craft-Law Enforcement Vessels in USVI

St. John Tradewinds

CHARLOTTE AMALIE — The commander of U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Juan announced the stationing of four 33-Special Purpose Craft Law-Enforcement boats in the U.S. Virgin Islands during a press conference Friday at Marine Safety Detachment Saint Thomas.

Two of the 33-foot Special Purpose Crafts are being assigned to the Coast Guard Boat Forces Detachment in St. Thomas, while the other two will be stationed at Coast Guard Boat Forces Detach-

ment in St. Croix.

“The assignment of Special Purpose Craft-Law Enforcement boats in the U.S. Virgin Islands significantly enhances our response and law enforcement presence in the area by providing our units with greater capabilities when responding to potential threats and search and rescue calls,” said Capt. Robert Warren, Sector San Juan commander. “This summer the Coast Guard will be adding to that capability with the arrival of the Coast Guard Cutter *Richard Dixon*; the first of six Fast Response Cutters

that will be assigned to Sector San Juan.”

“The shores of the U.S. Virgin Islands represent another point of entry for illegal drugs, guns, and unauthorized entry into the United States,” said Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, USVI Delegate to Congress. “Having these four Special Purpose Crafts stationed in St. Croix and St. Thomas allows the Coast Guard to respond further off shore to law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and the protection of our islands. These are welcome resources for our local law enforcement and rescue apparatus.”

The Coast Guard’s 33-foot Special Purpose Craft-Law En-



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

USCG Cutter Drummond in Charlotte Amalie Harbor.

forcement is a multi-mission vessel designed and built primarily for counter-drug and -migrant missions along the U.S. maritime border. Powered by three 300-horsepower outboard engines, the SPC-LE’s speed and agility make

it a very capable interceptor. The SPC-LE is outfitted with six shock-absorbent crew seats to minimize crew fatigue and is equipped with a state-of-the-art navigation system and secure communications capability.

Coast Guard Boat Forces Detachments in St. Thomas and St. Croix are subordinate units of Coast Guard Boat Station San Juan. Each unit will be operating 33-foot Special Purpose Craft-Law Enforcement boats to carry out search and rescue, drug and migrant interdiction, fisheries enforcement, recreational boating safety and the escort of cruise ships and high interest commercial cargo vessels in the USVI.

Seatrade Demonstrates Industry Trends To Refresh, Renew, Reinvent

Continued from Page 15

where their brands are welcome and their passengers are excited to visit. This means that as competition increases, destinations must step up their game and invest in their infrastructure to remain competitive and relevant.

V.I. Must Be Aggressive

The emerging conference themes and trends confirmed what all industry stakeholders know, that as a destination, the Virgin Islands must be aggressive in developing and maintaining our real property assets and continually refresh and enhance our brand.

At WICO in particular, we are keenly aware that we are just one component of the all-important Virgin Islands tourism product. We are poised to do our part to make sure that we attract and retain the growing market segment composed of multicultural and multigenerational cruisers, as well as focusing on a visitor experience steeped in the uniqueness of our local culture.

Local industry stakeholders must be prepared to make an effort to communicate with the guests in several languages, even if it is as simple as directional and informational signage in their home tongue. Visitors are seeking a full sensory experience where they can listen to the island’s music, sample local food, and purchase authentic art and creative wares.

Refining Visitor Experience

We continue to refine the visitor arrival experience to include as many of these elements as we

control. We at WICO are eager to share our knowledge and insight with any stakeholder who is also hoping to refine their offering to capitalize on these trends and changing tastes.

Seatrade simply confirmed what we all know – the landscape of the cruise industry is changing rapidly. WICO knows well that neither we nor the territory at large can afford to become complacent and rest on our laurels and our current status as a premier destination.

As the industry grows we will continue to plan and grow with it. It is interesting to note that even the hosts of Seatrade recognize this. In fact, next year’s conference will be relocating from their longtime venue at the Miami Convention Center to a larger venue in Ft. Lauderdale so that the current convention center can expand to accommodate the growth of the event.

Like Seatrade itself, the entire industry, is in a growth and expansion mode. WICO will continue to be the port leader in this growth and planning mode as we all collectively work together to keep our destination as one of the top ten ports in the world. As a leader in the Eastern Caribbean cruise industry, we at WICO will continue to do our part to protect and preserve our legacy for the entire Virgin Islands. Our people deserve no less.

Joseph Boschulte,
President/CEO, WICO

5th Annual St. John Summer Youth Fair

May 4, 5:30-7:30pm at the Julius Sprauve School

Bring the Entire Family

Sign up for a Summer Program

Apply for a Summer Job

Are you a government organization, private business or non-profit organization who would like to promote their Summer Program to the youth of St. John?

Do you have Summer Employment or Internship Opportunities and seeking young, eager candidates?

Then get involved in the **St. John Summer Youth Fair!** You’ll have an opportunity to promote your program and sign up candidates on the spot!

Phone **340.712.6080** to get involved!

Organized By



St. John USVI

Helping Our Youth to

Have a Fun and Productive Summer

If you would like to participate as a service or job provider, contact **Kevin**

Jackson, VIPD Public Information Officer at 340.712.6080

Church Directory

Baha'i Community of St. John

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

Bethany Moravian Church

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

Calvary Baptist Church

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

Christian Ministry

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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

Cruz Bay Baptist Church

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

Emmaus Moravian Church

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

Freshwater Church

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

Jehovah's Witness

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

Missionary Baptist Church

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

Nazareth Lutheran Church

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

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Saturdays: 6 p.m.; Sundays: 7:30 & 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. in Coral Bay
at the John's Folly Learning Institute & 6 pm. in Spanish;
Mondays: 12:15 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 7 a.m.
& Fridays: 7 p.m. Call 776-6339 for more information.

Prayer House of Faith

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

St. John Methodist Church

Sunday 10 a.m, 693-8830

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturdays, 779-4477

St. John Pentecostal Church

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

St. Ursula's Episcopal Church

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

VINP Prospectus for Cinnamon, Trunk Bay Concessions

Continued from Page 3

namon Bay Campground scattered through the tropical forest bordering the windblown white sand of the broad beach.

"Under this opportunity, the concessioner also will provide food, beverage and retail services at the heavily-visited Trunk Bay where the beach and underwater snorkeling trail provide a breathtaking National Park experience for thousands visiting St. John," according to the NPS release.

Range of Services

"The business opportunity provides interested parties a range of hospitality services in this well-known national park and has the potential to touch the lives of over half a million recreational visitors on an annual basis," according to the VINP press release. "The operations include overnight experiences on the world famous Cinnamon Bay Beach either at the charming and rustic cottages or in pre-set up eco tents."

Caneel Bay Operator Reviews Prospectus

"... (w)e are indeed pleased to be in possession of the long awaited prospectus to manage Cinnamon Bay and Trunk Bay areas," CBI spokesperson Patrick Kidd e-mailed St. John Tradewinds on April 10. "We are going to carefully review and consider the terms and conditions of the prospectus in readiness for the due date of July 3th, 2015."

"... it really is a bit premature for us to make a comment about our intention to bid for the concessions, let alone any future plans we may have," Kidd added. "However, as and when our decision is made, we will of course keep up and the readers of St. John Tradewinds in the loop."

"While it is premature to speculate on what may occur with our negotiation, we would go on record as saying that CBI Acquisitions, LLC is committed to retaining the management of Cinnamon Bay Campground and the Trunk Bay Concession," the CBI spokesperson told St. John Tradewinds in October 2014.

"These are two of the most outstandingly beautiful locations on St. John and within the U.S. Virgin Islands and it is a testament to the vision of the founding of the National Park, that a provision was made with the creation of the Cinnamon Bay Campground for people who may not want to stay in a resort, to enjoy everything the VINP has to offer," the CBI spokesperson added at that time. "It's absolutely a lifestyle choice to stay at Cinnamon Bay and what better way to escape the pace of the 21st century than to sleep under canvas."

"Marketing Cinnamon Bay Campground is a natural complement to marketing Caneel Bay Resort and

this is certainly one of the many beneficial synergies to CBI's management of both concerns," the spokesperson said.

July 30 Deadline

All offers must be received by the NPS at the address listed on the inside front cover of the prospectus no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 30. In order to be evaluated and considered for an award of a concession contract all proposals must meet this deadline.

The prospectus describes the business opportunity and includes the terms and conditions under which the NPS will award the concession contract.

Prospectus On-line

The prospectus (bid package) is available on the NPS website at <http://concessions.nps.gov/prospectuses.htm>, or interested persons can receive a hard copy for \$40. To request a hard copy of the prospectus to be delivered via Federal Express, send a check for \$40 payable to the National Park Service to Bill Stevens at the address listed below. Please include a physical address (no post office box) and telephone number. A printed copy is available at the Superintendent's Office at Park Headquarters for \$40 (checks only).

Those who have obtained the prospectus from the website planning to submit a proposal are recommended to advise Bill Stevens, Chief of Commercial Services, Southeast Region, NPS, AFC, 1924 Building, 100 Alabama Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303 at (404) 507-5638 or e-mail at bill_g_stevens@nps.gov of your interest so your contact information can be placed on a mailing list to receive future responses to questions or amendments to the prospectus.

Those receiving a hard copy or who are on the mailing list will be provided with any additional information specific to the prospectus in writing. The same information is posted to the above mentioned website.

Questions in response to this prospectus are due in writing by Friday, May 15, by email to Bill Stevens. No telephone requests for the prospectus will be honored.

Site Visit Set for May 6

The NPS will lead a site visit on Wednesday, May 6. For more information regarding the specific time and to reserve space on the site visit, please contact Elba Richardson, Chief of Concessions by phone at (340) 776-6201 ext. 221 or via email at elba_richardson@nps.gov before Thursday, April 30.

The site visit will be an opportunity for all interested parties to get an overview of the concession operation along with a tour of Concession Facilities associated with the Draft Contract.

4-12

CRYPTOQUIP

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Four Senators Questioned by Residents on Variety of Subjects at Town Meeting

Continued from Page 5

issue heard for the first time at a Legislative town meeting regarding road safety.

Since a new gas station opened on one of the island steepest hills, Best said he is concerned about the safety of fuel deliveries to that gas station. The station has no area where trailers carrying gasoline can move completely off of the public road, so fuel is offloaded while the truck is parked in the road, according to the long-time resident.

"We have what I consider a very dangerous situation on St. John," Best said. "The trailer tanker trucks that deliver to this station go across Jacob's Ladder — it's steeper than Donkey Hill."

"When they get to the gas station there's no place to park, so the gasoline trailer truck parks in the public road and empties the gasoline into the tank," Best explained. "It's unbelievably dangerous."

"Sooner or later that road will be a sea of fire" Best said.

It's a public safety issue," Liburd agreed. "We will have to look at that."

Also in the area of public safety, former principal Yvonne Wells expressed concerns about roadway lighting near the Calabash Boom Housing Community. Wells said she heard the street lights were not installed in the area because of concerns for nesting turtles on a nearby beach.

"Too much light would cause problems with the hatching at a nearby bay; but it bothers me, every time I drive by there because children live in that neighborhood," Wells said. "I'm asking that you find some way in assisting that community by getting lighting that will aid the turtle population but also protect the people's children."

Solution Again Promised for Deceased Bodies

Sen. Liburd spoke proactively about a sensitive service area, letting the gathering know he had spoken that day to the office of the Attorney General about the finalization of an agreement with St. John Rescue for the transportation of deceased residents.

The volunteer emergency service group had a tentative agreement with the administration of former Governor John de Jongh to provide transport of the dead from St. John.

"We have all heard the sad story of a family" that had to carry a loved one to St. Thomas in their car because there was no agency available to transport the deceased," Sen. Liburd said.

On Thursday, Sen. Liburd said, he was told by the AG's office that the government agreement with St. John Rescue should be wrapped up shortly.

There was no confirmation of an agreement by Sunday.

Resident Fights Property Claim

Myrtle Barry from the St. John Unity Group read a letter from a 90-year-old St. Johnian in Estate Friis concerning the V.I. government's role in a land dispute.

The letter writer accused the government of using Superior Court judges to usurp her family's landholdings and award a deed to a private citizen in 2012. The letter writer traced her lineage and property rights through property documents dating back to the 1800s which included the parcel in question.

The lawmakers asked Barry to provide them with a copy of the letter. Sen. Roach said he was concerned about property matters like these and has been approached by several St. Johnians living in the Coral Bay area with similar stories.

He and the other lawmakers also heard from Coral Bay resident Bryan Bell, who offered an approach to relieve the property tax burden plaguing many on St. John. (Bell's property tax proposals have been published in a series of columns in recent editions of *St. John Tradewinds*.)

Senator Nelson Embarks on Medical Cannabis Expedition

St. John Tradewinds

The success of Washington and Colorado's Medicinal Cannabis industry is one that should be commended and imitated. Recognizing this, Senator Nelson is embarking on an exploratory Medical Cannabis Expedition, April 13-22, 2015, with the sole purpose of meeting with top officials (i.e. Commissioners of Health, Law Enforcement, Revenue and Agriculture departments, etc), to gather information, and discuss the strategies that could assist the USVI in duplicating their success in legalizing and implementing this industry in the territory.

Senator Nelson remarked, "Not only would this industry provide new money to the General Fund of the Government and opportunities to our citizens, it will also provide

an alternative to the health options available to many with ailments that can benefit from the use of the plant."

Senator Nelson is very aware that the St. Croix and the Virgin Islands needs new industries to provide, entrepreneurial and employment opportunities to the people. In order to repair the roads, pay retros, etc., Senator Nelson's goal is to create and implement new industries that the government can generate taxable revenue. Senator Nelson stated, "This industry has proven successful for many states; it has been reported that the taxation of this industry has been so successful to the government revenues of Colorado that they collected too much money in taxes and are now giving back money to the people in that state. Their govern-

ment's finances are in the black."

Senator Nelson has a rigorous schedule of meetings and tours during the expedition. The first set of meetings begin in Olympia, Washington on Monday, April 13th, at 10:30am, in which he will be meeting with the Office of Financial Management, The Liquor Control Board, Department of Health, the Law Enforcement Department, the Department of Agriculture and Senator Ann Rivers, who is the primary sponsor of the Medical Cannabis Legislation 5052.

Throughout the week in Washington Senator Nelson will also tour various farms, dispensaries, stores, attend lectures and meet with the Washington Marijuana Business Association etc. The same will occur in Colorado.

Senator Justin Harrigan Sr. Sets St. John Office Hours

St. John Tradewinds

Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr. announces that he and members of his staff will be working from the St. John Legislative Annex on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Office hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on those days.

For this month, his staff will be working from the St. John Legislative Annex on Monday, April 13 and Monday, April 27, 2015.

"My staff and I will be ready and willing to assist St. John residents on those days," Harrigan said. "If

I'm unable to be there, they can make appointments with my staff members, if necessary."

The freshman senator said he wants to fulfill his commitment to St. John residents by making himself easily accessible.

"I look forward to working with the St. John community and assisting with whatever issues and concerns they may have," Harrigan said.

St. John residents wishing to make appointments with the senator may contact Harrigan's office at 340-693-3577.

Crimes of the Week

Crime Stoppers USVI

Break-in Is Investigated at Racetrack Gas

St. John: On March 23 at about 3:20 a.m., officers were dispatched to Racetrack Gas Station in Enighed where they met the store's manager concerning a burglary. The manager stated that he received a call from the owner indicating that the business' alarm was tripped prompting him to investigate.

The side cashier's window was smashed in although the store had been left locked and secured at about 11 p.m. Upon initial investigation, the manager stated that he did not observe anything missing, but would make a more thorough inspection.

Crime Stoppers asks you to continue to make the USVI one of the safest places to live, work, and raise a family. Let's make sure that no crime goes unsolved. If you know something, say something.

St. Thomas: On April 1, police from the Richard N. Callwood Command responded to the Bergs Home area regarding shots being fired. Officers found an overturned vehicle near Building 13. Shortly thereafter, the vehicle's operator was found in the vicinity of Hospital Ground.

The operator of the vehicle was transported to R. L. Schneider Hospital via ambulance where he was treated for injuries sustained. Investigation revealed that the victim's vehicle was struck multiple times by gunshots.

Speak up. Be part of the solution. Tell us what you know about these, or any other crimes, at www.CrimeStoppersUSVI.org or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also text "USVI" plus your message to CRIMES (274637). We are pleased to announce that our phone line is now working properly.

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AS THE SAVING GOES ...

ACROSS

- Capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Super deals
- Stage backdrop
- Aired in installments
- Martial arts instructor
- City near Dallas
- Focus applied when covering a surface with concrete?
- Styx setting
- Ill, to Italians
- Jai —
- Solo in sci-fi
- Hanker for
- Prefix for tax or charge
- College between two hills?
- Suggest
- Puts forward as fact
- Bakery decorator
- Try to be like
- "Pinball Wizard" band
- Shrek is one
- Great review from the wife of George Washington?
- Scandinavian king's lubricant?
- Certain iPad
- German coin
- Harvest yield
- Crooner Vic
- Tailor, e.g.
- Cut, as a 58-Across
- Hitter Gehrig
- Cause trouble to
- Question to an animal

doc at an amusement park?

- Star, e.g.
- "Illmatic" rapper
- Drop-leaf table supporter
- Chief city of the Ruhr
- Butlers
- Ruby and scarlet
- See 31-Down
- Crooner Perry
- Caesar's hail to a mariner?
- Buck that's toiling away?
- Enumeration
- Loafer liner
- Grand Slam tennis events
- Completely engrossed
- President before Bush
- lance (pit viper variety)
- Seamstress who was Adam's mate?
- Downed
- Italian cry at a dinner table
- Canon — (camera line)
- Caspian Sea feeder
- "Attack, mutt!"
- Not as young
- Tennis great Rod who keeps everyone safe?
- Pixar figures
- "In this way"
- 1970s-90s carrier to Lima
- Collagist Max
- Positive responses
- Eased up on

DOWN

- Month after Aug.
- On — with (equal to)

- Paris' — Gauche
- "— already said ..."
- Actor Voight
- First name of Poe
- Perfumery bottle
- 6x9-inch book size
- One-eighty from NNW
- "X" amount
- Psych up
- Like a Thai
- Téa on TV
- Moral error
- Ball
- School unit
- Arm bones
- Nonreactive
- Amble along
- Aunts, in Baja
- Month after Nov.
- More briny
- With 81-Across, Beehive State NCAA team
- Lo-fat
- Suffix of ordinals
- Cello forerunner
- "Byzantium" actress Arterton
- AOL letter
- Hip-hop DJ's equipment
- Scrutinizes
- kwon do (martial art)
- Carpenter's adhesive
- Clued in
- Is a little too proud of
- Queen in a sari
- Stunt master Knievel
- Boot part
- Sailors, say
- Take too much of, for short
- Member of an early-1900s art movement
- Debt memos

- Director Clair
- "— -Cop" (1988 film)
- Commercial on the tube
- Olympic sled course
- "How — to know?"
- Celebration
- Jailbreaker
- Indy path
- Shankar on the sitar
- Edit, as text
- Scandinavian
- Hormones in some replacement therapies
- Harry Potter pal Weasley
- Draft inits.
- Its cap. is Vilnius
- Kaput
- Toss high up
- Month after Iphigenia
- Director Ang
- Something novel
- Sch. org.
- Supply that's too abundant
- Operating skyward
- Theatricalize
- Courage
- Finish with
- Weird
- Out-of-the-way corners
- Bygone Olds
- Bygone Chevy
- Swedish film shooter Nykvist
- French noun suffix
- Gunky stuff
- Use skillfully
- Ending for Brooklyn
- Abbr. in trig
- Part of L.A.
- Lemur cousin

Answer to April 12 Cryptoquip:
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Garbage from End to End



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Tom Oat

While Waste Management officials are dealing with budget woes across the territory, St. John residents are seeing the impact of WMA administrative problems. Residents of the island's East End called to complain that dumpsters were overflowing, below, and sources have complained to *St. John Tradewinds* that the Susannaberg transfer station, above, is beginning to fill with piles of separated materials and tires which once-again are not being transported off-island. The newly installed "tipping floor" to enable the sorting of materials is apparently not in operation.



Are We Past the Point of No Return on Climate Change?



Dear EarthTalk: What is the best way to measure how close we are to the dreaded "point of no return" with climate change? In other words, when do we think we will have gone too far?

– **David Johnston, via EarthTalk.org**

While we may not yet have reached the "point of no return"—when no amount of cutbacks on greenhouse gas emissions will save us from potentially catastrophic global warming—climate scientists warn we may be getting awfully close. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution a century ago, the average global temperature has risen some 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Most climatologists agree that, while the warming to date is already causing environmental problems, another 0.4 degree Fahrenheit rise in temperature, representing a global average atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) of 450 parts per million (ppm), could set in motion unprecedented changes in global climate and a significant increase in the severity of natural disasters—and as such could represent the dreaded point of no return.

Currently the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ (the leading greenhouse gas) is approximately 398.55 parts per million (ppm). According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the federal scientific agency tasked with monitoring the health of our oceans and atmosphere, the current average annual rate of increase of 1.92 ppm means we could reach the point of no return by 2042.

Environmental leaders point out that this doesn't give us much time to turn the tide. Greenpeace, a leading environmental advocacy group, says we have until around 2020 to significantly cut back on greenhouse gas output around the world—to the tune of a five percent annual reduction in emissions overall—if we are to avoid so-called "runaway" climate change. "The world is fast approaching a 'point of no return' beyond which extremely dangerous climate change impacts can become unavoidable," reports the group. "Within this time period, we will have to radically change our approach to energy production and consumption."

In a recent lecture at Georgetown University, World Bank president Jim Yong Kim reported that whether we are able to cut emissions enough to prevent catastrophe likely depends on the policies of the world's largest economies and the widespread adoption of so-called carbon pricing systems (such as emissions trading plans and carbon taxes). International negotiators meeting in Paris next December are already working to hammer out an agreement mandating that governments adopt these types of systems to facilitate emissions reductions. "A price on carbon is the single most important thing we have to get out of a Paris agreement," Kim stated. "It will unleash market forces."

While carbon pricing will be key to mitigating global warming, Greenpeace adds that stemming the tide of deforestation in the world's tropical rainforests and beyond and adapting our food systems to changing climatic conditions and increasingly limited resources will also be crucial to the health of the planet.

"Without additional mitigation, and even with adaptation, warming by the end of the 21st century will lead to high to very high risk of severe, widespread and irreversible impacts globally," reports the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international group of leading climate experts convened by the United Nations to review and assess the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information on global warming. Indeed, there's no time like the present to start changing our ways.

View past columns at: www.earthtalk.org. Or e-mail us your question: earthtalk@emagazine.com. emagazine.com.