



OCTOBER Is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!



October 27-November 2, 2014

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TRADEWINDS

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

Cocaine Ring Conspirator Walter Hill Jr. Gets 20 Years

Final drug ring conspirator sentenced by Judge Gomez – **SEE PAGE 3**



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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Move Over “Secret Santa,” You’ve Been “Conched.”

In a St. John spin on a tradition with roots in many cultures, someone is spreading cheer and good will with the anonymous gift of a creatively-decorated conch shell — with a requirement of reciprocity.

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What If There Was a St. John Senate Hearing on DPNR and Marinas — And No Senators Came?

By **TOM OAT**
St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — St. John Senator at Large Craig W. Barshinger was unsure of how many members of the public would turn out for his scheduled Friday evening Senate committee hearing on “Concerns relating to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources’ Jurisdiction on St. John” on October 24.

Sen. Barshinger didn’t think he would have to worry about having a quorum of his fellow senators.

There had been fervent testimony at an August evening hearing by the St. John Coastal Zone Management committee at the St John Legislature Annex which was packed with opponents of the controversial St. John Marina proposed to cover much of Coral Bay harbor with a “mega yacht” marina.

A subsequent October 1 noon CZM decision meeting vote in favor of the mega-yacht project included very little discussion and attracted a smaller, more subdued audience — which was stoically disappointed by the approval of the development.

Sen. Barshinger’s lightly publicized hearing of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection which he chairs was scheduled as a continuation of three hearings on Friday beginning at 10 a.m. A morning session on had been sparsely attended as V.I. Water and Power Authority (WAPA) officials and experts — including the first Senate hearing testimony delivered over the Skype internet video conferencing service.

An afternoon meeting on a bill to ban dispos-

able plastic bags was attended only by two testifiers, although it, too, made legislative history with the first Skype attendance at hearing by a senator, committee member Sen. Samuel Sanes of St. Croix.

As the committee completed its second hearing, Sen. Barshinger saw his plans for the evening hearing dissipate as committee co-chair Sen. Clarence Payne caught the 4 p.m. ferry to St. Thomas. Three other senators who had attended the morning session had already left the island before the afternoon session.

“I kept losing members and by 4 p.m. Sen. Payne had left and there was no one there,” Sen. Barshinger said Saturday. “I wanted to put testifiers together with senators.”

Scheduled to testify were: Jean-Pierre Oriol, Acting Commissioner of the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources; Rick Barksdale, principal, Summers End Group; Erva A. Denham, chair of the Planning and Environmental Quality Committee of the League of Women Voters; Sharon Coldren, president of the Coral Bay Community Council; David Silverman, a Coral Bay resident leading the fundraising for a legal challenge to the CZM approval of the Summers End marina plan; and Phillip Pickering, a St. Johnian community activist.

“My staff called all the scheduled testifiers,” the St. John senator said. The testifiers agreed that the hearing should be cancelled if a quorum of senators would not be in attendance.

“So, I cancelled because of the insufficient attendance by senators,” Sen. Barshinger told *St. John Tradewinds* on Saturday, October 25.

Meeting on Property Taxes Is Oct. 28

Senator Myron D. Jackson, chairman of the Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation, and Senator Clifford F. Graham, chairman of the Committee on Finance will have a joint committee meeting on Tuesday, October 28, at 5:30 p.m. at the St. John Legislature annex in Cruz Bay.

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss findings and proposed solutions to the 1998 and 2014 tax increases to property owners on St. John, and examine ways to preserve a community’s land heritage ownership within the 1917 Treaty and tax structure of the Virgin Islands.

The public is invited to attend and give testimony limited to three minutes. Anyone requesting to testify may do so by calling 340-693-3519 or 340-693-3504.

Derelict Vessel Removal Meeting Oct. 30

As part of its Marine Debris Removal Project, The Coral Bay Community Council (CBCC) will host a pre-Request for Proposal (RFP) Meeting with all potential marine salvage contractors and subcontractors on Thursday, October 30, at 10 a.m. at the Coral Bay Community Council office.

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the requirements and possible scopes of work for the removal of derelict vessels in Coral Harbor to potential contractors. Contractors must be fully insured and have a valid business license to qualify. Additional details in terms of requirements and scope of work will be given at the meeting, and by email in advance of the meeting.

To register in advance, email sean@coralbaycommunitycouncil.org or contact the CBCC office at (340) 776-2099. All potential contractors welcome!

Paddle the Park Race Set for Nov. 2

The second annual Paddle the Park standup paddleboard race will be Sunday, November 2 at Maho Bay on St. John.

For additional information, email to kjavrvvis@friendsvinp.org or call 340-779-4940.

CBCC Annual Meeting/Potluck Nov. 3

Everyone is invited to the Coral Bay Community Council Potluck and Annual Meeting Monday, November 3, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Miss Lucy’s.

Please bring a dish to share. Drinks will be for sale. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. with a short business meeting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the CBCC office at 776-2099.

Community Picnic for TRR Is Nov. 8

Come out to the Coral Bay Agriculture Station on Saturday, November 8, at 1 p.m. to join a community picnic for Team River Runner’s wounded veterans.

Team River Runner is hosting a group of wounded veterans who are recovering from physical and emotional service-related injuries. The group will spend a week of health and healing on St. John and kayaking local waters.

The community picnic is hosted by St. John American Legion Viggo E. Sewer Post #131, American Legion Auxiliary and the local AARP chapter. The event is open to the public and residents are asked to bring a food dish to share if possible. Small monetary donations to the event will also be appreciated. Volunteers are also needed to assist with setting up before and cleaning up after the picnic.

For more information, call Doug Benton at (340) 201-1837.

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Walter Hill Jr., Final Convicted Cocaine Ring Conspirator To Be Sentenced, Gets 20 Years

By TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

ST. THOMAS — A convicted felon who secured law enforcement clearance to apply for a ferry captain's license and captained a private resort ferry through the U.S. and British Virgin Islands unfettered, Walter Hill Jr. of St. John was the final person sentenced in the prosecution of members of a reportedly decade-long drug importation conspiracy spanning the Virgin Islands run by top U.S.V.I. law enforcement officials and received the stiffest sentence.

Walter Hill Jr., 46, was sentenced to a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison, 10 years of supervised release, a \$300 special monetary assessment and 300 hours of community service by U.S. District Court Judge Curtis Gomez who oversaw the trial of nine men involved in the drug conspiracy.

Walter Hill was convicted on March 27 of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine; possession with intent to distribute cocaine; and the use of a communication device — a telephone — in a drug crime.

Walter Hill's cousin, Angelo Hill of St. John, a V.I. Police De-

partment Sergeant and Commander of the VIPD's St. John Leander Jurgen Command at the time of his arrest, was also convicted in the conspiracy for aiding and abetting V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) Chief of Environmental Enforcement Roberto Tapia, 55, in the illegal drug enterprise.

Convicted Felon Did Not Cooperate With Authorities

Walter Hill Jr. was charged on Nov. 7, 2013, in a 69-count indictment along with Tapia, Angelo Hill, Stephen Torres, Eddie Lopez-Lopez, Raymond Brown, Hector Alencio, Angel Negron-Beltran and Edwin Monsanto

"Walter Hill didn't talk," one insider told *St. John Tradewinds*.

Walter Hill and co-conspirator Raymond Brown were the only defendants who did not take pre-trial plea bargain offers from the government to receive lesser sentences, according to published reports. Co-conspirator Brown, 29, was sentenced by Judge Gomez to four years in prison in August 2014 after being found guilty by a jury of using a telephone to facilitate a federal crime.

Angelo Hill cooperated with authorities and was sentenced

to 21 months in prison by Judge Gómez in April 2014 after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess and intent to distribute cocaine. Angelo Hill reportedly helped his cousin Walter Hill obtain a captain's license despite Walter Hill being ineligible because of his prior criminal conviction.

Angelo Hill's age has been withheld by court and law enforcement officials and omitted from St. Thomas media reports, which continue to identify the former top law enforcement official on St. John as "age unknown." Sources have told *St. John Tradewinds* that Angelo Hill attended high school on St. Thomas with trial Judge Gómez who was appointed to the court in 2005 and was Chief Judge from 2006 to 2013. Judge Gómez is scheduled to leave the federal bench in 2015.

Prior to becoming a federal judge, Chief Judge Gómez was a federal prosecutor in the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands and the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. Chief Judge Gómez also was in the private practice of law with the law firms of Patton Boggs,

LLP, in the District of Columbia, and Dudley, Topper & Feuerzeig in the Virgin Islands, according to the website Judgepedia.

Tapia and Hill Retired After Arrests

As part of their investigation of Tapia, who was director of DPNR's Division of Environmental Enforcement, federal law enforcement officials followed Tapia as he met with Angelo Hill on a Friday evening on St. John and St. John VIPD Commander Hill drove Tapia in his unmarked government vehicle to pick up seven (7) kilograms of cocaine on St. John and drove him back to the ferry dock in Cruz Bay.

Tapia, in his DPNR uniform and armed at the time, was arrested by federal authorities upon his arrival at Red Hook with the cocaine in a backpack.

Tapia and Angelo Hill were allowed to retire from their government positions and preserve their pension rights, Tapia with the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources and Hill with the V.I. Police Department after their arrests, postdated to the day of Tapia's arrest after his rendezvous with Angelo Hill on St. John to pick up seven kilos of cocaine.

Alencio, 43, was sentenced by Judge Gomez to 30 months in prison in May 2014 after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess and intent to distribute cocaine.

Lopez-Lopez, 36, was sentenced by Judge Gomez to 33 months in prison in June 2014 after pleading guilty to possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

Torres, age unreported, subsequently received the same sentence.

Negron-Beltran, age also unreported, was sentenced to 38 months in prison in July after pleading guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

Published reports said it was unclear what the sentence was for Monsanto, 51.

The special U.S. Attorney Kim Lindquist, an international federal prosecutor who began the prosecution of the drug conspiracy, left the U.S. Virgin Islands without explanation shortly before the start of the trial. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelly Lake prosecuted the case.

St. John Rescue Plans for Government Decision on Transporting the Deceased

By TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

St. John Rescue members are ready and willing to transport deceased residents and visitors to the island morgue facility at the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center for transport by officials of the Coroner's Office to St. Thomas.

They just aren't able.

After months of negotiations with government officials, the private non-profit emergency services group is still trying to work out legal and liability issues involved with transporting deceased accident or crime victims or those who have died of natural causes at home

on St. John to the health department facility for safekeeping until they can be transported to St. Thomas.

"They have protocols ready for us," St. John Rescue president Andy Vacharat said of negotiations between the private non-profit St. John Rescue and numerous government agencies over the issue. "There are so many agencies involved it's going to take some time."

In the interim, on the heels of horror stories including one September incident in which a drowning victim was left on a V.I. National Park beach for hours until VINP law enforcement officers brought representatives of the Coroner's Office from St. Thomas by National

Park Service boat to transport the body to the morgue on St. Thomas, St. John rescue officials are still working on a permanent solution.

"They have EMS to take charge of transports... as far as I understand," Vacharat said tentatively of the interim solution.

St. John Rescue has not given up on finding a permanent solution to the dilemma, Vacharat said.

"If Rescue is not able to do it, for whatever reason, we have spoken about forming a separate entity," Vacharat explained. "We're looking into doing it on our own."

Vacharat can be reached at stjohndrescue@gmail.com.

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NEXT DEADLINE

Thursday, Oct. 30th

NEWS LINE

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Coral Bay Residents Help with Annual Shoreline Cleanup

By JAIME ELLIOTT
St. John Tradewinds

About 25 residents combed the shorelines and roadways of Coral Bay, removing plastic cups, aluminum cans, glass bottles and more on Thursday morning, October 23, during a community clean up.

The event was sponsored by Coral Bay Community Council and Coral Bay Yacht Club as part of Friends of V.I. National Park's annual island-wide Coast Weeks Cleanup.

Volunteers met at Skinny Legs at 9 a.m. and then spread both along the shoreline and the roadway past the main dumpster area. Debris was removed from the mangroves lining Coral Bay harbor as well as the ball field, the old bleacher area, the basketball court and along the roadway.

One of the most heavily polluted areas, the mangroves behind and around the main dumpsters was tackled by volunteers as well.

CBCC Environmental Programs Associate Sean Richardson logged volunteer hours during the cleanup which will be counted as "in-kind" donations towards the group's National Oceanic and At-



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Jaime Elliott

(L to R) Volunteers Susan Silverman, David Silverman, Jason Hayman and Joan Wilson with CBCC Environmental Programs Assistant Sean Richardson.

mospheric Administration-funded Marine Debris Removal Grant.

\$90K NOAA Grant

The majority of funds from the NOAA grant — \$60,000 of the \$90,000 awarded — will be used to remove derelict vessels from Coral Bay harbor. CBCC will be committing about \$50,000 of "in-kind donations" like the volunteer hours logged last week, to the grant.

With the NOAA grant funds, CBCC officials plan to remove about 12 derelict vessels, starting in January. The group is hosting a pre-Request for Proposal meeting with potential marine salvage contractors on Thursday, October 30, at the CBCC office at 10 a.m.

For more information about CBCC and the Marine Debris Removal project, call the CBCC Office at (340) 776-2099.



Doug McLean, above left, clean debris from the shoreline as part of the Coral Bay community cleanup. Lora Koehler, above right, pitched in during last week's annual cleanup event.



Plenty of garbage was removed from the area near the main Coral Bay dumpsters during last week's community cleanup.

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Varlack Venture's *Capitol Venture*, above at the Cruz Bay dock, was back in service after the mid-week collision with a charter sailboat on a sunset cruise on Wednesday, October 23 off Red Hook, St. Thomas.

St. John Tradewinds News
Photo by Tom Oat

USCG Investigating Collision Off Red Hook Between *Capitol Venture* and *New Horizon*

By TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

RED HOOK – U.S. Coast Guard marine investigators from Marine Safety Detachment St. Thomas are investigating the cause of a Wednesday, October 23, evening collision between the passenger ferry *Capitol Venture* and the commercial daysail vessel *New Horizon*, which occurred approximately a half nautical mile east of the Red Hook, St. Thomas, Channel entrance.

The incident was reported to the Coast Guard by the crew of each vessel at approximately 6 p.m. on Wednesday, according to a USCG press release issued on Thursday morning, October 24.

“Following the collision, the *Capitol Venture*, carrying 176 passengers and five crew, continued to make its way to the Red Hook ferry terminal, while the *New Horizon*, with 24 persons and four crewmembers onboard, proceeded to Sapphire Marina, where they were met by Coast Guard marine investigators,” according to the USCG statement. Delrise Varlack of Varlack Ventures had no comment on the incident, citing the active U.S. Coast Guard investigation.

Sailboat Owner Has Conflicting Reports

The owner of the 65-foot *New Horizons*, which has conducted day sails and sunset cruises from St. Thomas for most of the past two decades, told the *Virgin Islands Daily News* he received reports from the passengers and crew aboard his vessel which conflicted with the USCG report.

Tim Krygsvel, who was off-island at the time of the incident, did not return a telephone call for comment from St. John Tradewinds on Friday, October 25.

No major injuries were reported to the Coast Guard from the 176 passengers and five crew members on board the ferry, while a minor toe injury was reported from one of the 24 passengers and four crew members aboard the sailing vessel who was treated by Emergency Medical Service personnel in St. Thomas, according to the USCG press release.

The owner of *New Horizon* said two of the guests on his boat were taken by ambulance to the hospital, according to the *VI. Daily News* report.

Coast Guard marine investigators are in the process of conducting damage assessments of each vessel, according to the USCG statement. No signs of pollution were detected from either vessel following the collision, the USCG reported.

\$60,000 to \$100,000 in Damage to Sailboat

The collision caused damage to his boat which will cost \$60,000 to \$100,000 to repair, *New Horizon* owner Krygsvel told the *Daily News*.

“At the last second, the crew goosed the throttle, and they hit us near the stern,” Krygsvel was quoted by the St. Thomas newspaper, although it was not clear which boat crew accelerated to avoid a worse collision.

“It completely severed the rigging that holds the mast up. In the few minutes after (the) rigging was severed, we were able to stabilize the mast with ropes,” Krygsvel said.

All the lifelines and rails were torn off the side of *New Horizon* that was hit by the ferry, according to Krygsvel.

It was not clear if the *New Horizon* was under sail or under engine power or both at the time of the collision.

A sailing vessel operating under sail has the right of way in marine regulations, different rules apply if both vessels are operating under power, according to one experienced St. John charter captain.

“If a sailboat is propelled by power as well (as sail) then it is power-driven and power boat rules apply,” the charter boat captain said. “Which is any vessel to starboard from the bow to 22.5 degrees abaft of the beam has the right of way.”

The crew of a Coast Guard Boat Forces 29-foot Response *Boat Small II* also responded to the incident and supported the investigation efforts upon confirming that all passengers and crew were accounted for.

The St. John Band



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A Rasta-themed decorated conch shell was left anonymously for a St. John business owner with the requirement that another one be created and presented to another deserving recipient – anonymously.



St. John Tradewinds News
Photo by Tom Oat

You've Been Conched!

By TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

Move over “Secret Santa,” you’ve been “Conched.”

In a St. John spin on a tradition with roots in many cultures, someone is spreading cheer and good will with the anonymous gift of a creatively-decorated conch shell with a requirement of reciprocity.

One island business owner received the “Love City” Conch last week and wasn’t sure if the uplifting directive was the start of a new community effort or the continuation of a secret tradition.

St. John Tradewinds hadn’t heard of it before, either.

“What a great idea,” said one island business-woman.

Although she wasn’t sure it was even meant for her when left at her office door, the recent recipient of the dreadlocked conch was already concerned about her lack of creativity and the pressure of designing her own conch to pass on to another deserving islander.

You’ve Been Conched!

*“You could be a local,
or a local wanna be.
But I bet you think like me
you have a love affair with ‘de sea!”*

*So kindly accept this conch,
and display him proudly on a shelf,
then go get creative & make one by yourself!*

*Fix it and bling it to be a fancy shell,
then find a home where he’ll be treated well.*

*Keep this island secret, don’t spoil the surprise.
Go on a “sneak about” maybe in disguise!*

*A St. John tradition we hope it to be.
Everyone wants one, this you’ll see!*

Now... Go Spread ‘De Love!

Paddle the Park Race Is November 2, Registration Ending

St. John Tradewinds

There is only one week left to register for the Friends of Virgin Islands National Park’s exciting paddleboard race which is set for Sunday, November 2.

Late registration ends Saturday, November 1, at 2 p.m. and can only be done at the Friends of the Park Store in Mongoose Junction that last day. Before November 1, paddle boarders can register by phone, in person and online.

The event is organized by Friends of VI National Park to celebrate the beaches and waters of

the park and raise funds for projects that preserve, protect and educate therein.

Participants may get to see themselves on television later, as the event is going to be filmed for “Facing Waves,” a 30-minute cable television series that showcases paddling destinations on Outside Television (to 8 million TV households) and NBC’s Universal Sports (to 48 million homes).

Friends would like to thank the race sponsors who are supporting our park, including Arawak Expeditions, VI Orthopedics, Caribbean

Paddle Company, Holiday Homes, Freebird Creations, Seaglass Properties, Cruz Bay Watersports, Taloo-ard Paddle Sails, Property King, Rhumb Lines, BUZZ Radio, Ocean Potion, North Shore Deli and St. John Brewers.

All proceeds benefit Friends programs and projects that protect, preserve and educate within VI National Park. What better reason to go paddle boarding?!

For more information or to register, email kjavrvvis@friendsvinp.org or call 340-779-4940, or visit www.friendsvinp.org/paddle.

Bill To Ban Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags Draws Two Passionate, Convincing Testifiers

By TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

Two Virgin Islanders who are focused on the environment were the only audience members and testifiers at a V.I. Senate hearing on a proposed measure to prohibit U.S. Virgin Island businesses “from providing customers with plastic bags to carry items purchased” at an Friday afternoon, October 24, hearing at the Cruz Bay Legislature Annex.

The testifiers had strong support from the Senate committee members present — and one, Senator Samuel Sanes, made an historic appearance at the hearing via the Skype internet program.

Jason Budsan, president of the V.I. Conservation Society and the Environmental Association of St. Thomas-St. John, and EAST member, environmental activist, diver and videographer Karl Callwood testified in support of Senate Bill No. 30-0387 Plastic Bag Ban of 2014 sponsored by Senators Shawn Michael Malone Nereida “Nellie” Rivera-O’Reilly.

GHS Program Supported Legislation

The legislation also has been championed by students from The Giffit Hill School on St. John, and Dr. David Minner, EARTH (Education And Resiliency Through Horticulture) Program Outreach Coordinator at Giffit Hill School submitted written testimony in support of the legislation to



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Karl Callwood and Jason Budsan testify at the plastic ban hearing on Friday, October 24.

ban disposable plastic shopping bags.

“Our second EARTH program goal relating to place-based environmental science is closely aligned with the proposed bill that targets pollution and endangerment of marine life by contamination with plastic carry-out bags.”

“Single-use, disposable plastic shopping bags are saturating our environment and killing our wildlife. I am out there (on and in the water) every day and witness the damage these bags do. The saddest thing is to see a coral smothered in a plastic bag.”

— Karl Callwood, EAST member, environmental activist, diver and videographer

“We feel that all stores should discontinue use of this type of plastic bag as a fair approach to solving this problem,” Dr. Minner continued. “There are ample types of alternative bags that are of superior quality and can be reused, bags that don’t require double-bagging which further multiplies the burden on the environment.”

As part of the “recycling initiative” Giffit Hill School students, “EARTH and Giffit Hill School ECO-Club wrote

Continued on Page 18



Thank You!

No fleas, just all good, hardworking volunteers, made the Animal Care Center’s (ACC) “No Fleas Please” flea market sale a success. The cats, dogs, shelter staff and Board of Directors wish to thank:

Peter Alter
Carol Bagley
Vicki Becker
Elaine Campbell
Catered To
-Tyler Anderson
Jason Corley
Louie Gasca
Calvin George
Corina Gordon
Nancy Grayhek
Andy Greaux
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Veronica Pozaz
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Diana Ripley
Yelena Rogers
St. John Community
Foundation
-Celia Kalousek
St. John Fire Dept.
-Winnie Powell
Susan Silverman
Oriell Smith
Roy Srancis
Anna Tuttle
Carol & Rick Wassel
Westin Resort
-Tina Cranford

A very special thank you goes out to the community members who supported the ACC by attending the sale and purchasing flea market items!

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Jerrod Nieman Headlining First Love City Country Music Festival

St. John Tradewinds

Tickets are available now for the first annual Love City Country Music Festival, presented by Caneel Bay Resort, set for May 14 through 16

Arista Nashville/Sea Gayle recording artist Jerrod Niemann will headline the three-day festival with performances from special guests Pat Green, Dallas Smith, Sunny Sweeney, other Nashville hit songwriters and more.

“St. John has seen live jazz, blues and, of course, reggae but never has a country music festival come to the island,” said event promoter Jamie Gladman. “Country music is such a popular genre among the local culture and tourists alike and we are pleased to be able to present such a stellar lineup of talent for our first Love City Country Music Festival.”

Niemann can be heard on the radio with his single, “Buzz Back Girl,” the newest offering from his High Noon album, which also includes the RIAA Platinum-certified smash, “Drink to That All Night.”

High Noon is the follow-up to Niemann’s acclaimed 2012 release, Free the Music. Niemann’s chart-topping major-label debut, 2010’s Judge Jerrod & The Hung Jury, produced the number one hit and RIAA-certified Platinum digital single, “Lover, Lover,” and the Top 5 and RIAA-certified Gold digital single, “What Do You Want.”

Joining Niemann at the Love City Country Music Festival will be Pat Green, a country rocker from Texas, the Texan honkey-tonker Sunny Sweeney and Canadian country rocker Dallas Smith. Also slated for the festival is a special presentation of “Hit Makers & Rum Chasers” Nashville songwriters showcase. Writers (who will be announced at a later date) will tell stories and perform the songs from some



News Photo Courtesy of Love City Country Music Festival

Country music artist Jerrod Nieman

of country music’s biggest hits.

The festival kicks off on Thursday, May 14, with the official festival beach party at the Soggy Dollar Bar on Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands. This event will feature acoustic performances from top festival artists as well as special guests, California beach reggae band Wheeland Brothers.

On Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16, the show moves to the main stage at Winston Wells Ball field in Cruz Bay, St. John, USVI.

Gates open at 5 p.m. on Friday with Hit Makers & Rum

Chasers taking the stage first. The songwriters showcase will be followed by, Down Home Band and Loving Mary.

On Saturday, gates open at 2 p.m. with Wheeland Brothers taking the stage first. The beach reggae boys from California will be followed by Sunny Sweeney, Dallas Smith and Pat Green. Headlining performer Jerrod Niemann will wrap up the festival on Saturday night.

A two-day pass for the festivities is \$120 and includes all shows on Friday and Saturday at a \$20 savings. Individual day tickets are \$50 for Friday and \$90 for Saturday.

Country music fans can also opt for the “Music Festival Bundle” for \$175 (a \$210 value) which comes with a two-day pass, lots of festival booty — including a T-shirt, baseball cap, koozie, commemorative refillable cup, floating keychain, sticker and rally towel — and \$20 in drink tickets.

The “Ultimate Fan Experience” includes the “Music Festival Bundle” plus a seven-night stay aboard the fully inclusive Yacht Charters with a multitude of VIP experiences and amenities.

In addition to the main stage there will be satellite stages throughout downtown Cruz Bay featuring country and local music throughout the weekend entertaining country music lovers until the wee hours of the morning.

Additional Love City Country Music Festival partners are Budweiser, USVI Tourism Board, Soggy Dollar Bar, Southland Gaming, Parrot Club, H2O Trips, Hit Makers & Rum Chasers, Barefoot Cowboy Lounge, Seaglass Vacations and Love City Radio.

To purchase festival tickets and packages and for additional information check out lovecitycountrymusicfest.com.

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Patrice Harley with her daughter Julice and granddaughter attend last week's flea market at Winston Wells Ball Field on Saturday, October 18.

St. John Tradewinds News
Photo by Yelena Rogers

ACC No Fleas, Please Flea Market Event Nets \$7,000 for Animal Welfare Group

By JAIME ELLIOTT
St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — Thanks to a donation to the territory-wide Project Homeless Connection, the St. John Animal Care Center was able to give and receive through this year's No Fleas, Please Flea market.

The island's sole organization caring for abused and abandoned animals raised about \$7,000 at the group's annual fall flea market on Saturday, October 18, at Winston Wells ball field, explained ACC President Lucy Banks.

"The flea market went well in that we had a great attendance and we had lot of things donated," said Banks.

The week before the flea market, ACC officials hosted a clothing sale at The Marketplace and had the perfect place for items which didn't sell, Banks explained.

"We were really, really happy about what happened at the clothing sale the week before," she said. "The even better part was the clothing leftover was taken by the St. John Community Foundation to be used on all three islands for Project Homeless Connect. Also all the toiletries that were donated were also given to them for the homeless."

"It was a good feeling to be able to give back and it was great that we could keep it here in the territory," Banks said.

Despite a lack of donated furniture to sell, which often contributes the largest sums to the ACC annual flea market's coffers, the group was pleased with the \$7,000 raised, Banks explained.

"It was successful; we made over \$7,000 that didn't have," said the ACC President. "If there is any disappointment in the flea market sale is that we didn't have the amount of furniture that we would have liked. That is a two-fold type of thing."

"We make a good amount of money on furniture and a lot of people were asking for it and we didn't have it to offer," said Banks.

Residents should think of the ACC — which oper-

ates a no-kill shelter and receives scant government funds to keep its doors open — before throwing away any unwanted furniture, Banks added.

Up next for the animal welfare non-profit group is the annual Holiday Open House at the ACC shelter on Thursday, December 11, at 5:30 p.m. Join the ACC for an evening of fun and food, and meet some of the 19 dogs and 38 cats being cared for at the organization's Cruz Bay shelter.

And, mark those calendars for the ACC's main fundraiser of the year, its annual gala, which this year, will have a distinctly island theme. The ACC is hosting a Buccaneer Ball on Saturday, January 24, at Eden's Whim villa on Great Cruz Bay. Tickets for the gala, which provides much-needed funds for the non-profit animal welfare organization, will be on sale in the coming weeks.

Little Free Libraries

ACC officials are also excited to unveil the group's latest project called Little Free Library, Banks added.

"Another thing that we're doing is getting involved in this movement which started in Hudson, Wisconsin, and is international now, called Little Free Libraries," Banks said. "You build these little homes that are the size of a big mailbox. We are having one built right now."

"There are free books inside and you encourage people to leave a book and take a book," said the ACC President. "In addition to encouraging adults and children to read, by joining the movement we hope to spread more awareness about the shelter. When we register the Free Little Library it goes international and we hope to raise more interest for the shelter."

The ACC's Free Little Library, which will be attached to the Cruz Bay shelter, will join more than 15,000 such book cases around the world.

For more information about Free Little Libraries, check out www.freelittlelibrary.org.

For more information about the St. John ACC, or to make a donation to the non-profit group, check out www.stjohnanimalcarecenter.com.

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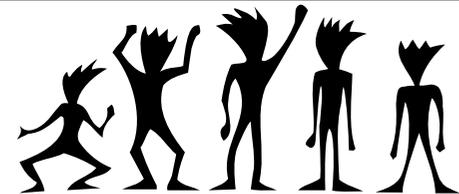
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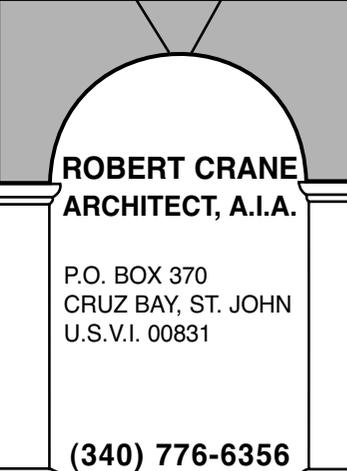
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By **LESLIE CHARPENTIER**
CORE STJ DIVE Co-ordinator
Special to St. John Tradewinds
ST. JOHN — The volunteers with CORE hear that question all the time.

My answer is “YES, a few thousand of them!”

The conversation usually continues with... “Really? Then why don’t I see any?” Well, because CORE has done a really good job on St. John, training people and extracting lionfish from the waters that surround St. John.

To date I would estimate about 5,000 lionfish have been extracted from the waters around St. John by CORE volunteers. I have been involved since the beginning, finding and extracting lionfish, doing research and recording data, and training others to do the same.

Frank Cummings, CORE outreach and Education Coordinator and I have trained around 100 responders now on St. John – snorkelers, free-divers and scuba divers. Many of these volunteers have also obtained special permits from VINP. CORE volunteers do what they can, donating thousands of hours annually.

Culling Is Continuous

Culling Lionfish is not just a one-time job, it is something we will need to continue to do throughout our lifetimes. After a few years of doing this, we are definitely seeing trends. The bays and locations that were “hotspots” for lionfish the first year continue to be popular with the lionfish.

We have been able to identify these areas and use our time more effectively focusing on these areas. We know what areas we need to go to often and which areas we can check less frequently. Our research has also shown that while lionfish breed year-round, the number of small fish we find goes way up when the water temperature starts warming.

My theory is that the eggs travel much safer in these months because of the sargassum sea grass. Just an observation, but when I start to see the seagrass I soon start to find more small lionfish. Our data shows seasonal trends that are consistent each year, and our data shows consistent popular areas.

For example, Ernest Mathias

Support CORE and Their Efforts

The St. John lionfish control effort also has launched a fundraising campaign. To support this effort visit www.gofundme.com/f1luvo.

reported the first sighting of a lionfish in 2010 in Leinster Bay, and Leinster Bay continues to be a popular bay for lionfish, volunteers remove hundreds of lionfish per year from Leinster Bay. Our research has pinpointed five areas within Leinster Bay as “hotspots” for lionfish.

People ask, how can you kill those pretty little fish? Well, after seeing so many I no longer see

them as “pretty.” Especially the big fat ones. I do not consider myself a “killer,” I consider myself

a “protector” of all the little fishes and crustaceans and our reefs. What I see are all the other fish cheering and happy when I remove a big bad lionfish from their pretty coral head, I really do notice a change in the behavior of all the other fish, I can tell they are happy! The largest lionfish that I have removed measured 15” and was very fat. It must have consumed thousands of other fish and crustaceans to get to be that size.

Lionfish Love Lobster, Too

Do you like to eat lobster? Well, that is another good reason to remove the lionfish. Anyone who takes lobster should be involved with also removing lionfish. Lionfish and lobster like the same habitat and the lionfish love to eat all the tiny lobsters before they can get big enough for us to even find them. This concerns me that in a few years will we still be able to find lobster?

CORE volunteers are not the only people that help. We are very grateful for every donation that is made, every sighting that is passed on, and every person that helps. Both the Virgin Islands National Park and the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park are great supporters of CORE. They have both provided money, materials, resources and assistance with education.

We are very excited that the NP Visitor Center will soon have a display for the Friends of VINP; the Friends offered 1/3 of this dis-

play to CORE. CORE’s part of the display will have a video along with postcards that people can take with them.

We are also very happy that Giffit Hill School has allowed teachers and students to help with CORE. Each year the school “mini-mester” session includes a class of enthusiastic students who diligently search for Lionfish along with a CORE volunteer responder to extract the fish they find. We are grateful to have younger people involved who will be able to continue our work in the future.

Who Is CORE?

CORE (Caribbean Oceanic Restoration and Education Foundation) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of your reefs and marine life inhabiting your reefs by culling the populations of the invasive lionfish in our waters. CORE was established on St Croix in 2009 and introduced the program to St John and St Thomas before the Lionfish actually arrived, this means we were ready to take action when the first Lionfish were sighted in 2010.

Throughout the Virgin Islands hundreds of responders have been trained and 10,000+ lionfish have been removed by CORE volunteers. While we “hunt” lionfish on St. John and St. Thomas they “harvest” vast numbers of lionfish on St. Croix. Also, fishermen have been pulling more than 100,000 lionfish per year, and the general public pull 1000s of fish per year. This Combined effort is why we have fewer sightings and smaller densities.

Anyone interested in learning more about CORE can visit: www.CoreVI.org / Friends of VINP store / VINP Visitor center

If you sight a lionfish you can now easily post the sighting at www.CoreVI.org - or for sightings on St John call 340-201-2342. Email works great too – stjdive@corevi.org / stjoutreach@corevi.org.

Despite Hurricane Threat, St. John Youth Enjoy Sixth Annual Just Play Day

By JAIME ELLIOTT
St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — Despite the threat of Hurricane Gonzalo, which was bearing down on Love City, 130 St. John youngsters enjoyed the sixth annual Just Play Day on Monday, October 13, at Winston Wells ball field.

“It was fun,” said Dean Doeling, the founder of Using Sport for Social Change, which hosts the annual Just Play Day. “It was a bit reminiscent of the first annual one which seems odd. We had a Tropical Storm that first year and we almost had a hurricane this year.”

“That’s a pretty good track record,” said Doeling. “We’re hoping to go another five years without it raining on us.”

Hurricane Gonzalo veered north of St. John the night of October 13. That morning as Doeling and his team of volunteers were preparing for the sixth annual Just Play Day, the storm was predicted to hit the island.

The fifth annual Just Play Day last year attracted 300 kids to Using Sport for Social Change’s signature event. As Doeling was gearing up for this year’s day of healthy and safe competition, he was expecting numbers close to last year’s record setting attendance.

“Everything had been going according to plan and we had lots of people signing up,” said Doeling. “We were expecting to cover about 300 kids which was the number we had last year. That was the most kids we had seen and so we geared up to support that number this year.”

The threat of Hurricane Gonzalo, however, impacted the day’s attendance, Doeling explained.

“And then the hurricane came along and we had to come up with Plan A, Plan B and Plan C,” said the Using Sport for Social Change founder.

Doeling decided not to cancel the event, but to wrap things up about two hours early, he explained.

“We went with Plan B which was to pull it in two hours early,” said Doeling. “We had a lot of cancellations from people who had to prepare for the storm. We ended up having about 130 kids and about 40 volunteers.”

The 130 kids who did attend Just Play Day, had the chance to compete in sports drills ranging from football toss



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Malena del Olmo of St. John competes in shooting baskets at the Just Play Day with her older brother Luca rebounding and passing her the next basketball.

and soccer kick to 50 yard dash and basketball throw. The event also featured guest speaker William Schouten, better known as T-Rex or Juggernaut.

“T-Rex is amazing,” said Doeling. “He’s a power lifter from St. Thomas who has won several awards and holds several records for the Virgin Islands in power lifting. He was a great speaker and he was great with the kids.”

“He told a story about setting your mind to something and being able to get it done,” Doeling said.

The kids, volunteers and guests enjoyed the day’s activities without event getting rained on, Doeling added.

“When it came down to it, we didn’t get rained on at all until we pulled everyone inside for the awards ceremony,” he said. “We got a deluge and it totally dumped on us then. But the event itself was perfect and went on without a hitch.”

Thanks to sponsorships and a successful fundraising concert featuring Inner Visions at the Beach Bar, Just Play Day has become a self-sustaining event, Doeling explained.

“We had wonderful response to our sponsorship this

year,” he said. “People and businesses have come back to support us and the event at the Beach Bar was great. Inner Visions played for the second year in a row and we raised about \$1,300 from that.”

“We were able to raise enough money in total, that Just Play Day has become a self-sustaining event,” Doeling said.

Doeling, a Senior Production Artist with Nike who lives in Oregon, launched Using Sport for Social Change in June 2008 with the idea of helping to bring some sports equipment to St. John schools. He soon realized, however, that a greater need existed, Doeling explained.

“It’s certainly something different than I intended it to be,” he said. “At first I just wanted to give some soccer balls to the school. But then I realized there is a much broader and bigger need for organized sports on the island.”

“This is a two step process,” said the Using Sport for Social Change founder. “I want to continue do the Just Play Day event, to not only give kids a free day of play but also to raise awareness about organized sports on the island, and also to use Just Play Day as a fundraiser to further the programs that are already on the island as well.”

“Some of the money we raise goes towards the Just Play Day, but it’s also my goal to continue to raise money for other sports on the island,” Doeling said.

Doeling and his Just Play Day crew are already gearing up for next year’s Seventh Annual event on Monday, October 12, 2015, he added.

“We’re making arrangements for our seventh year already on Columbus Day 2015,” he said. “We really encourage kids to get signed up prior to the event so they are guaranteed a T-shirt in their size. We’re going to open up registration a bit early next year so hopefully kids will get on board even earlier and the event will go even smoother.”

Doeling always accepts donations for Using Sport for Social Change. Residents can support the organization by donating to St. John Community Foundation and writing “Using Sport for Social Change” in the memo line. For more information about Using Sport for Social Change, check out www.usingsportforsocialchange.com.



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On *the* Market

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

Rainbow's End at Battery Hill Offers Pool-side Living and Privacy

By **JAIME ELLIOTT**
St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — Enjoy plenty of privacy on your own spacious wrap around deck at Rainbow's End, a pool-side unit at the popular Battery Hill Condos complex.

This two-bedroom, one bathroom condo, conveniently located just up the hill from Cruz Bay, is for sale for \$465,000, explained Holiday Homes of St. John sales agent Abigail Schnell O'Connell.

The condo is nestled on a hill just above Cruz Bay, and is the perfect home base for exploring the town's many great restaurants and funky shops.

"The location is terrific," said Schnell O'Connell. "Rainbow's End is located just a short walk to town and offers a charming view of Cruz Bay."

The first floor condo is found just off the well-maintained pool at Battery Hill, a quaint nine-unit complex which also boasts lush, manicured grounds.

"There are only nine condominium units at Battery Hill," said Schnell O'Connell. "And the complex is peaceful and very well maintained."

Inside the Rainbow's End, you'll find two cheerfully decorated and well-appointed bedrooms as well as one full bathroom. The quaint kitchen is located right off the newly painted living room. Tiled floors are found throughout this bright and tropical condo-

minium unit.

Step through the double doors off the living room and enjoy the privacy of your own outdoor area on your wrap around deck. The spacious deck is the perfect place to relax and soak up those water views.

"The generous wrap around deck serves as an extension to the living space at Rainbow's End," said Schnell O'Connell. "This is the perfect spot for reading, dining or catching some rays."

With a motivated seller, Rainbow's End could be the perfect residence for someone looking to live close to Cruz Bay.

Popular Short-Term Rental

The pool-side condominium unit is also currently a very popular short-term rental, Schnell O'Connell added.

"Rainbow's End is perfect for someone looking for a primary residence," said the Holiday Homes of St. John sales agent. "Or, the unit would also be perfect as an affordable short term rental property, which it is currently."

Rainbow's End could make those St. John property owning dreams a reality.

For more information about this Battery Hill Condo unit, call Schnell O'Connell at Holiday Homes of St. John at (340) 776-6776. Or call the sales agent on her cell phone at (340) 998-1934.

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234 St. John Students Joined Record Summer Reading Challenge

By JUDI SHIMEL
St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — A total of 234 St. John students got ready for the new school year by getting acquainted with new books, as heightened participation was one of the highlights of the six-year-old reading campaign, according to organizers of Governor John de Jongh’s Summer Reading Challenge.

A total of 1,381 students accepted the reading challenge this year, said Government House assistant Alice Krall.

“That’s about 50 percent higher than last year,” Krall noted.

Of the hundreds of students in grades K through 8 who read five books or more over the school summer vacation, 234 were from St. John, 964 were from St. Thomas and 107 from St. Croix, according to Krall, who credited the dedication of philanthropists who donated hundreds of books for the success of this year’s program.

“The reading challenge began with the donation of books from a company called Learn It that donated thousands of books,” Krall said. Learn It is a program that provides academic support for public school, special education programs and charter schools, according to Krall.

Mario Picayo, through his company, Little Bell Caribbean, also donated hundreds of books, she added.

Free books for participating students were available at public libraries. Those who wanted to use their tablets in meeting the reading challenge were directed to Scholastic’s Stora E-Books.

They were then asked to log the titles they read onto the reading challenge website at www.readfive.org.

Kickoff events were conducted during the third week in June on St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John. The St. John kickoff was held as part of the St. John Festival Food Fair in Franklin Powell Park.

Those who completed the challenge were treated to a late summer celebration, with participating businesses and donors providing raffle gifts. Student volunteers from Giffit Hill School and the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School provided support for different activities.

Businesses and individuals supporting the St. John reading challenge included Robert O’Connor, Starfish Market, Courtesy Car Rental, Island Girls, Catered To, Chelsea Drugs, St. John Rotary, Captured Images, Toby Henry, Elvis George, Jerry Lake and Desianna Charles,

UUF Service Meeting November 2

St. John Tradewinds

Join Colby Collins at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (UUF) Service at Gift Hill School’s Lower Campus for the topic “Romancing the Divine and Making Love with Life” on Sunday, November 2 at 10 a.m.

This talk explores the possibility of what it means to make love with life and romance the Divine inside of each of us. What does life look like when we are no longer searching for fulfillment outside of ourselves but engaging life from an already whole place of fulfillment from within? How passion and joy-filled, life can become when we feel connected to our

own inner Beloved. Includes inner Beloved meditation.

Colby became a Usui and Karuna Reiki Master, Yoga-Alliance Certified Yoga Instructor, Ordained Minister from the Church of Wisdom, Doctor of Metaphysics and Transpersonal Psychology from Delphi University (delphiu.com) at the young age of 20. Over the last ten years he has practiced as an intuitive spiritual counselor with extensive experience facilitating intuitive development and spiritual healing classes.

For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. John go to: www.uufst-john.com

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Varlack's VITRAN Ferry *Red Hook I* Returns to Dock After Saturday Excursion, Rejoining T/S's *Cruz Bay I*

By TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — Less than two weeks after one of the two St. John ferry franchise operators, Transportation Services, temporarily put its VITRAN ferry *Cruz Bay I* into operation on Sunday, October 19, the second VITRAN ferry, Varlack Ventures' *Red Hook I*, left its berth for the first time since mid-summer on Saturday, October 25, leaving *Cruz Bay I* alone at the Loredon L. Boynes ferry dock. *Red Hook I* returned to its berth again for the rest of the weekend by the end of the day. *Cruz Bay I* was back in operation Sunday night, October 26.

With the ferry franchises held by to the St. John ferry companies set to expire in 2016, Gov. John de Jongh and the V.I. Public Works Department have worked to enable the two franchisees to put the multi-hulled VITRAN vessels intoug regular operation before the end of his administration.

Gov. de Jongh signed an agreement outlining the appropriation of funds for an un-

disclosed subsidy for the ferry companies on Tuesday afternoon, October 14. PWD Commissioner Darryl Smalls said at that time that he didn't know the amount of the subsidies, but Smalls said neither operator should be surprised by the subsidy agreement that it receives as each has seen prior drafts.

The subsidy agreements were expected to be signed by the operators and PWD Commissioner Smalls said at the time it was "a good bet" the catamaran ferries would be in operation before the end of the month.

Before the Governor signed the agreement to provide subsidies for the ferry companies, the *V.I. Daily News* had reported the two ferry companies were not in good standing with the V.I. government due to outstanding tax judgments and the newspaper questioned the legal sufficiency of both companies to have a valid business license to do business with the government or have a government contract.

Spokespersons for neither company were



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

The new VITRAN catamaran ferry *Cruz Bay I* sits alone at the Loredon L. Boynes ferry dock in Cruz Bay on Saturday afternoon, October 25, after its sister ship *Red Hook I* left the dock for the first time since early August — only to return to its parking place in front of *Cruz Bay I* later in the day.

ST. JOHN 2015

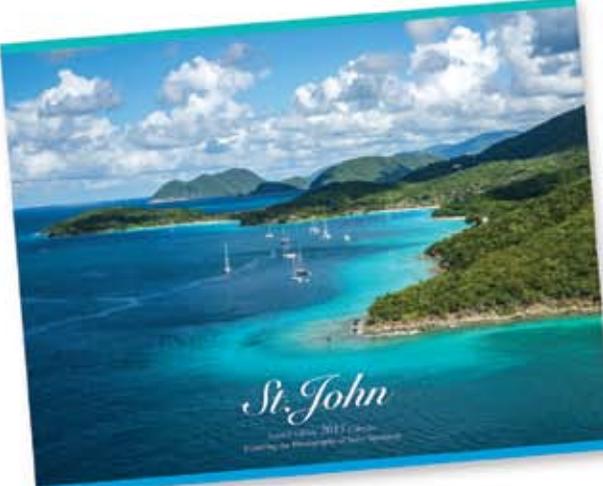












www.stevesimonsen.com

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.

Tuesday, October 28

— Senator Myron D. Jackson, and Senator Clifford F. Graham will have a joint committee meeting on Tuesday, October 28, at 5:30 p.m. at the St. John Legislature annex in Cruz Bay. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss findings and proposed solutions to the 1998 and 2014 tax increases to property owners on St. John, and examine ways to preserve a community's land heritage ownership within the 1917 Treaty and tax structure of the Virgin Islands.

Thursday, October 30

— As part of its Marine Debris Removal Project, The Coral Bay Community Council (CBCC) will host a pre-Request for Proposal (RFP) Meeting with all potential marine salvage contractors and subcontractors on Thursday, October 30, at 10 a.m. at the Coral Bay Community Council office.

Sunday, November 2

— Get ready for a day of paddleboard fun at Maho Bay! The second annual Paddle the Park standup paddleboard race will be held on Sunday, November 2 at Maho Bay on St. John. Register before October 24 to save on entry fees.

Monday, November 3

— Everyone is invited to the Coral Bay Community Council Potluck and Annual Meeting Monday, November 3, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Miss Lucy's.

Saturday, November 8

— St. John Rescue's Rib Cook-off fundraiser is planned for November 8 and will be at the Coral Bay Ball Field.

Tuesday, November 18

— VITEMA, in conjunction with the NOAA's Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, will host a tsunami workshop on Tuesday, November 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the University of the Virgin Islands Administration and Conference Center. This workshop is designed specifically to educate the Virgin Islands maritime community on what they need to know about tsunamis.

Friday, November 21

— Giff Hill School is pleased to announce their fifth annual school-wide community service day, Giff Hill School Gives Back, to be held on Friday, November 21

Saturday, November 22

— The Rotary Club of St. John will host 2014 Flavors – A Taste of St. John on November 22 at St. John's award-winning Westin Resort in the

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

AL-ANON MEETINGS

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

Online Auction Items Sought for Friends of VINP

St. John Tradewinds

Preparation is underway for the Sixth Annual Friends of Virgin Islands National Park Online Auction, a signature event that raises funds to support programs and projects in the national park, and Friends is seeking interesting goods and services that will promote St. John businesses while helping the park.

The popular online auction grows each year and includes a wide variety of retail goods and services such as jewelry, dining, hotel and villa stays and excursion packages.

Friends is calling on villa owners and managers to consider donating a week of lodging to promote their property and bring repeat business. The auction will be marketed to over 200,000 online contacts including Friends members who visit St. John often and the Bidding for Good community.

Many bidders eagerly await the online auction as a way to build vacation packages on St. John, so the businesses that "advertise" through donated goods and services reach a frequent-visitor market. Donations are also tax deductible as allowed by law.

Auction items and packages are available just in

time for holiday gift giving. This year's auction opens for bidding on November 15, at 9 a.m. EST and will run until December 7, at 10 p.m. EST.

This year's goal is to raise \$40,000 to support Friends' mission of the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural resources of Virgin Islands National Park and to promoting the responsible enjoyment of this unique national treasure.

If you have a business you would like to promote through donating goods or services, or a special item you'd like to make someone happy with, please contact Friends to donate or plan to bid. Bidders can shop the growing list of items and build a "favorites list" prior to auction opening.

Friends will be accepting donations through Wednesday, November 12. Contact Karen Vahling at 779-4940 or kvahling@friendsvinp.org, or stop by the Friends office in Mongoose Junction, third floor, above Sun Dog Cafe.

The auction site is www.biddingforgood.com/friendsvinp or visit the Friends website at www.friendsvinp.org to link directly and see all the good things the auction will support!

"Save 2nd Base" Raises \$12,000 for Cancer Fund



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Tom Oat

The Fifth Annual "Save 2nd Base" Woody's Seafood Saloon's Block Party was Friday, October 17, as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The St. John Cancer Fund is once again the recipient of the fundraiser.

"We are deeply grateful to the Management and Staff of Woody's Seafood Saloon who donated \$12,000 to the fund," said Mary Bartolucci. "The St. John Cancer Fund would also like to thank the visitors and the community of St. John for supporting this event. Thank You Woody's."

For more info on the St. John Cancer Fund visit our website at www.stjohncancerfund.org.



To The Rescue

by Bob Malacarne, N-R, EMT

Ready and Trained for Any Emergency — Including Ebola

St. John Tradewinds

Greetings to all our friends, neighbors, and visitors on St. John.

Members of St. John Rescue have already been preparing for dealing with any Ebola incidents that we, hopefully, will never encounter. The CDC is offering online training which we will be attending. The attached photo shows me outfitted in a Tyvek Suit with a respirator and extra-long gloves.

We have had these suits for quite a while and have made them available to our active responding members. Each rescue vehicle has at least four (4) Tyvek suits and respirators aboard. We hope that we will never need to use them.

Annual Rib Cook-Off Set

Our annual Rib Cook-off fundraiser is planned for November 8 and will be at the Coral Bay Ball Field. We are looking for volunteers to help at the event and for sponsors to help us cover the expenses. If you are interested in helping out please contact us at stjoh-rescue@gmail.com.

As you may know our funding from the government does not cover all our expenses so events such as this help us maintain our equipment, offer CPR courses to the community, supply oxygen to St. John emergency organizations, and provide necessary training to our responding members.

New Member Brent Fox

At our October meeting we welcomed Brent Fox as a responding member to St. John Rescue. Brent was a member of the Lake-Sumter EMS system in Florida. Lake-Sumter was chosen as the best EMS system in Florida two years ago. Brent was the training officer for the organization. We are very fortunate to have someone of Brent's caliber on our roster. He will be a great asset to St. John Rescue and to the people of St. John.

St. John Rescue is always looking for members of our community who can provide us with some of their time. If you are not inclined to be a responder we also need supporting members who can help with other functions. We need radio technicians, EMTs, business owners, retired business owners, computer techs, builders, teachers, or anyone who would like to give back to the community.

Believe me, the feeling you get from saving someone's life is indescribable. No money can buy that type of euphoria.

However, if you don't feel that you are up to responding to emergencies, no problem. Please talk to one of our rescue members to see where you can help out.

New Members Welcome for Training

If you have any inclination for being a part of our dynamic organization please stop by at our headquarters on Centerline Road in Pastory. We have regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month



St. John Tradewinds News Photo Courtesy of St. John Rescue

Bob Malacarne in a Hazmat suit.

starting at 7 p.m. We also train on the second, third and fourth Thursday evenings of each month starting at 7 p.m. at our headquarters.

The public is welcome to attend any of our functions. Feel free to stop by or just call me at (340) 626-5118, I am always happy to talk to anyone about St. John Rescue.

Our monthly CPR classes have been very well attended. Please consider taking a CPR class with us on the second Saturday of each month. The classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and usually last about 3 hours. Simply call me or send me an email at starvillas@msn.com to sign up for a class.

Since I will be off island during the month of November the next scheduled class will be Dec 13. The cost is \$30 per person. You will receive an in depth CPR class and if you are successful and pass you will be certified as a CPR provider by ASHI (American Safety and Health Institute). The certification is good

Continued on Page 19

DID YOU KNOW...

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

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

Call to add your registered non-profit to this list

**IT'S A SIMPLE SOLUTION:
Underwrite a yearly advertising budget
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.

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



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Senator at Large Craig Barshinger, left, listens as V.I. Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment co-chair Sen. Clarence Payne addresses testifiers at a hearing on a bill to ban disposable shopping bags in the territory.

Bill To Ban Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags

Continued from Page 7

and performed a play on the importance of reducing 'plastic carryout bags' that was performed for the Virgin Islands Senate and broadcast across the territory," the GHS educator reminded the senators.

Shopping Bags Saturate Environment

"Single-use, disposable plastic shopping bags are saturating our environment and killing our wildlife," testified Callwood. "I am out there (on and in the water) every day and witness the damage these bags do. The saddest thing is to see a coral smothered in a plastic bag."

"If you could see what I see you would be embarrassed for the islands," Callwood added. "Fortunately, we know how to fix the problem: Stop using disposable plastic shopping bags."

"There has been such an outcry," Budsan added. "If we don't deal with the environment we have a lot to lose."

"We've lived without them, we can live without them again," Callwood added of the ubiquitous plastic bags now used in most retail stores. "It's a passionate issue."

"We don't want single use plastic bags in the territory," Budsan asserted.

Sen. Sanes in Historic Skype Participation

Committee member Sen. Samuel Sanes appeared at the hearing from St. Croix via the Skype internet video calling system in the afternoon session, the first Skype appearance by a senator at a V.I. Senate hearing, after the historic morning session which saw the first electronic appearance by a testifier.

Sen. Sanes said he was concerned about the impact of the legislation on "mom and pop stores," and the testifiers in support of the bill shared with his concerns.

Budsan supported an amendment to the bill as proposed to "set it up so the business owner is com-

pensated for doing the right thing instead of paying to do the right thing," the environmentalist explained in extensive written comments on the legislation.

Compensation for Business Owners

"We recommend a charge at checkout of five (5) cents per bag for purchases under \$20, and that a multi-use bag be provided at no cost to the consumer with purchases over \$20 to encourage the public's acceptance of the stricter no-single-use rule to follow," Budsan testified. "In summary, we support a ban on any type of single-use bag or any material."

"We advocate for incentives directed at consumers as well as penalties for retailers to ensure the general use of multi-use bags," the environmentalist added. "This is the only way to permanently reduce the pressure on the waste stream WMA deals with and to minimize or eliminate the detrimental environmental effects and unsightly litter single-use bags of any type will produce."

"Emotionally you have totally convinced me," Sen. Barshinger said in response to Budsan's testimony. "(The key) is getting enough amendments in here to avoid creating a monster. I'd like to hear from more businesses."

"Members of the Hotel Association are strong supporters," Budsan told the committee. "We've got to move from doing harmful effects to the environment;

I'm urging the committee to move this forward — it has to move to rules (the Senate Rules Committee) to get this done," Budsan urged the committee members. "There is only one shot at this."

"It might look small today, but it could be a nightmare tomorrow," said committee vice chairman Sen. Clarence Payne who spoke of the "loss of whelks and white star fish" in the territory's waters and other damage due to environmental impacts.

To the Rescue: Ready and Trained for Any Emergency — Including Ebola

Continued from Page 17

for 2 years and is accepted world-wide. We have trained scores of people in the marine industry, health industry, hospitality, education and many private citizens.

Monthly Report

Over the past month we have responded to the following:

- Sept. 25 to Westin for a man who collapsed;
- Sept. 25 To MKS to transport a male to Gifft Hill;
- Sept. 27 to Trunk Bay for a female having a seizure; she was

transported by a private vehicle;

- Sept. 28 to Johnson Bay for minors who were in distress in a dinghy;

- Sept. 28 to Ram Head trail for a female with a compound fracture;

- Oct. 1 to Robertsville for a female in cardiac arrest;

- Oct. 15 to DeCastro Clinic for a female who passed out;

Training events:

- Oct. 9 – extrication training;

- Oct. 16 – training on medical

equipment;

- Oct. 23 – vehicle maintenance;

Events Attended

- Oct. 8 – Just Play event in Winston Wells Ball field

- Oct. 17 – Human Services, Project Homeless

The members of St. John Rescue are all volunteers who provide top quality support medical services to the people of St. John 24/7.

We are “ON CALL FOR LIFE.”

Crime Stoppers U.S. Virgin Islands *Burglary Vs. Robbery* *What is the Difference?*

St. John Tradewinds

In an effort to help you better understand certain crimes and tell the difference between them, here is a short note on burglary and a robbery. The crimes of burglary and robbery are very often confused with each other by anyone having little familiarity with the world of criminal justice; however there is a significant difference between the two crimes.

Both are considered to be property crimes in that they involve either the theft of property from an individual or the unlawful entry to a structure with the intent to steal or commit a felony. Burglary and robbery are both crimes that involve theft but it is the circumstances that surround each that define their difference. Robbery is defined by law as “taking or trying to take something that has value from someone by utilizing intimidation, force, or threat. In order for a robbery to take place, a victim must be present at the scene and can occur with a single victim or, in cases like bank hold ups, multiple victims.”

A burglary is defined by law as “the unlawful

entry into a structure to commit theft or a felony. In order for burglary to take place, a victim does not have to be present. When a burglary takes place, the structure being unlawfully entered can be any number of building types including business offices, personal homes, and even garden sheds. Burglary is not the term used for crimes committed on cars.”

This is part one of information-sharing on these two particular crimes occurring too frequently in our communities. The next installment will provide information on how to deter and protect yourself against these particular crimes. Crime Stoppers still needs your help to get information on various crimes that have been committed in our communities. If you know something, say something on the website, or by text or by phone.

Help make our islands a safer place to live and visit by telling us what you know about these, or any other crimes, at www.CrimeStoppersUSVI.org or by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also text “USVI” plus your message to CRIMES (274637).

10-26

CRYPTOQUIP

JY C NBSRCJY PXYF-SIYYJYF NXQJN ZBSJBZ,
TXI QJFOR NCPP ROB RJRPB NOCSCNRBS'Z
NOJBM MXB ROB CSNOJB-BYBQT.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals N

Who wants to SING!

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**Kristen
Carmichael-Bowers
Choral Director**



Children's Community Chorus
(Sponsored by Dept. of Sports, Park and Recreation)

Fridays: 3:30 - 4:30 Ages 7 - 10
(At Lumberyard)

A Capella Ensemble

Tuesdays/Thursdays: 3:45 - 4:45 Ages 11 - 18
(At Lumberyard)

St. John Women's Ensemble

Thursdays: 7:00 - 8:30 Ages 8 to 98
(children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult)
(At Main Building)



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779-4322
info@stjohnschoolofthearts.org

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Natural Livvy (Town/Fort Christian)
Forever Flowers (Friedman)



340-693-1559

WWW.REICHHOLDCENTER.ORG

University of the Virgin Islands

St. John Tradewinds Business Directory

Accommodations

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

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

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

Architecture

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

Art Galleries

Bajo el Sol Gallery
Located in Mongoose Junction
tel. 340-693-7070

Kimberly Boulon Fine Art Gallery
Located at The Marketplace
340-693-8524

Banking

Firstbank
Located in downtown Cruz Bay
340-776-6881

Furniture

Carlos Furniture - 340-693-0016
Located at Tutu Park Mall on STT
Free delivery and setup to St. John

Green Building

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

Insurance

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

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

Jewelry

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

Landscaping

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

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

Real Estate

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

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

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

Restaurants

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

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

Ocean 362
American Contemporary Cuisine
For reservations, call 340-776-0001

Skinny Legs
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www.skinnylegs.com

Services

C4th Custom Embroidery
tel. 779-4047
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Wedding Services

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

Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

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ALSO INCLUDED

ACROSS

- 1 Part of a car-stopping system
- 10 Revolved
- 17 Welcome —
- 20 Not in good spirits
- 21 Weaver turned into a spider
- 22 Word on a dollar bill
- 23 Leaving chamber groups high and dry?
- 25 "— favor" ("Please," to Pedro)
- 26 Son of Odin
- 27 Particular
- 28 Come — stop
- 29 Dr. T player Richard
- 30 Grasslike swamp plant
- 32 Former jrs.
- 33 Black-and-white stuffed animals?
- 36 Big public show
- 39 Altoids piece, e.g.
- 40 Nome site
- 41 Whirlpool site
- 44 Chute behind a boat
- 48 Greek X's
- 49 Showed the ideal way to touch down?
- 53 Abrade
- 57 With 56-Down, second self
- 58 Wiggly fish
- 59 Tristan's love
- 61 Lose tautness
- 62 Corrupted
- 65 Cure giver
- 66 Lhasa —
- 67 "No roving robbers will be harmed by what I'm

- doing"?
- 72 "Carpe —!"
- 73 Enchant
- 74 Navigator
- 76 Boat turner
- 77 One smoothing clothes
- 78 Paris' — de la Cité
- 81 Kate Nelligan film
- 82 Is radiant
- 84 Official orders telling folks to jog?
- 88 Distinctive doctrines
- 90 Comprising
- 91 Pindar poem
- 92 Boulevard
- 95 Silent sort
- 97 Dull impact
- 99 Noggin with a sweat absorber around it?
- 101 Stubborn equine
- 104 Branches
- 108 Associate
- 109 Six-legged marcher
- 110 Diner
- 113 Pertaining to flying craft
- 114 Crumpets' go-with
- 115 Superior to boxer Holyfield?
- 119 Lister's abbr.
- 120 Abroad, to Brits
- 121 Eschewer of traditional art forms
- 122 Erie-to-Norfolk dir.
- 123 Old Spanish money
- 124 Chances for success

DOWN

- 1 Wipes clean, in a way
- 2 Shot — arm
- 3 Young cod
- 4 Rush at
- 5 With 65-Down, Best

- Picture of 1959
- 6 Actor Foxx
- 7 R&B singer India. —
- 8 "Superman" family
- 9 Shortstop Renteria
- 10 Actor — Julia
- 11 "... boy — girl?"
- 12 Plaid cloth
- 13 Illustrate by gestures
- 14 Dismissal, informally
- 15 Doc for the neck up
- 16 — Plaines
- 17 Scooters' kin
- 18 Parka
- 19 Nun of Ávila
- 24 Grafton's "— for Quarry"
- 29 Grind teeth
- 31 Specialists
- 33 More gauzy
- 34 Oom- —
- 35 Guest of the Mad Hatter
- 37 Mouse —
- 38 Eye, to bards
- 39 Farrow or Wasikowska
- 41 Louver, e.g.
- 42 Like a king's home
- 43 Atypical protagonist
- 45 Senate vote
- 46 Meet socially
- 47 Rose of rock
- 48 A-list folks
- 50 Lees fabric
- 51 Certain H.S. exam
- 52 Kinks hit
- 54 Set as a goal
- 55 Buckled, as a seat belt
- 56 See 57-Across
- 60 "Damn!"
- 63 Fancy pitcher
- 64 Contributors
- 65 See 5-Down
- 66 Journalist — Rogers St.

- Johns
- 68 Half a "Mork & Mindy" farewell
- 69 Federal agts.
- 70 Furious
- 71 Required
- 72 Fido, for one
- 75 Stand up
- 77 Edition
- 78 Dismissal, informally
- 79 Big T-shirt size: Abbr.
- 80 Zoo bird
- 83 Full of gusts
- 85 Common reply to "Are you?"
- 86 Not ill-suited
- 87 Japanese drama form
- 89 Size below 79-Down: Abbr.
- 92 Lessens
- 93 Manservants
- 94 Intertwist
- 95 Middle, to Brits
- 96 Most recent
- 98 Feinstein of the Senate
- 100 Loathes
- 101 Relieved sigh
- 102 Notary's item
- 103 Caballero
- 105 Combat doc
- 106 Brittany city
- 107 Types
- 110 JFK data
- 111 Totally alter
- 112 Designer Saint Laurent
- 115 Punch lightly
- 116 12/31, e.g.
- 117 Stephen of the screen
- 118 French painter Jean

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Tennis Courts Undergoing Renovations

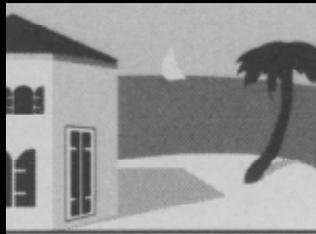


Major renovations are underway at the Cruz Bay Public Tennis Courts at Enighed Pond replacing the fencing and its supports.

Work began on Monday, October 20, and was progressing on Tuesday, October 21, above as old fencing had been taken down and some concrete posts removed.

St. John Tradewinds News
Photo by Tom Oat

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Dr. Bottiger Brings Unique Experience to Unique Challenges of GHS

By TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

GIFT & REGENBACK — After years of experience educating children and founding a tuition-free academy, Dr. Laurie Bottiger was preparing to work as a consultant in brain physiology and integrated curriculum when the call came from the consultant working to attract a new head of school to The Giffit Hill School on St. John.

Dr. Bottiger had capped her hands-on educational experience serving for two years as founding head of school at the tuition-free Esperanza Academy in Lawrence, Massachusetts, with students chosen by lottery and was planning to put her somewhat-esoteric academic foundation to work.

A experienced administrator, Dr. Bottiger was contacted in early October by the academic recruiter working Giffit Hill School to find a new leader for the only preschool through high school program on St. John, currently serving more than 160 students.

It didn't take the experienced educator long to decide that St. John could be her new academic laboratory.

"He told me 'I think Giffit Hill is going to go after a candidate now,'" Dr. Bottiger said. "It took me about 20 seconds to decide."

The mother of two grown children, "Dr. Laurie" as she is being called at Giffit Hill, will draw from her most recent experience with the tuition free Esperanza Academy to bring the school and the community closer together.

"I want to make sure that we can make this education available to everyone, so that we can make this school avail-



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

New Giffit Hill School Head Dr. Laurie Bottiger talks with seniors John Spinale and Alex Ray as they prepare to hang artwork for their project related to the classic novel "1984".

able to any family" Dr. Bottiger said in an on-campus interview on Thursday, October 23. "We can be the best of both worlds,"

"It's an honor to be here," added the educator, who was busy interacting with students on the dual-campus school at the end of her first week on island.

Dr. Bottiger has more than two decades of experience in education, including service as founding head of school at Esperanza Academy and as head of The Country School in Madison, Connecticut.

Bottiger stood out as a candidate because of her love for children, her immersion in educational theory that can support students' healthy development, her commitment to making education meaningful in diverse communities, and her track record of bringing in the resources necessary to provide challenge and nurture within a meaningful curriculum and a strong community, according to the Giffit Hill School selection announcement.

"Dr. Bottiger will bring vision, enthusiasm, and commitment to the role of Head of School," said Miles Stair, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, in the announcement of her selection as head of school. "Dr. Bottiger has a deep background in education and administration that meshes beautifully with Giffit Hill School's vision of academic excellence and community access to our offerings."

"I am honored to be selected to lead Giffit Hill School," Dr. Bottiger said.

Dr. Bottiger received her B.A. in elementary education from Edinboro University, her M.A. in early childhood education from Northwest Missouri State University, and her Ph.D. in teaching and curriculum from the University of Kansas. She also has earned an educational specialist certificate in education administration from Central Missouri State and a certificate in non-profit leadership and management from Boston University.

Giffit Hill School interim leader Beth Knight, who brought her consistent love of children and care for the whole community to that role, has resumed her role as Lower Campus Principal and is assisting Dr. Bottiger in the transition.

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