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ST. JOHN WINDS

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

JESS Elementary Boys Basketball Team Wins District Championship

St. John Tradewinds

They did it again!

Julius E. Sprauve School Elementary Boys Basketball team under the direction of Coach Clarence Stephenson won the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation's St. John/St. Thomas District Elementary Championship for the second time in three years.

After winning the District Championship on their way to taking the Territorial title in 2013, the JESS boys came up short last year with a young team.

This year, the team is back in top form. In their 32-20 win over New Testament, the team was led by their big three of Kaleem Powell with 12 points, David Marsh Jr. with eight rebounds and Nekwante Sprauve with seven assists. Powell was named MVP of the game.

Coach Stephenson and the JESS Elementary Boys Basketball team are waiting to hear from Sports, Parks and Recreation officials about the date and location of the territorial championship game against the St. Croix District champs.

In the meantime, the team is preparing for action in the Roy Peterson Memorial Tournament on St. Thomas in May.

Congratulations JESS!



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by NeQuan Lewis

Pictured standing (L to R) Leon Faselle, Rahkiim Penn, Kaleem Powell, Shayne Morris, Ashuan Hendrington, Ledwin Fuentes, Coach Clarence Stephenson. Kneeling (L to R) Waderi Powell, David Marsh Jr., Nekwante Sprauve, Melvin Burgos, Eleto Skahill, and Tyreke Thomas.

Pesticide Instructions Warn of **Use of Toxic Chemicals** in Multi-Unit **Structures**

EPA "Strongly Urges" ACOE To Deny Summer's End Group Marina Application

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Exec. Director Dow Tells St. John Residents What VIPA Has Planned for STJ



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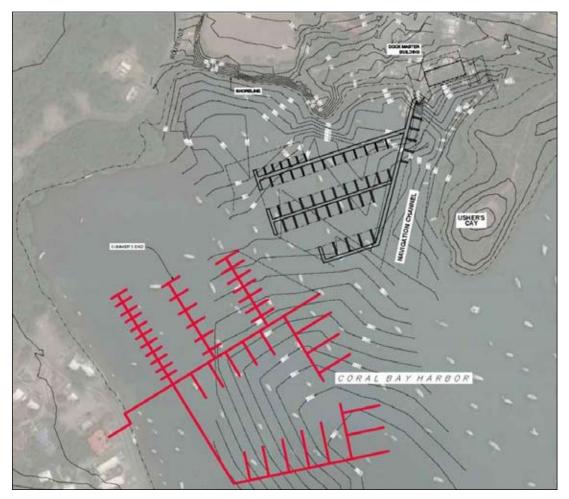
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Room for 68 Moor?



St. John Tradewinds News Graphic Courtesy of Sirius/T-Rex

CORAL BAY – The plans for the 92-slip marina proposed for inner Coral Harbor inside Usher's Cay were unveiled on Saturday, March 28, showing the developers altered their development plans by eliminating "about 10 slips" to fit their docks inside the confine created when a competing marina proposal extended more than 900 feet from the opposite shore of the harbor. The 92-slips proposed by a group now known as the Sirius /T-Rex St. John LLC Resort and Marina would bring the total number proposed between the two marina projects to 232, less than Coral Bays 300 capacity the developers claim the body of water can support.

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The Community Newspaper Since 1972

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

CIRCULATION

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Sen. Harrigan Sets St. John Hours

Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr. announces that beginning Monday, March 30, he and members of his staff will be working from the St. John Legislative Annex twice a month.

"I want to be accessible to the needs of the St. John residents," Harrigan said. "Working out of the St. John Legislative Annex will provide them with the convenience they need in meeting with my staff or myself in handling their issues."

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

"This Monday, March 30, my staff and I will have our first office hours on St. John to serve the residents that need assistance or want to voice their concerns," Harrigan said. "Residents may call and make an appointment or simply walk-in."

St. John residents wishing to make appointments to meet with the senator or who wish to know what days he will be on St. John should call the office at 693-3577.

Town Hall Meeting Set for April 9

While he has been meeting with small groups for some time, Senator-at-Large, Almando "Rocky" Liburd will host a series of town hall meetings, with the first being on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m. at the Legislative Annex in Cruz Bay.

Property taxes, Cruz Bay traffic, St. John Rescue, V.I. National Park issues and other matters will be discussed.

Moravian Prayer Breakfast April 11

The Bethany Moravian Board of Stewards is hosting an Inspirational Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 11, from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Come and be spirit-filled by a powerful woman of God, Sister Marie Luke of the Cavalry Baptist Church of Coral Bay.

Tickets are \$12 and are available from church members or call (340) 776-6291 or e-mail Opti93@yahoo.com.

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.

Cid Hamling To Speak at UUF Service

Join Cid Hamling at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (UUF) of St. John Service on Sunday, April 5 at 10 a.m. at Gifft Hill School Lower Campus for the topic: The Phoenix Rises.

Hamling will share the history and experience of being raised in the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta in the 1950s and 1960s.

Pesticide Instructions Warn of Use of Toxic Chemical in Multi-Unit Structures Like Sirenusa

By TOM OAT St. John Tradewinds

ENIGHED — The label on the fumigating chemical which replaced the strictly regulated insecticide Methyl Bromide may provide the key to the tragic incident resulting from the apparent illegal application of the colorless and odorless gas on a unit in the Sirenusa condominiums and the apparently resultant poisoning of a Delaware family of four vacationing in the adjacent unit.

All four family members, regular visitors to the island who are "big St. John fans," remained in critical condition in a stateside hospital after being airlifted out of the territory the weekend after they were overcome in the early morning hours of Friday, March 20, according to family friend and spokesperson Delaware Attorney James Maron.

"Three (Stephen Esmond and sons Sean and Ryan) remain in induced comas in critical condition," Atty. Maron told St. John Tradewinds on Thursday, March 26.

Stephen Esmond and his wife Dr. Theresa Devine, both 49, and the couples two teenage sons live in Wilmington, Delaware. Esmond is a veteran administrator and teacher at the private school the couple's sons attend.

"One (Dr. Theresa Devine) "is out of a coma and doing better than the others," the family friend added.

The chemicals "bio-accumulated and



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Tom Oat

Federal and territorial environmental officials investigated the Sirenusa condominiums overlooking Cruz Bay in the aftermath of the accidental poisoning of a visiting family by pesticides used in one unit of the complex March 18.

metabolized (in the victims' bodies) until it became an acute poisoning," Atty. Maron explained to an internet news service.

The two teenage boys began having seizures early Friday morning, according to St. John Tradewinds sources.

The family "began having seizures

in the middle of the night and their lungs stopped working," Maron affirmed in subsequent media reports. "They all had to be intubated. This is serious stuff."

(Emergency first responders on St. John are awaiting the results of blood tests to determine their exposure to the hazardous

"When fumigating a single unit/room within or connected to a larger structure (such as town houses, apartments, condominiums) all units in the entire structure must be vacated during the fumigation and aeration periods."

> - Warning label on the pesticide Vikane, the industry replacement for Methyl Bromide for use in structural fumigation

chemicals while on the scene of the poisoning at Sirenusa early Friday morning, March 20. EMT members of the volunteer St. John Rescue joined V.I. Emergency Medical Services first responders on the scene of the poisoning and were there "probably about an hour," according to a senior member. St. John Rescue does not have emergency breathing apparatuses, a member confirmed.)

"As the EPA investigation proceeds I await their results," Atty. Maron told a Delaware on-line news service.

Continued on Page 19

Governor Mapp Meets With U.S. Environmental Officials Over Family's Pesticide Poisoning on St. John

St. John Tradewinds CHARLOTTE AMALIE

In the wake of a Delaware family being exposed to toxic chemicals at Sirenusa Residences on St. John, V.I. Governor Kenneth E. Mapp has met with Judith Enck, Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and said he is confident that the combined resources of the local government and the EPA will ensure a thorough investigation and satisfactory resolution of all issues raised by this regrettable

meeting with Enck, the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) issued a Stop Use Order to the company which used the pesticide, which was allegedly methyl bromide. The entire inventory of the pesticide was placed under quarantine, while local authorities and EPA personnel collaborated to determine how to remove and store it appropriately. There is a concurrent investigation underway to determine how and where the product has been used elsewhere in the Territory.

The Governor commended Following the Governor's the volunteers of St. John Rescue for their efficient response to the emergency. He also praised the medical and social services professionals at Schneider Regional Medical Center for providing the treatment necessary to stabilize the patients, and further providing for their expedited transfers to the U.S. mainland.

The parents and their two sons continue to undergo treatment after suspected exposure to the restricted pesticide, methyl bromide, which was contained in a pest control product used in a rental unit in the same building. Initially, the family members were treated and stabilized

locally, before being transferred to medical facilities on the U.S. mainland, where their conditions are described as critical but stable.

"The people of the U.S. Virgin Islands pray for the full recovery of the Esmond family. We will continue to do all that is possible to determine how this unprecedented event occurred, and to prevent it from ever happening in the future," said Mapp. 'Our residents and visitors can remain confident in the quality and readiness of our healthcare services. For that we are thank-

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St. JohnTradewinds News Photo

An artist's rendering of the proposed SEG marina shows how it would fill Coral Harbor with mega-yachts.

EPA "Strongly Urges" ACOE To Deny Summer's End Group's Marina Application

By JAIME ELLIOTT St. John Tradewinds

Environmental Protection Agency officials dealt a blow to Summers End Group's plans to construct a 145-slip mega-marina in Coral Bay, urging the federal Army Corps of Engineers to deny the permit.

The community group Save Coral Bay, which formed to oppose SEG's marina project, received copies of official comment letters sent from four federal agencies to ACOE, including EPA's letter, explained David Silverman, one of the principal organizers of the community group.

"We received copies of letters to ACOE from federal agencies and we are thrilled with the observations they made including the EPA which enumerated all the concerns about the impacts to the aquatic resources of Coral Bay," said Silverman.

EPA officials "strongly" urged ACOE to deny the marina application and went even a took a strong step toward protecting Coral Bay by designating the area an Aquatic Resources of National Importance (ARNI), Silverman explained.

"In order for a body of water to be considered ARNI, it has to do with the special characteristics of the water, the species at home there and the rarity of those species," Silverman said. "This is the case with Hurricane Hole and the sea turtles, sharks and more in the bay. There are so many characteristics that make Coral Bay special."

Sending SEG a further blow, Coral Bay's ARNI designation allows EPA officials the final say in any potential development affecting the body of water, explained Silverman.

"When a project is in an ARNI area and if that project will create an adverse impact to the aquatic resource the EPA has the ultimate veto power over ACOE," said the community activist. "If the Army Corps issues a permit which EPA does not comply with, the EPA has the authority to veto that permit. The EPA strongly recommended denial of SEG's permit for this project."

"By virtue of the fact that EPA recommended denial of SEG's permit, and declared Coral Bay an ARNI, if the Army Corps were not to comply with EPA's recommendation, they [EPA] have the veto power," said Silverman. "It was very rewarding to see that.

Save Coral Bay also received copies of letters to ACOE from National Marine Fisheries Service officials who opposed SEG's marina and cited concerns about impacts to essential fish habitat, nursing grounds and spawning grounds for commercially viable fish species, according to Silverman.

"Both NMFS and EPA clearly urged Army Corps to immediately deny the permit application," said Silverman.

A letter from National Park Service officials outlined their concerns for the V.I. National Park and the Coral Reef National Monument in Hurricane Hole, Silverman added.

"The National Park Service wrote a moving letter in which they identified concerns that the

Continued on Page 18

Exec. Director Dow Tells St. John Residents What VIPA Has Planned for Island

By TOM OAT St. John Tradewinds

- A public Virgin Islands Port Authority facility – boat launch, boat landing or dock – in Coral Bay?
- A useable public boat launch in Cruz Bay not controlled by the Virgin Islands National Park?
- An Enighed Pond dock and market facility for island fishermen to tie their boats and sell their catch?
- The first and only St. John marina adjacent to the Theovald Eric Moorehead Marine Facility in Enighed Pond?

CRUZ BAY — The Monday, March 23, public hearing at the St. John Legislature was called to give St. John residents an "open forum" with V.I. Port Authority Executive Director Carlton Dow.

The good news from Dow was the V.I. Port Authority has plans "to spend some money on St. John," according to the VIPA Executive Director.

But the bad news is the spending only will be on revenue-producing projects that pay for themselves, according to Dow.

Two Years Into Lifetime Job

Former V.I. Senator Dow, two years into his appointment to one of the most powerful positions in the territory, browbeat the audience of more than 70 St. John residents with his sense of fiscal responsibility for his semi-autonomous agency.

Residents invited to "come and listen to the V.I. Port Authority's Upcoming Plans for St. John" were told the autonomous government agency was planning to increase free cargo storage space at Enighed Pond while eliminating most of Cruz Bay's free public parking in the temporary gravel lot adjacent to the port facility.

VIPA planners also are considering an expansion of the capacity of the covered waiting area and possibly add a second-story restaurant above the ticket office at the Loredon L. Boynes Ferry Terminal, Dow proffered.

No VIPA Role in Coral Bay

The V.I. Port Authority owns no property on Coral Bay, the largest harbor on St. John, Dow said in response to an early audience question about VIPA role in the development plans proposed for the island's most controversial marine resource.

After a quick confirmation from his attending panel of VIPA executives Dow thus put an end to any further questions about any VIPA involvement in the peaceful-



St. JohnTradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

V.I. Port Authority Executive Director Carlton Dow, right, addressed St. John residents at the March 23 hearing with St. John Administrator Camille Paris.

ly-co-existing marina plans roiling one of the largest natural harbors in the eastern Caribbean.

Completing Enighed Pond Port

The Port Authority will also be completing the cargo area in the original plans for the Theovald Eric Moorehead Marine Facility at Enighed Pond adjacent to the "temporary" free public parking between the tennis courts and the filled area, Dow announced.

The filled land adjacent to the port's waterfront apron had to be left to dry and settle before being developed as a cargo area, according to VIPA. The free public parking lot along Route 102 was actually constructed on property destined to become a cargo han-

dling area, Dow related.

"Next week that should go out to bid," Dow said of the project, valued at "several hundred thousands."

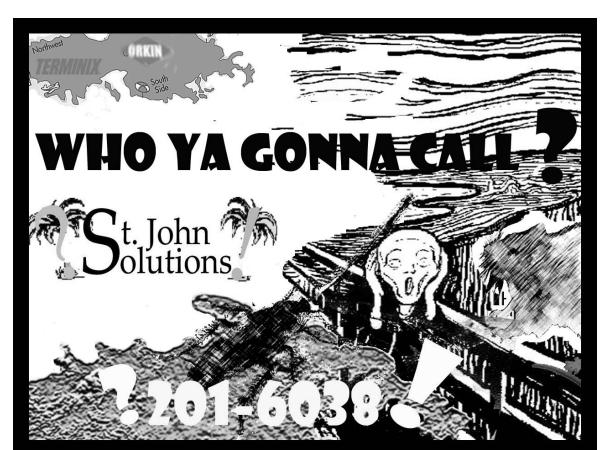
There was no mention of the future use of the large filled area in front of The Marketplace adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant and the entrance to VIPA's car ferry ramp that has been use for commercial trailer and container parking since shortly after the Enighed facility was constructed.

Eliminating Free Parking

Although the Cruz Bay public parking situation has continued to worsen with more paid lots and more nighttime businesses, the V.I. Port Authority has firmly reasserted its claim to any parking area adjacent to the Enighed Pond facility, Dow said.

The VIPA executive director was questioned about the future of Cruz Bay business parking and all-day commuter parking in the short-term, short-term lot across from the U.S. Post Office in Cruz Bay, but Dow focused on VIPA's plans for Enighed Pond gravel lot.

The free parking at Enighed *Continued on Page 17*



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A Cancer Conversation in the "Emperor's" Court

By JUDI SHIMEL St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — The gathering at the Cruz Bay Legislature was modest on a Friday night. They were there to view a film about cancer. But perhaps the most compelling moment of the evening occurred when the lights came up and the screening of Cancer: Emperor of All Maladies.

That's when a discussion began between a doctor, a cancer survivor, the head of the American Cancer Society and the small audience gathered there. It was the last of thee discussions held since last week on St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John. A film crew from WTJX captured the questions and comments.

Organizers said between March 19 on St. Croix and March 27 on St.

John about 70 VI residents attended the screening, based on a book by Siddhartha Mukherjee. WTJX Development Director Cherise Ceque Quain served as moderator for the talk that followed. It began with a personal story told by Shondia McFadden-Sabari.

McFadden-Sabari, a survivor of double breast cancer, started the non-profit, Bold and Breastless, after undegoing surgery in 2011. According to information posted on her web site, the group's mission is to support breast cancer patients and those who are close to them in meeting the challenges that come along with illness. She told a stoy about surviving neglect and abandonment as a child, only to face that situation again as she asked relatives to visit her in the hospital after having her breasts

removed

She also spoke about the stength she found through the relationship with her husband Wali Sabari, a military serviceman on deployment at the time the diagnosis came. Sabari sat quietly in the audience in Cruz Bay. Outside the room, he said he and Shondra had spent the past few years travelling across the U.S., purusing her cancer fighting mission.

It took some cajoling from Creque to get the audience to participate. Three elderly sisters took turns telling their tale. Two had battled cancer, one had not. Eugenia Hill said she was the first to find a lump, back in the 1980s. It was found early, she said, she undewent treatment. But she directed most of her comments towards her sister, Eva Blackwood.

Hill said she was struck by the courage Blackwood showed during her cancer fight. She remembered traveling to Puerto Rico to visit her sister as she underwent treatment. Picking up the story from there, Blackwood said in those days, Puerto Rico was where treatment could be found.

She also described the catch as catch can routine of flying over to see a doctor not knowing if treatment would require a hospital stay, meeting medical personnel who spoke only Spanish, staying in a hotel room while undegoing treatment and returning home on a plane, often alone.

And because of a recurrence of her illness, ten years apart, it was something Blackwood said she experienced twice. "Thank God I'm still here," she said. The third sister, Emma Penn, said she felt deeply for her two sisters and their ordeal. Although cancer hadn't visited her she said there were other conditions that did and she understood what it meant to endure.

Onocologist Dr. Erole Hobdy listened to the sisters' stories. She said when she first heard about Virgin Islands cancer patients having to make the trip to Puerto Rico in the 80s, 90s and early 2000s she was shocked. In more recent times the Charlotte Kimmelman Cancer Institute opened and began offering diagnostic and treatment services on St. Thomas.

About 55 people on St. Thomas gathered at CKCI March 26 to see the documentary, to hear from the panelists and to ask questions.

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



Elections Board Considers May St. John Meeting

By JUDI SHIMEL St. John Tradewinds

ST. THOMAS — Plans to address the needs of the voters living on St. John were discussed at a recent meeting of the St. Thomas-St. John Board of Elections and District board chairman Arturo Watlington was persuaded by St. John members Alecia Wells and Ivy Moses to take a broader view about reaching out to those who exercise the right to choose their elected leaders in light of changing circumstances.

Officials chose May 21 as the date of their scheduled monthly meeting and said they would announce the venue shortly, with an eye towards meeting at the Battery in Cruz Bay. They also dispatched Assistant Elections Supervisor Angel Bolques to visit Gifft Hill School to explore new sites around the island to hold voter registration.

Newly elected district board member Moses urged Watlington to think about the changing residential patterns taking place on the island. No longer are residents concentrated in either Cruz Bay or Coral Bay, she said.

Veteran St. John board member Wells stressed the need to relocate the island's election office in Contant-Enighed because of accessibility issues. Most voter registration on St. John takes place at that location, except for localized registrations taking place during election season.

After the meeting, Moses said she felt the board had taken an important step on behalf of their constituents.

"I think we will finally hear first hand what the board's thoughts about St. John are," she said.

Among the topics that may come up at the May 21 meeting is early voting.

The 30th Legislature approved an early voting provision in 2014, but for technical reasons St. Croix and St. John were not fully able to accommodate voters over the 10-day period set aside ahead of the General Election.

Port Authority Is Taking Control of Cruz Bay Unfettered Waterfront Taxi Stand Operations



St. JohnTradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

All spaces To Be VIPA Taxi Stand?

A police officer writes a parking ticket for a taxi parked in spaces owned by Property and Procurement which were designated for use by villa management companies to meet arriving guests.

St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — The V.I. Port Authority has plans for its Cruz Bay waterfront taxi stand property — and any more government property VIPA can get under its control, VIPA Executive Director Carlton Dow told his audience at the March 23 St. John town meeting.

VIPA plans "to try to make sure we have some semblance of order" at the Cruz Bay waterfront," Dow said sternly. "Unless the board tells me otherwise."

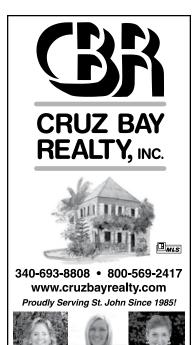
As St. John Taxi Medallion holders seek to replace the moribund St. John Taxi organizations after years of contention between ever-changing factions, Dow played hardball.

"It is our intention to go forward with a request for proposals to manage it," Dow announced, acknowledging that a few of the waterfront spaces "belong to (the Department of) Property and Procurement and VIPA was seeking their transfer.

"Any management agreement would be on a "short term basis... probably about 3-4 years," the VIPA executive director elaborated. "It's not going to be someone takes over the facility."

VIPA will work with any St. John taxi organization interested in pursuing a management contract — "those people who are part of this association; those people who have medallions," Dow said.

"It will be advertised requesting proposals for the operation of the taxis in the entire area," the VIPA executive director said. "This is something we expect to do in short order."







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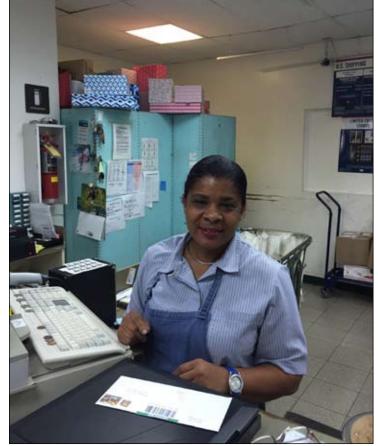


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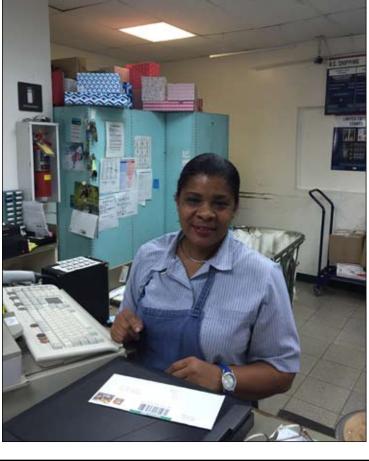
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VINP + USPS = 34 Years

Jackie Clendinen was counting the hours left in her career behind the counter in Cruz Bay on Saturday, March 28, with her impending retirement at the end of March after 34 years of service with the V.I. National Park and the U.S. Postal Service.

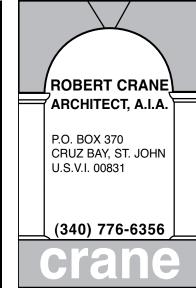


St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat









The Longboard Restaurant and Bar Opens in Former Joe's Diner

St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — The muchanticipated opening of The Longboard restaurant and bar in the heart of Cruz Bay is slated for the week of April 6.

The Longboard is a "coastal cantina" celebrating the adventurous yet laid back ocean lifestyle of the islands. After an extensive remodel from the previous Joe's Diner, The Longboard will offer a bright, beachy and fun location with a focus on modern design. The space has been expertly laid out to comfortably accommodate 60 guests with seating at the bar, bar tables and porch.

The Longboard will serve fresh, healthy foods inspired by Southern California and the Caribbean, along with an extensive

drink menu with specialty cocktails, according to a the owners, Clint Gaskins and Tyler Beckstead, who have loved St. John for the last decade and had the island on their radar for quite some time as a destination to open their first restaurant together.

Restaurant Veterans

Originally from Charleston, South Carolina, Gaskins is an industry veteran with more than 17 years experience in high-end restaurants, bars and hotels. Beckstead has more than 15 years experience in restaurants, bars and charter boat services in Charleston, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Bahamas and Hawaii.

The kitchen will be headed by Chef Anthony Fossani whose cooking resume includes Michelin Star New York restaurant Oceana as well as country clubs and working in the mega yacht industry. Fossani brings serious talent and an expertise in creating a balanced fusion of cuisines to tantalize taste buds.

Their combined expertise offers up a knowledgeable team to bring a new drinking and dining option to Cruz Bay.

"Our goal is to offer fresh, quality foods and drinks at affordable prices," says Gaskins, "We will source as much as we can locally, and bring unique, innovative concepts that will be new for St. John."

The menu will feature healthy, fresh options like gourmet tacos, baja bowls, avocado dishes, ceviches and ahi dishes, all with a Caribbean flair using local spices, locally-caught seafood, and herbs, greens and fruits, according to Gaskins.

The Longboard will also offer many gluten-free items, even having an option to have tacos served atop quinoa. Menu items will range from \$5 to \$22.

The bar menu will be fresh and innovative, featuring fresh squeezed fruits, muddled herbs and spices, house made sodas, liqueurs and syrups using real cane sugar. Popular Caribbean cocktails will have a creative twist, using house-made fresh ginger beer on tap, oak barrel aged cocktails and house-made sodas such as an elderflower/grapefruit soda.

The Longboard's kitchen will serve from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m., the bar will be open from 11 a.m. until close and happy hour will be from 3-7 p.m. featuring various drink specials including \$4 frozen painkillers and Dark & Stormys on tap, \$5 signature cocktails, \$5 wine and \$1 off beers.

The Longboard will also offer private events for weddings, welcome parties, corporate events, birthdays and more, as well as catering.











St. JohnTradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

The Longboard is a "coastal cantina" celebrating the adventurous yet laid back ocean lifestyle of the islands, according to its creators. After an extensive remodel from the previous Joe's Diner, The Longboard will offer a bright, beachy and fun location with a focus on modern design, according to its publicist. The space has been laid out to comfortably accommodate 60 guests with seating at the bar, bar tables and porch. The neighboring establishments are already planning a massive block party to welcome their new competitor.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Friends of the National Park App will feature augmented reality which turns restored ruins into images of real life structures.

Friends Mobile Computer Application "App" Is Free V.I. National Park Interpretive Guide

By RAVEN PHILLIPS St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — The Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park hope their ambitious mobile computer application or "app" for the VINP which functions as a portable ranger to take with visitors over the park's many trails and inspect the various ruins that St. John has to offer.

"I've been working with software and computer programming since the early 90s," explained Jon Eichner of his work in the development of the interactive mobile app

The idea of creating an app came from a supporter of the park and the Friends organization and the project was highlighted at the recent annual fundraising gala for the Friends.

"The idea of creating a Friends App began as a suggestion from a generous donor who contributed funds specifically toward creating an app focusing on the park," explained Eichner.

"The app will feature pure park information," Eichner continued. This information will be centered on the core beliefs of Friends of Virgin Islands National Park: Protect, Preserve and Educate, he

"Initially we will cover the



Friends App

most popular parts of the park, the beaches, historical sites, boating, flora, fauna, hiking and expand from there through future updates, Eichner said."

Pure Park Information

Eichner has a long connection to the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park.

"When I first moved St. John in 2010 I volunteered to help build the ADA accessible walk way and trail system at Cinnamon Bay," he related. "I also work with the Friends in managing their website and other things. My wife and I regularly volunteer with the Beach to Beach Power Swim."

"The app will feature pure park information," Eichner continued. This information will be centered on the core beliefs of Friends of Virgin Islands National Park: Protect, Preserve and Educate, he added.

"Initially we will cover the most popular parts of the park, the beaches, historical sites, boating, flora, fauna, hiking and expand from there through future updates, Eichner said."

"I like the idea of incorporating education messages into mobile apps that appeal to a younger audience, which I realize is nothing revolutionary, but I feel that as these electronic devices take up more and more our children's time it's important to provide a positive message around it," explained Eichner. "I really truly enjoy what I do. I guess in a way it lets me remain a kid at heart - in a more socially positive and 'responsible' adult way."

Video Clip and Augmented Reality

Eichner was more than happy to elucidate the technical features of the app.

"Social Media integration will allow park users to share their experiences with their friends and are working out some details on a park virtual passport program," the designer explained. "(The app will feature) GPS technology so you can find more information about where you are in the park or you can navigate through a traditional user interface."

Continued on Page 16



Canines, Cats & Critters Our new location is 2.5 miles out of Cruz Bay on Centerline Road (next to Moses' Laundromat)

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BEST OF BOTH WORLDS thanks all of the talented artists who participated in this year's Friday Night Fetés as well as everyone who supported them and the gallery.

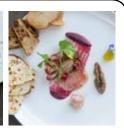
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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Unburied Historical Treasure

CRUZ BAY — The handful of rusted antique canons, which had been buried in the sands of Cruz Bay beach adjacent to the Battery for decades, were carefully moved on March 26 by Department of Public Works employee "Justice" and put into safe storage on the grounds of the historic building where they formerly stood guard.

St. John Film Society To Present "Tie It Into My Hand" As Part of Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation's On Screen/In Person Tour

St. John Tradewinds

The St. John Film Society will present *Tie It Into My Hand* on Tuesday, April 7, at the St. John School of the Arts in Cruz Bay. A \$5 donation is requested at the door.

On Screen/In Person is designed to bring some of the best new independent American films and their respective filmmakers to communities across the mid-Atlantic region. The filmmakers will tour with their films and work with the host sites to provide audiences context and greater appreciation for their respective work and the art of film.

Tie It Into My Hand by Director Paul Festa

At once entertaining and deeply insightful, Tie It Into My Hand is an unprecedented look at the life of an artist, told entirely through interviews with pre-eminent directors, filmmakers, visual artists, writers and performers, including Alan Cumming, Barbara Hammer, Peter Coyote, and Harold Bloom, among many others. The filmmaker challenges each of the artists he interviews to teach him a violin lesson, though none of them is a violinist, prompting fascinating discussions of the joys and challenges of life as an artist, including how a chronic hand injury curtailed the filmmaker's own musical career and redirected his artistic path.

Director Paul Festa will be on hand for questions and answers following the screening.

Filmmaker, actor, musician and writer Paul Festa creates work which relates to the performing arts and their role in society. His current project, Tie It Into My Hand (2014), was screened as a work in progress at the Cannes film market and at the ODC Theatre in San Francisco. Festa also produced, wrote and edited the Emmy-nominated documentary *Stage Left: A Story of Theatre in San Francisco* with director Austin Forbord and is the author of *OH MY GOD: Messiaen in the Ear of the Unbeliever*, based on his first film, *Apparition of the Eternal Church* (2006).

Get Inspired at Island Muse Boutique

— A Local Creative Collective in Coral Bay

By JAIME ELLIOTT St. John Tradewinds

Bursting with color and creativity, Island Muse Boutique recently opened in the Town and Country Building across from Skinny Legs in Coral Bay.

The "local creative collective" is exactly that; an inviting space where the discerning shopper will find whimsical artwork, all natural bug spray, delicate jewelry and more.

Island Muse Boutique is the brain child of three talented women, Emily Kernan, Thais Taylor and Lena Adeline Greenstone. The idea of opening a space to share their creations and inspire others to create had been simmering for quite a while, explained Kernan.

"We had this idea last season to open a place but we thought it would be more a studio space," Kernan said. "We looked a few spots, but we couldn't find the right location. Then this space became available and we decided to do more of an artists collective instead of a studio alone."

With open space located just next door to the shop, however, Kernan said the ladies do hope to offer some classes in the future, so the studio idea has not been entirely abandoned.

"We'd like to host an activity that brings people together," Kernan said. "We're thinking things like wine and watercolor classes and things like that."

While all three partners sell their creations at the shop, the eclectic collection at Island Muse Boutique includes everything from fine jewelry to hand-painted glassware.

Kernan makes an all natural bug spray called Citizens of Na"We're having so much fun," said Kernan. "The best part for me is when an artist comes in to drop off her stuff and you see that light in their eye. They usually say something like, 'Thank you, I'm so inspired to create more work now."

ture and creates heat press jewelry and bookmarks featuring bold geometric patterns and beautiful St. John beach scenes. Taylor, a yoga and Stand Up Paddle Board instructor, also sells her Solshine line of lavender eye masks, herbal tea blends and healthy victuals at Island Muse Boutique.

Greenstone is the fine artist in the group and her cheerful and whimsical paintings are offered in a variety of sizes throughout the shop. Her series of cupcakes and colorful tarts look good enough to nibble on while her portrait of a woman sporting oversized sunglasses is magnetic.

In addition to the owners' art work, Island Muse Boutique also offers hand-painted glasses by Stepho, Caribbean Hook Bracelets by Maya, gold plated custom necklaces and rings by Katherine Allen, rings, pendants, bracelets and wall hangings by Tiny Tile Mosaics, woodwork, underwater photography and more.

"We have a total of about 15 local artists who we are currently featuring," said Kernan. "We are really advocating local artists and

hand made creations. We are trying to get as many people involved as possible."

"We want to generate that energy and that spark when an artist feels that need to create," she said.

Since opening their doors in early February, the women have enjoyed strong positive response from the community, Kernan explained.

"It's done a lot better than any of us thought," she said. "We just closed our first month and we were shocked at how well the store was received and the energy and excitement about it. People really enjoy the local art and products that we offer."

In addition to offering visitors and residents a place to support local artists, Island Muse Boutique has also been a labor of love for Kernan, she added.

"We're having so much fun," said Kernan. "The best part for me is when an artist comes in to drop off her stuff and you see that light in their eye. They usually say something like, 'Thank you, I'm so inspired to create more work now."

Get inspired and stop by Island Muse Boutique on the second floor of the Town and Country Building across from Skinny Legs in Coral Bay. The shop is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about Island Muse Boutique and the shop's latest happenings, check out the page on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/islandmuseboutique.

It's Not My Boat!



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

CRUZ BAY — VITRAN ferry *Cruz Bay I* sits at the Loredon L. Boynes Terminal on Cruz Bay Beach on a lazy Sunday afternoon, March 29, amid reports deJongh Administration officials may have mislead the public when they announced the red tape which had kept the new federally-funded ferries out of service for almost a year after their arrival in the territory had been resolved in November 2014. The ferry franchise operators, meanwhile, have played along with the Department or Public Works. Which might or might not explain why the *Red Hook I* was quickly repaired after a pontoon was damaged in striking the dock while coming in to the Cruz Bay terminal earlier this year.









Villa Lumineria in Estate Upper Carolina offers 270-degree views only minutes from Coral Bay.



On the Market

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







Soak Up 270-degree Water Views at Villa Lumineria

By JAIME ELLIOTT St. John Tradewinds

Villa Lumineria boasts one of the best locations on St. John and offers one of the most impressive views.

This three bedroom, three and a half bathroom villa in Estate Upper Carolina is for sale and was recently reduced to \$2.19 million, explained Merry Nash of Islandia Real Estate/Seaglass Properties.

Villa Lumineria is tucked on hillside in the desirable, convenient and all paved Estate Upper Carolina neighborhood.

The home is only a few minutes from the fun and funky restaurants and shops of Coral Bay. The famed alabaster beaches of the North Shore are also only a short drive away

Nestled on a full half acre of professionally landscaped property, Villa Lumineria's bordering neighbor to the north is the Virgin Islands National Park, which means the peace and tranquility will never be a thing of the past.

This impressive villa boasts seemingly endless water views. You'll never tire of gazing out over Sir Francis Drake Channel to the British Virgin Islands dotting the horizon to the north. Or you can watch the sleepy boats bobbing on their moorings down in peaceful Coral Bay harbor to the south.

It won't be difficult to spend an afternoon lounging by the refreshing designer swimming pool with a waterfall feature. Or curl up with a good book on the upper deck near the hot tub. Expansive deck space, a wet bar and those stunning views round out the exciting outdoor features at Villa Lumineria.

Inside, find a spacious great room with numerous windows and glass sliders that literally bring those views right inside. The chef's kitchen has been recently updated and features stainless steel appliances, hard wood cabinets and granite counter tops.

Host dinner parties for friends either at the indoor

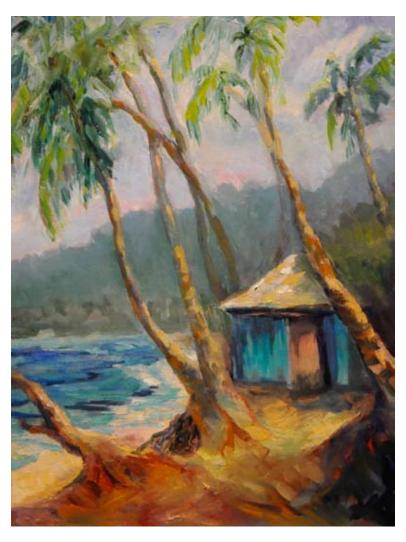
dinning area or enjoy the cooling trade winds as you entertain under the gazebo on the outdoor dinning deck.

All three tastefully decorated bedrooms boast en suite bathrooms and comfortable outdoor seating areas. The master bathroom also features a native stone curved shower wall and breathtaking views from the private deck.

The property also features a unique offering not always found in the Caribbean, a large garage, explained Nash.

"Features at Villa Lumineria include a designer pool with waterfall, spa, extra large living and dining areas, a chef's kitchen with a dining deck, three bedrooms with interior access and a very large garage with lots of room for autos, boats and storage," said Nash.

For more information on Villa Lumineria, call Nash at Islandia Real Estate/Seaglass Properties at (340) 776-6666 or email merryvia@aol.com.





St. JohnTradewinds News Graphic Courtesy of Bajo el Sol

Paintings by Joan Farrenkopf, left, and Lucy Portlock, above and below.



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Bajo el Sol April 3 Show will Feature New Work by Portlock and Farrenkopf

By JAIME ELLIOTT St. John Tradewinds

Don't miss the chance to view new artwork by two talented veteran painters of distinctly different styles and mediums at Bajo el Sol's artist reception on Friday, April 3, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The show will feature new work by water color artist Lucy Portlock and oil painter Joan Farrenkopf.

Even though Portlock has been painting for two decades, the artist continues to grow and lean, she explained.

"After 20 years of painting, I'm still learning," said Portlock. "But at least, I'm finally feeling like, and calling myself, an artist. This was actually a big realization for me."

Portlock tried a different approach to get her creative juices flowing for her upcoming show.

"To get going for this show, I would study several artists, get excited about their techniques and paint some of my own in their style," said Portlock. "Then I would find another group of artists and practice their style. Therefore, there will be impressionism, some soft, dreamy realism and maybe a stark realistic or two."

"I might even sneak an abstract in there," said the

Portlock has been having fun experimenting with different styles, she explained.

"One day I may settle down to a technique all my own," said Porlock. "But it's too much fun trying new

things and with watercolor, the sky is the limit for experimentation."

Farrenkopf, a dedicated oil painter, is drawn to nature and its relation to the built environment, she explained.

"I paint in an impressionist style," said Farrenkopf. "Beauty and nature are my inspiration. In contrast I also paint the 'built environment' in relation to nature."

The artist often looks inward when painting and is always attracted to early morning light and rarely misses a sunset, she explained.

"With time moving so fast it seems, my recent paintings are visions of the past and involve imagination," said Farrenkopf. "I am not always painting what is in front of me, but seeing places and maybe how they speak to me."

"I am attracted to dramatic morning light, the start of a new day and evening, the ending of the days' light," said the artist. "Sunsets are a daily mandatory show."

Join Bajo el Sol on Friday to enjoy new work by Portlock and Farrenkopf at this month's opening reception. The evening will also feature live classical guitar music by David Laabs. Both artists' work also will be featured throughout the month of April.

Bajo el Sol is located up the stairs at Mongoose Junction and regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.



Yelena Rogers Photography
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Letters to St. John Tradewinds

Floating Bar Story Called "Grossly Inaccurate"

I found your front page breaking news article about the small buisness *Angels Rest* taking a liking to the neighborhood to be grossly inaccurate. If the reporter had just simply asked the owner Peter what his intentions were there would not have been such a damning article trashing his small business. I have know Peter since the birth of Angles Rest in Coral Bay and he has constantly operated professionally and legally.

If the breaking news reporter had a conversation with Peter, said reporter would have learned that *Angles Rest* was in Frank Bay to wait for calm enough weather for him to motor back to Coral Bay as the wind conditions have been extreme preventing him from this transit. Angels Rest was on its way back from Independent Boat Yard after passing its out of the water Coast Guard Safety Inspection.

Angles Rest is inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard annually and this was done voluntarily by Peter at a huge financial burden to ensure his passengers safety and to ensure is boat was operating legally if he had more then six customers that swam out to his bar.

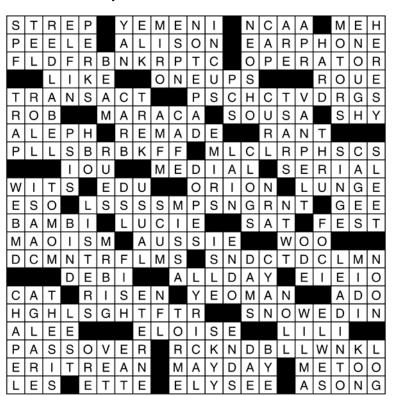
Angles Rest is licensed with the VI Government as a bar and holds a current liquor license. Your quote of a "nautical neighbor being upset about the noise" in Frank Bay is followed by "Frank Bay is not designated for moorings."

Why not swim out and have a cold one next time to get the story right?

Capt Tom and Amy Larson St. John, VI

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send your letter to editor@tradewinds.vi



Visitor Thanks Islanders for Help

On Tuesday, March 3rd of this year, while visiting Mongoose Junction with my family, I fell down some outdoor stairs. Immediately, Beverly Lockett from Caravan Gallery came to find out if I needed help. She summoned my daughters from a nearby store and asked if I wanted her to call the rescue squad. I thought I wasn't hurt badly and asked her to wait. She asked me several times until I finally agreed to have her make the call.

When the St John Rescue came, the fire department also came. Sonia, a West Indian EMT, orchestrated getting me onto the stretcher and stabilized for transport, with compassion and as little pain as possible. Wendy Davis, EMT, rode in the ambulance with me, stabilized me at the Myrah Keating Health Clinic, and stayed with me when I rode to and then on the fantastic ambulance catamaran to St Thomas. From there I was transported to the Schneider Re-

gional Medical Center. On Thursday, March 5th Jeffery M Chase, MD, FAAOS, an orthopedic surgeon, performed emergency hip replacement surgery.

I wish to thank all those involved in the rescue efforts at Mongoose Junction:

Ernest Mathias, deputy fire department chief; The St. John Rescue Squad—Bob Malacarne, Preston Pollock, and Pete Hassen; The Northshore Deli for providing bottled water and a pack of ice for my hip.

My special heartfelt thanks go to Beverly Lockett at the scene and Wendy Davis during transport. Wendy was very professional and kept my spirits up during the transport.

I am progressing well, though not as quickly as I would like. I can drive, and I walk with the aid of a cane most of the time.

Janet Block Etna, NH

Lonnie Willis Thanks SJHS Supporters

It gave me great pleasure to see such a positive response to our efforts to share the rich history of St. John and the Virgin Islands with our members and the public in addition to raising money to further our mission. It was with great pride that at our "A Look Backtime" event at the Westin Ballroom on March 10, we were able to bring forth numerous examples of historical Virgin Islands art, which once again brought to life the fascinating history of these islands. It was equally gratifying to see the St. John community come out in droves to support us!

We have a long list of individuals, businesses, and organizations who contributed to the success of this endeavor:

- Donations of raffle and silent auction items: B.J. Harris for String of Pearls Villa, Renaissance St. Croix Carambola Beach Resort & Spa, Estate Lindholm, Cloud 9 Sailing Adventures, Ocean 362, Waterfront Bistro, Lime Inn, Virgin Fire, The Terrace Restaurant, the Fish Trap Restaurant, Da Livio, Vista Mare, St. Thomas Restaurant Group, Love City Car Ferries, Tropical Palms, Nancy's Nail Spa, Pink Papaya, Cruz Bay Landing, Ronnie's Pizza, Diana and Sam Hall, St. John Dental, Michael Sheen Fiberglass, Eleanor Gibney, Ken Wild, Ronnie and Janice Jones, Robin Swank and Larry Boxerman, Lisa Etre, Vikki Willis' Lotus Moon Studio, R&I Patton, Pottery in Paradise, Elaine Estern, Arawak Expeditions, Janet Cook-Rutnik, Pam Richards-Samuel, Community Motors, Lucy Portlock, Christian Wheatley Photography, Catherine Perry, Robert Willis, Avelino Samuel, George Hollander, Livy Hitchcock, Kim Lyons, Virgin Canvas, Peter Muilenberg, Damaris Botwick, Susie Christy, Sally's Couture, Lonnie Willis, Jeff McCord, Queen of Tarts, Christine Kessler, Tree Limin' Extreme Zipline.
- Essential helpers: Pam Gaffin, Joan Bermingham, Pat Fisk, Beverly Biziewski, Sharon Schoon-

over, Judy Buchholz, Kathy Hilliard, Amanda Arquit, Irva Roberts, and Jeanne Rayne.

- Supporters: Mike Ryan and Michele Keeley of the Westin St. John Resort & Villas for the ballroom, setup arrangements and part of the food; Premier Wines & Spirits, Margaret Labrenz and Dolphin Gourmet for the drinks; Bruce and Sharon Schoonover for the music by Bo Magnie; Tom Oat of St. John Tradewinds; and Kate Norfleet and St. John Printing for the design and printing of the posters and cards.
- Board members involved in planning and execution: Bruce Schoonover, Margaret Labrenz, Diana Hall, Michael Sheen, Pam Richards-Samuel, Rafe Boulon, Eleanor Gibney, and Michael Buchholz.
- People who loaned the art: Anonymous, Albert and Lonnie Willis, Eleanor Gibney, Jane and Michael Sheen, Felipe Ayala, Glenda and Harvey Werbel, Joanne and Ron Keel, Connections, Philip Strum, Rafe and Kimberly Boulon, Rudy and Irene Patton.
- Commentary on selected art: David Knight Jr. and Priscilla Hintz Rivera for their efforts in bringing art pieces to the event and telling us about the wonderful artists in the Virgin Islands.
- Artists Selling (with 25 percent of their receipts going to the society): Elaine Estern, Lisa Etre, Janet Cook-Rutnik, Christian Wheatley, Lucy Portlock, Kaye Thomas Eichner, Tarn Hildreth, and Kimberly Boulon.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to one and all!

Please join us at our regular member's meeting on April 14 at the Bethany Moravian church at 6:00 pm for our end-of-season potluck supper and a wonderful presentation by George Tyson, board member and noted historian. (please bring a dish to share!)

Sincerely, Lonnie Willis, President St. John Historical Society

P.S. Check out our website www.stjohnhistorical-society.org

Letters to St. John Tradewinds

High School Suppresses Americanism

According to WHDH, a Lexington High School, Lexington, MA school administrator buckled to objections by some students on the theme of a dance event, and in essence, suppressed Americanism.

It was originally scheduled to be an "American Pride" themed dance with students wearing red, white and blue clothing. Evidently, some students thought promoting American patriotism was not politically correct due to the diversity of the student population. The school administrator suggested changing the theme to a "National Pride" dance, wherein students would wear clothes depicting their "individual nationalities".

After a huge public outcry the Lexington Superin-

tendent of Schools went before the Lexington School Committee and said the "American Theme" of the dance will remain.

What is going on in Lexington, MA, a cradle of American liberty? Since when do school administrators suggest elevating ancestral nationality above our own American nationality? Aren't we all Americans first and foremost? Isn't that our nationality?

If these immature students care more about their ancestral heritage than their U.S. citizenship, maybe they should move to their countries of ancestral origin.

Donald A. Moskowitz Londonderry, NH

EPA Visits Coral Bay



St. John Tradewinds News Photo Courtesy of CBCC

EPA Region 2 Director Judith Enck visited Coral Bay on Monday, March 23, and listened to a quick CBCC presentation about the organization's 10 years of Watershed Management project work, reducing sediment reaching the bay and improving our water quality. CBCC's Sharon Coldren also thanked her for EPA's very strong comments to the Army Corps recommending denial of the Summer's End Group marina permit, and shared our community's serious concerns. Enck was accompanied by Jose C. Font, Director of EPA's Caribbean office. DPNR's new commissioner designate, Dawn Henry, also participated. It was one of those spectacular clear days... as the group enjoyed the view from the overlook.



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St. John Montessori School St. John Recycling Association

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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.

Sunday, April 5

— Join Cid Hamling at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (UUF) of St. John Service on Sunday, April 5 at 10 a.m. at Gifft Hill School Lower Campus for the topic: The Phoenix Rises. Hamling will share the history and experience of being raised in the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta in the 1950s and 1960s.

Thursday, April 9

— While he has been meeting with small groups for some time, Senator-at-Large, Almando "Rocky" Liburd will host a series of town hall meetings, with the first being on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m. at the Legislative Annex in Cruz Bay.

Saturday, April 11

— The Bethany Moravian Board of Stewards is hosting an Inspirational Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 11, from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Come and be spirit-filled by a powerful woman of God, Sister Marie Luke of the Cavalry Baptist Church of Coral Bay. Tickets are \$12 and are available from church members or call (340) 776-6291 or e-mail Opti93@yahoo.com.

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

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.

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 Beachto-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

Friends Mobile Computer Application "App"

Continued from Page 9

"A combination of GPS and QR codes will be available to designate areas where more information will be available through the app," he continued. "This part allows the park to provide more significant information about the importance of a specific tree or historic ruins that can be listed on a park sign."

"The app will feature video clips as well as Augmented Reality," Eichner continued. "With Augmented Reality, a visitor can use their cell phone's camera to look back in time and walk through the ruins at Annaberg or help visitors pick out distant islands."

"A new feature which I'm really excited about is a tool for boaters specifically," he added. "It's an easy to use helpful guideline about which moorings to use for a specific boat, where they are (again using GPS), and better define the boundaries of the park underwater. This will help protect our reef systems and grass beds so much of our park depends on."

Ground Work, Prototypes Completed

Eichner described the progress of the app and his hopes for its continued development.

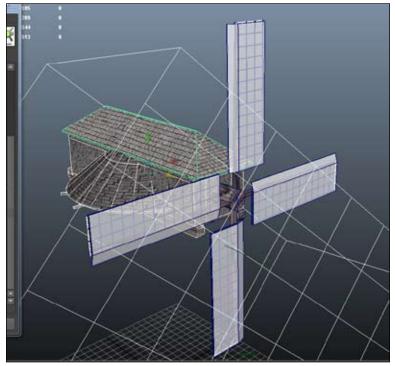
"Development is going well," he said. "We have our ground work completed and prototypes as well."

"We are currently working on the huge amount of information to relay to Park Visitors. This content will include unique interpretive information covering the main areas of the park and expanding to other areas with following updates. This information includes not only text and images, but videos, animation and 3d computer models of parts of Annaberg."

"In development terms my inner nerd is very excited about pushing current Augmented Reality technology and using this technology as a bridge to our past." Eichner enthused. "You can't know where you're going without knowing where you have been. I hope the app helps visitors learn, understand and come to care for our island just as much as we do."

Eichner also detailed his other ongoing projects.

"I'm working on several web



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Remains of structures throughout the park can be augmented.

development projects – including customizing a web/mobile based reservations system specifically for the day charter industry," the app designer said. "As far as mobile apps go I'm currently working on an educational game – that's been more of a fun thing for me."

"For those that remember the days of the green screens I had to learn Pascal in college – which was even considered old at that time!" Eichner explained, recalling his early experience in the field of computer and software programming.

"In my previously stateside life, in early 2001-2002, I helped develop Machine Vision Software systems for the fiber optic industry. These products enabled computers to capture images, and identify manufacturing defects with Fiber Optic Cable – primarily in manufacturing but some portable units were available for fiber optic installation. Since then I've worked on several web development projects" Eicher described.

Donation Goal Is \$45,000

Despite all the enthusiasm surrounding it, it will take some time and more donations to complete the Friends' VINP app.

The Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park announced at

their annual gala in February that their donation goal for this project is \$45,000 "to cover the expense of having a retired Park Ranger create content, Software Licensing, Development and Maintenance," Eichner explained. "After we are funded, we are shooting for six months development, with an additional four to six weeks of testing."

"We had a great amount of interest at the Friends Gala and we are looking forward on building upon the interest," Eichner affirmed. "We are creating something truly interactive and engaging for our park visitors."

Eichner also expressed his gratitude to those who have donated towards the progress of this app.

"We are blessed to be in a community that realizes the value of our park and park visitors, and we have built on the initial contribution," he said.

If you would like to help make this interactive dream a reality, you can make a donation from the website www.friendsvinp.org/app by clicking on the donate button. You can also make your donations through Karen Vahling by emailing her at kvalhing@friendsvinp. org.

V.I. Port Authority May Add Restaurant to Ferry Terminal



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

CRUZ BAY — The V.I. Port Authority is considering improving and maybe expanding the Loredon L. Boynes Marine Terminal, according to VIPA Executive Director Carlton Dow. VIPA may create a larger covered waiting area and could consider adding a second floor restaurant, Dow told a March 23 meeting on St. John.

A Cancer Conversation in the "Emperor's" Court

Continued from Page 6

"St. Thomas was the largest group, with 55 people," said Diane Richardson, a WTJX staff member.

Cancer Society Executive Director Lorraine Baa said she saw the community forums bear fruit when one audience member called her office the following day, seeking assistance.

Hobdy said the opening of the St. Thomas cancer center lowered one barrier to treatment but left others, including fear and reluctance by some to seek help. For others, especially the uninsured, the barrier to life saving treatment for cancer is financial. But she said that while that presents a difficult circumstance, getting treatment is not impossible.

"There are many people who

give up and die because they don't know what's the next step to take," she said. Hobdy said she's seen examples of that in the Eastern Caribbean, where medical services are not as widely available and where large numbers of people have no health insurance.

People with cancer in the Virgin Islands can feel overwhelmed, she said, but compared to other places at least there is some choice. "Fear kills. Cancer kills," she said.

Viewers of WTJX, Channel 12 (Channel 13 on some local cable systems) can see "Cancer: Emperor of All Maladies" in three parts, starting March 30 at 9 pm. Those who want more information on the documentary can also visit a website, www.CancerFilms.org.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Island fishermen with no dockage for their boats can't even launch a boat from the Cruz Bay Creek boat ramp across from the U.S. Post Office. One resident asked V.I. Port Authority Executive Director Carlton Dow at the March 23 VIPA public hearing why the ramp was allowed to be used as a parking area and not maintained. While native fisherman complain of potential additional V.I. National Park controls on the former Seaplane Shuttle Ramp on park property in the outer creek at Lind Point, VIPA officials acknowledged the creek area at the ramp needed maintenance dredging.

What VIPA Has Planned for Island

Continued from Page 5

will be eliminated, Dow said matter-of-factly.

"We expect that some semblance of a paid parking system will be done there," Dow told the full house at the V.I. Legislature in Cruz Bay.

Lot Lighting Is Restored

It was more than ironic that Dow – after one woman in the audience shouted out: "It's pitch black there in the night." – then announced the inoperative solar street lighting in the same parking lot – which had not been functioning for months before the hearing – had been repaired the day of the hearing.

"Today was when they put in new lights in the parking lot," Dow said triumphantly.

"We didn't want to put too much in because we were planning some projects in that area." Dow explained, admitting that the "temporary" gravel lot only was created as an afterthought when the port was built.

"Sometimes temporary in the Virgin Islands means long term," Dow acknowledged of what was intended to be a temporary parking solution for Cruz Bay business district.

But not under his administration, according to Dow.

Cruz Bay Taxi Stand Control

And, VIPA wants to take over the few pieces of Cruz Bay waterfront parking they don't control to enable the agency to put a contract out to bid for the operation of the taxi stand adjacent to the Loredon L. Boynes Terminal, Dow said, acknowledging the recent concerns of St. John Taxi Me-

dallion holders. (See related story on Page 7)

VIPA is "working some things out with property and procurement" concerning control of several of the waterfront spaces adjacent to the Battery held by a V.I. government agency, according to Dow.

"A few of the spaces belong to Property and procurement," Dow explained, and VIPA wants control of those spaces, presently used for villa company employees meeting arriving visitors and public short-term parking. St. John taxi operators are trying to reorganize to be ready to bid on the contract

The "entire area" will be resurfaced, Dow told his audience. VIPA is also studying extending the covered waiting area for ferry passengers at the Loredon L. Boynes Marine Facility.

"This is something we expect to do in short order," Dow said. VIPA officials, including VIPA's St. Johnian executive Juliese Harley, are looking at the agency's budget for future projects, Dow added.

Cruz Bay Public Boat Launch

Towards the end of Dow's lecture, one resident also asked why the V.I. government's only public boat launch, located between VIPA's Cruz Bay Creek bulkhead and its adjacent parking lot across from the U.S. Post Office, is also used for unmonitored parking and no longer available for residents to launch their boats.

It is too shallow and needs to be dredged, VIPA officials said.

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. JohnTradewinds News Photo

Overlay shows area SEG marina would cover in Coral Bay in view from Centerline Road.

EPA "Strongly Urges" ACOE To Deny SEG's Application

Continued from Page 4

national park and Coral Reef National Monument could be potentially impacted by increased vessel traffic, possible fuel spills, contamination, noise and light pollution," he said. "In fact, they said what was more disturbing was the complete lack of consideration to the potential negative cumulative impacts to the park and monument resources."

"Even though Summers End's main attraction is within the National Park .they did not provide a single piece of analysis to say what impacts this development would have on the visitor experience or the fish or habitat," said Silverman. "It went on to request that the Army Corps not issue a permit until the impacts on the National Park resources were considered."

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials also urged denial of SEG's permit in their letter to ACOE, according to Silverman.

"Finally, we have a letter from NOAA, which is the agency that deals with endangered species," said the community activist. "They were particularly concerned about sea turtles and they requested sea turtle studies which were never conducted. They [NOAA] know there are sea turtle habitats and the presence of these endanger species."

"NOAA said the applicant did not identify the potential acoustic impacts — the noise from driving the pilings — could have on the species," said Silverman. "They basically said the applicant had not identified enough information to determine the impact to

3-29

endangered species."

The federal agency letters urging ACOE to deny SEG's mega-marina permit application reinforced the concerns aired by Save Coral Bay, Silverman added.

"It is very gratifying that all of the issues we've been talking about, all of the letter written about these issues, have been reinforced by these federal experts," Silverman said. "This is a very positive step that the environmentally destructive marina development will not happen."

Silverman, however, was not ready to celebrate vet.

"We have yet to declare victory," he said. "This is a set of hurdles that will be virtually impossible for this project to get over. I would be surprised if this project continues much longer, but it's up to the applicants to either withdraw their application or continue trying to pursue this."

Save Coral Bay officials remain dedicated to protecting Coral Bay resources and continue raising funds for future legal needs. The group will closely watch the inner harbor area and Moravian Church officials' marina and hotel development permitting process, Silverman added.

"Save Coral Bay will very likely get involved with that project and we'll need the funds raised and then some," he said. "We encourage people to go to our Go Fund Me site at www.gofundme.com/coralbay to donate what they can or go our website at www.savecoralbay.com to get involved."

CRYPTOQUIP

IYBD YB ICP PGCZGXDH GQ JXAR GYB PLBDB JBCGKZXDH PDQI GXZBP, GYB MXZBLGQZ PYQKGBM "AXHYGP, LCRBZC, GZCLGXQD!"

Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals C

Family Poisoned by Pesticides at Sirenusa Condomimiums

Continued from Page 3

Pest Control Company Blamed

The Capri is one of 22 Sirenusa villas, many managed and marketed by Sea Glass Vacations. David Adams, manager of St. John operations for Sea Glass Vacations, issued a statement Tuesday, March 24, which said the Esmond family, which he did not name, rented the condominium from March 14 through Sunday, March 22.

The pesticide Meth-O-Gas was used on another condominium unit in the hillside development towering over Cruz Bay, according to a Stop Use Order from the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources issued to Terminex on March 24 after an inspection on March 23.

The condo below the Esmonds' villa "was recently treated for pests by Terminix, however, Villa Capri itself had not been so treated," Adams wrote. The toxic pesticide used to treat the neighboring unit and suspected of poisoning the Esmond family is banned for structural applications

Sea Glass "does not treat the unit it manages for pests but instead relies on licensed professionals for pest control service," Adams wrote, referring questions to Terminix. DPNR also reported the pesticide was used on another unit at Srirenusea in October 2014.

Regular, Repeat Visitors

The family of four, regular visitors to St. John, "loved" their luxury condominium, according to another family friend on St. John who saw them at lunch Thursday, March 19 – the afternoon before they were apparently overcome by the toxic fumigation chemical later that day when a neighboring unit was fumigated with Methyl Bromide during their stay.

"The family went down there for quality time and obviously it's just devastating," said Atty. Maron, who also is a regular visitor to St. John. The attorney said he hopes the tragedy will "help make St. John a safer place."

"St. John is a beautiful place and the (Esmond) family loves St. John and always looks forward to their visits," the attorney related.

"It's unbelievable," the family friend and attorney acknowledged. "Honestly, it's such a tragedy."

"Hopefully something good will come out of this," Atty. Maron said of the stricter enforcement of pesticide regulations in the territory. "Unfortunately, that does nothing for the family."

EPA Issues Pesticides Warning in Caribbean

St. John Tradewinds

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Last week, the EPA issued a pesticides use warning advisory (web link below) with information about the restricted use of pesticides. Pesticides must be used in accordance with label directions.

The EPA is working closely with the U.S. Virgin Islands government to investigate an incident of suspected exposure to Methyl Bromide reported on March 20, 2015. Paramedics responded to a call that four people staying at the Sirenusa Condominium Resort in St. John became ill. An investigation by the EPA and the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources is ongoing and includes air monitoring and environmental sampling.

To view the EPA's Pesticides Use Warning, please visit: http://www.epa.gov/region2/epa-pesticide-warning.pdf

For more information about pesticides, their health effects, and how they should be used and disposed of, call the National Pesticide Information Center at 1-800-858-7378, or visit: http://www2.epa.gov/safepestcontrol.

The End or Beginning of the Road?



The jumble of road signs announce the easternmost point of public road on St. John — near the entrance to the Privateer Bay development on the East End of course

St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Crimes of the Week

Crime Stoppers USVI

Law enforcement needs your help solving the following crimes. If you know something, say something.

St. John

On March 16th officers were dispatched to the St. John School of the Arts in Cruz Bay because of a burglary. A complainant reported that the school was secured around 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 14th. Although the complainant returned to the building on Saturday around 9:15 a.m., it was not discovered until officers were present and taking the report that approximately \$140 was stolen. A northern window appeared to have been broken and is believed to have been the entrance and exit of the suspect or suspects.

St. Thomas

On January 31st at approximately 8:45 p.m., officers were dispatched to a possible shooting in the area of Coki Point Beach. Officers discovered the body of a black male lying in the area between Calley's Place and Dushi by the Sea. Mr. Anthony Charles had been shot to death. If you have any information about this murder, please tell us.

St. Croix

Police are still seeking at least two men who were involved in the robbery of the Bank of St. Croix in Gallows Bay on September 2, 2014. Witnesses said two armed, masked males got out of a grey Chevy Equinox parked in front of the bank. Inside, they brandished handguns and demanded money. After the robbery the suspects left the area traveling east. Police found the vehicle in a parking lot behind a nearby building moments later. One suspect is over 6' tall and was wearing a camouflage jacket with a hood and camouflage pants. The second suspect, around 5'6", was wearing khaki pants, a black hoodie, and multi-colored sneakers. They both appeared to have dreadlocks.

You can anonymously report these or any other crimes by calling 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or by logging on to www.crimestoppersusvi.org and clicking "Submit a Tip". If your information leads to an arrest, or the recovery of stolen property, illegal drugs or weapons, you will receive a cash reward. We pay 10% of the value of the property recovered, up to \$2500 in cash.

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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

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

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

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

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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

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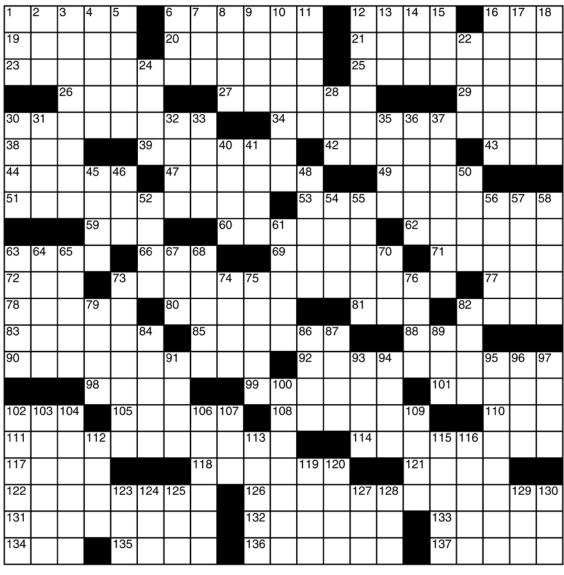
www.stjohnweddingplanner.com 340-693-8500 - Consulting, Travel Coordination, Accommodations

Answer to March 29 Cryptoquip:

WHEN HE WAS STARTING TO FILM THE SCENE FEATURING SNOW TIRES, THE DIRECTOR SHOUTED "LIGHTS, CAMERA, TRACTION!"

Crossword

By Frank A. Longo



VOWELS ON VACATION

ACROSS

- 1 Throat ailment
- 6 Rial earner 12 Final Four inits
- "It was only OK"
- 19 English drámatist George
- 20 Singer/fiddler Krauss 21 MP3 player attachment
- 23 Took a big step to relieve debt [IEOAUY]
- 25 Worker "standing by" 26 Eniov
- 27 Surpasses
- 29 Wanton man
- 30 Carry on, as business 34 Mind-altering chemical substances [YOAIEU]
- 39 Musical gourd 42 Composer of many marches
- 43 Withdrawn
- 44 Hebrew "A 47 Transformed

- 51 Cooking contest since 1949 [IUYAEO] 53 Study of bonds between atoms [OEUAYI] 59 Poker-pot promise
- 60 Of an average
- 62 Episodic drama
- 63 Basic human intelligence
- 66 U. URL ending 69 Hunter constellation
- 71 Fencing move 72 Spanish for "that"
- 73 President before Rutherford Birchard

- Hayes [UYEIOA] "Imagine!
- 78 Disney movie Daughter of Desi Arnaz
- 81 Posed (for) 82 Suffix with Oktober
- 83 Zedong's theories
- "G'day" sayer Shower with flowers, e.g.
- "Sicko" and "Super Size Me," e.g. [OUEAYI] 90
- 92 [YIAEOU] 98 Mazar of "Entourage"
- 99 From sunup to sundown 101 Follower of "had a farm'
- Gone up 108 Naval clerk
- Trapped by a blizzard
- Sheltered, nautically Plaza Hotel girl
- Seder time
- Badenov [OYAUIE] 131 Neighbor of a
- "So do I"
- DOWN
- 1 UV-blocking stat
- 3 Johnnie Walker blend

- Livens (up) TV chef Martin

- 11 Ear bone
- "Dear Abby" is one

- Morris, e.g.
- Flutter
- In great demand [IYOUAE]
- Leslie Caron musical Thwarters of Boris
- Sudanese "SOS!"
- The, to René Suffix with disk
- 136 Palace of Paris 137 For (dirt-cheap)

- Aviv

- 4 Pixie-like
- Caribou kin
- Joan of art NBA broadcaster
- 10 Steno's aid
 - 12 Kansas river
 - 13 Upper limit 14 Consist of
 - 15 Wet mo. 16 Part of GMC
 - 17 Adequate 18 Joan of Arc's crime
 - 22 Like steel
 - 24 Joist or lintel 28 Windows boxes?
 - 30 Web, to flies 31 Bun
 - 32 Low- diet 33 Major hike 35 Perm part
 - 36 Bygone emperors
 - 37 "Peanuts" boy Linus 40 Radio-switch letters 41 Sidewalk eatery
 - 45 Fraternity letters
 - 46 "Silicon Valley" airer 48 Arab chiefs 50 No traffic 52 Wishes away 54 Been abed
 - 55 Obstructs
 - 56 Burn slightly 57 Zoo pens 58 Wintry mix
 - 61 Ding-a-lings
 - 63 Online health info site 64 Stern with a violin 65 May greeting card
 - 67 Fast Net svc.

- 68 Normal
- 70 Gun org. 73 People itemizing
- 74 Bathtub gunk 75 beat (hesitate)
- 76 Abbr. on a food label
- 79 Tough spot 82 Central points
- 84 The head honcho 86 Capri, e.g. 87 Inside: Prefix
- 89 Verse tribute
- 91 Sole, for one 93 Obstructs 94 Blue color
- 95 Preface 96 Skirt style 97 Both-hands-up time
- 100 Rhapsodic 102 Small church
- 103 Blazing 104 Hurdle for a grad student
- 106 E'erlasting 107
- Titans' org.
 Longtime Steelers
 coach Chuck In case that
- 113 Musical Mel 115 Wife of Fred Flintstone
- 116 Actor Cary 119 Vodka brand 120
- Outer limits 123 Mined metal 124 Animal doc
- Devour 2000 Peace Nobelist Kim — Jung 128 "Toodles"

- 130 Ship record

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CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: Event goers Victoria Sansing, Aimee Trayser, Gail van de Bogurt and Deborah St. Clair; 10th grade student Nadia Dudkin singing to arriving guests; Kelli and Jimbo Rattz; Attendees in the Westin Ballroom; Miles and Susan Stair; and Westin Resort St. John General Manager Mike Ryan and his wife Gail.

GHS Auction Raises More Than \$200K for Scholarship Fund

By JAIME ELLIOTT St. John Tradewinds

GREAT CRUZ BAY — Thanks to generous donations and a huge outpouring of support, Gifft Hill School officials raised more than \$200,000 at the school's March 7 gala auction at the Westin Resort and Villas

"Everything was great," said Molly Murrill, GHS' assistant to the development director. "It was the best auction we've ever had. Our goal was \$200,000 and we exceeded our goal."

"The mood in the room was so positive," Murrill said. "Everyone was feeling really good about the school and our new head and were back at the Westin, which was fantastic. All things were pointing to a great night and that is what we had."

The evening would not have been such a success without help from 65 volunteers including students, parents and faculty, and the Westin staff, Murrill added.

"It was great being back at the Westin," she said. "Our volunteers worked so hard and, as always, the Westin staff was super helpful. The Westin completely sponsors the event for us."

"Without them we could not pull it off

and be so successful," said Murrill.

The evening kicked off with an announcement honoring GHS Board of Trustees Chairperson Miles Stair in a video created by Jackson Barry and John Spinale.

"We opened the evening with a one minute video announcing that Miles was our honoree and announcing a scholarship fund in his name," said Murrill. "As soon as the crowd heard his name, they clapped so loudly you couldn't hear the rest of the video. We had to play it again so you could hear."

The long-time GHS Board Chairperson, Stair has championed the school for years, Murrill explained.

"Miles makes sure we're always on the right path," she said. "He does so much for us and spends so many hours volunteering his time to make the school better. He introduces the school to potential donors and families and we're so lucky to have as our chairperson."

"It seemed like the right year to honor him and in doing so we announced the Miles Stair Scholarship fund which it to be funded by people who want to contribute to honor Miles and the work he has done in the community at the school," said Murrill. Other highlights of the evening included Steve Simonsen's annual video presentation, the Wall of Wine game and the predinner art auction, Murrill added.

"We had a wonderful artist auction which was very successful," said GHS' assistant to the development director. "Steve Simonsen's video was really great, everyone always loves it."

While Darron Meares had planned to emcee the evening's live auction again this year, he was forced to stay home due to illness, Murrill explained.

"We planned to have the same auction team Darron and Hope Meares of Bow Tie Benefit Auction, but Darron was too come to fly," she said. "We were sad that he couldn't make it, but his wife Hope ran the auction in his stead. She runs her won events in the states and she did a great job."

The heads or tails game drew a great crowd and in the end the winner donated the wall of wine back to the school to be auctioned

"The Wall of Wine game was won by our head of school who promptly turned around and donated it back to be put up for auction," said Murrill. "It was auctioned off and raised another \$5,000 for the school."

Paula Long had the lucky glass of champagne and took home the stunning multicolored sapphire necklace donated by R&I Patton. The mother of a faculty member won the Golden Ticket and chose a villa stay on St. John.

The evening ended with an after-party at Drink in Cruz Bay, which further helped GHS to raise funds, Murrill explained.

"One half of the owners of Drink is a school parent which is really nice," said Murrill. "They are donating a portion of the proceeds from the bar to the school."

From the opening video to the final cocktail, the 29th Annual GHS Auction raised much needed funds for the school. All of the more than \$200,000 will go to the GHS Scholarship fund which benefits more than 60 percent of the school's student body.

Up next for GHS is a Farm to Table dinner at the upper campus on Friday, April 10 at 5:15 p.m. Tickets for the three course meal with wine and drink pairings are \$125. The evening will feature garden tours and will benefit the school's culinary arts and Farm to Table program.

For tickets call Murrill at GHS at (340) 776-1735.