

Category 10

Since 1924, only 35 storms have grown monstrous enough to be classified as Category 5 hurricanes. In the span of two weeks in September 2017, the U.S. Virgin Islands suffered direct hits from two of them. This is our story of devastation and recovery.

The coverage received an honorable mention in the 2018 Associated Press Media Awards.



Daily News photo by IAN BROWN

St. Thomas residents begin to explore their island on Thursday after the passage of Hurricane Irma.

Irma makes mark on V.I. history

By BRIAN O'CONNOR
Daily News Staff

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in Estate Thomas, Mandela Circle and at the edge of the Oswald Harris Court housing community on Wednesday were sharing stories of the apocalypse,

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scattered around the shopping center parking lot, appearing to float next to foam noodles and a life preserver.

Rain and saltwater spray and liquid propane gas were in the air.

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At Mandela Circle, and along in other low-lying spots, saltwater mixed with the hurricane-fueled rains.

As the worst of the storm passed overhead, even police radio traffic fell off sharply.

Phone conversations with two VI. Health Department Command

Centers could not be made out.

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At Oswald Harris Court, younger residents venturing out for the first time after the storm said other residents had mostly left before the storm.

From near the top of Raphune Hill, emergency lights were visible Wednesday night as the winds died down to 30-40 mph.

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ST. CROIX ST. JOHN ST. THOMAS TORTOLA

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Daily News photos by IAN BROWN

A car drives around debris in front of Banco Popular on St. Thomas on Thursday.



Armed security guards stand outside Pueblo Supermarket in Sub Base on Thursday afternoon. The chain brought in guards from Puerto Rico to prevent looting.



Sunlight lights the inside of the Frenchtown Post Office on Thursday afternoon after winds from Hurricane Irma ripped the roof off the building.

Emergency shelter locations, phone numbers

For those affected by Hurricane Irma, shelters have been established at the following locations:

St. Croix

St. Croix Educational Complex
Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged
Claude O. Markoe School

St. Thomas

E. Benjamin Oliver School
Lockhart Elementary
Nisky Moravian Church
Knud Hansen Complex
Sugar Estate Head Start
Special Needs: Community
Health Center

St. John

Bethany Methodist Church
Julius Sprauve School

For assistance with senior

citizens or disabled transportation to shelters on St. Thomas, call **340-626-1942**, and on St. Croix call **340-626-3295**.

Residents can visit vialert.gov for emergency updates.
For tourist-related emergency

concerns, visit usviupdate.com, and for a special website dedicated to Hurricane Irma, visit informusvi.com.

For federal emergency information, visit ready.gov or listo.gov in Spanish.

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Water and debris — including a life preserver — fill the parking lot at Vitracco Mall on St. Thomas.



Daily News photos by IAN BROWN

The canopy at Gas Works was heavily damaged by Hurricane Irma's winds.



Virgin Islands Council on the Arts

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Richard Branson rides out storm on Necker Island

The Associated Press

Among the people who hunkered down ahead of Hurricane Irma was Richard Branson, the head of the Virgin Group.

Branson owns small Necker island in the British Virgin Islands

and he had posted a blog entry saying he and friends have "experienced a night of howling wind and rain as Hurricane Irma edges ever closer."

He says "the atmosphere is eerie but beautiful."

Like many in the region, Branson

says he and his group would shelter indoors as the storm hits, though his guests may have it better than most. They're headed for a concrete wine cellar.

He added: "I suspect there will be little wine left in the cellar when we all emerge."




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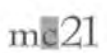

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Daily News photo by IAN BROWN

St. Thomas residents begin to explore their island on Sept. 7 after the passage of Hurricane Irma.

Irma makes mark on V.I. history

By **BRIAN O'CONNOR**
 Daily News Staff

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At Mandela Circle, and along in other low-lying spots, saltwater mixed with the hurricane-fueled rains.

E. Benjamin Oliver Elementary School — chosen by officials before the storm as one of six shelters on St. Thomas — was evacuated before 6 p.m. because of flooding, and 67 people had to move through the worst of the storm, according to police radio traffic. Lockhart Elementary school, another shelter, showed no signs of being occupied shortly after dark. As the worst of the storm passed overhead, even police radio traffic fell off sharply.

Phone conversations with two V.I. Health Department Command Centers could not be made out.

News from St. Croix was largely unobtainable, though odd details and pictures trickled through.

As U.S. military helicopters touched down and took off from the nearby pad, a woman shouted through the glass of Schneider Hospital that no one there was allowed in or out. An emergency medical technician who referred questions to staff said the inhabitants of the hospital were okay, though there were some leaks.

Police radio traffic indicated the windows on Schneider Hospital's top floor may have been blown open, allowing water into the hospital rooms. Patients on the fourth floor were being moved to lower floors, according to the radio.

At Oswald Harris Court, younger residents venturing out for the first time after the storm said other residents had mostly left before the storm.

From near the top of Raphune Hill, emergency lights were visible Wednesday night as the winds died down to 30-40 mph.



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Water and debris — including a life preserver — fill the parking lot at Vitraco Mall on St. Thomas.

At about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, it was announced over police radio that the curfew had been extended for 24 hours.

On the East End of St. Thomas, damage, pedestrians and motorists were everywhere. At Independent Boat Yard, sailboats were toppled on each other and ribbons of metal hung off a construction site.

And as Irma obliterated cellular telephone, internet and cable television networks, even the most old-fashioned forms of communication were heavily damaged by the storm as two of St. Thomas's three post offices sustained heavy damage.

Cell service through Sprint remained intact on the North Side of St. Thomas, but elsewhere was intermittent.

Internet connection through the publicly maintained Virgin Islands Next-Generation Network was unavailable.

Officials — concentrated on St. Croix ahead of the storm — were largely unreachable for comment late Wednesday and early Thursday.

With the new day on Thursday, came a sign of Virgin Islands spirit as volunteers — some workers at local construction firms — began immediately clearing road debris.

In the neighborhoods around Garden Street residents were struggling to survive Friday and said no one from any government agencies had come through to check on the elderly and infirm.

Floodwaters receding, but downtown residents still waiting for aid, word from government

By SUZANNE CARLSON
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Virgin Islanders are suffering in the wake of Hurricane Irma, with many desperate for food, water, cooking gas, medical care — and information about when help might arrive.

Residents were wandering around the downtown waterfront area in a daze early Friday, looking for anything to eat or drink. The elderly had no means to get to a government shelter and no transportation was made available.

Many openly wondered whether aid was coming.

Police were instructing people to return to their homes because of a curfew order, but some did not have homes to return to.

Nikole Mercer, 30, and her son were in their car parked on the waterfront near Windward Passage after an elderly neighbor's home caught fire in Miller Manor.

Sometime about 2 a.m., "she scream out fire," Mercer said.

The elderly woman said the fire had started about an hour earlier and she'd called 911 at least 45 minutes before but "no firetruck, nobody come."

Firetrucks were able to make their way up the debris-packed road, and Mercer said firefighters hooked up a smaller apparatus down the hill and ran a line up in an attempt to fight the fire.

The building was still smoldering about 7 a.m., and Mercer and other neighbors went to the waterfront to get away from the smoke.

Police told them to return to their homes, but "we told them that we can't go home," Mercer said.

In the neighborhoods around Garden Street residents were struggling to survive Friday and said no one from any government agencies had come through to check on the elderly and



Philomena Giraud, 59, and her granddaughter, Sherlois Isidore, 10, struggle to keep their possessions dry after losing the roof to their Garden Street apartment. Daily News photo by IAN BROWN

infirm.

Vincent Fenol, 27, moved to St. Thomas two years ago from Haiti and weathered the storm with family mem-

bers. A number of Haitian immigrants living in the area were helping each other recover from devastating flooding from guts that run between homes, but

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See **GARDEN STREET**, page 3

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Daily News photos by IAN BROWN

A local market was open on Garden Street despite the lack of power Friday afternoon.

GARDEN STREET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

water, and no one had received word about where distribution centers might be located and when they'll begin funneling supplies to the community.

One man walking through the area cursed helicopters that had been circling overhead all day for not bringing food and critical necessities.

Fenol and Wendy Lubin, 25, said the storm was terrifying, and the aftermath has left residents tense and uncertain about how they'll get through the coming days.

Fenol and several others showed where water had drained down from upland areas and turned the guts into a muddy deluge that rose several feet and poured into homes through doors and windows.

Mykna Larame and Roselore Phebe, both 27, were cleaning the remnants of floodwater from the area and hand-washing and hanging clothes to dry outside.

A slurry of mud and rocks — at least 2 feet deep in some places — had settled over roads and made even foot travel difficult.

Residents have been scraping mud

Widel Poteau, 36, and Prince Dumitry, 37, said residents have been working hard to clear their own homes of mud, trash, spoiled food and damaged personal items, but there's nowhere to put debris and no communication from the government about what sort of support might be coming.

and dirty water out of their homes since the hurricane passed, and sewage and garbage is piling up in alleys, causing worry about the potential for disease and infection.

Nedalia Faroutine, 63, moved from Haiti about a decade ago. She said St. Thomas has been good to



Garden Street on St. Thomas was left covered in debris by Hurricane Irma.

her over the years.

But after Irma, Faroutine said she's struggling to feed herself and her husband, Octave, who was at Schneider Hospital receiving dialysis treatment Friday.

Faroutine had a stockpile of beans and other basic foodstuffs, but no cooking gas and no way to get more. Her apartment is without electricity or running water, and she and others pleaded for officials to start distributing supplies.

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They said they're hopeful the global

community will see how bad conditions have become for Virgin Islanders left devastated by Irma and offer help and funding throughout the recovery period.

Farther up the hill, Philomena Giraud, 59, hauled a mound of waterlogged toys, clothes and other personal items from her home Friday.

Born on St. Lucia, Giraud said she's been living on St. Thomas for 20 years, and at the time of the hurricane, she had family visiting, including her 10-year-old granddaughter Sherlois Isidore, who was staying for the summer.

Giraud, Isidore and two other family members crowded together in a closet as the hurricane bore down and tore a section of roof off the home. Much of the home was left flooded, and mangled corrugated steel and debris still lay in the walkways outside, wedged

between apartments.

Giraud said she removed as much as she could, and she and family members have been salvaging whatever they can.

Isidore was supposed to return to St. Lucia to start school, but it's now unclear when she can leave the island and return to class.

Giraud said she's not sure what will happen in the coming days, but she's hoping to get back to work and repair the damage to her home.

"You need a roof over your head," Giraud said.

While recovering from the storm damage will be long and arduous, Giraud said she's grateful for what's left.

"We have life," Giraud said.

— Contact Suzanne Carlson at 340-714-9122 or email scarlson@dailynews.vi.

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Daily News photo by IAN BROWN
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Police were instructing people to return to their homes because of a curfew order, but some did not have homes to return to.

In the neighborhoods around Garden Street residents were struggling to survive and said no one from any government agencies had come through to check on the elderly and infirm.

Vincent Fenol, 27, moved to St. Thomas two years ago from Haiti and weathered the storm with family members. A number of Haitian immigrants living in the area were helping each other recover from devastating flooding from guts that run between homes, but basic supplies are scarce and quickly running out.

Residents were receiving mixed messages and rumors were flying about whether they can leave their homes during the curfew to seek out food and water, and no one had received word about where distribution centers might be located and when they'll begin funneling supplies to the community.

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Sugar Estate residents trapped without power, running water

By SUZANNE CARLSON
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — About 100 residents of the Sugar Estate senior housing community in Estate Thomas are in desperate need of donations and volunteer help, as residents have been without electricity or running water in their units since Hurricane Irma hit.

Maintenance supervisor Dennis Morris has been working nonstop to keep the 80-unit complex running and make sure residents are safe and cared for, but he said Tuesday that there is a dire need for assistance.

"We need help," Morris said. "It's just me alone here, nobody else here."

Morris and his wife Rhea live and work on the property, and have been doing everything they can to get residents what they need.

A generator is powering common areas but does not provide electricity for individual units, which are only equipped with electronic microwaves and stoves, so residents have been unable to cook. One building has six floors and the other has five, and without power to the elevators, residents with limited mobility have been unable to leave.

The units also have no running water, so twice a day at around 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Morris has been hauling buckets of water from the cistern and carrying it upstairs to each of the 80 units so residents can bathe and flush their toilets.

Morris said he's exhausted but has no choice but to keep going.

"I have to do it, I have to take care of my people," Morris said. "I check on them every day."

Without a curfew pass, Morris said it's been nearly impossible to leave the complex and seek supplies, given the midday gridlock when the curfew is lifted from noon to 6 p.m. Still, he's been trying, but police have stopped him from being on the road before noon.

"Every morning I go to get something, they send me back," Morris said.

The property is owned by a private company on the mainland, and residents receive Section 8 housing sup-



Daily News photo by SUZANNE CARLSON

Dennis Morris, maintenance supervisor for Sugar Estate senior residence, shows the grill and make-shift kitchen he and his wife have set up to feed about 100 residents while they wait for power to be restored. The grill needs more propane gas, residents are running out of food, and Morris said he's welcoming any and all donations of food and supplies, including cleaning and hygiene items.

port. Some have families on island that have been bringing them what supplies they can, but most are relying on the help and kindness of Morris and fellow residents like Vivian Allen, 72.

Allen was one of the complex's first residents when it opened in March 2016, and said she and the other younger residents have been delivering tea and johnny cakes to those with limited mobility.

"We're helping each other," Allen said. "We have many seniors who cannot help themselves."

Allen said she's out of food and has no way to refrigerate the insulin she takes twice a day. She doesn't drive and has no way to get to her eye doctor in Nisky Center, and many residents — despite being within sight of Schneider Hospital — are in need of medical care but have no way to access it.

The Red Cross first checked on the property on Monday afternoon, when a woman brought water that Morris distributed to residents.

"They didn't know we were here," Allen said.

Red Cross volunteers returned Tuesday morning and said they would be back with food and more water, and Allen said residents are hopeful the supplies will arrive soon.

The wait for aid has been excruciating.

"Sometimes we felt like we were forgotten," Allen said.

Beyond food and water, Allen said many residents are in desperate need of cleaning supplies like Clorox and Pine Sol, deodorant, toilet paper, wipes, soap, toiletries, all different sizes of batteries, including C-cells so residents can power their radios, and battery-powered lights so they don't have to sit in the dark at night.

Resident Victor Joseph, 67, said he's long complained to management that the generator should power individual units as well as common spaces, and was upset that residents are having to struggle through without power and running water.

Morris said the building is run by a private mainland company, and in the meantime, they're trying to make do as best they can. Despite the lack of power, the building itself withstood the hurricane remarkably well.

Morris said he was hoping to get a shipment of diesel for the generator Tuesday, and Sen. Marvin Blyden said he would try to bring more propane for the gas grill, which is nearly out of fuel. Any additional propane tanks would be welcome and appreciated.

"Anything is a help, I won't send nothing back through the door, this is the time I accept everything," Morris said.

Morris said he's also in desperate need of volunteers to help cook for the residents, and to haul water twice a day at around 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Anyone looking to help can show up at the complex, which is a yellow and white building located behind Schneider Hospital just up the hill to the right of Foothills, or call Morris at 340-513-9284.

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4:30 p.m. / 5:00 p.m.	Fri	5:30 p.m.

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Thursdays & Sundays		
Departs Red Hook, St. Thomas	Departs St. John	Departs Virgin Gorda
8:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	3:00 p.m.

Anegada		
1st Sunday of Month (by reservation only)		
Departs Red Hook, St. Thomas	Departs St. John	Departs Anegada
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Jost Van Dyke		
Departs Red Hook, St. Thomas	Departs St. John	Departs Jost Van Dyke
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2:00 p.m. (Fri)	2:20 p.m. (Fri)	3:00 p.m. (Fri)
4:00 p.m. (Sun)	4:30 p.m. (Sun)	5:30 p.m. (Sun)

Mon - Wed & Sat		
Departs Red Hook, St. Thomas	Departs St. John	Departs Jost Van Dyke
8:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
3:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.

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Daily News photo by SUZANNE CARLSON

Dennis Morris, maintenance supervisor for Sugar Estate senior residence, shows the grill and make-shift kitchen he and his wife have set up to feed about 100 residents while they wait for power to be restored. The grill needs more propane gas, residents are running out of food, and Morris said he's welcoming any and all donations of food and supplies, including cleaning and hygiene items.

Sugar Estate residents trapped without power, running water

By SUZANNE CARLSON
 Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — About 100 residents of the Sugar Estate senior housing community in Estate Thomas are in desperate need of donations and volunteer help, as residents have been without

electricity or running water in their units since Hurricane Irma hit.

Maintenance supervisor Dennis Morris has been working nonstop to keep the 80-unit complex running and make sure residents are safe and cared for, but he said Tuesday that there is a dire need for assistance.

“We need help,” Morris said. “It’s just me alone here, nobody else here.”

Morris and his wife Rhea live and work on the property, and have been doing everything they can to get residents what they need.

A generator is powering common areas but does not provide electricity for individual units, which are only equipped with electronic microwaves and stoves, so residents have been unable to cook. One building has six floors and the other has five, and without power to the elevators, residents with limited mobility have been unable to leave.

The units also have no running water, so twice a day at around 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Morris has been hauling buckets of water from the cistern and carrying it upstairs to each of the 80 units so residents can bathe and flush their toilets.

Morris said he’s exhausted but has no choice but to keep going.

“I have to do it, I have to take care of my people,” Morris said. “I check on them every day.”

Without a curfew pass, Morris said it’s been nearly impossible to leave the complex and seek supplies, given the midday gridlock when the

curfew is lifted from noon to 6 p.m. Still, he’s been trying, but police have stopped him from being on the road before noon.

“Every morning I go to get something, they send me back,” Morris said.

The property is owned by a private company on the mainland, and residents receive Section 8 housing support. Some have families on island that have been bringing them what supplies they can, but most are relying on the help and kindness of Morris and fellow residents like Vivian Allen, 72.

Allen was one of the complex’s first residents when it opened in March 2016, and said she and the other younger residents have been delivering tea and johnny cakes to those with limited mobility.

“We’re helping each other,” Allen said. “We have many seniors who cannot help themselves.”

Allen said she’s out of food and has no way to refrigerate the insulin she takes twice a day. She doesn’t drive and has no way to get to her eye doctor in Nisky Center, and many residents – despite being within sight of Schneider Hospital – are in need of medical care but have no way to access it.

The Red Cross first checked on the property on Monday afternoon, when a woman brought water that Morris distributed to residents.

87th year, No. 24046 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 \$1

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Devastation and destruction on St. John

A sailboat, its keel ripped out, lies grounded on shore at the Cruz Bay ferry terminal on St. John. Pages 2-5

WAPA lineman dies in accident Page 12
Thousands evacuate from V.I. aboard ship Page 8
Red Cross volunteers arrive in V.I. to help Page 6
Gas stations open for first responders Page 12

Today's McCombo \$4.99 each
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“They didn’t know we were here,” Allen said.

Red Cross volunteers returned Tuesday morning and said they would be back with food and more water, and Allen said residents are hopeful the supplies will arrive soon.

The wait for aid has been excruciating.

“Sometimes we felt like we were forgotten,” Allen said.

Beyond food and water, Allen said many residents are in desperate need of cleaning supplies like Clorox and Pine Sol, deodorant, toilet paper, wipes, soap, toiletries, all different sizes of batteries, including C-cells so residents can power their radios, and battery-powered lights so they don’t have to sit in the dark at night.

Resident Victor Joseph, 67, said he’s long complained to management that the generator should power individual units as well as common spaces, and was upset that residents are having to struggle through without power and running water.

Morris said the building is run by a private mainland company, and in the meantime, they’re trying to make do as best they can. Despite the lack of power, the building itself withstood the hurricane remarkably well.

Morris said he was hoping to get a shipment of diesel for the generator Tuesday, and Sen. Marvin Blyden said he would try to bring more propane for the gas grill, which is nearly out of fuel. Any additional propane tanks would be welcome and appreciated.

“Anything is a help, I won’t send nothing back through the door, this is the time I accept everything,” Morris said.

Morris said he’s also in desperate need of volunteers to help cook for the residents, and to haul water twice a day at around 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Anyone looking to help can show up at the complex, which is a yellow and white building located behind Schneider Hospital just up the hill to the right of Foothills, or call Morris at **340-513-9284**.



Daily News photo by BRIAN O'CONNOR

An uprooted tree rests in the field of Joseph Gomez Elementary School in Anna's Retreat on Wednesday. The wreckage of the Tutu Hi-Rise housing community is visible from every street in Anna's Retreat.

Anna's Retreat still reeling one week after Irma

By BRIAN O'CONNOR
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Lights have blinked on in some sections of St. Thomas, and signs of life ranging from shopping carts to gas lines to ATM use have returned.

However, in sections of Anna's Retreat, Hurricane Irma could have happened yesterday.

Numerous houses still lacked

tarps. The main thoroughfare leading into Anna's Retreat from the Tutu area was still rendered impassable by a large fallen power pole. The only access was through the parking lot of the Giant Furniture store. At least one group of residents reached by The Daily News on Wednesday said they had no food and only limited water.

Heavily damaged sections of the Tutu Hi-Rise housing community

loom over the heavily damaged portions of Joseph Gomez Elementary School.

Resident Jacqueline Mesidor was uncertain of what to do next.

"I don't know what I do now," she said. "I just livin' here now. So now, I don't know what I do after."

Government officials are sometimes visible, but they don't stop, Mesidor said.

Mesidor and a few other resi-

dents survived the storm in her house, like Jimmy Brute.

"We went in the living room, then the roof came off, then we run in to the bathroom, and we hold on to the door, and the wind was pushing it, pushing," he said. "We couldn't do nothing so we tried to get out. Through the storm."

Wilelmine Bien-Aime detailed the things they needed.

"So now we need help," she said.

"We need water, we need food. We need everything."

Bien-Aime, Mesidor, and Brute all said the story was the same for all of the neighbors they had seen.

Mesidor — who has spent several nights sleeping in a bedroom under a tarp in the one remaining untouched room of her house — said she was hoping to get shelter.

See ANNA'S RETREAT, page 3

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ANNA'S RETREAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"You try to get some small place, a small home, I could sleep there," she said.

Mesidor was drying clothes on a felled power line that runs through her front yard.

"I lose everything," she said.

Across the street from Mesidor's house, John Petersen measured progress in plywood.

"The rooftop came off," he said. "I'm trying to put the plywood on piece by piece. I'm trying to put a tarpaulin over it so in case it starts to rain it don't leak."

Petersen's big critique of the government's response so far was the distribution lines.

"I feel that nobody should have to stand in line by the fire station to get a tarpaulin," he said. "The National Guard have trucks. They can load the trucks with tarpaulins and bring them out."

The long lines for distribution were a frequent sore spot, Petersen said.

"I'm stressin' already," he said. "You stand in a long line in the hot sun. And when you get to the place, there's no more tarpaulins."

Petersen said some trucks and heavy equipment had shown up in the early days, but most encounters with government officials had been limited to the occasional drive-through.

"The only thing they did really push stuff out of the way," he said. "I couldn't even go up that hill before."

Petersen said he didn't put much stock in forecasts showing Hurricane Jose could possibly hit the territory.

"I don't think God would have been so cruel," he said. "This is cruel enough."

Maureen Byam was upset that two power poles had damaged a combination beauty shop, grill, and bar that her father co-owns. One destroyed a small entertaining room that she kept at one end of the complex in the area. The other had fallen into the main entryway of the business, meaning the only option to resume grilling was to set up in the street.

"Our property would have gone without incident, except for this right her out of the store room," she said. "This is the major damage that's preventing us from actually getting back up into business."

Byam has been sleeping in the wreckage to keep looters away. She said she's seen looters — who don't seem to know the roads well enough to navigate the neighborhoods — hitting other businesses at night.

"This is a straight-up martial law environment," she said.

— Contact Brian O'Connor at 340-714-9130 or email boconnor@dailynews.vi.



Hurricane Irma devastated Jacqueline Mesidor's home in Anna's Retreat.

Daily News photos by BRIAN O'CONNOR



Anna's Retreat resident Maureen Byam stands on the edge of what used to be a small entertaining room and apartment Wednesday. Byam said her property likely would have survived unscathed if not for two utility poles that collapsed onto the complex of stores near Joseph Gomez Elementary.

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“

'We need water, we need food. We need everything.'

— Wilmine Bien-Aime, Tutu Hi-Rise resident



Daily News photo by BRIAN O'CONNOR

An uprooted tree rests in the field of Joseph Gomez Elementary School in Anna's Retreat on Wednesday. The wreckage of the Tutu Hi-Rise housing community is visible from every street in Anna's Retreat.

Anna's Retreat still reeling one week after Irma

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Tutu area was still rendered impassable by a large fallen power pole. The only access was through the parking lot of the Giant Furniture store. At least one group of residents reached by The Daily News on Wednesday said they had no food and only limited water.

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'We need water, we need food. We need everything.'
—Waimie Bien-Ame, Tutu Hi-Rise resident

Dozens of apartments at the Tutu Hi-Rise housing community on St. Thomas are left open to the elements after Hurricane Irma's Category 5 winds tore through the complex. A number of Hi-Rise residents have taken up temporary residence in an American Red Cross-managed shelter, while other residents are hanging on in the complex with limited food and water. Pages 2-3

Mapp relaxes curfew, threatens to fire staff Pages 8-9

BVI prisoners given 24 hours to return Page 11

Riding out Irma in a cupboard Page 13

WAPA warns lines being powered up Page 5

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Daily News photo by BRIAN O'CONNOR

Hurricane Irma devastated Jacqueline Mesidor's home in Anna's Retreat.

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"So now we need help," she said. "We need water, we need food. We need everything."

Bien-Aime, Mesidor, and Brute all said the story was the same for all of the neighbors they had seen.

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Daily News photos by BRIAN O'CONNOR

Jacqueline Mesidor and Jimmy Brute describe how winds from Hurricane Irma demolished the house around them on Sept. 6. Anna's Retreat was still struggling to find its footing a week after Irma retreated.

Petersen said he didn't put much stock in forecasts showing Hurricane Jose could possibly hit the territory.

"I don't think God would have been so cruel," he said. "This is cruel enough."

Maureen Byam was upset that two power poles had damaged a combination beauty shop, grill, and bar that her father co-owns. One destroyed a small entertaining room that she kept at one end of the complex in the area. The other had fallen into the main entryway of the business, meaning the only option to resume grilling was to set up in the street.

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Navy's mission in USVI is outside the ordinary

By **BILL KISER**
Daily News Staff

ABOARD THE USS KEARSARGE — Under normal circumstances, the sailors aboard the USS Kearsarge would be training for their primary job — putting Marines ashore in an amphibious operation to attack a target, and support them until the mission's done.

But it's not normal circumstances that brought the USS Kearsarge and the other ships of the U.S. Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group 2 — otherwise known as ESG-2 — to the waters of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

However, its capabilities for war mesh almost perfectly with the strike group's current mission — assisting in recovery efforts on St. Thomas and St. John, recently ravaged by the Category 5 winds from Hurricane Irma.

"We're always preparing for the full range of military operations from what we call 'the high-end kinetic warfight,' all the way back to what we also prepare ourselves for — humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," said Adm. Jeffrey Hunter, commander of ESG-2.

"I like to view the Navy as we generate influence. We're forward deployed, we're present, we're responsive, we're flexible and we're always out there, and things can happen — a tsunami for example. We just happen to be in the right place at the right time to go in and provide an initial response, and lend and render support.

"We're mariners, even the Marines, and when someone's in distress, it's an expectation that you render assistance to someone in distress. That's kind of in our DNA," he said. "We can help people in need, and we've got unique capabilities."

The deployment

The USS Kearsarge, an amphibious assault ship, and its supporting ships in ESG-2 — the USS Oak Hill, a dock landing ship, and USS Wasp, also an amphibious assault ship — have been stationed in and around St. Thomas and St. John for more than a week as part of the overall U.S. Department of Defense's relief efforts.

For example, C-17 and C-130 cargo planes from the U.S. Air Force have made regular runs to Rohlfsen Airport on St. Croix and King Airport on St. Thomas delivering equipment and supplies; while the U.S. Army has supplied helicopters and medical and engineering personnel.

But it's been the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps that have taken on the greatest task, especially on St. John, which was hit hard by Hurricane Irma.

The USS Kearsarge, stationed off the southeastern corner of St. Thomas, has deployed troops from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to St. Thomas to assist with rescue and recovery



Daily News photo by BILL KISER

A UH-1 Huey and SH-60 Seahawk helicopters prepare to take off from the USS Kearsarge on Saturday off the Virgin Islands. The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship is part in the U.S. military's rescue and recovery effort in the territory.

efforts there, and its MH-60 and MH-53 heavy-lift helicopters and MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and the ship's three Landing Craft Utility — otherwise known as LCUs — moved personnel and supplies to St. John in the relief efforts there.

"We train for this mission, and we've done it for many, many years," said Col. Farrell Sullivan, commanding officer of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C. "Not just for support to CONUS [Continental United States] response, but for foreign disaster relief, like what happened in Indonesia with the tsunami.

"You go back and look at all the big ones that have happened, particularly in the Pacific and earlier than Katrina, you'll see that Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines — they've all been a part of it," Sullivan said.

The USS Oak Hill, stationed in the channel between St. Thomas and St. John, has used its LCUs and Light Amphibious Resupply Cargo vehicles — called LARCs, a wheeled amphibious truck that can carry up to 5 tons of supplies — to move equipment, personnel and cargo to areas of St. John that are largely inaccessible by vehicles, such as the Coral Bay.

"The Navy-Marine Corps team is ideally suited for something like this," Hughes said. "We come in here with the ability to generate effects with 20-plus tilt-rotor aircraft and helicopters that can go in. We've got landing craft that can move bulk equipment and allow the Marines and Seabees to establish themselves on shore.

"We've got the ability to really address this problem from the land, the sea and the air, and command and control it from a sea base."

ESG-2 underway

Both the USS Kearsarge and USS Oak Hill deployed out of Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia on Aug. 30 to assist with the rescue and relief efforts off the Texas coast in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 hurricane that hit the region in late August.

But those plans changed when Hurricane Irma ripped through the Caribbean, demolishing Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, and St. Thomas and St. John with winds greater than 185 mph.

According to Hughes, the USS Wasp was already in the region on a regularly-scheduled deployment when the hurricane approached.

"We were watching their track to make sure if they had storm avoidance," Hughes said. "But it was one of those things Navy's mission in USVI is outside the norm as Irma looked like it was going to make landfall, we said 'Okay, why don't you get to safe haven and hold.'

"As soon as that storm came through, they came right back up. They were flying helicopters into St. Thomas at first light on the morning after the storm."

The USS Kearsarge and USS Oak Hill were redeployed immediately after, arriving in the territory's waters two days later, with the Marines and helicopters in operation almost immediately.

The USS Wasp, which was not carrying landing craft as part of its deployment, moved to a position between St. Thomas and St. Croix, and is serving as a mid-point stop for helicopters carrying cargo and personnel between the islands.

"That's what makes the Kearsarge, the Wasp and the Oak Hill such a unique capability in these kind of events," Sullivan said. "We call it a 'sea base.' It allows us to not put a big footprint on the ground, and impose of the local population and local authorities who already have enough to do. Everything that we need we can flow from the ship, or bring back to the ship."

The coordination

Hughes made one thing very clear — the U.S. military is not in charge of the rescue and recovery operations in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

That job is in the hands of the USVI government and its agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Administration, otherwise known as FEMA.

The military's role — in particular what the Marines and sailors, the helicopters and landing craft, of ESG-2 — is to provide the support in areas that the government agencies don't have the needed capabilities.

"I had some time with Katrina and now

See **NAVY**, page 9

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NAVY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

here," Hughes said. "We just can't show up somewhere and start doing stuff. The lead federal agency, in this case FEMA, we work very closely with them, and we won't do things unless we receive tasking from them. We're equally mindful of working through the governor of the territory of the Virgin Islands."

That's Hughes' job — not only commanding the strike group, but coordinating with the various federal and local government entities.

"All the while, I'm communicating with all of our partners," he said. "FEMA is the lead federal agency, and we work with them through the DoD [Department of Defense] chain of command; and the Title 32 forces such as the National Guard and Reserves, and

helping bring all that to bear.

"I have great connectivity with the adjutant general and the dual-status command," he said, referring to the head of the VI. National Guard. "I'm in contact with them five times a day, either by voice or email from here, and I fly in and see them a lot.

"I wouldn't necessarily say we train to do this mission, but the same things that we train to do our forward deploy missions come into play — planning, execution, professionalism, risk management, teamwork, relationship building. All of that stuff is vital for that, and it's vital for this mission as well."

There will be a time, Hughes said, where those Navy ships that people can see sitting just offshore of St. Thomas and St. John won't be there — and that will be a good thing, he added.

"Again, this is not our primary thrust, but we add a very unique initial re-

sponse capability," Hughes said. "Then, over time, other people that come in who are more suitably equipped in this mission area, we do a handoff and they pick it up and run with it.

"We work through a structure, and we have this big partnership arrangement where there's certain things we can do to help, and some other things that somebody else might be suited for. But when you bring it all together ... at the end of the day, we have unity of effort. We all work together to match the right capabilities to the highest-priority needs."

The satisfaction

One thing may slow the U.S. military's operations down in the territory — the approaching Hurricane Maria.

Course predictions from the National Hurricane Center have the storm tracking just to the south of

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A Navy crewman aboard of SH-60 Seahawk helicopter from the USS Kearsarge looks out the side door as it overflies the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center on St. John on Saturday.



Daily News photo by BILL KISER

A Navy landing craft carries a load of trucks and other equipment toward the stern loading well of the USS Kearsarge on Saturday.

Adm. Jeff Hughes, center, commander of the Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group 2, talks with a team of Virgin Islands National Guardsmen on St. John.



Daily News photos by BILL KISER

While a U.S. Marine Corps CH-53 helicopter waits permission to take off, a pair of U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters bring cargo to King Airport on St. Thomas on Saturday.



A group of Navy sailors look out toward St. Thomas from one of the open elevator doors of the USS Kearsarge.

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Daily News photo by BILL KISER

A UH-1 Huey and SH-60 Seahawk helicopters prepare to take off from the USS Kearsarge on Saturday off the Virgin Islands. The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship is part in the U.S. military's rescue and recovery effort in the territory.

Navy's mission in USVI is outside the ordinary

By **BILL KISER**
Daily News Staff

ABOARD THE USS KEARSARGE — Under normal circumstances, the sailors aboard the USS Kearsarge would be training for their primary job — putting Marines ashore in an amphibious

operation to attack a target, and support them until the mission's done.

But it's not normal circumstances that brought the USS Kearsarge and the other ships of the U.S. Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group 2 — otherwise known as ESG-2 — to the waters of the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Daily News photo by BILL KISER

Adm. Jeff Hughes, center, commander of the Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group 2, talks with a team of Virgin Islands National Guardsmen on St. John.

However, its capabilities for war mesh almost perfectly with the strike group's current mission — assisting in recovery efforts on St. Thomas and St. John, recently ravaged by the Category 5 winds from Hurricane Irma.

“We're always preparing for the full range of military operations from what we call ‘the high-end kinetic warfight,’ all the way back to what we also prepare ourselves for — humanitarian assistance and disaster relief,” said Adm. Jeffrey Hughes, commander of ESG-2.

“I like to view the Navy as we generate influence. We're forward deployed, we're present, we're responsive, we're flexible and we're always out there, and things can happen — a tsunami for example. We just happen to be in the right place at the right time to go in and provide an initial response, and lend and render support.

“We're mariners, even the Marines, and when

someone's in distress, it's an expectation that you render assistance to someone in distress. That's kind of in our DNA,” he said. “We can help people in need, and we've got unique capabilities.”

The deployment

The USS Kearsarge, an amphibious assault ship, and its supporting ships in ESG-2 — the USS Oak Hill, a dock landing ship, and USS Wasp, also an amphibious assault ship — have been stationed in and around St. Thomas and St. John for more than a week as part of the overall U.S. Department of Defense's relief efforts.

For example, C-17 and C-130 cargo planes from the U.S. Air Force have made regular runs to Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix and King Airport on St. Thomas delivering equipment and supplies; while the U.S. Army has supplied helicopters and medical and engineering personnel.

But it's been the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps that have taken on the greatest task, especially on St. John, which was hit hard by Hurricane Irma.

The USS Kearsarge, stationed off the southeastern corner of St. Thomas, has deployed troops from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to St. Thomas to assist with rescue and recovery efforts there, and its MH-60 and MH-53 heavy-lift helicopters and MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and the ship's three Landing Craft Utility — otherwise known as LCUs — moved personnel and supplies to St. John in the relief efforts there.

“We train for this mission, and we've done it for many, many years,” said Col. Farrell Sullivan,



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commanding officer of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C. “Not just for support to CONUS [Continental United States] response, but for foreign disaster relief, like what happened in Indonesia with the tsunami.

“You go back and look at all the big ones that have happened, particularly in the Pacific and earlier than Katrina, you’ll see that Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines — they’ve all been a part of it,” Sullivan said.

The USS Oak Hill, stationed in the channel between St. Thomas and St. John, has used its LCUs and Light Amphibious Resupply Cargo vehicles — called LARCs, a wheeled amphibious truck that can carry up to 5 tons of supplies — to move equipment, personnel and cargo to areas of St. John that are largely inaccessible by vehicles, such as the Coral Bay.

“The Navy-Marine Corps team is ideally suited for something like this,” Hughes said. “We come in here with the ability to generate effects with 20-plus tilt-rotor aircraft and helicopters that can go in. We’ve got landing craft that can move bulk equipment and allow the Marines and Seabees to establish themselves on shore.

“We’ve got the ability to really address this problem from the land, the sea and the air, and



Daily News photos by BILL KISER

A group of Navy sailors look out toward St. Thomas from one of the open elevator doors of the USS Kearsarge.

command and control it from a sea base.”

ESG-2 underway

Both the USS Kearsarge and USS Oak Hill deployed out of Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia on Aug. 30 to assist with the rescue and relief efforts off the Texas coast in the wake of Hurricane

Harvey, a Category 4 hurricane that hit the region in late August.

But those plans changed when Hurricane Irma ripped through the Caribbean, demolishing Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, and St. Thomas and St. John with winds greater than 185 mph.

According to Hughes, the USS Wasp was already in the region on a regularly-scheduled deployment when the hurricane approached.

“We were watching their track to make sure if they had storm avoidance,” Hughes said. “But it was one of those things Navy’s mission in USVI is outside the norm as Irma looked like it was going to make landfall, we said ‘Okay, why don’t you get to safe haven and hold.’

“As soon as that storm came through, they came right back up. They were flying

helicopters into St. Thomas at first light on the morning after the storm.”

The USS Kearsarge and USS Oak Hill were redeployed immediately after, arriving in the territory’s waters two days later, with the Marines and helicopters in operation almost immediately.



A Navy landing craft carries a load of trucks and other equipment toward the stern loading well of the USS Kearsarge on Saturday.



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A Navy crewman aboard of SH-60 Seahawk helicopter from the USS Kearsarge looks out the side door as it overflies the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center on St. John on Saturday.

The USS Wasp, which was not carrying landing craft as part of its deployment, moved to a position between St. Thomas and St. Croix, and is serving as a mid-point stop for helicopters carrying cargo and personnel between the islands.

“That’s what makes the Kearsarge, the Wasp and the Oak Hill such a unique capability in these kind of events,” Sullivan said. “We call it a ‘sea base.’ It allows us to not put a big footprint on the ground, and impose of the local population and local authorities who already have enough to do. Everything that we need we can flow from the ship, or bring back to the ship.”

The coordination

Hughes made one thing very clear — the U.S. military is not in charge of the rescue and recovery operations in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

That job is in the hands of the USVI government and its agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Administration, otherwise known as FEMA.

The military’s role — in particular what the Marines and sailors, the helicopters and landing craft, of ESG-2 — is to provide the support in areas that the government agencies don’t have the needed capabilities.

“I had some time with Katrina and now here,” Hughes said. “We just can’t show up somewhere and start doing stuff. The lead federal agency, in this case FEMA, we work very closely with them, and we won’t do things unless we receive tasking from them. We’re equally mindful of working

through the governor of the territory of the Virgin Islands.”

That’s Hughes’ job — not only commanding the strike group, but coordinating with the various federal and local government entities.

“All the while, I’m communicating with all of our partners,” he said. “FEMA is the lead federal agency, and we work with them through the DoD [Department of Defense] chain of command; and the Title 32 forces such as the National Guard and Reserves, and helping bring all that to bear.

“I have great connectivity with the adjutant general and the dual-status command,” he said, referring to the head of the V.I. National Guard. “I’m in contact with them five times a day, either by voice or email from here, and I fly in and see them a lot.

“I wouldn’t necessarily say we train to do this mission, but the same things that we train to do our forward deploy missions come into play — planning, execution, professionalism, risk management, teamwork, relationship building. All of that stuff is vital for that, and it’s vital for this mission as well.”

There will be a time, Hughes said, where those Navy ships that people can see sitting just offshore of St. Thomas and St. John won’t be there — and that will be a good thing, he added.

“Again, this is not our primary thrust, but we add a very unique initial response capability,” Hughes said. “Then, over time, other people that come in who are more suitably equipped in this mission area, we do a handoff and they pick it up and run with it.

“We work through a structure, and we have this big partnership arrangement where there’s certain things we can do to help, and some other things that somebody else might be suited for. But when you bring it all together ... at the end of the day, we have unity of effort. We all work together to match the right capabilities to the highest-priority needs.”

The satisfaction

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St. Croix barely escapes worst of Maria's wrath

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The worst of the storm had passed by about 9 a.m., although gusts of strong wind continued throughout most of Wednesday.

Weather stations at Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge and Cotton Valley — on the west end of the island, where Maria did the most damage as it passed through — reported sustained winds of 99 to 104 mph with gusts of 137 mph.

Everywhere The Daily News went on Wednesday, the most common question was how did Maria compare with Irma, whose eyewall raked St. Thomas and St. John on Sept. 6.

Cell phone service stayed active on St. Croix throughout Maria's passing, and Luis Hospital remained intact and operational. Cell service on St. Thomas still remains sporadic and patchy and all of the patients have been evacuated from Schneider Hospital, which officials are saying is unusable and could require being rebuilt.

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One building at the hotel was rebuilt following Hurricane Hugo, but

Read more

Gov. Mapp hits the ground to survey Maria's wrath **Page 8**
Maria leaves St. Croix with a working hospital **Page 11**
Charles Harwood complex is hit hard **Page 11**



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Daily News Photo BY BRIAN O'CONNOR

it survived Maria with only minimal damage.

"I'm glad the eye didn't hit us," Benedict said.

But across St. Croix, Maria left destruction and debris in its wake, and there was ample evidence of its furious winds and torrential rains.

The sun rose Wednesday morning on felled trees and power poles that frequently made roads impassable.

And the storm chose its victims at random.

Well-to-do neighborhoods in the southern section of mid-island appeared nearly unscathed, while densely populated areas in and around Frederiksted were heavily damaged.

The University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park building was almost totally destroyed.

However, Gillian Marcelle, the RT Park's director, was upbeat. She hadn't yet made a trip to the central campus — the road leading from Centerline Road into the denser areas of the campus was made impassable by fallen royal palms — and her building was only one component of the complex.

"This is the opportunity to do it

Governor's statement

The past 24 hours have been difficult and exhausting for the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, especially our friends, family, neighbors and communities on St. Croix. After touring damaged neighborhoods across St. Croix, my prayer is for renewed strength and resolve to rebuild all of our islands in the



Kenneth Mapp

wake of these two terrible storms. Your Government will neither rest nor grow weary as we continue to work with our federal partners and our friends across the mainland and around the world, to clean up and reconstruct the beautiful U.S. Virgin Islands. Always remember, we are strong and we are resilient. To assist with the recovery and reconstruction, visit www.usvirecovery.org. We will provide further updates as communications are fully restored. Thank you again for your prayers and your support.

— Gov. Kenneth Mapp

right," she said. "To make use of technologies that are affordable, cleaner, more environmentally friendly."

Others weren't so lucky. A woman outside the government-

run shelter at St. Croix Educational Complex High school said she'd been left completely homeless and didn't want to talk about it.

About 300 people took refuge at

Complex during the storm, said Donna Pickard, a V.I. Human Services Department employee who was managing the shelter. Their number included a few amputees, who typically would have been put in the special needs shelter at the Harwood complex, though Pickard wasn't sure why they'd been brought there.

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Her neighbor's house was without a roof, and she said the storm may have proved to be too much for many people who called St. Croix home.

"A lot of other people talking about leaving, but I, honestly, I don't know," she said. "I think I'm going to stay, and St. Croix will just build back."

— Contact Brian O'Connor at 340-714-9130 or email boconnor@dailynews.vi

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The Virgin Islands DAILY NEWS

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ST. CROIX ST. JOHN ST. THOMAS TORTOLA

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Daily News photo by BRIAN O'CONNOR

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CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE, CULTURES AND HISTORY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Maria crawls over V.I.

Category 5 storm spares St. Croix its worst as it delivers widespread damage Pages 2, 8 and 11

Already battered St. Thomas and St. John get second dose of wind and flooding Pages 3-7

Hurricane is strongest to hit Puerto Rico in 80 years; At least 9 dead in Caribbean Pages 9-10

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Tutu Hi-Rise residents surviving day by day

By SUZANNE CARLSON
Daily News Staff

Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Irma hit, some residents on St. Thomas are still living in the blown-out wreckage of apartments at Tutu Hi-Rise without food, water, or power.

"I am fed up and tired," Leonise Greig-Powell, 75, said Monday at her apartment in Building 14. "No one look on me you know because I am a ghetto, I live in the ghettos. Nobody want to talk to people that live in the ghettos. But people that live in the ghettos is human."

Born and raised in Trinidad, Greig-Powell said she's a U.S. citizen who has been on St. Thomas for 40 years. She's lived in Tutu Hi-Rise for more than seven years, despite having requested and been approved for a transfer to a different community to escape the area's gun violence. Her husband, Vincent Powell, died three years ago and she lives alone.

Her two sons were shot and killed on St. Thomas — Henry Greig, 19 and Akil Greig Sr., 33 — and while her grandson, Akil Greig Jr., 18, had been helping her, he was shot and killed in April.

Given her long history with gun violence, Greig-Powell's doctor wrote letters to the VI. Housing Authority in 2013 and again in 2015, asking that she be moved to a safer unit. Being in an area where she's not "constantly exposed to the sound of gunshots near her apartment" would improve her mental and physical health, her doctor wrote.

The Housing Authority wrote her a letter on Feb. 29, 2016, saying her transfer request had been approved, and she would be placed on a waiting list.

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"You think in America that wouldn't happen," Greig-Powell said.

A small group of men who live downstairs cleaned the debris out of her apartment and brought furniture. Three days after Irma, Greig-Powell said she was lying in bed when a man walked into her unsecured apartment. She called out, thinking it was someone she knew, and the man retreated.

The experience rattled her, and the men downstairs nailed plywood across the blown-out entrance to help keep her secure. But bugs and rain still get into what is essentially now a second-story, open air shell of a building.

She stayed with a friend for three days during Hurricane Maria, but returned to her apartment and is surviving day by day.

The group of men who help her declined to be identified, but described the ongoing situation.

Federal relief agencies have been through sporadically with treats for area kids but "it wasn't no food, just snacks," one man said. No relief had been seen in the area in days, and what little that's



Daily News photo by SUZANNE CARLSON

Leonise Greig-Powell, 75, stands in her blown out second-floor apartment at Tutu Hi-Rise, where she's been living without water or electricity since Hurricane Irma hit nearly three weeks ago.

been given out didn't last long. They're surviving on "whatever we have in our house left. Some of us did some shopping before the hurricane," but transportation is nearly impossible and they're not sure when more food might come.

They siphon water from the cistern and haul buckets up to Greig-Powell's apartment so she can bathe and occasionally flush the toilet. They cook communal meals with what little they have left and bring her plates of food. They brought her a small propane burner so she can heat tea. They charge her cellphone in a car so she can speak to her daughters, Denise Greig, who's serving in the Army in Germany, and Kimlyn Greig, who lives in New York City.

Both want to help their mother, but with the airport still closed and mail service suspended, there's little they can do.

In the meantime, the men downstairs keep her safe and fed.

"We don't have a choice," one man said. "We have to do what we have to

do, because a lot of people need help and a lot of people are leaving."

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Greig-Powell said the stinking piles of trash and debris surrounding the Hi-Rise are a growing concern, as are the two pit bulls chained across the hall from her apartment, which lunge against their collars if anyone approaches.

Gov. Kenneth Mapp made a visit to the area, but didn't approach the lower buildings.

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Greig-Powell said she's cognizant of the fact that the damage caused by Irma and Maria will not be cleaned up overnight, and recovery will take time. But the wait is agonizing.

"I'm not pushing the government because I know it's a crisis. But I'm supposed to leave here over three years ago and no one look at me, you know why? Because I'm black and I'm not from here. But I am a U.S. citizen. I'm not a Virgin Islander. And the U.S. government is supporting here, so I supposed to be treated as a U.S. citizen," Greig-Powell said. "I am fair, we have to wait. But not in this condition."

Are you open for business?

Daily News Staff

Send us information about when your business is open, so The Daily News can let the public know.

Be sure to tell us your operating hours and any other relevant information to help you serve the public and to let residents know where they can find the goods and services they need. Send your information to-

tices@dailynews.vi.

St. Thomas

Restaurants

Betsy's
China King
Craving Crabs
Golden Dragon
Green House
Gladys cafe
Hook, Line & Sinker
KFC
My Brother's Workshop
(Free meal from 1:30 to 3 p.m.)
Rancho Latino

Tap & Still

Wendy's
Wok Express
Bernie's
Pie Whole
Sharky's
The Smokin' Rooster
China Express
Frenchtown Deli
Twisted Cork
La Petit Fenetre
Windmill 2.0
Rum Shandy
Jungle Bar
Groceries
Corner Store North Side

Food Center

Fruit Bowl
Giant Gas
Happy View Market
Jarrah Mart North Side
Mandahl Market
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Nidal Mini Mart
Plaza Extra
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Laundry
Sub Base Laundry
Super Cat Laundry
Sugar Estate Laundry
Wash Board
Gas
1st Stop Gas
A1 Corner Store North Side
Gottlieb's

Jarrah Mart

RaceTrack
GasWorks
Medical
Comprehensive
Orthopedic Global
Paragon medical building
Doctor's Choice
pharmacy (Wheatley Center)
Drug Farm (Lockhart)
The Medicine Shoppe
St. Thomas East End
Medical Center
Insight Psychological Services

VI. Orthopedics

Retail
Kmart (Long Bay)
MSI
Advance Auto
Other
Viya
ADM Wireless
(moneygrams)
Caribbean Packaging
Pistarckle Theater
Big Lee Inc.
Hurley Funeral Home
Hurricane Drain
Topa Insurance Services

The Virgin Islands
DAILY NEWS

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ST. CROIX

ST. JOHN

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Daily News photo by SUZANNE CARLSON

Leonise Greig-Powell, 75, stands in her blown out second-floor apartment at Tutu Hi-Rise, where she's been living without water or electricity since Hurricane Irma hit nearly three weeks ago.

Tutu Hi-Rise residents surviving day by day

By **SUZANNE CARLSON**
Daily News Staff

Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Irma hit, some residents on St. Thomas are still living in the blown-out wreckage of apartments at Tutu Hi-Rise without food, water, or power.

“I am fed up and tired,” Leonise Greig-Powell, 75, said Monday at her apartment in Building 14. “No one look on me you know because I am a ghetto, I live in the ghettos. Nobody want to talk to people that live in the ghettos. But people that live in the ghettos is human.”

Born and raised in Trinidad, Greig-Powell said she’s a U.S. citizen who has been on St. Thomas for 40 years. She’s lived in Tutu Hi-Rise for more than seven years, despite having requested and been approved for a transfer to a different community to escape the area’s gun violence. Her husband, Vincent Powell, died three years ago and she lives alone.

Her two sons were shot and killed on St. Thomas — Henry Greig, 19 and Akil Greig Sr., 33 — and while her grandson, Akil Greig Jr., 18, had been helping her, he was shot and killed in April.

Given her long history with gun violence, Greig-Powell’s doctor wrote letters to the V.I. Housing Authority in 2013 and again in 2015, asking that she be moved to a safer unit. Being in an area where she’s not “constantly exposed to the sound of gunshots near her apartment” would improve her mental and physical health, her doctor wrote.

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private lawyer. She made an appointment to speak to the lawyer, but then the hurricanes hit.

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Leonise Greig-Powell, 75, holds up programs from the funerals of her son, Akil Greig Sr., and his son, Akil Greig Jr., who were both shot and killed on St. Thomas in separate incidents. Her other son, Henry Greig, was also shot and killed on St. Thomas years ago. Despite desperately wanting to leave, she is still living in her blown-out apartment at Tutu Hi-Rise housing community.

The experience rattled her, and the men downstairs nailed plywood across the blown-out entrance to help keep her secure. But bugs and rain still get into what is essentially now a second-story, open air shell of a building.

She stayed with a friend for three days during Hurricane Maria, but returned to her apartment and is surviving day by day.

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Governor apologizes for spotty food distribution

By **BRIAN O'CONNOR**
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — St. Croix residents will get a second reprisal from a government curfew, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said during a press conference Friday at Government House.

Hours for residents to shop and conduct business will again be limited to between noon and 4 p.m., Mapp said. Distribution of food and water — most distribution points on St. Croix were depleted within a matter of hours Friday, the first day of distribution — also will resume and be expanded to include a full carton each of 14 military-style rations and 13 liters of water.

Officials also plan to add an additional distribution site on St. Croix. The full list is:

- Juanita Gardine Elementary School
- Cotton Valley fire station
- St. Croix Educational Complex High School



Maurice Jackson

- Alexander Henderson Elementary School
- Eulalie Rivera Elementary School

Food distribution also will resume on St. Thomas today after failing to materialize Friday, and non-curfew hours will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., according to Mapp.

Mapp apologized for delays in distribution at sites throughout St. Croix, particularly Juanita Gardine Elementary School, where people waited in line for hours to obtain one 14-meal carton of military rations and six liters of water.

"Let me offer a heartfelt apology to the folks that went to the distribution centers today," he said. "We, as I said yesterday, have limited supplies, and at one of our distribution centers, Juanita Gardine, we simply did not

get it off the ground on time. We did not get the supplies there, and I'm not going to spend a whole lot of time on that. I spoke with the adjutant general about that, and tonight somebody will be relieved of their duties as not following the orders that they were given and changing instructions after they were delivered."

The personnel change, apparently within the National Guard, was joined by news that Police Commissioner Delroy Richards Sr. had relieved Deputy chiefs of their duties on St. Thomas and St. John.

"I'm not satisfied with the response that I got during this crisis," he said. "Similar to St. Croix. I am not truly satisfied with the response I have gotten from my command folks."

Both Deputy Chief Eugene Alcendor on St. Thomas and Deputy Chief Arlene Chalwell on St. John have been relieved, Richards said.

Additional command changes on St. Croix were anticipated, Richards said. The bottom line was that the re-

sponse provided by command line officers didn't match up with plans the department had distributed in case of catastrophic events, Richards said.

The personnel changes weren't intended to be punitive, Mapp said.

"We're not being personal, we're not being political," he said. "We're not trying to debate anyone. We're not trying to question anyone's integrity."

Additional personnel changes could be expected, Mapp said.

"There are going to be more coming," he said. "And they're not going to be just in the police department and the National Guard, because folks, they look good when everything is fine and the sun is shining, boy they act good and you say, 'Man, you got a winner here.' But when the wind howl, they blow right off the shelf."

The territory was anticipating additional mercy flights from commercial airlines, as well as a cruise ship to transport residents from the territory to Florida.

Additional stocks of food and water were expected to arrive on St. Croix today, said FEMA representative Bill Vogel.

On St. Thomas, the USS Wright was to arrive at the WICO dock late Friday to unload supplies, Mapp said.

First responders will receive food and water through a different supply line, Mapp said.

Evacuation of the Luis Hospital, as well as hemodialysis patients, will begin today, Health Commissioner Michelle Davis said.

"We are going to do that because that's the only option that we have," Mapp said.

The governor also confirmed the death of 15-year Daily News employee Maurice Jackson, a Navy veteran who lived in Anna's Retreat on St. Thomas. Mapp said it was likely that Jackson drowned and was the first casualty of Hurricane Maria, though officials were waiting for an autopsy on Friday to make a final determination.

Curfew constraints lead to long lines, frustration on St. Croix

By **BRIAN O'CONNOR**
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — St. Croix residents chafed at a four-hour curfew suspension Friday.

Long lines were evident at most grocery stores and gas stations. At Plaza Extra West, the line stretched the length of the grocery store, then bent around the edge of the parking lot to some trees near the road, a distance of about a quarter mile. National Guardsmen monitored the line, and while some who waited in line complained of cutting, they said they were resigned to wait.

Most people were hot, but gracious when interviewed by The Daily News, like Santos Vasquez, who was near the line's midpoint at about 1 p.m.

He said he'd been waiting in line about an hour for the basics.

"Some charcoal, some fuel, some bread," he said.

Vasquez suffered heavy damage during the storm.

"I lost my windows, the ceiling came

down," he said. "I had three inches of water in my house."

Vasquez showed up a little bit before the government curfew was suspended at noon, and went to the grocery store nearest his house.

"I just come to what I need to buy and go home," he said.

The line moved slowly, Vasquez said. "We're moving like little ants instead of people," he said. "I need to wait and be patient, that's it."

Jonell Johnson was closer to the line's end, and said she'd also been waiting for an hour.

"I really didn't think it would be so bad," she said. "It just is what it is."

Johnson was waiting to buy water, juice, and ice, though she said the ice was likely all gone, and other basic necessities, like bleach.

Johnson came after curfew.

"I adhere to the rules," she said.

Asked if she felt like a sucker for following the rules, when others who had not followed the rules got in line first, Johnson laughed.

"Yeah, sort of, because I didn't expect to see so many people here," she said. "But like I said, I have to cope with it."

Others waiting in line were critical of the length of time they had available. Mandisa Williams was last in line about 1 p.m. Williams, like others in the line, was critical of the immediate response to Hurricane Maria, which brushed the island on Tuesday.

"I think Mapp should have given us the whole day," she said. "Because this for us, doesn't make any sense. This line doesn't make any sense."

When are we going to get in, four o'clock? And when does he want us off the road, four o'clock? And just to come from where we came from was a long drive."

Williams said she thought the government should have moved faster.

"From the time the storm passed, we should have done been clearing roads," she said. "I mean, nothing wrong with civilians clearing roads. Don't tell us people clearing roads, and when you go

on the road, nobody's there."

Still, for those who scurried past the line to stash groceries in waiting cars, the wait appeared to be worth it. Daisy Jacobs required assistance from a younger family member to push a cart loaded with groceries, including frozen chicken, juice, and other necessities, out to her car.

"I tell them I'm a senior citizen and I had two total knee replacements," she said. "So I get in. Once you show your card, that's it."

Jacobs was shopping for 14 people. She wasn't sure how long the food she had in her cart would last. She said if the harbors weren't soon repaired, things would get worse.

"You know, we ain't seen nothing yet you know," she said. "Wait about 10-12 days. We ain't got no ships coming in."

Some businesses broke curfew, despite strong warnings from government officials at a press conference Friday night.

Stacey Ambrose owner of Paquito's along with Norma Melendez, said he

made no apologies for being open at 11 a.m., his second consecutive day of operation. He was not worried about authorities shutting him down.

"No, we're not, to be honest," he said. "We have to start preparing—our food about 6 so we can be ready about 11, 11:30. So, as you can see, our food is not fully prepared, but what we do have is if folks come in we're going to give them food."

The restaurant was operating without a radio or other means of knowing about the curfew, Ambrose said. He had enough food on hand, and didn't want it to spoil, and was anticipating a refill from Stop and Shop.

"Yesterday, we ran out of food," he said. "Basically, we were actually going back to get stuff to cook. But folks know about Paquito's. After-Hurricane Hugo, this was the place at the time because we had a generator and others did not, so we were feeding the whole island at one point, all the first responders and everything."

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The Virgin Islands
DAILY NEWS
A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Newspaper

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The Virgin Islands
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A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Newspaper

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ST. JOHN

ST. THOMAS

TORTOLA



Daily News photo by BRIAN O'CONNOR

A line forms as shoppers wait to buy staples at Plaza Extra West during a four-hour break in curfew Friday on St. Croix, where residents are restricted to their homes from 4 p.m. to noon.

Curfew time constraints lead to long lines, tempers

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Stacey Ambrose owner of Paquito's along with Norma Melendez, said he made no apologies for being open at 11 a.m., his second consecutive day of operation. He was not worried about authorities shutting him down.

"No, we're not, to be honest," he said. "We have to start preparing our food about 6 so we can be ready about 11, 11:30. So, as you can see, our food is not fully prepared, but what we do have is if folks come in we're going to give them food."

The restaurant was operating without a radio or other means of knowing about the curfew, Ambrose said. He had enough food on hand, and didn't want it to spoil, and was anticipating a refill from Stop and Shop.

"Yesterday, we ran out of food," he said. "Basically, we were actually going back to get stuff to cook. But folks know about Paquito's. After Hurricane Hugo, this was the place at the time because we had a generator and others did not, so we were feeding the whole island at one point, all the first responders and everything."

Coral Bay residents: 'Nobody knows we exist'

By **BILL KISER**
Daily News Staff

ST. JOHN — Pam Gaffin has gone through her share of hurricanes during the last three decades — Hugo, Marilyn and others.

But the longtime resident of St. John didn't have trouble finding the words to describe the damage suffered by the Coral Bay community on the East End of the island from Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

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Yet with all the damage to St. John — especially the eastern end of the island — Gaffin said that there has been little to no support from the V.I. government or federal government relief agencies during the last three weeks.

"The problem is, nobody knows



Photo by LOS ANGELES TIMES

Catika Wa Richards rests in a car with her children in Coral Bay, where she has lived her whole life. Almost three weeks after Hurricane Irma destroyed much of St. John, a slow recover is underway.

we exist," she said. "It doesn't seem like we have any way to come back and say, 'Hello, what about us?' Nobody's listening."

Gaffin's story of both the devasta-

tion and lack of support was echoed by others interviewed by The Daily News on Monday, after passenger ferry service resumed between the Red Hook terminal on St. Thomas and Cruz Bay.

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Yet Topp's statement directly conflicts with that of Gaffin and Young, who made their way to Cruz Bay on Monday — Gaffin to gather information to bring back to Coral Bay to share with other community leaders, Young to catch the ferry to St. Thomas.

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That has been another big problem

See **CORAL BAY**, next page

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Helping out



Dulcey Rood, left, and Greg Clark make sandwiches at The Longboard restaurant in Cruz Bay, St. John, for distribution by the American Red Cross at its shelter.

Daily News photo by BILL KISER

CORAL BAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in Coral Bay, according to Gaffin and Young — the lack of a police or security presence.

“That’s why we have to take down the Wi-Fi every night,” Gaffin said. “We had St. Croix policemen, and since Maria they’ve disappeared and we haven’t gotten any replacements. Surely we have one cop, one?”

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“All I can say is that the national news media, the FEMA folks reported, the FBI,” he said. “We stood at this briefing and announced between National Guard and V.I. Police Department over 30 or 40 folks over there. The territorial police chief was there. We stationed four patrol units there for the evening in Coral Bay alone. We put two patrol units between Coral Bay and Cruz Bay, and we had four patrol units in

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Delroy Richards Sr., commissioner of the V.I. Police Department, could not be reached for comment.

Another concern to Coral Bay, according to Gaffin, is the status of Centerline Road. While military and local workers were able to clear most of the road after Irma, the tropical force winds and heavy rainfall from Hurricane Maria caused its own set of problems.

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Daily News photo by BILL KISER

A private boat unloads relief supplies on the beach in Cruz Bay, St. John, on Monday.

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“The problem is, nobody knows we exist,” she said. “It doesn’t seem like we have any way to come back and say, ‘Hello, what about us?’ Nobody’s listening.”

Gaffin’s story of both the devastation and lack of support was echoed by others interviewed by The Daily News on Monday, after passenger ferry service resumed between the Red Hook terminal on St. Thomas and Cruz Bay.

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"Who's in charge of this mess? They won't talk to me, they won't talk to anybody. I was told ridiculous things by them."

Full disclosure: A photograph by Los Angeles Times photographer Carolyn Cole, taken in Coral Bay, St. John, accompanied this story. With no staff photographers, The Daily News drew upon reporters, freelancers, federal agencies, non-profit organizations and wire services to supplement our coverage and to allow our readers to view images and stories that would have been unavailable to them otherwise.



Daily News photo by SUZANNE CARLSON

Sherlois Isidore, 10, has been stuck on St. Thomas since the hurricanes hit, and she has already missed a month of school at home on St. Lucia.

Storms strand St. Lucia family on St. Thomas

By SUZANNE CARLSON
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Stranded on St. Thomas following hurricanes Irma and Maria, a family from St. Lucia is trying to return home to resume their lives.

Philomena Giraud, 60, has lived on St. Thomas for 20 years, and granddaughter Sherlois Isidore, 10, was visiting with other family from St. Lucia when the hurricanes hit.

They huddled together in a bathroom while Irma tore part of the roof off Giraud's home on Commandant Gade, also known as Garden Street, during Irma, and Maria brought heavy rain that flooded the house.

"We have half of a roof and thank God for it, thank God for my half of my roof," Giraud said.

They've been without power, dipping water from the cistern, hand washing clothes, and living the way Giraud said she was raised

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— Philomena Giraud, grandmother of Sherlois Isidore, 10, who is stuck on St. Thomas

on St. Lucia.

"I was born without current, and carry water in the river, so I'm surviving," Giraud said. "I go through hard times already so I know how to survive."

While Giraud is concerned about the mold growing in her hurricane-ravaged home, and the curl of screw-studded corrugated steel lodged in her entryway, she's more worried about getting her family members back home.

Visiting family members with health issues have been unable to travel home on a mercy

flight or cruise, and are unsure how they'll return to St. Lucia. One woman said she was told her medical conditions are not urgent enough to warrant such an evacuation, and was turned away by representatives of the VI. Tourism Department.

On Tuesday, they joined a huge line of people at VITEMA hoping to register for a mercy cruise that's reportedly coming this weekend, but Giraud said they were told the department wasn't taking registrations and they could make no guarantees of evacuation.

Isidore has also missed a month of school, and is desperate to return to her friends and family on St. Lucia.

"I want to go home," Isidore said. Being stuck on St. Thomas is making her "sad," and sleep provides the only respite from the boredom. She's a voracious reader, but many of her books got wet during Maria, and she's quickly running out of reading material.

While commercial flights are now available, family members said the limited flight schedule means seats are hard to come by and expensive — more than \$1,000 per person.

For now, they're still stuck, but Giraud said she's hopeful the situation will be resolved soon, somehow.

"I have tried and I cannot get them out," Giraud said.

— Contact Suzanne Carlson at 340-714-9122 or email scarlson@dailynews.vi.

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Mentally ill inmate still languishing in prison

Man has already served three years more than maximum sentencing guideline for crime

By **SUZANNE CARLSON**
Daily News Staff

A mentally ill man still is languishing in federal prison after the recent hurricanes scuttled his sentencing date, according to court documents.

Vernel Williams, 40, has been detained since his arrest on Dec. 29, 2013, and has been incarcerated 45 months to date — more than three years over the maximum sentencing guideline for the offense to which he's pleaded guilty, according to court documents.

Williams pleaded guilty under an agreement with prosecutors, who have indicated that they do not op-

pose his release from custody pending sentencing. Assistant Public Defender Kia Sears has filed repeated and increasingly urgent motions seeking his pre-sentence release, all of which have gone unanswered by a judge, according to court documents.

In the latest motion, Sears wrote that "further detention of Mr. Williams would be a gross injustice and his release should be ordered immediately."

Williams had been scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 28, but that date has been continued to Oct. 26 as a result of the recent hurricanes, according to court documents.

For the majority of the nearly four

years Williams has been incarcerated, the U.S. District Court system struggled to determine whether he is mentally ill and incapable of insisting in his own defense.

Williams was shuttled between institutions in Puerto Rico, North Carolina, Kentucky and the Virgin Islands over his incarceration, and at various times he was found to be competent to stand trial, according to court records.

Williams was arrested on Dec. 29, 2013, and charged with third-degree assault in connection with a shooting that occurred on Dec. 24, 2013. Williams is accused of shooting a man with a .22-caliber Smith & Wesson Model P22 handgun near Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School, according to court records.

A psychiatrist who conducted a mental health evaluation on Williams in November found that he was exhibiting paranoid and delusional behavior. She issued a formal diagnosis of schizophrenia, said he would not be able to assist in his own defense, and recommended he receive treatment at a psychiatric institution, according to court documents.

The territory does not have a psychiatric treatment facility to house mentally ill prisoners.

Most recently, Williams was incarcerated at Guaynabo metropolitan detention center in Puerto Rico.

On July 7, Sears filed a motion asking the court to release him pending sentencing.

Williams pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a firearm in a school zone in an agreement with prosecutors signed on May 23, and

federal prosecutors did not oppose a defense motion filed on July 6 asking that Williams be released pending sentencing, Sears wrote in the motion.

Under sentencing guidelines, Williams would have been sentenced to a maximum of six months in prison, and has therefore "been incarcerated more than three years over the maximum guideline compliant sentence for the offense for which he is pending sentencing," Sears wrote, adding that "further detention of Mr. Williams would be a gross injustice."

A judge never ruled on the July 7 motion.

Sears filed another motion on Aug. 18 seeking to expedite Williams' sentencing, which had been set for Sept. 28.

That motion reiterated the facts laid out in the July 7 motion, and requested that the court expedite his sentencing to the following week.

With those motions still unanswered by a judge, Sears filed an emergency motion for release from custody pending sentencing on Sept. 27.

"Due to Hurricane Irma, the District Court of the Virgin Islands announced it would close at noon on Sept. 5, 2017 and would remain closed through Sept. 6, 2017," Sears wrote in the motion.

The court remained closed Sept. 7 and 8, and counsel received communication the following day that the court would be closed until further notice, Sears wrote.

The court has not yet reopened. The St. Croix District Court shut down for Hurricane Maria on Sept. 18, and has not yet reopened.

"Counsel learned yesterday that Mr. Williams was transported from the Metropolitan Detention Center in Puerto Rico to a high-security United States Penitentiary in Yazoo City, Mississippi," Sears wrote on Sept. 27.

Given the unlikelihood that Williams would be transported by the U.S. Marshals Service back to the territory in time for his sentencing the following day, "Mr. Williams requests that this Court order his immediate release," according to the motion. "Governor Mapp has announced that the St. Thomas airport will reopen tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017. Therefore, the U.S. Marshals Service should be able to purchase Mr. Williams a commercial flight plane ticket back to St. Thomas upon his release."

Sears further argued that Williams has served three years more in prison than the sentencing guidelines allow, it's uncertain when either district court will reopen in the territory, Williams' transfer to a high-security facility means he's subject to stricter conditions than in Guaynabo, and it's uncertain when he would otherwise be returned to the district through the U.S. Marshals Service's airline system.

Sears reiterated that further detention of Williams would be a "gross injustice" and he should be released immediately.

Williams is still incarcerated in prison in Mississippi, according to the federal inmate database. His release date is listed as "unknown."

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Mentally ill inmate still languishing in prison

*Man has already served three years more
than maximum sentencing guideline for crime*

By **SUZANNE CARLSON**
Daily News Staff

A mentally ill man still is languishing in federal prison after the recent hurricanes scuttled his sentencing date, according to court documents.

Vernel Williams, 40, has been detained since his arrest on Dec. 29, 2013, and has been incarcerated 45 months to date — more than three years over the maximum sentencing guideline for the offense to which he's pleaded guilty, according to court documents.

Williams pleaded guilty under an agreement with prosecutors, who have indicated that they do not oppose his release from custody pending sentencing. Assistant Public Defender Kia Sears has filed repeated and increasingly urgent motions seeking his pre-sentence release, all of which have gone unanswered by a judge, according to court documents.

In the latest motion, Sears wrote that “further detention of Mr. Williams would be a gross injustice and his release should be ordered immediately.”

Williams had been scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 28, but that date has been continued to Oct. 26 as a result of the recent hurricanes, according to court documents.

For the majority of the nearly four years Williams has been incarcerated, the U.S. District Court system struggled to determine whether he is mentally ill and incapable of insisting in his own defense.

Williams was shuttled between institutions in Puerto Rico, North Carolina, Kentucky and the Virgin Islands over his incarceration, and at various times he was found to be competent to stand trial, according to court records.

Williams was arrested on Dec. 29, 2013, and charged with third-degree assault in connection with a shooting that occurred on Dec. 24, 2013. Williams is accused of shooting a man with a .22-caliber Smith & Wesson Model P22 handgun near Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School, according to court records.

A psychiatrist who conducted a mental health evaluation on Williams in November found that he was exhibiting paranoid and delusional behavior. She issued a formal diagnosis of schizophrenia, said he would not be able to assist in his own defense, and recommended he

receive treatment at a psychiatric institution, according to court documents.

The territory does not have a psychiatric treatment facility to house mentally ill prisoners. Most recently, Williams was incarcerated at Guaynabo metropolitan detention center in Puerto Rico.

On July 7, Sears filed a motion asking the court to release him pending sentencing.

Williams pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a firearm in a school zone in an

agreement with prosecutors signed on May 23, and federal prosecutors did not oppose a defense motion filed on July 6 asking that Williams be released pending sentencing, Sears wrote in the motion.

Under sentencing guidelines, Williams would have been sentenced to a maximum of six months in prison, and has therefore “been incarcerated more than three years over the maximum guideline compliant sentence for the offense for which he is pending sentencing,” Sears wrote, adding that “further detention of Mr. Williams would be a gross injustice.”

A judge never ruled on the July 7 motion.

Sears filed another motion on Aug. 18 seeking to expedite Williams’ sentencing, which had been set for Sept. 28.

That motion reiterated the facts laid out in the July 7 motion, and requested that the court expedite his sentencing to the following week.

With those motions still unanswered by a judge, Sears filed an emergency motion for

release from custody pending sentencing on Sept. 27.

“Due to Hurricane Irma, the District Court of the Virgin Islands announced it would close at noon on Sept. 5, 2017 and would remain closed through Sept. 6, 2017,” Sears wrote in the motion.

The court remained closed Sept. 7 and 8, and counsel received communication the following day that the court would be closed until further notice, Sears wrote.

The court has not yet reopened.

The St. Croix District Court shut down for Hurricane Maria on Sept. 18, and has not yet reopened.

“Counsel learned yesterday that Mr. Williams was transported from the Metropolitan Detention Center in Puerto Rico to a high-security United States Penitentiary in Yazoo City, Mississippi,” Sears wrote on Sept. 27.

Given the unlikelihood that Williams would be transported by the U.S. Marshals Service back to the territory in time for his sentencing the following day, “Mr. Williams requests that this Court order his immediate release,” according to the motion. “Governor Mapp has announced



that the St. Thomas airport will reopen tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017. Therefore, the U.S. Marshals Service should be able to purchase Mr. Williams a commercial flight plane ticket back to St. Thomas upon his release.”

Sears further argued that Williams has served three years more in prison than the sentencing guidelines allow, it’s uncertain when either district court will reopen in the territory, Williams’ transfer to a high-security facility means he’s subject to stricter conditions than in Guaynabo, and it’s uncertain when he would otherwise be returned to the district through the U.S. Marshals Service’s airline system.

Sears reiterated that further detention of Williams would be a “gross injustice” and he should be released immediately.

Williams is still incarcerated in prison in Mississippi, according to the federal inmate database. His release date is listed as “unknown.”

Cold gold: With power out, ice a much-needed commodity

By **BILL KISER**
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Javerne Lake may be one of the most popular people in Smith Bay these days.

Just days after Hurricane Irma hit the Virgin Islands on Sept. 6, Lake's company was back in business, supplying the community with a much-needed commodity — ice.

These days, it could just as well be called "cold gold."

"It IS gold," said Smith Bay resident Tricia Williams as she waited to get a 10-pound bag of ice from Lake.

With the power still out after Category 5 hurricanes Irma and Maria ravaged the territory, finding ice has become part of the daily routine for many residents, just like finding gas, food or water.

And with Gov. Kenneth Mapp saying that it could be around Christmas — nearly three months away — before electrical service is fully restored on St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix, it could become even more valuable as the weeks drag on.

"Ice and gas is the most hectic thing right now, ice and gas," said Lake, who co-owns Express Ice with his uncle, Lake's Chicken Fry restaurant owner Louis Lake.

"We have a lot of customers, but we're not delivering to any businesses now because we're trying to cater to the community. Hopefully before Christmas we get power, hopefully."

According to information from the V.I. Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, Express Ice is one of five companies on St. Thomas, and 11 territorywide, in the business of making ice.



Daily News photo by BILL KISER

Javerne Lake, co-owner of Express Ice in Smith Bay, St. Thomas, has been using the company's ice delivery trucks to store the ice bags that are filled during the afternoon for sale the following morning.

Most produce the ice for their own use, such as grocery stores and convenience stores. But Express Ice is one of two on St. Thomas that sells their ice to businesses that either use the product themselves or resell it to the public.

That's what the Lakes do at Express Ice. "We did the cruise ship dock [at Havensight], Blackbeard's Castle, 1849, Caribbean Saloon, Senor Frogs — we have a lot of customers," Lake said. "We did the hotels as well. We did 20-pound bags for the cruise ships, bars and restaurants, and 10-pound bags for the hotels. We've been around a long time."

Express Ice — which began in 1992 as Lake's Ice before changing its name to Express Ice two years later — survived Hurricane Marilyn in 1995 with little damage, according to Lake.

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more devastating, ripping the roof off the building housing the company's ice-making equipment, and damaging the condenser to its main ice-making machine.

"We had to go find the condenser, fans and cooling tower. It was blown way over there," Lake said, pointing to a spot about 100 yards away. "We had to get them and bring them back."

Still, Lake said that the company had stockpiled enough ice in its storage cooler and both of its delivery trucks to resume selling to the public the day after Irma. After making repairs to the generator and a smaller ice-making machine, Lake said they were back making ice the day after that.

"Yeah, I was surprised," Lake said. "We're still trying to get the big machine working, but we've got to get the Freon, the parts, the sensors. We've had to send

away for the parts. But we were selling ice the day after Irma.

"We've got a fresh water well, so the main thing was power," he said. "We've got a generator, but when the roof went, the machines were running and the generator shut off. But we got the electrical running, ran a couple of pipes and we were good the next day."

Lake said that, to keep from wearing out their only working ice-making machine, he's been limiting the production runs each day.

"We're here at 5:30 in the morning, we come back at 2:30 in the afternoon, and we're back here at 5:30-5:45 in the afternoon to get in a last batch before the curfew," Lake said. "This one machine is really helping us produce."

The availability of ice has produces long lines of customers at Express Ice each morning — some people showing up as early as 5 a.m. — looking to get a bag or two.

It's been trouble free, too, according to Lake.

"We had the crowd going out to the road, but it's eased off some," he said. "So far, we've had no fights, we've had no arguments. I've got to give a shout out to the community for that, thank them for not bringing any drama here. Everybody come, they wait in line, they get their ice, they leave."

"For the most part, we've had no commotion here. We have a two-bag limit, and sometimes we had to have a one-bag limit," Lake said. "We just tell everybody, 'We'll start with one, you get that and go to the back of the line, and hopefully you'll get another one.' Everybody's cooperated, and been real nice."

Where to get ice

Places that produce ice:

St. Croix

- Plaza Extra East, Sion Farm, Christiansted.
- Plaza Extra West, Estate Plessen.
- Bi-Rite Supermarket, Estate Richmond, Christiansted.
- East Way Mini-Mart, Boetzberg, Christiansted.
- Abstract Manufacturing, Estate Whim, Frederiksted.
- Gateway Service Station, Peter's Rest, Christiansted.

St. John

- Pine Peace Mini-Mart, Cruz Bay.

St. Thomas

- Plaza Extra, Tutu Park Mall.
- Gottlieb's Quick-Way Service Center, Estate Constant, Charlotte Amalie.
- Express Ice, Smith Bay.
- Wala Ice, Estate Bovoni, Charlotte Amalie.

Source: V.I. Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

V.I. Montessori School teacher with history of amnesia still missing

By **SUZANNE CARLSON**
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — The search continues for missing Montessori teacher Hannah Upp.

V.I. Police Commissioner Delroy Richards Sr. said Wednesday the department has received no new information about her disappearance.

Upp was last seen on the morning of Sept. 14 leaving her home, and this is the longest period that she has been missing. The next day, a construction crew at Sapphire Beach found Upp's

car keys, clothing and sandals by the beach bar. Her car was also located at Sapphire with her purse, phone, wallet and ID inside.

Friends organized a search party for Upp in the area and were desperate to find her before Hurricane Maria hit. But three weeks after she was last seen, she remains missing. Twice before, Upp has disappeared



Hannah Upp

suddenly, and it's believed she may suffer from an extremely rare form of amnesia known as dissociative fugue. Individuals in such a fugue state are able to perform the normal functions of life but are unable to remember any personal details and may be unsure of who they are. Sufferers also frequently travel with no clear destination.

"We have reason to believe that she has entered a dissociative fugue state," friend and fellow Montessori school teacher Maggie Guzman said. "She may be high-functioning, and if she's found, she should

immediately be brought to a hospital or the police should be called because she may resist."

In 2008, Upp was found by a ferry crew floating facedown in the Hudson River in New York City after having gone missing for 17 days. She told the New York Times at the time that she had no memory of the incident, and it felt like only 10 minutes had passed since she entered the fugue state.

Upp went missing again in 2013 in Maryland, and was found two days later after friends launched a search.

Jake Bradley has also been helping

to lead searches for Upp, and said on Sept. 25 that his team has "done all the physical searching that I think we can do," and they are hoping Upp might recognize herself on a poster.

Upp is described as 5 feet 7 inches tall with brown eyes and short, light brown hair. She may be wearing a bathing suit or shorts and a sports bra.

Anyone who has seen Upp or has information about her location is asked to report it immediately to 911, or call Maggie Guzman at 340-474-9774. For more information, visit "Find Hannah Upp" on Facebook.

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Daily News photo by BILL KISER

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

\$1



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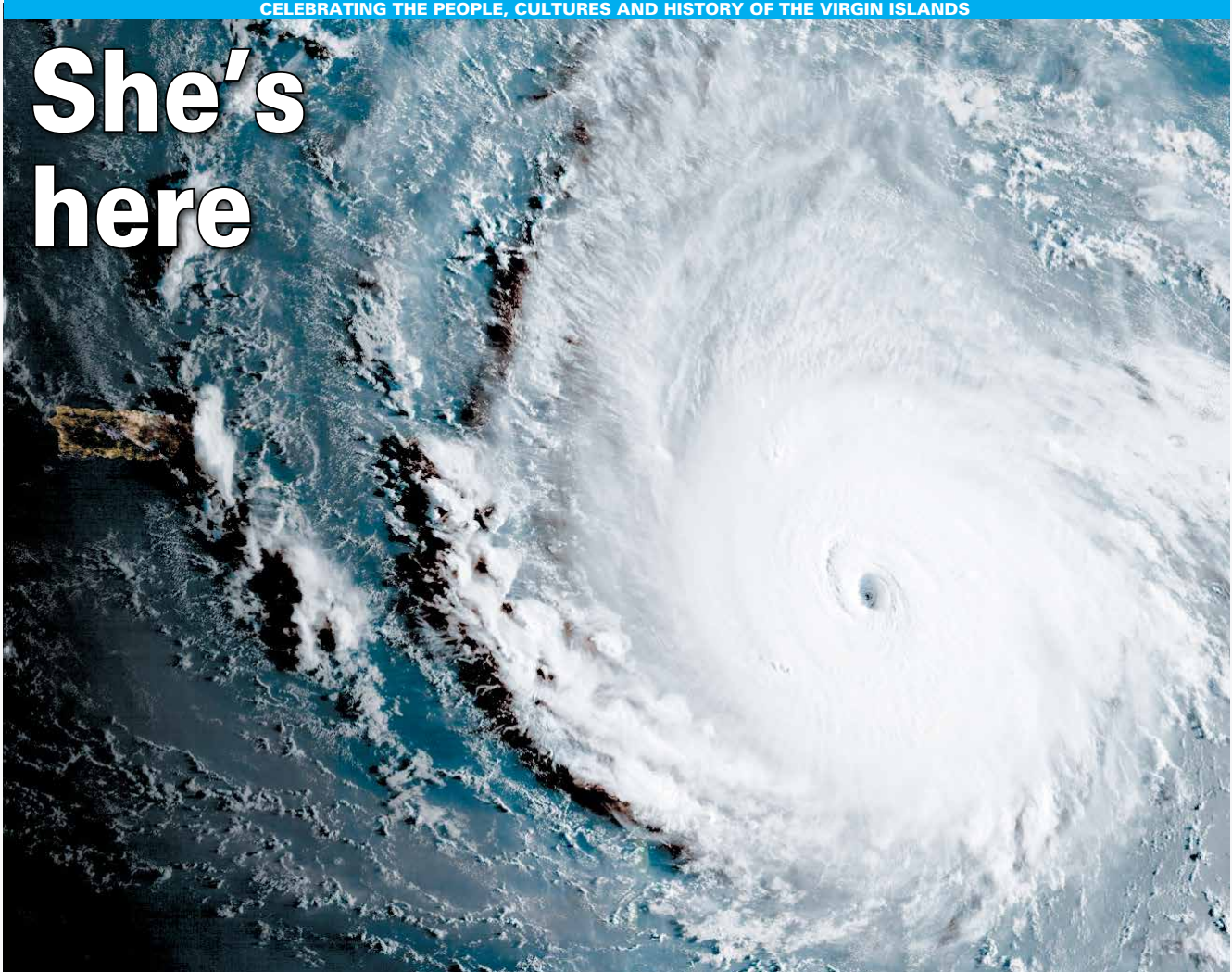
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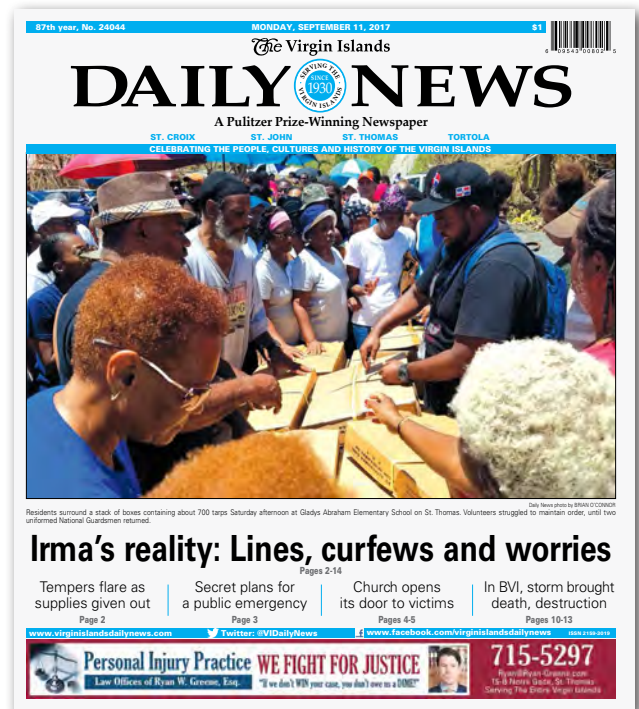
Sept. 7, 2017



Sept. 8, 2017



Sept. 9-10, 2017



Sept. 11, 2017

87th year, No. 24045 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 \$1

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Appealing to our better angels



An angel looted from the cemetery at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church stands watch in Estate Mafolie, St. Thomas, near a sign warning that "Looters Will be Shot". Daily News photo by BILL KESLER.

Authorities look into price-gouging reports Page 3 | WAPA begins to restore feeders Page 4 | Confusion ahead of evacuation ships Pages 6-7 | Balsam Ghut prisoners head home Page 8

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Sept. 12, 2017

87th year, No. 24046 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 \$1

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Devastation and destruction on St. John



A sailboat, its keel ripped out, lies grounded on shore at the Cruz Bay ferry terminal on St. John. Pages 2-8 Daily News photo by BILL KESLER.

WAPA lineman dies in accident Page 12 | Thousands evacuate from V.I. aboard ship Page 8 | Red Cross volunteers arrive in V.I. to help Page 6 | Gas stations open for first responders Page 12

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Sept. 13, 2017

87th year, No. 24047 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 \$1

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'We need water, we need food. We need everything.'
 —Willemine Blen-Arne, Tuta Hi-Rise resident



Dozens of apartments at the Tuta Hi-Rise housing community on St. Thomas are left open to the elements after Hurricane Irma's Category 5 winds tore through the complex. A number of Hi-Rise residents have taken up temporary residence in an American Red Cross-managed shelter, while other residents are hanging on in the complex with limited food and water. Pages 2-3 Daily News photo by BILLY COCHRAN.

Mapp relaxes curfew, threatens to fire staff Page 9 | BVI prisoners given 24 hours to return Page 11 | Riding out Irma in a cupboard Page 13 | WAPA warns lines being powered up Page 5

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Sept. 14, 2017

87th year, No. 24048 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 \$1

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Duncan returns home with millions in aid



A technician from NBC News uses his smartphone to record video Thursday as former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, second from left, speaks during a press conference at the St. Thomas Air Center at King Airport. Also with Bloomberg are, from left, Gov. Kenneth Mapp, retired NBA star and St. Croix native Tim Duncan and Lt. Gov. Robert Foster. Pages 3-4 Daily News photo by BILL KESLER.

Schneider Hospital 'not going to reopen anytime soon' Page 2 | Storm survivors can apply for assistance Page 8 | Hurricane splits hundreds of families Page 12

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Sept. 15, 2017

87th year, No. 24459 SATURDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2017 51

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Stars align to bring food, aid in Irma's wake



Retired NIA superstar and St. Croix native Tim Duncan, center, looks on as volunteers move pallets of food and other supplies to be handed out in the Frenchtown area Friday. Duncan had two truckloads of food and other supplies flown into St. Thomas, and plans more shipments in the coming days and weeks. Page 4

WAPA infrastructure decimated Page 2
 Mapp calls on Cuomo to keep V.I. in spotlight Page 3
 King Airport faces uncertain timeline Page 5
 Limited ferry service resumes to Tortola Page 7

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Sept. 16-17, 2017

87th year, No. 24050 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 51

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Not again



A St. John home destroyed by Hurricane Irma is seen from the air. Daily News photo by Bill Kozicki

Mapp suspends recovery effort, warns territory's residents to take cover as Maria approaches Page 9, 13



Resolve, worries on St. John Pages 2-5
 Ship call Page 8

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Sept. 18, 2017

87th year, No. 24051 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 51

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Maria aiming at St. Croix

Mapp issues warning Page 4 | St. Thomas teacher missing Page 5 | Aboard the USS Kearsarge Pages 8-11

Tutu Hi-Rise residents greet evacuation with suspicion



Kimraqua Mahoney, left, and Shenel Freeman stand in Freeman's blown-out living room, where Freeman came face to face with the full force of Hurricane Irma. On Monday morning, Mahoney and Freeman were weighing whether to evacuate or remain as Hurricane Maria approached. Pages 2-3

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Sept. 19, 2017

87th year, No. 24052 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 51

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Maria deals 'mind boggling' blow to Dominica en route to St. Croix



This photo provided by Jenny Promeneur shows storm damage at her grandmother's house caused by Hurricane Maria in Bouillante, Guadeloupe, on Tuesday. Photo by JENNY PROMENEUR

Caribbean nations appeal for storm help Page 5 | Is this hurricane season worse than normal? Page 4

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Sept. 20, 2017

87th year, No. 24053 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

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Virgilio Rodriguez throws his hands up toward the heavens Wednesday afternoon on King Street in Frederiksted town during a discussion with Greg Lidenan. Hurricane Maria brought heavy damage to parts of Frederiksted, though the eye of the Category 5 hurricane did not make landfall on St. Croix.

Maria crawls over V.I.

Category 5 storm spares St. Croix its worst as it delivers widespread damage Pages 2, 8 and 11

Already battered St. Thomas and St. John get second dose of wind and flooding Pages 3-7

Hurricane is strongest to hit Puerto Rico in 80 years; At least 9 dead in Caribbean Pages 9-10

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Sept. 21, 2017

87th year, No. 24054 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

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St. Croix turned upside down

A small aircraft lies on its wings near the Robert S. Allen Airport runway on Wednesday afternoon, evidence of Hurricane Maria's passage near the island of St. Croix. The main runway appeared clear Wednesday afternoon, though Gov. Kenneth Mapp said Thursday he did not know when the airport would reopen for commercial aviation.

Mapp orders curfew crackdown

Businesses that open after-hours will be shut down, prosecuted, governor warns Page 3

Smith Bay feels double punch Pages 6-7

Luis Hospital status critical after Maria Page 2

Christiansted sorts through storm damage Pages 4-5

BVI shows zero tolerance for looters Page 8-9

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Sept. 22, 2017

Paradise Jam deserts the V.I. Basketball tourney organizers cite damage from Hurricanes Irma and Maria Page 3

87th year, No. 24055 SATURDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2017

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Curfew = long lines, short tempers



A line forms as shoppers wait to buy staples at Plaza Extra West during a four-hour break in curfew Friday on St. Croix, where residents are restricted to their homes from 4 p.m. to noon. Page 2

Chaos, confusion at St. Croix shelters Page 3

Mapp vows better job at food distribution Deputy chiefs fired over storm response, more heads will roll, says governor Page 2

Hurricanes cripple BVI essential services Pages 6-7

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Sept. 23-24, 2017

Trump takes on a new foe: The NFL Back Page | 60 years after Little Rock, schools still largely segregated Page 13

87th year, No. 24056 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

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Scarce hours, scarce goods on St. Croix



Shoppers faced rows of vacant shelves at the Golden Rock Publix during Sunday's curfew window. Apart from the four-hour window between noon and 4 p.m., St. Croix remains under a government curfew. Gov. Kenneth Mapp, on Sunday, said he is not ready to reduce the island's curfew. Page 2

Harvey, Irma, Maria. Why is this season so bad? Page 10

Tortola's shoreline communities torn apart by waves, not wind Page 2

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Sept. 25, 2017

Yankees slugger Aaron Judge breaks home run rookie record Page 26 | Spurs stand pat Page 24

87th year, No. 24057 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 \$1

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Hurricane relief V.I. style



A private boat unloads relief supplies on the beach in Cruz Bay, St. John, on Monday.

Brothers bring water and smiles Page 10

Coral Bay residents: 'Nobody knows we exist' Pages 4-5

Recovery picks up pace on St. Croix Pages 2-3

King Airport to reopen Page 3

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87th year, No. 24058 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 \$1

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Cruise ships could return in late October Page 2

Emergency food distribution paused



Rosalie Passet carries food and water away from the Juanita Gardine Elementary School food distribution line Tuesday on St. Croix. Distribution will be suspended temporarily today and Thursday, officials said. Page 7

Leonie Greig Powell, 75, holds up programs from the funerals of her son, Aul Greig Sr., and his son, Aul Greig Jr., who were born, shot and killed on St. Thomas in separate incidents. Her other son, Henry Greig, was also shot and killed on St. Thomas years ago. Despite desperately wanting to leave, she is still living in her blow-out apartment at Tutu Hi-Rise housing community.

Surviving day to day at Tutu Hi-Rise

NBA's Milt Newton raising money for V.I. Page 10

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Sept. 27, 2017

Derek Jeter, partners close deal to buy Marlins Page 24 | Playboy's Hugh Hefner dies at 91 Page 13

87th year, No. 24059 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 \$1

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Getting out of St. Croix with help from the Air Force



Patients are evacuated from Robben Airport on St. Croix on Tuesday aboard a U.S. Air Force C-130 transport plane based in Little Rock, Ark. The military is assisting with evacuating critically ill and injured patients after the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

Private schools start to reopen Pages 4-7

St. Thomas public schools to open in October Page 2

My Brother's Workshop providing free meals Pages 2-3

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Sept. 28, 2017

Governor confirms death of National Guard soldier on St. Thomas Page 6

87th year, No. 24060 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2017 \$1

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Long-awaited arrival



A ground crew member directs an American Airlines 757 arriving from Miami to its parking spot on Thursday at King Airport on St. Thomas. The American flight was the first commercial passenger flight to arrive on St. Thomas since Hurricane Irma blew through the territory on Sept. 6. Page 5

Gas station destroyed in explosion rebuilds again after hurricanes Pages 4-6

St. Lucian family stranded in V.I. Page 2

Hotels help father evacuate his son Page 8

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Sept. 29, 2017

87th year, No. 24061 SATURDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 1, 2017 \$1

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Ready and waiting

A sign from the St. Thomas Aquatic Center decorates the common area of a group of tents set up in front of the center's pool for National Guard soldiers coming in from the U.S. mainland to assist in the relief and recovery efforts on St. Thomas after hurricanes Irma and Maria. Days News photo by Bill Goss

Curfews eased Page 4
Tropical wave to drench the V.I. Page 2
WAPA says help is on the way Page 2
No place to call home Page 3

1,300 new power poles are here; 200-plus linemen coming soon
 Housing crisis looms for residents displaced by Irma, Maria

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Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2017

Panthers, penalties plague Patriots Page 26 | O.J. goes free Page 12 | El Faro's captain, crew blamed Page 12

87th year, No. 24062 MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017 \$1

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Sailing through turbulent times

Tyler Rice, left, a sailing instructor at the St. Thomas Yacht Club, leads a group of junior sailors in a stretching session before heading to the water to practice Sunday. Rice has been holding practice sessions for the club's junior sailors daily since Hurricane Irma hit the territory. Days News photo by Bill Goss Pages 6-8

Boat owners assess their losses after double hit by Irma and Maria Pages 2-3
As San Juan mayor pleads for federal help, Trump delivers derisive attacks Page 11

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Oct. 2, 2017

The known: 59 dead, more than 500 injured in Vegas shooting The unknown: Why Pages 12-13

Redskins face Chiefs Page 23

87th year, No. 24063 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017 \$1

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Food, water distribution to wrap up

Members of the Virginia National Guard unload supplies of meal rations and water to waiting Virgin Islanders on Monday at the Orror Brown Sr. Fire Station in Estate Ross Township on St. Thomas. Officials are working on replacing site-based distribution with a version of the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Page 3

Governor skeptical of Operation Blue Roof Page 5
Task force formed to target fraud Page 4
Salon's specialty: A bit of normal Page 2

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Oct. 3, 2017

Audit questions \$150 million in public spending
 As territory is poised to rebuild after hurricanes, inspectors general find conflicts of interest, overpayments and questionable expenses including baby-sitting fees and campaign donations Page 2

87th year, No. 24064 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017 \$1

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Mapp appeals to Trump for help

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump listen as Gov. Kenneth Mapp speaks during a briefing on hurricane relief efforts aboard the USS Kearsarge on Tuesday off San Juan. Mapp told the president that the U.I. government is facing a \$150 million bill to rebuild public infrastructure destroyed by recent hurricanes. Pages 3 and 8

Plane from St. Thomas crashes at P.R. airport Page 2
Evacuees from V.I. arrive in Florida Page 8
Vegas shooting Pages 12-13
Yankees, Twins fight for playoff spot Back Page

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87th year, No. 24065 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017 \$1

Inspectors general fault government handling of projects
Cite cost overruns of up to 433 percent, questionable appraisals and millions spent on unusable property Page 3

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Lynx win WNBA title Page 27

Rockies, Diamondbacks fight for last playoff spot Back Page

Getting back in business

Cold gold
Without power, ice is a necessity Page 2

Curfews relaxed Page 3

The FM radio Apple sells and doesn't want people to use Page 20

Mentally ill V.I. man still in jail despite serving 3 years more than recommended Page 8

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87th year, No. 24066 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017 \$1

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Getting back into the blue

V.I. donor makes \$250,000 challenge to aid recovery Page 2

Stress relief
Gyms help residents cope Page 2

Storm displaced 8,300 BVI residents Page 3

Danish team arriving in V.I. today Page 4

Baseball playoffs Back Page

Patriots, Bucs Page 26

Brit wins Nobel Page C10

Passengers aboard the first commercial airline flight to depart St. Croix's Robert Airport since Hurricane Maria struck two weeks ago wave goodbye Thursday. According to the U.S. Post Authority, the JetBlue flight was bound for Fort Lauderdale, Fla. In a press release, the authority thanked the U.S. and British military, federal and local government agencies, contractors and airlines for helping reopen the storm-battered airport. In addition to JetBlue, American Airlines, Cape Air and Seaborne also resumed service on Thursday.

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Oct. 6, 2017

87th year, No. 24067 SATURDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7-8, 2017 \$1

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Pence vows: 'We're in for the long haul'

VP says feds committed to helping V.I. rebuild Page 3

Plaskett blasts Mapp's hurricane response
Governor fires back Page 2

Back to the books
Some St. Thomas schools to reopen Tuesday Page 4

USA vs. Panama in World Cup qualifier Page 24

And the winner is ... Nobel Peace Prize goes to anti-nuke group Page 11

Baseball playoffs resume Back Page

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87th year, No. 24068 MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2017 \$1

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Recovery slow going in Coral Bay

Salvation Army, Red Cross team up to provide food to residents after hurricanes Page 2

Back to class: St. Thomas students to begin returning to class tomorrow Page 2

Undeclared Chiefs take on Texans Back Page | **Yankees, Red Sox stave off elimination** Pages 35 to 36

With grounded and damaged boats in the background, Jerry Smith, 13, tosses a fishing net into the dirty waters of Coral Bay on the East End of St. John on Friday. Jerry was trying to catch some bait fish to use to catch some larger fish. Pages 3 to 7

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Oct. 9

87th year, No. 24069 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017 \$1

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It's all about friendship



Participants in Virgin Islands Puerto Rico Friendship Day activities in Christiantown, St. Croix, on Monday get a selfie with Gov. Kenneth Mapp. **Page 8**

Viya brings network online early
 Skips testing to get customers back on the Web faster **Page 2**



Teachers union president says schools aren't ready yet **Page 3**

FEMA registration **Page 3** Vikings, Bears **Page 26** Yankees hold on, Red Sox eliminated **Pages 24 to 25**

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Mapp tells Virgin Islanders to get home earlier
 Curfew now in effect at 7 p.m. as governor says drivers 'can't get home in a safe way' after dark **Page 2**

Schools get a tardy start after hurricanes



Assistant Principal Michelle Williams, left, and acting principal Marlene Jones, lead students, teachers and parents in prayer at Bertha C. Bonobu Middle School on the opening day of school on St. Thomas on Tuesday. **Page 3**

ICMC founder pledges \$5 million to help V.I. **Page 2** FEMA offers fraud warning **Page 9** Unsexy tips to healthy eating **Page 20** NFL commissioner gives Trump win **Back Page**

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Here to help



EMS Task Force members from New Jersey help V.I. emergency personnel transport a patient from St. John to Schneider Hospital on Monday on St. Thomas. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services health and medical teams are in place to augment capabilities throughout the territory in the wake of the recent hurricanes.

Yankees, Indians in must-win Game 5 **Back Page**

V.I. Legislature to hold hearing on storms **Page 2**

Boy Scouts is no longer just for boys **Page 12**

U.N., Caribbean leaders put focus on climate in wake of devastating hurricanes **Page 10**

St. Croix resort to reopen **Page 2**

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Mapp asks Congress for \$5.5 billion
 \$136 billion for public housing | \$1 billion for disaster response | \$715 million for schools | \$680 million for energy | \$300 million for 'public resilience measures' | \$275 million for government facilities | \$155 million for transportation | \$115 million for hospitals **Page 3**

It's all part of the service



V.I. Fire Service firefighter Matthew Connor carries water at the Otar Brown St. Fire Station distribution point Thursday morning on St. Thomas. Connor was one of a group of firefighters helping residents transport food and water from the distribution point to their cars. **Page 3**

House OKs billions for P.R. as Trump goes on attack
 Money for floods, wildfires also in bill **Page 8**

After storms, land dispute reignited in Barbuda **Page 9**

Nationals, Cubs face elimination **Back Page** Panthers vs. Eagles **Back Page** V.I. charter industry takes double hit: First the hurricane and now no tourists **Page 2**

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87th year, No. 24073 SATURDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14-15, 2017 \$1

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Tim Duncan's three-peat



Retired NBA superstar and St. Croix native Tim Duncan delivers pallets of hurricane relief supplies outside the Canagata Sports Complex in Christiansted on his third visit to the Virgin Islands since hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the territory last month. The former power forward for the San Antonio Spurs told a reporter, "I was following what was happening in Houston because it was so close to me. And then of course, there are fires out there. And now Puerto Rico is getting a lot of headlines. I know people wouldn't be focused on these islands. And I know I'm the most recognizable person here, so it's my responsibility to be that lightning rod for attention." **Page 5**

Your FEMA questions answered **Mapp says cruise calls full steam ahead** **UVI works to salvage athletic program**
 Page 6 St. Croix to receive ships starting Nov. 11 Page 3 Page 2

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87th year, No. 24074 MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017 \$1

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Restoring paradise



Dozens of volunteers showed up at Magens Bay Beach on Saturday morning to assist in cleaning up the popular tourist spot from the damage suffered by hurricanes Irma and Maria. **Photo: UVI 5/20/17/18/19**

Help now available for business owners hit by hurricanes

Page 3

Irma dealt \$3 billion blow to BVI tourism

Page 3

Storms had impact on V.I. wildlife

Page 2

President Mapp?

Page 9

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87th year, No. 24075 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017 \$1

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'Grand' new home



Line handlers, from left, Christian Moriarty, Burtham Weelees and Ericson Heinrich secure lines from the Carnival cruise ship Grand Celebration to a pier at the Crown Bay passenger ship dock in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, on Monday. The ship will be used to house Federal Emergency Management Agency workers and other first responders assisting in the recovery efforts on St. Thomas following hurricanes Irma and Maria. **Photo: UVI 10/16/17**

Mapp names hurricane task force

18-member team to monitor federal dollars, manage recovery effort **Page 2**

FEMA ramps up response

More help centers to open today **Page 3**

Pistackle offers art to help kids heal

Page 5

Astronomers strike gold **Luis Hospital picks nurse, St. Croix native, as new CEO** **Astros look to build lead in ALCS**
 Page 11 Page 2 Back Page

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Oct. 17, 2017

87th year, No. 24076 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017 \$1

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Volunteers working to help V.I. businesses

Page 2

Here to help



Federal Emergency Management Agency workers Gretchen Morrison, center, and Sahli Dogra, right, help a resident Tuesday at the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center at the Estate Bonniaux Farmer Market on St. Thomas. The Disaster Recovery Center was one of two set up on St. Thomas to assist residents in the next step of their applications for FEMA or Small Business Administration assistance. **Page 3**

Food Ideas

Page 20

Senate seeks school status report

Page 2

Irving's return marred by teammate's injury

Back Page

Yankees seek to even series

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Roofs of blue

Blue tarps dot the landscape as storm clouds linger over Old Tutu on St. Thomas, where many roofs were damaged and homes destroyed in hurricanes Irma and Maria. Residents may still sign up for the Blue Roof program through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Page 5



King Airport delays draw carrier's ire

Nov. 1 deadline set for restoration after JetBlue complains Page 3

Curfew changes as St. Croix readies for return to school

Car wrecks after hours will merit criminal charges, police warn Page 2

When disaster strikes, there's an app for that Page 20

Cubs fight to survive; Yankees stay on roll Back Page

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Oct. 19, 2017

87th year, No. 24078 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017 \$1

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Master of the heavy load



U.S. Air National Guard photo by BC1. SGT DREW HORTON

Loadmaster Master Sgt. Aldo Perez pushes a pallet of cargo onto a C-130 on Wednesday at Robison Airport on St. Croix. The C-130 is assigned to the 186th Airlift Squadron, 186th Airlift Wing, Puerto Rico Air National Guard, which is helping with hurricane relief in the territory.

GERS on the brink?

Retirement system reports 93 percent drop in revenue as government, others fail to pay
Trustee wonders: are officials trying to 'shut it down'? Page 3

319 sunken vessels litter V.I.

'We're here until the mission's done,' says Coast Guard Page 2

Love letters shed light on a young Obama

Page 20

Dodgers celebrate World Series berth

Back Page

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87th year, No. 24079 SATURDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21-22, 2017 \$1

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HURRICANE RECOVERY

Cruise ships coming back, says Mapp

25 to call on St. Thomas in November Page 3

Split schedules, combined schools as St. Croix heads back to class

Page 2

Unemployed? FEMA is hiring

Page 3

It's finally safe to swim again

Check if your favorite beach has DPNR's OK Page 3

Rent dispute escalates

Attorney general denies that Justice delinquent on GERS lease Page 2

ALCS all tied up

Back Page

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Oct. 21-22, 2017

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Restoring Hull Bay



Volunteers Julie Steiner, left, and Carlyn Ladee, right, shovel sand toward the beach at Hull Bay on Saturday. A group of volunteers helped clean up the St. Thomas beach, which was damaged during hurricanes Irma and Maria. Page 3

Judge rules against Rodriquez

Says he has no right to be seated as a senator Page 5

All five former presidents come together to help V.I.

Concert benefits victims of Harvey, Irma and Maria Page 2

Basketball World Cup qualifying game moved out of V.I.

Back Page


Atlanta Falcons take on Brady, Patriots

Back Page

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Oct. 23, 2017

87th year, No. 24081 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017 \$1



Mapp relaxes curfew for Fall Classic

Extra innings could be three strikes for Virgin Islanders as curfew will start at 11 p.m. Page 2


Spotlight on young talent as World Series opens tonight

Page 27

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Just one more thing before getting back to class



Dana Christian Junior High School students take a moment to chat on the first day of classes Monday at St. Croix Central High School. With numerous St. Croix schools damaged in hurricanes Irma and Maria, students from Elena Christian, Central and John H. Woodson Junior High School are sharing the Central campus. Page 2

Software glitch freezes V.I. property sales Page 6 | Update on reopening of V.I. resorts Page 7 | Coast Guard, V.I. Fire Service team up at ballpark Page 3

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Oct. 24, 2017

87th year, No. 24082 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017 \$1

Senate overwhelmingly passes \$36.5 billion disaster bill

Page 2

Plaskett applauds package headed to Trump, says V.I. leaders must show unified front

Page 2

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Arrests made after Kirwan Terrace shooting



Police walk an unidentified man away from a black Jeep Cherokee involved in a shooting and carjacking in Kirwan Terrace on Tuesday morning. Police said the man in the photograph and the victim in the shooting were arrested and remain people of interest in unrelated cases. Page 2

Jam Band member identified as victim in fatal accident Page 4 | Treats for Halloween Page 20 | Dodgers, Astros battle in Game 1 of World Series Back Page

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87th year, No. 24083 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017 \$1

Tag, you might be polluting



The owner of a beached vessel on St. John talks with a special agent of the Coast Guard Investigation Service on Tuesday as a notification decal is placed on his vessel. The decal alerts owners of the potential pollution threat that the vessel may cause to the environment. Officials say as many as 500 boats could litter local waters in the wake of hurricane Irma and Maria. Owners of beached and surfer boats are asked to contact the Coast Guard at usvcp@gmail.com to make their intentions known.

Mapp praises aid package, federal help

Says Trump calling him 'president' was good for V.I. Page 2

Schools brief Legislature on recovery

Page 3

Game 2 goes extra innings

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Home Depot's contents headed for Bovoni dump

Chain says it can't sell or donate goods Page 2

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Oct. 26, 2017

87th year, No. 24084 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017 \$1

Plugging into the V.I.



Joe Carlo, left, and Steve Maher, right, keep an eye on a cord reel pulling a length of power cable between power poles Thursday in Red Hook on St. Thomas. Carlo and Maher are both employees of the Western Area Power Administration, a U.S. Department of Energy-owned company that supplies power to 15 Western and Midwest states. At the request of Federal Emergency Management Agency, the company sent its Storm Restoration crews to the Virgin Islands to help rebuild power distribution lines. Page 4

Storm-damaged Walgreens puts inventory to community's use

Salvation Army distributing goods (including candy) Page 2

Jamaica ready to jam for hurricane relief

Page 5

Astros give flood-ravaged city a lift

Back Page

Beware of 'Halloween hand'

Page 22

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Oct. 27, 2017

87th year, No. 24085 SATURDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28-29, 2017 \$1

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Back to the beach

Magners Bay beach on St. Thomas sits ready for visitors on Friday following an extensive cleanup after hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused heavy damage to the popular tourist attraction. The Department of Planning and Natural Resources has released its weekly list of beaches that are once again safe for swimming after the storms, as well as those that are not. Page 2.

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VI. mail call
Postal Service hopes new route will tackle logjam Page 3

Schneider faces cuts
Hospital assesses staffing needs after the storms Page 3

Charges set in Russia probe? Page 11

Astros vs. Dodgers in Game 3 Back Page

U.S. top court considering V.I. case Page 3

Charter industry going ahead with yacht shows Page 2

Astros, Dodgers bats propel Game 5 into record books Back Page

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Oct. 28-29, 2017

87th year, No. 24086 MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017 \$1

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V.I. National Guard soldier laid to rest

Virgin Islands National Guard soldiers carry the casket of Pfc. Kyjuan Naughton out of Way of the Cross Baptist Church on St. Croix on Saturday, Oct. 21, was discovered dead on Sept. 28 in Smith Bay, St. Thomas. While officials have said his death is being investigated as a homicide, police have not released the manner or nature of Naughton's death. At the time of his death, Naughton was serving with the 661st Military Police Detachment and had been a member of the Guard since 2014.

U.S. top court considering V.I. case Page 3

Charter industry going ahead with yacht shows Page 2

Astros, Dodgers bats propel Game 5 into record books Back Page

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Oct. 30, 2017

87th year, No. 24087 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017 \$1

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Hurricane curfew is over

Mapp calls for an end to restrictions, effective immediately Page 3

Far from home

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Rich Basson affixes a reference sticker to a boat from St. Croix that sank in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, during Hurricane Maria. The Maria Emergency Support Function-95 Joint Command, consisting of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and Coast Guard in conjunction with the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Control Board, Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is responding to vessels found to be damaged, displaced, submerged or afloat in the storm.

Prize freeze doesn't mean frozen (they can go lower) Page 3

Landlords, FEMA may pay to improve your house Page 2

WOMEN TODAY
Inside

UVI men, women continue road trip Back Page

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Motor Vehicles moving at full speed despite damage

Only St. John office remains closed Page 3

Dodgers force Game 7

Back Page

Lady Bucs on court

Page 29

Terror in New York

Driver kills 8 on bike path Page 9

When you're young everyone is tall, and some people are really, really tall

A mobile jumbo stands over the crowd Tuesday at Annettes School's first Trick or Treat event. Organized by the school's parent-teacher organization, volunteers and the school, the event gave kids access to St. Thomas a place to trick or treat, decorate cookies, get their faces painted and take part in arts and crafts activities. Page 2

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Nov. 1, 2017

87th year, No. 24059 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017 \$1

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Astronomical

The Houston Astros celebrate their win against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 7 of baseball's World Series on Wednesday in Los Angeles. The Astros won 5-1 to win the series. Photo: AP/WIDEWORLD

N.Y. charities deliver relief to St. Thomas Page 2

WAPA heads to Washington
Executive director to testify today on hurricane recovery Page 3

Piling up
Can V.I. handle all that storm waste? Page 3

iPhone X: Apple wants you to break up with the home button Page 20

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Nov. 2, 2017

87th year, No. 24050 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017 \$1

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WAPA outlines vision for recovery

WAPA and Power Authority Executive Director Julio Rhymer testifies Thursday in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce's Energy Subcommittee during a hearing on energy infrastructure recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Rhymer told members of Congress that the utility is studying several ideas to make the territory's energy grid more resilient including using composite instead of wooden power poles, burying power lines and creating greater energy storage that would distribute power generation equipment and batteries closer to customers. Page 3

Waste Management struggling with tons of storm trash Page 4

Hull Bay cleanup gets thumbs up Page 2

St. Thomas native inducted to college's sports hall of fame Back Page

Texans quarterback out for season Back Page

These are some of Oprah's favorite things Page 18

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Nov. 3, 2017

87th year, No. 24091 SATURDAY-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4-5, 2017 \$1

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Welcome sign

Dock workers wait for the luxury cruise ship Seabourn Odyssey as it toward its berth at the Havensight passenger ship dock on St. Thomas on Friday morning. Daily News photo by BILL KESER

Merchants celebrate 'a little bit of normalcy' as first cruise ship since Irma visits St. Thomas Page 2

Tourists, expecting disaster, 'really impressed'; Close to 100 calls promised by year's end Pages 3-5

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Back to the beach

T.J. Ray, 13, front, plays in the surf at Sapphire Beach on the East End of St. Thomas with his younger sister Taylor Ray, 8, on Sunday. Two months after Hurricane Irma struck the territory, swimmers were finally able to get back in the water as sunny weather dominated the weekend. Daily News photo by BILL KESER

American woman breaks NYC Marathon drought Back Page

V.I. Jewish aid group distributes clothing Page 2

26 slain at Texas church Page 10

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