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A scenic mountain landscape with people on a road. The scene is set in a mountainous region with a paved road on the left. Several people are visible: one in a blue jacket and glasses stands looking towards the mountains; another in a red hoodie is leaning forward; and a third in a light blue hoodie is sitting on a rock. The background features rugged mountains with some snow on the peaks, a valley with dense forest, and a sky with scattered clouds. The overall atmosphere is bright and clear.

# Editing

# Health: Vaccine is not a 'cure,' masks are still needed

By A.J. RAO  
Daily News Staff

Getting a COVID-19 vaccination doesn't mean you can ditch the face mask or get out of travel restrictions.

So says Dr. Tai Hunte-Caesar, an infectious disease specialist with the VI. Health Department, who recently joined other health officials for a virtual town hall meeting on the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

While more than 3,000 doses have already been administered in the territory, the vaccines are not a "cure," but rather a means to arm the body against the virus, according to Hunte-Caesar. Indeed, those who are vaccinated can still be infected and asymptomatic and therefore still contagious.

"The vaccine is not a 'get out of mitigation jail card,'" Hunte-Caesar said. "The vaccine is a countermeasure that you have to do simultaneously with all the other mitigation strategies."

That means face masks, social distancing and adherence to travel re-



**For the overwhelming majority of patients and people in the community, vaccines are safe and can prolong life, prevent death and improve the quality of life.**

— Dr. Tai Hunte-Caesar

strictions must continue even after a vaccination.

Hunte-Caesar added that community transmission will only go down when vaccinations become more widespread on a global scale.

Currently, a total of 12.2 million doses of the vaccine have been administered nationally, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The only thing that's going to change the way we behave with the social distancing and the masks and other

mitigation effort is when the global case burden comes down ... with herd immunity," she said.

That goal may be jeopardized by certain myths about the vaccines and fears about potential side effects.

Health officials said the vaccines are not comprised of the "live virus," but are rather composed of dead or inactive particles of the virus which trigger the body to produce antibodies. These particles are contained in a polysaccharide solution that is consistent with ingredients already in ex-

cess in the body.

"For the overwhelming majority of patients and people in the community, vaccines are safe and can prolong life, prevent death and improve the quality of life," Hunte-Caesar said.

While some may experience minor inflammatory side effects, like soreness, redness or body aches, the vast majority of people will not experience anything, according to Hunte-Caesar. Of the roughly 3,369 doses administered in the territory so far, no one has experienced a severe allergic reaction.

Currently, the vaccine rollout plan is in "Phase 1B," which opens vaccinations to senior citizens and individuals who regularly engage with the public, like first responders, teachers and grocery workers.

This group joins those in "Phase 1A," which included clinical health care staff, residents and staff in long-term care facilities, as well as persons in need of special care and the elderly.

VITEMA Director Daryl Jaschen said his agency is working with both

government agencies and providers to ensure doses are available for those in Phase 1A and 1B groups. He added that VITEMA will be setting up hotlines this week for the St. Thomas-St. John district and the St. Croix district for seniors to more easily set up appointment.

Health Department Immunization Director Monife Stout said there is no "out of pocket expense" to get a vaccine, however, there may be an administrative fee of \$16 to \$30 for each dose.

"If you have insurance, your insurance may be charged for that. But if you are uninsured or underinsured, you can contact Community Health on St. Thomas or St. Croix or the East End Medical Center or the Frederiksted Health Center and they will use a sliding pay scale," Stout said.

Health Commissioner Justa Encarnacion cautions that individuals should not switch between vaccines for each dose.

— Contact A.J. Rao at 340-714-9104 or email [ajrao@dailynews.vi](mailto:ajrao@dailynews.vi)

## Outgoing BVI governor launches far-reaching corruption inquiry

BY DEAN GREENAWAY  
Special to The Daily News

TORTOLA — Days before his departure, outgoing British Virgin Islands Gov. Augustus Jaspert on Monday announced the appointment of a far-reaching Commission of Inquiry to investigate public corruption.

Jaspert said the commission will be led by prominent United Kingdom judge Gary Hickinbottom, who has more than 45 years of judicial experience and the support of his successor, Governor-designate John Rankin.



Gary Hickinbottom

"When a territory has good governance," Jaspert said, "things run effectively and fairly for the people. This territory is built on certain principles and values, which are supported in our Constitution. These values include honesty, equality, integrity, respect and free speech."

It is the role of governor, Jaspert said, to support the BVI and ensure that every action taken, is transparent, accountable and delivers for the people.

He said concerns have been brought to him by individuals from across the community, including business leaders, public officers, members of community groups and the media, and paint a worrisome picture.

"This is an important conversation for us to have, albeit difficult, as those

who speak up are too often silenced," he said. "I would like to let the people of BVI know that your voices have been heard. We have received the message loud and clear, the people of BVI want better."

Jaspert said he has not acted alone, but consulted with the deputy governor, auditor general, police commissioner, registrar of interests and others who share responsibility for ensuring good governance.

### Allegations

"First, there are wide concerns over the lack of transparency when it comes to spending public funds, particularly those relating to COVID-19 economic stimulus support," Jaspert said. "Second, there are wide concerns over the possible mismanagement of some public projects. Successive audit reports have set out practices of political interference, inflated pricing and conflicts of interest."

According to the BBC, allegations allege a \$40 million fund for families struggling with COVID has instead been channeled to political allies.

A third aspect are concerns over the lack of transparency relating to government contracts, which include a lack of fair and open competition, conflicts of interest and a lack of value for money, Jaspert said.

According to the BBC, one of the allegations to be investigated is nearly \$1 million spent on a school fence.

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Rankin arrived in the territory Thursday.

While 2020 was a challenging year, Rankin said he is looking forward to the opportunity to partner with the government and the people of the Virgin Islands, according to a government press release.

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"Finally," Jaspert said, "are wide concerns about intimidation taking place across our society, public services and the media with many describing 'a growing culture of fear' in BVI. In addition to these allegations, there is growing evidence of serious organized crime infiltrating BVI. This was made clear in November, when 2,300 kilos of cocaine, with a street value of at least \$250 million, was smuggled through our borders."

### The commission

Jaspert also expressed concerns over "deliberate delays" in legislative reforms and the failure to provide BVI institutions with the information required to conduct their own inquiries.

"The state of governance in the BVI requires robust and impartial intervention," Jaspert said in explaining his decision to call the commission.

With the power to collect evidence and summon witnesses, the commission will look into whether corruption, abuse of office or other serious dishon-

esty in relation to officials — elected, statutory or public — may have taken place in recent years. If so, it will also consider the conditions that allowed corruption to take place and make recommendations for improvement.

"This will be an entirely independent process led by a senior impartial judge, the Right Hon. Sir Hickinbottom," he said. "This will help the commission reach fair unbiased conclusions under local law."

"If you are honest — which I know, the vast, vast majority of people in BVI are — you have no reason to oppose it," he said. "It is a chance to clear names and end the allegations of corruption which threaten to plague our community."

### The judge

Hickinbottom, who is a member of the Privy Council and has been involved in high-profile cases including the government's decision to approve plans for a third runway at Heathrow Airport, is perhaps best known in British media not for his legal abilities, but his feud with a Chinese restaurant in Cardiff where Hickinbottom bought a second home. After Hickinbottom and his wife complained about smells coming from the restaurant, the owner faced prosecution for failing to get proper permission to install an extractor fan, according to British media reports.

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BY DEAN GREENAWAY

TORTOLA—Days before his departure, outgoing British Virgin Islands Governor Augustus Jaspert on Monday, announced the appointment of a far-reaching Commission of Inquiry that will cover five areas dating back several years, led by a prominent United Kingdom Judge.

Jaspert said the Commission, led by the Right Hon. Sir Gary Hickinbottom—who has more than 45 years of judicial experience, including 20 years as a judge—has the support of his successor, incoming Governor John Rankin who arrived on January 15 and is in the middle of a 14 days COVID-19 quarantine, before being sworn in.

“Today I stand before you, the people of the British Virgin Islands, to address the state of governance in this territory,” Jaspert said in a national broadcast. “This is something you have heard me speak on many times before and is a matter of great significance to us all, because when a territory has good governance, things run effectively and fairly for the people. This territory is built on certain principles and values, which are supported in our Constitution. These values include honesty, equality, integrity, respect and free speech.”

In his capacity as Governor, Jaspert who in December spoke about the growing number of concerns and allegations relating to the standards of governance, said his role is to support the BVI and ensure that every action taken, is transparent, accountable and delivers for the people.

The concerns he said, were raised with him by individuals across the community, including senior business leaders, public officers, community groups, media and others and cumulatively, they paint a worrisome picture. Governor Jaspert said that for the first time, many have felt confident to raise their voice.

“This is an important conversation for us to have, albeit difficult as those who speak up are too often silenced,” he noted. “However, we must continue to do so in order to protect the values of our Constitution and democracy in BVI. I would like to let the people of BVI know that your voices have been heard. We have received the message loud and clear, the people of BVI want better.”

Before outlining what will be examined, Jaspert said that he has been speaking colleagues in the Governor’s Group including the Deputy Governor, the Auditor General, the Police Commissioner, the Registrar of Interests and others and they share responsibility for ensuring good governance and are concerned by what they have seen in their respective roles and the allegations put forth.

Jaspert said he thinks it’s important, not only to ensure full transparency, but also to give a voice to the voiceless, as the allegations dates back a number of year, before outlining the areas of concern.

“First, there are wide concerns over the lack of transparency when it comes to spending public funds, particularly those relating to COVID-19 economic stimulus support,” Jaspert said. “Second, there are wide concerns over the possible mismanagement of some public projects. Successive audit reports have set out practices of political interference, inflated pricing and conflicts of interest. These may have cost the public purse millions of dollars in recent years, with no sign of improvement.”

A third aspect and linked to the previous points he said, are concerns over the lack of transparency relating to government contracts, which include a lack of fair and open competition, conflicts of interest and a lack of value for money.

“We need to know how individuals are getting work so we can ensure equal opportunities for all,” Jaspert stated. “Fourth, there are allegations of some political interference occurring in some statutory bodies. A number of officers from our bodies have come to me with concerns about individuals being replaced by political allies and officers being coerced into circumventing protocols and taking improper practices. There are similar allegations relating to the public service and serious allegations of attempts of interference in the criminal justice system.”

Jaspert added: “Finally, there are wide concerns about intimidation taking place across our society, public services and the media with many describing ‘a growing culture of fear’ in BVI. In addition to these allegations, there is growing evidence of serious organized crime infiltrating BVI. This was made clear in November, when 2,300 kilos of cocaine, with a street value of at least \$250 million, was smuggled through our borders.”

The Governor said that the allegations “cannot be ignored” and he must fulfil his Constitutional role to support the people and to uphold the peace, order and good governance of the Virgin Islands. He said with col-

leagues, he has for some time been considering how best to respond in those institutions responsible for good governance.

“We have taken action to bolster the security of the territory, including with support from the UK,” he noted. “We have also pushed for legislative reform, which has faced what I can only conclude are deliberate delays. Furthermore, local institutions have sought to conduct their own inquiries, but have been prevented from accessing the information required to do so. It has become increasingly clear, that this is not enough. Our local institutions responsible for good governance feel hindered and unable to act without the laws and frameworks in place. Our options are exhausted, but we cannot and must not give up. The state of governance in BVI requires robust and impartial intervention.”

The Governor said he has decided to issue a Commission of Inquiry—a body that can look impartially into matters of public concern—in accordance with BVI’s Commissions of Inquiry Act. The Commission he said, will look into whether corruption, abuse of office or other serious dishonesty in relation to officials—elected, statutory or public—may have taken place in recent years. If so, it will consider the conditions which allowed this to take place and make independent recommendations for improvement.

“This will be an entirely independent process led by a senior impartial judge the Right Hon Sir Hickinbottom,” he said. “This will help the Commission reach fair unbiased conclusions under local law. Furthermore, the Judge will have powers under the Commission of Inquiry Ordinance to collect evidence and summon witnesses in a way that our local institutions cannot.... We know that values of integrity, transparency and dedication run deep in the Public Service and that officers will continue to operate at the highest standards in support of BVI.”

Jaspert hopes everyone feels empowered to engage with the Commission as it will be their opportunity “to shape the way things are done and help put things right for the next generation.”

“I hope that the Premier, Ministers and all Elected Members can and will fully support this opportunity,” he said. “I am acting in full accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act passed by Honorable Members of the House of Assembly in support of the public whom we all serve. It also has the full support of my successor.”

Jaspert expects some opposition to the Commission and to those people, he asked why they’re opposing getting to the truth. “If you are honest—which I know, the vast, vast majority of people in BVI are—you have no reason to oppose it,” he said. “It is a chance to clear names and end the allegations of corruption which threaten to plague our community.”

It has not been an easy decision Jaspert said he knows many may feel sad that it has reached such a cumulative picture of concern, but he believes issuing this Commission is the right decision and he hopes in future, will be seen as a positive moment for the BVI, as it will enable the BVI to carve a clear path to better governance and greater self-determination.

“We want BVI to remain one of the safest places in the Caribbean, underpinned by an effective public service, strong rule of law and internationally successful industries,” he said. “Through this Commission, we can take stock of where we are and give the people the power to say where we go next. It is inspired by the people and will deliver for the people and is one of the greatest levers under local law designed to ensure public welfare.”

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Just like any new arrival to the British Virgin Islands, Governor-designate John Rankin is undergoing a required 14-day quarantine before he will be sworn in as the 15th governor of the British Virgin Islands.

Rankin arrived in the territory Thursday.

While 2020 was a challenging year, Rankin said he is looking forward to the opportunity to partner with the government and the people of the Virgin Islands, according to a government press release.

“The people of the Virgin Islands have shown great strength and spirit in meeting those challenges, and I promise to do all I can to support the building of further resilience against the risk of natural disasters. I look forward to contributing to life on the islands and to carrying out my responsibilities under the Constitution in the areas of external affairs, security and good governance in service to the people of the Virgin Islands,” Rankin said in a prepared statement.

Prior to joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Rankin practiced as a solicitor in Scotland and was a lecturer at the University of Aberdeen.

He has been honored as companion of the order of St. Michael and St. George and was most recently served as governor of Bermuda.

St. Croix campus

# Nearly 100 degrees awarded at UVI graduation

By LEANDRA KENT  
Special to The Daily News

ST. CROIX — Nearly 100 degrees were awarded Thursday as the University of the Virgin Islands held its annual commencement ceremony under a large white tent on the school's St. Croix campus.

During a pre-commencement celebration, Simon Jones-Hendrickson, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, urged graduates, family, friends and members of the administration to “be not a creature of circumstances but a creator of circumstances.”

An economist, Caribbean culture keeper, professor and academic leader, Jones-Hendrickson was chosen by the board of trustees as this year's UVI St. Croix honoree for his many years of service to the university. Jones-Hendrickson received an honorary doctorate in human letters during Thursday's graduation.

Jones-Hendrickson thanked those gathered at the celebration hosted by UVI President David Hall and his wife, Marilyn Braithwaite-Hall, for their support.

Keynote speaker Bakari Sellers also attended the pre-commencement celebration, mixing with soon-to-be graduates and their families.

A CNN political analyst, Sellers, a native of Bamberg, S.C., was the youngest elected African American politician in the nation when he won a seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives when he was only 22. Her served in the state House until 2014 when he unsuccessfully ran for lieutenant governor.

“We all have different dreams that we want to achieve regardless of our plans,” Sellers said. “No matter where you're from, there is always a problem or goal that needs to be solved and accomplished. What's important is that we find the motivation to make it happen.”

Despite blazing heat under the tent, administrators, family members, friends and future UVI graduates gathered one last time to receive their associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees. Families sported T-shirts with the faces of their graduates on them and many had posters to cheer for the soon-to-be alumni. And, not to be outdone in spirit, the graduates themselves had air horns that sounded when their fellow classmates received special awards.

Hall told the graduates “that it was their job and duty to wake the dead against people who preach hate and racism. It's students' duty to stand up for what's right and speak up against it.”



Graduating students, faculty, dignitaries and spectators fill the tent at commencement exercises held at the University of the Virgin Islands on St. Croix. Daily News photos by JOHN GUTIERREZ



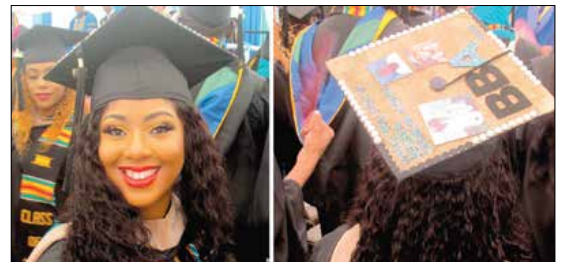
Simon Jones-Hendrickson, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at UVI, center, receives an honorary doctorate from UVI Board of Trustees Chairman Henry Smock, left, and UVI President David Hall.

St. Croix native Christopher Rosario was chosen by his peers in the Class of 2019 to be their speaker.

Rosario offered his peers some encouragement, something he got practice with as a student athlete and

later a coach at UVI. Initially, just a player on a two-year soccer scholarship, Rosario became the team's coach during his senior year.

On Thursday, Rosario received a bachelor's degree in psychology.



University of the Virgin Islands graduate Mystica Williams added a few personal touches to her graduation cap.

Rosario, who eventually became a UVI lead peer educator, wasn't sure about what to study when he arrived on campus and changed his major twice before he realized that psychology was his leading interest.

In the near future, Rosario plans to continue working for National Industrial Services, but hopes to become an athletic psychologist for a professional team or university sports program.

“Your last year will be hard and you will get lazy, but stay focus,” he told rising seniors in a humorous speech that was well received by the audience.

“Your hard work will pay off in

the long run and not go unnoticed,” he said.

Rosario said he is thankful for the relationships he made while at UVI. His final words to his fellow graduates: “We made it.”

To bring the ceremony to a close, Wanda Rosario offered a benediction. She was influenced by her son, Michael, when he first signed up to attend UVI. Her son helped her take classes through the years and now, she too, is a proud alumna of UVI.

Students on St. Thomas will receive their degrees during a ceremony at 1 p.m. today at the University of the Virgin Islands' Sports and Fitness Center.



# Unedited copy

Before the University of the Virgin Islands 2019 graduation, there was the 2019 Pre-Commencement Celebration hosted by President David Hall and Dr. Marilyn Braithwaite-Hall. On the Albert A. Sheen Campus, scholar, economic Guru, Caribbean Cultural Keeper, professor, and academic leader, Dr. Simon B. Jones-Hendrickson was chosen as this year's UVI St. Croix Honoree. Administration, family, and friends of the University gathered together Thursday morning to acknowledge Dr. Hendrickson for his many years of contribution to UVI. He expresses his gratitude to everyone for all the support and ends off his speech with his saying "Be not a creature of circumstances but a creator of circumstances". Also in attendance, the UVI Commencement keynote speaker, Bakari Sellers shared his presence with everyone. Mr. Sellers is the National Acclaimed CNN= Political Commentator, Legislative Trailblazer and Voice for Justice. With the graduation being in less than 2 hours, Bakari was able to share his viewpoint on how he will be speaking to the graduates. He was born in Bamberg South Carolina and became the first youngest African American politician in the country at the age of 22. Although this is a Caribbean based territory, Bakari believes that "We all have different dreams that we want to achieve regardless of our plans. No matter where you're from, there is always a problem or goal that needs to be solved and accomplished. What's important is that we find the motivation to make it happen".

Another year, another big white tent for the 2019 graduation commencement on the Albert A. Sheen Campus. Administration, family, friends, and the UVI graduates gathered together one last time to receive their Associates, Bachelors, and Masters. Class speaker, Christopher Rosario was chosen by the Class of 2019, to speak amongst his peers some encouragement. Receiving his Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Mr. Rosario was a soccer player on a 2-year scholarship and became the soccer coach during his senior year. This UVI lead peer educator wasn't sure about what to study and changed his major twice before he realized that Psychology is his leading exponent. Christopher hopes in the near future to continue his current job at the National Industrial Services and later become an Athletic Psychologist for a professional athletic team or program at a University. His advice for next year's graduating class is "Your last year will be hard and you will get lazy but stay focus. Your hard work will pay off in the long run and not go unnoticed" He is thankful for the different relationships he's made with the university and his peers throughout his undergrad years. Mr. Rosario's final words to his fellow graduates were simply "WE MADE IT!"

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Board Certified Pediatric Hematologist & Oncologist

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# Dominica PM visits Kean High School

Daily News staff

Community members and students taking part in an aquaponics workshop at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School got a surprise Friday morning when Dominican Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit joined their tour of the school's tilapia farm.

Skerrit is on St. Thomas for a "private visit," and decided to drop in on the school for a surprise visit after hearing "great things" about its curriculum and programs, according to a V.I. Education Department release.

Speaking after the tilapia farm tour, Skerrit said he is passionate about education — having also been a teacher and Dominica's Education Minister.

Skerrit showed interest in further boosting the agricultural efforts at schools in Dominica, according to the statement. He discussed a possible partnership with Kean High Principal Sharon McCollum

McCollum also stressed the importance of preserving critical cultural knowledge — such as the medicinal value of some native plants — and reviving the teaching of native arts and crafts, such as basket weaving.

Skerrit also joined in discussions with Col. Eddy Charles, head of Kean High's JROTC battalion, about the need to boost Dominica's school-based Cadet Corps program. Charles, who is a product of the Cadet Corps, said he recently visited and spoke in Dominica and was intrigued by the idea of exchange programs exchange for instructors to share tools and techniques.

"The Cadet Corps is more an extra-curricular program and on our end, I would like it to become more a part of the mainstream curriculum," Prime Minister Skerrit added. "We believe this partnership would be beneficial, and having instructors come to Dominica can help in that regard."



Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit and Education Department Maintenance Director Louis Hughes tour Ivanna Eudora Kean High School's tilapia farm.



Skerrit and Col. Eddy Charles discuss the possibility of an exchange between the JROTC program in the Virgin Islands and Dominica's Cadet Corps.

# Benjamin to be acting director of Bureau of Corrections

Daily News Staff

Assistant Bureau of Corrections Director Dwayne Benjamin was temporarily named acting director of the bureau a week ago.

In a written response to Daily News inquiries, Government House spokesman Jean Greaux said Friday that Benjamin was named acting director on Sept. 16, when officials learned that Bureau of Corrections Director

Julius Wilson had been hospitalized. Greaux said that officials expect Wilson to be on medical leave for about 30 days before returning to the job. During that time, Benjamin will be acting director.

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# Unedited copy

## DOMINICAN PRIME MINISTER SKERRIT PAYS SURPRISE VISIT TO IVANNA EUDORA KEAN HIGH

Community members and students participating in a free aquaponics workshop on Kean High's campus were surprised to be taking a tour of the school's new tilapia farm with Dominican Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, who popped in Friday morning for a surprise visit.

Prime Minister Skerrit said he recently flew into the territory for a "private visit," and decided to stop in at Eudora Kean after hearing "great things" about the school's curriculum and programs. Speaking after the tilapia farm tour, Prime Minister Skerrit said he is passionate about education – having also been a teacher and Minister of Education – and showed interest in further boosting the agricultural efforts of schools in Dominica.

Prime Minister Skerrit talked over the possibility of a partnership with Kean

High Principal Dr. Sharon McCollum, who also stressed the importance of preserving critical cultural knowledge – such as the medicinal value of some native plants – and reviving the teaching of native arts and crafts, such as basket weaving.

Prime Minister Skerrit also joined in discussions with Col. Eddy Charles, head of Kean High's JROTC battalion, about the need to boost Dominica's school-based Cadet Corps program. Charles, who is a product of the Cadet Corps, said he recently visited and spoke in Dominica and was intrigued by the idea of having the programs exchange instructors, tools and techniques, in an attempt to learn more from one another.

"The Cadet Corps is more an extra-curricular program and on our end, I would like it to become more a part of the mainstream curriculum," Prime Minister Skerrit added. "We believe this partnership would be beneficial, and having instructors come to Dominica can help in that regard."

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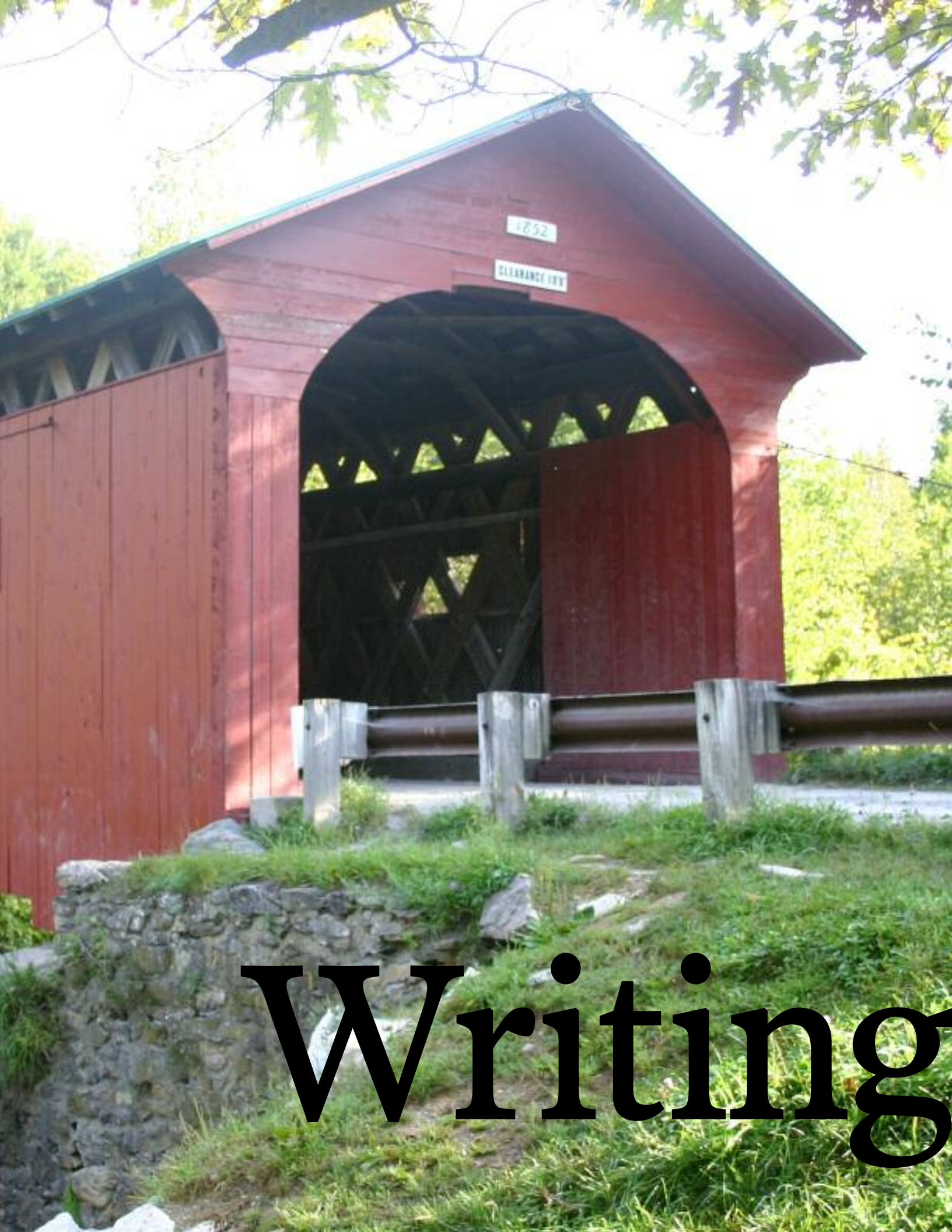
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Writing



Hot Club of Cowtown will perform at 8 tonight in Tillet Gardens on St. Thomas.

## Texas swing to meet Parisian hot jazz tonight in the Garden

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By **STEPHEN CHESLIK**  
Daily News Staff

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ST. THOMAS — No venue in the U.S. Virgin Islands can come close to packing in the crowd like London's O2 Arena.

The crowd on a sold-out night at Tillet Gardens in Anna's Retreat would fill only about 1 percent of the massive English arena where Michael Jackson hoped to make his comeback and the Hot Club of Cowtown played with Bob Dylan.

That doesn't matter to Hot Club fiddler and vocalist Elana James.

"Every day is different in this funny business," James says minutes after landing on St. Thomas on Wednesday. "It is a little schizophrenic, O2 Arena some days and some days free happy hour for seven people.

"It is really the music itself that decides the show for us. If we played well, that is what we like."

And for James, the chance to play Tillet Gardens for the opening show of the 2015 Arts Alive season is a chance to make great music for a small crowd.

"Playing here is one of the Holy Grail opportunities for touring bands — it doesn't suck."

James, guitarist and vocalist Whit Smith and bassist Jake Erwin are 2015 Ameripolitan Music Awards nominees for best Western Swing Group and James has a nod in the Western Swing Female Category.

While Ameripolitan may not be a category of music many are familiar with and country is a classification far too restrictive, James boils Hot Town's sound down to "high brow and rustic music that is filled with joy and great to dance to."

"We each bring ideas, structured in a jazzy way," James says. "Some people wrongly call us bluegrass, but it is much more jazzy — swinging even — if we are playing traditional fiddle or Americana."

“‘Hot Club’ is a nod to the Hot ’30s and ’40s doing the hot swing style. But this band also loves Western music and Western swing, which was going on in the American Southwest at the time,” James said.

As for ‘Cowtown,’ neither New York, where they formed, or Austin, where they are now based, has many cows left.

“When we say Cowtown, it is the Cowtown of the imagination.”

The trio has been featured on “Later With Jools Holland,” “The Grand Ole Opry,” “Mountain Stage,” “eTown” and “A Prairie Home Companion.”

The trio’s latest album is the 2013 release “Rendezvous in Rhythm,” and James and Smith have both recently finished solo albums.

For more information about the band visit <http://www.hotclubofcowtown.com>. For tickets visit [www.tillettoundation.org](http://www.tillettoundation.org), or go to the Alive Office in Tillett Gardens, Natural Food Grocery and Deli at Mandela Circle, Fish Face in Palm Passage or Rhiannon’s in American Yacht Harbor.

Tickets are \$35 and the concert starts at 8 p.m. Season tickets are also available.

A free shuttle will meet the 6 p.m. ferry and return patrons to the dock after the show.

Texas swing to meet Parisian hot jazz tonight in the Garden

By STEPHEN CHESLUK  
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — No venue in the U.S. Virgin Islands can come close to packing in the crowd like London’s O2 Arena. The crowd on a sold-out night at Tillett Gardens in Anna’s Retreat would fill only about 1 percent of the massive English arena where Michael Jackson hoped to make his comeback and the Hot Club of Cowtown played with Bob Dylan. That doesn’t matter to Hot Club fiddler and vocalist Eliana James.

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Photo by AISHA-ZAKIYA BOYD

St. Thomas native Tiphonie Yanique has published her first novel.

## With debut novel, Tiphonie Yanique helps readers rediscover her home

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By **STEPHEN CHESLIK**  
Daily News Staff

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St. Thomian Tiphonie Yanique has a grudge against an acknowledged master of American literature, Herman Wouk. And after more than a decade of work, settling that grudge is bringing her national attention and acclaim.

Yanique's debut novel, "Land of Love and Drowning," is garnering positive reviews from media outlets ranging from National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" to Entertainment Weekly, The Associated Press and L.A. Review of Books.

It's not attention she expected growing up.

"I grew up in Round the Field, and I don't think we often think that good things are going to come out of our more challenged neighborhoods," she said Thursday during a telephone interview. She is doing her part in changing that perception, having published a widely-praised collection of short stories, "How to Escape a Leper Colony," and a children's book before releasing her latest novel.

Yanique credits her grandmother with her love of reading and the Virgin Islands.

As the children's librarian at Enid Baa Library, Beulah Smith Harrigan filled their Hospital Ground home with books.

"She was a voracious reader and a storyteller. She told us stories all the time and told us to read," Yanique said.



After attending college at Tufts University and continuing her education at the University of the West Indies on a Fullbright scholarship, Yanique returned to St. Thomas to teach at her alma mater, All Saints Cathedral School.

It was at All Saints that she considered studying writing closer, and by searching through the guidance materials available to her students, she found a list of the top five Master of Fine Arts programs in the country and applied to four of them. University of Iowa was No. 1 but just seemed too far away for a Virgin Islander.

On the cover: 'Land of Love and Drowning'  
With debut novel, Tiphonie Yanique helps readers rediscover her home

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"Land of Love and Drowning" is her MFA thesis, revised many times since graduating from the University of Houston. It is also a direct response to Herman Wouk's "Don't Stop the Carnival."

"That book is read across the Virgin Islands... Herman Wouk is not a comedy writer, he is a writer who wrote beautifully and deeply about war. His first, and only, foray into comedy was when he wrote about us, a time when Americans had a lot of racism. I think it was hard for him to see Virgin Islanders as people who were complex."

In "Don't Stop the Carnival," Yanique sees her fellow Virgin Islanders portrayed as "mostly buffoons, the butt of jokes," in "Land of Love and Drowning," she seeks to change that perception.

"I wanted to make the Virgin Islanders fully complex in all the beauty and all the ugly. Mine are not perfect," Yanique said. "They have flaws as all human beings do. They are fully human."

Some of Wouk's characters appear in her novel as well as the places he addresses and even some of the scenes from "Don't Stop the Carnival" are reimagined.

"I would like, with all my audacity, to be the book they read along with that. I'm not saying don't read Herman Wouk, read alongside, or against the book," she said.

So far, Yanique thinks her book is having an impact.

"People who are not from the Caribbean are surprised and refreshed to see it. We have so many writers and culture bearers in our islands, but they are not being celebrated abroad. People are excited to see the Virgin Islands, a beautiful place, also being presented as a place of complex intellectual culture and art," she said. "I hope this opens the door to see that we have been doing that all along. ... That when people come to the Virgin Islands they will buy rum, a T-shirt and buy a book, and that they will pick up The Daily News and that they see a place. The beach is important, and so is the rum, but I also think there are so many ways to experience the Virgin Islands."

Asked if she sees herself as part of the V.I. tradition of culture bearers, Yanique paused for a long moment before answering.

"Yes. I see myself as a culture bearer, but I take that title with great humility and surprise," she said. "I do take it on as a responsibility. I am continuing to learn from our senior culture bearers, still learning to be a representative of the Virgin Islands."

And while she now lives and teaches college in New York City, Yanique is still connected to her home, serving on the board of All Saints Cathedral School and when she is in town she is still active in the Rock Collective at Frenchtown Deli, a group she helped found more than a decade ago.

"What I really want is to get Virgin Islanders excited about the book. This is my first audience. If it is not doing well in the Virgin Islands, I don't feel it is successful. All that stuff in the States is to help get it noticed here," she said.

Yanique invites the public to come to a beach lime from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at Magens Bay Shed No. 4.

After all, according to an interview she gave with a national online publication, the beach on St. Thomas is her favorite place to write and to read.

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Photo by ST. THOMAS REFORMED CHURCH

The Yannone family — Neisha Zahn, Tyler and Daniel — were on a sightseeing outing when their helicopter crashed in thick brush at The Preserve at Botany Bay on St. Thomas.

# Medical examiner officially identifies crash victims, announces cause of death

By **STEPHEN CHESLIK**  
Daily News Staff



Maria Rodriguez

Nine days after a helicopter crash killed four St. Thomas residents, the V.I. Justice Department has finally released the identities of those on board the doomed aircraft.

While the identities of the crash victims have been widely known in the community for more than a week, the public identification had been left to the pilot's daughter, a local private school and the victims' church, with the V.I. government remaining silent as to who was aboard the aircraft.

According to V.I. Medical Examiner Dr. Francisco Landron, pilot Maria Rodriguez Van Heurck, 55; and passengers Daniel Yannone, 54; his wife, Neisha Zahn, 52; and son, Tyler Yannone, 18, died as a result of "multiple injuries due to blunt force trauma."

Landron made his determination after "performance of the autopsies and forensic evaluations of the remains," according to the statement by V.I. Justice Department Media Relations Director Sandra Goomansingh issued at 10:15 p.m. Wednesday. The manner of death has been certified by the department as an "accident."

The Justice Department did not indicate why it took more than a week to notify the public of the victims in the crash.

“On behalf of the Dept. of Justice, we again extend our deepest condolences. Our prayers and sympathies are with the families and friends of those who died as a result of this tragedy,” wrote V.I. Attorney General Denise George.

# Medical examiner officially IDs crash victims, cause of death

By STEPHEN CHELSEK  
Daily News Staff



The Yannonne family — Neesha Zain, Yvan and Denise — were on a sightseeing outing when their helicopter crashed in thick brush at The Preserve at Botany Bay on St. Thomas.

An exclusive gated community on the far West End of St. Thomas, Luisa Villegas said she was on vacation with family in Botany Bay when she saw the helicopter go down less than a mile from their rental property at about 3:15 p.m. Feb. 15. Her son was fascinated by the helicopter and they were watching from the balcony as it flew low and then, “I heard it de-accelerate and then it just went down. It went belly up and it just went down,” Villegas said.

The shocking crash “was very quick. The fall was very quick, because they were not high,” Villegas said. “I did not hear an explosion. I did see a lot of black smoke going up, and maybe a couple minutes later I heard a couple little explosions.”

## Maxwell makes 3rd bail attempt on sex charges

By LARRY NEUMISTER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Christine Maxwell, a British socialite awaiting trial on charges that she recruited teenage girls for Jeffrey Epstein to sexually abuse, says she’ll renounce her U.K. and French citizenship if she can be freed on bail, according to a court filing Tuesday.



Christine Maxwell

Maxwell’s attorneys made the offer in a filing at a hearing Maxwell out of jail before a trial scheduled for July in Manhattan federal court. A judge has previously rejected two bail attempts, including a \$28.5 million bail release proposal in December.

As part of the latest bail proposal, defense attorneys wrote that they will put the bulk of the \$22.5 million estate belonging to Maxwell and her still-unnamed husband into a special account to be overseen by an “asset manager” — a former federal judge and U.S. attorney from Georgia. The deal would net another a half-million dollars for living expenses and over \$7 million for legal fees.

Nine days after a helicopter crash killed four St. Thomas residents, the V.I. Justice Department has finally released the identities of those on board the doomed aircraft. While the identities of the crash victims have been widely known in the community for more than a week, the public identification had been left to the pilot’s daughter, a local private school and the victims’ church, with the V.I. government remaining silent as to who was aboard the aircraft.

According to V.I. Medical Examiner Dr. Francisco Landrum, 55, and passengers Daniel Yannonne, 54, his wife, Neesha Zain, 52, and son, Yvan Yannonne, 16, died as a result of multiple injuries due to blunt force trauma.

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## Telecom contractors cut water and power lines

Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — V.I. Water and Power Authority customers from Sugar Estate to Havensight lost power and water service Wednesday afternoon when a telecommunications contractor cut through lines headed toward Alton Adams Drive near the post office.



V.I. Water and Power Authority employees Miguel Wilbering, left, and Djour Shoy repair a broken water line Wednesday on St. Thomas.

About 300 power customers were impacted when the lines were cut, according to a statement from the authority. Workers from Bernizoid, Longa, Diaz-Masias,

BLDM and WAPA worked to fix the severed electrical line and water pipe into Wednesday evening with electric service restored to all but 40 customers by Wednesday afternoon and to all customers by Wednesday night. By 2 p.m. Wednesday, only Lockhart Elementary School remained without water service, according to a statement from the authority.

BLDM is currently matching roadways on St. Thomas as part of a project to install new fiber optic cables for AT&T.

According to aircraft registration records, the Bell 206B helicopter’s airworthiness certificate was first awarded in 1993 and its registration was valid through 2022.

The initial accident information indicates the Yannonne family was on a sightseeing flight when the helicopter crashed at about 3:15 p.m. Feb. 15 in thick bush in The Preserve at Botany Bay, an exclusive gated community on the far West End of St. Thomas.

Luisa Villegas said she was on vacation with family in Botany Bay when she saw the helicopter go down less than a mile from their rental property at about 3:15 p.m. Feb. 15. Her son was fascinated by the helicopter, and they were watching from the balcony as it flew low and then, “I heard it de-accelerate and then it just went down. It went belly up and it just went down,” Villegas said.

The shocking crash “was very quick. The fall was very quick, because they were not high,” Villegas said.

“I did not hear an explosion. I did see a lot of black smoke going up, and maybe a couple minutes later I heard a couple little explosions.”

Rescuers had to fight their way through dense foliage and thick vines before being able to approach the scene to put out a blaze caused by the crash, said V.I. Fire Service Director Daryl George Sr.

While the bodies of the Rodriguez and the Yannonne family were recovered the same day the helicopter crashed, it was not clear that evening how many people had been aboard the aircraft.

According to Hurley Funeral Home, a celebration of Rodriguez’s life will be held at 5 p.m. Friday at Brewers Beach on St. Thomas and a memorial service for the Yannonne family will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday at St. Thomas Reformed Church in Charlotte Amalie.



Daily News Photo by DENA FISHER

Bishop Herbert Bevard, left, Alrid Lockhart and the Rev. Msgr. Jerome Feudjio attend the 2016 Keys and Sword gala at Marriott's Frenchman's Reef. Pope Francis has chosen Father Jerome to succeed Bevard as bishop.

## Pope Francis taps Father Jerome to be diocese's next bishop

By **STEPHEN CHESLIK**  
Daily News Staff

A familiar face to Catholics in the Virgin Islands has been appointed by Pope Francis as the next bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

The news that their parish priest, the Rev. Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, will be the next spiritual leader of Catholics in the territory was announced with the opening of a sealed letter from Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre during a prayer service Tuesday morning at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas.

As attorney Richard Bourne-Vanneck read the name, the congregation burst into cheers and applause.

Known widely in the community as Father Jerome, Feudjio currently serves as the diocese vicar general and chancellor.

"I am humbled and grateful to his holiness Pope Francis for the honor and trust he places in me by appointing me in this high office," Jerome said.

He thanked his predecessor, Bishop Herbert Bevard, for "his leadership, love and dedication during his episcopacy," as well as the Virgin Islands community that has supported him since becoming a priest. While he specifically pointed out his barber of 31 years, he said the complete list would be too "long, long, long and very long."

"Your faith and dedication to the church have ignited by zeal and motivated me to joyfully to offer my

contribution to this our diocese,” he said.

“It has been a blessing and a privilege to serve this diocese”

Jerome asked for the community’s prayers as he begins “this new phase of my priesthood.”

“Bishop-elect Jerome is no stranger to the people of the diocese,” said Cardinal Wilton Gregory, archbishop of Washington, in a prepared statement. “His long history of service and pastoral dedication to the people of this

community of faith are well known and widely respected. He now begins a new chapter in his own life and in all of your lives as well.”

According to Gregory, who has served as apostolic administrator for the diocese of St. Thomas since Bishop Bevard stepped down in September, Jerome will be the diocese’s sixth bishop.

“Please keep him in your prayers as he transitions into his new office as I am certain he will hold all of you securely in his daily prayers for this day forward,” Gregory said.

Jerome, 65, is a native of Cameroon where he attended Catholic schools, earning a degree in bookkeeping in 1972 before seeking admission to the Congregation of the Fathers of the Sacred Heart, according to a statement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

It was while he was at the Sacred Heart Novitiate that Father Jerome’s journey brought him to the United States and to the attention of a future Virgin Islands bishop. While visiting Washington, Jerome would meet the future bishop of St. Thomas and later cardinal, Father Sean O’Malley, who invited him to stay in the city where he would complete his religious education.

Upon completing studies in philosophy and theology for the priesthood at Oblate College in Washington, Jerome made his temporary religious profession to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

After further studies in the administration of justice at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill., Jerome was ordained a priest of the Diocese of St. Thomas in 1990 and in 2002, was named by Pope John Paul II a chaplain of his holiness, a recognition that carries the honorary title of Monsignor.

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Many countries prefer hurricanes compared to what has happened with the pandemic.

— Vincent Vandorpoel/Wallace, former Bahamas tourism minister

Sun, sand and shots: Caribbean seeks vaccines to revive economy

By DANICA COVIO

The Associated Press

— Vincent Vandorpoel/Wallace, former Bahamas tourism minister

SAN JUAN — The Caribbean is hunting for the visitors and vaccines to jump-start the stalled economy in one of the world’s most tourism-dependent regions. Clear waters and warm sand attracted a record 31.5 million tourists to the Caribbean in 2019, but steamplanned by an estimated 60% to 80% in the pandemic hit last year. That devastating for a region whose countries depend heavily on visitors for income.



Vincent Vandorpoel-Wallace

Many countries prefer hurricanes compared to what has happened with the pandemic, said Vincent Vandorpoel-Wallace, a former Bahamas tourism minister who also led the Caribbean Tourism Organization. Tens of thousands of tourism-related jobs were lost, including those held by Nadia Kidd and her mother in Jamaica. Kidd, 31, was a waitress at a resort and her mother worked at a guest house. Kidd like many other workers, has to support her mother and daughter. “Everything is all on me,” said Kidd, who worked at the Media Beach Village resort in Trinidad. “I have loans to pay, light bill and internet [but I] have to pay because my daughter has to go to school online.”

Desperate to create safe conditions for tourism, the Caribbean — including U.S. territories Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands — is turning to India, China and the United Kingdom in a hunt for safe, affordable vaccines. India has already vaccinated 1.1 billion people and is waiting for the resort where he worked as a waiter to reopen next month. The 29-year-old said that in the meantime, he has been packing fruit and selling it on the street. “This is how I have been surviving.”

Unlike Jamaica, other islands have been luckier, having received AstraZeneca doses under India’s “Vaccine Friendship” program. That vaccine’s protocol requires a received AstraZeneca dose under India’s “Vaccine Friendship” program. The country has shared some of the a number of other nations, including Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis.

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Daily News Staff

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The news that their parish priest, the Rev. Major Jerome Feudjio, will be the next spiritual leader of Catholics in the territory was announced with the opening of a letter from Jerome Feudjio, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christopher Pierre during a recent service Tuesday morning at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas.

An attorney Richard Bourne-Vandorpoel said the name, the congregation burst into cheers and applause. Known widely in the community as Father Jerome, Feudjio currently oversees the diocese’s vocational and chancery.

“I am humbled and grateful to his holiness Pope Francis for the honor and to be chosen in my appearing me in this high office,” Jerome said.

He thanked his predecessor, Bishop Herbert Bevard, for “his leadership, love and dedication during his episcopacy as well as for the support of the community that has supported him throughout his ministry. While he specifically mentioned his barber of 31 years, he said the complete list would be too “long, long and very long.”

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Daily News Photos by ANDREA MILAM

Maho Bay, above, is among the best in the world, according to a new survey of travelers by Tripadvisor. Also placing in the survey are Trunk Bay, below, the Baths on Virgin Gorda and Honeymoon Beach on Water Island.

## 4 USVI, BVI beaches take spots in rankings

By **STEPHEN CHESLIK**  
Daily News Staff

If you follow the crowds on St. John you'll quickly hit one of the hottest beaches in the world, according to a new ranking from Tripadvisor.

Maho Bay has snatched the No. 5 spot in the Caribbean and No. 14 spot in the world on the website's list of top beaches. Known for its white sand beach and sea turtles, the only downside many see is that it may be too good for its own good.

"Enjoyed our time there, but popularity brings more visitors," warned a visitor from Dublin, Ohio.

Most visitors to the beach, however, are simply agog at the sea turtles, which are attracted to seagrass beds toward the middle stretches of the bay. For those hoping to see fish or an octopus, the National Park Service advises swimming closer the western end and toward the point between Maho and Cinnamon.



But be warned, if a north swell is coming ashore, you might want to visit somewhere else, as the stirred-up

water will drop visibility, which was the only frequent complaint from visitors on the travel website.

To take a dip at the No. 1 spot on the list, travelers will have to go down under to Australia's Whitehaven Beach on Whitsunday Island in Queensland. Unlike Maho, however, where a quick bite to eat is nearby with food trucks and drink stands that make "the perfect place for lunch," Whitsunday Island is uninhabited.

Maho's islandmate Trunk Bay, a frequent flyer itself in best beaches list, was ranked by Tripadvisor's users as

the 13th best beach in the Caribbean, followed just one spot behind by Honeymoon Beach on Water Island. The Baths in Virgin Gorda ranked 19th.

A recent visitor from Bethesda, Md., had only one question to ask of Trunk Bay, "What's not to like?" One New Jersey visitor raved about Trunk's underwater trail, which they pointed out they would be visiting on their upcoming fifth trip to the island.

"Trunk Bay on St. John is appropriately ranked as one of the world's most beautiful beaches," opines a Texas visitor to the website. And, despite being a ferry ride away, Water Island's Honeymoon Beach is also ranked by Tripadvisor visitors as the No. 5 thing to do "on St. Thomas."

That's not something one St. Thomian logging in held against it, calling Honeymoon the "must go to beach."

"Love this beach...one of the prettiest in the islands," they wrote. "Boat toys and good food. Always a good time there!"

For many others, the name is a perfect summation. "This was one of the most beautiful and quiet spots we visited. It is not a snorkeling stop, but it is so romantic and tropical," gushed one of many Tripadvisor visitors who dropped a perfect rating on Honeymoon Beach.

# Embattled WAPA CEO tenders resignation



Maho Bay, above, is among the best in the world, according to a new survey of travelers by Tripadvisor. Also placing in the survey are Trunk Bay, below, the Baths in Virgin Gorda and Honeymoon Beach on Water Island.



WAPA Executive Director and CEO Lawrence Kasper was nearly cut off by a and CEO Lawrence Kasper was nearly cut off by a and CEO Lawrence Kasper was nearly cut off by a

## 4 USVI, BVI beaches take spots in rankings

By STEPHEN CHELAK Daily News Staff

If you follow the crowds on St. John you'll quickly hit one of the hottest beaches in the world, according to a new ranking from Tripadvisor.

Maho Bay has snatched the No. 8 spot in the Caribbean and No. 14 spot in the world on the website's list of top beaches. Known for its white sand beach and sea turtles, the only downside may be that it may be too good for its own good.

"Trapped out time here, but popularly brings more visitors," warned a visitor from Dublin, Ohio.

Most visitors to the beach, however, are simply here to see the turtles, which are prolific in the near-pristine beach toward the middle stretches of the bay. For those hoping to see fish or an octopus, the National Park Service advises swimming closer to the western end and toward the point between Maho and Cinnamon.

But be warned, if a north swell is coming ashore, you might want to visit somewhere else, as the stir-up water will drop visibility, which was the only frequent complaint from visitors on the travel website.

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### Best Beaches

- Top Beaches in the world**
- Whitehaven Beach, Australia
  - Santa Maria Beach, Cuba
  - Bias to Sancho, Brazil
  - Grace Bay Beach, Providenciales
  - St. Pete Beach, Florida
- Top Beaches in the Caribbean**
- Santa Maria Beach, Cuba
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  - St. Pete Beach, Florida
  - Angie Beach, Aruba
  - Maradero Beach, Cuba
  - Maho Bay, U.S. Virgin Islands

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"Love this beach, one of the prettiest in the islands," they wrote. "Boat toys and good food. Always a good time there!"

For many others, the name is a perfect summation. "This was one of the most beautiful and quiet spots we visited. It is not a snorkeling stop, but it is so romantic and tropical," gushed one of many Tripadvisor visitors who dropped a perfect rating on Honeymoon Beach.

For Virgin Islanders looking to take a trip to the Spanish Virgins, Culebra's Flamenco Beach placed 10th on Tripadvisor's Caribbean list.

The top spot in the Caribbean went to Cuba's Santa Maria Beach on Cayo Santa Maria. The No. 1 spot in the United States is held by St. Pete Beach on Florida's Gulf Coast.

Contact Stephen Chehak at 340-714-9122 or email scchelak@dailynews.vi.



Photo by SAAB

Seaborne Airlines will begin flying the Saab 340B in January.

## Seaborne upgrading service V.I. airline to operate new type of aircraft

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By **STEPHEN CHESLIK**  
Daily News Staff

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With American Eagle preparing to pull out of the territory in March, Seaborne Airlines is working on major upgrades that will prepare it for growth.

“What we are trying to do is make sure we would cover a significant portion of the capacity lost by American Eagle — several hundred seats a day,” said Seaborne CEO and chairman Omer ErSelcuk.

The key to capturing American’s lost market share is the introduction of a new class of aircraft to Seaborne’s fleet — the Saab 340b.

When the Saab aircraft start flying in January the airline’s capacity will almost double, ErSelcuk said. Then, when American Eagle pulls out in March, Seaborne will add more flights to its schedule.

Seaborne can’t afford to introduce the new flights immediately, because while American Eagle’s planned cutback are good for Seaborne, the market is currently oversaturated with seats, ErSelcuk said.

“We reduced our capacity because we couldn’t afford to run empty flights and break even,” ErSelcuk said. “We knew we wanted to keep our foot in the door.”

That reduction in capacity included reduced flights to Puerto Rico and layoffs.

“We did what we needed to do,” ErSelcuk said.

Seeing an opportunity in American Eagle’s departure — the airline operates six flights to the Virgin Islands daily and carries about 3,000 passenger seats per week — Seaborne is getting ready to push the door wide open.

While the Saab 340B carries about half the passengers as American’s ATRs — 37 — it has more than double the capacity of Seaborne’s current deHavilland DHC-6 Twin Otters.

In addition to having more seats, the Saab airliner is capable of cruising at 290 mph, about 115 mph faster than the Twin Otter and 28 mph slower than American Eagle’s ATRs.

For passengers aboard the aircraft, however, the first thing they are likely to notice is the addition of a flight attendant, according to ErSelcuk.



What passengers probably won't notice, is the airlines considerable investment in training and resources.

While the first of the airline's three new aircraft is expected to arrive in the Virgin Islands in October, the first paying customer isn't expected to board until January, ErSelcuk said.

"To bring a new aircraft onto your certificate takes a long period of time. You need to work with the FAA," ErSelcuk said. "It is extremely expensive in manpower time and buying manuals. That investment alone is upwards of three-quarters of a million dollars."

The refurbished Saab aircraft each cost between \$2.75 million and \$3.5 million, according to ErSelcuk, and will be leased from "related parties" to Seaborne.

"Each one will go through a thorough overhaul process to make sure they are in new condition," ErSelcuk said. "They will smell new inside."

## Future improvements

In addition to the new aircraft, Seaborne is preparing to sell its tickets through online marketplaces like Travelocity and Expedia.

Purchasers of those tickets will also have a new destination to choose from, Tortola.

Service to Tortola will begin in October with the airline's current Twin Otter aircraft and will be upgraded to Saab service, ErSelcuk said.

Also in the airline's plans is the ability for travelers to check a bag aboard in the Virgin Islands and not have to touch it again until it reaches the baggage carousel at their final destination.

To accomplish that change the airline is currently working on agreements with other carriers, ErSelcuk said.

"We try to do our best to make sure we have excellent customer service," ErSelcuk said. "It is a big move for us. Even though we will look like a bigger airline, we are trying to look like the V.I. airline. We take pride, that when folks call us, or send us an email we get back to everybody. That is very important."

## Benefit to the V.I.

In addition to replacing the lost airlift capacity, ErSelcuk said Seaborne's aircraft will be based on St. Croix, not in Puerto Rico.

So when one of the aircraft's \$1 million engines has to be serviced, it will be by a mechanic at Rohlsen Airport, not by one on Puerto Rico, ErSelcuk said.

"We're going to be looking for talented, hardworking folk that want to be in the airline business who can provide safe and excellent customer service," said ErSelcuk. "We are looking forward to contributing to the economy."

Monday, July 9, 2012 • Page 22

# Business Monday

## V.I. Business Spotlight



Seaborne Airlines will begin flying the Saab 340B in January. Photo by SA4

### Seaborne upgrading service

V.I. airline to operate new type of aircraft

By STEPHEN CHELIK  
Staff Writer

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See SEABORNE, page 26

## YouthBuild gets sound footing



Patrick Anthony, standing, co-owner of Cover Shoe-tique, donated a half-dozen pairs of steel-toe boots to the V.I. Housing Authority's YouthBuild program. Program participants Jashawn Peters, left, Brian Emmanuel and Anash Corbett have begun construction training at the Grandview Development site. YouthBuild is a multi-strategy youth and community development program that offers opportunities for unemployed, out of school or unskilled young adults ages 18 to 24, to earn a GED, acquire job skills and learn construction trades through classroom and on-site construction training. For information about donating to YouthBuild, contact Irma Hodge or Carl Joseph at 715-7522.

**Crew:** 2 pilots, 1 flight attendant  
**Passengers:** 37  
**Length:** 64 feet, 8 inches  
**Wingspan:** 70 feet, 8 inches  
**Height:** 22 feet, 10 inches  
**Engines:** 2 General Electric turbofans  
**Crash speed:** 230 mph  
**Range:** 1,076 miles  
**Production:** 450 Saab 340s were built from 1983 to 1999

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# Design



# V.I. police officers, guardsmen named in conspiracy after 724 pounds of cocaine found in luggage

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90th year, No. 23895

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

\$1



The Virgin Islands

# DAILY NEWS



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first president  
to be impeached  
twice as 10  
Republicans  
cross aisle Pages 3-5

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President-Elect  
**Joe Biden**



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ISSN 2159-3019



The Virgin Islands

# DAILY NEWS



A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Newspaper

ST. CROIX

ST. JOHN

ST. THOMAS

TORTOLA

CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE, CULTURES AND HISTORY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

## Epstein suicide

V.I. spokesman: Local investigation will continue  
**Page 2**

What happens to Epstein's money, homes and islands now? Can feds seize everything? **Page 3**

Epstein's guards worked extreme overtime shifts morning of his death  
**Page 3**



### St. Thomas fencer wins 2 golds at Pan Am Games

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### World soccer chief in V.I.

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### Vodka distillery opens on St. Croix

Pages 6-7



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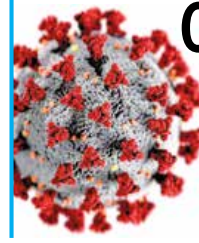
Restore your smile. Reclaim your confidence!

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# St. Croix, St. Thomas welcome first babies of the new year

Page 2



# COVID claims 24th victim in territory

Page 7

90th year, No. 23886 MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 \$1



The Virgin Islands

# DAILY NEWS



A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Newspaper

ST. CROIX ST. JOHN ST. THOMAS TORTOLA  
CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE, CULTURES AND HISTORY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Ray Thomas, Ferdinand Marshall, Gyasi Chiverton, Jahlil Ward, Carlos Ingles, Endry Montero Bacili, Mikal Dore, Jahkim Santiago, Malik Graham, Malcolm Francis, Luis Perez, Deshaune Harrigan, Michael McKie, Junior Akimo Freeman, Shaq'kil Roberts, Bertstrand Gilkes Jr., Emanuel

Moise, Tamir Lake, Jamal Elon Frett, Mendel Felix, Leroy James, Vernon Jr., Nathaniel Heywood, Ashby, Khamal 'Petty' Fontanelle, Shamal Riviere,

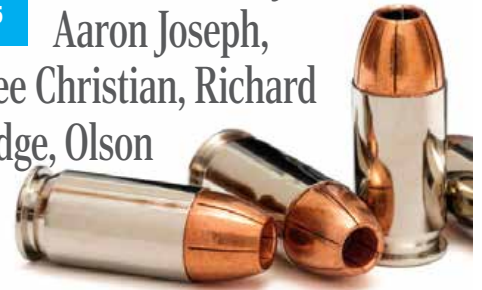
Year in Review

## 49 slain in V.I. in 2020

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Kaleem Ramsey, Rashawn Wyre, Joseph Leonardo Clarke, Tintawee Christian, Richard Boehm, Secori Akeel Elmes, Renyisha Juanita Rivera, Kadiyen Illidge, Olson Tyson, Joseph Andrews, Marvin Barton, Nathaniel Felix, Bomani Christian, A'Jahnie Bramble, Jahmandi Simon, Delroy Venzen Jr.

Jacobs, Jahkerby Charles, Selena Chitolie, Terrance Rawlins, Oliver Christian Aaron Ashby, Rique God' DeSilvia, Jonathan Aaron Joseph,



# NFL playoff picture comes down to final game of season

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# The DAILY NEWS

1st Year

ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS, U. S. AUGUST 1, 1930

DAILY

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2020

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INAUGURATION  
BARACK OBAMA  
THE 44TH PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# Today, History is Made



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TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009

78th year, No. 21351



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The Virgin Islands

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2011

80th year, No. 22138

## Mandahl double murder case

### Eyewitness describes being chased by Potter

Page 3

# Potter jurors tell judge

**Give us:** pancakes • white bread • wheat bread • scrambled eggs • boiled eggs • saltfish • fruits • bananas • hot chocolate • bacon — turkey and pork varieties • cheese • sandwiches — cheese and tuna fish • donuts • johnny cake • teas — green and herbal varieties • salmon • kingfish • pates ...

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## Human Services facing increased calls for help

Page 4

## V.I. team wins at CBC

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## Many top drugs will soon be generics

Page 14

## Prescription drug plan saving Medicare billions

Page 14

## A microchip in every dog?

Page 22



# TODAY'S McCOMBO \$4.49

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24/7 island action

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Puerto Rico's  
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Casals**  
to play  
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# Maturing mermaids?

You don't have to be young to workout poolside | HEALTH, C1



Scientists wonder if meat-eating dinosaurs hunted in packs  
MARTIN, A5

# CASPER Star Tribune

Thursday, April 18, 2008 • WYOMING'S STATEWIDE NEWSPAPER • www.casperstartribune.com

## California backs Wyo coal plant bid

By DUSTIN BLUMBERG  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

**SAN DIEGO** — California is backing Wyoming's bid to build a coal-gasification project this area in 2009. Wyoming officials work as a lobbyist for a new generation of "clean" coal energy conversion plants. Governor John Hickenlooper signed a memorandum of un-

derstanding on Monday afternoon. The deal, if approved, would allow California and other western electrical contractors to demand more electricity and respond that it costs less to generate power. However, Hickenlooper stressed that no energy deal requires that new coal-based power plants be located in

California. The deal would be the first of its kind in the western region. But the new deal is not yet finalized. The deal is still in the works. The deal is still in the works. The deal is still in the works.

**Inside**  
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## Parties offer views on fights

By ANTHONY LAKE  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

While federal plans took center stage after rights were rejected last fall, Wyoming's fight over federal plans to build a coal-gasification project this area in 2009. Wyoming officials work as a lobbyist for a new generation of "clean" coal energy conversion plants. Governor John Hickenlooper signed a memorandum of un-

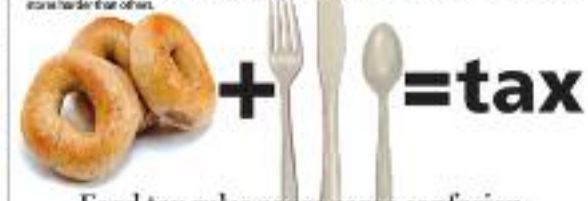
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Regular customer John Kline talks with manager Bob Bonham at James Bonk's shop, a store of Bonk's Grocery & Market in Casper. Implementing the state's new sales tax on groceries on food might hit small grocery stores harder than others.



## Food tax rules cause some confusion

By JOAN BARROW  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

**CHEYENNE** — Take the bait. If you buy a pack of bagels at one July 1, you will pay no sales tax on the purchase.

However, you buy a pack of bagels at one July 1, you will pay no sales tax on the purchase. However, you buy a pack of bagels at one July 1, you will pay no sales tax on the purchase.

**News Tracker**  
What we know: The legislature passed a bill to exempt groceries from the state sales tax for two years.

**What we don't know:** The department will have to report on the bill's impact on the state's revenue.

**Inside**  
Wyoming Department of Revenue A10

**News Tracker**  
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**Inside**  
Wyoming Department of Revenue A10

## The great quake

For the 30 years before Katrina, a single event stood as the worst disaster in U.S. history. Take a look back. A10



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**DAILY UPDATE**

**Yoga art**  
Yoga art means a lot to some people, so it's not surprising that the art of yoga is becoming a popular hobby. See C1

**First place**  
The Colorado Rockies are in first place for the first time in their history. See C1

**Stiffer penalty**  
Casper businesses that are not in compliance with the new regulations will face a stiffer penalty. See C1

**Final thoughts**  
The editor's report shares his final thoughts on the week's events. See C1

**Suicide attack**  
A suicide attack in Casper has left several people injured. See A5

**The Grouch**  
Do you think they're finger food? See A5

# CASPER Star Tribune

Sunday, February 26, 2006 • WYOMING'S STATEWIDE NEWSPAPER • www.casperstartribune.net



**Garden in a box? | E1**  
Ordering plants out of a catalog takes consideration



**Homemade with help | C1**  
Business allows families to eat around the kitchen table without all the prep work

## Something new: Red ink

Despite surplus, slew of requests puts draft budget 'under water'

By **JOAN BARRON**  
Star-Tribune capital bureau

CHEYENNE — Through the first half of the Legislature's budget session, the plan for

state government spending for the next two years has been on the back burner. Lawmakers instead have been focused on a myriad of "non-budget" bills, from allowing people to carry

concealed weapons without permits to creating a scholarship program for high school graduates. But starting Monday, legislators will be faced with a slew of spend-or-save decisions when they begin work on the \$2.7 billion budget for the 2007-08 biennium. In addition to the \$2.7 bil-

lion spending figure, the budget recommended by the Joint Appropriations Committee contains \$715 million in savings. On top of that, however, the Legislature introduced more than 80 bills with a total of \$1 billion in spending. Although some of those bills have died

**Inside**  
Governor pushes state employee pay boost **B9**  
Status report on bills **B9**  
Other legislative news **B8**



**Farewell, Gowdy**  
Former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson and Curt Gowdy's longtime broadcast partner Tony Kubek reminisce about Gowdy on Saturday inside Trinity Church in Boston. See **D1**

**Shop with your nose**  
Iced tea maker adds scents to packaging

By **MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER**  
The Washington Post

AriZona iced tea has spent millions of dollars creating its eye-catching packaging, and more millions on different flavors. Now it's testing a way to bring the two together by embedding appealing aromas in the packaging itself to improve the taste of its beverages and the drinker's experience.

AriZona Beverage Co. is at the forefront of a new wave of high-tech packaging in consumer products. As people increasingly spread their attention across many types of media, marketers are looking for new ways to get noticed. One promising way appears to be targeting as many of the five senses as possible via the package itself. Soon, just strolling store aisles could cause sensory overload with packages that blink, beep, yell and waft scents at shoppers. Some companies have created paper-thin, flexible video displays and tiny speakers.

But aroma, with its powerful link to memory and emotion, seems to offer the biggest payoff. Companies are incorporating scents directly into plastic bags and bottles, so consumers can smell shampoo or chocolate without opening the packaging. New scented ink for ads and catalogs use technology that goes beyond scratch-and-sniff.

"Consumers have to be given a good reason to buy a product," said Chris Lyons, publisher of Package Design Magazine. "Certainly, knowing or having a sense of what it smells like can help that." Other packaging innovations are under way: labels that change color to indicate ripeness of fruit or a temperature change. A disposable, self-heating cup (introduced last year with a line of coffee

Please see **NOSE**, A5



Dawn Anderson rehearses her role as lesbian Romaine Patterson, who was a close friend of Matthew Shepard, for Stage III Community Theatre's production of 'The Laramie Project' on Wednesday. Anderson also plays Tiffany Edwards, a Laramie reporter, and Amanda Gronich, a member of the Tectonic Theater Project.

## The Laramie Project Wyoming's tragedy

Stage III puts on a play about the murder of one of their own

By **BARBARA NORDBY**  
Star-Tribune staff writer

**Inset:** Matthew Shepard and Toosey Eggert rehearse a scene from Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s play, 'Happy Birthday, Wanda June,' during the 1990-1991 season of Stage III Community Theatre. Shepard grew up in Casper and acted in several Stage III productions, alongside some of the actors now involved with 'The Laramie Project.'



Courtesy, Stage III Community Theatre

David Little stopped off at the grocery store in Casper one night between work and rehearsal for "The Laramie Project."

He saw the same man over and over, in every aisle, until finally, near the canned goods, the man stopped him.

Hey, he said to Little, in a calm voice, aren't you the guy I saw on TV, talking about that play?

Yes, David said. "Fag lover," the man spit out.

Little mustered, "Thank you for your opinion, sir," and walked away.

Please see **LARAMIE**, A12

## GE eyes state's coal

Company tweaks gasification process

By **DUSTIN BLEIZEFFER**  
Star-Tribune energy reporter

GILLETTE — With a 37 percent share of the U.S. coal market, Wyoming is too large to ignore.

GE Energy Gasification, one of the Wyoming world's leading makers of coal gasification units, said it is developing the process to work with Wyoming coal.

The gasification process works well with bituminous coals in the eastern United States, but it needs some tweaking to make Wyoming's higher-moisture sub-bituminous coals an economic feedstock, according to the company.

"We, and others, are working on making the economics of IGCC (integrated gasification combined cycle) more competitive with the use of these lower-rank coals — i.e., non-bituminous coals, which is Powder River Basin," said Edward Lowe, general manager of GE Energy Gasification.

That doesn't put an IGCC plant in Wyoming, but it is an important first step toward efforts to bring the technology here.

"Coal is our most abundant fossil fuel," Lowe said. "GE's development efforts are to just end up making the plants more competitive on an economic basis by using these other coals."

Wyoming exports nearly 400 million tons of coal annually.

GE owns the patent on a coal gasification process it acquired from Chevron Texaco in 2004. The process is in use, or planned to be in use, at more than 65 coal gasification plants around the world.

Rather than burn coal to release the energy, gasification is a process that places coal under high pressure, and with a chemical catalyst, extracts gas from the coal. The gas is then burned to generate electricity, which produces far fewer emissions.

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**DAILY UPDATE**

<b>Seeding frenzy</b> Wyoming's cloud-seeding projects are off to a slow start. <b>See A3</b>	<b>Jailhouse rocks</b> Natrona County shows off its new jail. <b>See B1</b>	<b>For a song</b> A teen strikes it rich downloading music. <b>See C9</b>	<b>A real man</b> Does Barbie really prefer GI Joe to Ken? <b>See A9</b>	<b>Tension</b> President Bush tries to defuse the crisis in Iraq. <b>See C11</b>
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**The Grouch**

Why not put all the calories on the outside, too?



**Look Back in Time**  
Daniel Sandoval  
STAR-TRIBUNE

**Law involves people**

Our legal system can seem like an alien culture bent on infiltrating society with colonies of workers speaking an arcane language in courthouses across the nation. Opponents and proponents for the rule of law were in the news for the third week of April, with district court in 1906, a sentencing in 1931, a jury in 1956 and a top cop in 1981.

**100 years ago**

**Choirmaster** — District Court Judge Charles E. Carpenter was presiding over a busy docket in Casper when a phone call informed him that his mother's heart condition had taken a bad turn in mid-April 1906. The judge adjourned the session and rushed to be at her side, but she died while he was on his way to Laramie.

After a funeral on Monday, district court was reconvened the following Tuesday with a busy case load.

A jury deliberated for 72 hours but failed to reach a verdict in the case of Henry Johnson, accused of branding a colt with the intent to steal it. Carpenter threw out a case against William Madden, who was accused of selling beef without exhibiting the hide. And a previously postponed case against John Schnoor, accused of sexually assaulting his stepdaughter, was dismissed after the young woman hired a horse, rode to Big Muddy, boarded a train and vanished in September.

Even after the dismissals, the busy docket ran the pool of jurors thin, to the point that the Casper Fire Department suggested that its firemen consider not taking their exemption from jury duty.

Despite the caseload, though, Carpenter found time to lead the choir for Easter Sunday Mass 1906.

**Electronic Age** — With reports coming in by telephone and telegraph, news of the April 18 San Francisco earthquake hit the front page of the April 19, 1906, Natrona County Tribune. Among the lurid details that capture the desperation of the cataclysm were reports of buildings being blown up by dynamite in an attempt to check the spread of fire.

Wire infrastructure and the telephone building in downtown San Francisco were completely destroyed by the 1906 earthquake but news from eyewitnesses still radiated out from the epicenter by wireless telegraph.

**75 years ago**

**No appeal** — A.E. Benshoof was in the Casper jail in the third week of April 1931. On his way to serving a 12- to 20-year sentence in prison, Benshoof was convicted in Douglas for manslaughter. The victim was Benshoof's wife, who died a horrible death soaked with gasoline and set on fire.

Please see **TIME**, B2

What you can get for  
**\$16 million**

Want to listen to some classical music on your couch? Just pick up some Mozart CDs. How about **1,144,492** of them from Amazon.com? Don't worry about the shipping, it's free on orders over \$25.



Into dancing, not listening? Get your feet moving in some new toe shoes. At about \$15 a pair, you can buy **1,066,666** pairs.



What, you don't have room in your closet for **2,133,332** shoes? How about **4-1/2** Stradivarius violins? We're sure your reputable auction house won't mind chopping one in half for you.

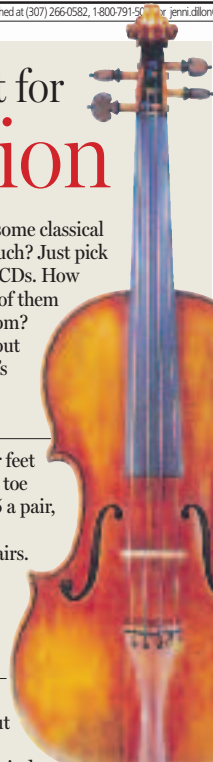


Photo by Geo. Heintz & Co. Toronto for the Instrument Bank of the Canada Council for the Arts

Not into splinters, dancing ballerinas or Mozart? Just think of the parade you could lead with **20,000** trombones.



Or, you could get **1,250** comfortable seats in an acoustically tuned auditorium, and another **27** in an antiseptically clean women's restroom in **one ...**

**Civic Auditorium**

Star-Tribune graphic

**It's showtime**

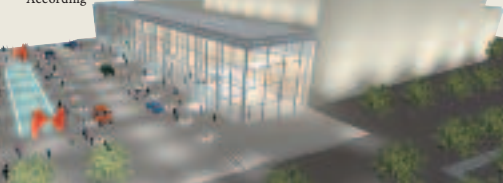
Auditorium fundraising efforts go public

By **CORY MATTESON**  
Star-Tribune staff writer

Women will be happy to know that the Casper Civic Auditorium will have 27 stalls in the ladies' room.

That is, if \$3.5 million is raised by the end of the year.

Ed Mueller, a member on the Citizens for a Civic Auditorium board of directors, said women who've peered inside the auditorium model have counted, and approved.



Please see **AUDITORIUM**, B2

to preliminary designs unveiled Friday, the proposed \$16 million auditorium also will be able to hold up to 1,250 concert, theater and performance-goers. The stage, 45 feet deep by 60 feet wide, will be three times as big as either of the high school stage spaces used in Casper. The main

**No vacancy at the inn**

Metro holds adopt-a-thon Saturday

By **SALLY ANN SHURMUR**  
Star-Tribune staff writer

Now that the weather is better and the light stretches through early evening, perhaps you need a companion for your evening walks. You might consider Lexie, a Jack Russell Terrier mix. You might be tired of talking to the television during the evening news. Chewhey, a Pekingese/Pomeranian mix, might help you sort things out.

And if you're tired of playing fetch by yourself in the park, Jack Russell Terrier/Chihuahua Twigg might be happy to oblige.

Casper's Metro Animal Control hosts the annual Spring Fling adopt-a-thon today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with discounts, door prizes and one-stop shopping for vaccinations and your first portrait together.

"We are full," said Metro director Rick Sulzen. "Aside from strays, which we have to hold for seven days from pickup, all of our animals will be available."

Today only, Sulzen is offering \$10 off the adoption fee for dogs down to \$40, and \$5 off the price of adopting cats, which are scaled according to the cat's age. The most expensive cats today will be \$30 and the least expensive, \$15.

Adoption applications may be started and completed today at the event, but renters need written approval from landlords before an adoption is complete. Applications also may be completed online at the [www.casperwy.gov](http://www.casperwy.gov) Web site, under the Police and Animal Control links.

Thursday morning, Sulzen consulted his guest registry and found that 50 of 63 dogs are available for adoption and 60 of 71 cats.

"Our record number of

Today only!  
Best friends for sale!  
All dogs \$10 off.  
All cats \$5 off.  
10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

'Rood Dog' shorn for Locks of Love if 35 animals find homes!

adoptions in one day is 34," he said, "and we'd like to break that Saturday."

If 35 or more pets find new homes today, Donny "Rood Dog" Rood from Mount Rushmore Broadcasting will cut his hair and donate it to Locks of Love. Mount Rushmore stations will carry live broadcasts from the adopt-a-thon beginning at noon.

The Central Wyoming Spay and Neuter Foundation will be on hand with "on-the-spot financing," Sulzen said, for new pets who need to be spayed or neutered.

The adoption fee to Metro includes a health certificate good for three days at any Casper veterinarian, a one-year city license and a microchip.

Dr. Justin Johnson of Westside Animal Clinic will provide microchips for \$20 and rabies vaccinations for \$10 at the event on Saturday.

And De Maine Image will be on hand from noon to 4 p.m. for pet portraits.

In addition, there will be food and beverages and door prizes throughout the day.

For more information or to view photographs of Metro's animals, go to the [www.casperwy.gov](http://www.casperwy.gov) Web site, click on Police at the left and then click on Animal Control. You may also call Metro at 235-8398.

Community News editor Sally Ann Shurmur may be reached at (307) 266-0520 or [sallyann.shurmur@casperstartribune.net](mailto:sallyann.shurmur@casperstartribune.net).

**What do you know?**

Students compete in Trib Bowl

By **JENNI DILLON**  
Star-Tribune staff writer

They know their cinema a bit better than their civics. For the most part, though, students at the Natrona County School District's Trib Bowl on Friday had their current events well in hand.

The Trib Bowl is an annual competition between elementary school teams, offering students a chance to face off not with athletic ability but with their knowledge of the news. Students in grades three through six teamed up in groups of three or four, facing each other in a round-robin tournament to answer multiple-choice questions culled from recent news stories.

For some students, sports and film were the easiest questions: One team of girls

**Could you compete?**

- Nancy Freudenthal campaigns against:**
  - a) reading
  - b) underage drinking
  - c) methamphetamine
  - d) teens driving
- The Broadway show "The Odd Couple" stars:**
  - a) Brad Pitt
  - b) George Clooney
  - c) Donald Duck
  - d) Matthew Broderick
- One what page of the Casper Star-Tribune can you find The Grouch?**
  - a) sports
  - b) classifieds
  - c) front
  - d) comics

Answers on next page.

Please see **KNOW**, B2

**Today's Events**

More events, next page

**Art Symposium**

■ The State High School Art Symposium will be held at the Casper Events Center today from 9 a.m. to noon. Admission is free.

**Students auction all-night art**

■ The Casper College Art Department will hold its first-ever Red Eye, Black Tie event today at the Metro Coffee Company. Art created by students through the night Friday will be sold at an auction from 7 to 10 p.m. at Metro Coffee Co., 241 S. David. The event is free.

**Fun Run/Walk**

■ Casper Windy City Striders and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming team up for today's third annual Fun Run uses the bike path and bridge near the North Casper Soccer complex. Three races begin from 8:15 to 9 a.m. Registration \$10. Info: 235-5694.

**Coal Mountain cleanup today**

■ The Coal Mountain Public Lands cleanup is today from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers should bring work gloves, sunscreen, boots, long pants, hat and jackets and water bottles. Info: 258-5528.

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2008



## Fish motoring back to Lewis

Long absent from river's north fork, species will be transported around reservoirs under new licensing deal

The federal license for Merwin Dam and three other Lewis River power projects has been renewed for 50 years.

By ERIK ROBINSON  
Columbian staff writer

Pacific Power will get into the fish transportation business by the end of 2012.

For 77 years, a 313-foot-high concrete plug has stopped the migration of salmon and steelhead in the North Fork of the Lewis River. That will change under a set of new hydroelectric operating licenses issued by federal energy regulators. The old licenses expired in 2006, and the utilities had

been operating on year-by-year renewals since then.

Ongoing salmon, blocked from the upper North Fork since the construction of Merwin Dam in 1931, will repopulate the pristine habitat courtesy of a sort of fish busway service, PacifiCorp, as part of a new set of 50-year operating licenses, will load thousands of spring chinook, coho and steelhead into trucks and haul them around Merwin, Yale and Swift

LEWIS RIVER, back page

## Challengers spending freely to unseat Dunn

Republican, Democrat waging intense campaigns

By KATHIE DURBIN  
Columbian staff writer

Two well-funded challengers are taking on Republican Rep. Jim Dunn in the 17th District in what has become the legislative race to watch this primary season.

Joseph James, the 27-year-old owner of a dog-boarding camp in Stevenson, is raising and spending lots of money — more than \$100,000 so far, counting the contributions he's made to his own campaign — in an all-out effort to unseat fellow Republican Dunn. Much of the money he's raised is in small contributions from out-of-state donors.

Tim Probst, 38, the chief executive officer of the Washington Workforce Association, is running a less expensive but equally intense campaign to wrest Dunn's seat from Republican control. The Vancouver Democrat has raised more than \$52,000 and has won the endorsement of virtually every Democratic officeholder in Clark County.

Dunn, 65, was first elected to the Legislature in 1996, defeated in 2002, and returned to Olympia by voters in 2004. He debated whether to retire after being stripped of his committee assignments this year for making a sexually inappropriate comment to a female legislative staffer. He decided to run in mid-April.

His candidacy has been ignored by the state Republican Party, which omitted his name and photo from the statewide candidate slate that appears on its Web site.

James is the party's choice. And though he considers Dunn a friend, he says there's broad consensus within the Republican party that it's time for Dunn to go.

"I'm running to restore effectiveness to that seat," he said. "I feel the people of the 17th will make it clear they don't want Jim Dunn. I'm looking forward to a great general election campaign with Probst."

For his part, Probst says he wouldn't have taken on an effective Republican incumbent. Dunn "doesn't seem to take his job seriously," he told The Columbian's editorial board.

Dunn did not show up for the board's Wednesday endorsement interview.

ELECTION, back page



**Jim Dunn**  
Columbian staff writer

- **Party:** Republican
- **Occupation:** Retired computer consultant
- **Residence:** Vancouver
- **Quote:** "Government gets way too much money."
- **Funds raised:** None reported



**Joseph James**  
Columbian staff writer

- **Party:** Republican
- **Occupation:** Owner, dog boarding camp
- **Residence:** Vancouver
- **Quote:** "When I get elected, I'll be able to help people by reducing taxes."
- **Funds raised:** \$107,630



**Tim Probst**  
Columbian staff writer

- **Party:** Democrat
- **Occupation:** CEO, Washington Workforce Assoc.
- **Residence:** Ridgefield
- **Quote:** "Nothing is more important to our economy than the skills, education, and hard work of all our people."
- **Funds raised:** \$52,146

## PARK'S STAR ATTRACTION



Ariena Rossum, 5, of Chico, Calif., enjoys the water ring at Salmon Creek Park on Thursday as sunny skies returned to Clark County. Ariena and her family were visiting her aunt, Jenny Wolfe of Vancouver. Forecasters are expecting warm and mostly sunny days through at least the first week of August.

N. SCOTT TRIMBLE/The Columbian

## Firefighters urge caution after blaze near I-205

By CRAIG BROWN and JOHN BRANTON  
Columbian staff writers

A fire, sparked when a mower struck a rock, burned nearly an acre of grass near a busy Interstate 205 interchange Thursday.

Vancouver firefighters were called to the westbound Highway 500 onramp to southbound I-205 just before 2 p.m., according to firefighter-spokesman Jim Fiherty.

They arrived to find the fire circling a water retention pond in the median.

Three engines, a water tender and 10 firefighters worked the fire.

FIRE, Page C3

## Road rage suspect out of jail after posting \$50,000 bail

The Columbian

A road rage suspect who turned himself in this week has posted \$50,000 bail and was released Thursday from the Clark County Jail.

Pavel Kashul, 24, will be on supervised release pending allegations of second-degree assault, felony hit-and-run, reckless driving and disorderly conduct.

Superior Court Judge Barbara Johnson rescheduled arraignment Aug. 5. Johnson set standard conditions on Kashul's release, namely that he not contact the alleged victim

of the hit-and-run or any people who witnessed the July 10 events that began just south of the Interstate 5 Bridge and ended on state Highway 14.

The judge also said Kashul should reside at his northeast Portland home with his wife and maintain employment as a union boilermaker, according to court documents. He was also ordered to obey all laws and not consume alcohol or drugs.

According to witnesses, Kashul's actions included driving on the shoulder of Interstate 5 northbound near Jantzen Beach to cut into traffic, then stopping on state Highway 14 and getting out of his Toyota Matrix to try to assault a trucker he'd cut off, then injuring a motorcyclist before driving away. Kashul was tracked down using his plate number.



**Pavel Kashul**  
Has posted \$50,000 bail

## County to sell site near railroad

Natural gas firm requested auction

By MICHAEL ANDERSEN  
Columbian staff writer

Clark County plans to auction off a vacant 5.6-acre parcel along its railroad in east Hazel Dell in early September.

Commissioners agreed Tuesday to put the land up for auction at the request of Calgary-based Keyera Energy Inc., a large Canadian natural gas processor.

The land, on N.E. 78th Street east of St. Johns Road, lies across the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad from the county operations center. It is zoned light industrial.

The land hasn't yet been appraised for auction, but the most recent tax assessment put its value at about \$113,000 per acre.

The county has been seeking to boost industrial traffic along the railroad, which it leases to Yakima-based Columbia Basin Railroad Co. Traffic doubled in 2007 to about one car a week, and county railroad coordinator Fred Abraham expects it to rise another 10 to 12 percent in 2008.

Deputy Public Works Director Kevin Gray said the county is happy to sell the Hazel Dell parcel now that someone expressed interest in it.

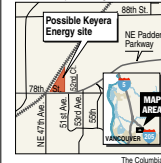
"We'd just as soon put it out there, get it on the tax records," he said.

Keyera Energy's latest annual report says it's looking to buy "infrastructure to support marketing efforts in the United States."

MICHAEL ANDERSEN covers Clark County government; 360-735-4508 or michael.andersen@columbian.com.

## Lot to be auctioned

Clark County commissioners have voted to auction a 6.6-acre parcel that a Canadian energy company is interested in purchasing.



The Columbian

## your Guide:



**The Northwest:** Gov. Chris Gregoire campaigns on Puget Sound /C2

VA shuts down nursing home in Walla Walla /C5

Assisted-suicide initiative qualifies for November general election /C6



**Opinion, Gregg Herrington:** Vice presidential guessing game is heating up /C4

## Coming Saturday:

No shortage of candidates for Morris county seat /C1



2006: The year in  
**images**

Winter 2005  
**at Home**  
in wyoming

Wyoming's  
**Atlantic City**  
This historic gold-mining town offers plenty to see and do

CASPER  
**Star & Tribune**

What's a quintillion? Find out exactly how much, inside.

Wyoming  
**Energy**  
Journal  
Fall 2005

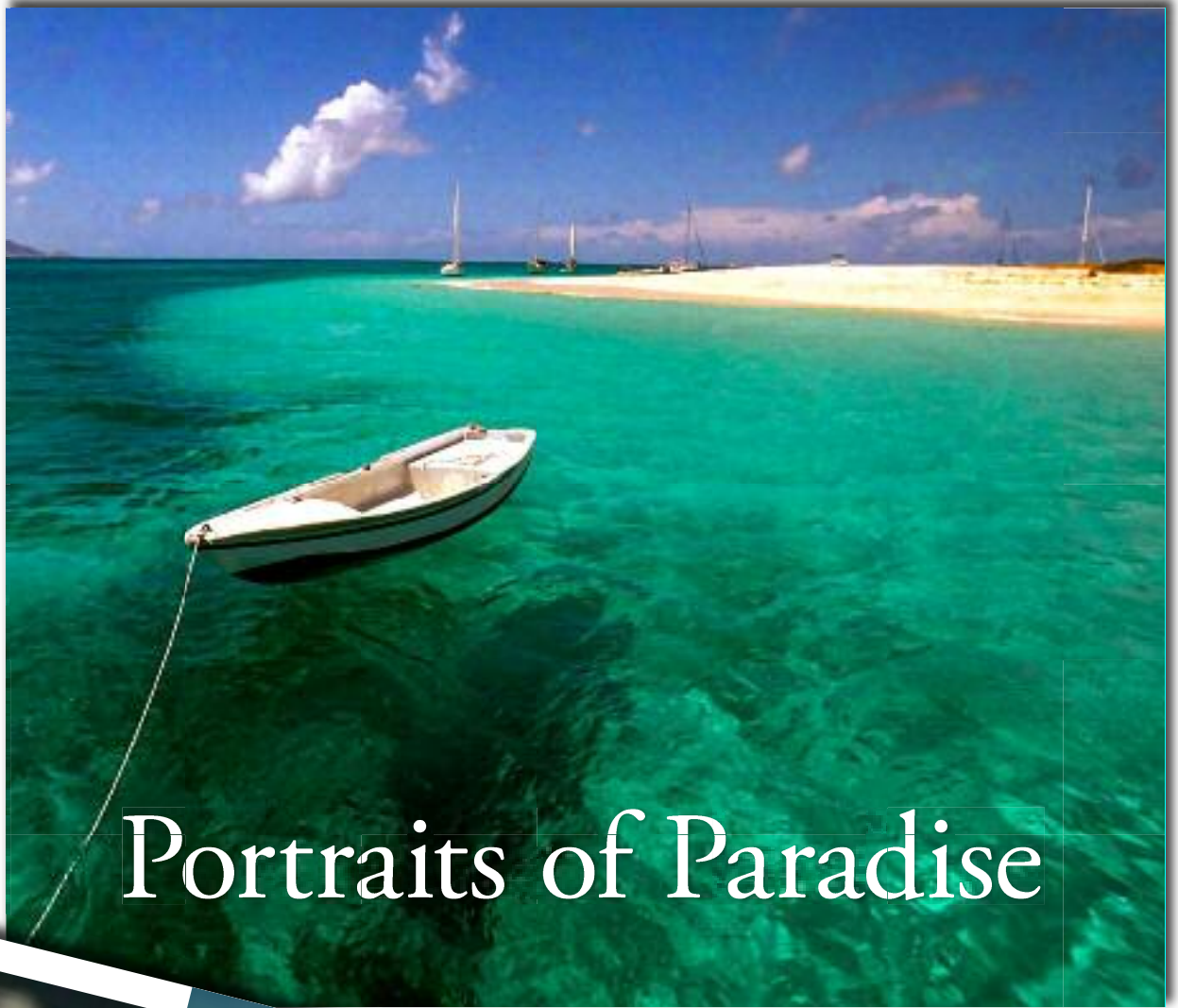
**Battling Wyoming**  
To be a lineman means spending most of your day outside in Wyoming's unforgiving elements.

A quarterly magazine of the  
CASPER  
**Star & Tribune**

Your free guide to the Cowboy State  
**Discover**  
Wyoming Winter 2005

CASPER  
**Star & Tribune**





# Portraits of Paradise



Children & cross  
Palm Sunday  
Parish on St.



Parish on St.  
of the  
at Christ  
Church

