



The Virgin Islands

DAILY NEWS



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Are BVI's coral fields getting sick?

Official sounds alarm on disease

Page 2



Latest phase of villas opens on St. Croix

Business Monday, Page 22



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Holding signs, protesters engage passing motorists along Queen Mary Highway during a protest against the V.I. Water and Power Authority at the Sunny Isle Annex on St. Croix on Saturday afternoon. MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10

Daily News photo by LINDA MORLAND



Daily News photo by DEAN BARNES

USVI sailors win inaugural STYC Invitational

Back Page



A look back at past St. John Festival Villages

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Wheatley sounds alarm on emerging disease affecting BVI's corals

By HENRY KAPPLES
Daily News Staff

British Virgin Islands Minister for Natural Resources Vincent Wheatley is calling on residents to help experts preserve various species of corals in the island's waters.

Wheatley, in a statement released recently, said bacterial disease is affecting more than 20 different species of corals. Adverse factors such as climate change, sedimentation loads from land reclamation, and ocean acidification also contribute to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease by weakening the corals' defenses, making them more susceptible.

In response to the dire situation, Wheatley proposed establishing a new strike team comprising public officials from the National Parks Trust, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour and Immigration, with non-governmental



Vincent
Wheatley

organizations and members of the community can partner with to do their part in the fight against this disease.

"The BVI has over 84,000 square kilometers of ocean space and approximately 78,000 acres of reef. This area is critical to our existence but the government cannot do it alone," Wheatley said in the statement. "It needs to be a team effort where we all must work together in saving our reefs."

In the BVI, the disease has been reported at popular dives sites including Angel Reef, Ring Dove, the Indians, and the Wreck of the Rhone.

In addition to the BVI, the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, first observed off the coast of Florida in 2014, has spread to other parts of the Caribbean including the U.S. Virgin Islands. The rapidly spreading disease appears as patches of white on an otherwise colorful stony coral. Over a short period of time, the disease attacks the entire coral until it is completely dead.

The first report of the disease in the Virgin Islands occurred on Jan. 28, 2019, near Flat Cay Island.

Since then, it has spread north and west, affecting almost all of the coral reef systems surrounding St. Thomas. In recent months, the disease has also made its way to certain areas of St. John's waters. Only St. Croix remains unaffected at this time.

Marilyn Brandt, a research associate professor of marine and environmental science at the University of the Virgin Islands told The Daily News that Stony Coral Disease is unlike other coral diseases in that it kills the entire coral if left unattended. Further, she said that specific species of coral, including brain coral and pillar coral, are particularly susceptible to the disease.

Although there is no cure at this point, Brandt explained that there are certain treatments for the disease such as an antibiotic paste that can be applied to the infected corals. Other options include removing the corals that have been affected by the disease and placing them in running seawater tables.

Brandt said, however, that while such treatments have proven to be very effective, it also has raised new issues regarding the limited space that the university can provide.

Unfortunately, she said, the corals that have been treated cannot be returned to the waters infected by the disease.

According to Brandt, the best option currently is to transfer the healthy corals to zoos that can properly monitor and care for the corals.

Brandt echoed Wheatley's statement in noting that officials will also need the help of residents to save the corals. She called on Virgin Islanders to report any sightings of diseased corals. Snorkelers and divers who see white patches on corals are urged to report their findings on the website vicoraldisease.org.

While not harmful to human beings, the Stony Coral Disease does pose a significant threat to the already fragile and endangered coral reefs. Roughly 25% of the fish in the ocean rely on healthy coral reef systems according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website. The collapse of these diverse ecosystems would set off a domino effect that would severely impact both oceanic life and that of residents.

In addition to the disruption of the food chain, the loss of coral reefs would also have profound

effects in other areas. The Virgin Islands, for example, is dependent on the tourism industry and the number of visitors could drastically decrease if there are no more coral reefs to explore while snorkeling or scuba diving. Coral reefs also serve as buffers during harsh storms helping reduce the impact of large waves and the erosion of beaches.

Wheatley, in his statement, also noted that the marine environment not only depends on healthy reefs "but we as a people also depend on it."

"Our reefs are vital to our livelihood as it relates to tourism directly and indirectly, fisheries, coastal protection, and species diversity across the territory as a whole," he said. "As such we need to control and mitigate the spread of this unpredictable disease before our vibrant picturesque reefs turn into a desert wasteland of white rubble."

Wheatley reiterated that local officials as well as residents must do their part.

"We all need to become more responsible about our natural environment as we have an obligation to do it for now and for generations to come," he said.



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Remembering Festivals Past | St. John Festival Village



Revelers form a conga line during the opening night of the St. John Festival Village in Cruz Bay in 2011.

Daily News file photos



This duo can't resist the beat of soca during the 2015 Village.



Village honoree Clifton Boynes Sr. celebrates after cutting the ribbon to open the Village in 2012.



Village-goers sample food in 2014.



This St. John resident blows the ceremonial conch shell during the 2014 Village.

Panel OKs \$8.2M for stadium, adds accountability measure

By A.J. RAO
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — The Senate Rules and Judiciary Committee on Friday advanced an \$8.2 million appropriation to complete the Paul E. Joseph Stadium on St. Croix.

Included, however, was an amendment to tighten financial scrutiny over the project — which, after five years and more than \$12 million spent, has shown little, if any, progress.

“I’m sick and tired of people manipulating and not doing right for the people of the Virgin Islands,” said Committee Chairwoman Sen. Janelle Sarauw to a representative from GEC LLC, the project’s contractor.

“Your business and your dealings have been nothing but shady — and you haven’t done right by the territory.”

The amended appropriation bill would require the Public Works Department to submit updated photos of the project to the Legislature, plus a budget report that indicates the use of all available and appro-



An artist's rendering of the multimillion-dollar Paul E. Joseph Stadium project.

priated funding.

Thereafter, Public Works will submit bimonthly project reports to the

Legislature, to include accounting records, according to the amendment.

“This can no longer continue,”

Sarauw said. “The people deserve better.”

Indeed, committee members voiced dismay that the stadium project, despite being heralded as a potential economic powerhouse for Frederiksted, has endured a bevy of design changes, additional costs and an overall lack of accountability.

While just \$6.5 million remains from an original \$20 million obligation, the project has yet to see a single wall erected.

Worse still, the project would reportedly require an additional \$3.6 million — on top of the \$28.2 million — to fully transform the stadium into

a state-of-the-art facility, according to GEC.

Lawmakers also bemoaned the lack of any design plan going into the project and its propensity to change direction — a failure that Sen. Myron Jackson highlighted in regard to the proposed festival park at the venue.

“The festival park that is presented in your drawings is not the festival park that was originally conceived and promised to the people of St. Croix and Frederiksted,” Jackson said. “A festival park [needs to have] the infrastructure to attract major events. It is supposed to have the infrastructure for booths, concerts and [be able] to attract thousands of people.”

Jackson said the new renderings showed a smaller, less suitable area for large gatherings, a change he called “unacceptable.”

The \$8.2 million appropriation will come from the Internal Revenue Matching Fund and be paid out in two installments of \$4.1 million in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021.

Altogether, the \$8.2 million, along with the remaining balance of \$20 million, is expected to cover the construction of the stadium, a Little League facility and a Festival Village.

The project is slated to be completed by next summer.

The Rules Committee voted 6-1 in favor of the appropriation, which now goes to the full Senate body for consideration.

Voting in favor were Senators Alicia Barnes, Novelle Francis Jr., Kenneth Gittens, Javan James Sr., Steven Payne Sr. and Sarauw.

Jackson chose not to vote.



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ISSN 2159-3019

Daily News Publishing Co. Inc. owned by VIDN Holdings, LLC publishes The Virgin Islands Daily News daily, except Sunday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, at 9155 Estate Thomas, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00802. First class postage paid at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas. U.S.V.I

USPS 144-180

POSTMASTER, send Form 3579, Notice of Address Change, to: Circulation Director, Daily News, 9155 Estate Thomas, St. Thomas, VI 00802.

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The Virgin Islands
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A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Newspaper

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Affidavit reveals retired cop as key witness in 2014 rape case

By **SUZANNE CARLSON**
Daily News Staff

A probable cause fact sheet on rape charges against Stenneth Warner noted that one of his neighbors, a retired V.I. Police Department officer, told investigators that he was suspicious of Warner's relationship with the young victim, but did not report it.

The officer, identified in court documents as Dave Jeffers, told investigators he didn't report his suspicions that Warner was with the victim, described as mentally challenged, because he did not want to get "involved" in the situation.

Warner was arrested on a warrant Tuesday in connection with the 2014 incident and appeared in court Wednesday for his advice-of-rights hearing. He is charged with two counts each of first-degree rape of an individual with mental weakness or immaturity, second-degree rape by a perpetrator over the age of 18 of a victim between the ages of 16 and 18, first-degree unlawful sexual contact against a victim with a mental defect or incapacity, and first-degree child abuse by sexual conduct.

Bail for Warner was set at \$150,000, and his attorney, Darren John-Baptiste, asked Magistrate Judge Henry Carr III to release his

client on an unsecured bond pending trial.

"No," Carr said flatly. "The charges are much too serious for that."

According to an affidavit filed by V.I. Police Sgt. Dwight Griffith, the rapes occurred in 2014 at an apartment complex on St. Thomas where Warner, his downstairs neighbor, Jeffers, and the victim lived in separate units.

The victim, who is mentally challenged, was a 17-year-old high school student when she first met Warner, a maintenance manager at the complex, according to the affidavit.

Police interviewed the victim and Jeffers in 2017. It's unclear in the affidavit why police only recently filed charges against Warner.

According to the affidavit, Warner, who was 37 at the time, was aware of the victim's age, and assaulted her while she was wearing her school uniform. The victim told police Warner raped her once in his office and twice in Jeffers' apartment, and he gave her \$40 after the first assault.

The second and third assaults happened the same day in Jeffers' apartment, and the victim told police that "no one saw them having sex but the house was Dave's and 'Dave put cameras in his house,'" according to the affidavit. The

The officer, identified in court documents as Dave Jeffers, told investigators he didn't report his suspicions that alleged rapist Stenneth Warner was with the victim, described as mentally challenged, because he did not want to get "involved" in the situation. Warner was arrested on a warrant Tuesday in connection with the 2014 incident.

according to the affidavit. The victim told police she didn't tell anyone about the incidents because "I was scared."

During the interview, police said "it was immediately and readily apparent to Detectives" that the victim "suffers from a mental impairment."

The victim provided specific details about where and how the rapes

occurred, police said.

According to the affidavit, when police went to Jeffers' apartment to interview him, the former officer asked investigators if they were there "about the maintenance supervisor for the property, Mr. Stenneth Warner, having intercourse" with the victim.

Jeffers, according to the affidavit, told Warner that he sees the victim "in a school uniform, she should be a minor, leave her alone — that's jail."

He also told investigators he'd come home one morning to find Warner in his apartment, and asked if Warner was doing repair work in the building. Warner asked Jeffers to "tell him anytime he was coming home" because he'd been with the victim in Jeffers' apartment, according to the affidavit.

Further, according to the affidavit, Jeffers told Warner: "I warned you already and I did not give you permission to go into my dwelling with anyone."

Jeffers said he installed cameras and an alarm in his home to keep Warner out.

According to the affidavit, "Jeffers was asked why he did not report this incident and he stated that he did not want to get involved. Jeffers stated that he did not personally see Mr. Warner having sex"

with the victim.

Jeffers was not the only person who was suspicious of Warner's activities.

A property manager at the complex told police she'd noticed the victim visiting Warner's maintenance office "too often" and she brought it to the attention of the girl's caregiver because she "is a school child and had no business going there."

Another witness interviewed by police in May 2018 told investigators that Jeffers had told a property manager after the 2017 hurricanes that he did not want Warner in his home because he "had committed a crime in his apartment."

During Wednesday's hearing, John-Baptiste noted that Jeffers apparently "knew my client was having sex with an underage mentally challenged individual in 2013 or 2014 and yet he doesn't report that to VIPD?"

When questioned by The Daily News, Police Department spokesperson Toby Derima said in an email Thursday that Jeffers was hired as a police officer in 1991 and retired in 2011, and he is not facing arrest for failing to report the alleged assaults.

"VIPD does not anticipate filing any charges against Mr. Jeffers," Derima wrote.

Community Calendar

Tuesday

Scholarship deadline: The last day to submit an application to the Adams-Mahepath Scholarship is Tuesday. The scholarship, valued at \$1,500 for each applicant, is open to graduating high school seniors with a grade point average above 2.5. Submit transcripts (includes SAT or ACT scores), a biographical sketch including a list of accomplishments, future goals and community involvement, and cover letter to Adams-Mahepath Scholarship, Sterling Optical, 3000 Golden Rock Shopping Center STE No. 14, St. Croix, V.I. 00820.



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* Honors Thank you to the Department of Education for providing photos and names of graduates for the V.I. Daily News Class of 2020 keepsake.
** High Honors

Obituaries

Wingrove L. Richards

We regret to announce the passing of Wingrove L. Richards, also known as "Winky" of Sandy Point, St. Kitts, who resided on St Thomas. He passed on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at the age of 71.



Wingrove L. Richards

He is survived by his daughters, T'shura (Torsha) Hill, Monique M. Richards and Tashea Richards; grandchildren, Tyrese Hill, Jeremy Reed Jr., and Tysen Hill; son-in-law, Jai Hill; brothers, Carlton Richards and Leighton Esdaille Sr.; sister, Juliet Renwick; nieces, Chevonne Richards, Trisha Esdaille and Karen Richards; nephews, Uele Richards and Leighton Esdaille Jr.; and many other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the

viewing of the late Wingrove Richards on Wednesday, July 1, from 9 to 10 a.m. at Dan Hurley Home for Funerals. The graveside service and interment will follow at 11 a.m. at Eastern Cemetery.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting public health mandates, masks or facial coverings must be worn at all gatherings.

Family and friends may offer their support by sharing a special memory or message by going to www.hurleydavisfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the care of Dan Hurley Home for Funerals and Cremation Centers of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix.

Genevieve Veronica Liburd

Relatives and friends are advised of the passing of Genevieve Veronica Liburd on June 17, 2020, at the Schneider Regional Medical Center.

She was preceded in death by son, Derrick Webson; and a brother,



Genevieve Veronica Liburd

Liburd; daughters-in-law, Vickie Vasquez-Liburd, Talisa Blyden, Laryene Roberts, Jennifer Webson; grandchildren to include Angel Jr., Andre, Aiden, A'Shara, and Askari Liburd (St. Thomas), Alaisha, Kalysha, Sha-Nyja, Jahmealiah, and Jahziah Roberts (U.S.), Mahershallahasbaz, Solomon, Enock, Abraham, Phinehas, Eva, Abigail, Ruth, Sarah, Hadassah Webson, and eight great-grandchildren; brothers, Alcon Nedd (Barbuda), Ifield Nedd (U.S.), Worneford and Daniel (Tugu) Nedd (Antigua); sisters, Hyacinth Tongue (U.K.), Sheila Whyte, Camela Nedd (U.S.), Casilla Webber (Barbuda); special

Syndia Nedd.

Miss Genny or the Black Cake Lady as many called her, leaves to mourn her husband, David Liburd; four sons, Ivan Roberts, Anthony Jones, Angel and Alexis Liburd; stepson, Kevin

friend, Ms. Burnette Skeete; brother-in-law, Stedroy Webber (Barbuda); sisters-in-law, Thelma and Cynthia Nedd (Barbuda); special nephews, Cody, Derek, Ralph, Randy, Calvin and Max; special nieces, Nadine Teague, Kadia Simon, Donella Irish, Cordelia Joseph, Nadine Whyte, Desarie Brookes, Joycelyn Webber; and many more nieces and nephews too numerous to mention.

She also leaves to mourn, a special godchild, Ruth Rey; friends, Ava Donovan, Inez Edwards, Monaly Lambert, Ms. Rosalie, Joycelyn Williams (NYC), Ms. Bodelle, Celia Hill, Matilda Warner and family, Zora Leader and family, Sheryl Jones and family, Wendel Walker and family, Amelia and Campbell Rey and family, Evelyn Petersen and family; cousins, Clarita Blyden, Ms. Mabel, George (Wysinger) Parker (V.G.); and caregiver, nurse Coliema Maynard

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral service Monday, July 6, at Celestial Chapel of Dan Hurley Home for Funerals and Cremation Center. The viewing will be from 10 a.m.

to 11 a.m. with the service immediately following at 11 a.m. Interment is at Eastern Cemetery.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting public health mandates, masks or facial coverings must be worn at all gatherings.

Family and friends may offer their support by sharing a special memory or message by going to www.hurleydavisfuneralhome.com

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported June 24 on the police blotter included:

St. Croix

Charged: DUI

Calvin Belle, 53, of Golden Twin, Apartment 29, was arrested at midnight on June 18 and charged with driving under the influence after failing the standardized field sobriety test.

Charged: Unauthorized possession of a firearm

Rashawn Ryner, of 267 Estate Upper Love, was arrested at 11 p.m. on June 18 and charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm.

Charged: Unauthorized possession of a firearm

Bernard Hodge, 29, of 217B Richmond, was arrested at 8 a.m. on June 17.

Police said he admitted to possession of an unlicensed firearm.

Charged: Disturbance of the peace

Vernon Jones Jr., 26, of 597 Estate Mount Pleasant, was arrested at 4 a.m. on June 17 and charged with disturbing the peace.

Charged: Second-degree assault

Micah Tyson, 21, of 366 Estate Hambug, was arrested at 6 p.m. on June 12. Police said he was charged in connection with strangling someone.

Charged: Embezzlement

Marisa Parrilla, 54, of 201 Grove Place, was arrested at 11 a.m. on June 11 and charged with embezzlement and petty larceny.

Charged: Obtaining money by false pretenses

Jose Bermudez Jr., 49, of 153 Bugby Hole, was arrested at 9:30 a.m. on June 11 and charged with obtaining money by false pretenses, grand larceny and embezzling.

St. John gravel parking lot to reopen July 1 with reduced rates

Daily News staff

The V.I. Port Authority says the public will enjoy reduced parking rates when its Enighed Pond Gravel Parking Lot on St. John reopens July 1.

The parking rate at the lot, which is adjacent to the Theovald Moorhead Dock and Terminal, will be \$8 per day, pending the installation of parking equipment that is expected to be in place by the end of the summer, according to a Port Authority news release.

The reduced rates are:

- First half-hour: Free
- 31 minutes to 1 hour: \$3
- 1-2 hours: \$5
- 2-3 hours: \$7
- 3-10 hours: \$11
- 10-24 hours: \$14
- Lost ticket: \$15 per day
- Monthly parking: \$165 per month

The rates were reduced to meet the concerns of St. John residents and the St. John Coastal Zone Management Commission after a meeting was held with the CZM Commission on June 2, according to Port Authority Executive Director Carlton Dowe.

The Enighed Pond parking lot has long been a source of contention for residents, who feel its 200 available spaces are an oasis of parking in an area desperate for parking. As such, they say, imposing a fee is not only prohibitive but also unfair.

The Port Authority has maintained that as a semi-autonomous government agency it does not receive taxpayer funding from the Virgin Islands central government and must raise its own operating revenues through fees.

The lot will be open from

6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

The Port Authority recently expanded and repaired the lot and allowed it to be used free of charge pending the completion of the improvements, according to the release.

During the period of free use, the lot has been repopulated with derelict vehicles. The Port Authority has tagged all abandoned vehicles and requests that owners remove them from the Enighed Pond Gravel Lot before July 1. Any cars left in the lot after that time will be removed at the owner's expense.

Free short-term parking will be available at the Port Authority's parking lot at the Victor W. Sewer Marine Facility when the construction of the new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility is completed, which is anticipated to be done later this summer.



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Obituaries

Wayne Christiansen Knight

The funeral service for Wayne Christiansen Knight will be held June 30, 2020, on St. Thomas.



Wayne Christiansen Knight

The first viewing is today from 4 to 6 p.m. at Turnbull's Funeral Home. The second viewing is at 9 a.m. Tuesday at V.I. Christian Ministries at the bottom of Donkey Hill. The service follows at 10 a.m. Interment is at Eastern

Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Natalie M. Knight; one daughter, Kasima Knight Hodge; two sons, Jeremy Joshua Knight and Jordan Joshua Knight; four grandchildren, Kalycia, Kamir, Kahlid and Kahmil Hodge; five

brothers, Warren Knight, Eric Knight Sr., Lawrence Nibbs, Leon Knight, Hansley Knight; five sisters, Millicent Hodge-Gumbs, Jennifer F. Knight, Millicent Knight, LaVern L. Knight, Joyann Thomas; one uncle, Ernest Knight; one aunt, Ivy Knight; mother-in-law, Shirley A. Krigger Smith; one son-in-law, Tyrone E. Hodge; one sister-in-law, Veronica Smith Leonard; five brothers-in-law, Warren, Brennan, Adonis Smith — Glenn Smith and Vincent Smith; nephews, Shaun Dogue' Sr. (Wanda), Kivad Richardson (Lisa), Eric Knight Jr., Alston Knight, Nikye' Knight, Ahsham Nibbs, Ahzullah Nibbs, Ahjem Nibbs, Ahsedah Nibbs, Gregory Lewis, Leon Knight Jr., Kareem Knight, Kaseem Knight, Mahal Knight, Tavnor Ryan, Jo'More Balantine, Kerron Wheatley-Knight, Deveron Leonard; nieces, Jessica Joseph, Jelisa Joseph, Nailah Gumbs-Fahie, Yasmeen Gumbs-Breakenridge, Ja-

koiya Knight, Aiesha Knight, Khia Knight, Tiffany Knight, Ahpeach Nibbs, Ahjoy Nibbs, Ahniah Nibbs, Samantha Nibbs, Shanika Lewis, Shanel Lewis, Chanelle Walters, Lynnesha Knight, Alana Balantine, Shaquana Knight, Kerrey Wheatley-Knight, Sulema Simmonds, Devera Leonard Callwood; and many more nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family prefers that attendees wear lively colors, not mourning colors, as this is a celebration of life.

We are very cognizant of COVID-19, so please wear your mask. Your temperature will be checked prior to entering the sanctuary. If the church is full you will not be allowed access. You have the option of viewing the service electronically; to do so send your name and email address to natalie.knight@mutualofomaha.com.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Turnbull's Funeral Home.

Man injured in Bovoni housing community shooting

Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Police are investigating after a man was shot in the leg Saturday in the Bovoni housing community.

V.I. Police Department spokesman Toby Derima said in a news release that the incident occurred at around 7:06 p.m. when 911 received a report

of shots fired in the neighborhood.

"Officers traveled to the area and found a Black male with a gunshot wound to his left leg," according to Derima. "Emergency Medical Technicians arrived on the scene and provided medical attention to the victim. The victim refused to travel to the Roy L. Schneider Regional Medical Center to receive further

medical assistance."

The case is under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call 911, the Criminal Investigation Bureau at **340-774-2211**, extension **5557**, or the anonymous tip services, Crime Stoppers USVI at **1-800-222-8477**.

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

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COVID-19 statistics

By the numbers

As reported by Johns Hopkins University.

World

Total cases: 10,072,616

Total deaths: 500,882

United States

Total cases: 2,593,169

Total deaths: 127,693

Virgin Islands

V.I. cases as reported by V.I. Health Department.

BVI cases as reported by BVI Ministry of Health.

Total USVI cases: 80

Total deaths: 6

St. Croix cases: 37 reported cases,

1,456 negative tests, 4 deaths

St. John cases: 4 reported cases, 110 negative tests

St. Thomas cases: 39 reported cases, 1,088 negative tests, 2 deaths

Recovered: 64

British Virgin Islands cases:

8 reported, 1 death

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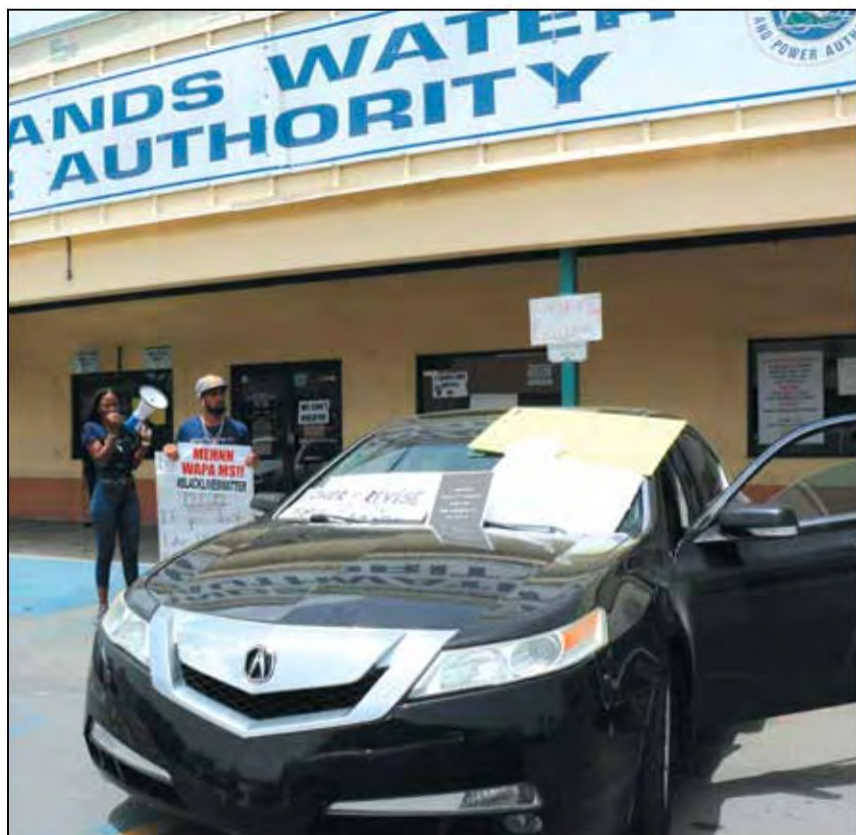
VIRGIN ISLANDS
WATER & POWER AUTHORITY

Crucian protesters again target WAPA



Daily News photos by LINDA MORLAND

Days after staging a peaceful protest that eventually led to the firing of a V.I. Water and Power Authority employee accused of making overtly racist remarks, St. Croix residents took to the streets Saturday to protest planned wage increases for some WAPA employees.



Placard-toting residents encourage passing motorists to honk in support.

Two protesters set up shop outside the WAPA office in the Sunny Isle Annex, which wasn't open Saturday.

The Virgin Islands
DAILY NEWS

A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Newspaper

ST. CROIX ST. JOHN ST. THOMAS TORTOLA

Founded Aug. 1, 1930, by J. Antonio Jarvis and Ariel Melchior Sr.

Published by Daily News Publishing Co., Inc.

Archie Nahigian, President

Eunice Bedminster, Executive Editor
Onneka Challenger, Circulation Director
J. Lowe Davis, Editor At Large

Lisa Jamil, Advertising Director
Ken E. Ryan, Production Director
Juanita Young, Controller

V.I. Democratic Party helping voters navigate unprecedented times

Dear Editor,

This is an open letter to V.I. residents.

Fellow Democrats and friends: I want you to know that the Democratic Party of the United States Virgin Islands is doing everything it can to navigate through these unprecedented times. Your safety and health are our top priority. Gov. Albert Bryan Jr., the titular head of the Democratic Party of the United States Virgin Islands, has taken measures to keep Virgin Islanders safe, and other party leaders and I have taken steps to be certain that our progress keeps moving forward even though it may look a little different now.

Each of us are working together, six feet apart, via phone and electronically to do our utmost best to make sure that 2020 is a successful year for Democrats. I know you agree, in order to be successful, public health and safety must be our collective priority. Like other state delegations, we will not travel to Milwaukee, Wis., for the Democratic National Convention, but we will definitely showcase our islands and vote for Joe Biden virtually at the "Convention Across America," from Aug. 17-20.

I know I have said it a million times, so one more will not hurt: Democracy is not a spectator sport.



Carol M. Burke

Democracy is your voice and vote. We must get to the polls.

Thursday is the last day to register to vote in the primary election, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 1. Early voting will be held beginning Monday, July 6, through July 26. Absentee ballots are due at the Election Systems of the Virgin Islands on or before Aug. 11.

Please check your registration to confirm you are registered already and register to vote if you are not. Make sure that your friends, families and neighbors are registered too.

Working with the Democratic National Committee, we will continue to provide information and help to all of our candidates, committees, partners and voters. Any information that we provide to you, please share with fellow Democrats and friends.

— V.I. Democratic Party National Committeewoman Carol M. Burke resides on St. Croix.

Adjusting to the 'new normal'

Dear Editor,

We are just about half way through 2020 and anxiety is high. It's hurricane season again, though this time we are facing a global pandemic — COVID 19.

Many of us still have chilling memories of hurricanes Irma and Maria from almost three years ago. Nonetheless, we are blessed in so many ways by the grace of God to have survived the fury of those storms, though for many with only the clothes on our backs. The overwhelming outpouring of recovery support from friends, family and other good Samaritans from around the world helped.

Day by day, we grappled with the stress and strain of losing loved ones, homes, businesses, jobs. As a community, though, we heralded the 2020 New Year's Day as a beacon for pulling our lives back together — getting "back to normal."

So much for that, now that the first half of 2020 is about to be retired, whatever notion of "back to normal" has been replaced by a "new normal" that is unpredictable, nuanced and highly volatile.

Record-breaking unemployment, abrupt closures of schools, universities, churches, restaurants and other businesses, in addition to beaches and other public places, have become commonplace during the last few months. Social distancing, facial masks, work from home, online education and virtual graduations have become part and parcel of the "new normal" for which most of us have little, if any, control. During this time, we have been introduced to distance grieving of loved ones' funerals through



Moleto A. Smith Jr.

Social distancing, facial masks, work from home, online education and virtual graduations have become part and parcel of the "new normal" for which most of us have little, if any, control.

Facebook Live.

We now visit parents, grandchildren or children via ZOOM or from inside our vehicles while communicating through rolled down car windows from at least 10 feet away. We are redefining what it means to be "social beings" under the present circumstances.

While this occurs, we find ourselves forced to refine our relationships with one another, the world at large and the environment. In this moment in history, we are forced once again to confront fundamental differences in equity, which like the magma of a volcano, have been slowly boiling beneath the surface of American life for generations after generations. Most recently this social volcano erupted in mass demonstrations across the country and throughout the world. Social

justice, personal responsibility, race relations, climate change and the economy have been propelled to the forefront in America's and the world's consciousness. They are also front and center in what is projected to be highly contentious national and local election year politics.

As the last lap months of 2020 commence on July 1, every man, woman or child in the territory, whether young or old, instinctively recognizes that the "new normal" requires each one of us to step forward, be counted and decide what role we will play in preserving each other's safety, the safety of our islands and in determining our future. It requires each of us to be proactive. Standing on the stoop, or soap box, while proclaiming that the sky has fallen without being proactive only adds to the anxiety.

Amid the uncertainty of 2020, we are also assured of certain time-endured Virgin Islands core values: Respect given is respect received; every voice has a right to speak freely; every ear has the right to interpret what has been spoken; basic fairness is a guarantee and no one is regarded as more valuable than the next.

In the end, when the dust settles, the "new normal" must reflect a dignified balance of our core values and the various differences that must be navigated and negotiated as Americans and as Virgin Islanders. Whether it's the "back to normal" or the "new normal," when the dust settles we are still in this together. Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable (Bondei proverb).

— Moleto A. Smith Jr. is executive director of St. Thomas East End Medical Center Corp.



See Your Views In Print

The Daily News is always interested in publishing local views on topics of general interest affecting the Virgin Islands and its people. Space limitations do not always allow us to publish all the letters we receive, so we select those we believe will be of the greatest interest to our readers.

Send Letters, Essays, Halos and Pitchforks, Cartoons or other original material about local issues of general interest to letters@dailynews.vi

The Daily News' opinions are expressed only in its editorials.

The opinions expressed in columns, letters, cartoons and guest editorials are those of the particular author or artist.

Starbucks announces pause in social media ads

The Associated Press

Starbucks is the latest company to say it will pause social media ads after a campaign led by civil rights organizations called for an ad boycott of Facebook, saying it doesn't do enough to stop racist and violent content.

Starbucks said Sunday that its actions were not part of the "#StopHate-forProfit" campaign, but that it is pausing its social ads while talking with civil rights organizations and its media partners about how to stop hate speech online.

The coffee chain's announcement follows statements from Unilever,

the European consumer-goods giant behind Ben & Jerry's ice cream and Dove soap; Coca-Cola; cellphone company Verizon and outdoors companies like Patagonia, Eddie Bauer and REI; film company Magnolia Pictures; jeans maker Levi's and dozens of smaller companies. Some of the companies will pause ads just on Facebook, while others will refrain from advertising more broadly on social media.

In response to companies halting advertising, Facebook executive Carolyn Everson said earlier this week the social networking platform is committed to purging hateful content from

its services.

"Our conversations with marketers and civil rights organizations are about how, together, we can be a force for good," said Everson, vice president of Facebook's global business group.

Facebook's market value dropped Friday by more than 8%, or about \$50 billion, as more companies said they would pause ads. Twitter stock also dropped more than 7% Friday.

Sarah Personette, vice president of global client solutions at Twitter, said Twitter is "respectful of our partners' decisions and will continue to work and communicate closely with them during this time."

Suspect in killing at Taylor protest in Louisville detained

By DYLAN LOVAN
and JOHN RABY
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The suspect arrested in the shooting death of a man during a Louisville protest over the police killing of Breonna Taylor had taken part in demonstrations but was disruptive and had been asked by other protesters to leave, authorities and protesters said Sunday.

The man, identified by an arrest citation as Steven Nelson Lopez, was hospitalized and being interviewed by homicide investigators about the shooting that happened late Saturday, interim Louisville Police Chief Robert Schroeder said at a news conference.

Lopez was wounded in the leg by gunfire from bystanders at the park who were defending themselves, the arrest citation said. He has been charged with murder and wanton endangerment.

Tyler Charles Gerth, 27, of Louisville, died after being shot at Jefferson Square Park in downtown Louisville, authorities said. The Courier Journal reported that Gerth was an avid photographer and a vocal supporter of the ongoing protests whose godfather is a columnist at the newspaper.

In a video of the shooting shown during the news conference, Lopez was surrounded by several people before shots were fired, and people scrambled for cover. Another video posted on social media later showed at least one person bleeding profuse-

ly on the ground.

Several other people fired gunshots after the suspect began firing, but no one else was hit, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said.

"Whether they were there at the time of the shooting or not, I know the sadness of those who have been organizing and participating in peaceful protests for racial justice. This is absolutely not what they wanted or any of us wanted," Fischer said. "We cannot let one senseless act by one individual derail that dream, that vision that we have as a city."

For nearly a month, protesters have been calling for the officers involved in Breonna Taylor's death to be charged. Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was killed in her Louisville home in March by police who were serving a no-knock warrant. One of the officers was recently fired.

Saturday's shooting was at least the second during the protests. Seven people were wounded May 28 when gunfire erupted near City Hall, prompting Taylor's mother to issue a statement asking people to demand justice "without hurting each other."

Gerth's family said he was "incredibly kind, tenderhearted and generous, holding deep convictions and faith."

"It was this sense of justice that drove Tyler to be part of the peaceful demonstrations advocating for the destruction of the systemic racism within our society's systems," the family said in a statement to the Courier Journal.

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Eyes: Brown | Hair: Bald with grey hair

Last seen: Saturday, May 16, 2020 wearing green shirt, grey pants

Last Assumed Whereabouts: Bordeaux Beach, St. Thomas

The Dumas Family, his wife - Cascilla, children - Devica, Devon, Devrelle and grandchild Davonna - are asking for the public's help in finding our loved one.

Additional people are believed to have been on the beach between noon and 4pm. If you have any information regarding this suspicious disappearance or you were in that area on that day, please call 911, the Criminal Investigation Bureau at 340-774-2211 ext. 5569 or call anonymously, Crime Stoppers USVI, at 1-800-222-8477.

Stanfield Dumas is an Associate Pastor and Minister at the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Bentley Thomas, for the past 40 years. Members of the community may also know him from his long-time career at MSI Building Supplies, from which he recently retired.

Over the years, he has served on St. Thomas in prison ministries, mental health ministry, and as a missionary to other Caribbean islands.

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Mississippi lawmakers vote to remove rebel emblem from flag

By **EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS**
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi lawmakers voted Sunday to surrender the Confederate battle emblem from their state flag, triggering raucous applause and cheers more than a century after white supremacist legislators adopted the design a generation after the South lost the Civil War.

Mississippi's House and Senate voted in succession Sunday afternoon to retire the flag, each chamber drawing broad bipartisan support for the historic decision. Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has said he will sign the bill, and the state flag would lose its official status as soon as he signs the measure. He did not immediately signal when the signing would take place.

The state had faced mounting pressure to change its flag during the past month amid international protests against racial injustice in the United States. Cheering and applause erupted as lawmakers hugged each other in the Senate with final passage. Even those on the opposite side of the issue also hugged as an emotional day of debate drew to a close. Bells also could be heard ringing in the state capital city as passage of the measure was announced.

A commission would design a new flag that cannot include the Confederate symbol and that must have the words "In God We Trust." Voters will be asked to approve the new design in the Nov. 3 election. If they reject it, the commission will set a different design using the same guidelines, and that would be sent to voters later.

Mississippi has a 38% Black population — and the last state flag that incorporates the emblem that's widely seen as racist.

Republican House Speaker Philip Gunn, who is white, has pushed for five years to change the flag, saying that the Confederate symbol is offensive. The House passed the bill 91-23 Sunday afternoon, and the Senate passed it 37-14 later.

"How sweet it is to celebrate this on the Lord's day," Gunn said. "Many prayed to Him to bring us to this day.



Photo by ASSOCIATED PRESS

Larry Eubanks of Star. Miss. waves the current Mississippi state flag as he sits in the front of the Capitol on Saturday in Jackson, Miss.

He has answered."

Debate over changing the flag has arisen before, and in recent years an increasing number of cities and all the state's public universities have taken it down on their own. But the issue has never garnered enough support in the conservative Republican-dominated Legislature or with recent governors.

That dynamic changed in a matter of weeks as an extraordinary and diverse coalition of political, business, religious groups and sports leaders pushed to change the flag.

At a Black Lives Matter protest outside the Mississippi Governor's Mansion in early June, thousands cheered as an organizer said the state needs to divorce itself from all Confederate symbols.

Religious groups — including the large and influential Mississippi Baptist Convention — said erasing the rebel emblem from the state flag is a moral imperative.

Business groups said the banner hinders economic development in one of the poorest states in the nation.

In a sports-crazy culture, the biggest blow might have happened when college sports leagues said Mississippi could lose postseason events if it continued flying the Confederate-themed flag. Nearly four dozen of Missis-

sippi's university athletic directors and coaches came to the Capitol to lobby for change.

"We need something that fulfills the purpose of being a state flag and that everybody in the state has a reason to be proud of," said Mike Leach, football coach at Mississippi State University.

Many people who wanted to keep the emblem on the Mississippi flag said they see it as a symbol of heritage.

Legislators put the Confederate emblem on the upper left corner of Mississippi flag in 1894, as whites were squelching political power that African Americans gained after the Civil War.

The battle emblem is a red field topped by a blue X with 13 white stars. The Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups have waved the rebel flag for decades. Georgia put the battle emblem prominently on its state flag in 1956, during a backlash to the civil rights movement. That state removed the symbol from its banner in 2001.

Democratic state Sen. Derrick Simmons of Greenville, who is African American, said the state deserves a flag that will make all people proud. "Today is a history-making day in the state of Mississippi," Simmons told colleagues before the Senate voted for passage. "Let's vote today for the Mississippi of tomorrow."



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V.I. Weather Outlook

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Scattered showers, mostly sunny
Rain: 40 percent chance
Temperature: Highs up to 88
Wind: East at 15 to 20 mph

Tonight

Scattered showers, mostly cloudy
Rain: 50 percent chance
Temperature: Lows down to 74
Wind: East at 17 to 22 mph

Tuesday

Partly sunny, showers likely
Rain: 60 percent chance
Temperature: Highs up to 87
Wind: East at 17 to 22 mph

Tuesday night

Partly cloudy, scattered showers
Rain: 50 percent chance
Temperature: Lows down to 77
Wind: East at 16 to 20 mph

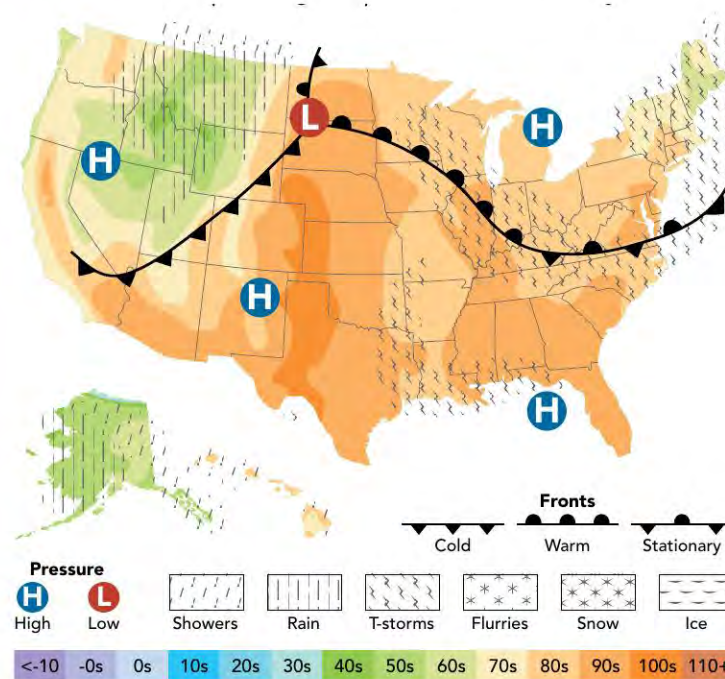
Wednesday

Mostly sunny, scattered showers

Rain: 30 percent chance

Temperature: Highs up to 88

National Weather Outlook



NATIONAL SUMMARY: A storm will stall over New England today, dousing the area with rain and thunderstorms. At the same time, a swath of showers and thunderstorms from Wisconsin to Tennessee will bring downpours. Heat will build in the central and southern Plains, while high winds in Southern California and the Southwest will fan area wildfires.

Sea conditions

Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico waters

A surface high pressure across the east central Atlantic and a weak induced surface trough will cause moderate east to east-northeast wind flow across the regional waters through Monday. Fairly tranquil seas, with swells up to 5 feet, expected through at least the middle of the work week.

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Summer may decide fate of leading shots in vaccine race

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

People on six continents already are getting jabs in the arm as the race for a COVID-19 vaccine enters a defining summer, with even bigger studies poised to prove if any shot really works — and maybe offer a reality check.

Already British and Chinese researchers are chasing the coronavirus beyond their borders, testing potential vaccines in Brazil and the United Arab Emirates because there are too few new infections at home to get clear answers.

The U.S. is set to open the largest trials — 30,000 people to test a government-created shot starting in July, followed about a month later with another 30,000 expected to test a British one.

Those likely will be divided among Americans and volunteers in other countries such as Brazil or South Africa, Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health told The Associated Press.

While he's optimistic, "we've been burned before," Fauci cautioned.

Multiple successes, in multiple parts of the world, are vital.

"This isn't a race of who gets there first. This is, get as many approved, safe and effective vaccines as you possibly can," Fauci said.

Vaccine experts say it's time to set public expectations. Many scientists don't expect a coronavirus vaccine to be nearly as protective as the measles shot.

If the best COVID-19 vaccine is only 50% effective, "that's still to me a great vaccine," said Dr. Drew Weissman of the University of Pennsylvania.

"We need to start having this conversation now," so people won't be surprised, he added.

And for all the government promises of stockpiling doses in hopes of starting vaccinations by year's end, here's the catch: Even if a shot pans out — and it's one that your country stock-

piled — only some high-risk people, such as essential workers, go to the front of a very long line.

"Will you and I get vaccinated this year? No way," said Duke University health economist David Ridley.

The home stretch

Vaccines train the body to rapidly recognize and fend off an invading germ. About 15 experimental COVID-19 vaccines are in various stages of human studies worldwide.

And while there's no guarantee any will pan out, moving three different kinds into final testing offers better odds — especially since scientists don't yet know just how strong an immune reaction the shots must spark to protect.

Measuring that with the first proven vaccine will "really help us understand for all the other vaccines in development, do they also have a chance?" said Oxford University lead researcher Sarah Gilbert.

Only China is pushing out "inactivated" vaccines, made by growing the new coronavirus and killing it. Vaccines by Sinovac Biotech and SinoPharm use that old-fashioned technology, which requires high-security labs to produce but is dependable, the way polio shots and some flu vaccines are made.

Most other vaccines in the pipeline target not the whole germ but a key piece — the "spike" protein that studs the surface of the coronavirus and helps it invade human cells. Leading candidates use new technologies that make shots faster to produce but haven't yet been proven in people.

Oxford's method: Genetically engineer a chimpanzee cold virus so it won't spread but can carry the gene for that spike protein into just enough cells to trick the immune system that an infection's brewing.

Another vaccine made by the NIH and Moderna Inc. simply injects a piece of the coronavirus genetic code

that instructs the body to produce harmless spike copies that the immune system learns to recognize.

Chasing the virus

Researchers must test thousands of people not where COVID-19 is surging — because then it's too late — but where it's smoldering, Fauci said.

Only if the virus starts spreading through a community several weeks after volunteers receive either a vaccine or a dummy shot — time enough for the immune system to rev up — do scientists have the best chance at comparing which group had more illness.

Lacking a crystal ball, the NIH has vaccine testing networks in the U.S., South America and South Africa on standby while finalizing decisions on the summer tests.

"We're going to be doing it in multiple sites with a degree of flexibility" so researchers can rapidly shift as the virus moves, Fauci said. "Nothing is going to be easy."

The Oxford shot, with a 10,000-person study underway in England, already encountered that hurdle. Gilbert told a Parliament committee last week that there's "little chance, frankly" of proving the vaccine's effectiveness in Britain after infections plummeted with the lockdown.

So her team looked abroad. In addition to the planned U.S.-run study, Brazil last week began a last-stage test of the Oxford shot in 5,000 health workers, the first experimental COVID-19 vaccinations in South America. In another first, South Africa opened a smaller safety study of the Oxford shot.

With few new infections in China, Sinovac next month will begin final tests in 9,000 Brazilian volunteers. And SinoPharm just signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates; that study's size isn't clear.

Expect imperfect protection

Animal research suggests COVID-



Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At a South African hospital, a volunteer receives a COVID-19 test vaccine injection developed at the University of Oxford in Britain.

COVID-19 vaccines could prevent serious disease but may not completely block infection. One study that dripped the coronavirus into monkeys showed vaccinated animals avoided pneumonia but had some virus lurking in their noses and throats. Whether it was enough to spread to the unvaccinated isn't known.

Still, that would be a big win.

"My expectations have always been that we'll get rid of symptomatic disease. From what we've seen of the vaccines so far, that's what they do," said Penn's Weissman.

The initial vaccines might be replaced with later, better arrivals, as historically happens in medicine, noted Duke's Ridley.

And while shots in the arm are the fastest to make, those for respiratory diseases require virus-fighting antibodies to make their way into the lungs. Gilbert said Oxford eventually will explore nasal delivery.

Warning against shortcuts

Some U.S. lawmakers worry about pressure from the Trump administration to push out an unproven shot dur-

ing the fall election season.

"We want a vaccine, not a headline," Sen. Jack Reed, a Democrat from Rhode Island, said at a recent Senate committee hearing.

Dr. Stephen Hahn, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, pledged to a House committee last week that any decision would be based on science.

Different countries have different rules about when to release a vaccine. For the U.S., Fauci insisted there will be no safety shortcuts, a key reason NIH is investing in such huge studies.

Regardless of how and when a vaccine arrives, each country also will prioritize who's first in line as doses become available. Presumably they'll start with health workers and those most vulnerable to severe disease — as long as each shot is proven to work in at-risk groups such as older adults.

Because each vaccine works differently, "which population group it will protect, we don't know yet," said Dr. Mariangela Simao of the World Health Organization, which is advising countries on how to choose.

Vice President, Texas governor acknowledge rapid virus rise

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Both Vice President Mike Pence and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott acknowledged Sunday that there has been a rapid rise in the number of coronavirus cases in the state in recent weeks after Abbott began allowing businesses to start reopening in early May.

“COVID-19 has taken a very swift and very dangerous turn in Texas over just the past few weeks,” said Abbott, who on Friday again shut down bars and limited restaurant dining, a day after Texas reported a record high confirmed positive tests of 5,996.

Abbott has also banned elective surgeries in the state's largest counties, Dallas, Harris, Travis and Bexar.

The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the COVID-19 virus



Mike Pence



Greg Abbott

without feeling sick.

Pence praised Abbott for his decisions both to reopen the state, then to roll back the reopening plans.

“You flattened the curve here in Texas ... but about two weeks ago something changed” and the number of positive confirmed cases have risen from about 2,000 cases a day to more than 5,000 a day. “With the development of these new cases, we're grateful, Governor, you've taken the steps you've taken,” Pence said.

Pence also encouraged the wearing of face coverings in an effort to

slow the spread of the virus.

“Wear a mask, where ever it's indicated or where ever you're not able to practice the kind of social distancing that would prevent the spread of the coronavirus,” said Pence, who along with Abbott wore face masks as they entered and left the room, taking them off while speaking to reporters.

Texas health officials on Sunday reported at least 148,728 confirmed coronavirus cases in the state and 2,393 deaths due to COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, a jump of 5,347 cases and 27 additional deaths from numbers reported Saturday.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Two dead in shooting at Walmart distribution center

RED BLUFF, Calif. (AP) — A man who drove into a Walmart distribution center in Northern California and went on a shooting rampage that left him and another man dead, and four others wounded, was fired from his job at the center last year, authorities said.

Louis Wesley Lane, 31, was fired from the distribution center near Red Bluff in February 2019 after failing to show up for work, Tehama County Assistant Sheriff Phil Johnston told a news conference early Sunday.

The violence started Saturday afternoon when a man with a semi-automatic rifle circled the parking lot four times before crashing into the lobby of the building. Lane began shooting randomly into the building and in the parking lot area, where he engaged with Red Bluff police officers who were first to get to the scene, the sheriff's office said.

Johnston said they exchanged 20 to 30 rounds before he was shot by police.

The employee who died was Mar-

tin Haro-Lozano, 45, of Orland, Calif. He was taken to the hospital by a sheriff's deputy due to the extent of his injuries, but later died, Johnston said. His relationship to the shooter was not immediately known.

Haro-Lozano was a 12-year employee who had family and friends working in the same facility, according to John Furner, president and CEO of Walmart U.S.

“We are shocked and heartbroken about the horrific event that occurred,” he said in a statement.

The shooting victims were taken to St. Elizabeth Community Hospital and their injuries were not life-threatening, Johnston said.

Another victim was struck by the shooter's car as he drove into the building and was being treated at the hospital, he said.

Investigators have not determined a motive in the shooting, other than his prior employment at the center, Johnston said.

Some of the 200 workers inside the facility locked themselves in a room, employees told KHSL-TV.

Scott Thammakhanty, an employee at the facility's receiving center, told the Redding Record-Searchlight that he heard the shooter fire.

“It went on and on — I don't even know how many times he fired,” Thammakhanty said. “I just know it was a lot.”

Thammakhanty and others started running for their lives, and he saw people lying on the ground as he ran, he said.

Fellow employee Franklin Lister told The New York Times he had just started work when a coworker ran down the hallway shouting: “Active gunfire! Active shooter!”

Vince Krick told the Record-Searchlight that his wife and son work at the facility and he was on his way to pick up his wife when he saw the flames. Neither was hurt, but his wife told him not to come to the front entrance, the newspaper reported.

“It was real crazy, because, you know, you can't do nothing,” Krick said.



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Trump denies briefing on alleged U.S. troops bounties

By LYNN BERRY and ZEKE MILLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Sunday denied that he had been briefed on reported U.S. intelligence that a Russian military intelligence unit secretly offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing American troops in Afghanistan, and he appeared to minimize the allegations against Moscow.

American intelligence officials concluded months ago that Russian officials offered rewards for successful attacks on American service-members last year, at a time when the U.S. and Taliban were holding talks to end the long-running war, according to The New York Times.

Trump, in a Sunday morning tweet, said “Nobody briefed or told me” or Vice President Mike Pence or chief of staff Mark Meadows about “the so-called attacks on our troops in Afghanistan by Russians.”

“Everybody is denying it & there have not been many attacks on us,” he said.

The White House had issued a statement Saturday denying that Trump or Pence had been briefed on such intelligence. “This does not speak to the merit of the alleged intelligence but to the inaccuracy of the New York Times story erroneously suggesting that President Trump was briefed on this matter,” press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said.

Trump’s director of national intelligence, John Ratcliffe, also said neither the president nor vice president was “ever briefed on any intelligence alleged” in the Times’ report and he said the White House statement was “accurate.”

Trump’s tweet came a day after presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said that the report, if accurate, was a “truly shocking revelation” about the commander in chief and his failure to protect U.S. troops in Afghanistan and stand up to Russia. Russia called the report “nonsense.”

“This unsophisticated plant clearly illustrates the low intellectual abilities of the propagandists of American intelligence, who instead of inventing something more plausible have to make up this nonsense,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

A Taliban spokesman said the militants “strongly reject this allegation” and are not “indebted to the beneficence of any intelligence organ or foreign country.”

The Times, citing unnamed officials familiar with the intelligence, said the findings were presented to Trump and discussed by his National Security Council in late March. Officials developed potential responses, starting with a diplomatic complaint to Russia, but the White House has yet to authorize any step, the report said.

Trump responded to Biden on Twitter, saying “Russia ate his and Obama’s lunch during their time in office”

Israeli court releases activist after arrest

By TIA GOLDENBERG
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A court ordered the release of a former Air Force general and leading critic of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from jail on Sunday, a day after hundreds of people protested outside the Israeli leader’s residence calling for him to be freed.

Retired Brig. Gen. Amir Haskel has been a leader of the protest movement against Netanyahu, demanding that the long-time leader step down while facing charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes.

Haskel and several others were detained on Friday in what police said was an “illegal” demonstration be-

cause the protesters blocked roads.

The arrest of Haskel, a former top Israeli Air Force general, has turned him into a symbol of the protest movement that opposes Netanyahu’s continued rule.

Demonstrations have been held regularly around the country, with protesters waving signs reading “crime minister” and calling for Netanyahu to resign.

“A line was crossed that must not be crossed. The reason for my arrest was a desire to silence the protest against the person accused of a crime, Benjamin Netanyahu,” Haskel told a news conference Sunday evening.

“If my arrest, and the arrest of two of my friends, lit the flame, the price was worth it,” he added.

The arrests drew angry denunciations from prominent Israelis and sent hundreds out to protest outside Netanyahu’s residence on Saturday, with many slamming the police for making what they viewed as politically motivated arrests.

Police said they offered to release Haskel and others if they agreed to refrain from returning to the scene of the protests. Haskel and others refused the conditions and remained in detention.

Gaby Lasky, Haskel’s lawyer, told Israeli Army Radio that the court eventually released him without conditions.

The country’s acting police chief said the force would learn from the incident.



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Women struggle to work in developing countries amid COVID-19

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA**
The Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda — Rebecca Nakamanya rolls her eyes, dismissing a question about school fees. What really worries her is how to feed three children and a jobless partner on a daily wage of less than \$3, minus transport to and from her job as a cook.

“We have not even started thinking about school fees,” she says. “When we don’t have what to eat? When the landlord is also waiting?”

In the usually bustling labyrinth of shops surrounding a bus terminal in Uganda’s capital, Kampala, she and other women sit idle in their open-air restaurant, waiting for customers who rarely come.

They are fortunate to be working at all. Business has been so poor under coronavirus lockdown measures that their nearest rivals have shut down. Their restaurant remains open mainly because the landlord deferred rent payments, a rare gesture of goodwill.

The COVID-19 pandemic means that millions of women in Africa and other developing regions could lose

years of success in contributing to household incomes, asserting their independence and expanding financial inclusion.

Often they are paid at the end of each day, a hand-to-mouth existence that has consequences for the whole family when business is bleak. Now many are increasingly under pressure as they deplete their savings and landlords threaten eviction.

The impact of COVID-19 “has the face of the women,” especially in Africa, Bineta Diop, an African Union special envoy, told reporters this month.

Although lockdown measures have affected 81% of the global workforce, “women’s economic and productive lives will be affected disproportionately and different than men,” the United Nations said in April.

“Across the globe, women earn less, save less, hold less secure jobs, are more likely to be employed in the informal sector. They have less access to social protections and are the majority of single-parent households. Their capacity to absorb economic shock is therefore less than that of men.”

More than 70% of African women



Photo by ASSOCIATED PRESS
Grace Twisimire, 25, sits in her once-thriving shop selling clothes and plastic shoes in the capital Kampala, Uganda.

in non-agricultural jobs are employed in the informal sector such as street and market vending, work that requires no diplomas, resumes or formal approval. They don’t pay taxes, but in difficult times that means they’re not likely to benefit from government relief.

In Uganda, which had 848 con-

firmed coronavirus cases as of Sunday, authorities say restrictions on close-contact businesses such as beauty salons are necessary to prevent a sharp rise in infections. Many men also work in the informal sector but vehicle mechanics, metal fabricators, taxi operators and carpenters — who are often men — are now allowed to operate.

The sectors seen as being at high risk of job losses this year — accommodation and food services; real estate, business and administrative services; manufacturing and the wholesale/retail trade — employ 527 million women worldwide, representing 41% of total female employment, compared to 35% of total male employment, the International Labor Organization said last month.

The numbers suggest “women’s employment is likely to be hit more severely than men’s by the current crisis,” it added.

Many women face further distress as some local authorities in Africa, claiming to be improving infrastructure and protecting citizens, tear down dilapidated markets and restrict access to public spaces in which women are more likely to work. Such demolitions have been reported in Congo, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

The international response to the pandemic “needs to include a strong focus on the economic justice and rights of women” to retain progress made over decades in gender equality, said Reintje van Haeringen, a CARE official.

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California's alleged Golden State Killer set to plead guilty

By **DON THOMPSON**
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Forty years after a sadistic suburban rapist terrorized California in what investigators later realized were a series of linked assaults and slayings, a 74-year-old former police officer is expected to plead guilty today to being the elusive Golden State Killer.

The deal will spare Joseph James DeAngelo Jr. any chance of the death penalty for 13 murders and 13 kidnapping-related charges spanning six counties. In partial return, survivors of the assaults that spanned the 1970s and 1980s expect him to admit to up to 62 rapes that he could not be criminally charged with because too much time has passed.

Yet nothing is certain until he actually speaks in a Sacramento State University ballroom pressed into use as a courtroom to provide for social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I've been on pins and needles because I just don't like that our lives are tied to him, again," said Jennifer Carole, the daughter of Lyman Smith,



Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Joseph James DeAngelo, charged with being the Golden State Killer, appears in court.

a lawyer who was slain in 1980 at age 43 in Ventura County. His wife, 33-year-old Charlene Smith, was also raped and killed.

Investigators early on connected certain crimes to an armed and masked rapist who would break into sleeping couples' suburban homes at night, binding the man and piling dishes on his back. He would threaten to kill both victims if he heard the plates fall while

he raped the woman. Gay and Bob Hardwick were among the survivors.

They are now looking forward to DeAngelo admitting to that 1978 assault. The death penalty was never realistic anyway, she said, given DeAngelo's age and Gov. Gavin Newsom's moratorium on executions.

"He certainly does deserve to die, in my view, so I am seeing that he is trading the death penalty for death in prison," she said. "It will be good to put the thing to rest. I think he will never serve the sentence that we have served — we've served the sentence for 42 years."

A guilty plea and life sentence avoids a trial or even the planned weeks-long preliminary hearing. The victims expect to confront him at his sentencing in August, where it's expected to take several days to tell DeAngelo and Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Michael Bowman what they have suffered.

Ron Harrington's younger brother, Keith, was married to Patti Harrington for just three months when they were bludgeoned to death in their Orange County home in 1980 by a killer then

known as the Original Night Stalker.

All four brothers were successful, but "Keith, the youngest of all of us, was the smartest," he said. "It's just such a loss. And every time this comes up I think of all the lives he would have saved as an emergency room doctor."

His father found the couple two days later.

"It was so gruesome," Harrington said. "My dad was never the same."

The killer racked up a series of monikers for his crimes over the decades.

Visalia Ransacker.

East Area Rapist.

Original Night Stalker.

Diamond Knot Killer.

But it wasn't until years later that investigators connected a series of assaults in central and Northern California to later slayings in Southern California and settled on the umbrella Golden State Killer nickname for the mysterious assailant whose crimes spanned 11 counties from 1974 through mid-1986.

The mystery sparked worldwide interest, a best-selling book and a six-part HBO documentary, "I'll Be Gone in the Dark," that premiered Sunday.

It was only the pioneering use of new

DNA techniques that two years ago led investigators to DeAngelo, who was fired from the Auburn Police Department northeast of Sacramento in 1979 after he was caught shoplifting dog repellent and a hammer.

Investigators painstakingly built a family tree by linking decades-old crime scene DNA to a distant relative through a popular online DNA database. They eventually narrowed in on DeAngelo with a process that has since been used in other cases nationwide, but said they confirmed the link only after collecting his DNA from his car door and a discarded tissue.

Prosecutors who had sought the death penalty cited the massively complicated case and the advancing age of many of the victims and witnesses in agreeing to consider the plea bargain.

Carole said it "absolutely" makes sense for prosecutors to agree to a life sentence without parole, both to spare older victims and witnesses who are most vulnerable to the coronavirus from having to appear in court, and to save taxpayers the \$20 million projected cost of a trial.

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Black candidates push race debate into GOP-held districts

By SARA BURNETT and CASEY SMITH
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ind. — It was a scene Jeannine Lee Lake never would have imagined when she first ran against Greg Pence, Vice President Mike Pence's brother, for a rural Indiana congressional seat two years ago: an almost entirely white crowd of more than 100 people marching silently in the Pences' hometown this month, offering prayers for Black people killed by police and an end to systemic racism.

Leading them was Lake, who is in a rematch against Pence. She is the only Black woman running for federal office in Indiana this fall.

The Democrat, who lost badly in 2018 and again faces long odds in the deeply conservative district, has spent much of the past few weeks at events such as the one in Columbus on Juneteenth. In communities across a district that is 93% white, Lake has talked about seeing her children pulled over by police and "harassed for no reason." She has spoken the names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other Black people killed by police, telling crowds "we're here to call for change."

"In no way, shape or form is 2018 the same as the 2020 race in regard to the grassroots effort and the galvanization of the movement that is now Black Lives Matter," said Lake, 50. "It's just a total shift."

The reenergized movement against racial inequality has amplified the voices of Black candidates, in some cases pushing the political debate

The reenergized movement against racial inequality and police brutality following the killing of George Floyd has amplified the voices of Black candidates across the country.

over race into Republican-leaning areas. Democrats say they've seen a significant boost in fundraising and other engagement for candidates running on racial justice issues, and believe it could help the party flip some Republican-held districts in November.

Polls show unusually broad bipartisan support for some change to the nation's criminal justice system. But lawmakers in Washington are at an impasse after far-reaching federal legislation passed the Democrat-led House on Thursday over objections from Republicans. Pence voted no, saying he opposes changes to the qualified immunity system that shields officers from liability.

In Arkansas, Democratic state Sen. Joyce Elliott says she's seeing new momentum in her bid to unseat GOP Rep. French Hill and become the state's first Black woman elected to Congress. She began running digital ads shortly after Floyd's death last month. In them, she spoke about her experience integrating a school in the 1960s where she and other Black students weren't wanted.

It was the kind of fundraising appeal that typically would bring in about \$1.50 for every \$1 a congressional campaign spent on the ad buy. This ad cost Elliott's campaign about

\$2,500 and raised \$24,000 within one week, said Julia Ager, president of Sapphire Strategies, the digital firm for Elliott's campaign. Other Black candidates are seeing a similar trend, she said.

"The environment is different, and that environment has created a boon of support," Ager said. For people who are tired of inaction and want to

see more Black people in Congress, "it seems like a clear place to direct money."

Elliott, 69, has also been traveling to Black Lives Matter protests around the district, which includes Little Rock and its suburbs and has been represented by a Republican for more than a decade. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the kidney donor speaks to crowds from the back of a pickup truck, often to predominantly white audiences. She tells her story of overcoming adversity, mentioning the people in school who didn't want her or other Black students there. At one recent event, the crowd gathered in the shadow of a Confederate statue, where the

discussion turned to trying to have it removed.

After a lifetime of feeling like she had to "push, push, push," Elliott said, "now it feels like this is a big warm embrace."

Her campaign has been backed by EMILY's List, which supports women in politics, and the Congressional Black Caucus PAC. Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., who is in the running to be the Democratic nominee for vice president, endorsed Elliott's campaign on Saturday.

"I'm feeling now as if a door has opened," Elliott said. "People can look at someone like me and say, 'Why not Joyce Elliott? Isn't she the right person for this moment?'"



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Business Monday



Photo by MCCORMACK BARON SALAZAR

Phase three of the 90-unit Louis E. Brown Villas affordable housing project, which officially opened last week.

Latest phase of Brown Villas opens on St. Croix

By **LORI ABBOTTS**
Daily News Staff

Affordable and safe housing is crucial for any family. Courtesy of the Virgin Islands Housing Authority and developer McCormack Baron Salazar, 90 St. Croix families will have just that at the newly opened phase three of the Louis E. Brown Villas housing community.

And one of the residents has extra reasons to be proud of her new home. A former resident of the John F. Kennedy Terrace housing community in Golden Rock, Kaye Gumbs is also the resident commis-

sioner of the property, which she helped build.

After giving birth to her sixth son, she was ordered by her doctor to not work for a year. Two weeks before hurricanes Irma and Maria struck in 2017, Gumbs joined a Section 3 program to learn construction under the tutelage of J. Benton Construction, the contractor working on phase three of the Louis E. Brown Villas. She is now a full-time employee.

"That year was the beginning of a new chapter in my life," she said during the recent ribbon cutting ceremony. "I was given the privilege to work in the Section

3 program at John F. Kennedy Terrace thanks to Mrs. Natalie Dummont. I also joined the family self-sufficiency program. This program is designed to help residents of the V.I. Housing Authority communities reach their future goals. I was also elected to become a member of the resident commissioner board. Being able to get an inside look at how everything worked, I have nothing but respect for the work and dedication the teams put into making sure the residents have a safe, affordable and comfortable living."

See **VILLAS**, page 24

JetBlue announces non-stop flights from N.Y. to St. Thomas starting this fall

Daily News Staff

JetBlue will be adding new service from New York to St. Thomas this fall to help meet the demand for travel to the territory from the northeast U.S.

JetBlue announced that the airline is adding new routes to serve customers in markets where leisure and VFR (visiting friends and relatives) travel is showing some signs of strength. According to the airline, with business travel facing a less certain recovery timeline, newly announced routes offer JetBlue the opportunity to generate revenue, bring back into service aircraft that would otherwise sit idle and add more flying opportunities for JetBlue crewmembers.

"Over the past year, we have been making our case to the airline about boosting connectivity from the tri-state area, and we are pleased with the timing of this twice-weekly service, ahead of the winter season," said V.I. Commissioner of Tourism Joseph Boschulte.

"Coronavirus has transformed airline route maps, and as we begin to see small signs of recovery, we continue to be flexible with our network plans to respond to demand trends and generate cash in support of our business," said Scott Laurence, head of revenue and planning for JetBlue. "We've selected routes where customers are showing some interest in travel again and where our low fares and award-winning experience will be noticed."

JetBlue currently serves St. Thomas from San Juan and will resume Boston-St. Thomas flights this fall.

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Photo by METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The British Virgin Islands is taking steps, with the aid of the United Kingdom, to better manage its fisheries resources.

BVI launches fisheries management project

Daily News Staff

The British Virgin Islands has partnered with the United Kingdom to start a Sustainable Fisheries Management program in the Virgin Islands. A grant totalling \$391,000 helped facilitate the project.

In the latest funding round of the U.K. government-funded Darwin Initiative and its Darwin Plus scheme provides for a joint project being delivered by the U.K. Center for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the BVI, and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute. This year's Darwin Plus scheme provides grants to projects working on environmental issues in the U.K. overseas territories.

This three-year project will review and consolidate existing evidence, data and maps for the marine area, produce a centralized fisheries database and fisheries evidence report to improve the capture and display of fisheries data and support future licensing and management decisions.

It will also strengthen fishers' capacity and engagement

and facilitate the development of a formalized network of fishers to enable a collective voice and greater participation in decision-making. In addition, capability will be built with the BVI to support the ongoing management of the evidence base.

Minister for Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley said, "This project will assist us to better manage our fisheries resources, which are an important part of the Virgin Islands culture and economy. We are happy for this partnership with CEFAS and CANARI and the technical expertise these agencies bring to our shores."

CEFAS chief scientist, professor Stuart Rogers, said, "We are delighted to be working with the government and fisheries stakeholders in the Virgin Islands to build on the progress already made on sustainable fisheries management. We understand the importance of evidence to support good decision making and are looking forward to working in partnership with managers and the community."

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VILLAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Gumbs started working with J. Benton two weeks before hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the islands. Though there were delays, the company pushed through to complete the project.

“For me, it was not just a job, but a learning experience,” she said. “I was taught how to read a plan, to install concrete forms, bond beams, lay out the foundation, lay out the building and many more exciting and challenging skills. Today, I am blessed to have work that I love and a wonderful place to call home.”

The ribbon cutting on Tuesday officially opened the community’s doors, with the descendants of name-sake Louis E. Brown, a progressive politician and St. Croix native in attendance. Brown served as director of the Virgin Islands Housing Authority from 1954 to 1965, fighting to provide affordable housing for the territory’s low- and middle-income families.

The new two-story apartments feature an energy-efficient appliance package, ceiling fans, ceramic tile flooring, cable TV hook-ups and window blinds. Each apartment was designed for optimal air flow



Virgin Islands Housing Authority photo by PATRICIA BORNIS
Louis E. Brown Villas phase three resident Kaye Gumbs helped build the units and is a resident commissioner.

and cross ventilation, with low VOC interior paint and non-vinyl, non-carpet flooring for better air quality. Site amenities include an outdoor recreational field, sidewalks, a tot lot

and pavilion, fencing, a minimum of 108 off-street parking spaces, a community room, an exercise facility, a business center with a computer lab, a library, a central laundry facility

and on-site management offices. A full-time supportive services coordinator is available to help residents access health care and other support systems.

Located on the site of the former Louis E. Brown Villas built in 1970, the new community has 22 one-bedroom, 46 two-bedroom and 22 three-bedroom units for low-income families, housed in 12 buildings. The development meets the Enterprise Green Communities and V.I. Housing Authority standards, with rooftop solar hot water heaters for each apartment, high-efficiency lighting, and solar photovoltaic panels sized to offset the cost of the clubhouse electricity usage. Storm water is reused across the site for potable water.

“Together with our partners, we have bounced back from two Category 5 hurricanes to completely transform the old Louis E. Brown with an attractive, affordable housing model for today,” V.I. Housing Authority Executive Director Robert Graham said at the ceremony. “Every resident deserves this quality of housing to nurture their families, and with the support of Governor Bryan, we are on a roll to revitalize all of our communities on St. Croix.”

The phase three apartments join

102 family units that were completed at Louis E. Brown Villas in 2010 and 40 apartments for seniors that were completed in 2013. The total development cost for all three phases was \$80,754,500 and included financing support from the V.I. Housing Authority.

The Louis E. Brown Villas were originally built in 1970 with 436 public housing units. The site was damaged extensively during Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Marilyn in 1995. As a result, Louis E. Brown stood vacant and uninhabitable. It wasn’t until 2008 that the Housing Authority embarked on a plan to rebuild the community through a public-private partnership. The old site was demolished in 2009 and the \$32 million phase one of the project began in 2010.

In 2011, McCormack Baron Salazar was selected to join the project when it was already underway to help ensure the successful completion of the last two phases. McCormack Baron Salazar completed phase two of the community, the \$14.5 million Louis E. Brown Senior Villas, and started phase three in August of 2017. Shortly thereafter, the storms hit the island, causing delays for the \$32 million phase of the development.

“The new Louis E. Brown is designed to not only change the lives of the families who will live here — it is also a demonstration of how to overcome obstacles of building high-quality, affordable, resilient housing in the islands,” said Vincent Bennett, president of McCormack Baron Salazar, in prepared remarks. “It is our hope and intention that these apartments will withstand the storms to come and be home to our residents for many years.”

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Johnson wins Travelers to extend career-long season victory streak

By PAT EATON-ROBB
The Associated Press

CROMWELL, Conn. — Dustin Johnson won the Travelers Championship on Sunday to end a long drought and extend his career-long season victory streak to 13.



Dustin Johnson

Johnson closed with a 3-under 67 for a one-stroke victory over Kevin Streelman at fan-free TPC River Highlands. Johnson last won in Mexico City in March 2019.

"I'm definitely proud of myself for continuing the streak and I want to keep it going," Johnson said. "It was a long time between wins, though, and, so, hopefully it won't be that long for the next one."

Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus each won in 17 consecutive years. Johnson failed to win in 2014, but is given credit for winning in the 2013-14 season from his victory in the fall of 2013 in Shanghai. The tour changed to a wraparound season in 2013.

Johnson tapped in for par on the par-4 18th, raised his ball to acknowledge the smattering of applause from course workers, officials and reporters, the only in-person witnesses allowed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

He finished at 19-under 261 for his 21st PGA Tour title.

Streelman also shot 67.

Streelman, who made seven straight

birdies to win at TPC River Highlands in 2014, had a 37-foot birdie try on 18 that ended up just short and right.

He was two strokes behind Johnson on the 17th fairway when the weather horn blew for an hour-long storm delay.

Johnson came out of the delay and hit his tee shot on 16 into a greenside bunker. His second shot went well past the hole and made bogey to cut his lead to a stroke.

"I've had a few missed cuts, so to come back and finish a solo second is nice, but to be that close and perform and be right there, I'm just a little disappointed right now," Streelman said.

Johnson was at 19 under when his tee shot on the par-4 15th went left and came inches from going into the signature lake that surrounds the finishing holes. His first pitch didn't make it to the green, and he hit the second to 4 feet to save par.

"It was lucky, but a still had to make a good up-and-down to make par," he said.

Mackenzie Hughes, who shot a first-round 60, had a 67 to tie for third with 23-year-old Will Gordon at 17 under. Hughes made 48-foot birdie putt on 17, which he started well left of the hole and watched as turned right to the flag. He finished the round with a much straighter 43-foot birdie putt on 18.

Gordon, who had no status on either the PGA Tour or the Korn Ferry Tour, had seven birdies in a 64. The finish was just enough to give him a special temporary card and unlimited exemptions for the rest of the season.

His lone bogey came on 17, and briefly dropped him to fourth place.

Hamlin caps marathon day of racing at Pocono with 4th win

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Denny Hamlin held off Kevin Harvick on Sunday night to win the second Cup race of the weekend at Pocono Raceway and flip the result of the opener.



Denny Hamlin

Hamlin raced to his fourth victory of the season — and sixth at Pocono — to cap a wild, marathon day of racing at the track, with three NASCAR races and a near-darkness Cup finish. Pocono doesn't have lights — but the pit road numbers were lit up and glowed as Hamlin took the checkered flag for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Hamlin had a late vibration in his No. 11 Toyota on Saturday that hin-

dered his attempt to catch Harvick down the stretch. About 25 hours later, Hamlin surged past Harvick and built a nearly 3-second lead; Harvick's serious run at the victory slowed because of a loose wheel.

The Daytona 500 champion won the finale of the first NASCAR triple-header at one track. The race was delayed by lightning and rain, as much a part of Pocono as a JGR driver taking the checkered flag. Gibbs' roster has six of the last seven winners at the 2½ mile tri-oval track.

Hamlin has 41 career victories to move to 19th on NASCAR's career list.

They ran six laps before the race was red-flagged nearly 51 minutes because of rain. NASCAR ran several pace laps before the race finally went green around 6:15 p.m.. It was a race against darkness to complete the full 350 miles.

Harvick won Saturday's race and

put the brakes on a burnout — he had to save that engine for another run in the same No. 4 Ford. The starting lineup was inverted for Sunday's race so Harvick started 20th.

The rain wreaked havoc with the third NASCAR race of the day at Pocono. Brandon Jones opened the day with a win in the Truck Series race and Chase Briscoe won the Xfinity race. Pocono became the first track in NASCAR history to hold three national series races on the same day.

NASCAR's hope to capitalize on being about the only major sport to run live every week with sports on pause in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic has been besieged by weather issues. Sunday marked the ninth race out of 15 this season with a weather delay and three have been moved a full day. It's hard to keep TV viewers interested when it's a parade of Air Titans instead of a mad dash to the checkered flag.

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Local Sports Roundup

St. Croix 9-on-9 flag football league opens play

The results from the opening week of play in the St. Croix 9-on-9 flag football league, held at the Educational Complex High School field.

Sunday's Results

Renegades 32, Smoke 13: Addison Griffin and Trevor Patrick had two touchdowns each, and Curtis Harris added a touchdown and a two-point conversion for the Renegades (1-1). Shavquie Peters and Laquawne Lawrence each had a touchdown, and Peters added a one-point conversion for the Smoke (0-2).

Knightz 22, Narcos 6: Jake Monokain, Hilroy Williams and Dion Meyers each had a touchdown, and Meyers and Ezart Wynters Jr. both had two-point conversions for the Knightz (2-0). Alfred Harris had the lone touchdown for the Narcos (2-1).

Dynasty 18, Titans 12: Jakeem Auguste had two touchdowns and Michael Thomas added a touchdown for the Dynasty (1-1). Andrew Lewis and Joell Torrens had one touchdown each for the Titans (1-2).

Saturday's Results

Narcos 19, Titans 2: Alfred Harris scored two touchdowns, and Adolph Fredericks scored one touchdown and Kodac Walmark added a one-point conversion for the Narcos (2-0). Jabari Peters scored the lone points for the Titans (1-1) off a safety.

Knightz 14, Dynasty 7: Joseph Greaux and Colin Stevens had one touchdown each and Ezart Wynters Jr. added a two-point conversion for the Knightz (1-0). Marquise Sexius had a touchdown and Michael Thomas a one-point conversion for the Dynasty (0-1).

Friday's Results

Narcos 20, Smoke 6: Alfred Harris scored a touchdown and added a two-point conversion run, and teammates James Warner and Elton Richards added one touchdown each for the Narcos (1-0). Shavquie Peters had the lone touchdown for the Smoke (0-1).

Titans 28, Renegades 12: Rohan Gustave scored three touchdowns to lead the Titans (1-0), with Jabari Peters adding a touchdown and a two-point conversion, and Chris Floyd a two-point conversion. Trevor Patrick had two touchdowns for the Renegades (0-1).

Coming up: Seven games are scheduled for the July 4 holiday weekend at the Educational Complex High field.

On Friday, July 3, Smoke and the Titans play at 4 p.m., followed by the Knightz vs. the Renegades.

On Saturday, July 4, the Knightz take on Smoke at 4 p.m., followed by the Dynasty vs. the Narcos.

On Sunday, July 5, the Renegades face the Narcos at 3 p.m., followed by Smoke vs. Dynasty at 4 p.m. and the Knightz vs. the Titans at 5 p.m.

V.I. Olympic Day Run virtual race ends Tuesday

The annual Virgin Islands Olympic Day Run, being held this year as a "virtual" race, will conclude this week.

The Olympic Day Race is a fundraiser for the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee and the V.I. Pace Runners.

Participants have until Tuesday to register online at www.virginislandsolympics.org/run, then complete a one-mile run anywhere in the USVI.

Runners are asked to set up their smartphones or fitness trackers to track their course, and send a screenshot of

their route and time to NOC@virginislandsolympics.org.

For more information, call **340-719-8462** or visit the VI OC website at www.virginislandsolympics.org.

Sports, Parks and Rec holding virtual programs

The V.I. Sports, Parks and Recreation Department is holding a series of virtual summer programs for youth and adults.

Each program will run for six weeks ending July 30, and will be livestreamed on both Zoom and the department's Facebook page.

The programs being held are:

Foundation to Visual Art: Held Monday through Friday between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., the program is open to ages 12-18. The Zoom meeting link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89709100137>.

Virtual Dance Camp: Classes will be held between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., with beginners classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and intermediate classes on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The Zoom meeting link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81017382265>.

Virtual Arts and Craft Camp: Held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., the camp is open to ages 5-up. Sports, Parks and Recreation will provide supplies for the first 50 registered campers (20 on St. Croix, 20 on St. Thomas and 10 on St. John). A shopping list for each week's lessons will also be made available. The Zoom meeting link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81835425016v>.

Virtual Sports Camp: The camps are open to all ages, with instruction in the basics of three different sports. Volleyball classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., baseball classes will be held Monday through Friday between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. beginning June 29 and running through Aug. 7, and basketball classes will be held Monday through Friday between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. The Zoom meeting link for volleyball is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82514663126>. The Zoom meeting link for baseball is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83564164707>. The Zoom meeting link for basketball is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88276148977>.

NWSL players kneel during the national anthem at tournament

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

Players for the Portland Thorns and the North Carolina Courage knelt during the national anthem Saturday when the National Women's Soccer League opened the Challenge Cup tournament in Utah.

The players and coaches wore Black Lives Matter T-shirts in warmups before the game, which was nationally televised on CBS. The players also knelt during a moment of silence before kickoff.

"We took a knee today to protest racial injustice, police brutality and systemic racism against Black people and people of color in America. We love our country and we have taken this opportunity to hold it to a higher standard. It is our duty to demand that the liberties and freedoms this nation was founded upon are extended to everyone," the Thorns and Courage said in a joint statement released before the game.

The league said Friday that it would play the national anthem before the Challenge Cup games and that it would support the players in whatever they chose to do.

The NWSL is the first professional team sport in the United States to return amid the coronavirus outbreak. The monthlong Challenge Cup opened Saturday with a pair of games played without fans at Zions Bank Stadium in Herriman, Utah.

"Today, hopefully, it was a powerful statement," Courage midfielder Sam Mewis said. "It was an emotional time and I hope that both teams' message comes through clearly."

Megan Rapinoe, who plays for OL Reign but opted out of the Challenge Cup, was criticized when she knelt at an NWSL game and a pair of U.S. national team games in 2016. She said she wanted to express solidarity with former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick,

who took a knee during the anthem to bring attention to racial inequality.

In response, U.S. Soccer adopted a rule that required players to stand. But that rule was repealed earlier this month amid nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd and racial inequity.

Rapinoe voiced her support for the NWSL players Saturday on social media: "You love to see these women using their voice, demanding better for America, and for black people and people of color."

Mewis said the teams plan to keep calling attention to racial injustice. "I think we want to keep this momentum and keep the attention on the Black Lives Matter movement throughout this tournament," she said.

Saturday's results

Courage 2, Thorns 1: Lynn Williams scored in stoppage time and the North Carolina Courage defeated the Portland Thorns in the opening game of the National Women's Soccer League's Challenge Cup tournament.

After a scoreless first half, Brazilian Debinha broke through for the Courage by tapping in a ball served up by former UCLA standout Hailie Mace. But the Thorns tied it minutes later when Simone Charley scored off a scramble in front of the North Carolina goal after Lindsey Horan's shot rebounded off the crossbar.

Williams scored the go-ahead goal on a header off a cross from Samantha Mewis.

Red Stars 2, Spirit 1: Rose Lavelle and Ashley Hatch each scored to give the Washington Spirit a victory over the Chicago Red Stars.

Lavelle, who scored for the United States in the World Cup final last summer in France, blasted a rebound goal in the eighth minute to give the Spirit the early lead. Hatch added the second goal just seconds into the second half.

Morgan Gautrat pulled a goal back for the Red Stars in the 51st minute.

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REGATTA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

Waves, and facial buffs or masks in place.

Twenty-two points separated Rosenberg and his son from the second-place finisher, St. Croix's Eric Cusin and crew Peter Nielsen, in the 13-boat IC-24 class.



Christian Rosenberg

"When we considered how to get back out racing with the pandemic, the decision was made to sail the IC-24s with two people instead of the usual five," Chris Rosenberg said.



Marcus Compton

"I asked my son to crew with me as we're in the same household. He agreed, we started practicing on Friday nights during the series hosted by the St. Thomas Sailing Center, and little by little we improved.

"The first day of racing was hard since there was a lot of breeze. [Sunday] the wind was much lighter. Christian tacked the jib perfectly and



Daily News photo by DEAN BARNES

"Roundabout," skippered by Eric Cusin of St. Croix, leads the field of IC-24 class sailboats away from the starting line in Sunday's race at the inaugural St. Thomas Yacht Club Invitational Regatta, held this weekend in the waters off the East End of St. Thomas.

he called all the headers and lifts. To see him give it his all, in these trying times and for two days, was such a great experience to have as a father."

After first and second places, scores in the IC-24 Class were so close it was anyone's game. In fact, there were three ties — for third place, fourth place and sixth place.

Scores were almost as equally close in the eight-boat Hobie Wave class. In fact, it came down to the last

race and only two points ultimately separated Compton from the second-place finisher, St. Thomas' Julian van den Driessche.

"On the first day I capsized twice, but on a positive note, I did have two firsts," Compton said. "I was glad [Sunday] brought an end to the capsize with the light breeze. I knew it was close with Julian. He would plant himself to windward of me at the start and use his, I must say, superior speed and pointing to pass by me.

"The light breeze made it more challenging and I really had to keep the boat moving, the sail loose and breathing, and constantly compare other sailor's speed and position. I would encourage others to take part in competitive and friendly classes like Hobie Waves and the IC24. While practicing safe health guidelines, the racing really pulled us through the emotionally difficult COVID-19 months."

The STYC Invitational Regatta

commemorated a perpetual trophy. This was awarded to the winner of the IC-24 and Hobie Wave classes, Rosenberg and Compton, respectively. This perpetual trophy is dedicated to Rudy Thomson and Dick Avery for their long-standing contributions to STYC and Olympic racing and inspiring sailors of all ages.

One of the biggest take-home messages from this weekend's event is the high quality of racing, says Tony Coffelt, the St. Thomas Yacht Club's commodore.

"There was tight racing and close scores in both the IC-24 and Hobie Wave classes," Coffelt said. "Add to this the Race Committee offered both round-the-buoy and round-the-island racing. Plus, our ideal Virgin Islands' conditions offered competitors a range of wind speeds. I think this has been an excellent start to the makings of a world-class regatta."

The 2020 St. Thomas Yacht Club Invitational Regatta tests the waters for a larger event in future years where teams from yacht clubs throughout the Caribbean, United States and Europe will be invited to race.

Starting in 2021, the STYC Invitational Regatta will move to a permanent date of the third week in May — next year it's May 14-16. This time coincides with the wrap-up of the Caribbean race season and creates an extension to the territory's tourism season.

PROTESTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

rules that ban such protests. Those rules remain in place today, though in the wake of global demonstrations against racial injustice, the IOC has recently expressed willingness to rethink them.

"Carlos and Smith risked everything to stand for human rights and what they believed in, and they continue to inspire generation after generation to do the same," the letter said.

"It is time for the Olympic and Paralympic movement to honor their bravery rather than denounce their actions."

Carlos joined the leadership of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee's athlete advisory council in sending the open letter to the International Olympic and Paralympic committees on Saturday.

The letter said the AAC had discussed the issue with the IOC's athlete

commission.

This month, with protests stemming from the killing of George Floyd spreading across the U.S., IOC President Thomas Bach said the athlete group would "explore different ways" opinions could be expressed during the games — while still "respecting the Olympic spirit."

Rob Koehler, the director of the advocacy group Global Athlete, said "sport thinks they can operate under a separate rule of law. But they cannot. Athletes are working together as a collective because sport leaders have become too complacent."

Also this week, the head of the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees came out in favor of a redrafting of Rule 50, arguing the oft-cited IOC notion that sports should be free of politics is not realistic.

"Think of the laudable efforts regarding North and South Korea," Brian

Lewis wrote. "Think of the alignment with the United Nations. Sport cannot, however, pick and choose only the political issues and campaigns it might like."

The USOPC came under a harsh spotlight, in part because it placed hammer thrower Gwen Berry on probation

last summer after she raised her fist on the medals stand at the Pan American Games.

USOPC leaders have said they are trying to expand the conversation about racial injustice, and are open to pressing for changes in Rule 50 — the IOC rule that bars protests on the medals stand and other inside-the-line venues

at the games.

"Athletes will no longer be silenced," the letter said. "We are now at a crossroads. The IOC and IPC cannot continue on the path of punishing or removing athletes who speak up for what they believe in, especially when those beliefs exemplify the goals of Olympism."

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The Virgin Islands Daily News
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Olympics
Carlos, U.S. athletes take stand to end protest rule

John Carlos' letter to IOC calls for an end to its decades-old ban

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
 The Associated Press

DENVER — John Carlos wants to abolish the rule that bans protests at the Olympics.

The renowned Olympic protester has written a letter with an influential group of American athletes, calling on the IOC to put in place a new policy done in collaboration with athletes from across the globe.



John Carlos

Carlos and Tommie Smith raised their fists on the medals stand at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics to protest racial inequality in the United States. They were sent home for violating

See **PROTESTS**, page 27



Daily News photo by DEAN BARNES

Chris Rosenberg and his 15-year-old son Christian Rosenberg, both of St. Thomas, race their IC-24 "Bill T" around the turn marker ahead of "Magic Bus" skippered by St. Thomas' Dave Franzel during the St. Thomas Yacht Club Invitational Regatta, held this weekend in the waters off the East End of St. Thomas. The Rosenbergs went on to claim the IC-24 class title in the inaugural regatta, which drew sailors from the U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, the United States and Sweden.

Sailing | St. Thomas Yacht Club Invitational Regatta

Rosenbergs, Compton top classes at inaugural regatta

By **CAROL BAREUTHER**
 Special to the Daily News

ST. THOMAS — Sailing is social distancing at its best. No one knows this better than St. Thomas' Chris Rosenberg and his 15-year-old son Christian, who won the IC-24 class, and St. Thomas' Marcus Compton, who topped the Hobie Wave class, in this weekend's inaugural St. Thomas Yacht Club Invitational Regatta.



Twenty-one boats — with skippers hailing from all three U.S. Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, the United States and Sweden — completed 10 races total in the two-day regatta, which concluded Sunday.

Conditions, and what gives the U.S. Virgin Islands its reputation as a world-

class sailing destination, gave competitors a little bit of everything, from winds gusting over 20 knots to light puffs at less than half that speed.

These "best of both worlds" of wind were accompanied by COVID-19 protective measures such as socially distanced boats, crew limited to double-handed on IC-24s and single-handed on Hobie



Chris Rosenberg

See **REGATTA**, page 27

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