



# The Virgin Islands DAILY 86 YEARS NEWS

A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Newspaper

ST. CROIX

ST. JOHN

ST. THOMAS

TORTOLA

CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE, CULTURES AND HISTORY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS SINCE 1930

## A place to heal



Volunteers put the finishing touches on a memorial garden on Monday at Luis Hospital on St. Croix. The effort, spearheaded by the nonprofit group Project Promise, included help from Howard University students who traveled to St. Croix to work on the garden in memory of fellow student and St. Croix native Asa O'Neal, 18, who died suddenly last November. **Page 8**

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# Sirenusa villa owners sue Terminix, ServiceMaster

By JONATHAN AUSTIN  
Daily News Staff

Two companies that owned 16 villas in Sirenusa have sued Terminix and its parent company for the methyl bromide poisonings. Plaintiffs claim the pesticide company defrauded them and caused long-term damage with their criminal use of banned pesticides in the villas.

Catalus Capital LLC and VVS LLC filed a civil complaint in U.S. District Court, arguing that the ServiceMaster Co. and its subsidiaries, Terminix International and Terminix International USVI, engaged in corruption and fraud when they applied methyl bromide for pest control in a number of St. John villas owned by the plaintiffs.

The complaint argues the Terminix firms and Superior Angran — two related Puerto Rico companies that sold pesticides — engaged in a criminal enterprise and “a pattern of racketeering activity” that damaged the plaintiffs and were “to the benefit of ServiceMaster.”

“Sirenusa received widespread negative media coverage because of the Sirenusa poisoning,” the complaint says.

Terminix officials have pleaded guilty in connection with the poisoning of a Delaware family crippled by pesticides on St. John in March 2015 while



Sirenusa on St. John, where a Delaware family of four fell ill in March 2015 after a local Terminix exterminator applied methyl bromide in another unit. Two companies with interests in the property are suing Terminix for damages.

vacationing at Villa Capri, Sirenusa. The two companies acknowledged fines could total \$4 million each, plus damages and \$1 million for pesticide training. That's on top of more than \$90 million Terminix and its insurers agreed to pay the Esmond family after three of the four were severely crippled because of the pesticide exposure.

The complaint argues that Terminix and Superior Angran “formed an enterprise” to “illegally obtain and use methyl bromide at Sirenusa and elsewhere in the Virgin Islands multiple times over the course of at least two years.”

It argues that Terminix participated “through the use of misrepresentation, deception, subterfuge and

fraudulent documentation.”

The result, the complaint claims, “culminated in the high-profile poisoning of a Delaware family. This tragic event has become known as ‘the Sirenusa poisoning’ and has been publicized throughout the world.”

The filing says the defendant's criminal scheme caused the owners

of the villas to sustain “significant financial losses.”

According to the court filing, Catalus Capital USVI owned 12 villas within Sirenusa — including all or parts of Buildings A, C, E, G, H, I and J.

VVS owned four villas, including all or part of Buildings D and K.

Officials said the Esmond family was vacationing in Building J when they were poisoned.

“Because of its prime location, privacy and its high-end amenities, Sirenusa was highly regarded and became a very popular destination for tourists worldwide,” the complaint says.

However, the March 18, 2015, poisoning by the pest control company and ensuing publicity “depicts Sirenusa as a place that is not safe and is to be avoided by vacationers,” according to the complaint.

The plaintiffs say they suffered significant economic losses, including diminished property values, reservation cancellations and the loss of future long- and short-term leases.

The complaint seeks triple actual damages, compensatory damages, court and attorney costs and punitive damages.

The suit specifies that the plaintiffs did own the units at Sirenusa, but doesn't say whether they still own those properties.

The plaintiffs asked for trial by jury.

## 'Sin tax' bill not yet law as it awaits Mapp's signature

By SUZANNE CARLSON  
Daily News Staff

Bills approved two weeks ago during the legislative session on Feb. 28 have not yet been signed into law and did not reach Gov. Kenneth Mapp's desk until Friday.

Government House spokesman Sam Topp said Mapp received the bills Friday and by law has 10 days, excluding Sundays, in which to sign them into law.

The deadline for Mapp to sign the bills or veto them is March 22, and if he does not take action on the bills they automatically become law.



Kenneth Mapp

Bills approved by the Legislature on Feb. 28 include Bill No. 32-0005, the so-called “sin tax” legislation; 32-0007, which sets a minimum tax on real property; 32-0018, which grants amnesty to delinquent taxpayers; 32-0032, which grants a zoning variance for the zipline landing site on St. Croix; and 32-0033, granting zoning permission to establish a dog daycare facility.

Senators in the majority caucus repeatedly emphasized the need to see the controversial so-called “sin tax” bill and the property tax bill passed quickly to help stave off impending financial collapse.

Senate President Myron Jackson's spokesman Toya Malone said Tuesday he didn't know the status of the bills.

Mapp has been traveling out of the territory and left Sunday for the annual Seatrade Cruise Global exhibition and conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Topp said Mapp is scheduled to return to the territory Tuesday evening, and said he didn't

know which senators attended the conference.

The Legislature's executive director, Iver Stridiron, did not respond to calls for comment.

Senators had a town hall meeting on March 2 on St. Croix after passing Bill No. 32-0005, which would increase taxes on alcohol, tobacco and carbonated beverages and add a fee on timeshares.

Sen. Novelle Francis Jr. said constituents who spoke at the meeting were displeased that senators did not have such a meeting prior to approving the tax to seek additional input from the public.

Video from that meeting has not been made publicly available online, and the Legislature's website has not added video of the Senate's activities since the legislative session on Feb. 28.

Senate Majority Leader Neville James' Communications Director Sydney Paul has said additional town hall meetings are being planned on St. Thomas and St. John.

Dates for those meetings have not yet been scheduled.

— Contact Suzanne Carlson at 340-714-9122 or email [scarlson@dailynews.vi](mailto:scarlson@dailynews.vi)

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# Board OKs special election ballot, with photos

By BRIAN O'CONNOR  
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Michael Jackson and Magic Johnson appeared on a St. Thomas ballot Tuesday.

However, the King of Pop and the Lakers legend won't be running in the April 8 special election, but their photos did appear on mock-up ballots circulated at a meeting of the St. Thomas-St. John District Elections Board on Tuesday afternoon.

Board members Arturo Watlington Jr., Lydia Hendricks, Alecia Wells and Ivy Moses eventually voted 4-0 to set a deadline of 3 p.m. today for the candidates on the April 8 ballot to submit high-resolution 2-inch by 2-inch photos.

Because of the small number of candidates to appear on the special election ballot, the ballots will cost approximately the same amount as non-photographic ballots, which are roughly 48 cents each for about 8,000 ballots, according to Elections Board officials.

Preparations for the special election continue, despite a letter from Francis Jackson Jr., the lawyer for Kevin Rodriguez.

Rodriguez has appealed a U.S. District Court ruling, which did not overturn a V.I. Supreme Court ruling barring him from taking office, to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Rodriguez has filed a motion for a court order preventing the April 8 election while the appeal process continues.

Jackson's letter asked the board not to approve the printing of ballots until the District Court issues a ruling on whether to stay the election.

"In view of his motion to stay,



Daily News photo by BRIAN O'CONNOR  
St. Thomas-St. John Board of Elections members on Tuesday weigh possible schedules for the April 8 special election. The board ultimately voted twice to include photos on the ballot and print 8,000 ballots.

## Polling places

The following is a list of proposed polling places for the April 8 special election:

- Julius Sprauve School, Cruz Bay, St. John
- Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School, Estate Bovoni, St. Thomas
- Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library, Estate Tutu, St. Thomas
- Charlotte Amalie High School, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas
- Addelita Cancryn Junior High School, Altona, St. Thomas
- Gladys A. Abrahm Elementary School, Lindbergh Bay, St. Thomas

which requests an emergency court ruling before those ballots are printed, Rodriguez would respectfully request that the board postpone any decision on the printing of the special election ballots, pending a decision of the District Court," Jackson wrote.

A lawsuit challenging Rodriguez's residency has cost the Elections Board about \$12,000 in legal fees for independent counsel, according to officials.

Board Chairman Arturo Watlington Jr. said between two affirmation votes taken Tuesday — another 4-0

vote approved the 8,000 number, based on an estimated 30 percent turnout for the election — the process will move ahead.

"We consider that approving the ballot," he said.

Board members took no vote on the question of whether early voting would be allowed for the special election and said the only person who could decide was Elections Supervisor Caroline Fawkes.

Board members asked her to reconsider the decision to forego early voting.

Fawkes has said that because the Elections System cannot adhere to territorial law, which she and Watlington both testified before the Legislature is too strict, a truncated early voting schedule will not

be allowed.

"I don't believe, legally, the board can force you to do something that is contrary to the law," Watlington said.

The early voting provisions of V.I. Code Title 18, Chapter 5, Section 94a mandate that "early voting begins on the 14th day before an election and ends on the 3rd day before the election and must be provided for no less than 8 hours and no more than 12 hours per day at each site during applicable period."

Legislators wanted to avoid changes to the law within six months of an election, Fawkes said.

That was no excuse, Watlington said.

"Ms. Fawkes, stop making excuses for these people," he said, referring to the senators. "The fact that they created three laws within the last time, you don't think those are changes in elections laws? They said they created a new single board. They said they created — re-established the St. Thomas-St. John board of elections. Those are changes to the election law. Title 18, Title 18, Title 18. So please don't make excuses for them. They failed what they were supposed to do."

The board also voted 3-1 against using the Calabash Boom polling location for St. John voters, on a motion from Moses to keep it open.

The closure would cause undue hardship for St. John voters, Moses said.

"I am 150 percent against the closing of any sites on St. John," she said.

— Contact Brian O'Connor at 340-714-9130 or email [boconnor@dailynews.vi](mailto:boconnor@dailynews.vi).

# WAPA lawsuit calls for end to PSC rate conditions

By BRIAN O'CONNOR  
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — The V.I. Water and Power Authority is asking a V.I. Superior Court judge to curb the Public Services Commission's authority.

In a complaint filed before Superior Court Judge Kathleen Mackay on Feb. 28, the utility asked the court to invalidate conditions placed on it by the Public Services Commission in an effort to keep electric rates temporarily increased under the terms of an interim rate agreement.

The staffs of WAPA and the PSC reached an accord in December, clearing the way for Public Services Commission members to vote in favor of the interim rate agreement on

**Public Services Commission members have said that the conditions were part of the commission's statutory mandate to ensure that rate increases are "just and reasonable." The Public Services Commission cannot approve rates without some kind of approval of actions that may cause rates to rise, regulatory board members have said.**

Jan. 12. The agreement included six conditions that WAPA had to meet for the rates to be used, and on Jan. 13, the utility filed a petition for reconsideration of those conditions.

Public Services Commission members have said that the condi-

tions were part of the commission's statutory mandate to ensure that rate increases are "just and reasonable." The Public Services Commission cannot approve rates without some kind of approval of actions that may cause rates to rise, regulatory board

members have said.

On Jan. 26, in a response to WAPA's petition for reconsideration, the Public Services Commission voted to rescind the rate increase they approved on Jan. 12. The utility implemented rate increases anyway, and filed the court case in a bid to keep the increased rates in place.

WAPA's court filing, written by attorney Sam Hall Jr., accuses the Public Services Commission of regulating while members were angry, and for violating open meetings requirements for the Jan. 26 meeting as a result.

"The filing by WAPA of its Jan. 13 petition for reconsideration in this docket was not intended to anger, shock, disrespect, or in any way upset members of the commission," he wrote.

The utility is asking Mackay to declare that the commission exceeded its authority to set rates by putting the conditions into effect, that the conditions be invalidated and that the appeal of the commission's decision be expedited, Hall wrote.

The utility also asks the court "to determine that the PSC acted arbitrarily, capriciously and in a fit of pique in denying WAPA's petition for reconsideration of the December 15th decision," he wrote.

The court should also "continue WAPA's stance of PSC reversal of the base rate increases It granted pending a final ruling by the court," Hall wrote.

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# Territory reports three new positive cases of Zika virus

By JONATHAN AUSTIN  
Daily News Staff

The VI. Health Department this week reported three new confirmed cases of Zika virus, and three presumed positives among pregnant women.

The total confirmations raise the number of positive Zika cases in the territory to 995 since January 2016, out of a reported 2,067 symptomatic cases.

Of the new Zika cases, one was on St. Thomas and two were on St. Croix.

Overall, the Health Department reports 188 pregnant women — out of 1,634 who were tested — have been confirmed to have had Zika.

Of the total number of Zika cases in the territory, 654 have been reported among women, while 333 have been among men.

The Health Department has reported 671 confirmed cases of Zika on St. Thomas; 241 confirmed cases on St. Croix; and 83 confirmed cases on St. John.

The Zika virus can cause severe



Photo by UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

A vacuum tube holds a blood-fed strain of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito — the strain responsible for the spread of Zika — in place under a microscope in a lab at the university, in Madison, Wis. There have been 995 positive Zika cases in the U.S. Virgin Islands since January 2016, including three new confirmed cases reported this week.

birth defects in unborn babies, severe complications in postnatal infants, temporary paralysis and possibly death in adults and has been found to be transmitted sexually. To prevent Zika and other mosquito-borne illnesses

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests:

- Use insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-methane-diol products. If using sunscreen and insect repellent, apply the sunscreen first and then the repellent. Do not spray insect repellent on the skin under your clothing.
- Treat clothing with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated clothing.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

- Use air conditioning or window/door screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Sleep under a mosquito net.
- Empty standing water from containers, such as flowerpots or buckets inside and outside the home.
- If infected, take precautions to repel mosquitoes to prevent the disease from further spreading through bites.

For local information about the Zika virus or to receive any of the VI. Health Department's free services, call the Emergency Operations Center at 340-712-6205.

For more general information about the Zika virus, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 1-800-232-4636 or visit [CDC.org/zika](http://CDC.org/zika).

# Pirate-themed museum to open in Havensight

By BRIAN O'CONNOR  
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — The organizers of a new pirate-themed museum located in the Havensight Mall hope locals will get hands-on with some booty later this month.

Pirates Treasure: A Shipwreck Museum and Store will begin with a soft opening at a renovated 7,200-square-foot museum designed to showcase the more legally dubious elements of the territory's maritime past.

The museum is set for a soft opening on March 24, with a preview and the retail center open, said Scott Bunn, the museum's general manager.

A ceremonial opening is planned for March 28 at 11 a.m., and the museum is expected to be fully open by mid-April, Bunn said. Bunn credited the museum's development to local residents Dale Schmidt and Mike Barton. Barton is Odyssey Marine's chief financial officer and served as the company's interim CEO. He and Schmidt operate Prosperitas Investment Management on St. Thomas.

The privately operated museum is intended to furnish a hands-on connection between the salty past and the technological future, Bunn said. For example, the museum includes a model of a deep-submersible robotic vehicle used by Odyssey Marine, the company that furnished many of the artifacts in museum.

"It's certainly going to be a great interactive experience," he said.

Bunn cited Jean Hamlin as the most notorious local pirate, though the museum might be more about tone than tome.

"There's a rich history of piracy in the Caribbean," he said.

Hamlin exploited a relationship with the Danish governor, Adolph Esmitt, to avoid cap-

**The privately operated museum is intended to furnish a hands-on connection between the salty past and the technological future, general manager Scott Bunn said.**

ture by the British authorities in the 1680s, and his ship, *Le Trompeuse* was burned by the British in the Charlotte Amalie harbor, shortly after Danish troops opened fire on a British naval vessel that had come to St. Thomas to capture him. Hamlin escaped to Brazil, allegedly with the help of Esmitt.

Other local connections between pirates and the territory are somewhat more historically dubious. Blackbeard's Castle, for example, is actually the fancifully named site of a former gun emplacement constructed by Danish authorities to protect the low-lying Fort Christian from naval attacks. Drake's Seat is named more for a legend than for any verifiable connection to Sir Francis Drake. William Kidd sailed into St. Thomas to abandon five deserters and a sick man in 1699. Officials have not yet settled on an admission fee, but hope that the museum will build on its central location, Bunn said. They are hoping to become a major attraction, Bunn said.

"I think this is going to be the first major museum that will open in the territory," he said.

— Contact Brian O'Connor at 340-714-9130 or email [boconnor@dailynews.vi](mailto:boconnor@dailynews.vi).

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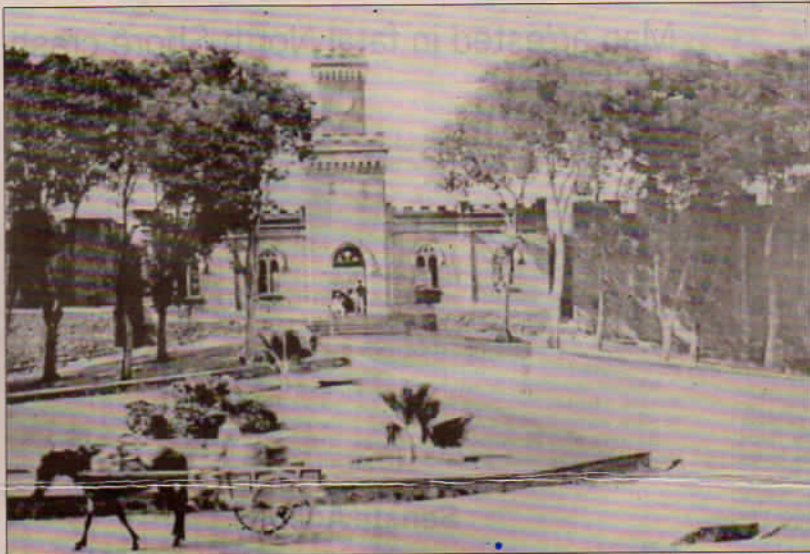
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A horse and cart pass by Fort Christian in this postcard from St. Thomas, Danish West Indies. A fete on March 24 to celebrate the centennial of the transfer of the islands to the United States will not involve tours of the refurbished fort, which won't open to the public until March 29, according to a V.I. Transfer Centennial Commission spokesman.

## Fete won't include fort tours

By JONATHAN AUSTIN  
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Despite scheduling events on March 24 to celebrate the “reopening” of Fort Christian in Charlotte Amalie, the public likely will not be able to enter the fort until March 29.

“We’re saluting the reopening of Fort Christian,” said James O’Byryan Jr., assistant executive director of the V.I. Transfer Centennial Commission. “It’s going to be officially reopened March 29.”

O’Byryan said workers still are finishing work to make the fort accessible.

“They’re doing cleaning. I don’t think they are going to be finished” in time for the public to enter the gates of the historic Danish fort on March 24, he said.

The Centennial Commission released a schedule on Monday announcing a “Fort Fete” for March 24 that includes music, a boat parade, a performance by the Rising Stars Steel

**If officials manage to meet the March 29 opening date, the fort will have been closed to the public for about 11 years, nine months and 30 days.**

Band and a ceremony in Emancipation Garden.

Department of Planning and Natural Resources spokesman Jamal Nielsen previously has said the fort will be dedicated and reopened at 10 a.m. on March 29.

If officials manage to meet the March 29 opening date, the fort will have been closed to the public for about 11 years, nine months and 30 days. The fort last was open to the visiting public in May 2005, when it was shuttered for

renovations that were expected to last about a year.

Cost estimates for renovations given at the time of the closing were set at \$3.2 million, though the most recent cost estimate is about \$6.8 million. Officials have said an additional \$1.5 million could be needed for anticipated future renovations.

The original fort was constructed sometime between 1672 and 1680, under the administration of Danish West Indies Gov. Jorgen Iversen.

Because the fort resides on territory near sea level, additional fortifications were constructed on elevated hills overlooking the harbor, according to the National Park Service.

The fort first was renovated in 1874 and 1875 to destroy a central tower, replace the fort’s northern wall and add a Gothic-revival-style clock tower.

— Contact Jonathan Austin at 340-714-9104 or email [jaustin@dailynews.vi](mailto:jaustin@dailynews.vi).

### Cruise Ships

#### Today, March 15

Carnival Splendor (3,006)	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Havensight
Disney Fantasy (4,000)	6:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.	Havensight
Eurodam (2,104)	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Havensight
Celebrity Silhouette (2,886)	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Crown Bay
Allure of the Seas (6,296)	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Crown Bay

#### Thursday, March 16

No ships

#### Friday, March 17

Royal Princess (3,600)	7 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Havensight
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**Police Reports**

The police blotter is the VI. Territorial Emergency Management Agency's list of calls to 911 Emergency operators and the time they were reported.

**St. Croix**

**Charged: Assault and battery**

James Bowers, 50, of Decatur, Ga., was arrested Monday and charged with simple assault and battery-domestic violence. Police said he punched a woman in the face and arm, causing injuries.

No bail was set per the domestic violence statute.

**Charged: Assault**

Shawn Williams, 51, of no fixed address was arrested at 8:13 a.m. Tuesday and charged with third-degree assault. Police said he assaulted a man with a stone and his backpack. His bail was set at \$25,000.

Incidents in the police blotter included:  
**Animal** — 4 p.m. Tuesday, Mutual Homes housing community.

**Assault** — 8:13 a.m. Tuesday, Company Street, Christiansted; 11:08 a.m. Tuesday, Diamond.

**Outside fire** — 8:43 a.m. Tuesday, William's Delight.

**St. Thomas**

**Charged: Driving under the influence**

Lawrence Dowe, 75, of Hospital Ground, was arrested at 9:56 p.m. Monday and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. Bail was set at \$500.

**Charged: Burglary, weapon possession**

Dwight Bruney, 37, of Hidden Valley, was arrested at 9 a.m. Tuesday and charged with first-degree burglary, possession of a dangerous weapon, unlawful entry, and disturbance of the peace-domestic violence. No bail was set per the domestic violence statute.

Incidents in the police blotter included:  
**Assault** — 11:57 a.m. Tuesday, Zone C.  
**Burglary** — 7:45 a.m. Tuesday, Bovoni.  
**Fraud** — 10:58 a.m. Tuesday, Zone A.  
**Larceny** — 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Zone A.  
**Outside fire** — 7:18 a.m. Tuesday, Bovoni.  
**Robbery** — 6:42 p.m. Tuesday, Estate Thomas.  
**Vehicle fire** — 1:46 p.m. Tuesday, Donkey Hill.  
**Vehicle tampering** — 9:29 a.m. Tuesday, Bolongo.  
**Weapon discharge** — 4 p.m. Tuesday, Zone C.

**Man arrested in fatal North Shore crash**

By JOY BLACKBURN  
Senior/Investigative Reporter

Robert Jones, 68, was killed in a car crash along St. Croix's remote North Shore Road on Sunday evening.

A longtime St. Croix resident who was a freelance photographer for The Daily News, Jones had been a passenger in a vehicle driven by Christopher Love, 69.

Love was arrested after the crash and charged with driving under the influence.

According to a statement police released, Love was driving from north to south along North Shore Road when he lost control of the vehicle and it overturned as it went over an embankment.

Jones was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene, police said. The crash, in the area of Gentle Winds, was reported about 7:55 p.m. Sunday.

The police arrest log indicates that Love was charged with driving under the influence and with



Robert Jones

negligent driving. It was not clear on Monday whether he might face additional charges in connection with Jones' death.

Jones — known for his love of sailing, photography, and his daughter Sydney — had been a freelance photographer for The Daily News for years.

"Rob was an excellent photojournalist and I could depend on him to get the pictures that told the story," said Daily News Executive Editor Gerry Yandel.

"Rob also was fearless when it came to taking photographs, and he had a particular talent for being in the right place at the right time for breaking news stories. His talents will be missed, and on behalf of The Daily News, I would like to send my condolences to his friends and family," Yandel said.

**Senate Agenda**

**Today**  
No meetings.

**Thursday**

The Health, Hospitals and Human Services Committee will meet at 10 a.m. in the Lawaetz

Conference Room on St. Croix to get an update on the Medical Assistance Program, federal grants and lease agreements.

**Friday**

No meetings.

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Programs and Benefits Subject to Change

**Deaths**

**Elvis Lerone Callwood**

We announce the passing of Elvis Lerone Callwood, who passed away on March 4, 2017.

A viewing will be held Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Turnbull's Funeral Home from 10 to 11 a.m. Services will be held Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Turnbull's Funeral Home at 11 a.m.

He is survived by his brother, Kenrick Callwood; sisters, Janice Donovan, Lorna, Cynthia, Livia and Candia Callwood; nephews, Floyd Christian, Kevin Bastian, Joseph David, Deron and Darren Donovan, Troy, Kenrick Jr., Kevon, Kévon and Keevon Callwood, Devon Bell, Donnelly Scatliffe, DeShaun and J'Waan Todman; nieces, Kishima, Euricee, Amy, Jeanetta and Shavon Callwood; great-nephews, Thedron Roberts, Kevin Bastian Jr., Jovan and Davian Joseph, Devante Seide-Donovan (godson), Javian and Carter Todman and Troy Callwood Jr.; great-nieces, Thedra Roberts, Kiara Bastian, Jessica, Tamara and Tamiia Callwood, Jaden, Kayla and Keri Bella Todman, Sydney and Jordan, and Alyssa Donovan; great-great-niece, A'nyiah Symone Alexander; brother-in-law, Dennis Donovan Sr.; step-nephews, Dennis Donovan Jr. and Bryon Toombs; uncles, Kenneth Callwood and Sandford Donovan; godmother, Dominga Francis; special friend, Dexter Freeman, Malvin ("Macadoo") Dawson, Senator Dwayne DeGraffe, Elbert Proctor, Joel Hyman, and Dave ("Weatherman"); and special cousin, Lennard Joseph.



Elvis Lerone Callwood

Hospital on Dec. 27, 2016.

Benko made St. Thomas his home for more than 40 years, eventually retiring from the Addelita Cancryn Junior High School where he was well-known and respected as a math and English teacher.

His lifelong dream was to live on a sailboat, but unfortunately that never came to pass.

He is survived by his sister, Marge Majors; nephews, John E. Smith and Michael Benko; and sister-in-law, Katie Smith.

Mr. Benko was interred at Puerto Rico National Cemetery in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, as he wished. He was a disabled Navy veteran and Purple Heart recipient.

Mr. B will be dearly missed. We wish to thank the doctors at Schneider Hospital for their care, patience, and kindness. We also wish to thank Turnbull's Funeral Home and Crematory for their outstanding service.



Edward Benko

**Irma A. Hansen**

Irma A. Hansen, better known as Auntie, of St. Thomas died on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at her residence. She was 100 years old.

Irma is survived by her nephew, Mario Penn-Duncan; nieces, Ima, Ina, Ena Duncan; great-nephews, Gregory Duncan, Kyle Daniel, Mitchell Duncan, Thomas Olive I, Calvin Carty, Oriel Thompson; great-nieces, Lavern Olive, Lisa White-Carty, Monique Hobson, Ke-ya Daniel, Marissa A. Duncan, Shericia Hodge, Gloria Thompson;



Irma A. Hansen

**Edward Benko**

We are saddened to announce the passing of Mr. Edward Benko, who died at the age of 86 at Schneider

great-great-nieces, Tamra Olive, Tara Olive, Adia Edwards, Denise Duncan-Kelly, Monisha Wheeler, Macailya Duncan, Nyella Duncan, Jade Rollins, Gwendolyn Tremmell (N.Y.) and many other great-great-nephews and nieces; special cousins, Rita and Marilyn Petersen; special godson, Sam Snyder; special friends, Aida Fuentes, Hilda Daniel.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the viewing today from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Celestial Chapel of Hurley Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday, March 16, 2017, at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral at 9:30 a.m. Interment is at Western Cemetery No. 1.

Arrangements are under the care of Hurley Funeral Home and Cremation Center of St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix and Tortola. For directions and online condolences, please visit us at [www.hurleydavisfuneralhome.com](http://www.hurleydavisfuneralhome.com).

**Ellenore Mactavious**

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral service for Ellenore Mactavious, also known as Ellie, who died Feb. 26, 2017.

The viewing is Saturday, March 18 from 9 to 10 a.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, with the service at 10 a.m. at the same location. The interment is at Western Cemetery No. 2.

She is survived by her children, Edecia Richards, Leroy Francis & Doreen Graham; her grandchildren, Mykah (Nikky) and Michael Wynter, Meshach and Miché Richards, Sheraine, Zahquan and Jo'Neise Francis, Joneé Doss, Tyrone Giff, Shaïne and Andrea Graham, Deja Graham; great-grandchildren, Michael Wynter II, Mason Wynter, Yanta and Yafira Meyers, King Webster, Jamard and Aiyana Graham; sons-in-law, Mervin Richards, James Graham; daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Julie Francis; sisters, Erline Keitt, Joycelyn Neil, Coreen Daniel, Caroline Riviere,

Mary, Janet, Lynette and Maureen Meyers, Loris Penn, Uris Frett, Elaine, Adeline and Jacklyn MacTavious; sister-in-law, Cynthia MacTavious; brothers, Kenneth and Frank Meyers, Harris, Clarence and Allen MacTavious; brothers-in-law, Roy Frett, Roy Penn, Gerald Neil Sr., Henry Harris, Olanzo Daniel, Phillip Riviere, aunts, Ione Jennings, Millicent Wenner, Irene Fraser and Jeanette Thomas; great-aunt, Delmina Ruth Barry; uncle, Dennis MacTavious; 29 nieces, 11 great-nieces, 22 nephews, 26 great-nephews; godchildren, Myrna Lennard-Penn, Ajahni Phillips; and other relatives, friends and acquaintances too numerous to mention.



Ellenore Mactavious

**Richard Skeffington**

The Celebration of Life for Richard "Skeff" Skeffington will be held Saturday, March 18.

His many friends are welcome to join us, his family at the St. Thomas Yacht Club between 4 and 6 p.m. Please bring photographs and stories if you wish.



Richard Skeffington

He leaves us very much loved and missed.

Anybody wishing to make a donation should make it to The Salvation Army St. Thomas Corps, P.O. Box 74, St. Thomas, USVI, 00804. Please put Skeff's name in the memo.

**Ramona V. Harley**

Ramona V. "Ms. Mona" Harley, 93, of St. Thomas, died Sunday, March 5, 2017, at her residence.

Ramona is survived by her children, Ena Spencer, Era Joseph, Gerda Rhymer, Bernard Harley, Christian Harley, Nathaniel Spencer, Rosie Harley and Randolph Spencer. She is also survived by 15 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren too numerous to mention.

Relatives and friends are respectively invited to attend a viewing at Nisky Moravian on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at 9 a.m., followed by the service at 10 a.m. Interment is at Nisky Moravian Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care of Hurley Funeral Home and Cremation Center of St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix and Tortola. For directions and online condolences, please visit us at [www.hurleydavisfuneralhome.com](http://www.hurleydavisfuneralhome.com).



Ramona V. Harley

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**Vehicles Tagged and Collected on St. Croix by the Abandoned Vehicle Task Force**

The Junk and Abandoned Vehicle Taskforce (AVT), is a multiagency partnership, assembled to rid the island of abandoned vehicles. All vehicle towed will be impounded, to which owners have fifteen (15) days, after notice, via the Daily News Publication to reclaim their vehicles. Fines vary from \$250-\$1,000 to retrieve vehicles. Confiscated vehicle listings will be published on Monday of each week. For further information please contact Stephanie Williams, St. Croix Administrator's Office at (340) 773-1404.

The following cars are scheduled for disposal:

REGISTERED OWNER	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	YEAR	PLATE #
SYLVIA EDWARDS	CHEVY	AVEO	BLUE	2005	CCR-116
TREVOR WILLIAMS	PONTIAC	GRAND AM	WHITE	1997	CEO-802
EDWIN RAMIREZ	FORD	EXPLORER	BLACK	1998	CCT-963
ZULMA MEDINA	CHEVY	CAVALIER	GOLD	2000	CCO-245
JOSE BERRIOS	CHEVY	VENTURE	GREEN	2003	CDP-995
JOSE RODRIGUEZ	MAZDA	MPV	BEIGE	1995	CEH-163
JOSEPH ZELINKO	FORD	EXPLORER	BROWN	1991	CEL-946
VERNON LAFRANQUE	DODGE	RAM	WHITE	1985	CCJ-990
RONEEL BALROOP	OLDSMOBILE	INTRIGUE	BLACK	1989	CCS-944
MELBOURNE GUNN	PONTIAC	GRAND AM	GREEN	2002	CEG-670
NOEL AGARD	MITSUBISHI	MIRAGE	GREEN	1996	CCE-892
MARGARITA HERRERA	CHEVY	CAVALIER	BROWN	1999	CEC-684
ANDRE SWANSTON	CHEVY	BLAZER	GREEN	2000	CDK-821
AMADOR DELERME	DODGE	VAN	MULTI-COLORED	2001	TAXI-0147
RODGER & ANITA ROBERTS	SATURN	SL-1	BROWN	1991	CAL-107



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## Hospital memorial garden to help grieving parents heal

By SUZANNE CARLSON  
Daily News Staff

A memorial garden at Luis Hospital first envisioned in 2015 came to fruition Monday with the help of local volunteers, visiting college students, and participants in Project Promise.

"It was amazing yesterday, the camaraderie, just everybody coming together for this common purpose, it was beautiful," said Resa O'Reilly, founder and president of the nonprofit group Project Promise.

The idea for a memory garden was the vision of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse manager Faye John-Baptiste and was announced in October 2015 during the hospital's annual "Remembering Our Babies" ceremony for National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, according to a press release from hospital spokeswoman Erica Parsons.

A lack of resources prevented the project's completion until O'Reilly went looking for a community service project for the seven sixth-grade students in the Project Promise's Caterpillar Project, which provides at-risk youth on St. Croix with a support system from fifth grade through high school graduation.

The group's theme for this month was "mental health," and O'Reilly said as soon as she learned about the memorial garden idea she knew the group could help out.

A student from Howard University reached out to O'Reilly and explained he and several others were looking to partner with a St. Croix group to do a



Volunteers gather in the new memorial garden at Luis Hospital on St. Croix. The nonprofit group Project Promise led the effort, helped by local volunteers and students from Howard University, who traveled to the island to help with the garden in memory of St. Croix native and classmate Asa O'Neal, 18, a freshman at the school who died suddenly last November.

project in memory of 18-year-old St. Croix native Asa O'Neal, who was a freshman at Howard University when he died suddenly last November.

The group of students traveled to St. Croix for a week where they joined O'Reilly's students and other local volunteers to help build the garden.

"It was absolutely an amazing idea

to partner with them to do a project that was in memory of Asa," O'Reilly said. "The fact that these young men and young women are coming down here to celebrate his life was truly amazing. I was so touched by that."

Parsons said in a press release that O'Neal's mother invited his classmates to visit St. Croix on spring break.

"We thought it was a great idea because as his friends, we can give back to this community, and at the same time honor Asa's memory," Howard University student and Crucian Jordan Lake said in a press release.

O'Reilly said she reached out to the hospital to see whether they needed volunteers for a project and jumped

at the chance to bring the garden to life. She contacted local businesses to donate supplies, and St. Croix Trading provided lumber, Gallows Bay Hardware gave wood stain and painting supplies, O'Reilly Plumbing and Construction provided assistance and Caravelle Casino donated \$500 and sent employees to help construct the garden Monday.

The garden includes a pergola and bench constructed by local carpenter Michael Augustin, stepping stones, a water fountain and flowers.

"We appreciate that you chose to support JFL, this means so much to us to have a sacred place for the parents who experience loss, to reflect, and grieve in a peaceful space," the hospital's acting CEO, Richard Evangelista, said in a press release.

"The garden is absolutely gorgeous and I am almost at a loss for words with the outpouring of love we have experienced today," John-Baptiste said of the project she'd long dreamed of. "I can't thank Ms. Resa O'Reilly, Project Promise and the other groups enough who came together to make this project possible."

For more information on Project Promise, including how to donate, visit [www.ProjectPromiseVI.com](http://www.ProjectPromiseVI.com); email [info@projectpromisevi.com](mailto:info@projectpromisevi.com); or call O'Reilly at **340-513-0446**. Individual annual donation memberships are available for \$50 and donors receive discounts to a number of local businesses.

— Contact Suzanne Carlson at 340-714-9122 or email [scarlson@dailynews.vi](mailto:scarlson@dailynews.vi).

## Corrections officer sentenced for smuggling cell phone into prison

Daily News Staff

A former Corrections officer was sentenced to a year-and-a-half in prison for bringing a cell phone into prison.

Chief District Judge Wilma Lewis on Monday sentenced Abdul Robinson, 39, of St. Croix, to six months in prison for providing contraband in prison and

one year in prison for the territorial offense of conflict of interest.

Lewis ordered Robinson to serve the one-year sentence after the six-month sentence and also ordered him to serve one year of supervised release and pay a fine of \$500 and a special assessment of \$25.

On Sept. 20, Robinson plead-

ed guilty to providing contraband in prison and conflict of interest.

According to documents filed in court, on April 5, 2013, Robinson received a cell phone along with \$100 from an undercover agent and agreed to deliver the telephone to an inmate at Golden Grove Adult Correctional Facility.

Robinson delivered the telephone inside the prison.

At the time of the event, Robinson was employed as a Corrections officer at Golden Grove.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI, and it was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alphonso Andrews, Jr.

## Virgin Gorda Easter Parade applications due Thursday

Thursday is the deadline for submitting applications for the Grand Parade on Virgin Gorda, according to a statement issued Tuesday by the BVI government.

Application forms can be collected at Rosy's Supermarket on Virgin Gorda or Speedy's Office on Tortola. Those interested in participating also can email the committee at [vgasterfestival@gmail.com](mailto:vgasterfestival@gmail.com). For more information, call **284-542-2915** or **284-496-9333**.



# Cuba aims to enliven Soviet-era style news shows

Channel's producers seek programming that is less dogmatic

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN  
The Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The Cuban government is trying to reboot its Soviet-era style news programming with a high-definition current affairs channel staffed by young journalists.

The Caribe channel is starting slowly, with 3½ hours of offerings a night on a new channel available to a few hundred thousand viewers who have bought high-definition decoder boxes.

Producers say they hope to eventually expand to nearly round-the-clock programming. That's a niche currently occupied only by Telesur, a regional news channel, financed by leftist Latin American governments.

Caribe channel producers say their programming premiering Tuesday night will be less dogmatic and more openly critical than traditional Cuban state television, whose reporting rarely goes beyond repeating communiques from government ministries.



A man sits at a desk beside a poster of Cuba's late Fidel Castro at the Cuban State Television and Radio headquarters in Havana on Tuesday. Producers at the station say they hope to eventually expand to nearly round-the-clock programming.

Cuban state media are facing increasing competition from more widely available online sources as internet access expands. "Now we're going to be able to reflect the

Like many of the country's state outlets, Caribe journalists will include many recent graduates eager to modernize official media that have become irrelevant to most young Cubans.

needs of the people in the news," said Karina del Valle, a 24-year-old presenter on a Caribe current-affairs show.

Like many of the country's state outlets, Caribe journalists will include many recent graduates eager to modernize official media that have become irrelevant to most young Cubans.

But content remains almost entirely under the control of Communist Party ideological monitors and a crippling government cash shortage means the channel has few resources.

"Our great challenge is really making this a reality," said Ovidio Cabrera Garcia, director-general of Cuban television. "We don't want to create great expectations."

# Venezuelan government's businesses fail to turn profits

By JIM WYSS  
Miami Herald

BOGOTA, Colombia — Bicycles, coffee, medicine, cellphones, aerospace components, petroleum, milk, hotels. Venezuela's state-run companies are producing a dizzying array of products and services, as the socialist administration has morphed into a sprawling conglomerate that would be the envy of any capitalist.

The nonprofit Transparency International says it has identified at least 511 companies that are either wholly or majority owned by the government of Venezuela — and 70 percent of them are losing money, potentially adding to Venezuela's economic meltdown.

The sheer number of companies under state control seems to put Venezuela in a class of its own, the group said. Brazil, which has about six times the population of Venezuela,

has 130 state-run companies and Argentina, a third larger than Venezuela, has 52.

"We started this study because nobody really knows how many companies the state is running," said Mercedes De Freitas, the director of the Venezuelan branch of Transparency International. "The state has invaded every sector imaginable."

Transparency International, a Berlin-based anti-corruption organization with chapters in more than 100 countries, will be producing its full report in April with the hopes of developing a better picture of the government's role amid a crushing economic crisis.

Even so, De Freitas said the initial findings paint a picture of an oversized state hemorrhaging money — at a time when the country desperately needs it. The organization found that 70 percent of the 511 companies have produced losses in 2016 total-



People wait to re-register their membership with the opposition political party Voluntad Popular, in Caracas, Venezuela, on Saturday.

ing 1.29 trillion bolivares — or about \$129 billion. That amount is 14 percent higher than what the government

Those losses come as payrolls at the ventures appear to be soaring. In the early 2000s, for example, the state-run oil company PDVSA, the crown jewel of Venezuela's state-run enterprises, had about 20,000 employees. Now it's thought to have 120,000 workers, even as oil revenue and output have fallen, De Freitas said.

"What does this mean?" she asked. "It means that the company has turned into a burden on society. Many jobs have been created that are simply not sustainable."

The government is likely to dismiss the findings. Transparency International, which receives U.S. and European funding, is often accused by the administration of being an opposition mouthpiece. And its annual "Corruption Perception Index," where Venezuela ranks 167 out of 170 countries, is a continual source of tension.



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# Tillerson may face deposition about alias emails

## New York looks into Exxon's statements about climate change

By ERIK LARSON  
Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — New York will seek to question top Exxon Mobil Corp. executives under oath as part of a probe into the accuracy of the company's statements about climate change after discovering an email alias used by former Chief Executive Officer Rex Tillerson.



Eric Schneiderman

Tillerson, now U.S. secretary of state, used the name Wayne Tracker for his secondary internal email account at Exxon, created for sending the most sensitive messages to and from company board members, including communications about the risks associated with climate change, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said Monday.

Tillerson, whose middle name is Wayne, employed the account from at least 2008 through 2015, though Exxon says all relevant emails were turned over to the attorney general last year, without deception.

"We made it clear that the Wayne Tracker account belonged to Rex Tillerson," said Exxon spokesman Alan Jeffers. "Some of the emails were signed 'Rex.'" He said Schneiderman's revelation of the account was "political."

Aliases have been employed by top corporate executives for email accounts to throw off hackers, avoid people guessing their digital address



Photo by ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, whose middle name is Wayne, employed an email account for his secondary internal account at Exxon from at least 2008 through 2015, though Exxon says all relevant emails were turned over to the attorney general last year, without deception.

or reduce unwanted messages. Some have used secondary email accounts while others sought to mask their communications.

Bob Lutz, a former vice chairman who left General Motors Co. in 2010, used an alternative email while at the automaker to correspond with outsiders. His "Red Rufus" email account, a reference to his call sign as a Marine pilot, is still his primary email address, Lutz said Tuesday in an email.

John Mackey, CEO of Whole Foods Market Inc., posted anonymous messages in 2007 on Yahoo Inc.'s financial chat boards using the

name "rahodeb." The company changed its code of conduct to forbid executives from posting on message boards or blogs without company approval.

In the Exxon case, Schneiderman requested all relevant documents, including Tillerson's Wayne Tracker emails, as he "determines which witnesses to seek testimony from as the investigation proceeds to its next logical phase," according to the filing. The existence of the secondary email account was discovered by Schneiderman's team while reviewing other Exxon documents.

Exxon is seeking to derail probes by New York and Massachusetts into whether the company misled investors for years about the possible impact of climate change on its business.

New York's top cop said Exxon has been dragging its feet in turning over the documents, especially those from the company's management committee. The probe was well underway before Tillerson departed Exxon on Jan. 1 after being tapped by President Donald Trump to be America's top diplomat.

The discovery of the alias address increases the likelihood that Tillerson will be among those questioned under oath in the case, according to Jon Barooshian, a former assistant district attorney in Massachusetts who's a white-collar criminal defense lawyer with Bowditch & Dewey LLP in Boston.

"If I'm Eric Schneiderman and I know Tillerson failed to disclose the existence of the second email account, I'd want to know what else he failed to disclose," Barooshian said. "He'll want to get him in front of a court reporter under oath."

Justice Barry Ostrager in New York state court in Manhattan, who has been overseeing the case, must decide whether to schedule a hearing on the matter.

"Something like this could easily slip through the cracks and only get discovered later," said Richard Scheff, a former federal prosecutor who isn't involved in the matter, said of Exxon's alleged failure to identify the alias account.

It may be up to the judge to decide if Exxon was forthcoming about Tillerson's alias account.

"Rex Tillerson's use of an alias email address raises all sorts of who, what, when, where, and why questions," said Carrie Cohen, a former federal prosecutor in Manhattan who is a white-collar criminal-defense lawyer.

## 'Mad Men' provides spice for Heinz's ads

NEW YORK (AP) — Heinz is launching ketchup ads inspired by the TV show "Mad Men."

The idea of the campaign, which shows foods like french fries and hamburgers up close without any condiments, is to underscore that they need ketchup to be complete. Kraft Heinz is noting tongue-in-cheek that the "Pass the Heinz" campaign was created by the main character of "Mad Men," ad executive Don Draper.

It is also crediting Draper's fictional ad agency, Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce, as well as its real-life agency.

The Kraft Heinz Co. says the campaign will run as print ads in the New York Post and Variety, and on outdoor billboards in New York City.

"Mad Men," a drama set in the 1960s New York advertising world, ended its seven-season run in 2015.



Photo by HEINZ

Heinz ketchup ads inspired by the TV show "Mad Men" show foods like french fries and hamburgers up close without any condiments to underscore that they need ketchup to be complete.

### Briefs

#### American plans meals for cross-country flights

DALLAS — American Airlines said Tuesday that it plans to offer free meals to everyone in economy on certain cross-country flights starting May 1.

The decision at the world's biggest airline copies Delta Air Lines, which announced a month ago that it would restore free meals in economy on a dozen long-haul U.S. routes this spring.

Airlines dropped free sandwiches and other meals in economy on domestic flights after brutal downturns in 2001 and 2008, and they have been slow to bring back food despite record profits. American Airlines Group Inc. earned \$2.7 billion last year.

American said it will open the kitchen on nonstop flights between New York and both Los Angeles and San Francisco. The airline says that passengers will get a continental breakfast or a sandwich wrap, chips and dessert,

or they can pick a vegetarian meal or a fruit-and-cheese plate. That leaves United as the biggest carrier with no plans yet to bring back free meals on any domestic flights.

#### Airlines could face fines for flights stuck on ground

The Transportation Department said Tuesday that 42 flights in January were stuck on the ground so long that the airlines could face fines. That is the highest number of long ground delays in one month since February 2010, shortly before the rule allowing fines took effect.

Only 76 percent of flights on leading airlines arrived on time in January, down sharply from 81.3 percent a year earlier. The government defines on time as arriving within 14 minutes of schedule.

That followed a similar pattern in December, when delays were more common than a year earlier.

Hawaiian, Delta and American had the best on-time ratings. Virgin America had the worst.

The Transportation Department said 30 domestic flights were delayed on the ground at least three hours and 12 international flights were stuck at least four hours. Those flights appeared to violate federal rules requiring airlines to give long-delayed passengers a chance to get off the plane.

#### Queen Mary's hull needs repairs to avoid hull's fall

LOS ANGELES — The Queen Mary tourist attraction, moored in Long Beach's harbor, is in such bad shape that its hull could collapse and flood if repairs costing as much as \$289 million are not completed in the next few years.

That is one of the conclusions of a marine survey, conducted by naval architects and vessel experts at the request of Long Beach city officials. "The very severe structural steel corrosion has resulted in 11/2 inch thin tank top being rusted away to nothing in some places," the report said.

— From wire reports

# Late Northeast winter storm grounds thousands of flights

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A blustery late-season storm plastered the Northeast with sleet and snow Tuesday, paralyzing much of the Washington-to-Boston corridor but falling well short of the predicted snow totals in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

The powerful nor'easter, which came after a stretch of unusually mild winter weather that had people thinking spring was already here, unloaded 1 to 2 feet in many places inland, grounded more than 6,000 flights and knocked out power to nearly a quarter-million customers from Virginia northward.

By the time it reached Massachusetts, it had turned into a blizzard with near hurricane-force wind gusting over 70 mph along the coast and waves crashing over the seawalls. Boston ended up with 6.6 inches of snow, less than the predictions of up to a foot.



Photo by ASSOCIATED PRESS  
People struggle to walk in the blowing snow during a winter storm Tuesday in Boston. Boston ended up with 6.6 inches of snow Tuesday.

It was easily the biggest storm in a merciful winter that had mostly spared the Northeast, and many weren't happy about it.

While people mostly heeded dire warnings to stay home and off the

roads, police said a 16-year-old girl was killed when she lost control of her car on a snowy road and hit a tree in Gilford, N.H. In East Hartford, Conn. an elderly man died after being struck by a snowplow truck.

## V.I. Weather Outlook

**Today**  
Partly cloudy, isolated showers  
**Rain:** 20 percent chance  
**Temperature:** Highs up to 80  
**Wind:** East around 15 mph

**Tonight**  
Scattered showers, breezy  
**Rain:** 40 percent chance  
**Temperature:** Lows down to 77  
**Wind:** East at 15 to 20 mph

**Thursday**  
Partly cloudy, isolated showers  
**Rain:** 40 percent chance  
**Temperature:** Highs up to 80  
**Wind:** East at 15 to 20 mph

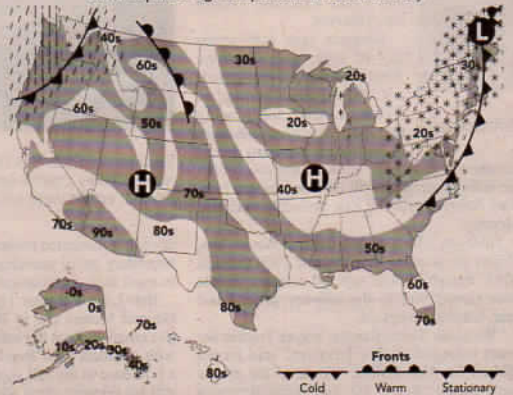
**Thursday night**  
Clear, isolated showers  
**Rain:** 20 percent chance  
**Temperature:** Lows down to 78  
**Wind:** East at 15 to 20 mph

**Friday**  
Isolated showers, breezy

**Rain:** 30 percent chance  
**Temperature:** Highs up to 78

## National Weather Outlook

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



**NATIONAL SUMMARY:** Bands of snow will continue to pivot around the departing Blizzard of 2017 in northern New England today. Flurries and snow squalls will extend from the Great Lakes to the Virginia and North Carolina coasts. As cold air grips the Eastern states, a heat wave will continue in the Southwest. The latest storm will bring mostly rain to the Northwest.

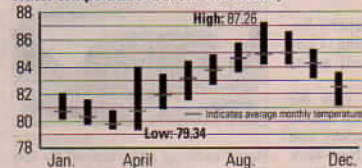
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## Sea conditions

### Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico waters

Moderate to fresh trade winds will arrive in the region. Seas will improve as a northerly swell subsides across local waters. A surface low and associated cold front will develop and lift northeastward into the western Atlantic through the next several days.

### Water temperature At St. John Carricoos buoy



**Winds**  
East 10 to 15 knots  
**Wave heights**  
4 to 6 feet  
**Dominant period**  
9 seconds

— CARICOOS and National Weather Service

### Sun

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### Moon

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# White House details Trump's '05 taxes over report

MSNBC host unveils forms on Tuesday show

By JILL COLVIN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House said Tuesday that President Donald Trump made more than \$150 million in income in 2005 and paid \$38 million in income taxes that year.

The acknowledgement came shortly before MSNBC host Rachel Maddow reported on two pages of Trump's 2005 tax forms on her Tuesday night show.

The records were obtained by Pulitzer prize-winning journalist David Cay Johnston, who said he received the documented unsolicited, in the mail.

The documents have become highly sought-after because Trump refused to release his returns during the campaign, breaking a decades-long tradition. He claimed he was under

audit by the Internal Revenue Service and said his attorneys had advised against it — though experts and IRS officials said such audits don't bar taxpayers from releasing their returns.

The White House pushed back preemptively Tuesday night, saying that publishing those returns would be illegal.

"You know you are desperate for ratings when you are willing to violate the law to push a story about two pages of tax returns from over a decade ago," the White House said in a statement.

The unauthorized release or publishing of federal tax returns is a criminal offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 and up to five years in jail. But Maddow argued that MSNBC was exercising its First Amendment right to publish information in the public interest.

Based on the documents obtained

Based on the documents obtained by Pulitzer prize-winning journalist David Johnston, Donald Trump paid \$36.5 million in taxes on \$153 million in income in 2005, for an effective tax rate of around 24 percent. That percentage is higher than the roughly 10 percent the average American pays each year, but below the 27.4 percent that taxpayers earning 1 million dollars a year average, according to data from the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation.



Rachel Maddow

by Johnston, Trump paid \$36.5 million in taxes on \$153 million in income, for an effective tax rate of around 24 percent. That percentage is higher than the roughly 10 percent the average American pays each year — but below the 27.4 percent that taxpayers earning 1 million dollars a year average, according to data from the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation.

Trump's tax returns spotlight the role of the Alternative Minimum Tax, which was established nearly five de-

ades ago to prevent the wealthy from using deductions and clever accounting to largely avoid paying taxes.

The AMT is a separate gauge of tax liability that, according to critics, has ensnared more middle-class people than intended, raising what they owe the federal government each year. It requires many taxpayers to calculate their taxes twice — once under the rules for regular income tax and then again under AMT — and then pay the higher amount.

Though opponents of the AMT

have focused on the growing number of upper-middle-class earners who pay the tax, Trump's 2005 disclosure shows it prevented him from avoiding most of the taxes he paid in 2005. If not for the AMT, Trump's effective tax rate would have been just 3.5 percent.

Trump, according to his campaign website, has said he wanted to eliminate the tax, which is expected to bring in more than \$350 billion in revenues from 2016 to 2025.

Trump long insisted the American public wasn't interested in his returns and said little could be learned from them. But Trump's full returns would contain key details about things like his charitable giving, his income sources, the type of deductions he claimed, how much he earned from his assets and what strategies Trump used to reduce his tax bill.

The issue was a major point of attack from his election rival Hillary Clinton, who suggested Trump had something to hide. The White House has not said whether or not the president plans to release his returns while he's in office.

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Briefs

**GOP aims to OK health bill after report on coverage**

WASHINGTON — Facing mounting rank-and-file defiance, Republican leaders and the White House redoubled their efforts Tuesday to muscle legislation overhauling America's health care system through Congress after a sobering report about millions being shoved off insurance coverage.

President Donald Trump, whose strong Election Day showing in GOP regions makes him the party's ultimate Capitol Hill vote wrangler, discussed the legislation by phone with the House's two top Republicans. He also dispatched Vice President Mike Pence and health secretary Tom Price to hear GOP senators' concerns.

With leaders hoping to move the measure through the House next week so the Senate can debate it, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell acknowledged they were open to changes.

Trump's spokesman affirmed a willingness to accept revisions to win support.



Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaks with reporters as Democrats criticize the Republican health care plan, at the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday.

"This has never been a take it or leave it," said Press Secretary Sean Spicer.

The GOP bill is the party's response to seven years of promising to repeal President Barack Obama's 2010 health care overhaul.

It would undo that law's individual mandate, which requires most people

to have coverage, by ending the tax penalty on those who don't.

On Monday, the Congressional Budget Office said the Republican legislation would reduce the ranks of the insured by 24 million in a decade, largely by cutting Medicaid recipients and people buying individual policies.

**White House distances itself from lawmaker's comments**

WASHINGTON — The White House on Tuesday distanced itself from Republican Rep. Steve King's inflammatory comments about immigrants, as Democrats pressed House GOP leaders to punish the Iowa lawmaker by stripping him of a chairmanship.



Steve King

King said this weekend that America can't restore "our civilization with somebody else's babies" and warned of a liberal effort to destroy Western civilization through immigration. Questioned about the comments, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said President Donald Trump "believes that this is not a point of view that he shares."

"He believes he's the president for all Americans, and so I'll leave it at that," Spicer told reporters at his daily briefing.

King was a strong supporter of Trump in the 2016 campaign and

backed the candidate's tough stand on immigration.

In a statement Tuesday, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said Speaker Paul Ryan and other GOP leaders should immediately take the chairmanship of a House Judiciary subcommittee from King.

**Senator proposes cutting vets benefits over photos**

WASHINGTON — Furious over a nude-photo scandal involving male Marines who made sexually violent comments online about female Marines, U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said Tuesday that he wanted to explore how to punish nonactive duty and retired personnel who participated.

One idea: cutting any guilty veterans of benefits.

There should be "dire consequence for people stupid enough to do these kinds of things moving forward," said Tillis, who sits on the Senate's Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services committees. He asked for information about how lawmakers could stop post-service benefits for veterans who had participated.

— From wire reports

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# Trump order would shrink role of climate change, source says

By JENNIFER A. DLOUHY  
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is set to sign a sweeping directive to dramatically shrink the role climate change plays in decisions across the government, ranging from appliance standards to pipeline approvals, according to a person familiar with the administration's plan.

The order, which could be signed this week, goes far beyond a targeted assault on Obama-era measures blocking coal leasing and throttling greenhouse gas emissions from power plants that has been discussed for weeks. Some of the changes could happen immediately; others could take years to implement.

It aims to reverse President Barack Obama's broad approach for addressing climate change. One Obama-era policy instructed government agencies to factor climate change into formal environmental reviews, such as that for the Keystone XL pipeline. Trump's order also will order a reconsideration of the government's use of a metric known as the "social cost of carbon" that reflects the potential economic damage from climate change. It was used by the Obama administration to justify a suite of regulations.



File photo by ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump is set to sign an order that would reverse former President Barack Obama's broad approach for addressing climate change, according to a person familiar with the administration's plan.

Tom Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance, a conservative, fossil fuel-oriented advocacy group, welcomed Trump's comprehensive approach, calling it essential to undoing Obama-era climate policies that "permeated the entire administration."

"President Obama created such a labyrinth of rules and orders and

regulations to cement his agenda across practically every agency," Pyle said in a phone interview. "It was designed to put into the mission of the agencies climate change first and make the rest of their mission second. This was a constraint deliberately set up by the previous administration to make it difficult to utilize coal, oil and natural gas."

## President likely to praise Andrew Jackson

By JONATHAN MATTISE  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — In his first days in the White House, Donald Trump hung a portrait of Andrew Jackson in the Oval Office and likened his new administration to that of the snowy-haired man pictured on the \$20 bill.

Trump is likely to revisit Jackson's legacy Wednesday when he lays a wreath at Jackson's tomb at his historic home in Nashville known as the Hermitage. The president also plans to speak at a Nashville rally to replace former President Barack Obama's signature health care law.

A top Jackson biographer says the comparison of Trump and Jackson is "not the cleanest analogy," but the seventh president offers the 45th a convenient example of "an unconventional presidency trying to accomplish big things."

Trump has echoed Jackson's outsider message to rural America by pledging to be a voice for "forgotten men and women." The comparison aims to show that anti-establishment leaders can become transformative presidents, said Jon Meacham, who wrote a 2008 biography of Jackson titled "American Lion."

Jackson first won fame as a military commander in the Battle of

New Orleans in 1815, when he led an American force that prevented a much larger British army from seizing the city and threatening the rest of the Louisiana Purchase. He was elected in 1828 as the right to vote was expanded to all white men, not just property owners, and he brought new voter groups into the fold.

Nicknamed "Old Hickory," the Democrat was known for his advocacy for ordinary Americans. He was also a slave owner who forced Native Americans off their ancestral homelands in the Southeast. More than 4,000 died as they fled west, a journey that became known as the "Trail of Tears."

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3:00 p.m. / 3:30 p.m.	Mon - Thurs, Sat	4:15 p.m.
4:00 p.m. / 4:30 p.m.	Sun	5:15 p.m.
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4:00 p.m. (Sun)	4:30 p.m. (Sun)	5:30 p.m. (Sun)

Mon - Wed & Sat		
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# Black men stereotyped as threats, study shows

By AMINA KHAN  
Los Angeles Times

People consistently perceive black men to be bigger and more muscular than they actually are — and as more of a threat — than they do white men of the same size, a new study shows.

The findings, presented in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, shed light on the deadly link that such misconceptions might have to police shootings of unarmed black men.

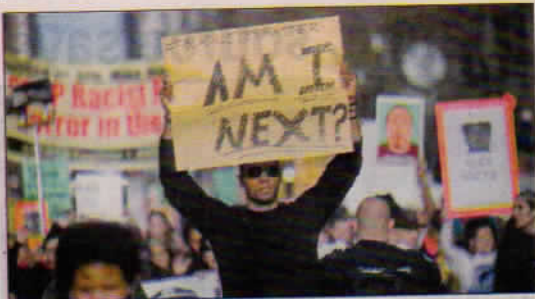
“Across a range of different stimuli and dependent variables, perceivers showed a consistent and strong bias to perceive young Black men as larger and more capable of harm than young White men (at least among non-Black participants),” the study authors wrote. “Such perceptions may have disturbing consequences for how both civilians and law enforcement personnel perceive and behave toward Black individuals.”

Black men and women are physically stereotyped in many contexts — described as “natural” athletes instead of “intelligent” ones, for

example, or able to bear inordinate amounts of pain and suffering in depictions in entertainment and pop culture.

“Black people are often dehumanized but also super-humanized; this means that people will attribute superhuman characteristics to black people,” said lead author John Paul Wilson, a social psychologist at Montclair State University in New Jersey. “So we actually wondered if this stereotype might be powerful enough that it would even show up in a pretty basic way — in concrete perceptions of others’ physical characteristics.”

In a series of experiments, the researchers tested whether study participants viewed white and black men differently, even when they were largely of the same height and weight. For example, when shown individual images of 45 white and 45 black faces taken from a college football recruiting website, participants estimated the black football players’ heights and weights to be higher than those of the white players (even though, incidentally, the white



File photo by ZUMA PRESS

Protesters march through downtown San Francisco in December 2014 voicing their anger over recent grand jury decisions involving the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and Eric Garner in New York City. Both men were unarmed and both were killed by police officers.

players were ever-so-slightly taller and heavier than the black players pictured). “I don’t think most black men or kids or parents would really be too surprised to read about these results either,” Wilson said. “I think it’s a finding that would ring true to many. But we did think that, regardless of that ... it was important to do this work and I think it’s important to continue to follow up on it.”

Other rounds of the experiment showed that black men were also perceived as stronger and more muscular than equivalent white men, with more upper body strength (a proxy for fighting ability).

The scientists next asked participants to imagine themselves in a fight with one of the men whose faces were pictured in the previous study. Over-

all, the participants gauged black men to be “more capable of harm” than white men, even though the scientists had equalized both white and black men for size.

“The results strongly suggest that this race-based bias in perceived formidability results from perceivers’ beliefs about race (i.e., stereotypes), rather than an accurate inference of physical size based on facial cues,” the authors wrote. “This serves as initial evidence that biased judgments of size may influence downstream inferences of physical capabilities.”

So if people perceive black men to be more harmful, do they also think it’s more justifiable to use force against them? To probe that question, a following experiment asked participants to imagine each of the white

and black faces as belonging to a man who was unarmed but behaving aggressively with a police officer, and then judge whether it was appropriate to use force to subdue him.

Their answers revealed that, as the scientists had suspected, participants judged the use of force as more appropriate against a black man than against a white one.

“People judged Black men as larger and more harmful than White men, thus rendering them more suitable recipients of physical force,” the researchers wrote.

The scientists included black participants in some experiments, finding that they also seemed to rate the black men in the images as larger than the white men — which means they may have also absorbed this cultural stereotype. They did not, however, expect black men to be more capable of harm, as the white and other nonblack study participants did.

“Thus, although Black individuals may have learned the same cultural stereotypes about the size of Black men,” the scientists noted, “they do not seem to apply these misperceptions the same way that non-Black people do.”

The scientists also found that men with more stereotypically “Afrocentric” features were also rated higher on the “formidability” scale by study participants. When police officers shoot unarmed black men, the justifications given after the fact typically involve descriptions of the victim’s size and formidability — and those descriptions often turn out to have been wildly inaccurate.

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## CDC urges men in South Florida not to donate sperm amid risks for Zika

By DANIEL CHANG  
Miami Herald

MIAMI — South Florida men should not donate sperm because they are at greater risk of spreading Zika, federal health officials said this week — advice that already had been in place for Miami-Dade, the only county in Florida with a

sustained outbreak of the virus last year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expanded its guidance on Monday to include Broward and Palm Beach counties after completing an analysis with the Florida health department of locally acquired cases, including an examination of resident travel patterns in

South Florida.

The advice applies to men who lived or traveled in those three counties since June 15.

Federal health officials said they expanded the area for the guidance because Zika infections were reported in people in South Florida who said they had not been to Miami-Dade.

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# Florida teen sexually abused, state finds

Trauma led to Facebook Live death, report says

By CAROL MARBIN MILLER  
Miami Herald

MIAMI — For much of her too-short life, Naika Venant bounced between two parents: a birth mother who reportedly beat her without pity, left her in bed with boyfriends who watched "sex movies," and eventually abandoned her — and the state of Florida, which returned the girl to the mother who had expressed little interest in doing better.

Naika chose Gina Alexis. Again and again, she sought love from the mother who reportedly dispensed it with a fist and a belt.

Her quest ended in a shower stall, where Naika hanged herself with a scarf on Jan. 22 at her latest foster home. She had wanted her epilogue to be as public as possible. While hundreds looked on, Naika streamed her final act on Facebook Live.

Late Monday, the Florida Depart-



Photo by MIAMI HERALD

Gina Alexis is overcome by emotion while talking about her daughter, Naika Venant, at the Plantation office of her attorneys, Stacie Schmerling and Howard Talenfeld. This was days after Naika hanged herself while streaming on Facebook Live.

ment of Children & Families released a 20-page examination of its efforts leading up to the 14-year-old's death. The report concludes that, while state child welfare authorities could have

done better, Naika's fraught relationship with her mother played a significant role in the teen's tragic death.

"Despite everything that had occurred between Naika and her mother, Naika longed to be home," said the report, written by members of a Critical Incident Rapid Response Team, or CIRRT, deployed by DCF Secretary Mike Carroll to study Naika's death. "Naika often told her therapist that she missed her mother greatly and really wanted to go back home."

Home, the DCF report suggests, was largely a hellish place.

When Naika had just turned 4, DCF was called to her mother's home. Naika had been left with a

male babysitter, who, in turn, left her unattended with no food or running water. Alexis enrolled Naika in day care, and moved to "a new residence with no visible hazards."

A year later, Naika showed up at the emergency room with an undisclosed chronic health condition. DCF was summoned when Alexis "called Naika a liar and a faker, and threatened to send her back to Haiti so that her own life could be better," the report said.

DCF again offered day care, but Alexis "refused to accept any counseling services for herself or Naika," the report said.

In January 2009, Alexis beat Naika with a belt when the girl had been sexually aggressive with another child, according to the report. The incident left "more than 30 marks on her arms, legs and back," the report said.

DCF removed Naika from her mother's care, and the girl began the first of three episodes in foster care, where workers sought to learn where a 6-year-old had learned about sex. In therapy, the girl disclosed that she slept in the same room as her mother's boyfriends, and that she had watched what she called "sex movies."

Though Naika had told authorities that her mother continued to beat her during unsupervised visits, she was returned to Alexis 17 months later. A month after Naika returned to her mother, in July 2010, DCF received a report that Naika also had been sexually abused while in foster care. The other child vehemently denied it, insisting that Naika was the aggressive one, and that he repeatedly "would tell her to get out of his room."

## Briefs

### Blind woman says she and dog kicked off flight

FRANKLIN, Maine — A blind woman from Maine says she and her service dog were kicked off an American Airlines flight after she requested a different seat.

Sue Martin, of Franklin, says she, her husband and her guide dog boarded a plane bound for Dallas at Reagan National Airport near Washington on March 1. She says she asked a flight attendant if she could be moved to a seat in another row that had room for the German shepherd.

Martin says the flight attendant refused. A man in first class later offered his seat, which Martin accepted.

An American Airlines spokeswoman says the airline is investigating the allegations.

### Naked man trapped in shop, authorities say

NAPA, Calif. — Rescue workers had to remove part of a wall to pull a naked man out of a sandwich shop where he spent the night trapped inside a narrow passage.

San Francisco television station KRON-TV reported that a construction crew arriving at a Napa job site Tuesday heard faint calls for help coming from the closed shop.

Authorities say it appears the man fell into the shaft from the roof of the building.

— The Associated Press

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# Loud sounds worse than thought, scientists find

By MALCOLM RITTER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Matt Garlock has trouble making out what his friends say in loud bars, but when he got a hearing test, the result was normal. Recent research may have found an explanation for problems like his, something called "hidden hearing loss."

Scientists have been finding evidence that loud noise — from rock concerts, leaf blowers, power tools and the like — damages our hearing in a previously unsuspected way. It may not be immediately noticeable, and it does not show up in standard hearing tests.

But over time, Harvard researcher M. Charles Liberman says, it can rob our ability to understand conversation in a noisy setting. It may also help explain why people have more trouble doing that as they age. And it may lead to persistent ringing in the ears.

The bottom line: "Noise is more dangerous than we thought."

His work has been done almost exclusively in animals. Nobody knows



Photo by ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matt Garlock, of Mansfield, Mass., is a veteran of rock concerts. Garlock said he got ringing in his ears after he went to Las Vegas for a friend's birthday, and visited a couple of dance clubs in 2015.

how much it explains hearing loss in people or how widespread it may be in the population. But he and others are already working on potential treatments.

To understand Liberman's research, it helps to know just how we

hear. When sound enters our ears, it's picked up by so-called hair cells. They convert sound waves to signals that are carried by nerves to the brain. People can lose hair cells for a number of reasons — from loud noise or some drugs, or simple aging — and

our hearing degrades as those sensors are lost. That loss is what is picked up by a standard test called an audiogram that measures how soft a noise we can hear in a quiet environment.

Liberman's work suggests that there's another kind of damage that doesn't kill off hair cells, but which leads to experiences like Garlock's.

A 29-year-old systems engineer who lives near Boston, Garlock is a veteran of rock concerts.

"You come home and you get that ringing in your ears that lasts for a few days and then it goes away," he said. But after he went to Las Vegas for a friend's birthday, and visited a couple of dance clubs, it didn't go away. So he had the audiogram done, in 2015, and his score was normal.

Last fall, he came across a news story about a study co-authored by Liberman. It was a follow-up to Liberman's earlier work that suggests loud noise damages the delicate connections between hair cells and the nerves that carry the hearing signal to the brain.

The news story said this can cause not only persistent ringing in the ears, but also a lingering difficulty in un-

derstanding conversations in background noise. After the Vegas trip, Garlock sensed he had that problem himself.

"I notice myself leaning in and asking people to repeat themselves, but I don't notice anybody else doing that," he said.

Garlock emailed one of Liberman's colleagues and volunteered for any follow-up studies.

It's hard to be sure that Garlock's situation can be explained by the research. But the seeming contradiction of hearing problems in people with perfect hearing tests has puzzled experts for years, says Robert Fifer of the University of Miami's Mailman Center for Child Development.

He's seen it in Air Force personnel who worked around airplanes and in a few music-blasting adolescents.

"We didn't have a really good explanation for it," said Fifer, who's an official of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

But the work by Liberman and others helps solve the mystery, he said.

The connections between hair cells are called synapses, and a given hair cell has many of them.

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# Lawsuits for federal files cost millions

Tally hit \$36M during Obama's final year in office

By TED BRIDIS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration in its final year in office spent a record \$36.2 million on legal costs defending its refusal to turn over federal records under the Freedom of Information Act, according to an Associated Press analysis of new U.S. data that also showed poor performance in other categories measuring transparency in government.

For a second consecutive year, the Obama administration set a record for times federal employees told citizens, journalists and others that despite searching they couldn't find a single page of files that were requested.

And it set records for outright denial of access to files, refusing to quickly consider requests described



File photo by ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Barack Obama's administration racked up millions of dollars in legal costs in defending its refusal to turn over federal records under the Freedom of Information Act.

as especially newsworthy, and forcing people to pay for records who had asked the government to waive search and copy fees.

The government acknowledged when challenged that it had been

wrong to initially refuse to turn over all or parts of records in more than one-third of such cases, the highest rate in at least six years.

In courtrooms, the number of lawsuits filed by news organizations un-

der the Freedom of Information Act surged during the past four years, led by the New York Times, Center for Public Integrity and The Associated Press, according to a litigation study by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University. The AP on Monday settled its 2015 lawsuit against the State Department for files about Hillary Clinton's time as secretary of state, at AP's request, and received \$150,546 from the department to cover part of its legal fees.

The AP has pending lawsuits against the FBI for records about its decision to implicate an AP journalist during a criminal investigation and about who helped the FBI hack into a mass shooting suspect's iPhone and how much the government paid to do it.

Of the \$36.2 million in legal costs fighting such lawsuits last year, the Justice Department accounted for \$12 million, the Homeland Security Department for \$6.3 million and the Pentagon for \$4.8 million.

The three departments accounted for more than half the government's total records requests last year.

The figures reflect the final struggles of the Obama administration during the 2016 election to meet President Barack Obama's pledge that it was "the most transparent administration in history," despite wide recognition of serious problems coping with requests under the information law.

It received a record 788,769 requests for files last year and spent a record \$478 million answering them and employed 4,263 full-time FOIA employees across more than 100 federal departments and agencies. That was higher by 142 such employees the previous year.

A spokesman for former President Obama did not immediately respond to an email request for comment late Monday.

## Briefs

### Texas lawmaker unveils masturbation bill

AUSTIN, Texas — A Texas lawmaker is making a point about legislation that restricts women's access to health care and abortions by proposing to fine men \$100 when they masturbate.

Alongside the penalty for wasting semen not resulting in a pregnancy, Democratic Rep. Jessica Farrar's bill would require a "medically unnecessary digital rectal exam" before any man undergoes a vasectomy or can be prescribed Viagra.

The 11th term Democrat said that her bill mimics how a woman seeking an abortion is forced by Texas law to undergo a transvaginal ultrasound, which "has nothing to do with her health care." While the proposal was meant to mock Republicans, she said it also highlights the obstacles women face "that were placed there by legislatures making it very difficult for them to access health care."

### Texas executes man convicted in '87 killings

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Texas executed on Tuesday a man convicted of the 1987 killings of a father and his infant son and who three years later at his capital murder trial grabbed a loaded gun from a drawer in the courtroom and tried to attack the judge.

James Bigby, 61, became the fourth inmate in Texas and the sixth nationally to be executed by injection this year. Strapped to the death chamber gurney, Bigby looked directly at six relatives of his victims and said he was sorry.

— The Associated Press



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# Trump's policies drive Mexican tourists to Canada

**ROB GILLIES**  
The Associated Press

TORONTO — President Donald Trump loomed large in the mind of Mexico City plastic surgeon Rodrigo Munoz as he was deciding where to go for a winter ski vacation.

Munoz has skied in Nevada and New Mexico, but what he and many others perceive as Trump's hostile posture toward Mexico made him seek out a more hospitable climate to spend his time and money. He went to the Canadian Rockies instead.

"I don't want to go to a country that does not accept the people from my country," Munoz said after his recent return from a weeklong trip.

Many of his fellow Mexicans share this view. Canada has seen a surge of visitors from Mexico since December, when it lifted a visa requirement that had been imposed in 2009. The change was planned before the U.S. election, but it is widely viewed as a reflection of warmer relations between Canada and Mexico. Trump, meanwhile, is pushing for a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico,



File photo by THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mexican tourist Boris Frias takes a picture in 2009 of his travel partners Noe Montano, left, and Erick Ruiz as they visit Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada. Canada has seen a surge of visitors from Mexico since December 2016, when it lifted a visa requirement that had been imposed in 2009.

has stepped up immigration enforcement and wants to re-negotiate the North America Free Trade Agreement, the 1994 treaty that created a closer trading relationship among the

three countries of North America.

Trump's rhetoric has turned off Mexicans, at least among the more affluent who travel overseas for pleasure, business and education.

"Right now, my mind really is not as geared toward traveling to the United States," said Gabriel Leal, a public relations professional in Mexico City. "Many friends lately have been making the decision to cancel trips to the United States and go to Whistler," the Canadian ski resort that he said "more and more is becoming a popular destination" for Mexicans.

The number of visitors to Canada from Mexico increased nearly 70 percent in December, to 30,268 from 18,095 in the same month a year earlier, when the visa requirement was still in place, according to government figures. Visits by Mexicans to Whistler are up 25 percent and are expected to be higher during the spring high season, said Shawn Lang of Tourism Whistler.

No doubt there are multiple reasons for the increase, including a weaker Canadian dollar and the fact that Aeromexico has added flights to take advantage of the removal of the visa requirement, which has been replaced with an online electronic travel authorization that costs less than \$10.

The Mexican government had been promoting the idea of closer relations

with Canada before the U.S. election when Trump was gaining strength as a candidate.

Mexico's ambassador to Canada, Agustin Garcia-Lopez Loeza, said relations with Canada are better than ever. He told The Associated Press that Mexicans felt "betrayed" when the Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper imposed the visa requirement in 2009 because of a sharp rise in Mexicans seeking asylum in Canada.

More than 9,400 Mexicans sought refugee status in 2008, one-fourth of all asylum claims filed in Canada that year. Only 11 percent were approved and the rest were given orders of deportation. Once the visa requirement was in place, the number of people from Mexico seeking asylum plummeted, but so did the number of visitors. Munoz said the visa application was a burden and it took too long to get the travel document so he was among those that stayed away. This was the surgeon's first trip to Canada, and although he injured his knee on the last run of the day, he found Canadians friendlier than the people he has encountered in the U.S.



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Briefs

**Coca production surges in Colombia, U.S. reports**

PUERTO BELLO, Colombia —

Coca production in Colombia has surged to levels unseen in two decades of U.S. eradication efforts, according to a White House report re-

leased Tuesday.

Cultivation of the plant used to make cocaine rose 18 percent last year from 2015, with officials in the

Andean nation estimating 465,000 acres of Colombian land now contained coca crops.

The skyrocketing coca production

comes as Colombia begins implementing a peace accord that calls on the country's biggest rebel movement to renounce drug trafficking and work with the government to replace coca plants with alternative crops.

But U.S. officials contend the agreement has also provided a perverse incentive for farmers to grow coca, knowing they would later be awarded subsidies if they agreed to renounce coca and grow products like potatoes and fruit instead. Cocaine production began increasing in 2013 and has steadily risen every year since.

**Plans for second referendum prompt debate in Scotland**

EDINBURGH, Scotland — Many voters in the historic city of Edinburgh seemed indifferent — and even hostile — Tuesday to plans for a second referendum on Scottish independence from the United Kingdom.

The Scottish national flag flutters high above the city's 16th century tenements, but few residents were clamoring for a break with the U.K. despite First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's call a day earlier for a fresh vote on Scotland's future.

Sturgeon wants to hold the vote in late 2018 or early 2019, just as Britain plans to conclude delicate negotiations on leaving the European Union. "Sturgeon is holding Britain to ransom by demanding a referendum at this stage when we are trying to negotiate Brexit," Robin MacLean, a 66-year-old museum curator, said. He said her Scottish National Party had reneged on its pledge that the 2014 referendum would be a "once in a generation" event.

Edinburgh was firmly against separation, with 61 percent of the city's voters opting to remain in the U.K. during the first Scottish independence referendum.

**Israelis detain cartographer who tracks settlements**

JERUSALEM — Israeli police on Tuesday burst into the offices of a Palestinian cartographer who tracks Jewish settlement expansion in the West Bank and east Jerusalem and detained him for several hours, accusing him of illegally working for the Palestinian Authority.

It was believed to be the first arrest of its kind since Israel banned the Palestinian Authority from carrying out official business in east Jerusalem in 2001. It also illustrated the deep sensitivities over east Jerusalem, an area with deep religious and strategic significance claimed by both Israel and the Palestinians. Khalil Tufagji, a former Palestinian negotiator, said police entered his office Tuesday and confiscated computers before taking him away. He was released after several hours. Tufagji denied working for the Palestinian Authority.

— The Associated Press

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# Scientists scramble to save world's coral reefs

By ELENA BECATOROS  
The Associated Press

SOUTH ARI ATOLL, Maldives — There were startling colors here just a year ago, a dazzling array of life beneath the waves. Now this Maldivian reef is dead, killed by the stress of rising ocean temperatures. What's left is a haunting expanse of gray, a scene repeated in reefs across the globe in what has fast become a full-blown ecological catastrophe.

The world has lost roughly half its coral reefs in the last 30 years. Scientists are now scrambling to ensure that at least a fraction of these unique ecosystems survives beyond the next three decades. The health of the planet depends on it: Coral reefs support a quarter of all marine species, as well as half a billion people around the world.

**To lose coral reefs is to fundamentally undermine the health of a very large proportion of the human race.**

— Ruth Gates, director of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

"This isn't something that's going to happen 100 years from now. We're losing them right now," said marine biologist Julia Baum of Canada's University of Victoria. "We're losing them really quickly, much more quickly than I think any of us ever could have imagined."

Even if the world could halt global warming now, scientists still expect that more than 90 percent of corals will die by 2050. Without drastic intervention, we risk losing them all.

"To lose coral reefs is to funda-

mentally undermine the health of a very large proportion of the human race," said Ruth Gates, director of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

Coral reefs produce some of the oxygen we breathe. Often described as underwater rainforests, they populate a tiny fraction of the ocean but provide habitats for one in four marine species. Reefs also form crucial barriers that protect coastlines from the full force of storms.

They provide billions of dollars in revenue from tourism, fishing and other commerce, and are used in medical research for cures to diseases including cancer, arthritis and bacterial or viral infections.

"Whether you're living in North America or Europe or Australia, you should be concerned," said biologist Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, director of the Global Change Institute at Australia's University of Queensland. "This is not just some distant dive destination, a holiday destination. This is the fabric of the ecosystem that supports us."

And that fabric is being torn apart. "You couldn't be more dumb ... to erode the very thing that life depends on — the ecosystem — and hope that you'll get away with it," Hoegh-Guldberg said.

Corals are invertebrates, living mostly in tropical waters. They secrete calcium carbonate to build protective skeletons that grow and take on impressive colors, thanks to a symbiotic relationship with algae that live in their tissues and provide them with energy.

But corals are sensitive to temperature fluctuations, and are suffering from rising ocean temperatures and acidification, as well as from overfishing, pollution, coastal development and agricultural runoff.

A temperature change of just 1 to 2 degrees Celsius (1.8 to 3.6 degrees



Photo by THE OCEAN AGENCY/XL CATLIN SEAWIEW SURVEY  
Coral bleaching caused by the stress of rising ocean temperatures has tainted reefs in the Maldives, according to scientists.

Fahrenheit) can force coral to expel the algae, leaving their white skeletons visible in a process known as "bleaching."

Bleached coral can recover if the water cools, but if high temperatures persist for months, the coral will die. Eventually the reef will degrade, leaving fish without habitats and coastlines less protected from storm surges.

The first global bleaching event occurred in 1998, when 16 percent of corals died. The problem spiraled dramatically in 2015-2016 amid an extended El Niño natural weather phenomenon that warmed Pacific waters near the equator and triggered the most widespread bleaching ever documented. This third global bleaching event, as it is known, continues today even after El Niño ended.

Headlines have focused on damage to Australia's famed Great Barrier Reef, but other reefs have fared just as badly or worse across the world, from Japan to Hawaii to Florida.

Around the islands of the Maldives, an idyllic Indian Ocean tourism destination, some 73 percent of surveyed reefs suffered bleaching between March and May 2016, according to the country's Marine Research Center.

"This bleaching episode seems to

have impacted the entire Maldives, but the severity of bleaching varies" between reefs, according to local conditions, said Nizam Ibrahim, the center's senior research officer.

Worst hit have been areas in the central Pacific, where the University of Victoria's Baum has been conducting research on Kiriritani, or Christmas Island, in the Republic of Kiribati. Warmer water temperatures lasted there for 10 months in 2015-2016, killing a staggering 90 percent of the reef.

Baum had never seen anything like it.

"As scientists, we were all on brand new territory," Baum said, "as were the corals in terms of the thermal stress they were subjected to."

To make matters worse, scientists are predicting another wave of elevated ocean temperatures starting next month.

"The models indicate that we will see the return of bleaching in the South Pacific soon, along with a possibility of bleaching in both the eastern and western parts of the Indian Ocean," said Mark Eakin, coral reef specialist and coordinator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coral Reef Watch, which uses satellites to monitor environmental conditions around reefs.

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# Dutch voters could give rise to populism's clout in Europe

### Tensions high as polls open today in Netherlands

By MIKE CORDER and RAF CASERT  
The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Amid unprecedented international attention, the Dutch go to the polls today in a parliamentary election that is seen as a bellwether for the future of populism in a year of crucial votes in Europe.

With the anti-Islam, far-right lawmaker Geert Wilders running just behind two-term right-wing Prime Minister Mark Rutte in polls, the Dutch vote could give an indication of whether the tide of populism that swept Britain toward the European Union exit door and Donald Trump into the White House has peaked.



Photo by ASSOCIATED PRESS

Right-wing populist leader Geert Wilders and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, right, are running head-to-head in polls in the Netherlands.

The election in the Netherlands comes ahead of polls in France and Germany over the next half year, when right-wing nationalists will also be key players.

During a final election debate among leaders from the parties vying for seats and control of the government, Wilders piled on the anti-Islam invective while Rutte sought to underscore his leadership experience.

None of the party representatives made a critical faux-pas or scored points that should alter campaign dynamics established over months.

The final days of campaigning have been overshadowed by a diplomatic crisis between the Dutch and Turkish governments over the refusal of the Netherlands at the weekend to let two Turkish ministers address rallies about a constitutional reform referendum next month that could give President Recep Tayyip Erdogan more powers. It showed Rutte as refusing to bow to pressure from outside, a stance which has widespread backing in the nation. Rutte has driven through austerity measures, but as the election approaches the Dutch economic recovery has gathered pace and unemployment has fallen fast.

# 250 skulls found at mass burial site in Mexico's Veracruz

By MARK STEVENSON  
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The top prosecutor in Mexico's Gulf Coast state of Veracruz confirmed Tuesday that more than 250 skulls have been found over the last several months in what appears to be a drug cartel mass burial ground on the outskirts of the city of Veracruz.

State Prosecutor Jorge Winckler said the clandestine burial pits appear to contain the victims of drug cartels killed years ago.

But the news came as no surprise to Lucia Diaz, one of the mothers of the disappeared whose group is known as Colectivo Solecto.

The mothers pushed authorities to investigate the fields where the skulls were found, because they

suspected more than a year ago that the wooded area known as Colinas de Santa Fe was a clandestine burial ground.

In the face of authorities' inaction, the activists themselves went out in to the fields starting in August 2016, sinking rods into the ground to detect the telltale odor of decomposition, and then digging.

When they find what they believe are burial pits, they alert authorities, who carry out the final excavations.

"We dig holes, but we try not to touch the remains," Diaz said, because DNA may be the only hope of identifying the dead and touching the bones might contaminate them. So far, Diaz said, searchers have found about 125 pits that contain about 253 bodies.

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## Republicans never really faced realities of health care

The Congressional Budget Office analysis of the Republican health-care bill did not disappoint. Republicans feared it would be catastrophic. It is.

Instead of "better health care for more people at a lesser cost," as President Donald Trump promised, the nonpartisan CBO report released Monday said the Republican plan would drop 24 million from the insurance rolls by the end of the next decade.

Republicans have never tried to grapple with the realities of health care. In attacking Obamacare over the past eight years, they alternated between hysteria and subterfuge.

When Democrats passed the Affordable Care Act in 2010, Republican Sen. Tom Coburn announced that, as a result of the ACA's passage, "There will be no insurance industry left in three years."

Since Coburn, who is now retired, rang the industry's death knell, insurance stocks are up around 100 percent.

In 2011, Paul Ryan, then the House Budget Committee chairman, predicted that the Affordable Care Act would "collapse under its own weight."

Six years later, the ACA is providing health insurance, via Medicaid and private insurance exchanges, to roughly 20 million Americans.

That same year, then-Speaker of the House John Boehner said that the ACA "will bankrupt our nation, and it will ruin our economy."

In reality, as the ACA came into effect, the U.S. economy grew, job growth accelerated and the federal deficit declined.

These were not the comments of cranks. Until Trump's election, Boehner and Ryan were, in succession, the highest-ranking Republicans in the land. Coburn, in addition to being a doctor, had a reputation as one of the more principled fiscal conservatives in Washington.

Republican rhetoric on the ACA started out reckless and never really improved. Sarah Palin gets too much credit; plenty of mainstream Republicans played the game. In 2009, Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, the ranking member on the Senate Finance Committee, where he was intimately involved in substantive

Francis Wilkinson

**In 2011, Paul Ryan, then the House Budget Committee chairman, predicted that the Affordable Care Act would "collapse under its own weight." Six years later, the ACA is providing health insurance, via Medicaid and private insurance exchanges, to roughly 20 million Americans.**

negotiations on the ACA, went home to Iowa and pretended that the bill included death panels.

"We should not have a government program that determines if you're going to pull the plug on grandma," he said at a town hall.

The beat goes on. Republicans spent the past week pre-emptively bashing the CBO knowing that it would expose Trump's promises as a sham.

On Sunday, Trump's Health and Human Services secretary Tom Price told Chuck Todd, "I firmly believe that nobody will be worse off financially" from the GOP health-care bill.

Price didn't have the devastating numbers from CBO in hand. But the former House Budget Committee chairman had written his own health-care bill when he was in Congress. He surely knew he was not telling anything remotely like the truth.

One thing about people who accustom themselves to deceit is that, sooner or later, they start lying to one another as well as to themselves.

Health-care discussions between the White House and Congressional Republicans promise to be loads of fun in the days ahead.

— Francis Wilkinson writes editorials on politics and U.S. domestic policy for Bloomberg View.



## Ban Styrofoam food and drink containers to protect us and our children from cancer

Gary Aboud

**While smoking increases cancer risk, and it is illegal to sell cigarettes to underage youths, Styrofoam, which is a known hazardous substance and has many ties to cancer, is being used in feeding our children.**

Fishermen and Friends of the Sea calls for a ban on the use of Polystyrene containers. It is our principal litter and will eventually end up in our roads, waterways and landfills and will linger in the environment for centuries to come. Legislation is necessary to prevent further pollution.

Polystyrene, generally referred to as "Styrofoam," is manufactured from fossil fuels and is known to cause developmental, hematological (blood), circulatory (heart), renal (kidney), and immunological disorders.

It also is composed of synthetic chemicals (benzene and styrene), which may leach if in contact with hot, greasy or acidic foods — including coffee.

While smoking increases cancer risk, and it is illegal to sell cigarettes to underage youths, Styrofoam, which is a known hazardous substance and has many ties to cancer, is being used in feeding our children.

Turtles and fish accidentally ingest Styrofoam as it is easily mistaken for food. Not only can they not

worrisome as some of these plastic-feeding fish may be ending up back on our dinner tables."

You as an individual can make small changes:

- Use reusable coffee and drink containers.
- Avoid packaging that can't be recycled.
- Use compostable material containers.

The increased public awareness of the environmental impact of Styrofoam disposal has led to the support for measures and bans in Caribbean nations including St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana and Haiti and various U.S. cities and states have banned polystyrene. What are we waiting on?

We lend our full support and encouragements to the petition drive started by Anika Mohammed in Trinidad and Tobago and encourage our leaders to lead us with a clear and responsible awareness of the deadly dangers of continued Styrofoam use.

— Gary Aboud, corporate secretary of Fishermen and Friends of the Sea

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# Here's how to 'rightsizing' the V.I. government, to halt higher spending and improve services

How overstretched is government spending? Are there sufficient revenues to pay the cost of the services the community requires? We are told debt payments are secure but what about day-to-day bills for textbooks, hospital medicine and supplies, meals for the elderly and the homebound, subsidy payments for foster children and homeless services and effective garbage removal and disposal?

In 2015 our local government spent approximately \$15,000 per person. Total territorial government spending was \$1.5 billion for 105,000 people. That spending was the equivalent of 42 percent of our Gross Territorial Product (the value of all finished goods and services produced locally). By comparison, the national average among the 50 states is estimated at 19 percent for 2017. In the smaller states, Rhode Island's spending percentage was 21 percent, Hawaii 22 percent and Wyoming 24 percent.

These previous figures suggest that V.I. revenue sufficiency is not the problem. Spending is.

New revenue in the absence of a concerted effort to reduce spending will not change the existing paradigm.

New revenue will provide more dollars for spending. It will not bring about smarter spending. The way forward requires a concerted focus on rightsizing government operations.

## What is rightsizing?

William Eggers of The Allegheny Institute for Public Policy describes rightsizing as answering this question: "If we started afresh, how is each government service delivered most cost effectively?"

Rightsizing urges government leadership, with community input and in the context of a strategic vision, to streamline government operations and eliminate redundancy, waste and inefficiency.

It consolidates activities and government units. It deploys technology and innovation to reduce operating cost.

Rightsizing focuses first on delivering core services effectively and allocates funding on the basis of what is done — not on how much it cost in the past to deliver services.

Where advantageous, it introduces competition and privatization to deliver appropriate services.

Rightsizing removes unnecessary layers of administrative support that separate management from those providing services.

It restructures how the government workforce is deployed, introduces flexibility in job assignments and rewards employee performance for innovation and excellence.

St. Thomas, St. John, Water Island and St. Croix are unique communities. Rightsizing moves away from duplicating facilities and services simply because that is what has been done in the past.

Examples of how things might be done differently to reduce operating cost include:

- Expanding use of videoconferencing to reduce travel between islands or between offices, as well as to expand training opportunities.
- Consolidating support services.



Government House in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas.

- Using a car-sharing concept to reduce vehicle fleet requirements.
- Outsourcing printing and replication services.
- Expanded use of digital communication, imaging and cloud storage to reduce filing, storage and messenger service cost.
- Applying a longtime fix for roadside brush control to eliminate repetitive bush cutting.
- Expanding the use of contractual services to create new private-sector entrepreneurial opportunities and increase tax revenues.
- Negotiating work-rule changes to allow greater flexibility in job descriptions and the use of manpower resources.

Operating outside of the box allows government to implement practices that enhance service delivery, empower its workforce, expand and grow the private sector, increase tax revenue, reduce the cost of government operations and invest in economic growth and job creation.

Arguing for rightsizing is not criticizing the government workforce. In an environment of reduced financial resources what we now must do is to align our providing of government services with what is affordable.

Many within government know what needs to be done. That knowledge is invaluable. Those outside of government bring a fresh perspective and different skills to helping in the rightsizing effort. They can share transferable practices that contribute to productive solutions.



Justin Moorhead

Working together, the community can get this done without a third party telling us how to do so.

Rightsizing will produce workforce dislocation. As such, it requires a communitywide conversation around what is needed, what is affordable and what is not. Dislocation, when it occurs, can be mitigated. Rightsizing requires thoughtful and phased implementation and a communitywide commitment to working together.

The territorial government's workforce employs 26 percent of all nonagricultural workers. Restructuring government — which employs one-fourth of the territory's workforce — requires community-wide involvement to make this successful. The commercial sector also has a role to play by paying its fair share of the cost of government services and expanding employment opportunities, where possible, to absorb displaced government workers.

New government contracting and purchas-

ing can expand the opportunities for business growth.

Without a willingness to make difficult choices, nothing will change.

All government services will be equally depreciated.

- Health services will lose access to funding, even with the sponsorship of social and cultural events.

- Education and training will continue to miss the mark in preparing members of the community to be competitive.

- Infrastructure and economic investment will remain beyond reach.

- Government workers will continue to be compensated below the amount appropriate for the service they provide.

- Retirees will continue to face an uncertain financial future.

There is no alternative fix.

We did not get to where we are overnight and any solution requires community patience and shared sacrifice. The long-term benefit is far more desirable than what is now foreseeable.

Accomplishing this requires centering decision-making on what is best for the community as a whole.

Collectively we can accomplish this task if afforded the opportunity.

— Justin Moorhead is managing director, Virgin Islands Capital Resources Inc. Contact him at [www.vicapitalresources.com](http://www.vicapitalresources.com)

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## Local Sports Schedule

### Wednesday, March 15

**Varsity Girls Basketball** — Charlotte Amalie High vs. Antilles School at Antilles School, 4 p.m.

**Varsity Boys Basketball** — Charlotte Amalie High vs. Antilles School at Antilles School, 5 p.m.; St. Croix IAA playoff semifinals, teams and sites TBA.

**Elementary Girls Softball** — St. Thomas-St. John IAA Tournament semifinals, site and time TBA.

**Governmental-Industrial Co-Ed Softball** — Marriott Hotel vs. Airport-Tutu Park Mall, 6:45 p.m.; WICO-GERS-National Guard vs. WAPA-Health-Waste Management, 8:30 p.m.

### Thursday, March 16

**Junior Varsity Girls Basketball** — Virgin Islands Montessori vs. All Saints Cathedral at VI. Montessori, 4 p.m.

**Junior Varsity Boys Basketball** — Virgin Islands Montessori vs. All Saints Cathedral at VI. Montessori, 5 p.m.

**Middle School Boys Basketball** — St. Croix IAA playoff semifinals, teams and sites TBD.

**Little League West Baseball** — Achievers vs. Marlins at Joseph Aubain Stadium, 4:30 p.m.; Red Sox vs. Archers at Emile Griffith Stadium, 4:30 p.m.

**Governmental-Industrial Co-Ed Softball** — Education-Ritz Carlton-Tourism vs. WAPA-Health-Waste Management, 6:45 p.m.; Wharfman-Crown Bay-Da Vybe vs. Banks-Main Street-Communications, 8:30 p.m.

### Friday, March 17

**Varsity Girls Basketball** — BVI Elmore Stoutt Invitational Tournament at Elmore Stoutt High School, Tortola.

**Varsity Boys Basketball** — BVI Elmore Stoutt Invitational Tournament at Elmore Stoutt High School, Tortola; All Saints Cathedral vs. St. Peter and Paul Catholic at Eudora Kean HS, 4 p.m.; VI. Montessori vs. Gift Hill at Eudora Kean HS, 5 p.m.; St. Croix IAA championship, teams and sites TBA.

**Elementary Girls Softball** — St. Thomas-St. John IAA Tournament championship, site and time TBA.

**Little League West Baseball** — Pirates vs. Dodgers at Joseph Aubain Stadium, 4:30 p.m.; Twins vs. Rebels at Joseph Aubain Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

**Little League East Baseball** — Giants 7-9 vs. Lil Yankees 7-9 at Basilio Ballpark, St. Croix, 5:30 p.m.; Dodgers 10-12 vs. Giants 10-12 at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 5:30 p.m.

**Senior League East Baseball** — Vikings vs. Yard Dogs at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 6 p.m.

### Saturday, March 18

**Varsity Girls Basketball** — BVI Elmore Stoutt Invitational Tournament at Elmore Stoutt High School, Tortola.

**Varsity Boys Basketball** — BVI Elmore Stoutt Invitational Tournament at Elmore Stoutt High School, Tortola.

**Little League West Baseball** — Marlins vs. Sluggers at Joseph Aubain Stadium, 10:30 a.m.; Storm vs. Red Sox at Joseph Aubain Stadium, 12:30 p.m.; Archers vs. Achievers at Joseph Aubain Stadium, 2:30 p.m.; Dodgers vs. Rebels at Joseph Aubain Stadium, 4:30 p.m.

**Little League East Baseball** — Blue Angels 4-6 vs. Purple Angels 4-6 at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 10:30 a.m.; Rangers 10-12 vs. Angels 10-12 at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 12:30 p.m.; Lil Angels 7-9 vs. Spartans 7-9 at D.C. Cat-

enaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 2:30 p.m.; Spartans 10-12 vs. AA Blazers 10-12 at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 4:30 p.m.

**Senior League East Baseball** — Cubs vs. Angels at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 10 a.m.; Giants vs. Vikings at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 12:30 p.m.

**St. Croix Futsal** — Black U-11s vs. Yellow U-11s at Good Hope Country Day, St. Croix, 4 p.m.; Yellow U-16s vs. Blue U-16s at Good Hope Country Day, St. Croix, 5 p.m.; Blue U-11s vs. Black U-11s at Good Hope Country Day, St. Croix, 6 p.m.; Black U16s vs. Red U16s at Good Hope Country Day, St. Croix, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, March 19

**Varsity Girls Basketball** — BVI Elmore Stoutt Invitational Tournament at Elmore Stoutt High School, Tortola.

**Varsity Boys Basketball** — BVI Elmore Stoutt Invitational Tournament at Elmore Stoutt High School, Tortola.

**Little League West Baseball** — Rebels vs. Pirates at Emile Griffith Stadium, 2:30 p.m.; Archers vs. Twins at Emile Griffith Stadium, 4:30 p.m.

**Little League East Baseball** — Spartans 7-9 vs. Lil Yankees 7-9 at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 12:30 p.m.; Spartans 10-12 vs. Rangers 10-12 at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 2:30 p.m.

**Senior League East Baseball** — Vikings vs. Angels at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 10 a.m.; Yard Dogs vs. Giants at D.C. Catenaga Ballpark, St. Croix, 12:30 p.m.

— Compiled by Bill Kiser

### High school football showcase Thursday

ST. THOMAS — High school football players from across the U.S. Virgin Islands will get a chance to show their skills at the ninth-annual Virgin Islands High School Football Showcase, which continues Thursday.

The showcase will run through Saturday, with all events being held at the Charlotte Amalie High School

field on St. Thomas.

This year, players from both of the St. Croix public high schools, Central High and Educational Complex, will take part in the showcase along with players from the St. Thomas schools, Charlotte Amalie High and Ivanna Eudora Kean High.

Watching the showcase will be Greg Mececk, head coach at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, Minn. Central Lakes, a member of the Na-

### Local Sports Briefs

tional Junior College Athletic Association, won the 2016 Minnesota College Athletic Conference title and finished its season at 11-1.

The showcase continues at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, with St. Thomas and St. Croix players going through speed and agility drills, and 1-on-1 situations.

On Friday and Saturday, all four USVI schools will take part in 7-on-7 drills, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday.

In addition, the islands' high school softball players will get a chance to show their skills on Wednesday at Emile Griffith Ballpark on St. Thomas.

#### Beach volleyball touney Saturday at Morning Star

ST. THOMAS — Entries are still being accepted for the Morning Star Beach Winter Open, a two-player beach volleyball tournament that will be played Saturday at the Morning Star Beach Marriott Resort.

A maximum of 10 teams will participate in the double-elimination tournament, with the winning team receiving \$100 and a trophy.

On-site registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, and the entry fee is \$40 per team.

For more information, call 340-626-9493.

#### Battle of the Mascots at Kean gym Saturday

ST. THOMAS — The Battle of the Mascots basketball game will be

played 5 p.m. Saturday at the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School gymnasium.

The game will be between teams comprising alumni from Charlotte Amalie High and Eudora Kean High.

Admission to the game is \$5 per person. For more information or to sign up for one of the teams, call 340-677-3344.

#### STT Sport and Social Club beach volleyball sign-ups

ST. THOMAS — The St. Thomas Sport and Social Club is holding registration for teams and individuals interested in participating in the club's coed intermediate beach volleyball league.

Each team can have up to 10 players, with four players on the court at one time, which includes one female player.

The league will play games on Monday nights at Iggies Beach Bar on St. Thomas beginning March 20.

The registration deadline for teams and individuals is Friday. The team entry fee for the league is \$500.

For more information or to register, call 340-201-4171 or email sttsportandsocialclub@gmail.com. More information is also available at www.stthomassportandsocialclub.com, or the group's Facebook page.

#### Rugby Paradise Smash set for March 25 at UVI

ST. THOMAS — The Rugby Paradise Smash, a collegiate sevens rugby tournament, will be held March 25 on

the University of the Virgin Islands' St. Thomas campus.

The tournament will draw college and under-23 teams from the United States and British Virgin Islands.

The tournament is being conducted by the U.S. Virgin Islands Rugby Football Union.

Tournament play will begin at 10 a.m., with the consolation finals at 3 p.m. and the championship match at 3:30 p.m.

Admission to the tournament is free to the public.

For more information about the Rugby Paradise Smash or the US-VIRFU, visit www.rugbyparadisemash.com.

#### Special Olympics Games set for March 25 on St. Croix

ST. CROIX — Special Olympics Virgin Islands will hold its annual Games on March 25 at St. Croix Renaissance Park.

The competition begins at 9 a.m. with the parade of athletes, led by St. Croix Central High School JROTC.

St. Croix athletes will compete for medals in the standing long jump, 25- to 200-meter dashes, wheelchair races, basketball events, tennis, bocce, and the softball throw.

#### Bastille Day Kingfish Tournament registration

ST. THOMAS — Registration is now open for the 29th-annual Bastille Day Kingfish Tournament, which will take place on July 16. For more information, call 340-998-0854.



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# Seavey becomes oldest, fastest musher to win Iditarod

By MARK THIESSEN  
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Mitch Seavey won his third Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Tuesday, becoming the fastest and oldest champion at age 57 and helping cement his family's position as mushing royalty.

The Seward, Alaska, musher brought his dogs off the frozen Bering Sea and onto Front Street in the Gold Rush town of Nome after crossing nearly 1,000 miles of Alaska wilderness.

He outran his son, defending champion Dallas Seavey, and lapped the oldest musher record that he set at age 53 in 2013. He previously won the race in 2013 and 2004.

Seavey set a new time record for the race, which the Iditarod said was 8 days, 3 hours, 40 minutes and 13 seconds. That shaved hours off the previous record set by Dallas Seavey last year at 8 days, 11 hours, 20 minutes and 16 seconds.

"Sweet" was the first words Mitch Seavey said after getting off the sled after the dogs pulled through the finish line under the famed burl arch.

His wife, Janine, greeted him with a hug. "Oh my gosh, look at what you've just done," she told him. "You've changed the sport."

After talking to his wife, Mitch Seavey then greeted each of the dogs on his team, and thanked them with a frozen snack. "Good dogs! Good dogs!" he said to the team.

Later he posed with his two lead dogs, Pilot and Crisp.

"They get frustrated when they go too slow, so I just let them roll, which was scary because I've never gone that fast, that far ever, but that's what they wanted to do," he said.

**Mitch Seavey set a new time record for the race, which the Iditarod said was 8 days, 3 hours, 40 minutes and 13 seconds. That shaved hours off the previous record set last year by his son, Dallas Seavey.**

Seavey said the dogs know only one thing — 9 1/2 to 10 mph.

"They hit their peak, they hit their speed, and that's what they do," Seavey said at the finish line. "They trusted me to stop them when they needed to stop and feed them and I did that, and they gave me all they could."

Seavey picked up \$75,000 and the keys to a new pickup for winning the world's most famous sled dog race.

The Seaveys have now won the last six races. Dallas Seavey won four of those races, and his father finished second the last two years. The two are close but competitive.

"He and I have such a great relationship," Mitch Seavey said. "There's no malice, we just love running sled dogs. No question."

The family's ties to the race go back to the first Iditarod, held in 1973, when Mitch Seavey's dad, Dan, mushed in the event.

The younger Seavey, who is 30, had wins in 2012 and from 2014 to 2016.

The race started March 6 in Fairbanks, with 71 teams trying to navi-



The ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Mitch Seavey, left, outran his son, defending champion Dallas Seavey, left, to win the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Nome, Alaska, on Tuesday. Mitch Seavey previously won the race in 2013 and 2004.

gate nearly a thousand miles of grueling Alaska wilderness to the finish line in Nome. Five mushers have scratched.

As his team came off the frozen Bering Sea and onto Front Street for the last few blocks of the race, Seavey yelled, "Good boys! Hep!" to

his team.

Fans lined the finish, clapping and cheering him on. The dogs at time veered a bit toward fans on one side of the street, and Seavey yelled, "Straight ahead!"

Just before reaching the chute, he got off his sled and ran with the dogs

a bit.

Four dogs associated with the race have died this year, including a 4-year-old male named Flash who collapsed on the trail early Tuesday when his musher, Katherine Keith, was about 10 miles outside the checkpoint in Koyuk.

# Muirfield to admit women, back in British Open rotation

By STEVE DOUGLAS  
The Associated Press

Muirfield voted to admit female members for the first time in its 273-year history, clearing the Scottish golf club to return Tuesday to the list of 10 courses that can host the British Open.

The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, which owns Muirfield and is the world's oldest golf club, held a second postal ballot after members voted last May to retain the male-only policy. That led to Muirfield being taken off the British Open rotation.

The results of the second vote were announced Tuesday outside Muirfield's clubhouse, with club captain Henry Fairweather saying that 80.2 percent of those who voted chose to allow women to become members. A two-thirds majority was required for change.

A total of 621 members voted, a

turnout of 92.7 percent.

The R&A, which organizes the British Open, said minutes after the announcement that Muirfield was back in the rotation to stage the world's oldest major.

"It is extremely important for us in staging one of the world's great sporting events that women can become members at all of our host clubs," the R&A said. "Muirfield is a truly outstanding Open venue and we very much look forward to taking the championship back there in future."

Muirfield has staged the British Open 16 times since 1892, most recently in 2013 when Phil Mickelson won.

"This is a significant decision for a club which was founded in 1744 and retains many of the values and aspirations of its founding members," Fairweather said. "We look forward to welcoming women as members who

will enjoy, and benefit from, the great traditions and friendly spirit of this remarkable club."

The club's original decision to retain its male-only policy provoked sharp criticism from players and lawmakers, who said that golf was failing to mirror modern society. Scottish First Minister

Nicola Sturgeon had said it was "simply indefensible."

"Well done Muirfield," she posted on Twitter after the results of the second ballot were announced. "Decision to admit women members emphatic and the right one."

Scotland's minister for sport, Aileen

Campbell, said the decision was "extremely positive for equality in Scotland."

"Scotland is a modern country that wants to see gender equality become the norm across all parts of society," Campbell said, "and today's decision is another step forward in that journey."



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# P.R. vs. Dominican Republic



Photo by The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Puerto Rico's Orlando Roman pitches during the first inning of a second-round World Baseball Classic game against the Dominican Republic on Tuesday in San Diego. Puerto Rico led 3-1 at the top of the ninth. The final score was not available at presstime this morning.



Injured South Carolina center Alaina Coates.

Photo by The ASSOCIATED PRESS

## South Carolina's Coates to miss NCAA Tournament

By PETE IACOBELLI  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina's road to a possible return to the Final Four just got a little more difficult.

Gamecocks forward Alaina Coates has been ruled out for the NCAA Tournament because of a right ankle sprain. The 6-foot-4 Coates has missed three of the past five games since first suffering the injury in a 62-60 loss at Missouri on Feb. 19.

South Carolina, the top seed in the Stockton Regional, opens NCAA play Friday against 16th-seeded UNC Asheville (19-14). If the Gamecocks (27-4) advance, they would take on either Arizona State or Michigan State for a spot in the Sweet 16.

Coates was expected to be a major part of whatever success the Gamecocks have in the tournament.

"It was tough," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said Tuesday night on her radio show. "I feel bad for Alaina because she's been a mainstay over the past four years. She got us to this point. She helped put us in position of putting our program in the national spotlight. And for her career to end this way, not being able to participate and giving it one more shot at winning a national championship on the floor is disheartening."

Coates, a senior, led the Southeastern Conference in rebounding this year, averaging 10.7 boards a game and 12.9 points. Her presence alongside 6-5 A'ja Wilson, the two-time reigning SEC player of the year, gave the Gamecocks perhaps the country's best low-post tandem.

Staley said Monday night that Coates would test out her ankle as the team prepared to start the NCAAs. Less than a day later, Staley broke the news in a press release.

"This is something we've dealing with over the past few weeks," Staley said. "I think it's just best that we shut it down, let her heal up so she can have a long, fruitful professional career."

Coates is one of the major reasons the Gamecocks have won four straight SEC titles and three consecutive league tourney crowns.

## Tetsuto Yamada slugs two home runs to lead two-time champion Japan over Cuba in WBC

TOKYO (AP) — Tetsuto Yamada hit two home runs to lead Japan to an 8-5 win over Cuba in the World Baseball Classic on Tuesday.

Pinch hitter Seichi Uchikawa broke a 5-5 tie on a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and Yamada made it 8-5 with a two-run shot to center field at Tokyo Dome.

Yamada also hit a leadoff homer in the first inning.

"I wasn't pleased with my batting in the first four games," Yamada said. "I was determined to do better today. I felt good in batting practice and felt this could be my day."

Two-time champion Japan improved to 2-0 in Pool E and can advance to the March 20-22 championship round in Los Angeles with a win over Israel (1-1) today. The top two teams in the group advance.

The Netherlands (1-1) faces Cuba (0-2) in today's other game.

Cuba took a 4-2 lead in the fourth on Victor Mesa's single to left. Japan tied it in the fifth on RBIs by Norichika Aoki and Yoshitomo Tsutsugo.

Each team scored a run in the sixth. Tsutsugo also had a big game at the plate for Japan. His three hits in

his first three at-bats included game-tying singles in the third and fifth innings.

Japan, which finished third at the 2013 WBC, improved to 5-0 including first round games and will be looking to head to the semifinals in Los Angeles on a winning note.

"We have some regrets from the last tournament," Uchikawa said. "So we'll be looking to win tomorrow's game and go to the U.S. undefeated."

Even a win over the Dutch wouldn't guarantee the Cubans a chance to move on. They will need to wait for the result of the Japan-Israel game.

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Daily News Photo by DEAN GREENAWAY

Girls from Division A and B schools throughout the British Virgin Islands await their turn to compete in Wednesday's preliminary events in the BVI Inter Primary Schools Track and Field Championships at A.O. Shirley Grounds.

**TRACK**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44

place with 28 points, Isabella Morris has 26; and Cedar International and Corner Stone pick up the rear with 23 and 10, respectively.

Schools in the A Division will

take to the track at 10 a.m. Thursday, with St. Georges in the lead based on performances in the pre-events. Its boys squad won every segment of the long jump and baseball throw and enjoys a four-point edge over perennial champs Althea Scatliffe.

Willard Wheatley is third with 43, while there's a three-way tie for fourth between newcomers Joyce Samuel, Francis Lettsome and Enis Adams, all with 33 points. Ebenezer Thomas is in seventh with 29 points, and Bregado Flax rounds out the pack with 25.

After each division's competition, medals and ribbons will be distributed in each age group as well as the Victor and Victrix Ludorum for the boy and girl with the highest individual scores. Also, plaques will be presented to the top three highest scoring teams.

**ISLANDERS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44

"I couldn't have done it without my family. My mom, Dedra Granville, was there for me throughout everything, so was Therese Hernandez. When it was hard for me they look for the best for me. I would also like to thank the Virgin Islands national team coaches for allowing me to show my skills. That opened doors for me."

Shaquille Seyville is the only other Virgin Islander who will compete in the men's junior college tournament.

The 6-foot-8 post player and Eastern Florida State (28-5) are scheduled to face the winner of the Indian Hills vs. Monroe showdown next Wednesday in the second round.

In terms of Virgin Islands women, Sharena Armstrong, a 5-foot-9 reserve forward, and Wabash Valley College (31-1) will face Cochise in the first round of the women's junior college tournament. WVC is enjoying a 24-game win streak.

All junior college games will be broadcast live on njcaatv.com.

**NCAA Tournament**

The Southern Region of the NCAA tournament is laden with talent who have VI. ties, starting with John Collins and Wake Forest (18-12; 9-9 ACC)

who faced Kansas State on Tuesday in one of the First Four preliminary games. Collins, a 6-foot-10 sophomore post, averaged 19.1 points and 9.8 rebounds this season, posting 15 double-doubles. He was a conference first-team selection.

Other VI. talent participating in the tournament include Desi Rodriguez, the son of Dana Rodriguez, and the No. 9 seed Seton Hall Pirates (21-11) who take on No. 8 seed Arkansas on Friday at 1:30 p.m. on TNT. The 6-foot-6 forward averaged 15.9 points and 5.1 rebounds in his junior campaign.

Jordan Murphy, the son of Celia Murphy, and Minnesota (24-9) will battle Middle Tennessee State on Thursday. The 6-foot-6 sophomore forward tallied 11 double-doubles this season, which ranks second in the Big 10 Conference. The tip-off against the Blue Raiders is set for 4 p.m. on TNT.

Deon Edwin and the Kent State University at 14th seed will face the third seed UCLA in Sacramento on Friday at 9:45 p.m. on truTV. Edwin garnered All-Mid-American Conference Defensive Team honors, leading the Flashes with 43 steals.

The only VI. woman involved in Division I post-season play is in a tough position. Imani Tate and the University of Albany take on the No. 1 overall seed UConn in the first round. UConn has won more than 100 straight games. The game will be played Saturday and it can be seen on ESPN2.

Tate was named to the America East All-Confer-

ence First Team after scoring 19.5 points per game, grabbing 5.0 rebounds and handing out 3.8 assists.

In the opening round of the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament, Crucian star Javier Martinez and the University of Tennessee at Martin will host UNC Asheville on Thursday at 7 p.m. Martinez averaged 12.7 points and 8.6 rebounds per game and shot 67 percent on his way to Second Team All Ohio Valley Conference honors.

**NAIA**

St. Croix native Amadius Der-Weer, a 6-foot-7 senior forward, and Talladega (Ala.) University received an at-large bid to the 2017 Buffalo Funds-NAIA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship. Talladega (22-10) takes on No. 4 SAGU (23-9) today.

**Division 2**

Charlotte Amalie High School alums Shirvel Luke and Sherelle George both fell out of the second round of their tournament. Luke and Benedict University saw their 16-game win streak come to an end at the hands of West Florida, 74-51, in South Region second round play. The Lady Tigers concluded their season at 22-8.

George, a freshman who appeared in two games, and California Pennsylvania (31-4) dropped a tough game to Fairmont University, 84-68.

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# Sports

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ANGUILLA  
TORTOLA

## BVI schools vie for track supremacy

BY DEAN GREENAWAY  
Special to the Daily News

TORTOLA — For the first time in British Virgin Islands Inter Primary Schools Track and Field Championships history, teams are heading into the main competition knowing where they stand.

With the introduction of pre-events, which were held Wednesday, there are tight battles shaping up in both A and B Divisions, ahead of today's and Thursday's competition pitting schools from Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke.

The 11 schools in the B Division, institutions with enrollments of less than 100 students between grades 2-6, will start play at 10 a.m. today at A.O. Shirley Grounds after an opening ceremony and a parade of teams.

With defending champion Joyce Samuel moving up to the A Division this year, the B Division title is up for grabs.

Former champs Ivan Dawson have a two-point lead over Jost Van Dyke after the completion of the U11 Boys and Girls, the 13+ Boys and Girls long jump, and the U11 Boys and Girls and U13 Boys and Girls baseball throw.

Ivan Dawson has amassed 45 points; Jost Van Dyke has 43; and Lenora Delville has accumulated 42. Alexandrian Maduro and Virgin Gorda's Robinson O'Neal are in a fourth-place tie with 36 points; Pelican Gate occupies sixth

See **TRACK**, page 43

## Westbrook, Thunder win



Photo by ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook shoots as Brooklyn Nets guard Randy Foye defends in the first half Tuesday in New York. The Thunder won, 122-104.

More NBA news on page 41

## Islanders in hoops spotlight

Islanders get chance to shine in postseason

By DAVID EDOLE  
Special to the Daily News

ST. CROIX — Several Virgin Islanders will have additional opportunities to display their talents this college basketball season as their teams were selected to compete in post-season tournaments.

In the junior college ranks, Rashawn Fredericks, despite being a freshman, had player of the year aspirations after leading Motlow State to the national junior college tournament, defying pundits who downplayed their chances during the preseason. The 6-foot-6 forward averaged 13.4 points and 10.9 rebounds during the season and had to settle for the rookie-of-the-year award.

The Motlow State Bucks (28-5) take on No. 19 Coffeyville on Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the opening round.

"It's definitely a blessing for me being Freshmen of the Year and first-team all-conference," Fredericks said recently. "The FOY award was huge for me and my family because when everyone doubted me, my family still believed in me and thought I could still do it. I definitely knew I was going to make some noise this year."

See **ISLANDERS**, page 43

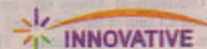
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