

WCVI-TV

Christiansted, Saint Croix

Issues and Programs List for WCVI-TV / ECVI-TV

Second Quarter

2023

From April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023, WCVI in Christiansted, Saint Croix aired an average of five hours of local news programs on a weekly basis.

Weekday Local News Programs

USVI News: The Virgin Islands

USVI News: [WCVI] Tuesday – Friday, 6:30-7:00am, 12-12:30pm

USVI News: [WCVI] Monday – Friday, 6-6:30pm, 7-7:30pm, 11-11:30pm

USVI News: [ECVI] Monday – Friday, 6-6:30pm, 11-11:30pm

USVI News: [ECVI] Friday, 2-2:30am

Weekend Local News Programs

USVI News [WCVI] Saturday, 6-6:30am, 11-11:30pm, 2:30-3:00am

USVI News [WCVI] Sunday, 8:30-9am, 6-6:30pm, 11-11:30pm

USVI News [ECVI] Saturday, 6-6:30am, 11:30pm-12:00am, 2-2:30am

USVI News [ECVI] Sunday, 6-6:30am, 9-9:30am, 11:30pm-12:00am

List of Issues – WCVI-TV programs and PSAs provide significant treatment of the following issues that are important to Christiansted, Saint Croix in the Second Quarter 2023:

Community / Culture / Family Strengthening

Economy / Finance / Poverty

Education

Environment

Health concerns

Government

Safety / Crime Safety

Issues and Programs List

04/03 18 sec Health

According to the V.I. Department of Health's weekly report, the territory continues to see low covid-19 positivity rates. There are 20 active cases territory wide with 13 on St. Croix, 7 on St. Thomas, and no active reported cases on St. John.

04/03 158 sec Health

A ruling from a federal judge in Texas may change the amount you pay the next time you go to the doctor's office. He struck down a mandate in the Affordable Care Act, which provides patients with free preventive care, including screenings for cancer, depression, and HIV. The decision is expected to impact at least 150 million people. Here's more on the effect it will have on some of the most vulnerable in our communities.

04/05 52 sec Government

Governor Albert Bryan Jr. Gives details about his proposed agreement to settle WAPA's debt to Vitol. The governor and 35th legislature met at a special session this Wednesday, the governor, asking senators to approve his plan to solve the disagreement between Vitol and the V.I. water and power authority, by using a \$150-million line of credit to reach an agreement with the propane supplier. The governor's administration has brokered an agreement between Vitol and WAPA, and some of the line of credit he's requesting will be used to pay the utility's debt to the propane supplier. Governor Bryan also says the federal expenditures from the line of credit are reimbursable through federal recovery funds. Bryan said he'll use the line of credit to pay Vitol \$45 million within the next 45 days toward the debt WAPA owes them. The line of credit would also be used for a number of recovery projects.

04/05 42 sec Education / Government

Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett announces millions of dollars in grant funding for both the V.I. Department of Education and the Bureau of Corrections. The funding for the two local government agencies is coming from FEMA. The Department of Education will get 11.3-million to go toward building repairs and equipment to remediate damages as a direct result of Hurricane Maria and the Bureau of Corrections will receive \$24.3 million for repairs of extensive damages to the Golden Grove Adult Correction Facility on St. Croix. The facility had damages to the roof, ceiling, interior walls, floor tiles and carpets, as well as the electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems all resulting from Hurricane Maria.

04/05 107 sec Government

Former President Donald Trump is now a criminal defendant, accused of falsifying business records, but as Nicole D'Antonio reports from Washington - the charges aren't slowing Mr. Trump as he runs for re-election to the White House.

04/05 42 sec Community

We're counting down to carnival, as the Island of St. Thomas is getting ready for carnival celebrations, which kick off this weekend. The week-long celebrations kick off Saturday April 8th with the prince, princess and jr. miss contest at UVI. The Carnival Queen Showcase is up next on April 15th, J'ouvert is on April 27th, and the popular Annual Children's and Adult's parades along Main Street are on April 28th and 29th. It all culminates the 30th with Panorama. And to prepare for some of it, a heads up for drivers. The Fort Christian parking lot is now closed, and will be for the month, as the Department of Public Works prepares to set up for the 2023 Carnival Village. Carnival Village kicks off April 24th and runs through the 29th.

04/07 55 sec Health / Environment

Tens of millions of dollars is coming to the US Virgin Islands to ensure our drinking water is safe throughout the territory. The Environmental Protection Agency has announced six-and-a-half billion dollars of funding for drinking water upgrades. It's part of the Biden administration's investment in clean and safe drinking water. The money is coming through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which got a boost from the bipartisan infrastructure law. The EPA says the Virgin Islands will receive 45.5 million for essential drinking water infrastructure upgrades from that revolving fund. The money will be used by VI government to upgrade the island's drinking water treatment systems, focusing on disadvantaged communities throughout the islands. The funds will also go towards fixing the existing distribution systems, expanding service to the community, and helping other drinking water providers in the territory.

04/07 107 sec Health

We all know how hot that Caribbean sun can be, it's great for enjoying the outdoors. But you should make sure to throw on some sunscreen, before you head outside. Ivan Rodriguez has more on what to look for and how to keep yourself safe in the island sun.

04/11 121 sec Community

A massive caribbean music party on the water is making its way to the US Virgin Islands. The Ubersoca Cruise is sailing the Caribbean seas. It's back after taking some time off because of the pandemic. The best SOCA artists and thousands of SOCA fans are cruising to St. Maarten, St. Lucia and St. Thomas. Our USVI News John Stehlin is taking it all in as the biggest SOCA music stars are on the ship performing.

04/13 39 sec Safety

A heads up, effective immediately, the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services has implemented a territory-wide burn ban because of dry weather conditions. It's because of the increased risks of fire right now. The burn ban will remain in effect until further notice. It applies to all open fires, including campfires, bonfires, and trash as well as yard debris or brush burning. The VI Fire Services is also urging residents to use caution while using outdoor grills. They'll continue to monitor weather conditions and assess fire risks throughout the territory and we'll let you know when the burn ban is lifted.

04/13 23 sec Economy

The price of stamps is likely going up this summer. The US Postal Service told regulators on Monday it plans to increase the price of first-class stamps from 63 to 66-cents. If approved, the change would take place in July. The postal service says the increase is necessary to off-set rising operating expenses. The agency expects to lose 4.5 billion dollars this year.

04/13 121 sec Finance

If you get a tax refund this year, how are you planning to spend that extra cash? Spending it wisely? Bulking up your savings or getting out of debt? USVI News Emily Matson has five smart ways to stretch those dollars according to one money coach.

04/13 130 sec Environment

The Biden Administration is hoping to put the brakes on climate change by proposing some of the toughest regulations yet on vehicle emissions. As Ben Tracy reports, hitting its goals will require nothing short of a revolution for drivers.

04/17 92 sec Health

They're often used to decorate homes but bringing nature inside may also help your health, both mentally and physically. Here's more on the potential benefits of planting down some roots at home.

04/18 119 sec Economy

An exciting week on St. Thomas, as the new upgraded Vendors Plaza is unveiled. A ribbon cutting ceremony Monday unveiled the new modernized and revitalized Vendors Plaza and public restroom facilities in downtown Charlotte Amalie. The vendors plaza features those 16-brightly colored kiosks that were brought in late last year. It's all to provide a more appealing spot for tourists to visit and spend money locally and Governor Albert Bryan says this is just one more update, in addition to other plans, to revitalize the downtown waterfront of St. Thomas.

04/18 104 sec Environment

And this earth week has millions focusing on the planet and how to preserve it for future generations. In England, volunteers are targeting plastic pollution with a creative campaign. Ian lee reports.

04/20 122 sec Health

More than one million women in the US go through menopause every year, according to the National Institutes of Health. Symptoms can last years and may have a major impact on quality of life, but some health experts say treatment can help. Our USVI News Emily Matson has more on a procedure that's allowed one

woman to feel like herself again.

04/20 85 sec Safety / Government

Caribbean community leaders have agreed to implement a ban on assault rifles. This was one of the outcomes as they ended a two-day regional symposium on violence as a public health issue, declaring war on guns and the illegal trade that contributes significantly to crime and violence in the Caribbean.

04/20 72 sec Environment

The leaders of two Caribbean nations have stepped in to resolve a dispute between their respective fisherfolk. Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago have been at odds over allegations of overfishing in Tobago's waters by Barbadian fishermen. Prime Minister Mottley called for the fisheries departments of both nations to meet and determine whether there has been overfishing based on science and evidence.

04/24 57 sec Economy

On St. Croix, Liberty VI continues fiber network construction work, to provide access to high-speed internet connectivity to all homes and businesses in the region. The new project in St. Croix began this Monday and will take about three weeks to complete. Liberty VI says it will benefit residents and businesses in estate solitude on the island's east end. When finished the company says this project will improve broadband connectivity in the USVI to facilitate economic growth in the territory. Liberty VI's general manager says they're working on rapidly increasing the number of homes and businesses that can get access to fiber. The work being done here includes placing underground conduits and fiber optic cable along Seven Flags Road and continue east on East End Road. Burying the fiber cables increases the network's resiliency while protecting it from hazards like natural disasters and vandalism. Construction will take place on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

04/26 53 sec Community

The Virgin Islands community is mourning the loss of a true trailblazer, the honorable Eileen Ramona Petersen, the first female judge in the US Virgin Islands, has died. Judge Peterson started serving as judge in 1971 and went on to also advocate for women and children. Governor Bryan says she paved the way for Virgin Islands women to serve the VI community and at the highest levels the legal profession. Senator Donna Frett Gregory said Judge Peterson was a daughter of the soil, who gave unselfishly to the development of young people in the Virgin Islands. Senate President Novelle Francis also extended condolences saying quote, "as the first chairperson of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission, she was unafraid to blaze new paths, while still remaining true to her roots as a lawyer." She was someone to be admired and respected for her strength of character, work ethic and integrity."

04/26 44 sec Government

Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett visited Israel and Ghana recently for a congressional delegation trip. Plaskett says their primary focus was to advance our shared interests and strengthen relationships between the US and the two countries. The congresswoman's visit to the western African country follows Vice President Kamala

Harris' trip to western Africa. Plaskett visited sites in Ghana related to the transatlantic slave trade and met with the President of Ghana. Her visit to Israel was in part of the 75th anniversary of their independence. They also met with the Israeli Prime Minister and spoke about Israel's unique position within the region and discussed US efforts to maintain and strengthen the bond between our countries.

04/28 85 sec Government

Dr. Natalio Wheatley was sworn in as premier of the British Virgin Islands on Tuesday to lead a coalition government, a day after general elections in the British overseas territory. None of the four parties that contested the polls on Monday had won a clear majority to take control of the 13-member parliament. The Virgin Island Party won six seats while the Progressive Virgin Islands Movement and the National Democratic Party each won three and the Progressives United secured one. During a swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday evening, 42-year-old premier Wheatley called for cooperation among all.

05/02 39 sec Government

The government of the Virgin Islands has satisfied its initial \$45-million-dollar WAPA settlement with Vitol. Governor Albert Bryan announcing on Monday, the negotiated payment on behalf of WAPA to its propane supplier, in order to settle a long-standing debt that threatened service in the VI has been completed. Last month, the 35th legislature approved the bill establishing the line of credit, lawmakers eventually approving 100-million of the \$150 million the governor had requested. Governor Bryan says, once the total sum is satisfied, WAPA will be a more stable utility as the authority enters into an era of renewable energy generation in the territory.

05/02 46 sec Education

The public will have more time to let their opinions be known on the controversial plan to use land to build a much-needed school on the island. The National Park Service has extended the public comment period for the St. John Land Exchange through June 9th. The National Park Service received 400 comments during the recent public comment period pertaining to a notice of realty action. The action for the St. John Land Exchange was first announced in December, and comments were accepted through March 15th, but because of the high level of interest on the future of a new public school on St. John, the National Park Service is offering an additional 45-day comment period posted on the Federal Register. We've put a link to submit your comment on the plan on our website, usvicbs.com.

05/02 34 sec Finance / Government

The VI Department of Human Services is giving a heads up for some SNAP recipients, there may be a temporary interruption of benefits. The delay may be due to missing information and delays in processing. All SNAP/cash clients who were required to provide periodic reports or be recertified in March or April of this year, you may have received a temporary interruption of benefits due to missing or late information or due to delays in processing. Clients are encouraged to check their card balance by calling 1-866-884-2868 or online, we've put a link on our website, usvicbs.com.

05/02 41 sec Environment

There's been a lot of talk recently about a large blob of seaweed in the ocean. You've likely seen the sargassum yourself. The Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt extends from West Africa to the Gulf of Mexico, and it has appeared in the Caribbean Sea every summer since 2011, except for in 2013. And now, a University of South Florida lab says the Great Atlantic Sargassum Seaweed Belt has set a new monthly record. It says the amount of sargassum seaweed continues to increase in most regions and the seaweed totals in the Caribbean Sea are expected to continue to increase. It's expected to wash up on the beaches of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. The reason for the increased amounts is unclear.

05/02 115 sec Health

More than 97-thousand new melanomas are expected to be diagnosed this year, according to estimates from the American Cancer Society. But there are ways to protect yourself. Here are ways to keep your skin safe; to mark a nationwide awareness campaign called melanoma Monday.

05/04 106 sec Safety / Government

Premier of the British Virgin Islands Dr. Natalio Wheatley has mandated the National Security Council (NSC) to come up with an action plan to confront rising crime. On Tuesday, he expressed concern about the recent spike in murders. The latest killing was his cousin, Kemo Lettsome, on Sunday, April 30th. Premier Wheatley said the senseless deaths must stop.

05/08 43 sec Economy

Liberty VI continues to work on the fiber network construction in St. Croix. This is a look at the progress made on the fixed fiber network construction project in East End, St. Croix. The workers are placing underground conduits. To date about 10 miles of conduits have been installed on the island. You can see the trenching work done here along Seven Flaggs Road and continuing east on East End Road. The anticipated completion date for conduit installation is May 15th. Liberty VI will continue to provide updates on its website. This will allow you to check when and where the company will be working around the territory so you can plan your daily commute ahead of time. Be mindful, residents within these communities should not park on the street to avoid obstructions or possible damage.

05/08 35 sec Health

In health news today, workplace stress can be tough to handle at the office; but it can also take a toll on your sleep. A new study finds a lack of support from colleagues and bosses can keep you from getting the rest you need. Researchers found having unhelpful coworkers or a bad boss make it hard to let go once you're off the clock. When those things improved, study participants were able to sleep better and get more rest. Experts say you have to find a way to "shut off" your workday when you go home. Suggestions like deep breathing and muscle-relaxing exercises can calm both your body and your brain.

5/10 34 sec Government

Former President Donald Trump is reacting to Tuesday's verdict in the civil sexual abuse case brought by journalist E-Jean Carroll. That jury awarded Carroll five-million dollars in damages. The jury deliberated for about three hours before deciding to hold Trump liable for sexual abuse. They did not convict him of rape. The six men and three women also found Trump had defamed Carroll by calling her claims a "hoax" and "a con job." In a statement, Carroll thanked all those who had stood by her. Former President Trump called the verdict a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time. His legal team's vowing to appeal.

5/10 40 sec Government

With less than 72 hours before a major change in immigration policy, crowds of migrants are gathering at the US-Mexico border. As Title 42 is set to expire, El Paso, Texas is seeing a surge of migrants and officials worry that thousands more are waiting to cross. Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced that a new national guard unit, called the Texas Tactical Border Force, will be sent to hotspots along the southern border as Title 42 is about to expire. Then-President Donald Trump invoked Title 42 in 2020 after the pandemic broke out, allowing the US to expel migrants more quickly without having to consider them for asylum. Officials predict when Title 42 expires on Thursday, a surge of migrants will try to cross into the US.

5/10 23 sec Health

The number of active covid cases reported to the US Virgin Islands Department of Health continues to tick up following the St. Thomas Carnival festivities. After being in the single digits for quite some time, there are now a total of 50 active reported cases territory wide with 44 on St. Thomas, 6 on St. Croix and none currently on St. John. Six people are hospitalized territory-wide, the USVI's positivity rate is up to 11.5%.

5/10 30 sec Health / Government

In the US, as the covid-19 public emergency approaches its end, President Joe Biden is lifting some of the vaccine mandates he ordered. Tuesday, he ended the order requiring federal workers be vaccinated, and also revoked the international air travel covid-19 vaccine requirement. He said this is based on the latest guidance from public health experts, but Biden also stressed that vaccinations are still an important tool for keeping people safe. This move comes just days before the covid-19 public health emergency expires, which happens Friday.

5/10 101 sec Health

A federal health task force now recommends all women with an average risk of breast cancer start screening at age 40. It's an update to the US Preventive Services Task Force's previous guidance. In 2016, it recommended women get mammograms every other year starting at age 50. The task force released the proposed update to its breast cancer screening guidance this Tuesday. The draft recommendation is not final, and will be available on the task force website for public comment through June 5th. Groups like the American Cancer Society have already been recommending mammograms for women in their 40's, especially for those at higher risk of breast cancer.

5/12 43 sec Health / Safety

In the US Virgin Islands, upgrades are coming to the sewer system on St. Croix. The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority has started the "Christiansted Sewer System Line Replacement and Manhole Rehabilitation Project." It's funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, workers will replace all the sewer lines and rehab the manholes in the town of Christiansted, excluding Company Street which was completed in 2016. Work will begin Monday on Queen and Hospital Streets and pass-through Salvador Barbershop up to the Christiansted Cemetery. Waste Management workers will be replacing the existing sewer lines with sturdier more modern sewer pipes. Work will happen from about 8 am to 5 pm, some days until 6, so be cautious of those working to get it done if you're in the area.

5/12 37 sec Finance

Liberty Foundation is now a proud member of the Community Foundation of the VI's Angels Network. "CFVI Angels" is the largest philanthropic network in the US Virgin Islands, and recognizes individuals and businesses who donate 500-dollars or more a year. The Liberty Foundation recently gave the organization a 5-thousand-dollar grant. The Community Foundation will use the money to help various local non-profits that directly improve the lives of USVI residents. Liberty Foundation has awarded more than 100-thousand in grants to CFVI over the years, to help fund a variety of community initiatives that support childcare, education, and environmental protection in the USVI.

5/12 127 sec Health

May is Mental Health Awareness month. The National Institute of Health estimates one in five adults live with mental illness in the US so health experts say now is a good time to prioritize self-care and take time to recharge. Emily Matson has more on three types of self-care and how they can help your mental well-being.

5/17 45 sec Safety / Government

FEMA is giving a heads up for residents in the Caribbean region to be prepared ahead of the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season. The message: review your plan, prepare now before hurricane season starts. The Federal Emergency Management Agency says now is the time to prepare yourself and your household for the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season. During hurricane preparedness week, assess your personal risk, update your family's emergency communications plan, start to replenish your emergency kit, and review your personal and financial documents. Hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th, but FEMA says the time to prepare is now, when you are not under pressure as storms form in the Atlantic. If you wait until a hurricane is approaching, the odds are that you will be under duress and might not make the best decision.

5/17 34 sec Education / Finance

The complaints of being a broke college student can finally come to an end as the job hunt begins. So, what are the best tips and tricks they can employ to walk into a job?

5/18 53 sec Community

In the USVI, on St. Thomas, the 12th Annual King of the Wing competition is set for next month, at Magens Bay. Mark your calendars, the Annual King of the Wing contest will take place on the shores of Magens Bay on June 10th. Teams consisting of the top local restaurants, businesses, organizations and chicken wing connoisseurs will set up their grills and cooking stations right on the beach. Organizers say mouthwatering wings will be served from noon to 5 p-m and that's when judges will announce the official winners! There will be lots of vendors, music and drinks too, special guests and more. King of the Wing has grown over the years, not only it is for fun, but it's a crucial fundraiser for local charities. All proceeds from this year's event will be donated to the Virgin Islands Children's Museum. The event's restaurant division winner will also get to participate in the 2023 National Buffalo Chicken Wing Festival competition in Buffalo, NY during Labor Day weekend.

5/18 36 sec Community

Area lawmakers honored a special day in the territory on Wednesday. Virgin Islands senators and legislative staff met at the capitol building grounds on St. Thomas and at Golden Rock in St. Croix to celebrate Virgin Islands Flag Day. The observance, established by act 8257 was signed into law by Governor Albert Bryan Jr. on January 18th, 2020. The Virgin Islands flag was formally adopted on May 17th 1921. Flag day in the Virgin Islands is a day to recognize and celebrate all that the Virgin Islands flag represents to the territory and its residents, it's a sign of resiliency and pride and love for the islands, as well as, the Virgin Islands' rich history.

5/22 118 sec Health

An DFA advisory panel has voted to recommend approval of a vaccine to protect infants against RSV. The shot would be given to pregnant women.

5/22 128 sec Health / Safety

An estimated 70-percent of cardiac arrests happen at home, according to the CDC, sadly about half of those people don't get the help they need before the ambulance arrives. That's why the American Heart Association says it's critical for everyone to know what to do in an emergency, and that includes children.

5/22 119 sec Health

Around one in five women over the age of 50 are affected by osteoporosis. It's a disease that weakens bones, allowing them to easily break. But there are things you can do at any age to help prevent weakened bones.

5/26 44 sec Safety

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued its hurricane season predictions Thursday, one week before the season begins. And the experts say, it's going to be fairly typical. Forecasters are predicting 12-to-17 named storms. Of those, 5-to-9 could become hurricanes and up to four could become category 3 or stronger storms. There's a bit of unpredictability this year, because the periodic weather pattern known as El

Nino usually inhibits storm development. But El Nino is only beginning to develop, and it's not known how influential it's going to end up being. Meanwhile sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean are already at or near record high levels. High temperatures help storms form and grow stronger. The Atlantic hurricane season officially starts next Thursday.

5/26 40 sec Health / Safety

Apparel made by some athletic wear brands have been found to contain high levels of the toxic chemical BPA. BPA or Bisphenol A is a chemical used to make certain types of plastic. It's been linked to health conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, obesity, and erectile dysfunction. The Center for Environmental Health has sent legal notices to eight brands after tests showed their apparel could expose wearers to up to forty times the safe limit of BPA. That's according to standards set in California. The newly-tested brands and their products include leggings from Athleta, Champion, Kohl's, Nike, and Patagonia. Sports bras from Sweaty Betty, athletic shirts from Fabletics and shorts from Adidas, Champion, and Nike.

05/29 56 sec Health / Environment

US Virgin Islands Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett announces hundreds of thousands of dollars is coming to the territory to support water quality monitoring at beaches, in order to protect swimmers' health. Plaskett says the Environmental Protection Agency awarded a 309-thousand-dollar grant for the USVI. The federal funding for the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources will go to the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health or Beach Act. It's part of \$10.6 million the EPA allocated in beach act grants to 39 tribes, states, and territories. Plaskett says this essential funding will equip the Virgin Islands to test beach waters for illness-causing bacteria and facilitate public notification of unsafe conditions. The congresswoman said, "the Virgin Islands is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the caribbean and it is my priority to ensure the safety and health of Virgin Islanders and tourists alike. I look forward to the protective measures that this program will implement."

5/31 138 sec Government

VI Governor Albert Bryan Jr has sent his proposed 2024-2025 budget to the VI legislature. During this week's government news conference, he spoke about his administration's budget proposal for the next two years.

5/31 72 sec Government

Also on Tuesday, Governor Bryan met with the majority caucus to talk about the Bryan Roach administration's legislative policy agenda, while there were many items to talk about the controversial plans, the proposed land swap on St. John was a big topic of discussion.

6/2 44 sec government

The 35th legislature of the Virgin Islands is leaning into efforts to show transparency in their work. With that goal in mind, Senate President Novelle E. Francis Jr. announced that the 100-day report is now available online. The report will show the actions taken by the legislature so far. Francis commented on the report and

the session, saying "the 35th legislature is comprised of a dynamic blend of veteran senators, experienced sophomore senators, and energized freshman senators who have shown that they are ready and willing to tackle the issues of our time and make the tough decisions that true leadership requires." That report can be accessed by visiting the link that you see on the screen, or by visiting any of the legislature's social media platforms. Or! You can find the link on our website, usvicbs.com.

6/2 109 sec Education / Health

The transition from school to summer break can be an exciting time for some but for others this change can be hard, and at times overwhelming for the entire family.

6/5 20 sec Community

Attendees at the 2023 Atlanta Caribbean Carnival post-parade concert were treated to an immersive cultural experience complete with delicious cuisine, indigenous arts & crafts, entertainment by top performers as well as proclamations given to outstanding individuals for community contributions.

6/5 54 sec Community

The Office of Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff hosted a day of prayer and reflection on June 1st, to seek God's protection as the hurricane season begins. Several ministers from churches within the community attended to pray not only for God's protection, but for seniors, disabled individuals, youth, leaders, sick, shut-ins, and first responders. Prayers and scripture were also offered in Spanish, and Creole. Special thanks to Senator Angel Bolques for reading Psalms 91 in Spanish. Several other senators were present to include Senator Marvin Blyden, Vice President of the 35th Legislature, and Senator Milton Potter. Seniors from the Strive Center and members of the VI Association of Independent Living filled the audience along with other residents to join in prayer for the territory. Several legislative staffers entertained the audience with musical selections and poems. VITEMA Director Daryl Jaschen also provided useful tips on hurricane preparedness to those in the audience.

6/5 21 sec Community

Residents and visitors to St. John are looking forward to the 2023 St. John celebration. Described as a colorful & cultural jamboree, events kick off on Saturday, June 10 with a panorama. The weeks long celebration ends on July 4th with a parade and fireworks display. Other events include boat races, recognizing Emancipation Day, and food fairs with a coronation for the festivities.

6/8 53 sec Economy

Liberty VI has plans to continue fiber network construction throughout the summer. Their next round of projects will take place across St. Croix and St. Thomas. There are 4 projects approved, and the company expects construction to take around 7 weeks to complete. The first project they are tackling is in Williams Delight on St. Croix, which will service around 11-hundred customers. Construction will take place on weekdays from 8am to 5pm. The goal is to have minimal traffic impact, but there will be some delays due to

lane and partial road closures. Residents are encouraged to park on their properties instead of the street. The other project locations are in Donoe, the WTJX Mountain Top, and Smith Bay in St. Thomas. The company is working to acquire more permits and have plans to keep expanding. One of Liberty VI's general managers says fiber networks 'improve broadband connectivity and mobile service in the USVI and they will 'facilitate economic growth in the territory.'

6/8 110 sec Health

How teens and tweens feel about their bodies can affect their mental health. And experts say, living in a warm tropical climate can be hard on anyone who struggles with the way they look. So, our USVI News Emily Matson has more on some ways parents can promote positive body image.

6/12 25 sec Finance / Government

You could have some money coming to you but you'll need to act quickly. The Internal Revenue Service is trying to track down one and a half million people who are owed their share of unclaimed tax refunds. That's one and a half billion dollars' worth of refunds from income tax year 2019. The IRS is letting people know if you think you're owed, you have until July 17th to submit a tax return to claim your refund. If you don't make the deadline, the government keeps the money.

6/12 94 sec Health

Living in a warm tropical climate, we tend to spend more time outdoors, but increased exposure to sun and heat can wreak havoc on your skin. So USVI News Emily Matson has more on five common skin problems and how to prevent them.

6/12 128 sec Government

The Vice President of the United States makes a big announcement while meeting with caribbean leaders. Deandre Hamilton shares the impact this could have on the islands.

6/14 117 sec Health

Heart disease and cancer, men are more likely than women to suffer these diseases and others, but many of these illnesses can be prevented. USVI News Emily Matson has more on how to keep men healthy, in honor of men's health month.

6/16 43 sec Government

Governor Albert Bryan and Lt. Governor Tregenza Roach met with legislatures recently at Government House. The meeting was to go over goals for the second term and sharing details on initiatives that are planned or already in progress. Some of those initiatives include the St. John land swap with the goal of building a school on the island by giving Whistling Cay to the National Park Service. The administration also wants to address

derelict and abandoned buildings in downtown areas. There are plans to reprogram funds for the Department of Education and Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation, as well as, plans to work with PFA to fund degrading projects in the territory. Lastly, there were discussions on how to use \$100 million in settlement money from the Jeffrey Epstein case.

6/19 31 sec Safety / Community

And as residents look ahead to the weekend, they can make plans for how they'll handle transportation. The Virgin Island's Police Department has set out parking restrictions for the pride parade happening on Saturday, June 24. The parade, which kicks off at 10am, will start from the Basin Triangle Intersection, go down King Street and end at the taxi stand. From 9am until the festivities end, King Street will be blocked from drivers, with a no parking restriction starting at 5am. Don't worry too much about forgetting though, as signs will be posted 48 hours before the parade.

6/19 43 sec Community

Resident of the Virgin Islands can attend a townhall meeting for taxi operators on St. John. The goal of the meeting is for taxicab operators to share any concerns or recommendations they have for the industry. The meeting will take place on Friday, June 23, at 6pm in the Cleon legislative hall. It is organized by the legislature's committee on government operations, veterans' affairs, and consumer protection. Senator Carla Joseph, chair of the committee, shared about the event, saying, "the taxi industry is a vital part of our territories major industry-- tourism. As our first and last impression for visitors, we must ensure that taxi operators and the commission work cohesively."

6/19 55 sec Community

New York City's Caribbean American community came together in a show of strength and unity in downtown Manhattan Sunday for a special flag-raising celebration to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Caribbean community. Gathered at Bowling Green, New York City's Mayor Eric Adams acknowledged the positive impact and influence people of Caribbean origin have had on nearly every aspect of life in the United States, and highlighted the senior officials in his administration who are of Caribbean heritage. The chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization Kenneth Bryan spoke about the contribution of Caricom to the Development of the Region and the symbiotic relationship between the United States and the countries and territories of the Caribbean. He noted that the historic event was being held in conjunction with the observance of Caribbean-American Heritage month, which recognizes the contributions and achievements of the region's Diaspora communities across the United States.

6/21 32 sec Safety

Government officials are tracking tropical storm Bret. The storm may rise to a hurricane, but is expected to reduce back to tropical storm by the time it passes the Virgin Islands. Current forecasts show that storm passing early Friday morning, around 100 miles southwest of St. Croix. Still, VITEMA Emergency operations centers activated at 8m on Wednesday to ensure preparedness. No storm surge is expected, though maritime alerts will be provided by the National Weather Service on Puerto Rico as needed. Residents can sign up for Alert VI to get key weather alerts.

6/21 47 sec Safety / Environment

The US Virgin Islands are officially in a drought. The Department of Agriculture is urging residents to conserve water, especially on St. Croix which is at an exceptional drought level. That level leads to significant vegetation stress, soil moisture shortages, and water supply issues. St. Thomas and St. John are at a severe drought level. Commissioner Dr. Louis Peterson of Vida says that "until now, we've never had d4 (exceptional drought) levels, so it appears we're moving towards what appears to be another long-term drought in 2023 and are urging everyone who has farms, as well as the public in general, to be mindful of water use." There are a variety of studies keeping track of rainfall on the islands. For farmers, there are grant programs available, like the Livestock Forage Program. For more information on that grant or crop insurance disaster programs, call FSA at 340-773-9146.

6/21 34 sec Health

And finally, trending is some news you can sleep on, taking daytime naps may help maintain brain health as we age. That's according to a new study published Monday in the Journal Sleep Health. Researchers say habitual napping was linked with larger total brain volume. That in turn is associated with a lower risk of dementia and other diseases. Researchers say on average, the difference in brain volume between nappers and non-nappers was equivalent to two-and-a-half to six-and-a-half years of aging. However, prior research has shown that excess napping can also be harmful and could even be a sign of dementia.

6/23 27 sec Safety

There have been human trafficking incidents happening around the islands. That according to a press release from the Virgin Islands Police Department. Law enforcement urges commercial vehicle operators to raise their vigilance. Call 9-1-1 to report any suspicious behavior you see. Anyone in the community can be targeted for trafficking, regardless of age, gender identity, race, and social circumstances. Don't hesitate to say something or report to law enforcement. You could save a life.

6/23 45 sec Health

The Virgin Island's health care industry can look forward to sharing data in the future. During the 2023 Digital Health Summit, Governor Bryan signed a letter of intent with Crisp Shared Services. Agreeing to join a Data & Interoperability Pilot Program that will kickstart a health information exchange system in the territory. Crisp Shared Services will run the pilot program using federal funding. The goal is to let doctor's offices, hospitals, and other health centers and labs on the islands exchange health data. Governor Bryan said the program "{it} will provide health care professionals, agencies, and community organizations with key information to help them make quicker decisions and provide better treatments, resulting in more timely care and more positive outcomes with less burden to the patients."

6/23 30 sec Government / Finance

The Virgin Island's government confirmed a \$100 million line of credit with the First Bank of Puerto Rico. A line of credit will allow the government to take out money as needed until they reach the limit. The Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority finalized the deal. The government will use the credit to further disaster recovery

efforts. The first withdrawal was \$45 million towards Vitol as payment for the VI Water and Power Authority using the department's liquid propane gas. WAPA is applying to federal grant to repay the line of credit.

6/23 42 sec Government / Community

July 3rd marks the 175th Anniversary of Emancipation, but there are plenty of celebrations leading up to the big day. For instance, Freedom Week starts June 25th, and there are emancipation focused events every day leading up to July 3rd. This weekend, it starts with interdenominational ecumenical services across the islands, encouraging congregations to create emancipation proclamations. Monday follows with the naming of Emancipation Drive in Frederiksted, St. Croix, Tuesday with a Living Legends of Culture reception & art exhibit at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, and more. Also, this weekend, St. John Celebration Food Fair taking place on Sunday, June 25th. Fond memories and delicious food can be enjoyed starting at 11am on Frank Powell Sr. Park.

6/23 29 sec Safety

The St. Croix Amateur Radio Club is hosting their Annual Field Day. The public is invited to attend. The event lets amateur radio operators showcase and demonstrate their live response to disaster without use of internet or cell phones. The demonstration will take place on June 24th at 3pm and 5pm, then on June 25th at 10am and noon. Those who want to watch the action will go to the US Virgin Island American Red Cross. The address is listed on your screen. For any other questions, contact Daryl at 340-277-4253 or by emailing him.

6/23 97 sec Finance

The Caribbean Development Bank is committing to building the internal resilience capacity of borrowing member countries, as it acknowledges that those nations are being challenged like never before. CDB's president says that unprecedented challenges brought on by crises such as the covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have slowed the region's progress toward achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals. It's also contributing to rising debt, increased inequality and poverty. Addressing the 53rd Annual Meeting of the CDB Board of Governors in St. Lucia, Dr. Leon warned that the caribbean was potentially exposed to further risks that could add to inflationary pressures, eliminate jobs and deprive people of food, medicine, and other essentials.

6/26 24 sec Health

Adults in the US are encouraged to get screened for anxiety disorders. The US Preventive Services Task Force now recommends these screenings for anyone between 19 and 64 years old. The task force is a group of independent medical experts whose recommendations help guide doctors' decisions and influence insurance plans. It marks the first time they've made a final recommendation on screening for anxiety disorders in adults.

6/26 52 sec Safety

Friday, June 23rd was observed as a National Day of Mourning for Jamaica's children who have been victims of

violence and abuse. Governor General Sir Patrick Allen who read and signed the proclamation, said the day symbolizes a pledge to do all that is necessary to get rid of the scourge from Jamaica.

6/26 104 sec Health

With the hot caribbean sun, health experts say to beware, as some medications can cause heat intolerance, and lead to potentially serious complications. Our USVI News Emily Matson has more on how to know if your medicine may make you sensitive to the sun.

6/28 37 sec Government / Finance

Registration for the second round of Social Security Benefit Stipend payments is open until July 7th. The VI Office of Management and Budget has embraced in person registration drives this month, which they have called a success. Over 800 cases have been processed, with 500 of those approved for submission. In person registration is closed now, but the online portal is still open at omb.vi.gov. If registering online, you need a USVI photo identification, Social Security card, a Social Security payment statement, and current mailing address. The efforts to get more people registered are welcome to residents who missed the 1st distribution back in November.

6/28 46 sec Government / Finance

Broad band internet on the Virgin Islands just got a financial boost. The Office of Management and Budget got a Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Planning Grant from the US government. The grant is for unserved and underserved groups, with a focus on rural and unserved populations. The OMB will work with the Virgin Islands Broadband Equality Project to develop a program. That program should include identifying unserved locations, giving technical assistance to potential subgrantees, creating a broadband office to oversee the program, asset mapping, and identifying barriers. Governor Albert Bryan shared that broadband is key to improving island economics, saying "as we expand our broadband access throughout the territory, we have to put USVI on an equal playing field with the global economy, to help our business community."

6/28 35 sec Government

Governor Albert Bryan Jr. is under scrutiny from the senate for pulling \$45 million dollars from the island's general fund to pay Water & Power Authority bills. The money was pulled without authorization from the Senate. The Water & Power Authority, WAPA for short, owes hundreds of millions of dollars to Energy Trading Firm Vitol. The debt comes from the propane conversion project that an audit showed was managed poorly. The Senate's chief legal counsel says the pulling funds without senate authority is illegal. Senator Alma Francis Heyliger has tasked the Virgin Islands Department of Justice to investigate the executive branch.

6/30 35 sec Government

The US Virgin Islands are celebrating the 175th Emancipation Anniversary, with all sorts of events leading up to and on July 3rd. The Virgin Islands Folklife and Music Festival kicked off in Frederiksted, St. Croix on June 30th and goes through July 1st. July 2nd has several activities, including a Fort to Fort Freedom Ride on St.

Croix and commemorative holy mass at St. Patrick's. The St. John Festival is staying strong. The St. John J'ouvert starts at sunrise at the St. John National Park on Saturday, July 1st. And, a full day of events on St. John for Emancipation Day as well at the Frank A. Powell Sr. Park and Village entrance.

6/30 136 sec Health

Ok, here's some trivia for you, what's the deadliest animal in the world? Believe it or not, the US CDC says mosquitoes kill more people than any other animal, as they spread diseases like malaria, dengue fever and West Nile virus. And the CDC just issued an alert of locally-acquired cases of malaria in the mainland states of Florida and Texas, saying all five patients are being treated and are improving. So USVI News' Emily Matson has more on how one scientist says you can keep mosquitoes away.

**Public Service Announcements
04/1/2023 - 06/30/2023**

Organization / Subject	WCVI -	ECVI -
	CBS	ABC
Community PSA: Homes for Our Troops	212	200
COMMUNITY PSA: Imagine	240	220
COMMUNITY PSA: Veteran	249	222
EDUCATION PSA: Communities in Schools	174	160
ENVIRONMENT PSA: Atlantis Blue Project Foundation	174	157
ENVIRONMENT PSA: Climage Change	190	175
ENVIRONMENT PSA: Earthjustice	1559	1025
ENVIRONMENT PSA: Keep America Beautiful	227	217
ENVIRONMENT PSA: World Wildlife Fund	123	103
Health PSA: Autism Awareness	118	87
HEALTH PSA: Child Mind Institute	173	156
HEALTH PSA: Children's Cancer Research	211	204
HEALTH PSA: Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	167	149
HEALTH PSA: Lung Cancer Screening	229	211
HEALTH PSA: Middle School Mental Health Empress of Marianne	467	501
HEALTH PSA: Partnership to End Addiction	117	99
HEALTH PSA: SAMHSA (Mental Health/Drugs)	94	92
HEALTH PSA: Susan G Komen	190	177
HEALTH PSA:NF for Infections Diseases	470	488
PSA: Emergency Preparedness	173	155
PSA: Pass it On, The Foundation for a Better Life	167	151
SAFETY PSA: Caring for Kids & Families	103	106
SAFETY PSA: Child Car Safety	217	212
SAFETY PSA: National Crime Prevention Council Go For Real	197	191
SAFETY PSA: National Crime Prevention Council Mom's Job / Crime Prevention	122	93
Totals	6363	5551