

WCVI-TV

Christiansted, Saint Croix

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

First Quarter

2023

From January 1, 2023, through March 31, 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, 6-630pm, 7-730pm, 11-1130pm

USVI News: [ECVI] Monday – Friday, 6-630pm, 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 First Quarter 2023:

Community / Culture / Family Strengthening

Economy / Finance / Poverty

Education

Environment

Health concerns

Government

Safety / Crime Safety

January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2022, WCVI-TV aired more than 12,000 Public Service Announcements. The following are PSA Organizations that were represented:

Organization / Subject	WCVI - CBS	ECVI - ABC
COMMUNITY PSA: Air Force Recruiting Service	279	216
COMMUNITY PSA: AmeriCorps	11	12
COMMUNITY PSA: Habitat for Humanity	106	100
COMMUNITY PSA: No Kid Hungry	282	343
COMMUNITY PSA: US Dept of Veteran Affairs	260	209
COMMUNITY/ANIMAL PSA: American Humane	295	356
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PSA	96	94
EDUCATION PSA: Hiring & Diversifying Talent	108	103
EDUCATIONAL PSA: Social Security Administration	295	223
ENVIRONMENT PSA: EarthJustice	290	223
ENVIRONMENT PSA: National Park Foundation	10	12
ENVIRONMENT PSA: Preventing Food Waste	98	83
ENVIRONMENT PSA: World Wildlife Fund	813	1768
HEALTH PSA: CDC 2nd Hand Smoke	119	103
HEALTH PSA: CDC Drug Overdose and Prevention	688	1651
HEALTH PSA: Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Service	92	91
HEALTH PSA: Colorectal Cancer Prevention	110	102
HEALTH PSA: LUNGeivity Foundation	307	359
HEALTH PSA: Middle School Mental Health	380	310
HEALTH PSA: National Pest Management	103	100
HEALTH PSA: Ntl Foundation for Infectious Disease	289	347
HEALTH PSA: Prostate Cancer Foundation	299	226
HEALTH PSA: Shriner's Hospital for Children	722	1694
HEALTH PSA: Skin Cancer Foundation	12	14
HEALTH/COMMUNITY PSA: US Dept of Vet Affairs	90	85
SAFETY PSA: Ad Council Drug Impaired Driving	12	11
SAFETY PSA: Child Car Safety	12	10
Safety PSA: Gun Storage Safety	121	109
SAMHSA: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services	120	106
SOCIAL PSA: American Humane	12	14
SOCIAL PSA: Foundation for a Better Life	58	60
	6489	9134

Issues and Programs List

01/02 59 sec Government

Bryan released a statement saying he relieved George of her duties this past week. While he did not provide a reason for her termination, her firing comes just days after Bloomberg News reported George, in her capacity as VI attorney general, filed a lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase, the largest bank in the United States, without first informing Governor Bryan. According to Bloomberg News, the major lawsuit claims JPMorgan Chase facilitated convicted felon Jeffrey Epstein's abuse of women and girls, alleging the bank should have known about Epstein's illegal activity and as part of its anti-money laundering procedures, should have reported their client to authorities. George accused the bank of turning a blind eye to the sex trafficking operations that went on on Epstein's private island in the USVI, Little St. James. Bryan says Assistant Attorney General Carol Thomas-Jacobs will serve as acting attorney general.

01/02 121 sec Government

A new session of Congress gets underway Tuesday. The first item on the agenda for the 118th Congress is electing a new Speaker of the House. Republican leader Kevin McCarthy has struggled to win the backing of some in his party, whose support is needed because of the very narrow majority the GOP holds in the house.

01/02 23 sec Health

As we begin a new week, active Covid-19 cases remain steady in the territory. According to the latest numbers from the VI Department of Health, there are 49 active covid cases territory-wide, with 38 on St. Croix, 8 on St. Thomas, and three reported active cases on St. John. The health department says the flu and rsv are also circulating in the territory, so they're urging you to get a covid and flu vaccination.

01/02 97 sec Health

Looking to hop on the new year's goal train and make some healthier habits in 2023? Steve Nannes has six ways to make sure your goals don't get derailed.

01/04 64 sec Safety

A warning tonight from Virgin Islands police, about counterfeit bills being circulated at Festival Village. VIPD's alerting the community and businesses of the importance of checking all currency presented to them, as they've recently received reports of counterfeit currency that has been passed on to booth owners in the Festival Village in Frederiksted. Police say the counterfeit bills being passed on could be circulating in all denominations. A common "red flag" to look out for is the actual "feel" of the bill. It can be easily identifiable depending on the quality of the counterfeit. This alone often alerts employees to the fake currency. What's more, some counterfeit bills have actually passed the commonly used "marker" test. Oftentimes, the counterfeit bills being passed are done so at busy times of the business where an employee may be distracted. The VIPD Economic Crime Unit is asking booth owners and businesses, as well as the public to be vigilant in checking any US currency that is presented to you. If there are any suspicions or concerns, call the numbers on your screen or 911.

01/04 135 sec Health

In the Turks and Caicos, Covid-19 restrictions remain in place for visitors, despite the fact that all other Caribbean countries have done away with strict covid mandates. Our USVI news Deandre Hamilton found out why the TCI government decided to extend the mandates.

01/06 61 sec Government

Senators' elect of the 35th legislature of the Virgin Islands invites the community to the swearing-in events planned throughout the territory. On Sunday, January 8th at 3:00 p.m. on St. John is the pre-swearing-in service at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church... Immediately followed by a meet a greet in the Legislature Annex in Cruz Bay. On Monday, January 9th at 8:00 a.m., senators will attend a pre-swearing-in service at the Nisky Moravian Church on St. Thomas. Immediately after, members will proceed to the Emancipation Garden for the official swearing-in of the 35th legislature, which is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. Senators will then head to the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall in the Capitol Building for the initial session to officially organize the leadership and committee memberships of the 35th legislature. Then on Wednesday, January 11th a post-swearing-in service will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Refuge Worship Center on St. Croix, followed by a meet and greet at noon on the Anne E. Abramson Pier, in Frederiksted.

01/09 60 sec Government

Senators of the 35th legislature of the Virgin Islands are officially sworn-in to office. After a prayer service Monday morning on St. Thomas, the official swearing in for members took place at Emancipation Garden. The swearing in ceremony included speakers, song, music, and then, the members of the 35th legislature of the VI were officially sworn in, taking their oath of office to serve the people of the US Virgin Islands. Senators then held their initial session to officially organize the leadership and committee memberships of the 35th legislature. Governor Albert Bryan Jr. tested positive for Covid-19 on Monday, and was unable to attend the swearing-in ceremony, he sent a letter to the newly sworn senators congratulating them and expressing his desire to work collaboratively with the body for the betterment of the territory. This Wednesday, a post-swearing-in service will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Refuge Worship Center on St. Croix, followed by a meet and greet at noon on the Anne E. Abramson pier, in Frederiksted.

01/09 15 sec Health

As we begin a new week, active Covid-19 cases remain steady in the territory. According to the latest numbers from the VI Department of Health, there are 64 active covid cases territory-wide, with 43 on St. Croix, 18 on St. Thomas, and 3 reported active cases on St. John.

01/09 110 sec Health

Meantime, knowing what to do when someone goes into cardiac arrest could mean the difference between life and death. So, here's more on some simple steps you can take right away.

01/09 30 sec Health

Big medical news in the fight against Alzheimer's. The FDA has granted 'accelerated approval' for the drug leh-can'-uh-mab. It's one of the first experimental dementia drugs that appears to slow the progression of cognitive decline. Scientists say the treatment targets the underlying process of Alzheimer's, instead of only treating symptoms. 'Accelerated approval' makes it easier and quicker for drugs treating serious conditions to be approved, while the drugs are studied in larger and longer trials.

01/09 138 sec Community

In the Bahamas, an annual tradition, the Junkanoo holiday parades recently took place, and now, this year's winners have been announced. Our USVI News Deandre Hamilton reports.

01/12 58 sec Government / Community

Former Virgin Islands Governor Dr. Roy Lester Schneider, has been laid to rest Thursday, the territory bid farewell to Dr. Roy Lester Schneider who served as the fifth elected Governor of the US Virgin Islands, it was a beautiful interment where family, friends and loved ones gathered to pay their final respects. Prior, a funeral service Thursday morning, at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, he did not lie in state per his family's request. His funeral service was open to the public, this burial service immediately followed at Eastern Cemetery. The former USVI governor died on

December 18th at the age 83, from health complications. Not only was he the fifth elected Governor of the VI, he was also a respected physician, former VI Health Commissioner and decorated Army Vietnam Veteran.

01/12 121 sec Education

The Virgin Islands Department of Education is providing an update on the progress of the demolition and rebuilding plans for Charlotte Amalie High School. The new 240-thousand square foot campus will support six buildings and 1,350 students. Carnival is the overall design concept of the new school, to celebrate the historic and vibrant carnival celebrations of the Caribbean in its design. According to designers with the school district, the campus will house spaces dedicated to career and technical education in cosmetology, construction, automotive repair, occupational/physical therapy, and nursing. Leaders say the CAHS Campus design intends to be a place that ignites passion for life-long learning and builds community. The school district's architect for new schools recently provided an update on the progress to make this new school a reality.

01/12 65 sec Community

On St. Thomas, the annual Bordeaux Agricultural Food Fair and Farmers Market is set for this weekend. Here's a look at what you can expect.

01/16 107 sec Health

Cases are rising in the territory and the nation. So, the American Lung Association has launched a new campaign aimed at those who are at high-risk of getting severely sick or dying from Covid-19. Here's more on why the organization says testing and early treatment could mean the difference between life and death.

1/18 52 sec Government

We begin with big news today for Virgin Islanders, adult-use of marijuana is now legal in the territory. In what is a historical moment, Governor Bryan signs adult use cannabis legislation into law. The Virgin Islands Cannabis Use Act allows for the legal use by adults for medicinal, sacramental and recreational uses -- it also regulates the production, distribution and use of cannabis. The law also provides additional economic opportunities for Virgin Islanders and creates additional revenue for the government of the VI. What's more, the proclamation approves pardons for persons convicted of simple possession of marijuana, individuals convicted of simple possession of pot can now apply for a pardon through the VI Department of Justice. It all comes after years of hard work which included members of the 34th legislature, which passed the legislation, which is now law.

01/19 130 sec Government

Now to continuing coverage of the historic news for Virgin Islanders, adult-use of marijuana is now legal in the territory. As we reported, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. signed the Adult Use Cannabis Legislation into law on Wednesday. The Virgin Islands Cannabis Use Act allows for the legal use by adults for medicinal, sacramental and recreational uses -- it also regulates the production, distribution and use of cannabis. The law also provides additional economic opportunities for virgin islanders and creates additional revenue for the government of the VI. But Governor Bryan says the major impacts of this bill, is that it pardons people who have been convicted of simple possession of marijuana... Something which affects some 300 Virgin Islanders.

01/19 112 sec Health

And there's a renewed warning about the dangers of Covid-19 during pregnancy. A new large international study finds, pregnant women who get covid at any point during their pregnancy -- are at greater risk of being admitted into the hospital and are more likely to die from the virus. Here's more on the research and what women can do to protect themselves and their baby.

01/23 48 sec Government

This Monday, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. will deliver his fifth state of the territory address. It's set for Monday, January 23rd at 7 p-m. You can watch it live on the VI Government House Facebook and YouTube pages. Governor Bryan is just entering his second term in office, and at Monday's State of the Territory address, he's expected to speak about the many accomplishments his administration has made over the past four years, as well as the many issues facing Virgin Islanders, and his plans to address them. He will deliver his address to the members of the 35th legislature, and is expected to call on them to work together to continue to move the territory forward. Of course, tune in to USVI News Tuesday night and throughout the week, we'll be covering the main talking points, and help break down the Governor's message and plans.

01/26 103 sec Health

Is timing really everything? Maybe not, when it comes to eating and weight loss. A study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association suggests the timing of meals may not have as big of an impact on weight as once thought.

01/26 123 sec Health

About half of women who are 40 years old or older have dense breasts, according to the CDC. But a new study shows many women may not know that having dense breasts raises the risk for breast cancer. Here's more on the latest research, and what a doctor says you should take away from it.

01/30 181 sec Community

On St. Croix, a great event over the weekend was all about building positive relationships between youth and police. VIPD hosted Movie with a Cop Saturday night. About 100 students from four different elementary schools attended to watch Puss N Boots with officers. It came to be, with support from local law enforcement agencies including VI Superior and Supreme Court marshals, Bureau of Correction officers, Community Service officers, and of course VIPD officers. The markets STX Grocery sponsored the event, which offered a chance for kids to bond with local police, building relationships, in turn making the community safer. Deputy Chief Uston Cornelius explains what this amazing program is all about.

01/30 26 sec Environment

This weekend on St. Thomas, there's a chance to have some fun and help beautify the island. Cleanup VI is hosting a beach cleanup Saturday, February 4th at Vessup Beach at 10:00 in the morning. There will be food, drinks, and everything you need to pick up trash will be provided for volunteers. Cleanup VI is a local non-profit that organizes several cleanup events throughout the year, in order to bring people together and clean up the community.

02/02 38 sec Finance

Through various career fairs, the Virgin Islands Department of Labor provided job opportunities for hundreds of job seekers. Vidol's workforce development team says 400 Virgin Islanders received service from November of last through January, because of the job fairs. Applicants got an opportunity to network with more than 60 employers who offered job opportunities in various career fields. The Department of Labor says the hiring events on St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix were all a success. For more information about job opportunities or training programs offered through the department, you can register on their website at vidol.gov.

02/02 26 sec Health

As we near the end of the week, Covid-19 cases remain steady territory-wide, but have gone down a bit. According to the latest numbers from the VI Department of Health, there are 161 reported active covid cases, with 119 on St. Croix,

38 on St. Thomas and four active cases on St. John. The VI Dept. of Health is urging people to get the Bivalent Booster shot -- as recent studies show it has proved to be effective against the highly contagious XBB 1-5 variant.

02/02 100 sec Education

New research is adding to growing evidence that many students in the US and across the globe suffered significant setbacks in their learning progress during the Covid-19 pandemic. Here's a look at the data -- and what researchers say needs to be done to catch students back up.

02/02 31 sec Environment

Thankfully pollution currently is not a big problem in territory, but in many places, litter is, so this weekend on St. Thomas, there's a chance to have some fun and help beautify the island. Cleanup VI is hosting a beach cleanup Saturday, February 4th at Vessup Beach at 10:00 in the morning. There will be food, drinks, and everything you need to pick up trash will be provided for volunteers. Cleanup VI is a local non-profit that organizes several cleanup events throughout the year, in order to bring people together and clean up the community.

02/06 309 sec Safety

Haiti is one of the most lawless places on earth now. The Caribbean Island is beset by violence, poverty and a cholera outbreak. 60-percent of the capital port au prince is controlled by gangs. The situation in Haiti is now so bad, some nations are talking about foreign intervention - something the gangs say could lead to even worse bloodshed. Reporter Stuart Ramsay met one gang leader, a former policeman who's the subject of international sanctions.

02/08 24 sec Health

At Tuesday night's state of the union address, Biden said covid no longer controls our lives, as we move towards ending the pandemic covid public health emergency in May. And that comes as we're seeing steady covid-19 cases as we hit mid-week. According to the latest numbers from the VI Department of Health, there are 123 reported active covid cases, with 66 on St. Croix, 48 on St. Thomas and 9 reported active cases on St. John.

02/10 30 sec Education

Virgin Islands Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett has announced a big chunk of federal funding's coming to the territory to rebuild a St. Thomas school. 75 million in funding will help finance the rebuilding of the Jane Tuitt Elementary School. The money's coming from a grant from FEMA, to replace the school as a result of damages done by Hurricane Maria. Plaskett says she fought to ensure this school will be built back not as it was before the storm, but in a resilient manner with current industry standards.

02/10 55 sec Safety / Health

Now to details of a recall of a product that could be in your cupboards. 4.9-million units of Fabuloso Multipurpose Cleaner have been recalled, because of bacteria contamination. The recall includes several types of Fabuloso Multipurpose Cleaners, produced from December 14th to January 23rd. The products were sold online, and at major retailers. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission says customers should dispose of the product immediately by keeping it in its container and putting it in the trash. The Virgin Islands Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs says it contacted various local retailers, territory-wide, to have them check their shelves and inventory for the affected products. Home Depot St. Thomas and St. Croix found the product in their inventory and removed it from its shelves. Just toss is if you have it, but consumers who bought recalled products at those local stores can return them with a receipt.

02/10 209 sec Health

A lingering issue from Covid-19 is a lot of folks lost their sense of smell after getting infected. One study says an estimated 5.6% of people who've had covid experience long-lasting issues with their sense of smell. That's millions of people -- but two researchers might have a solution.

02/10 128 sec Community

In the Turks and Caicos, it was all about celebrating the islands' cultural experiences, with the 10th Annual Fish Fry.

02/14 98 sec Community

This weekend on St. Croix, the 51st Annual Agricultural and Food Fair kicks off. It starts Saturday February 18th, and runs through Monday. Organizers say it's the largest "country fair" in the Caribbean, representing farmers and local culture. Visitors can enjoy local food and drinks from a large selection of booths and check out displays from various vendors and local businesses. You can dance and fete to local music and live performances too. It's a chance to learn about local agriculture on St. Croix from the farmers who work tirelessly to make it happen. You can also shop for local art, clothing, jewelry, jams, jellies, spice mixes, and local plants, fruits and veggies produced by farmers in the Virgin Islands.

02/14 45 sec Health / Community

A USVI track star now ranks number one in the world, after a first-place victory at a competition in New York city. Michelle Smith became the number one ranked in the world in the 600-meter for under 18 athletes, after coming in first in the Millrose Games over this past weekend, with a world-record time of 1:29-point 5-2. The VI Track and Field Federation says Smith, a junior at Montverde High School in Florida, also came in first during the Florida-Georgia High School challenge earlier this month -- with a time of 1:30 that ranked her first in the US, and also set a Virgin Islands national indoor record, and records at her school. In this competition, Smith also competed in the four 400-meter relay, helping her team to a first-place finish, and setting national records in that race too.

02/16 133 sec Education / Government

Dionne Wells-Hedrington is sworn-in as the Virgin Islands Education Commissioner. She was officially sworn in Wednesday at a ceremony at the battery on St. John. During her remarks, she shared her plans for the department, highlighting her intention to collaborate across public and private entities for resources and programs which benefit students. Commissioner Dr. Wells-Hedrington, who has worked in education for 30 years, said her decades-long experience has given her first-hand knowledge of the department's needs. One of her biggest tasks will be managing billions of dollars to rebuild the territory's schools. She says she'll do everything she can to benefit and positively influence the thousands of public-school students.

02/22 86 sec Environment

FEMA is looking for leaders in USVI, for its youth preparedness council. They're seeking students in grades 8 to 11th in the US Virgin Islands who are passionate about disaster preparedness and making a positive impact for their community's resilience, to join the youth preparedness council. FEMA created the council in 2012 to bring together young leaders from across the country who are interested in disaster preparedness and community service. The council demonstrates FEMA's commitment to involve America's youth in preparedness-related activities. It also provides young people an opportunity to present their perspectives, feedback, and opinions to FEMA staff. FEMA's VI coordinator says young leaders are needed to deliver messages of empowerment and creativity with emergency management in VI, as fresh perspectives from young voices will strengthen the territory's culture of resilience, as FEMA continues to focus on creative solutions to prepare and respond to hurricanes and other hazards in the Virgin Islands. During their one-year term, council members meet with FEMA staff throughout their term to develop strategies, initiatives, and project proposals. They'll also participate in a summit in Washington, D.C., in July with FEMA leaders and other preparedness professionals to network and learn more about the emergency management field. The online application closes March 6th. We've put a link to apply on our website usvicbs.com.

02/22 117 sec Health

At the first sign of a fever -- many parents quickly turn to fever-reducing medication. But pediatricians are warning -- that may not be the best course, so here's more on what to do when your child gets a fever.

02/24 119 sec Education

On St. Croix, ground is broken, leading the way for the first new school to be built in two decades in the territory. Several government and school leaders grabbed shovels and ceremoniously broke ground at the site of the brand-new Arthur A Richards pre-k through 8th grade school. It's the site of the former Evelyn Williams Elementary School, east of Frederiksted. Now that the ground is broken, construction will begin, and the school could be completed in two years this is the first school in the territory to be replaced since the 2017 hurricanes and after several years of structural problems.

02/28 44 sec Education / Health

On St. Croix, Kappa Alpha Si Fraternity incorporated gives back to the community. Over the weekend, the St. Croix, USVI Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha PSI Fraternity, in sponsorship with Frederiksted health care, hosted a "free dental kit giveaway." It's in recognition of February as National Children's Dental Health Month. The fraternity organization's president said this is the first of many free community giveback initiatives this year that the chapter will continue to participate in. The theme for Children's Dental Health Month 2023 is brush, floss, smile, and in partnering with Frederiksted health care they were able to give out over 100 kits to kids and parents in the community, to encourage and promote healthy dental hygiene for their children.

03/02 108 sec Health

We begin with continuing coverage of the extra Snap Benefits, which have ended for tens of millions of Americans in 32 states, including the Virgin Islands. During the pandemic, the federal government passed an emergency increase in snap benefits to help low-income families, but those benefits expired Wednesday. That means less money to spend on food each month, even as inflation remains near 40-year highs. The temporary boost to Snap Benefits started at the beginning of the covid pandemic, to help low-income families. The extra allotments were intended to expire when the pandemic ended. Virgin Islands Human Services director explains how it will impact Virgin Islanders.

03/02 38 sec Community / Government

What do you think needs to be done to improve the territory? That's just what VI Senator Angel Bolques, Jr. (on-hell bowl-quez) wants to know. He's asking residents to fill out a territorial concern survey to determine the top three issues on each island. The data from this survey will be used to identify the major concerns and points of interest expressed by residents. After collecting and analyzing the data, town hall meetings will be scheduled on each island to discuss these concerns in greater detail. You can complete the survey now through march 31st. Bolques says this survey's an effort to give the people of the Virgin Islands an opportunity to submit their concerns directly to his office. We've put a link to the survey on our website, usvicbs.com.

03/02 35 sec Safety

On St. Croix, work is progressing well on the Melvin Evans Highway Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project. The Department of Public Works says crews are in the final phase of the highway project, working from the Good Hope intersection to the Williams Delight intersection. Right now, the contractor's laying permanent asphalt along the new roadway. To date, 35-percent of the work's completed -- both the westbound and eastbound left lanes are now closed to traffic, so motorists are asked to proceed with caution in the area. The scope of work for this project includes milling, road reconstruction/paving and striping... At a cost of about 12.3 million, paid for with Garvee funds.

03/07 33 sec Finance

A new Flagship store opens in St. Thomas, in grand fashion. Shoppers were invited to take tours, win prizes, and enjoy live music in the 33-hundred square foot Yacht Grand Haven store. The new store already offers fixed wireless broadband. The store is meant to add convenience and accessibility to residential and business customers in the territory. The new Liberty Flagship store is part of the company's plans to invest and grow in the US Virgin Islands. Liberty's Yacht Haven Grande store is the second retail space the company has opened in the US Virgin Islands since its entrance in the market.

03/09 52 sec Community / Government

The new website to let you know everything you need to about the territory's 175th Emancipation Commemoration is now launched. The 175th Emancipation Commemoration Committee has announced the launch of its new website, vi175.com. It's to keep residents updated, serving as a one-stop destination for all things emancipation and the USVI's 175th celebration plan. Visitors to the site can read and learn the true stories of emancipation, there's a lot of history on the site. People can also contribute creatively and financially to the many aspects of commemoration plans, as well as be kept up to date, and informed of all upcoming emancipation related events. There are the "The Keepers of the Flame," who will be honored at a reception on April 4th on St. Thomas and April 12th on St. Croix... Among many other festivities.... And you can now learn more about The Keepers of the Flame on vi175.com.

03/09 46 sec Safety

Meantime, thanks to a local pediatrician, children throughout the VI will be safer, while traveling. Dr. Anthony Ricketts of the Pediatric Care Center, donated 20 booster seats to the VI Office of Highway Safety's Booster Seat Drive. The initiative aims to provide new booster seats to students, ages 4 to 7, who were observed leaving elementary school campuses illegally and unsafely. In the territory, child passengers in this age category are required to ride in the back seat, using booster seats with seat belts. With the primary goal of promoting child health and wellness, participating in the drive was a natural fit for the Pediatric Care Center. Other area businesses are being encouraged to support the cause and donate child seats this year... You can contact the VIOHS to do so.

03/09 73 sec Finance / Community

International Women's Day was on Wednesday, and this week, Liberty VI announced it's partnered with a local group to help protect women. Liberty VI has funded the Women's Coalition of St. Croix, with a 20-thousand dollar grant from the Liberty Foundation, to launch the organization's initiative called the Women's Empowerment Business Startup Project. The Women's Coalition of St. Croix offers advocacy and assistance to crime victims, domestic violence survivors, and families in need in St. Croix. And this grant allowed the non-profit to expand to an area they were trying to reach, through empowering survivors of domestic violence and helping them to become self-sufficient, and be able to provide for their children in a safe and healthy environment. The Women's Empowerment and Business Startup Project teaches survivors of domestic violence in St. Croix, how to turn an existing skill into a legitimate business. Participants learn how to build a business step by step, from registering a trade name and obtaining their licenses, to working on a business plan and marketing the business. Organizers say this project gives women a sense of self-esteem so they can realize that they don't have to be dependent on an individual who mistreats them.

03/09 65 sec Safety

A recent seat check has raised safety concerns throughout the territory. The Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety partnered with traffic safety officers of the VIPD, and certified child passenger safety technicians across the territory to conduct a child safety seat check on Saturday, February 11th of this year. Data generated from the initiative sounded an alarm for child passenger safety in the territory. Misuse errors were identified and addressed in 80% of the seats checked on St. Thomas and 89% of those checked on St. Croix... Rates are 46-percent on the mainland. During this initiative, drivers in violation were cited, in hopes to encourage them to make sure kids are properly secured, moving forward. The director of the VIOHS says even the best safety seat on the market will not keep your child safe if it's not used correctly, so caregivers can always take advantage of the no-cost life-saving service year-round... To determine the

right seat for their child and make sure it's installed correctly... To find the closest location to do so near you, call the Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety at (340) 473-7383.

03/13 103 sec Environment

The Bahamas will have a fully sustainable, zero carbon resort by the end of the year. Prime minister Philip Davis has signed a Heads of Agreement for the solar-powered residential and yacht resort community, Ki'ama Bahamas, with silent resorts.

03/15 49 sec Community

More on a story we first brought you earlier this week, about the three men, praised for their heroic efforts in saving two people after a waterfront accident. Two of those selfless people turned out to be students at Charlotte Amalie High School. And this week, Lieutenant Governor Tregenza roach joined a proud and grateful Virgin Islands in commending the heroic efforts of Dillon hodge and Kalan Bernier, for their bravery over the weekend in saving the lives of passengers in a waterfront car accident. Roach presented the students presented with certificates of commendation saying, thanks to these young men, the lives of those passengers were saved. Without hesitation they demonstrated selflessness and the human instinct to help as they jumped into the dark waters of the waterfront to rescue the occupants of the car.

03/15 173 sec Finance

It's a promising outlook for Caribbean travel and tourism this year. Bevan Springer has the details in this week's Caribbean report.

03/17 53 sec Government

Back in January, Virgin Islands Governor Albert Bryan Jr signed a law, making marijuana use legal for medical, sacramental, and recreational purposes, throughout the territory. But there's confusion about it, so today government house is clarifying the status of cannabis use in the territory. January 18th, Governor Bryan signed the Virgin Islands Cannabis Use Act into law. It makes pot use legal, and also regulates the production, distribution, sale and use of cannabis. But it's not in full effect... Bryan says before the new law can be fully enacted, the Office of Cannabis Regulations has to develop and finalize the rules and regulations governing the cannabis industry in the territory. And until then, the use and sale of cannabis remains prohibited under the VI code. To learn all the steps needed to fully enact the Cannabis Use Act, what will still remain illegal once it is passed, and what is now legal and illegal in terms of cannabis, visit our website, usvicbs.com.

03/20 110 sec Environment

A new climate report from hundreds of the world's top scientists issues a dire warning -- time is running out to save the planet.

03/22 39 sec Finance

\$66 million in federal funding is headed to the territory to bring affordable connectivity to residents. Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett said the several million-dollar grant is from the federal communications commission for the affordable connectivity program. The program would provide subsidies to help underserved and rural areas expand broadband connectivity, and save money on high-speed internet. It will provide a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households, and eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to buy a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

03/22 186 sec Environment

On St. Croix, big news this week in the efforts by the Virgin Islands government to acquire land to ensure islanders are

able to use it, enjoy it and learn from it as well. Governor Albert Bryan Jr. announced Tuesday, the Virgin Islands has acquired the Hesselberg property -- 69 acres of beachfront and salt pond property at the west end of St. Croix, in Frederiksted. It's now owned by the territory and will be for public use under the newly created territorial park system. The Virgin Islands Park System was created last year to ensure unique habitats and ecosystems and cultural and historical resources are preserved, protected, maintained and used for the long-term benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. Governor Bryan said this land purchase is the first step towards revitalizing the history and culture of the Virgin Islands.

03/24 130 sec Environment

We've been talking a lot about sargassum lately, as a big blob of the seaweed floats toward the Caribbean and we've now learned there are federal grants available for Virgin Islanders who were impacted by the massive sargassum influx last year. The funding will help residents repair homes damaged by the water shortage and unprecedented sargassum seagrass influx in 2022. The US Department of Agriculture is making grants of up to \$40,675 available for those who were impacted. The USDA says the homes must be located in presidentially declared disaster areas, and residents of St. Croix may be eligible for the funding. To find out if you are eligible and to apply for the funding, head to our website, usvicbs.com.

03/24 58 sec Government

Local lawmakers will meet this week, to talk about plans to spend millions of dollars for recovery development projects. Governor Bryan has called the legislature into special session to talk about plans to use public funds to supplement federal recovery funding and initiate projects. The special session with a 35th legislature and governor will take place next week, on April 5th, to consider proposed legislation to authorize the government of the Virgin Islands to use public funds to establish a line of credit of \$150-million which would be used to supplement federal contributions for recovery projects in the territory and to initiate other specific recovery projects. The line of credit would also be used to help with negotiated settlement obligations on behalf of WAPA and provide funding for authorized governmental operations. Bryan said he will make members of his financial team available to the legislature to answer any questions during the special session.

03/29 55 sec Finance

An exciting day in the territory this week as the USVI welcomes a new airline service to the Dominican Republic and Eastern Caribbean. The USVI commemorated Skyhigh Dominicana's inaugural flight to St. Thomas on Wednesday, March 27th with a water salute and ribbon cutting at the Cyril E. King airport in St. Thomas. Skyhigh will provide twice-weekly service between the Dominican Republic and St. Thomas on Mondays and Fridays. VI Senator Marvin Blyden, says he was pleased to be there, as the airline few its first flight and says this new route makes more travel choices available to virgin islanders. Blyden has worked for the last two years on this project with officials of the VI Port Authority and representatives of Skyhigh Airlines to make it more affordable for residents to travel the Caribbean region. Blyden says there is a possibility of adding additional routes, including to St. Lucia, St. Croix, and other islands, in the future.

03/31 25 sec Community

It is a significant day in Virgin Islands history, Transfer Day. On March 31st 1917 Denmark formally seceded St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John to the United States of America. This year, we're celebrating 106 years under the American flag. In January of 1917, the US agreed to purchase the VI from a financially strapped Denmark for 25-million in gold coins. The Denmark flag was lowered for the last time and the US flag was raised ever since.