

Prosecutor's home torched after cameras disabled Page 2

Boards of Elections delay in counting votes violates V.I. Code Page 2

ONE DOLLAR

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DAILY NEWS



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82nd year, No. 22542

CHARGES: ILLEGAL PROCEEDS TOTAL \$1.1 MILLION

Senator indicted

Alvin Williams Jr. and two Senate staffers arrested in federal fraud and bribery case

Page 3



Sen. Alvin Williams Jr., who surrendered to law enforcement officials Thursday, did not run for re-election this year. He is in his third term in the V.I. Legislature.

Daily News File Photo

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Scotiabank

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Prosecutor's home destroyed in suspected arson on St. Croix

By LOU MATTEI
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — V.I. Police and V.I. Fire Service officials on St. Croix are investigating what they say is suspected arson at the home of a criminal prosecutor for the V.I. Attorney General's Office.

The Estate St. George home of Assistant Attorney General Kip Roberson was fully engulfed in flames when five Fire Service trucks responded to a 911 call about 11 p.m. Thursday, according to St.

Croix Fire Chief Angel Torres Sr. and Attorney General Vincent Frazer.

Torres estimated that the home had been burning for about 15 minutes before the call came in. He said firefighters had to force their way through a motorized gate to gain access to the burning house. No one was inside, and no one was hurt in the blaze, but the home was completely destroyed, Torres said.

"It's a total loss," Torres said. Torres said firefighters also found that surveillance cameras at the

home had been tampered with. "Someone cut the wires," he said. "The wires were pulled out and the screens were pulled out and thrown in the bushes."

Torres said firefighters found evidence of tampering on the doors to the home, which appeared that someone had tried to pry the doors open. The Fire Service did not leave the scene until 3:20 a.m., Torres said.

Torres said Thursday evening that the Fire Service had not contacted any witnesses at that point and that

Roberson's home was located in an isolated area. He said he believed Roberson shared the home with another attorney, but he did not know the attorney's name.

"Apparently they were a couple, but it's an ongoing investigation," Torres said. "We gotta really follow up on some leads and stuff we're looking at."

Roberson could not be reached for comment Thursday evening.

Frazer declined to comment about Roberson's living situation. The attorney general said late Thursday

that he had not yet been fully briefed on the fire, but he had a deputy on St. Croix looking into the question of whether the suspected arson could be connected to any cases Roberson was working.

"I hope not, but we will look into that," Frazer said.

Torres said the fire remains under investigation by the Police Department's forensics unit and the Fire Service's arson prevention unit. Anyone with information about the fire can call the Fire Service at 773-8050 and ask for the arson prevention unit.

Elections boards' slow vote count violates V.I. law

By LOU MATTEI
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Both Boards of Elections in the Virgin Islands have run afoul of the V.I. Code and board policies in the wake of Tuesday's general election, from which paper ballots are still being tallied.

The V.I. Code requires the boards to count the votes for each candidate within a day of receiving ballot materials from the polling places: "Each board of elections, after having received all statements, books, lists, papers, vouchers, ballots, ballot boxes and district register from each polling district and polling place in its district, shall convene not later than one day following the receipt thereof and determine the total number of votes cast in the election district for each candidate."

The law states that the boards must convene no later than three days after receiving the aforementioned materials to tally votes for the Board of Education and Board of Elections races.

On Tuesday, a majority of the votes from all races were cast on electronic machines, and results from those ballots were available within hours of the polls closing.

However, widespread distrust of the machines led to a spike in the use of paper ballots — more than 4,500 vote count and, in effect, hampered the boards' abilities to comply with the law.

Today marks the third day since the boards received all the ballots from the polling sites Tuesday night.

The St. Thomas-St. John Board hopes to finish counting the Senate races by the end of the day today before moving on to other races, according to board member Lorna Thomas.

The St. Croix Board is scheduled to begin counting its 2,781 paper ballots today.

Thomas, who helped on Thursday to oversee her board's tally of about 600 ballots in the



Daily News Photo by FIDNA STOKES

St. Croix Board of Elections member Lisa Harris Moorhead looks on as board members and election judges sort and count ballots Thursday. The board issued a statement Thursday that it had finished sorting more than 2,700 ballots and will begin counting them today at the Election System Office in Sunny Isle Shopping Center.

Senate race, said the law makes little sense in the context of the territory's current paper ballots, which can be counted only by hand.

"Literally it would have been impossible to follow," Thomas said when asked about the law. "I don't see how we could have done that."

Thomas said the board should have new voting machines by the 2014 elections that can tally paper ballots automatically.

When asked about enforcing the section of the law cited above, V.I. Attorney General Vincent Frazer said he "would have to look at that and see."

The boards' handling of the paper ballots also has brought them into conflict with a Board of

Elections policy.

Joint Board of Elections Chairman Rupert Ross Jr. said Thursday that the joint board passed a policy earlier this year requiring the boards to begin counting any paper ballots the night of the election. He said the policy never was put into writing, but it may exist in some form in minutes from the meeting. He also said the policy lacked an enforcement mechanism.

Ross said the intent of the policy, which passed by a 6-5 vote, was to ensure that processing of the paper ballots began as soon as possible. The sooner the counting begins, the easier it is to comply with another section of the law that requires the boards to certify a final vote count within 10 days of an election, Ross reasoned.

The certification deadline already was weighing on the mind of Thomas, who pointed out the St. Thomas-St. John Board has yet to touch locked ballot boxes containing absentee ballots and walk-in votes.

Elections Supervisor John Abramson Jr. has said the district processed 412 walk-in ballots and mailed 331 absentee ballots.

But Thomas was optimistic that the board was gaining momentum after a troubled start.

"Tempers were a little tight yesterday, but everyone's happy today," Thomas said. "The public was much quieter and accommodating today, and we appreciated them talking to the judges to do their jobs."

Candidate Lawrence Olive, who earned 304 paper-ballot votes on Thursday to bump Lisa Williams from ninth place in the Senate race, said he told his supporters to use the paper ballots as a more reliable — and legal — alternative to the electronic machines.

"If the trend continues, I don't see no reason why I will not be in the top seven," Olive said. "It just goes to show you that the paper ballot is the true count."

— Contact reporter Lou Mattei at 714-9124 or email lmattei@dailynews.vi

Election Update

Senate At-large

Craig Barshinger	11,133
Wilma Marsh-Monsanto	4,930

St. Thomas-St. John District

Clifford Graham	6,840
Shawn-Michael Malone	4,704
Myron Jackson	4,661
Janette Millin Young	4,407
Clarence Payne	3,851
Tregenza Roach	3,793
Donald Cole	3,352
Justin Harrigan Sr.	3,118
Lawrence Olive	3,003
Lisa Williams	2,823
Horace Brooks	2,610
Paul Alexander	2,202
Sean Georges	2,147
Marvin Blyden	2,125
Louis Willis	2,082
Alma Francis-Heyliger	1,911
Kent Bernier Sr.	1,800
Janelle Sarauw	1,750
Stephen Frett	1,436
Cecilia Milliner-Emanuel	1,191
Joseph Gumbs	1,138
Kyza Callwood	949
Shirley Sadler	826
Elvin Fahie Sr.	804
Neville Amey	727
Alan Friedman	642
Carol Berry	624
Ormodoso Muhammad	411
Cleone Marrison	327
Jodi Hodge	304
Josephine Lindquist	290
Andreas Tietje	272
Orial Webb	210
Walter Brown	183
Charlesworth Halstead	125

* Unofficial; as of Thursday.

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Contact us

Publisher
Jason Robbins
714-9107
jrobbins@dailynews.vi

Executive Editor
J. Lowe Davis
714-9138
lowedavis@dailynews.vi

E-mail
dailynews@vipowernet.net

Advertising
St. Thomas-St. John
714-9141 or 714-9147
Fax: 774-6886

St. Croix
773-4425
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714-9106
Fax: 776-0740

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Sports
714-9102
Fax: 776-0740

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Sen. Alvin Williams Jr. charged with bribery, mail fraud and wire fraud

By ALDETH LEWIN
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Sen. Alvin Williams Jr. was arrested by federal agents Thursday and charged with bribery, mail fraud and wire fraud.

The proceeds of Williams' criminal activities \$1.1 million, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

About 40 FBI agents Thursday, almost a dozen 10 FBI agents converged on the V.I. Legislature building on St. Thomas, according to several eyewitnesses.

The agents went inside and came out escorting Kim Blackett, who is listed on the Legislature website as Williams' chief of staff. Blackett also was charged in an indictment filed Thursday.

Another staff member also was charged, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, which did not release the person's name.

Senate President Ronald Russell said he was on St. Croix at the time the agents arrived at the Legislature, but he was informed of the arrest. Russell said he was told that Williams had surrendered to law enforcement officers.

"He turned himself in, that's what I understand," Russell said.

Russell said he had no additional information Thursday.

In October 2011, about 25 federal and local law enforcement officers raided the St. Thomas Senate building and Williams' office.

A federal grand jury handed up an indictment Thursday charging Williams, Blackett and a third person with operating and participating in criminal activities including bribery, wire fraud and mail fraud, U.S. Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands Ronald Sharpe said in a prepared statement.

The indictment has not yet been posted by the District Court. However, the statement from Sharpe includes a number of details from the charging documents including that Williams is accused of:

- Attempting to bribe Public Works Commissioner Darryl Smalls with \$10,000 in cash.
- Accepting bribes from the developers of Raphune Vistas.
- Accepting \$35,000 in bribes from the developers of the wind turbines at Tutu Park Mall.
- Soliciting kick-backs from his own staff in exchange for salary raises.
- Committing wire fraud by using public funds to pay for courses and having staff members submit work in his name to obtain an online degree in his name from University of Phoenix.

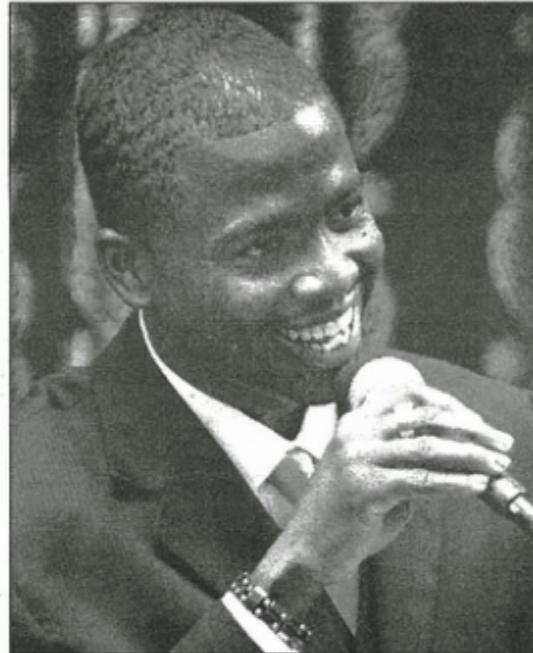
According to Sharpe, if Blackett and Williams are convicted, they face a maximum 20-year prison sentence and up to \$250,000 in fines.

Public Works

On Sept. 5, 2009, Williams gave the V.I. Public Works Commissioner \$10,000 in cash in an attempt to bribe him to give contracts to Ace Development Inc., a company in which Williams had an interest, Sharpe said.

In his answers to a Daily News candidate questionnaire for the 2006 Voter Guide, Williams said he was the owner of Ace Development Inc.

At the time, Darryl Smalls was the Public Works Commissioner. When The Daily News reached Smalls on Thursday night, he said he had no comment.



Sen. Alvin Williams Jr.

Raphune Vistas

Between Feb. 21, 2007, and Nov. 18, 2011, Williams solicited a bribe from the developers of the Raphune Vista housing development project on St. Thomas, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. The indictment says Williams promoted legislative action and supported the authorization of funding and zoning of the project in exchange for which Ace Development received a contract related to the construction of Raphune Vistas, Sharpe said.

As part of the contract, Ace Development used and/or rented construction equipment to the developers, Sharpe wrote.

In May 2009, the Senate approved a zoning change for Oceanside Village Inc., the developers of Raphune Vistas, from R-1, residential low density one- and two-family, to R-4, residential medium density — against the recommendations of the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

In June 2009, Gov. John deJongh Jr. vetoed the zoning change.

Tutu wind turbines

In September 2008, Williams asked for and received a \$10,000 campaign contribution from the developers of the Tutu Park windmill project as a bribe to support legislation supporting the project, Sharpe said.

Williams also solicited \$25,000 in campaign contributions from the wind turbine developers between September 2008 and September 2009, according to the federal prosecutor.

A number of companies were involved with the wind turbine project, including Green Power Electric; Dallas-based Earth, Wind and Power; and Island Wind Power.

When the Senate passed a comprehensive renewable energy bill in 2009, an amendment was tacked on to change the zoning code to allow wind turbines in B-1 and B-3 business zones without having to seek separate zoning approval. The legislation also would have allowed wholesale renewable energy production in B-4 and B-3 zones.

The measure was line-item vetoed by deJongh in July 2009.

Campaign funds and false reports

From January 2006 to December 2011, Williams and a legislative staff member failed to deposit certain campaign contributions; withdrew funds from a campaign account; and submitted false campaign disclosure reports that failed to include certain contributions, according to Sharpe.

Kick-backs from staff

In the summer of 2010, Williams tried to solicit kick-backs from his own staff in exchange for giving them salary increases, the statement from the U.S. attorney's office said.

According to Sharpe, the staff members were supposed to withdraw a portion of the increased salary in cash and give it to Williams.

From September 2010 to July 2011, Williams received such a bribe, Sharpe said.

University of Phoenix

From April 2007 to February 2008 and from January 2008 to October 2011, Williams and a staff member committed federal wire fraud as the senator sought online degrees from the University of Phoenix.

"The indictment alleges that the staff member falsely submitted various documents that were generated, created and authored by others under the direction of and in the name of Williams," Sharpe said in the statement.

From January 2008 to October 2011, Williams and Blackett defrauded the government by using public funds for non-legislative purposes, namely pursuing an online degree for Williams, Sharpe said.

"As the law enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of Education, the Office of Inspector General will aggressively pursue anyone who games the Education system for their own selfish purpose," Special Agent-in-charge of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General Yessyca Santana said in a written statement.

The investigation

The investigation leading to the indictment was conducted by the Public Corruption Task Force, a joint federal and local team.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kim Lindquist, Nolan Paige and Kelly Lake.

"The prosecution of public corruption is a top priority of the U.S. Attorney's Office," Sharpe said. "It is a breach of the public trust for public officials to use their office for personal gain."

"These individuals have allegedly abused their powers by utilizing their positions to discreetly conduct illegal activities," IRS-CI Special Agent-in-charge Jose Gonzalez said Thursday. "IRS-CI is committed to following the money trail to ensure that public officials who use their office to line their own pockets are brought to justice and deprived of their ill-gotten gains."

Sharpe asked anyone with direct knowledge of illegal acts or information on corruption in the Virgin Islands to call the Public Corruption Task Force at 715-6516.

— Contact reporter Aldeth Lewin at 714-9111 or email alewin@dailynews.vi

Alvin Williams Jr., 34

Democrat

Senator, St. Thomas-St.

John District.

29th, 28th, 29th

Legislatures.

Committees: Chairman of Planning and Environment Protection; vice chairman of Government Operations; member of Rules and Judiciary, Housing, Sports and Veterans Affairs, Public Safety, Homeland Security and Justice; liaison to the U.S. Congress.

Education: 1996 graduate of Charlotte Amalie High School.

Claims to have earned an AA online degree from University of Phoenix, but federal indictment puts that in question.

Community positions:

Former president of St. Thomas-St. John Horse Owners Association.

Prior employment: Owner of Ace Development Inc. and general manager of Alvin Williams Trucking and Heavy Equipment Rental, which his Legislature website says has been "contracted by the federal and local governments to provide major development services in the territory."

Alvin Williams Jr.'s Senate staff

Kim Blackett, chief of staff.

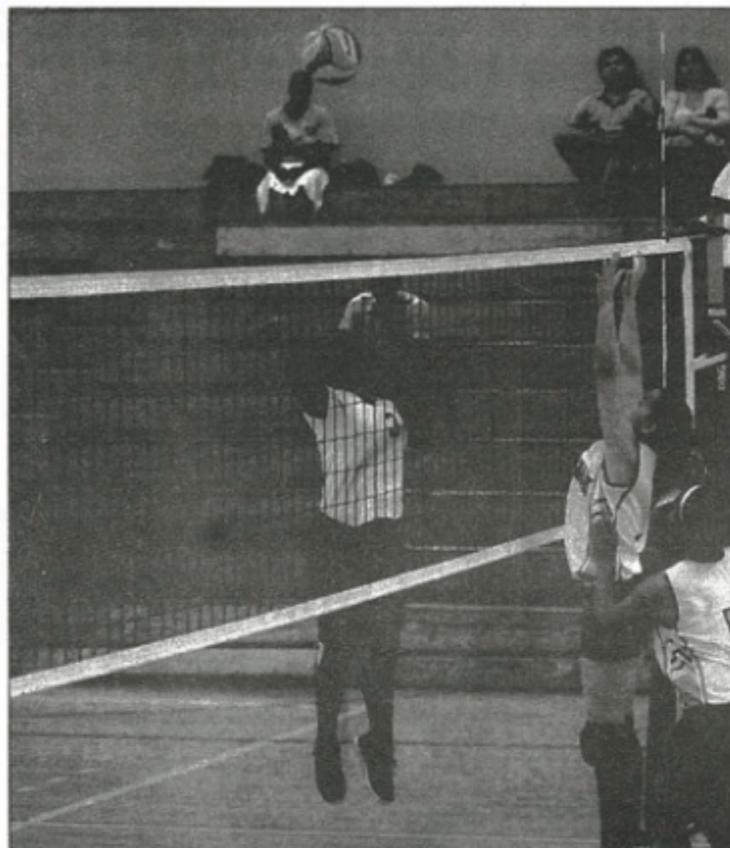
Garry Sprauve, senior advisor.

Rasheen St. Juste, constituent officer.

Phillip Harrigan, public relations officer-committee coordinator.

Jonee' Edwards, administrative assistant, legislative aide.

Sources: V.I. Legislature website, www.legvi.org; Williams' answers to Daily News 2006 Voter Guide questionnaire.



Daily News Photo by TIM CHAPMAN

Ivanna Eudora Kean High School volleyball player Chantell Grant goes up for a kill in the Lady Rays' 3-1 home win over the Ss. Peter & Paul Lady Jaguars on Thursday.

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM THE BACK PAGE

the ball over her own head and just inside the out-of-bounds antenna. The ball dropped untouched in the center of the Ss. Peter and Paul half.

The Lady Jags struggled to forget about such points and assistant coach Ronald Blyden noted that emotion is the team's biggest issue. Blyden was filling in for head coach Gigi Quetel, who was unable to attend the game.

"They have their issues and their problems — I understand that — but they feed off of each other negatively, unfortunately," Blyden said. "But they are gifted, that's for sure. That's one of the reasons I'm sticking with them and I don't want to leave."

Kean (7-3) will try to transfer its energy over to St. Croix today and Saturday at the Educational Complex Invitational. Coach Jennifer Matthias hopes to see more consistency out of her team, especially Grant.

"She brings a lot of energy, but sometimes her energy is in her mouth, cheering. But I need more of her energy to go into playing more on the court," Matthias said.

"They love to cheer and make that kind of noise, but I wish they had that energy also when they're playing the ball. They're a good group of girls, but sometimes they get sidetracked."

— Contact reporter Tim Chapman at 714-9102 or tchapman@dailynews.vi.

Boras: Dodgers 'bought store,' Mets 'in freezer'

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — With baseball awash in record revenue as the signing season starts, Scott Boras compares the habits of teams to families sifting through supermarket shelves.

At the winter meetings in Dallas last year, the agent had this to say of the financially troubled Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Mets: "Normally, they're in the steaks section, and I found them in the fruits-and-nuts category a lot."

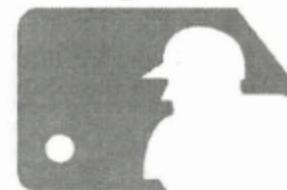
Since then, the Dodgers have been sold for \$2 billion. The Mets owners have agreed to pay up to \$162 million — and likely much less — in a deal with the trustee for Bernard Madoff's fraud victims.

So on Wednesday at the general managers' meeting, Boras said his view of the Dodgers had changed.

"I think they bought the store," he said.

And as for the Mets?

"The best you can say is that they might be in the freezer section," he



explained. "But there's a lot of good, longstanding products that they can acquire there."

Sluggers Josh Hamilton and pitcher Zack Greinke are among the top players in a relatively weak free-agent class that also includes outfielders B.J. Upton, Michael Bourn, Torii Hunter and Nick Swisher; first baseman Adam LaRoche; and pitchers Kyle Lohse and Rafael Soriano.

Baseball estimates revenue this year at \$2.5 billion — an increase of about \$500 million. National television contracts with Fox and Turner that run from 2014-21 will double the average yearly money baseball receives to about \$800 million.

And perhaps the biggest evidence of baseball's wealth is franchise values — the Dodgers sold for \$2 billion this

year in a bankruptcy court auction and the lowly San Diego Padres were bought for \$800 million.

Since the Dodgers were bought last spring by a group headed by Mark Walter, Stan Kasten and Magic Johnson, they increased their payroll by about \$35 million, adding infielder Hanley Ramirez, first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, closer Brandon League, pitcher Josh Beckett and outfielder Carl Crawford.

The Dodgers' payroll next year might approach or surpass that of the New York Yankees, who have topped spending every year since Los Angeles edged them by \$1 million in 2001.

New York is vowing to cut its payroll by 2014 because of changes in the collective bargaining agreement that will cut the team's revenue-sharing bill if it doesn't wind up paying a luxury tax.

Infielder Maicer Izturis became the first major league free agent to switch teams this offseason, agreeing to a \$10 million, three-year contract with the Toronto Blue Jays. The 32-year-old hit 256 with 17 steals in 19 tries, two homers and 20 RBIs this year for the Angels.

FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM THE BACK PAGE

against Charlotte Amalie High School in mid-October, but rebounded with a 46-0 win over Central High on St. Croix before last week's bye.

"We have a lot of senior leadership," Neely said, "so really these guys govern themselves — guys like Nathan Braithwaite, our quarterback."

Braithwaite, a senior, has found Cilliers and senior receivers Omar Henderson and Lucas Berry on touchdown passes.

Kean High sophomore quarterback

Shunel Greenaway must exhibit more poise to give his team a chance.

Greenaway looked sharp in the first half of last week's 36-10 loss to CAHS, but the offense sputtered down the stretch.

"I'm trying to keep him to maintain focus and be patient," Donovan said. "When he was patient in the first half of the game, we were moving the ball. Everything doesn't have to be deep. Every pass doesn't have to be a touchdown right away. He's only 16 years old, so sometimes he gets too excited and gets away from

the pace of the game."

Greenaway's protection will not come easy. Cilliers had two sacks and recovered a fumble to lead the Arawaks defense in the first meeting.

If the Arawaks win tonight and defeat CAHS (4-0) next week, both teams will have one loss. CAHS is idle the following week, and the Arawaks finish against struggling St. Croix Educational Complex.

In the case of a tie in the final regular season standings, point differential will determine which team qualifies for the territory championship on Dec. 8.

Local Briefs

Basketball clinics

ST. CROIX — The Sports, Parks and Recreation Department will conduct after-school basketball clinics at Rudy Krigger Ballpark in Sion Farm every Wednesday through Dec. 19.

The clinics are geared toward teaching youths the fundamentals of basketball and are for children ages 7 through 12. Free registration is from 1 to 6 at Krigger Ballpark. For more information, call Carita Stevens at 773-0160.

St. Thomas Yacht Club race, fundraiser

ST. THOMAS — The St. Thomas Yacht Club is hosting a race and pig roast on Dec. 15 to benefit the club's youth sailing program.

The \$40 entrance fee includes two tickets per boat for the pig roast following the race. Sailors of all ages are welcome, and the race is open to IC-24s, Racers, Cruising boats and any boat 24 feet or longer.

Trophies and gift certificates will be presented to the top three boats. The race will start 8:55, but skippers will meet at 8. The event is sponsored by Scotiabank and Budget Marine.

For more information, contact the club at 775-6320.

Basketball clinic

ST. CROIX — The USVI Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation, the Department of Tourism and the Paradise Jam Organization will host a basketball clinic

from 9:30 to 12:30 on Monday at Central High School's Ronald Charles Gymnasium.

The clinic will be conducted by Nels Hawkinson, the president and executive director of Basketball Travelers Inc., and is for boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 18. BTI organizes the Paradise Jam and other college and high school tournaments around the world. Hawkinson will be joined by colleague Craig Jonas.

Participants will receive Paradise Jam posters and T-shirts and have a chance to win complimentary tickets to the tournament, which begins Nov. 16.

Rugby practice

ST. THOMAS — The USVI Rugby Football Union practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week from 6-8 at Charlotte Amalie High School. Veterans, novices and first-time players are all welcome to participate.

The group is training for upcoming scrimmages with the BVI and other down-island teams. For details, email Dan Perez at dan@usvirugby.org, visit their web site at www.usvirugby.org or call 941-565-0031.

After-school junior tennis program

ST. CROIX — Tennis pros Don de Wilde and Kristopher Elien is running an after-school junior tennis program through Christmas at the Buccaneer Hotel for players between the ages of 5 to 18. For more information, or to ask about times, costs or registration, call 718-3036.

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Across from
Charlotte Amalie High School

Boat captain arrested in 2011 death of parasailor

By LOU MATTEI
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Boat captain Kyle Coleman was arrested Wednesday on a charge that he caused the 2011 death of a parasailor through misconduct, negligence and inattention to his duties, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced Thursday.

Coleman, the captain of the motor boat Turtle, was conducting parasailing excursions just south of Water Island on Nov. 15, 2011, according to a press release from the

U.S. Attorney's Office.

Bernice Kraftcheck and her daughter, Danielle Haese, were hoisted into the air for the parasail ride as wind conditions were deteriorating.

"The strong winds and a weak tow-line caused the tow-line to break, resulting in the parasail separating from the vessel and the two women falling into the water," the statement reads. "The wind then propelled the parasail, with the women still attached, at a very high rate of speed causing the death of Kraftcheck and serious

injuries to Haese."

The U.S. Coast Guard "aggressively investigated" the accident, which led to Coleman's arrest and the surrender of his merchant mariner's license in June, according to a prepared statement by Capt. Drew Pearson, the Coast Guard's San Juan commander.

"The Coast Guard takes safety at sea very seriously, and will ensure that any mariner who causes another's death through misconduct, negligence, and inattention to his duties is held accountable in a court of law," Pearson said in the release.

A medical examiner pronounced Kraftcheck, 60, of Round Lake, Ill., dead at the West Indian Co. dock the afternoon of the accident. Haese, 34 at the time, of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., was hospitalized overnight at Schneider Hospital.

The women were passengers aboard the Celebrity Eclipse and bought a parasailing shore-excursion operated by Caribbean Watersports and Tours.

The one-count grand jury indictment charging Coleman was not available on the District Court's online court records database as of

Thursday night.

Coleman, 32, made his first appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller and was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond, according to the release. He is scheduled to be arraigned in District Court on Nov. 14, one day shy of the one-year anniversary of Kraftcheck's death.

If convicted, Coleman could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

—Contact reporter Lou Mattei at 714-9124 or email lm@dailynews.vi

Nelson tells Luis board that hospital is still falling short of standards

By JOY BLACKBURN
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — Luis Hospital Chief Executive Jeff Nelson updated board members about the hospital's status with federal regulators during a meeting Thursday night.

Luis remains under the regulatory microscope with the federal Centers

for Medicare and Medicaid Services — and the hospital's certification from the federal agency is potentially at stake.

CMS certification indicates a hospital meets certain standards, and if a hospital is decertified, it is no longer eligible to receive payments from the federal agency for services the hospital provides to Medicare and

Medicaid patients.

Revenues from CMS patients represent about 60 percent of the hospital's income, Nelson said Thursday.

The hospital currently is operating under two settlement agreements with CMS, aimed at fixing problems found by inspectors from the federal agency during inspections in recent years.

One of the agreements involves the entire hospital.

Nelson on Thursday said that the hospital recently had received a statement of deficiencies from CMS after inspectors conducted a follow-up, focused survey in September as part of the monitoring on that agreement.

Inspectors had found some improvements, "but not enough," Nelson said Thursday.

The hospital has submitted a plan of correction for the deficiencies, but the federal agency said that the plan was not creative or detailed enough, Nelson told the board.

Hospital officials will work on the plan of correction, and once CMS

approves it, the elements of the plan will be part of the overall settlement agreement, Nelson said after the meeting.

Luis has until Feb. 13 to meet the federal agency's mandates for improvement or it potentially will lose CMS certification — although Nelson said the surveys could come sooner.

"We may see CMS here as early as mid-December," Nelson said.

The hospital also is in the process of temporarily shutting down its psychiatric unit for 90 days in an effort to make improvements in that unit, officials said. Luis is working with a hospital in the United States to come to an agreement to temporarily transfer its patients there, officials said.

The plan to temporarily close the unit prompted considerable discussion at the meeting. Some advocates for the mentally ill, as well as some physicians, raised questions about the wisdom of the move.

Board members said it was necessary to make improvements to the

unit so that the hospital can keep the unit open in the long-term.

The other settlement agreement Luis Hospital has with CMS is for the dialysis unit.

The hospital has met the federal standards for that unit, but the settlement agreement remains in place because CMS wanted to ensure that the positive changes were sustained, Nelson said.

That settlement agreement has been extended once, and Nelson told board members Thursday that he anticipates it will be extended again for further monitoring, although he did not know for how long.

In other action, the board discussed and approved reports and a variety of recommendations from its Finance Committee. It also approved a policy related to public access to board meeting minutes. Board chairwoman Kye Walker said the document puts the board's current practices into a policy.

—Contact Joy Blackburn at 714-9145 or email jblackburn@dailynews.vi

V.I. National Park to offer free admission to Trunk Bay

Daily News Staff

In recognition of Veterans Day, the National Park Service has designated Saturday, Sunday and Monday as a "fee-free weekend."

All visitors to National Park sites

in the territory, including Trunk Bay on St. John, will be admitted free.

Trunk Bay Beach is one the most-visited beaches on St. John, and is home to an underwater trail, where swimmers are able to snorkel over a reef and read plaques identifying

coral and fish below.

To avoid over-crowding of the Trunk Bay parking lot, National Park personnel are encouraging visitors to carpool or take a safari taxi.

For more information, call Andrea Joseph at 776-6201 ext. 249.

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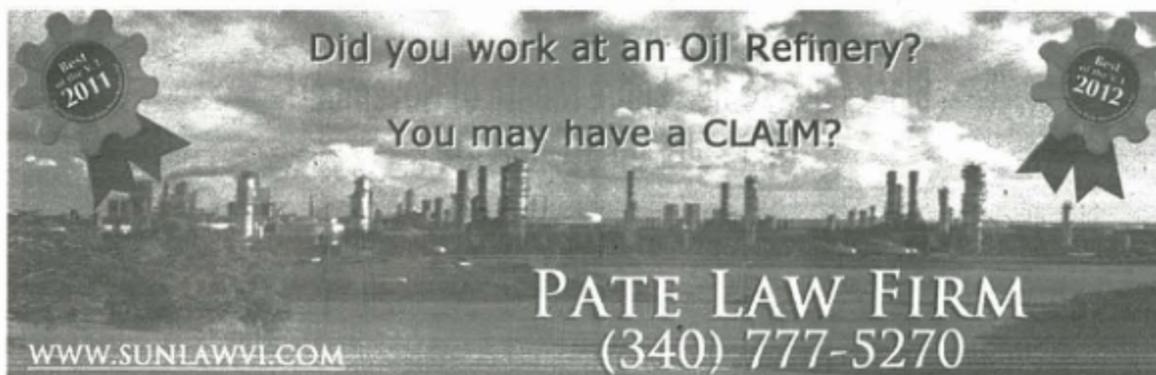
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Daily News File Photo

American Legion members salute as the national anthem is played at a Veterans Day program in Frederiksted.

Events honor servicemen and veterans

By ALDETH LEWIN
Daily News Staff

Monday is Veterans Day, but the whole month of November is Military Appreciation Month, and a series of activities are planned to honor and pay tribute to those who fought for our country.

Today, veterans will visit two St. Croix schools to give presentations to students.

Members of American Legion Post 102 will be "teachers for a day" at Ricardo Richards Elementary School. They also will present gifts to the school and administer an essay contest for students.

American Legion Post 133 will be at Arthur Richards Jr. High School talking to students about veterans issues.

"These are things they're doing through the week to celebrate Veterans Day and National Education Week," American Legion District Commander Charles David said.

Parades and programs honoring the territory's veterans will take place Sunday and Monday.

Sunday, St. Thomas will host a Veterans Day Parade and ceremony. The parade starts at 3 p.m. at Addelita Cancryn Junior High School and travels to Franklin Delano Roosevelt Veterans Memorial Park.

Retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Farrell will be the parade marshal, and the ceremony will feature retired Lt. Col. Marilyn Georges of the U.S. Marine Corps as the guest speaker.

On Monday, St. Croix and St. John will host Veterans Day parades and programs.

On St. Croix, the parade starts at 9:30 a.m. sharp at Bassin Triangle and ends at the Christiansted grandstand.

"This year we have as our parade marshal retired Sgt. Major. Monroe F. Clendenden Jr.," David said.

At the bandstand, the guest speaker will be Virdin C. Brown, the civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for the Virgin Islands.

David said many youths will be participating in the parade including the marching bands from Central High School and St. Croix Educational Complex, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts.

The American Legion will also have a large contingent marching in the parade, he said.

"It should be a good parade, just remembering and thanking the veterans for their service and all they've done helping to keep us free," David said.

On St. John, the parade will start at 3 p.m. in Cruz Bay, followed by a program in Franklin Powell Park.

David said the parade marshal will

be Elmo Rabsett Sr., and Georges also will be the guest speaker on St. John.

"We're expecting the governor to make presentations at all of these events," David said.

On Thursday, a tree planting ceremony will take place 5:30 p.m. in Frederiksted at Verne Richards Veterans Park.

"That will more or less close out the week for Veterans," David said.

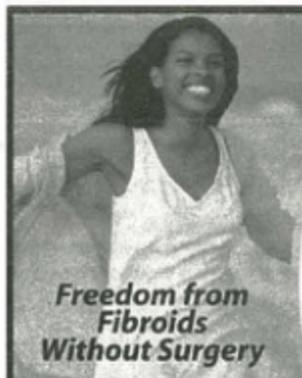
Gov. John deJongh Jr. granted all government workers administrative leave Monday to participate in the festivities honoring the territory's veterans.

"I urge all residents of the territory to remember the sacrifices and contributions of all those who, when called upon to do so, served this territory and this nation honorably in time of war and peace to preserve our heritage of freedom," deJongh stated in his Veterans Day proclamation.

"We must rededicate ourselves to the task of promoting world peace as the most profound reward which we might bestow upon our veterans."

For more information about Veterans Day activities call David at 712-7766 or the St. Thomas-St. John District Office of Veterans Affairs at 774-6100.

— Contact reporter Aldeth Lewin at 714-9111 or email alewin@dailynews.vi.



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The police blotter is the V.I. Territorial Emergency Management Agency's list of incidents and the time they were reported to the police.

St. Croix

Charged: Possession of stolen property

Vaskin Jacobs, 23, of Estate Grove Place was arrested 2:53 Wednesday and charged with possession of stolen property. Police said he was found with parts on his vehicle

that had been reported stolen. He was released on \$10,000 bail.

Incidents recorded in the police blotter Thursday included:

Assault — 5:21 Thursday, La Reine; 6:57 Thursday, Peter's Rest.

Burglary — 6:48 Wednesday, Mount Pleasant; 10:20 Wednesday, Estate Profit; 8:50 Thursday, Mount Pleasant; 9:36 Thursday, Work and Rest; 3:14 Thursday, La Grande Princesse.

Destruction of property — 8:06 Thursday, Sprat Hall.

Larceny — 10:46 Thursday,

John B. Weekes Sr.

On Nov. 1, 2012, John B. Weekes Sr., owner of Weekes & Weekes Bakery, quietly slipped away into the arms of his Lord and Savior at home with close family and friends by his side.

He has left behind a very large family, oceans of friends and the community he loved and gave so generously to. He was best known for his world famous hot and tasty butter bread.



John B. Weekes Sr.

The first viewing will be held Nov. 16, 2012, at Davis Funeral Home Chapel from 4:30 to 6:30, followed by a celebration of his life at Palms Court Harborview at 7. The second viewing will be held Nov. 17, 2012, at V.I. Christian Ministries in Bolongo Bay at 8, followed by the service at 10 a.m.

The burial will be private. He was preceded in death by his children, Arthur "Kiyama" Lewis and Jacqueline Weekes Ivory.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey M. Weekes; children, Elmon Weekes, Paulette Weekes Trocard, Debra Weekes Allen, Charmine Weekes, Jacinth Weekes Gray, Eloise Weekes Lewis, Bernice Weekes, Anthony, Felix Weekes, Andy Weekes, Wendy Weekes Carbon, Deter Weekes, Cindy Weekes Kydd, Marsha Weekes Williams, Eustace Weekes, John Weekes Jr., Shenelle Weekes, Chantel Weekes, Tanya Weekes, Actavia Weekes, Johanna Weekes; grandchildren, Aswad Weekes, Zowadie Weekes, Nayaka Weekes, Ricardo Allen, Renaldo Allen, Renee Allen, Marcia Weekes Garcia, Noel Gray Jr., Natalie Gray, Orenca Herbert, Ethelyn Newton, Dawn Charlemagne, Ezekiel Wattley, Rochelle Mack, Akiel Mack, Toushika Anthony, Chefton Newton, Sharima Newton, Marissa Newton, Weekes, Brianna

Kydd, Brinya Kydd, Zion Weekes, Britney Weekes, Shekinah Weekes, Hezekiah Weekes, Kymoi Weekes, Jude Weekes, Weekes Hunte, Karisma Weekes, Noris Wilkins, Terrance Leonard, Samarie George; brothers, Everton Meade, Aldrick Meade, George Meade, Julian Meade, Arthur Meade, the Edward Jackson Meade family out of English Harbour, Antigua; sons-in-law, Andrew Williams, Eustace Trocard, Brian Kydd, James Carbon, Omir Lewis; special friend, Marcola Carlo; and caretakers, Mary Carpio and Nelia Mesca.

Arrangements are by Davis Funeral Home.

— *Obituary written by the family.*

Paula Gonzalez Martinez

Paula Gonzalez Martinez, 87, formerly of St. Thomas, died in Loganville, Ga., on Oct. 28, 2012.

Services will be held at 11 Saturday at Nuestra Senora del Carmen Catholic Church in Culebra, Puerto Rico. The family will receive friends and relatives at the church at 10:30. Services will be held later, and burial will follow at Culebra Municipal Cemetery. A memorial service will be held on St. Thomas at a later date.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Hermenegildo "Gildo" Martinez. In 1944, they opened their first grocery store on Kronprindsens Gade, St. Thomas, where they served the people of the area for 12 years.

In 1956, they moved to Contant 7B-15 where they operated Martinez Self-Service until 1980 when they retired and moved to their birthplace of Culebra, where they lived until Gildo passed away in 2005. Paula relocated to Atlanta, Ga., where she lived with her daughter Sonia M. Greaux and son-in-law, Roland H.



Paula Gonzalez Martinez

Sunny Isles; 2:04 Thursday, Castle Coakley.

Outside fire — 9:06 Wednesday, St. George's; 3:01 Thursday, South Shore Road.

Structure fire — 9:12 Thursday, Mount Pleasant; 11:01 Thursday, St. George's.

St. Thomas

Charged: Burglary

Edward Richards, 30, of St. John, was arrested at 6 Tuesday and charged with third-degree burglary on Kronprindsens Gade. Bond was

set at \$55,000.

Charged: Driving under the influence

Lisa Babcock, 39, of Estate Hope, was arrested at 10:15 Wednesday and charged with driving under the influence and negligent driving. Bond was set at \$500.

Incidents recorded in the police blotter Wednesday and Thursday included:

Assault — 9:53 Thursday, Contant; 3:16 Thursday, Bovoni; 3:46 Thursday, Tutu Hi-Rise.

Deaths

Funeral Schedule

Name	Date of death	Service	Arrangements
St. Thomas			
Jennie V. Douglas	Oct. 28, 2012	Pending	Turnbull's
Egbert Evanson	Oct. 29, 2012	Wednesday	Turnbull's
Slyvia Agatha Hyacinth	Oct. 29, 2012	Today	John Thomas
Neville Lee	Oct. 30, 2012	Pending	Turnbull's
Louis V. Murray	Sept. 27, 2012	Pending	John Thomas
Liston L. Powell Jr.	Oct. 22, 2012	Saturday	Turnbull's
Freddy N. Sanchez	Sept. 7, 2012	Pending	John Thomas
Andre Tanise	Sept. 7, 2012	Pending	John Thomas
Charles Smith	Oct. 27, 2012	Pending	Davis
Jemilia Vergara	Oct. 23, 2012	Pending	Turnbull's
Josephine Espirit-Webster	Oct. 29, 2012	Pending	Turnbull's
John Weekes Sr.	Nov. 1, 2012	Nov. 17	Davis
Iva Williams	Oct. 23, 2012	Saturday	Turnbull's
Karimah Williams	Oct. 28, 2012	Today	Davis

Greaux, until her passing.

She is survived by her sister, Virginia Gonzalez; children, Sonia M. Greaux, Luz A. Moron, Paula M. Buice and Gildo A. Martinez; sons-in-law, Roland H. Greaux, Robert G. Moron and David C. Buice; daughter-in-law, Constance D. Martinez; grandchildren, Ashlee Martinez, Roland H. Greaux II and his wife, Amber Greaux, Melissa Greaux White, Robert G. Moron II and wife, Noelle Moron, Christopher G. Moron, Andrea Buice Crockett and husband, John H. Crockett; great-grandchildren, Dylan H. White, Brayden H. White and Deven J. Moron; special sisters-in-law, Amelia Barbosa and Ramonita Romero-Gonzalez; special nieces, Noemi Gonzalez, Myrta G. Benet and Diana Gonzalez; nephew, Beno Gonzalez.

She is also survived by the Barbosa, Gonzalez and Carrillo families of St. Thomas, the Gonzalez family of Culebra, and many other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, and in her memory, donations can be made to Clear Blue Sky, Inc., Box 778, St. Thomas, V.I. 00804, phone 340-774-9688. Clear Blue Sky, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps people with mental illness reach their full potential.

Arrangements are by the Tim Stewart Funeral Home in Loganville, Ga., and Carrasco Funeral Home in Fajardo, Puerto Rico.

— *Obituary written by the family.*

Iva Williams

Services will be held Saturday for Iva Williams, who died Oct. 23, 2012.

The viewing is from 5 to 7 today at Turnbull's Funeral Home, with the service at 10 Saturday at All Saints Church.

The burial will be at Western Cemetery No. 1.

She is survived by a daughter, Merle Hodge-Caines; sisters, Iris Larcheveaux Adams, Beulah Larcheveaux Wilson, Eldra Larcheveaux, Eleanor Larcheveaux Tyson; brothers, Luther Davis, Lionel Larcheveaux; sister-in-law, Mary Malone; brother-in-law, Romeo Malone; grandsons, Raymond (Malo) George, Reynaldo (Yambo) St. George, Ivan Smith, Douglas (Dougie) Smith, Mark D. Hodge, Matthew D. Hodge; granddaughters, Marilyn (Bambi) George, Joanne



Iva Williams

Burglary — 7:33 Wednesday, Hull Bay; 8:05 Thursday, Hull Bay.

Larceny — 8:53 Thursday, Marina Market; 12:59 Thursday, Al Cohen Mall.

Structure fire — 2:05 Thursday, Polyberg Hill.

Vehicle damage — 10:58 Thursday, Garden Street.

St. John

Incidents recorded in the police blotter Thursday included:

Assault — 1:16 Thursday, Cruz Bay.

Smith, Charmaine Caines, Pamela Browne-Hodge, Cheryl Dawson-Robles, Nynier Hodge-Johnson, Amy Hodge; great-grandchildren, Ymassie George, Kambo George, Yambo George, Cheneva George, Travis George, Promise George, Pain George, Zia George, Joy George, Raheem George, Kareem George, ShinaeMica George, Takea George, K'Shambo George, Rambo George, Tikisha George, Kwanza George, Kimisa George, Andre George, Angela St. George, Rama St. George, Kaloma Smith, Tau Smith, Tacuma Smith, Machida Smith, Zachea Smith, Shantel Smith, Marianne Smith, Kera Smith, Patrick Daniel, Damal Smith, K'Shawn Robles, Chequida Robles, Chereda Robles, Pamesha Perez, Richard (Rakeel) Hodge, Rakiasha Hodge; great-great-grandchildren, Ymassie George Jr., Kmani George, Torriar George, Travis George Jr., Allyanna George, Amir George, Knica George, Seshawn George, Jodiya Williams, Ashae Williams, Jeremy Williams, Millian Brown, Derrick Banks Jr. David Lugar Jr, Davion Dorsett; nieces, Lera Richards, Lela Holder, Lita Adams, Lois, Cheryl Duran, Andrea Duran, Marisa Duran, Parrish Warren, Kamona Warren-Cham, Rita Robles, Andrea Larcheveaux, Amelia Larcheveaux, Tesha Larcheveaux, Deborah Larcheveaux, Sheryl Larcheveaux, Emily Larcheveaux, Christie Larcheveaux; nephews, Leroy Adams, Allen Estiridge, Alva Estridge, Vern Parson, Christopher Davis, Michael Davis, Bruce Duran, Michael Duran, Kevin Duran, Bryan Duran; close cousins, Gloria Lenard and Janet; caretaker, Felicia A. Brownlow; and god-daughter, Yveonne Warker.

She was preceded in death by a son, Conrad Lorenzo Hodge; sisters, Rita Larcheveaux Santos, Louise Larcheveaux Ali; brother, Archibald Larcheveaux; nieces, Rosalind Tarver, Michelle Duran; and nephew, Keith Duran.

Arrangements are by Turnbull's Funeral Home.

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-EDITORIAL OBSERVER- An invigorated second term

From *The New York Times*:

Early Wednesday morning, as sleep-deprived supporters rallied for a final cheer, President Barack Obama concluded his re-election campaign with a promising glimpse at what the fight was all about: a second-term agenda that can make real progress on issues neglected in the first.

Without question, the president intends to build on and improve the significant accomplishments of the last four years, particularly the full implementation of health care reform and the use of government policy to keep the economy growing. But the president went beyond that in his victory speech and added some less familiar words to his policy vocabulary.

Children should live in a world that is not burdened by debt or weakened by inequality, he said, but also one "that isn't threatened by the destructive power of a warming planet." That suggests he knows he has an opportunity to address climate change with more vigor, going beyond auto-mileage standards and renewable-energy jobs to possibly advocating tougher carbon emissions standards.

The president also said he was looking forward to working with Republicans to fix the immigration system, giving him a chance to do more than promote the DREAM Act for young immigrants. He could lead the way to comprehensive reform that combines strong enforcement with a path to citizenship for immigrants already here. He also hinted that combating poverty might move higher on his priority list.

And he spoke of tax reform, an issue that will immediately begin to grow louder with the expiration of the Bush-era tax cuts at year's end. Obama won re-election on an unambiguous promise not to renew those cuts for incomes of \$250,000 or more, and his supporters expect him to stick to that vow. In coming months, after he persuades Congress to keep taxes from rising on the middle class, he should push to restore a fair estate tax and raise the low capital gains rate to the level of ordinary income.

He even mentioned the need to fix a balloting system that left thousands of people standing in long lines to vote this week, a tantalizing hint that electoral reform might become a priority.

All these agenda items require the same ingredient: ending his standoffish attitude toward Congress and working closely with any leader or lawmaker willing to make real progress. That may be easier now that Senate Democrats (and their independent allies) have expanded their majority by two seats to 55, many of them filled with newcomers more liberal and feisty than their predecessors, most notably Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

The new Democratic caucus' first order of business should be a reform of the filibuster that prevents its routine abuse by Republicans, and the majority leader, Harry Reid, suggested Wednesday that he supported some modest changes. The newcomers, along with the White House, should forcefully advocate that he go as far as possible.

A newly energized Obama administration and Senate could have the effect of isolating the supply-side dead-enders in the House. John Boehner, the House speaker, announced Wednesday that nothing had changed; he and his caucus still oppose higher tax rates for the rich and still want to pursue Romney's defeated goal of raising revenue by lowering rates and cutting unspecified loopholes. Standing up to Republican recalcitrance on this and many other issues will require bringing to bear political pressure from the coalition that gave Obama a commanding victory in the Electoral College on Tuesday.

The president's victory was decisive, and many who didn't support him nonetheless told pollsters that they agreed with his positions on taxes, health care and immigration. He now needs to use the power that voters have given to him to enhance and broaden his agenda.

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U.S. politics changes for the better

America has changed.

There are periods when we grow as a society in degrees. Then there are times when we take great leaps forward. If you examine the history of our country back to the days of the first Spanish, English and French immigrants, you will see certain moments when our national dynamic shifted.

This week, we saw a moment when the America that has been growing and changing by degrees met with a moment when America made a hard turn on its path.

For years we have seen the browning of America. For years we have seen the tolerance and acceptance level of different religions, economic conditions, sexual orientations, political beliefs and ancestries grow in measured steps through the increase in one-on-one interactions and social media.

For years we have seen the steady progress of women, and felt a subtle shift in the rhythm of America.

This week, we saw several of these trends converge in a moment when it became evident that once again, America has changed.

The demographics of the exit polls tell an interesting story. President Obama's support came overwhelmingly from groups of people who are often described as disenfranchised:

- Those who make less than \$50,000 per year;
- Those with some or no college education;
- Women;
- Young people;
- People of color.

These groups, who in the past have felt like their votes were taken for granted, for the first time in a long time, saw their votes carry weight that makes them get noticed.

People more "wonky" than me will

Marisel Blake

be going over these numbers for months to come. These numbers tell me, though, that the reason why so many people were surprised about the outcome in this race ignored the numbers that had nothing to do with polls.

They want to say that it is because these communities were voting to keep their entitlements and "handouts," but that is just a denial of the real truth.

What people want is to no longer feel disenfranchised and marginalized.

What people want is for their voices to be included, not shouted down.

Recent data shows that women now outnumber men by a slim margin. More people live in cities. People of color now make up almost a third of the population. The average age is 37. Almost two thirds of us own homes, but there are more of us who have either never been married or are divorced than there are those of us who are married.

The fastest shrinking demographic is white men.

So many of the people who fit the demographics that elected President Obama are those in demographics that are seeing their numbers grow and also are becoming more politically active and savvy. They are truly looking to connect with candidates who have their concerns in mind. These are not one-issue voters.

They care about the economy but they also care about their place in our society. They want their social issues to be a part of the discussion. Our national identity is more about inclusion than assimilation. This is a vast switch from where we have been.

Those of us in groups that have been considered on the fringe or in the minority have found solidarity in our

experiences in this country and are increasingly deciding we are no longer satisfied with trying to fit in and would rather have a seat at the table as our unique selves.

Women, the LGBT community and Latinos made great strides with this election. African Americans and young people reminded the political parties of the value of their support.

There is a lot of finger pointing from the Republican talking heads as to why their candidate lost. It seems they are slowly coming to realize it was not only whom they ran as candidates but also where those candidates stood on issues that are important to this growing voting power block.

I was struck by how few people of color were in the crowds for Mitt Romney toward the end of the campaign. It was like they no longer cared about even the illusion of inclusion, and instead decided to bank their future on their main demographic. What their campaign failed to take into consideration is that the issues that matter most to people right now stretch across racial and gender lines.

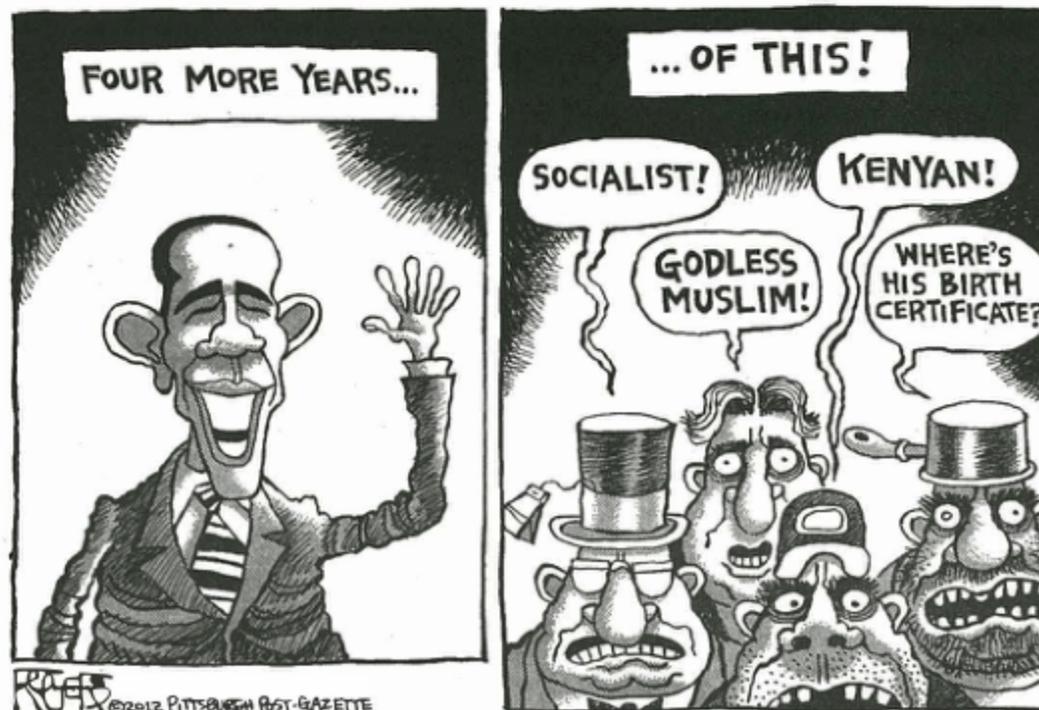
Those of us usually considered on the fringe are multifaceted and have learned a very powerful lesson after this election. When we band together to get our issues on the agenda, we force the conversation to change.

Hopefully, both parties have learned that you don't have to pander to us, but you do have to listen to us because we are not going away.

America has changed, and if history is any indication that is a very good thing.

Let's just hope we embrace the change in the spirit of cooperation and not segregation.

— Contact Daily News contributing columnist Marisel Blake at



Happy days, even with the cliff

La Di Dah Di Dah ...

We have been through a lot, people. But now the presidential race is settled. Barack Obama won. People on both sides worked heroically, and, on Tuesday, their candidates behaved well. This should be a happy time.

Oh, my God! There's a fiscal cliff! We're all going to fall over and go bankrupt!

Did you just hear the cheerful rule? The fiscal cliff doesn't happen until the end of the year when the Bush tax cuts expire and monster budget cuts automatically kick in. Now that the election's over, everybody will certainly be ready to move forward and work something out.

Except possibly Gov. Rick Perry, who celebrated the president's re-election by demanding the repeal of Obamacare.

And then there was Donald Trump, who tweeted during the vote count: "Let's fight like hell and stop this great and disgusting injustice! The world is laughing at us."

Actually Trump has no conceivable impact on anything. I just wanted to take this opportunity to reminisce about the time he sent me an irate, handwritten message in which he misspelled the word "too."

But look at Rep. John Boehner. On Wednesday, the House speaker gave a speech in which he vowed to be cooperative.

"Mister President, this is your moment. We're ready to be led," he said.

Except for a few no-go areas, such as any tax increases on "small business." You may remember from previous crises that the House Republicans oppose raising income taxes on the wealthy because it would impact struggling small businesses such as a hedge

Gail Collins

fund manager with an eight-figure annual income.

Boehner also raised a whole new specter of political peril: "going over part of the fiscal cliff." That sounded less dire, as long as we all stay inside our dangling cars and refrain from making any moves until help arrives.

But, by the end, it sounded as if the only cliff-avoidance Boehner was really interested in was one that raised new revenue through "fewer loopholes, and lower rates for all."

We have already seen that plan. It was proposed by a man who, on Tuesday, lost the state in which he was born, the state in which he was governor and the three states in which he owns houses. Thanks to a blog by Eric Ostermeier in Smart Politics, I am able to point out that the only candidate for president who lost his home state by a larger margin than Mitt Romney was John Fremont in 1856. And Fremont was coming out of a campaign in which the opposition accused him of being a cannibal.

While Boehner was explaining the importance of not going halfway over a cliff, or raising income taxes on the rich he looked somber and somewhat unhappy. This may have been because his Republican colleagues just lost the White House and the Senate. Or perhaps, it was simply because he's an older white guy, and, therefore, part of the biggest loser demographic of the election, the flip-side of the insurgent Latino vote.

On election night, people were talking about the not-young male population as if they were a dwindling tribe of graybeards sitting around a sputtering stove in Oklahoma. Republican strate-

gist John Weaver worried about becoming "a shrinking regional party of middle-aged and older white men." On Fox News, Bill O'Reilly moaned that "the white establishment is now the minority."

O'Reilly, 63, added that the new majority was composed of people who "want stuff." As opposed to older white men, all of whom have signed a pledge never to accept veteran benefits, Social Security or Medicare.

"It's not a traditional America anymore," O'Reilly sadly concluded.

Almost everybody thinks of the world of their youth as the traditional world. In the future, today's teenagers will be looking back and mournfully declaring that traditional America was a place where folks really knew how to Twitter. Still, it's unseemly to identify the true America as the one where your group ran everything.

Cheer up, white men! You seem to be doing OK. Next year women will have 20 percent of the seats in the U.S. Senate, and we're celebrating.

And since it looks as if we're not getting any downtime, we'll have to get cracking on this latest congressional crisis. Root for a bipartisan solution that does not involve the White House's being hijacked by a guy who keeps babbling about going halfway over a cliff.

In the past, when these things came up, the president's big failing was his inability to hide his contempt for many of the people who occupy Capitol Hill. Now it's a new day, and he needs to be so perpetually and visibly available that the negotiators beg to be left alone.

If all else fails, strap John Boehner to the roof of a car.

— Gail Collins is a New York Times columnist.

Can Republicans adapt?

Nicholas D. Kristof

This was one that the Republicans really should have won.

Given the weak economy, American voters were open to firing President Barack Obama. In Europe, in similar circumstances, one government after another lost re-election. And, at the beginning of this year, it looked as if the Republicans might win control of the U.S. Senate as well.

Yet it wasn't the Democrats who won so much as the Republicans who lost — at a most basic level, because of demography. A coalition of aging white men is a recipe for failure in a nation that increasingly looks like a rainbow.

Schadenfreude may excuse Democrats' smiles for a few days, but these trends portend a potential disaster not just for the Republican Party but for the health of our political system. America needs a plausible center-right opposition party to hold Obama's feet to the fire, not just a collection of Tea Party cranks.

So liberals as well as conservatives should be rooting for the Republican Party to feel sufficiently shaken that it shifts to the center. One hopeful sign is that political parties usually care more about winning than about purism. Thus the Democratic Party embraced the pragmatic center-left Bill Clinton in 1992 after three consecutive losses in presidential elections.

That was painful for many liberals, who cringed when Clinton interrupted campaigning in the 1992 primary to burnish his law-and-order credentials by overseeing the execution of a mentally impaired murderer. But it was, on balance, less painful than losing again.

You would expect the Republican Party to make a similar lurch to the center. But many Republican leaders still inhabit a bubble. It was stunning how many, from Karl Rove to Newt Gingrich, seemed to expect a Mitt Romney victory. And some of the right-wing postmortems are suggesting that Romney lost because he was too liberal — which constitutes a definition of delusional.

Imagine what would have happened if the Republican nominee had been Gingrich or Rick Santorum. We surely would have seen a Democratic landslide.

On the other hand, if the Republicans had nominated Jon Huntsman Jr., they might have been the ones celebrating right now. But he had no chance in Republican primaries because primary voters are their party's worst enemy.

Part of the problem, I think, is the profusion of right-wing radio and television programs. Democrats complain furiously that Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck and Sean Hannity smear the left, but I wonder if the bigger loser isn't the Republican Party itself. Those shows whip up a frenzy in their audience, torpedoing Republican moderates and instilling paranoia on

issues like immigration.

All this sound and fury enmeshes the Republican Party in an ideological cocoon and impedes it from reaching out to swing-state centrists, or even understanding them. The vortex spins ever faster and risks becoming an ideological black hole.

In 2002, a book was published called "The Emerging Democratic Majority." It argued that Democrats would gain because of their strength in expanding demographics such as Hispanics, Asian-Americans and working women. It seemed persuasive until Republicans clobbered Democrats in the next couple of elections.

But perhaps that book was ahead of its time. This was the first election in which Hispanic voters made up a double-digit share of the electorate, according to CNN exit polls — 10 percent, doubled from 1996 — and more than 7 out of 10 Hispanic voters supported Obama.

That wasn't inevitable. In 2004, exit polls suggested that President George W. Bush received 44 percent of the Hispanic vote. But Republicans became obstructionist on immigration and then veered into offensive demagoguery in opposing the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court. The Hispanic vote tumbled by increasing numbers into the Democrats' laps.

Then there are women. The paternalistic comments about rape by a few male Republican candidates resonated so broadly because they reflected the perception of the GOP as a conclave of out-of-touch men. As Rep. Todd Akin of Missouri might put it, when a candidate emerges with offensive views about rape, "the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down." Namely, they vote Democratic.

America is changing. After this election, a record 20 senators will be women, almost all of them Democrats. Opposition to same-sex marriage used to be a way for Republicans to trumpet their morality; now it's seen as highlighting their bigotry.

An astonishing 45 percent of Obama voters were members of minority groups, according to The Times' Nate Silver. Many others were women or young people. That's the future of America, and if the Republican Party remains a purist cohort built around grumpy old white men, it is committing suicide. That's bad not just for conservatives but for our entire country.

— Nicholas D. Kristof is a New York Times columnist. Contact him at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/NickKristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018.





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Arawaks seek season sweep of Kean tonight



Daily News Photo by TIM CHAPMAN

St. Thomas-St. John Private Schools Arawaks senior Omar Henderson tackles senior teammate Patrick Leonard during Thursday's practice at Antilles School.

By **TIM CHAPMAN**
 Daily News Staff

TACKLE FOOTBALL

ST. THOMAS — Luke Neely might not know where to begin if he were in an opposing coach's position and had to gameplan against his St. Thomas-St. John Private Schools Arawaks. The variety of formations running through his no-huddle offense can be a headache for defenses.

"It's difficult," Neely said. "We're a multi-formation, multi-game offense. We run a power game, a gap scheme to zone scheme. It's a lot to prepare for. Teams could potentially stop us."

Ivanna Eudora Kean High School (1-3) hopes to turn that potential into reality when the two teams meet at 7 tonight in an IAA tackle football game at Lionel Roberts Stadium.

The Arawaks (2-1) crushed the Devil Rays, 44-0, in the season opener, which ended early in the fourth quarter because of the league's mercy rule.

"We hope that the defense, by now, has learned the schemes," Kean High coach Elroy Donovan Jr. said. "It was the first game of the season and we

have a lot of young guys."

Donovan is eager to see if his defense learned from the tough lessons handed out by the Arawaks' senior tailback tandem of Chris Cilliers and David McDonald.

Cilliers pounded his way to two rushing touchdowns and a receiving touchdown, and McDonald led the team with 75 rushing yards on seven carries. At 210 pounds, Cilliers can easily shed routine tackles.

"He's a big, strong guy," Donovan said. "Our guys have to realize that you have to adjust for that type of running back. We can't expect to wrap him up high and take him down."

At 170 pounds, McDonald offers a speedy change of pace. But he won't shy away from contact.

"They're tough guys to bring down," Neely said. "They're bruisers and it's gonna take two or three guys to bring them down at any time."

Arawaks dropped a 22-8 game

See **FOOTBALL**, page 42

Kean High's energy lifts them over Ss. Peter and Paul, 4-1

By **TIM CHAPMAN**
 Daily News Staff

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

ST. THOMAS — There is no question who the vocal leader is on the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School girls varsity volleyball team. Chantell Grant can be heard loud and clear after nearly every point.

After dropping the first game by 11 points against Ss. Peter and Paul on Thursday at Keap High, Grant and the Lady Rays began communicating. The result was a loose, energetic and more confident team through the next three

games as Kean High won the match, 4-1 (14-25, 26-24, 25-16, 25-18).

"I got to cheer them up," Grant said. "That's that motivation. My team's gonna back me up too, you know."

Grant backed up her talk and recorded two consecutive aces in the final game to push the lead to 17-9. She was also involved in a signa-

ture point of the match when three Kean High players on three different hits had to lunge and punch at the ball with one hand to keep the volley alive.

The Lady Jaguars were stunned when Kean sophomore Akia Frett finished that point by hitting

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page 42



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