



Tommy Goes to School

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U. S. Virgin Islands Hotel & Tourism Association



Hi Friends,

It's Tourism Week, a time when we recognize all the people that work hard to make sure visitors have the time of their life. Our friends in the tourism industry also use this week to help you learn more about the type of jobs available in the industry and the exciting activities available for tourists. I will continue to tell you more about Tourism in every issue of this newsletter. I hope you are learning a lot. Happy reading and have a fun summer.

Tommy Starfish

Spotlight Tourism Position—Landscaper/Groundskeeper

Do you love working with trees and plants and beautifying your environment? There are a wide variety of jobs in landscaping such as tree trimmers, horticulturists, landscape designers and gardeners, and lawn care specialists. Many businesses like hotels, golf courses, parks and botanical gardens need the help of these professionals to design and maintain healthy gardens and lawns, create positive impressions and establish peaceful moods. **Landscape designers** survey the areas where environments want to be created, and prepare drawings and sketches on what the areas would look like when completed. **Landscape workers** usually install plants, install lighting or sprinkler systems, build walkways, terraces, patios, decks and fountains. **Groundskeepers** generally focus on maintaining what has already been planted, clear walkways and parking lots, regulate irrigation to prevent waste of water and ensure all the things installed by landscapers are working. **Tree trimmers** cut away dead branches from trees and shrubs to improve the health and appearance of the trees. "Education is key to getting the best positions available in the industry," suggests James Boschulte, Jr., owner of Boschulte Landscaping. Through classes and field work, they can learn plant names, different watering systems, techniques, how to work with other people, and other important essentials. I would encourage young people to get a summer job at a nursery or with a landscaper to determine if this is the right career path for them."

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Culture Corner-Quelbe

It is the unmistakable sound of the Virgin Islands. Quelbe, also known as fungi or scratch band music, traces its history back to Africa and Europe. The lyrics, usually told a story discussing the historical, social and political climate of the area. The sound was created by self-taught musicians, who played homemade instruments and lived and worked on sugar plantations. Traditional instruments of a quelbe band included the flute, fife, guitar, banjo, the steel, drums, the squash, the pipe and the tambourine. In the late 1960's, quelbe bands began to use more modern instruments like the saxophone and electric guitar. A few bands still keep the art form alive—Jamsie and the All Stars (pictured at left) and Stanley and the Ten Sleepless Knights. They have traveled around the world playing the melodic sounds of music. In 2004, Governor Charles W. Turnbull signed a bill making Quelbe the official traditional music of the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Protecting Our Coral Reefs—True Miracles of Nature

Coral polyps are animals that feed on plankton. When they die their hard skeletons accumulate to produce coral reefs, sometimes taking centuries to do so. There are many types of coral—the stony, shallow-water kind that build reefs, soft corals and deep water corals that live in dark cold waters. Most corals feed at night using stinging cells to capture their food. Coral reefs support more species of fish and coral than any other marine environment. Healthy reefs contribute to the tourism economy offering jobs through diving tours, fishing trips, hotels, restaurants, and other businesses based near reef systems. However, reefs are threatened by extreme weather like hurricanes, humans, and disease. Many organizations are involved in protecting our fragile reefs. Here's how Tommy wants you to help.



*Avoid contact with coral, this includes standing on them and kicking them with fins.

*Take nothing from the water except garbage

*Volunteer for reef clean up activities

*When you go to the beach, take a plastic bag and gloves to pick up trash that could get in the water

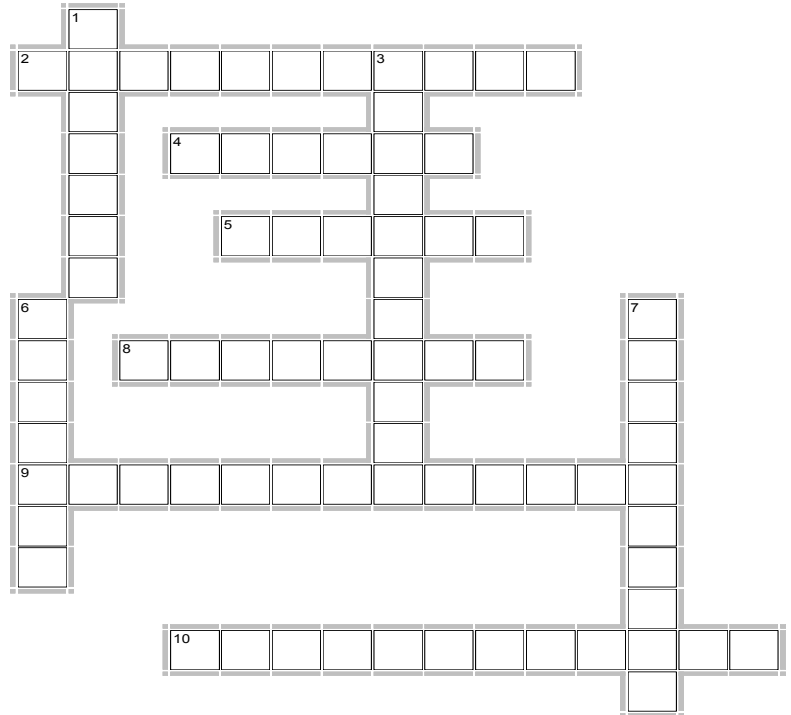
*Tell your friends about the importance of healthy reefs and how they can help

Write to us and let us know how you contributed to saving our coral reefs.

Student Profile...Eric Walters, Senior CAHS

Eric Walters has a goal in mind...to be a well-rounded culinary professional. He will graduate this June from the Charlotte Amalie High School where he is learning culinary skills at the Ecedro Westhoff Hospitality Training Lab. In the Fall, Walters will attend the world-renowned educational institution for cooking professionals, the Culinary Institute of America. He hopes to be able to travel to Europe to study abroad and learn the techniques of regional cooking. Italy is high on his list of areas to visit. Since 2007, Walters has worked part-time at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in the Blu Water Restaurant. Chef de Cuisine and supervisor Derrick Roberts says "Eric has good skills and a great attitude." His interest in the culinary arts was piqued while spending time around his dad who was a chef at the old Chart House Restaurant in Frenchtown. He now owns G & D Seafood Restaurant where Eric spends time when he's available. Eric's specialty Chicken Alfredo is a dish close to his mother's heart. Forget about that bottled sauce. Eric makes his from scratch. We think Eric has a promising future.

Puzzle Fun



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

2. Fried dough treat
4. A popular type of taxi bus
5. The official music of the USVI
8. Nursery for young fish
9. Lodging for visitors
10. The 4th Virgin Island

Down

1. the business of travel
3. VI home of sea lions
6. First settlers
7. One of the world's most beautiful beaches

Tourism is me

This issue of Tommy Goes to School is sponsored by the USVI Department of Tourism.

Tourism: It's all of US.

America's Caribbean
United States Virgin Islands
St. Croix | St. John | St. Thomas