

Harley urges vendors to take demands for plaza to

By **LYNDA LOHR**
Daily News Staff

ST. JOHN — Several mobile food vendors at Tuesday night's Licensing and Consumer Affairs meeting called by Commissioner Andrew Rutnik said they have put their business plans on hold as they wait for a vendors' plaza to materialize.

But Rutnik said he didn't see the vendors plaza happening anytime soon. St. John Administrator Julien Harley told the vendors if they wanted a plaza, they should contact Gov. Charles

Turnbull with their request.

Sen. Almando "Rocky" Liburd proposed the idea of such a plaza several years ago, suggesting it should go up in the public parking lot next to Nature's Nook fruit and vegetable stand.

Since it does not appear the government can fund the vendors' plaza, Harley said Tuesday, he is talking with investors about building a multistory structure with spaces for vendors, rental car companies and a parking garage.

Harley, a native Virgin Islander, said that too often Virgin Islanders do not take the initiative to make things hap-

pen and instead grumble among themselves.

"Let's show people we're intelligent," he said, urging the nearly 50 people gathered for the meeting at the Legislature building to start the ball rolling.

His call sparked Jane Johannes, who often sells her food at local events, to invite residents to take their need for a vendors' plaza to senators, since it is an election year. "We are not going to sit here and die," she said. "We will march on Government House if we have to."

Rutnik also outlined changes in

mobile vendor regulation. A possible reason for the many of those who hold mobile licenses will have six months until April 1 to become mobile. The necessary permit for a restaurant.

While Rutnik did not say how many people held mobile licenses in St. John, all as stationary restaurants running water and electricity.

He said that mobile licenses are limited to selling wine and beer. The Legislature approves,

V.I. can expect major earthquake

By **FIONA STOKES**
Daily News Staff

ST. CROIX — The Virgin Islands are overdue for a major earthquake, experts say, but many residents of St. Croix will be better prepared for one thanks to a forum held Tuesday at the Territorial Court.

Col. Gene Walker, V.I. Territorial Emergency Management Agency director, said in observance of Earthquake Awareness Week that he hoped the agency's forums and meetings this week are not held in vain, but that citizens will heed the precautions and avoid damage to property and loss of life if an earthquake hits.

"Here in the territory, we have become experts in preparing for hurricanes, and I am hoping that we will be able to do the same in preparing for an earthquake and tsunami," he said. Walker noted that earthquakes are

much more unpredictable than hurricanes.

Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade, director of the Puerto Rico Seismic Network, gave a presentation to the almost 100 people present, touching on the importance of preparation and the magnitude of possible damage.

Hillebrandt-Andrade said the region has been hit by a tremendous earthquake at least once every century since the 1600s, and is well overdue — the last major quake occurred in 1867, claiming more than 600 lives on St. Thomas.

In order to better detect local seismic activity, Hillebrandt-Andrade said VITEMA has put in place four seismic stations throughout the territory that will be up and running within two months.

Jaqueline Heyliger, state hazard mitigation officer for VITEMA, said

the department is also trying to get students involved in quake awareness. She said the agency held a district essay contest that yielded 40 participants.

"What we want to do is get the kids involved so they can also inform their parents," she said.

Other events for Earthquake Awareness Week include public preparedness forums on the three islands:

- Today — noon to 1 p.m. at the VITEMA headquarters on St. Thomas, a forum for people with special needs such as the hearing impaired.
- Wednesday — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Charlotte Amalie High School Auditorium on St. Thomas.
- Thursday — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Legislature Building on St. John.
- Friday — 7 p.m. at the VITEMA offices on St. Thomas, a session in Spanish.

Power outage darkens all of St. John, St. Thomas' East End

By **LYNDA LOHR**
Daily News Staff

ST. JOHN — The East End of St. Thomas and all of St. John were plunged into darkness Tuesday night when a "bridge" on a pole located in Tutu near Rodriguez Auto Parts burned.

V.I. Water and Power Authority spokeswoman Patricia Blake Simmonds said the bridge was part of the transmission and distribution system.

Bay, said her power went out around 8 p.m. Power on St. John failed shortly after 9 p.m.

Simmonds said the WAPA crew repaired the problem, but was unable to restore service because the load on the feeder was too great. They divided the feeder into two parts and planned to restore power in sections.

She expected the power would be on by late Tuesday night.

Clarke said the power blinked four times at 9:20 p.m., which was worse than having it continuously

electrical equipment, Clarke said.

Clarke was especially annoyed that while WAPA initially told her power would be back quickly, when she called later to find out why it was still out, no one answered the phone.

The outage caused her to lose business, she said.

"No one is going to drive here through Smith Bay in the dark," she said.

Clarke was frustrated that the power service wasn't much better than when she moved here 16 years

Turnbull to

By **CHRIS LARSON**
Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Turnbull will meet today and report on the copy of the proposal for the majority of the Power Authority Energy Inc.

The meeting is the government's announcement of the Energy Inc. between the two parties.

Government House James O'Bryan and members of the meeting with Southern meet with senators have been invited.

A sale of any land must be approved by O'Bryan said when legislation sale would be for to the Senate.

Details of the sale will be officially released.

