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New Calypso King Crowned as Boat Race and Panorama Push St. Thomas Carnival Into Full Gear Ahead of Village Opening

Lucus Evans John Gotti captured the 2026 Calypso Monarch title, crowds filled the waterfront for Sunday's boat race, Panorama brought steel pan to Carnival Village, and tonight the official Village Nights lineup begins at Fort Christian Lot.

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St. Thomas Carnival 2026 moved into full gear over the weekend, with a [new Calypso Monarch crowned](#), crowds gathering along the waterfront for the annual boat race, and steel pan bands filling Carnival Village during Panorama. Together, the events marked a visible shift into the heart of the festival season, with attention now turning to the official opening of Carnival Village and the nightly music lineup that will carry the celebration through May 2.

At Saturday's Calypso show, Lucus Evans John Gotti captured the 2026 Calypso Monarch title. Hansill Richie Buntin placed first runner-up, followed by Emogen Creese Blakness in third. As expected, the show featured political and social commentary, with contestants directing their lyrics at elected officials and wider community grievances.

A day earlier, the Junior Calypso STT 2026 competition put young performers in the spotlight, offering another sign that the artform is continuing to attract and develop new talent.

On Sunday, the [annual boat race](#) drew vendors, residents, and visitors to the Charlotte Amalie waterfront along Veterans Drive. Though centered on racing, the event again extended well beyond the boats themselves, with food, fashion, politics, classic Volkswagen Bugs, music, and general entertainment all shaping the atmosphere around the competition.

Sunday night brought [Panorama to Carnival Village](#), where attendees were treated to the sound of steel pan music. The event featured performances by Panatics, Yard Vibes, CAHS Mello Hawks, Pan Dragons, STT All Stars, Rising Stars, Gen Fusion, UVI, and Pan in Motion, with added entertainment listed as Gus Bus Deh Band and The World Famous Xpress Band. The night showcased local and regional musical selections and highlighted the depth of Virgin Islands talent in a genre that originated in Trinidad and has since spread widely across the Caribbean and beyond.

With those early events now completed, the focus shifts to the official opening of Carnival Village tonight at Fort Christian Lot. According to the published lineup, Monday night's "Imagi Jammin and Tramping," featuring DJ Pete, is set to include Imagination Brass, Dundead, Jam Band, Voice, Alison Hinds, Farmer Nappy, and Hypa Sounds. The dress theme for the opening night is Madras wear.

The village schedule continues Tuesday with "Theresa Rocking in the Garden," featuring DJ Lady Mix and J'Shante Int'l, with performances by It Is What It Is, Klimaxx Band, Nikki Brooks, Star Martin, Temisha, Rudy Live, and Mical Teja, GBM Nutron, Anika Berry and more. Wednesday's "All Out Pose," featuring DJ Any Vibe, DJ Vakero, and Kevin Crown, is scheduled to include Kruziano, T-Vice, Goyo, Kiko Rodriguez, B-Squad featuring Sisa and Quan, and a Bouyon Fest featuring Trilla G, Shelly, Reo, and Trev Li.

The Village lineup continues Thursday with "Parking Lot," featuring VI Dream Team and Ricky Platinum, with Reggae Dynasty, Steel Pulse, Busy Signal, Armani, PNDRN, and Malie Donn. Friday's "Jockey Style," featuring Red Lion and DJ Avalanche, will include Empire, TH3RD, Burning Flames, Mic Love, Pumpa, YFB, and Shaw HP in a tribute to Sasso. Saturday's "Bands for Deh Road," featuring DJ Reg, Deejay Cypha, and JahLion, is scheduled to close Village Nights with VIO Int'l, Adam O & Blind Earz, Destra, Full Blown, Busta Rhymes, and R. City during what is listed as Tempo Night.

The broader Carnival schedule continues through May 2, with events including Food Fair, J'ouvert, the Children's Parade, the Adult's Parade, and fireworks, bringing the annual celebration to a close after nearly a month of activity.