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**Today**  
The Newspaper of Country St. Maarten .SX

**Presidente BEER**  
CARNIVAL MODE ON  
#1 BEER OF THE CARIBBEAN

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It is the 100th day of 2017. There are 265 days left in the year

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017

*Wescot-Williams about the instruction:*

## "Let's reset and work forward"



Sarah Wescot-Williams.  
Photo Today / Hilbert Haar

**GREAT BAY** - "I don't remember a time that the relationship between the kingdom and the government of St. Maarten has not been strained," President of Parliament Sarah Wescot-Williams said in a press statement this weekend. "Yes, we

have had lulls, but the underlying currents have always been present. I remember the early years following the constitutional referendum of 2000, when the position of the Kingdom government was "no separate (read: country) status" for any entity in the Kingdom. You were either in or out."

Ten years after our referendum, parties had managed to get out of that quandary to the cautious satisfaction of parties, it seemed, Wescot-Williams observes.

"Nevertheless, some thorny issues remained, not in the last place the opposing positions partners on both sides of the ocean take as far as the contentious article 43 of the Charter is concerned. The recent amendment to the Charter while a step in the right direction, does not totally mitigate the democratic deficit, which remains a thorn in the relationship."

*Continued on page 3*

## TelEm pumps up connectivity at the Festival village

**GREAT BAY** - TelEm Group technicians have been busy connecting the Festival Village with fiber optic cable and new Wi-Fi solutions to improve mobile voice and data user experience during this year's Carnival season.

Prompted by an initiative of Chief Executive Officer Kendall Dupersoy to flood the Festival Village with top of the line telecommunication connections, TelEm Group's outside plant has been busy in recent weeks running fiber optic cables from the company's main building on Pond Island to the Festival Village. From there, connections are also being made to other parts of Phillipsburg in preparation for more connections in the center of town.

According to Dupersoy, the focus on the Festival Village is turning out to be a great learning experience for TelEm Group in providing fiber optic and Wi-Fi services in a densely populated area.

As a pre-cursor to the company's upcoming island-wide rollout of fiber-to-the-home this summer, the project at the Festival Village will provide valuable training to TelEm Group staff and local contractors, who will be instrumental in build-

*Continued on page 2*

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*Kingdom measure:*

## Integrity Chamber within a couple of months



Prime Minister William Marlin and Minister Plenipotentiary Henrietta Doran-York in The Hague on Friday. Photo Caribisch Netwerk / John Samson

**THE HAGUE** - The Netherlands is going to force St. Maarten to establish an Integrity Chamber within the next couple of months, John Samson reports on Caribisch Netwerk. This independent institute has to tackle corruption on the island. The Kingdom Council of Minister issued a General Measure of Kingdom Administration last Friday.

Minister Plasterk motivated the decision by stating that several integrity reports show that there is still a situation of "administrative corruption, bribery and nepotism" on the island. That puts good governance in St. Maarten at risk, the minister said.

The government of St. Maarten agreed in 2015 to the establishment of an Integrity Chamber, but the current government does not want to cooperate. Prime Minister Marlin said Friday that the situation is not untenable to the point that justifies intervention.

"St. Maarten has enough institutions, regulations and resources at its disposal," Prime Minister Marlin said. As an example he mentioned the screening of ministers that prevents, according to Marlin that corrupt or dubious characters come into power.

Before the Netherlands is really allowed to intervene, the proposal for the general measure still; has to go through an advice-procedure at the Council of State. According to Minister Plasterk, this could take a couple of months.

St. Maarten will file an appeal against the decision through a so-called reinforced crown appeal. (For an explanation about this procedure, see our opinion page). The Netherlands has had it with St. Maarten. According to Marlin, the Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte crossly said before the meeting of the Kingdom Council of Ministers that the island should get out of the kingdom if it does not like the measure. "Instead of helping St. Maarten it was more like, we are going to impose things," Marlin said.

## No gag order: inspectorate works on public policy

**GREAT BAY** - The rumored gag order supposedly intended to hamper the functioning of the inspectorate as described by certain Members of Parliament is far from the reality, the Ministry of Public health said in a press statement yesterday.

"A ministerial decree was issued

to the inspectorate with the sole objective of protecting the rights to privacy of patients and medical personnel as guaranteed in St. Maarten's constitution. This decree was quite simply intended to further define how details on reports of patients and medical

*Continued on page 3*

## Tropical Life rules in Junior Parade



Junior Carnival Queen Zidania Gumbs during the Junior Parade on Saturday. Photo Today / Leo Brown

**GREAT BAY** - Tropical Life took all the prizes in the Junior Carnival Parade on Saturday. Best troupe, best float, best road piece and best individual piece - all went to Tropical Life.

For best troupe the jury gave 1,252 points, far ahead of Survivors (677). For best road piece Tropical Life received 162 points and for best individual piece 220 points.

**More photos on page 6**



## EDITORIAL

# Earplugs

Collective Preventive Services donated earplugs to the St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation last week. It's well-intended, no doubt about it, but it is also the world upside down. We all know that Carnival celebrations come with deafening noise levels and we also know that those noise levels are damaging to people's hearing. So from a public health perspective it makes a lot of sense to limit those sound levels. Protecting people's health is after all a task given to the government in article 21 of the constitution: "The government takes measures to promote

public health." But the government does not do this. Smoking kills, but cigarettes are freely available in our country. Extreme sound levels damage the hearing, not only of children but also of adults and the elderly. Yet the government does not act against the nuisance; instead it offers a Band-Aid in the form of earplugs to citizens who are exposed to it. It's nice to have a constitution; it would be even nicer if the government and the parliament lived up to their promise to uphold it.

## Police call for witnesses in car wash murder

**GREAT BAY** - The police is calling on citizens who may have information that could lead to solving the murder of A.R. Thewet, aka Nino Brown on March 14 at his car wash on Arch Road. Thewet and another man were gunned down; the second victim remains seriously injured.

After the shooting the gunmen were seen running away in the direction of the Tranquillo Bar. They disappeared behind the bar. The police said that there were several people at the bar at that time and that they must have seen the shooter or shooters run away. The police call on these

people to contact the detective department if they have any information. Call 542-2222, extensions 105, 175, 515, 516 or 517 or community police officer Helen "Romeo" at 588-2932, the anonymous tip line at #9300 or the emergency line at 911.

## USp hosts fish-fry and soup sale

**GREAT BAY** - The United St. Maarten party hosts a family fish-fry and soup sale for the

general public on Saturday. With a focus on Soups by US, the day will also feature activi-

ties for children. It will be held at the USp headquarters property in Cul de Sac from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. "We simply wanted to do an event that brings two things we love together; family and local food," the board of the USp said. "We believe there could never be enough events for family on our beautiful island. "We are a people that love getting together with family and love cooking. It should be great fun." The fish-fry will feature several types of fish; the menu of Soups by US, includes chicken, pigtail, fish, souse (pig feet), mondongo, corn chowder, oyster and beef. "We are inviting one and all. This is not an event for just party supporters, it's a community event, it's a family event. We would like the public to come out, bring the children and enjoy some great food," the USp board said.

## Gradus succeeds Bakker as chairman of the Cft



Raymond Gradus. Photo contributed

**GREAT BAY** - Prof. Dr. Raymond Gradus succeeds Prof. Dr. Age Bakker as the chairman of financial supervisor Cft per July 1, the Kingdom Council of Ministers decided on Friday. Gradus (1962) was the director of the Scientific Institute of the CDA from 2008 until 2015. From 2004 he was a professor Administration and Economy of the public and private sector at the Free University of Amsterdam. Bakker chaired the Cft since December 1, 2011. In 2015 he also became the chairman for financial supervision in Aruba.

## ONE YEAR AGO

The director of the Bureau for Intellectual Property (BIP), Vincentia Rosen-Sandiford, Minister of Economic Affairs Ingrid Arrindell and President of Parliament Sarah Wescot-Williams officially open the BIP-offices.

Editorial freedom is under pressure in Aruba after Diario suspends its journalist Nelson 'Speed' Andrade.

The trial against two men who were involved in the armed robbery on August 5, 2015 that cost Police Officer Gamali Benjamin his life, takes place under strict security measures at the Belair Community Center.

The available resources for investigating and prosecuting are scarce, Chief Prosecutor Ton Maan says during the installation of Judge Caroline Giesen.



Lions Region 2 Chairman Claudio Buncamper held his annual meeting online from the St. Maarten Lions Den for Sub-District 60B. Three zone chairmen reported on the progress and the many projects of the various clubs in the region over the past year starting from July 2016. Region 2 comprises of 21 Lions and Leo Clubs on the islands of the US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts, Montserrat, Antigua, Dominica and St. Maarten. After the meeting, Buncamper and zone chairman 2B Ernie Hodge Carty from Anguilla visited the St. Maarten Leo Club High School Basketball Tournament held at the Melford Hazel Center which was won by the Milton Peters College.

## TelEm pumps up connectivity at the...

... From page 1...



TelEm uses local contractors to pull fiber-optic cables to the Festival Village and surrounding areas. Photo contributed

ing the underground fiber optic network over the next two years.

"There are thousands of people in the Village at the height of Carnival and practically everyone will be using their mobile phones to make calls, take pictures or send videos to their families and friends," Dupersoy says. "In the past, consumer demand in the Village has literally choked TelEm's telecommunication network, leaving customers angry and unsatisfied. By providing additional bandwidth from the higher capacity fiber cables, and also by introducing a new Wi-Fi

solution, the public can look forward to an unforgettable user experience this Carnival season." Dupersoy said also that the improved user experience is being extended to booth-holders, noting that they will be offered highly affordable rates. Dupersoy commended technicians and local contractors, in particular engineer Earl Thomas and his assistants for providing the new Wi-Fi solution for the Village.

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**Holistic healer Dr. Peter Amato****"More people are dying from medicine than from disease"**

**Dr. Peter Amato and his assistant Cassandra Generlette. Photo contributed**

**GREAT BAY** - There is room for holistic or 'bush' medicine to co-exist with the practice of allopathic mainstream medicine, according to holistic treatment specialist Dr. Peter Amato. At his Inner Harmony Wellness Center located in Simpson Bay, Amato said there is merit in the practice of either forms of medicine. "I believe there is room for everybody. I would never say anything bad or negative about a conventional allopathic doctor or practitioner. If I have an acute bacterial infection or break a leg and have an accident, they have the best science, best technology and best care in the land." He stressed however, that what he provides is a comprehensive assessment of patients that get to the root of the problem as opposed to just treating the symptoms, which he believes mainstream medicine does not. "There are reams and reams of world-

wide evidence and research now that support integrative medicine and a natural approach using lifestyle, diet and nutrition to help people move through symptoms and eradicate the roots of the problem," he said. "The World Health Organization recognizes that pharmaceuticals and surgery are actually the leading causes of death so more people die from medicine than from disease."

Dr. Amato also argued that holistic medicine is also cheaper and more cost effective. A patient's first visit is \$100, followed by a \$50 price tag for follow up visits. "Plus the price of grade 10 organic bush medicines, capsules or liquids in bottles that I bring in from the (United) States that are tested to be the best pharmaceutical grade nutraceuticals. You'll never find anything like this in a health food store or pharmacy because the quality is a thousand times more

powerful," Dr. Amato said. He suggested that a full-fledged first treatment could cost about \$350 with the products. After the first visit, they may not need to test for any of the health issues they had before as the health product they purchased and used from him would have been effective.

Amato offers one particular method of treatment to patients that some doctors are skeptical about. Like most holistic medical professionals, Dr. Amato offers what is known as footbath detoxification. This is where the patients place their feet in water, a compound is placed in the water which supposedly rids the patient's body of toxins through their feet. Some doctors believe this is not possible.

Dr. Amato, while not commenting on the science of this practice, said there is actually medical merit to this. "The science is very advanced, it's really over my head. I know it works on ions, positive ions, energy that kind of goes through the body and basically drags toxins out."

"Depending on what school of medicine you look into whether it's Ayurveda, which is the science of life of India, traditional Chinese medicine or reflexology—all of them say that at the bottom of our feet and hands, are all of our organs and systems. At the end of the day everything ends up on our skin. So we're actually pulling from organs and glands, toxins that somehow work with ions that somehow come through the feet." After a footbath the water shows which organ was mostly detoxed, Amato says.

**CPS donates earplugs**

**From left Dr. Virginia Asin-Oostburg, Suzianne Duzong-Davis, Maria Henry, Gina Illidge (SCDF) and Deborah Martina-Granger, who was instrumental in having earplugs for children available for donation. Photo contributed**

**GREAT BAY (DCOMM)** - The Department of Collective Prevention Services (CPS) has donated earplugs for children to the Sint Maarten Carnival Development Foundation (SCDF), intended to be used during last Saturday's Children's Parade and for other activities where very loud music is generated.

The SCDF will distribute the earplugs to people with children during the parades.

CPS urges the population to be aware that loud music can cause hearing damage, especially in young children, and as such it is important to protect them from loud pitches, tones and in general overly loud music by avoiding these

as much as possible, and avoid standing in close proximity of speakers of sound trucks.

Prolonged exposure can result in damage, which can be irreversible.

For questions about this or other health topics contact CPS at 542 30 03.

**Real Auto partners with Carnival foundation**

**From left: Eric Vlaun, Abelo Malalis, Alston Lourens, Michael Alexander and Natacha Brunache. Photo contributed**

**GREAT BAY** - Real Auto collaborates with the St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation (SCDF).

"We welcome Real Auto as a contributor to the ambiance of the Village. Seeing the new model cars in the Village has been something the public looks forward to and, this collaboration is sincerely appreciated." SCDF-President Alston Lourens stated in a press release.

Real Auto will showcase Suzuki's newly released models in the Festival Village. Also included will be some promotions to engage Village goers. The Suzuki Vitara, Ignis, and Baleno will be featured, along with a Junk-in-the-trunk raffle promotion that is open for everyone to win a variety of prizes.

Real Auto will offer deals and finance packages, along with banking partners.

"We take pride in supporting the community in ways that add value to customers' ownership experiences. We

can celebrate with a purpose," Vlaun stated in a press release. Real Auto Sales Manager Eric

**"Let's reset and work..." ... From page 1...**

Fast forward to today, Wescot-Williams stated, not wanting to rehash the whole story regarding the Integrity Chamber, but nevertheless making the following observations. The government presented draft legislation with respect to the Integrity Chamber.

The parliament adopted the draft legislation and passed it. The Constitutional Court rejected the ordinance (law). The government followed through with the agreed upon Protocol of May 24, 2015. The Kingdom government retreated (it seems) from the process.

The government of St. Maarten continued at its pace and based on its priorities in the area of integrity. "Just before the Dutch election, the Kingdom govern-

ment got in gear again and unilaterally restarted the process, which it had deserted following the signed protocol of 2015," Wescot-Williams stated. "Who is in their right? Who stuck to the bargain? These questions over the past weeks have not been resolved to the satisfaction and agreement of all. Within the current constellation, I don't see an amicable solution to the fundamental questions of this relationship and surely not in the near future."

Digging our heels in at this time, while at the same time knowing that we will not be out of this relationship "tomorrow", serves no one, Wescot-Williams adds. "I can think of the effect this digging in will have in the area

**Continued on page 4**

**No gag order: inspectorate works on...**

**... From page 1...**

professionals are to be handled to protect individual's rights and the ministry from any potential liabilities or additional court cases," the statement read.

Based on a legal case of possible violation of patient and medical specialist right to privacy, which is now in court following a lawsuit by SMMC against the inspectorate, Minister Emil Lee felt it was necessary to ensure a clear public and transparent policy on how potentially private information would be released and under what conditions and procedures.

"Although the inspectorate has an internal communication policy, due to concerns about current litigation, the Inspector General refused to provide a copy of it to the Minister," the statement continued. "Instead, cabinet members were only allowed to look at the policy during a supervised visit.

In the absence of a policy Minister Lee developed a ministerial decree." Not to prevent the Inspectorate from full-filling

its obligations but rather to prevent possible breaches of individual's right to privacy and confidentiality."

Unfortunately, the decree was misinterpreted, the ministry says.

"Even after further clarification was provided it still continued to be misinterpreted.

Therefore, based on a request from Inspector-General Dr. Best and in an effort to forestall further misunderstandings the decree was withdrawn and a hearing was held. During this hearing a hard copy of the current internal communication policy was provided. The policy was marked confidential and the minister was informed that it could not be shared publicly as it was an internal policy of the inspectorate. The minister and the inspectorate agreed that the inspectorate would develop a public version of the internal policy and based on this agreement no new decree would be issued.

Minister Emil Lee and Dr. Earl Best have found common ground and are working to-

gether to develop a clear public policy that outlines how information will be handled by the inspectorate, the press release states.

"There are those in the community who for malicious reasons would like to drive a wedge between the Inspectorate and the Minister, but I am fully supportive of the Inspectorate and its critical role in improving our community.

The process of getting clarity on procedures, responsibilities and authorities is a healthy process. A process that in general the entire government needs to pursue.

"At no time was it my intention to prevent the Inspectorate from carrying out its obligations as stipulated in our legislation. In the interest of public health, I would like the community to rest assured that the Ministry of VSA, which includes the Inspectorate of VSA remains committed toward fulfilling our obligations to the community in safeguarding public health," stated Minister Lee.





Daniel Gibbs, president of the Collectivité d'Outremer de Saint Martin visited the clearance sales in the center of Marigot on Saturday and engaged in talks with merchants. Here Gibbs is depicted in a seemingly intense exchange with the owner of the Tilt Clothing Store. Photo contributed

**CPS alerts parents to monitor kids during Carnival**

## Millions of people have disabling hearing loss

**GREAT BAY (DCOMM)** - Over five per cent of the world's population - 360 million people - has disabling hearing loss (328 million adults and 32 million children). Disabling hearing loss refers to hearing loss greater than 40 decibels (dB) in the better hearing ear in adults and a hearing loss greater than 30 dB in the better hearing ear in children. The majority of people with disabling hearing loss live in low- and middle-income countries, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Approximately one third of people over 65 years of age

are affected by disabling hearing loss. The department Collective Prevention Services (CPS) says that people who are not able to hear as well as someone with normal hearing - hearing thresholds of 25 dB or better in both ears - is said to have hearing loss. Hearing loss may be mild, moderate, severe, or profound. It can affect one ear or both ears, and leads to difficulty in hearing conversational speech or loud sounds. CPS advises parents to monitor their children during Carnival activities that they don't stand near speakers with loud music as this could be damag-

ing to the child's ear.

'Hard of hearing' refers to people with hearing loss ranging from mild to severe. People who are hard of hearing can benefit from hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other assistive devices as well as captioning. People with more significant hearing losses may benefit from cochlear implants. 'Deaf' people mostly have profound hearing loss, which implies very little or no hearing. They often use sign language for communication.

The causes of hearing loss and deafness can be divided into congenital causes and acquired causes. Congenital causes may lead to hearing loss being present at or acquired soon after birth. Hearing loss can be caused by hereditary and non-hereditary genetic factors or by certain complications during pregnancy and childbirth, including: maternal rubella, syphilis or certain other infections during pregnancy.

Other causes of congenital loss are: low birth weight; birth asphyxia (a lack of oxygen at the time of birth); inappropriate use of particular drugs during pregnancy, such as aminoglycosides, cytotoxic drugs, antimalarial drugs, and diuretics; severe jaundice in the neonatal period, which can damage the hearing nerve in a new-born infant.

Acquired causes may lead to hearing loss at any age, such as: infectious diseases including meningitis, measles and mumps; chronic ear infections; collection of fluid in the ear (otitis media); use of certain medicines, such as those used in the treatment of neonatal infections, malaria, drug-resistant tuberculo-

*Continued on page 5*

# Seniors in trouble due to measly pensions

**GREAT BAY** - Some senior citizens and retirees on the island are on the verge of being booted out of their homes due to changes in their mortgages, according to business man Greg Arrindell. A representative of the Downstreet Business Community Council Association, Arrindell has taken up a task to help these seniors get the necessary help to save their homes. The development fund with money from Europe is designed to address social development needs in the country, but it's not sustainable, he says. Arrindell has been very critical of the government for allowing this level of abuse of retirees who would have worked hard to contribute to the development of the country, only to be treated poorly in retirement. "All these senior homes and foundations are being managed by political interests. Some, when you want to do something for the

seniors - it's guaranteeing votes from these particular seniors because you're giving them some pittance. So when you are going to roll out a program and not everybody has access to it, it's because you're using your political influence to stimulate your political votes," Arrindell says. He suggested that the small pension these seniors receive is insufficient to meet their basic needs, which contributes to their precarious situation. "When you are giving them 300 guilders, it's still inadequate. At the end of the day they are grandmothers and they cannot even take care of the house they are living in, they cannot take of their grandchildren." Arrindell suggests that the poor pension these people receive has fueled some of the crimes in the country when their grandchildren see them suffering. Now Arrindell has asked SUNFED to help

the affected retirees get the necessary help to avoid a loss of their homes. Via an Elderly Project Assessment Form seniors can provide the necessary information to get help. The categories on the form that the applicant may require assistance include: transportation (to medical appointments, social events, church/religious activities, elderly social activities; Home Repair and Accessibility (hand rails, grab rails (bathroom), toilet risers, ramps, structural repair (roofs, windows, steps), walkers, wheelchairs, walking sticks, removal of debris/yard cleaning; security and emergency services, security services, emergency services, nutritional needs and personal care services such as domestic assistance (light housekeeping), medication pickup, banking and bill payment, grocery shopping and doctors' visits.

*"Every time you add value, you go a notch higher"*

## Leadership workshop at Hillside Christian School



Coach Nelson Els. Photo contributed

**GREAT BAY** - As Leadercast 2017 approaches, some are getting a double dose of leadership empowerment. The Victorious Living Foundation hosted a leadership workshop on Saturday at the Hillside Christian School in Cay Hill with certified coach Nelson Els, a member of the John Maxwell Team. Victorious Living Foundation director Dr. Nicole Francis-Cotton, said the session was a way of offering residents more than just Leadercast once a year. "Rather than just wait for Leadercast, we decided to implement an event before it to continue to build on leadership capacity." Francis-Cotton said the session was a spinoff from an earlier seminar in March. "On March 4 we did the 21 irrefutable laws of leadership which was conducted by Nelson Els. We had 70 or more people for that and the impact was re-

ally great. The idea is, as you notice for Leadercast, is trying to develop leadership capacity so as we change our leaders, we change our community." Saturday's session offered participants an opportunity to get answers to some pertinent questions pertaining about leadership in the workplace. "Couple of the attendees were looking at their own work situations and youth organizations and as a result were trying to decipher what were some of the challenges they

were facing and look at these laws and how these laws can help to make changes in their work environment," Els said. Els said he was very impressed with the turnout.

"The smaller group could give us a chance to interact with each other a little bit more we can go a lot more deeper (on the topic)," he said. The main gist of Saturday's session was about adding value to people. "Every time you add value, you go a notch higher, he said.

*"Let's reset and work... ... From page 3..."*

of health (hospital), low interest financing, cooperation (landfill), de-risking, prison and several other areas, Windward Islands cooperation, and so on." So rather than dig in, let's reset, she suggests. "Agree to a point, where at least we were

on the same page and work forward, while respecting the autonomy of in this case, St. Maarten. I hope and pray that the caretaker government of the Kingdom (read: the Netherlands) will respect this and move forward cautiously, allowing some time to reset."

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LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER

# Smart tourism

Dear Editor,

According to statistics from the country's Department of Statistics (STAT) the country's stay-over numbers have grown for four consecutive years between 2011 and 2015. For 2016, there are only figures available up to the third quarter, so a total number of stay-over visitors have not yet been posted on the website of STAT. From 2011 up to the end of 2015, the country has seen stay-over tourism numbers grow by more than 81,000. In 2011 we received 424,340 stay-over visitors; in 2012, 456,720; in 2013, 466,955; in 2014, 499,921; and in 2015, 505,374. Up to the third quarter of 2016 there were 377,369 stay-over visitors. Stay-over visitors are an essential part of our one-pillar tourism economy. The economic outreach to various businesses on the island is tremendous, and therefore, the appointment of a Minister of Tourism and Economic Affairs last week is very much welcome news to the tourism and business community.

The tourism and business sector are looking forward to substantial steps being taken in the coming weeks and months by tourism authorities to continue to build destination promotion and grow the numbers for the foreseeable future.

Arrival data from the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) reported by 28 destinations during 2016, said growth was recorded in 22 destinations, while declines were recorded in six. For the January to December 2016 period, 14 reporting CTO destinations out of 17 had growth ranging between zero percent in the Cayman Islands and 17.5 percent in the Turks & Caicos Islands. Declines were recorded in Aruba (-10 per cent), Trinidad & Tobago (-7), and Curacao (-5.8).

Caribbean tourism in 2016 surpassed the 29 million mark in arrivals for the first time ever, growing faster than the global average. Tourist arrivals to the Region increased by 4.2 per cent, according to the CTO, to reach 29.3 million or one million more visitors last year compared to 2015. Visitor spending also reach an all new

high to reach \$35.5 billion.

Demand for international tourism remained robust in 2016 despite challenges. International tourist arrivals grew by 3.9 per cent to reach a total of 1,235 million, according to the latest United Nations World Tourism Organization (WTO) World Tourism Barometer. Some 46 million more tourists (overnight visitors) travelled internationally last year compared to 2015.

2016 was the seventh consecutive year of sustained growth following the 2009 global economic and financial crisis. A comparable sequence of uninterrupted solid growth has not been recorded since the 1960s. As a result, 300 million more international tourists travelled the world in 2016 as compared to the pre-crisis record in 2008.

From the figures above, there has been considerable growth within the Caribbean Basin and internationally. St. Maarten needs to move from being a 20th century tourism destination to a 21st century destination. Our country has to advance and shape our destination with a tourism model that is based on innovation, technology, sustainability and accessibility. This concept is known as 'smart tourism.'

Smart tourism is an international topic of discussion to create 'Smart Destinations.' Smart tourism is not a trend, but the future of tourism development. Destinations have to assume the new global framework: a complex context in which tourists' behavior and new technologies are changing economic structures and related policies which has presented a new scenario of continuous evolution.

St. Maarten has to be on the side of evolution or become a dinosaur in the north eastern Caribbean. International efforts have started to bring together government representatives, private sector entities, researchers and academics, as well as technology centers to discuss such topics digital applications that make it possible to offer increasingly customized services and to differentiate tourist destinations that provide added value while preserving the natural, social and cultural environment.

Changing travel behavior and increasing personalized customer experiences, new business models and the role of entrepreneurs, improved participatory processes supported by smart solutions, the relation between travellers and local communities, and the sharing of existing applications, have already been discussed at the international forum of the World Tourism Organization as part of tourism innovation.

Smart destinations are key to sustainable development and contribute not only to advances in the tourism sector but also in societies at large. The use of technological solutions contributes effectively to evidence-based decision making, prioritization of measures and anticipation of future scenarios, which is essential for responsible management of tourism and its impacts.

Topics such as smart destination systems for regular and timely measurement, intelligent promotion of tourist sites (eco-tourism, local cultures) and digital accessibility are all tied to 21st century tourism that contributes to the economic and social development and well-being of the people of the country.

St. Maarten needs a 21st century tourism business model to move the destination towards becoming a Smart Destination within the shortest possible time.

**Roddy Heyliger**

LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER

# Sacrilegious

Dear Editor,

We have been visiting St. Maarten annually, every year at least once and sometimes twice a year, since 1973. We've watched the changes; we've seen the construction; we were on island the year the road 'over the hill' was being built; we enjoyed Mullet Bay Resort in its infancy and saw her through the various changes of management - Marriott and Sheraton; and sadly, we were witness to the destruction and the way it sat in disarray for so many years after the fact.

But this is the first time I've ever been inclined to write to anyone regarding island business which is certainly none of mine.

In my humble opinion: to allow the licensed access of jet skis or other motorized water sporting equipment on this beach is almost sacrilegious. This is the only beach on the island's Dutch side that isn't rife with bars and restaurants and it's almost pristine atmosphere is one of the things so many of us still find to enjoy about St. Maarten and why we still come back, trip after trip and year after year.

Certainly the traffic and the construction and the desecration of the beautiful cliffs of Cupercoy aren't what call us back year after year, but Mullet Bay is. To foolishly allow this type of development of one of the most beautiful spots on the island is outrageous. Have the powers that be lost their collective minds?

The beach concessions and chair rentals have already usurped an unreasonable amount of the best part of the beach but this would be the final straw. Please, if you must destroy this beach and rob the islanders and guests alike of their enjoyment of it, at least have the courtesy to do so with a passive activity instead of something as objectionable as motorized water toys.

And why? For the few dollars it will generate to the island coffers? It hardly seems like you could charge enough for the island to benefit from three authorized users and then consider how much will it cost in lawsuits and damages when one of these pieces of motorized apparatus leaks oil or gas into the water and an expensive cleanup has to be done? Or when the unlawful use of these motorized toys hurts or worse yet kills an inexperienced rider or an unsuspecting swimmer?

This is one of the last vestiges of a once beautiful and relatively undeveloped island that has been allowed to be over-developed in a wanton manner. Please reconsider and do away with the foolish idea of allowing these things on Mullet Beach. There are certainly other locations where they might be appropriate but this just isn't one of them. Please, in your (lack of?) infinite wisdom - keep them anywhere but on Mullet Bay Beach.

**Patricia S. Denley**  
**Brookfield, CT 06804**

## Millions of people have disabling...

... From page 4...

sis, and cancers; injury to the head or ear; excessive noise, including occupational noise such as that from machinery and explosions; recreational exposure to loud sounds such as that from use of personal audio devices at

high volumes and for prolonged periods of time and regular attendance at concerts, nightclubs, bars and sporting events. Other acquired hearing losses are: ageing, in particular due to degeneration of sensory

cells; and wax or foreign bodies blocking the ear canal. Among children, chronic otitis media is a common cause of hearing loss. For more information call CPS at 542-3003 or 542-2078.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY - SINGH N.V.

### Cook

Responsible for preparing the meals in the restaurant  
 Taking care of the daily menus for the restaurant

### Requirements

Specialize in Indian & Tanderian meals  
 2 years experience

### Qualification

High school degree  
 Antilleans or persons with valid work permit need only apply.

Last date to submit applications is on April 13 th 2017

Forward all applications to the Island Labor Department and to Kuwarsingh50@hotmail.com or fax 542 1492

## FENG ODD'S ENDS N.V.

### Employment Opportunity

### PRESSER

Responsible for the use of clothing used by the various equipment in the laundry

### QUALIFICATIONS

Able to work with the various types of laundry, dry cleaning pressing and folding machines

Minimum of 2 years experience

A trade school or Vocational degree

Antilleans or persons with valid work permit need only apply.

Last date to submit applications is on April 13 th 2017

Forward all applications to the Island Labor Department and to victorfeng@caribserve.net or call 542 1737

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## Cake House Bakery N.V

### Has a vacancy for SUPERVISOR

### QUALIFICATIONS

- \* High School degree
- \* Minimum 3 years experience

Responsible for the supervising of the staff and reports to the General & Retail Managers

Oversee and administer all inventory of incoming & outgoing goods

Oversee the warehouse staff, receive goods and prepare outgoing goods

Antilleans or persons with valid work permit need only apply.

Deadline for submittance of applications- April 13th 2017

Application and resume must be sent to the Island Labor Office or fax to 542 0523 or email to cake\_house84@yahoo.com

## D.K. GEMS INTERNATIONAL N.V.

### Vacancy: Gold Smith

Knowledge of the gold and precious metals and appraise their value

Shape metal to hold the gems when making individual pieces,

create jewelry from gold, silver and precious gemstones.

### Qualifications

- \* High School degree and a certificate in diamond grading
- \* At least 2 years experience in this sector

Last date to submit applications is on April 13th 2017.

Please submit your application and resume to the Labor Department and a copy to dkgemsint@caribserve.net or fax 542 1978

## MEIDO N.V.

is looking for the following candidate:

### CHEF

- \* Responsible for the daily running of the restaurant
- \* Responsible for preparing all the meals in a Chinese Restaurant

Two (2) years experience required  
 Degree/ Diploma in Chinese cooking

### COOK

- \* Responsible for assisting the chef with all the meals in a Chinese restaurant

Two (2) years experience required  
 Culinary School degree

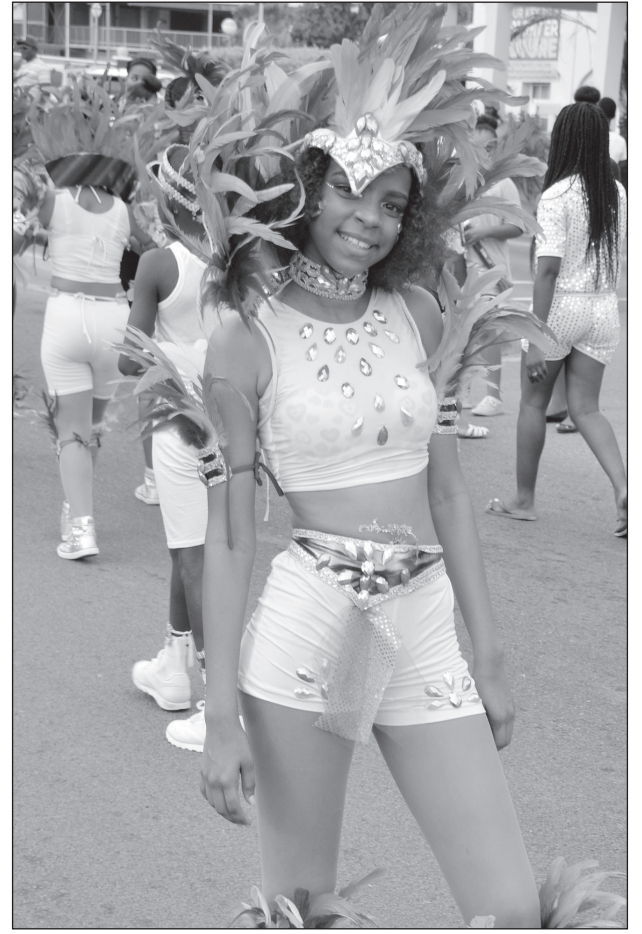
Deadline for applications – April 13 th 2017.

Forward applications to the Labor Office and to eaglewing@hotmail.com or call 54 43992



# Junior Parade

Photo Today / Leo Brown



## Tourist Bureau on marketing expedition to the Netherlands



From left: Product Development Officer Marie-Line Carty, Rolando Brison and Marketing Officer Gianira Arrindell. Photo contributed

GREAT BAY - The interim-head of the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau Rolando Brison will lead a small team to the Netherlands to participate in various dinner workshops to provide information to the Dutch travel trade sector so that they are able to sell the destination to their clients. The group left yesterday for the weeklong outing, Minister Melissa Arrindell-Doncher said in a press statement.

Brison travels with staff of the tourist Bureau and partners from the Sonesta group, Westin Resort, Maduro & Sons, Holland House and Divi Resorts. The team will also get the opportunity to meet with several tour operators during a lunch in Hoofddorp. The dinner workshops take place in Rotterdam, Bloemendaal, Valburg and Brussels. A small market will be created

where partners will have their own table. Before and after the official program, this market is an extra opportunity to provide the travel agents with more information. There will be between 30 and 35 travel agents per evening of different travel organizations in the Netherlands (among others TUI, Travel Counsellors, D-Reizen and Travel Club). "We continue to reach out and speak to key players in all of the markets we target. While we look to attract new airlift from Europe, we also must ensure that tour operators and the travel sector in the Benelux market are armed with information about the destination," the minister said. "Mr. Brison and his team are well versed in our plans and vision for the destination as it relates to the European market and we expect he will do a terrific job in pushing the friendly island." The Tourist Bureau takes along promo videos about Carnival, the Heineken Regatta and the St. Maarten Music Festival.



Articles on the Opinion page are written by Today's Editor-in-Chief, or published under his responsibility.

# Today Opinion & Commentary

Email your views to: [Todaymanagersxm@yahoo.com](mailto:Todaymanagersxm@yahoo.com) Please include your full name and address

## Shoddy mess

Did we have it coming? The decision by the Kingdom Council of Ministers to force the Integrity Chamber upon St. Maarten cannot come as a surprise to anybody. Let's not talk about fair, because that is a kids' argument. Let's talk about how we got there and what we could have done to prevent this shoddy mess.

In September 2013, the kingdom government gave an instruction to Governor Holiday to investigate the proper and honest functioning of the public administration in St. Maarten. We won't go into the uproar that followed, but stick to the results. The governor commissioned PriceWaterhouseCoopers with an integrity investigation; the government ordered its own integrity investigation; this was done by an independent committee under Chairman Justice Bob Wit, the president of the Constitutional Court. The cream on the cake was the government's decision to order corruption watchdog Transparency International to perform a so-called National Integrity System Assessment. In May 2014, the General Audit Chamber published its baseline study institutional integrity management. Its results were devastating: most regulations to manage integrity were lacking, the chamber's report states.

When the Wit-committee published its report with forty recommendations, the government - at the time led by Sarah Wescot-Williams - embraced the conclusions "for 99.9 percent."

PriceWaterhouseCoopers recommended in its report that appeared later that year an integrity assessment of Parliament. It never happened.

In the spring of 2015, Parliament struggled with a proposal of the Marcel Gumbs government to establish an Integrity Chamber. The idea to set up such an institution is one of the recommendations from the Wit-report.

Coalition-partner UP made the most noise about it, culminating in the iconic statement by faction leader Franklin Meyers that he preferred to die on his feet to living on his knees.

But in the end, the Parliament gave in to the pressure and approved the legislation in August 2015. Current Prime Minister William Marlin and his National Alliance faction voted against.

In September, the ombudsman sent the legislation for review to the Constitutional Court. In July of last year, this court struck down the law.

From there on, the Integrity Chamber suddenly became persona non grata in St. Maarten - at least on the government level. The legislation was at the department of legal affairs for review, was the official position. But in reality, nothing happened with it.

In January, when the controversy erupted about the appointment of the Dutch quartermaster Hans Leijtens - one-and-a-half year after the deadline for said appointment - PM Marlin said that the country does not need an Integrity Chamber and that there are enough mechanisms in place to deal with integrity issues.

Marlin suggested instead expanding the authority of the General Audit Chamber to deal with integrity issues; in itself not a bad idea given the solid reputation of this institution.

But the thing that has not come to haunt St. Maarten is that, after these lofty statements, nothing happened, at least anything that the public, let alone the kingdom government, has been made aware of.

And thus Minister Ronald Plasterk, in the twilight of his political career, saw fit to bring down the hammer with a general measure of kingdom administration.

How this is going to work out is anybody's guess. The government intends to appeal the decision, but appeals against such measures stand little chance of success. Why? Because the so-called reinforced crown appeal (versterkt kroonberoep) the government intends to use is a nonentity, constitutional experts like Douwe Jan Elzinga say (see article elsewhere on this page).

## Reinforced crown appeal is a nonentity

Douwe Jan Elzinga, professor constitutional law at the National University Groningen examined the value of the reinforced crown appeal (versterkt kroonberoep) in the following article in Binnenlands Bestuur last year. This is his opinion.

"In 2010 the Netherlands Antilles were dismantled and the kingdom had four countries: The Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten. Because the number of countries increased, the obligation to arrive at a dispute regulation was added to the Kingdom Charter. So far, this has not become a reality.

The most important cause of this is the difference in insight between the Netherlands on one side and the three Caribbean countries on the other. In 2010 it was made clear that this had to be an independent instance. And for legal conflicts - for instance about the interpretation of the Kingdom Charter - this leads immediately to a judicial instance.

The Netherlands did (and does) not want to hear about this and came with the proposal to introduce a reinforced crown appeal. The kingdom government decides about conflicts, for legal conflicts based on advice from the Kingdom's Council of State. This exists already for the financial supervision in the Caribbean countries. Now it would have to start functioning as a general dispute regulation.

The arguments for this form of settling conflicts are unprecedented and on certain points even bizarre. Especially in the context of the Kingdom the reinforced crown appeal is a nonentity. The crown appeal hardly still exists in the Netherlands and that is because in the end politicians are making the decisions, even when they

are - binding or not - advised about this by former politicians who have moved on to the Council of State. The ultimate guarantee for independence cannot be offered. Furthermore, the Dutch government is absolutely dominant in the kingdom government. In this Jesuit construction ministers are easily able to change their hats; then it is rather bizarre to present a conflict about for instance the interpretation of the Kingdom Charter to the instance that took the primary decision.

If the municipality of Haarlem of the island of Bonaire were affected by an annulment decision of the crown, they are able to have this reviewed by the administrative judge. But with the introduction of the reinforced crown appeal this option is taken away from the Caribbean countries. Especially now that the relationships in the kingdom are under heavy pressure because of the unequal institutional setup of the charter it is from a political-psychological point of view alone immensely unwise to propose this form of settling disputes. The checks and balances in the kingdom can be strengthened considerably with a dispute regulation through an independent judge. It could take away a lot of tension and be the first step towards more equal treatment of each other.

The decision making process about the final form of the dispute regulation is in the hands of the Netherlands. However, it looks like the Caribbean islands will massively resist this. In such circumstances it would be a testimony to constitutional wisdom if The Hague showed its preparedness to stand down; better turned at half than to get lost altogether."

## Courageous but futile

The Prime Minister of Country St. Maarten left the shores for a diplomatic encounter with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands and the Minister of Kingdom affairs. This is obviously how the editorial might read in the future but as fate has it today it simply factual to say an island territory considered an upstart for trying to determine its own future met with the colonial master to plead for some kind of consideration for their position. While much was expected by some I cautioned that nothing will be achieved for it is ludicrous to expect a colonial power to respect its property whose people by extension is also considered property. It is now not the time to say I told you so but we should find common ground to a united stand for St. Martin. It is high time we put an end to the constant meddling under the caption of accept or get out our Kingdom. The Dutch are constantly using the islands of the former Antilles to promote their own political machismo in Holland and speak us ill internationally.

No man has a right to usurp the right of people to determine their own future or lead their country in the way they envision. In the fourth decade of decolonization set by the United Nations it is unacceptable and insulting to a people that the colonists are appointing their civil servants to dictate to our elected officials. We must persist in our argument that the so called slotverklaring is not applicable as we never got or enjoyed any debt relief.

We had to start from the bottom and build everything from scratch with our own measly resources. We were forced to present deficit free budgets which we did without a cent from Massa. Their sudden interest in our island is mindboggling considering that they were absent for over a century

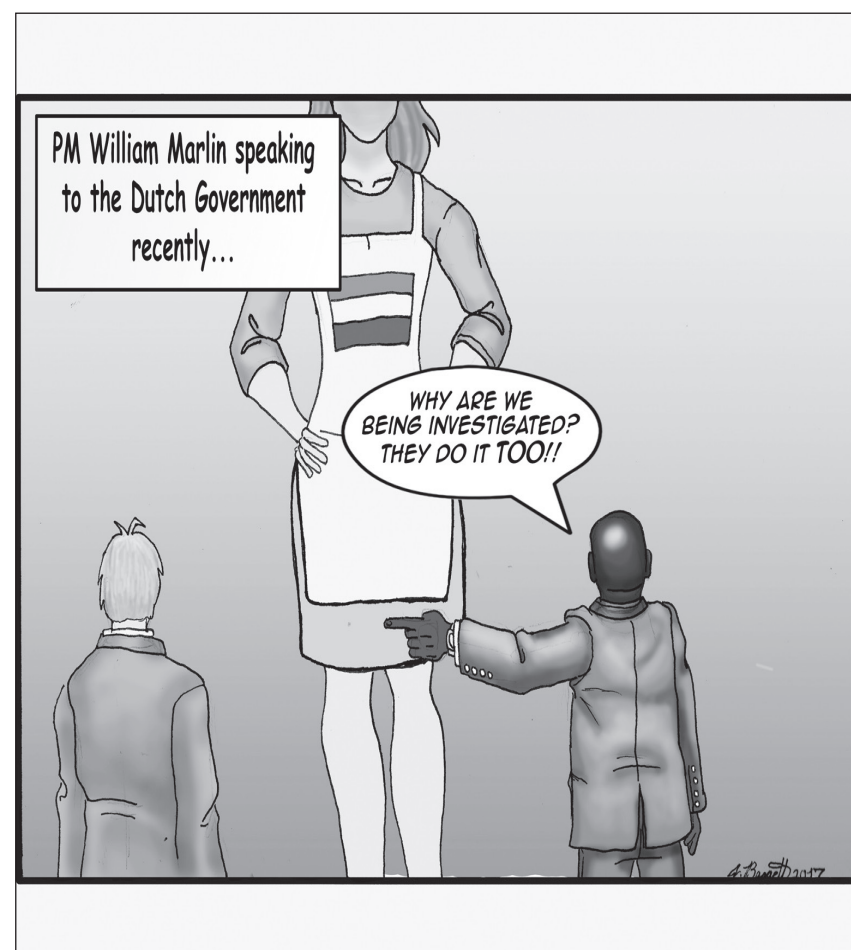
and in actuality didn't invest here.

I hope our people and leaders will take me up on the offer to lead a demonstration whenever they try to implement their instruction. It's our airport and port so let's deny them landing rights; we don't want any rude and disrespectful colonists on our shores. If Mr. Marlin has the intestinal fortitude our civil servants should still be forbidden from cooperating we must show that we can and will remedy our own short comings.

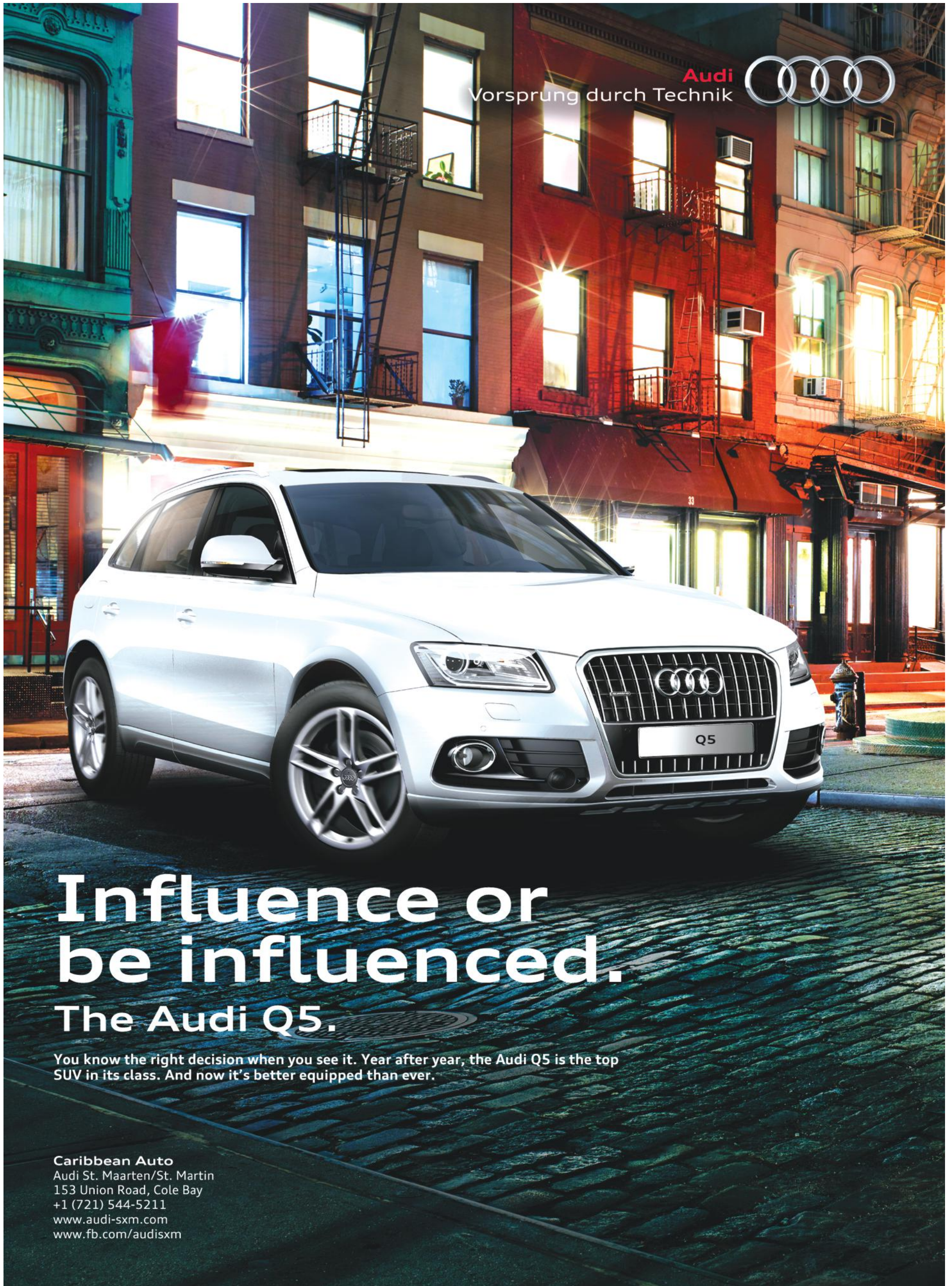
The despicable statements of selling us on E-Bay or sending us our independence by mail and Mr. Rutte's absurd attempt at humor daring us to give him a call must be dealt with once and for all. The right to self determination is not of the colonists and they can't decide when we use it or not.

Please. I beg you let's inform our people what's truly happening as it concerns attempts by the colonists to take us back 300 years. Examples abound but just look at Bonaire and St. Eustatius they don't seem to be helping any people but their own by putting them in charge of everything. I fail to see any chance of reconciliation with their attitude of what we say goes or you go. Nothing has ever been gained in the realm of human freedom by pleading and begging. For the sake of international recognition let's have a referendum affording our people the opportunity to bid the colonists good bye. The time is now; colonialism and Dutch dictatorship must end. The ball is now in the court of PM Marlin and Parliament. Lead and your people will follow for what has long been a just cause.

Elton Jones







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## INTERNATIONAL SECTION

# Trump advisers: US seeks to fight IS and oust Syria's Assad

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Donald Trump's national security adviser on Sunday left open the possibility of additional U.S. military action against Syria following last week's missile strike but indicated that the United States was not seeking to act unilaterally to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad.

In his first televised interview, H.R. McMaster pointed to dual U.S. goals of defeating the Islamic State group and removing Assad. But he suggested that Trump was seeking a global political response for regime change from U.S. allies as well as Russia, which he said needed to reevaluate its support of Syria.

"It's very difficult to understand how a political solution could result from the continuation of the Assad regime," McMaster said.

"Now, we are not saying that we are the ones who are going to effect that change. What we are saying is, other countries have to ask themselves some hard questions. Russia should ask themselves, ...Why are we supporting this murderous regime that is committing mass murder of its own population?"

After last Tuesday's chemical attack in Syria, Trump said his attitude toward Assad "has



Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster

changed very much" and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said "steps are underway" to organize a coalition to remove him from power.

But as lawmakers called on Trump to consult with Congress on any future military strikes and a longer-term strategy on Syria, Trump administration officials sent mixed signals on the scope of U.S. involvement. While Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, described regime change in Syria as a U.S. priority and inevitable, Tillerson suggested that last week's American airstrikes in retaliation for the chemical attack hadn't really changed U.S. priorities toward ousting Assad.

Pressed to clarify, McMaster said the goals of fighting IS and ousting Syria's president were somewhat "simultaneous" and that the objective of the missile strike was to send a "strong political message to Assad."

He did not rule out additional strikes if Assad continued to engage in atrocities against rebel forces with either chemical or conventional weapons. "We are prepared to do more," he said.

"The president will make whatever decision he thinks is in the best interest of the American people."

Reluctant to put significant troops on the ground in Syria, the U.S. for years has struggled to prevent Assad from

strengthening his hold on power.

U.S.-backed rebels groups have long pleaded for more U.S. intervention and complained that Washington has only fought the Islamic State group. So Trump's decision to launch the strikes - which President Barack Obama declined to do after a 2013 chemical attack - has raised optimism among rebels that Trump will more directly confront Assad.

Several lawmakers said Sunday that decision shouldn't entirely be up to Trump.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the no. 2 Republican in the Senate, praised Trump's initial missile strike for sending a message to Assad, Russia, Iran and North Korea that "there's a new administration in charge." But he said Trump now needed to work with Congress to set a future course.

"Congress needs to work with the president to try and deal with this long-term strategy, lack of strategy, really, in Syria," he said. "We haven't had one for six years during the Obama administration, and 400,000 civilians have died and millions of people have been displaced internally and externally in Europe and elsewhere."

## New York derailment highlights US infrastructure concerns

When a train jumped the tracks this past week at New York's Penn Station, the seemingly minor accident led to a cascade of exasperating delays for hundreds of thousands of commuters.

When a flood forced authorities to condemn a one-lane, century-old bridge in rural Ozark, Missouri, it was no less frustrating for the residents and business owners cut off from their shortest route into town.

The two episodes highlight a reality about the U.S. transportation system - it is aging, congested and so vital that when things go wrong, big and costly disruptions can result for which there is no quick fix.

Though President Donald Trump has promised a \$1 trillion infrastructure-rebuilding program, not all of that may go toward transportation. Even then, it would fall well short of the many trillions needed to fix the country's web of roads, bridges, railways, subways and bus stations.

The commuter train in New York derailed because of a weakened railroad tie. No one was seriously injured. But the incident shut down eight of the station's 21 tracks, disrupting Amtrak service in the Northeast from Boston to Washington, as well as delaying commuter trains in New York, New Jersey and

Connecticut for the better part of a week.

Business meetings were canceled, ballgames, dinners and doctor's appointments missed, and commuters fumed.

Lawyer Dominic Boone, who travels into New York from New Jersey, complained that because he arrived late to the office and had to leave early to catch a different train, he lost 10 hours of work for which he could have billed clients.

"They should have been working on Penn Station forever ago," Boone said. "As a nation, we should be spending more on our crumbling infrastructure."

The disruption was only a brief example of the frustration travelers could face if the region can't find a way to replace a pair of deteriorating, overcrowded, century-old rail tunnels that run under the Hudson River and connect New York and New Jersey.

The tunnels, which were severely damaged in Superstorm Sandy in 2012, could cost more than \$20 billion to replace.

But the money has yet to be lined up. And construction, whenever it begins, may take more than a decade.

The Penn Station derailment came less than two weeks after another one there, caused by a misaligned track.

## Tillerson steps up on Syria, Russia after avoiding spotlight

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Criticized for his low-profile diplomacy, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is emerging from the shadows with a leading public role in shaping and explaining the Trump administration's missile strikes in Syria. And, he's set for an even higher-profile mission, heading to Moscow under the twin clouds of Russia's U.S. election meddling and its possible support for a Syrian chemical weapons attack.

Since taking office in February, the former Exxon Mobil CEO has admittedly shunned the spotlight and the press. Yet, Tillerson was surprisingly visible during last week's announcement of the response to the gruesome chemical attack, fielding questions from reporters on and off camera, and then captured in an official White House photo seated next to President Donald Trump as they heard the result of the 59 cruise missiles that struck a Syrian military base. Tillerson was a prominent fixture during the most important foreign policy period in Trump's young presidency: a two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping that coincided with the strikes against Syria. He was by Trump's side during his meetings with Xi and spoke publicly multiple



Rex Tillerson

times to address both issues. It was Tillerson who delivered the Trump administration's first blistering condemnation of Russia in the hours after the strikes. Standing in a cramped conference room alongside national security adviser H.R. McMaster, Tillerson said Moscow had "failed" to live up to its obligations under a 2013 agreement to strip Syria of its chemical weapons stockpiles. "Either Russia has been complicit or Russia has simply been incompetent in its ability to deliver on its end of that agreement," he said.

On Sunday, he made his first network television interview appearances. In one interview, Tillerson said he sees no reason for retaliation from Russia for the U.S. missile strikes.

Russia maintains a close political and military alliance with President Bashar Assad's government and has been accused of supporting its attacks against Syrians opposed to Assad's rule - something Moscow adamantly denies.

Tillerson said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that Russians were not targeted by the strikes. He also said the top U.S. priority in the region hadn't changed and remained the defeat of Islamic State militants. Then he headed to Europe to gather with the foreign ministers of the other major industrialized nations before venturing on eastward to become the first Trump Cabinet member to visit Moscow - and possibly meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

### WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

**THE SUPPA DUPPA MORNING SHOW**  
W/ SUPPA & DEE | WEEKDAYS 7AM - 10AM

**THE AM/PM WORKLOAD SHOW**  
W/ GEE MONEY | WEEKDAYS 10AM - 2PM

**THE POWER HOUR**  
W/ THE CUT CREATOR DJ OUTKAST | WEEKDAYS 2PM - 3PM

**SAGAN'S PLAYGROUND**  
W/ SAGAN | WEEKDAYS 3PM - 6PM

### SPECIALITY SHOWS

**DIRTY DUTCH MUSIC**  
W/ CHUCKIE | FRIDAYS 10PM - 11PM

**DI-NAMIX TOP 40 COUNTDOWN**  
W/ JOE WARRICK | SATURDAYS 3PM - 6PM

**DJ POWER MIX SHOW**  
W/ DJ POWER | SATURDAYS 9PM - 10PM

**A STATE OF TRANCE**  
W/ ARMIN VAN BUUREN | SATURDAYS 11PM - MIDNIGHT

**WADE-O RADIO SHOW**  
W/ DJ WADE-O | SUNDAYS 12PM - 2PM

**FEEL RADIO**  
W/ KP LONDON | SUNDAYS 3PM - 4PM

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## Suicide bombers kill 44 at Palm Sunday services in Egypt



Egyptians react near a church in Alexandria after a bomb blast struck worshippers gathering to celebrate Palm Sunday.

TANTA, Egypt (AP) -- Suicide bombers struck hours apart at two Coptic churches in northern Egypt, killing 44 people and turning Palm Sunday services into scenes of horror and outrage at the government that led the president to call for a three-month state of emergency. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the violence, adding to fears that extremists are shifting their focus to civilians, especially Egypt's Christian minority. The attacks in the northern cities of Tanta and Alexandria that also left 126 people wounded came at the start of Holy Week leading up to Easter, and just weeks before Pope Francis is due to visit. It was the single deadliest day for Christians in decades and the worst since a bombing at a Cairo church in December killed 30 people. Late Sunday night, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi called for a three-month state of emergency. According to Egypt's constitution, parliament must vote in favor of such a declaration - a virtual certainty since it is

packed with supporters of the president. It cannot exceed six months without a referendum to extend it. The army chief-turned-president also dispatched elite troops across the country to protect key installations and accused unidentified countries of fueling instability, saying that "Egyptians have foiled plots and efforts by countries and fascist, terrorist organizations that tried to control Egypt." The attacks highlighted the difficulties facing el-Sissi's government in protecting Christians, who make up about 10 percent of Egypt's population. "Where is the government?" screamed an angry Maged Saleh, who rushed to the church in the Nile Delta city of Tanta where his mother escaped the carnage. "There is no government!" The first bomb exploded inside St. George's Church in Tanta, killing at least 27 people and wounding 78, officials said, overturning pews, shattering windows and staining the whitewashed walls with blood.

Video from inside the church broadcast by CBC TV showed people gathered around what appeared to be lifeless, bloody bodies covered with papers. Several doors had been blown off. Women wailed outside. "After the explosion, everything became dark from the smoke," said Edmond Edward, attending Mass with his brother, Emil, who suffered head wounds and leaned on him for support at a nearby hospital. "There was a clear lapse in security, which must be tightened from now on to save lives," he told The Associated Press. The blast appeared to be centered near the altar, he said. Susan Mikhail, whose apartment balcony across the street has a clear view of the church and its front yard, said the explosion violently shook her building. "Deacons were the first to run out of the church. Many of them had blood on their white robes," she told the AP. The more seriously wounded then were carried out by other survivors and taken to hospitals in private cars, she said.

## Uganda police arrest academic who rebuked the first family

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) -- Ugandan police detained an academic who has been critical online of what she calls "despotic family rule" in this East African country. Stella Nyanzi, a research fellow at Uganda's Makerere University, was arrested Friday for violating a law against misusing computers, police spokesman Asan Kasingye said Sunday. Nyanzi would be charged this week with the offences of cyber harassment and offensive communication, he said. Nyanzi is popular on Facebook for her relentless criticisms of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who has ruled since 1986. Museveni's critics increasingly warn that he plans to rule for life. Some Ugandan lawmakers have been recently

saying they would back a proposal to remove the age limit from the country's constitution, the last obstacle to a possible life presidency for Museveni. On Facebook recently, Nyanzi rebuked First Lady Janet Museveni, who also serves as education minister, for saying the government had no money to buy sanitary towels (napkins) for poor schoolgirls, although the president had promised to budget for them when he was campaigning for re-election last year. Many Ugandan girls are reported to drop out of school because of the shame they feel for lacking sanitary pads. "I totally reject the idea that one cannot ... and should not criticize the people responsible for abusing the rights of

Ugandans and resources of Uganda through thirty-one years of increasing despotic family rule," Nyanzi said in one of her Facebook posts. "As a thinker, scholar, poetess, lyricist, writer, Facebooker and creative producer, it is my responsibility to boldly critique the corrupt tyrants of the day." Nyanzi has described the first lady as "foolish" and out of touch with the problems of ordinary Ugandans. The academic, who trained as medical anthropologist, often uses sexual imagery to underscore her points on Facebook, leading many to accuse her of obscenity in this conservative country. But her fans say she is an honest activist who is using her literary skills to fight for the poor.

## Embattled Venezuela president says keen for local vote

CARACAS - Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro insisted Sunday he was "eager" for delayed regional elections to go ahead, despite being criticized for resisting a national vote on removing him from power.

The socialist leader spoke after tension in the poverty-stricken, oil-producing nation mounted this week when mass protests by his opponents sparked deadly clashes with police. Regional governorship polls were postponed indefinitely in December and municipal ones are due later this year amid a chaotic political struggle.

"I am eager for elections to be convened for governors and mayors" to teach the opposition a lesson, Maduro said Sunday on his weekly television program. He said he wanted elections "so as to hand a defeat to those people very soon, so that they will stop the rioting and violence; to respond to them with votes." The next presidential election is scheduled for December 2018. The center-right opposition has demanded a referendum



Nicolas Maduro

on removing Maduro from power, but he has resisted and negotiations have broken down. The opposition blames Maduro for an economic crisis aggravated by falling oil prices, which has caused acute shortages of food and medicine. Maduro says the crisis is the result of what he calls a US-backed capitalist conspiracy. International criticism of his government mounted in recent weeks after the Supreme Court moved to curb the pow-

ers of the opposition-majority legislature. It intensified further after state authorities on Friday said they were disqualifying senior opposition figure Henrique Capriles from holding public office. Maduro's Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez in comments to reporters on Sunday called for other Latin American powers who have criticized him to "get their noses out of Venezuela."

## Pope on Palm Sunday decries suffering from war, terrorism

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- Pope Francis on Sunday decried a deadly attack on a Coptic church in Egypt during Palm Sunday celebrations, just weeks before his planned visit to Cairo. The pontiff expressed his "deep condolences" to the Coptic patriarch, Tawadros II, calling him "my brother," to the Coptic church and "all of the dear Egyptian nation," and said he was praying for the dead and injured in the attack that occurred just hours earlier as Francis himself was marking Palm Sunday in St. Peter's Square. The pontiff asked God "to convert the hearts of those who spread terror, violence

and death, and also the hearts of those who make, and traffic in, weapons." The pope's remarks on the church attack were handed to him on a piece of paper after he remembered the victims of the Stockholm attack Friday night. The Palm Sunday celebrations in St. Peter's Square were held under tight security, with streets surrounding St. Peter's Square blocked to traffic and security search of the faithful entering the square. The pope and cardinals in red robes led a solemn process clutching elaborately braided palm fronds as they walked through the throngs, followed by the papal blessing of palm fronds and olive branches.

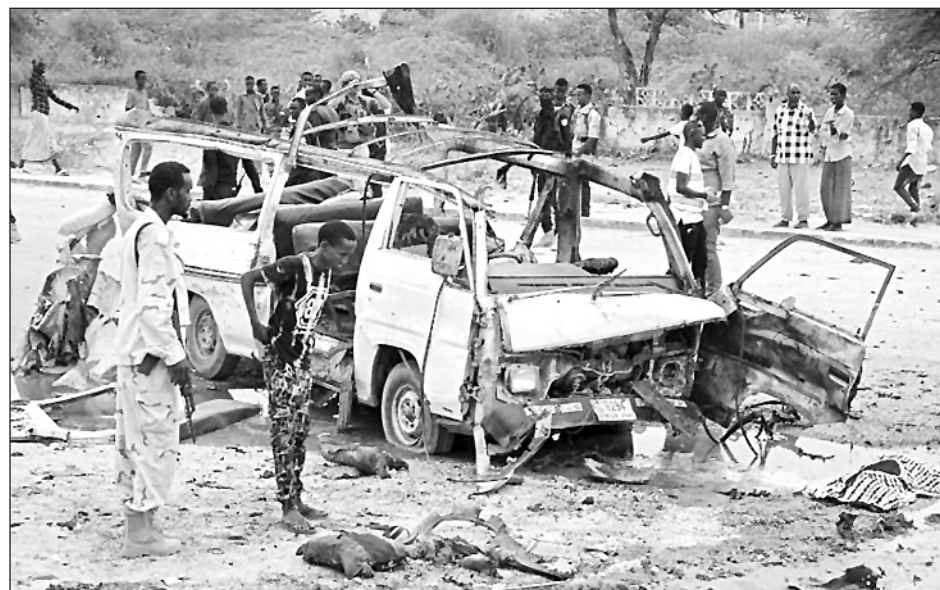
The processions recalls the bittersweet nature of Holy Week, with the faithful clutching simple palm fronds and olive branches to commemorate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem only to be followed later by his death on a wooden cross. In his homily, the pope remembered the suffering in the world today, citing those who "suffer from slave labor, from family tragedies, from diseases ... They suffer from wars and terrorism, from interests that are armed and ready to strike." After his traditional Sunday blessing, the pope circled the square in the pope mobile to greet the faithful.



Pope Francis waves to the crowd after celebrating a Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. (AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)



## Somalia's new army chief survives car bomb that kills 13



A Somali soldier, left, stands by the wreckage of a passing minibus that was destroyed in a suicide car bomb attack near the defense ministry compound in Mogadishu, Somalia. (AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) -- Somalia's new military chief survived a suicide car bomb attack Sunday just moments after he was sworn in with a mandate to launch a new offensive against Islamic extremists. Thirteen people were killed the attack.

Gen. Mohamed Ahmed Jimale had just been sworn into office and was traveling in a convoy with senior military officials when the bomb exploded near Somalia's defense ministry compound in Mogadishu, police say.

Five soldiers and at least 8 civilians travelling in a passing minibus were killed, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein, a senior Somali police officer. Somalia's Islamic extremist rebels, al-Shabab, claimed responsibility for the attack. A huge cloud of smoke billowed over the scene and heavy gunfire was heard in the area. The wreckage of the minibus destroyed by the

powerful bomb was in the street, with a pool of blood under the vehicle. Burning debris littered the scene. Soldiers fired in the air to disperse a crowd standing near a car of an electricity company that was destroyed by the blast.

"What happened here was a painful tragedy - the blast struck two packed minibuses and no one survived," said Abdifitah Halane, a spokesman for Mogadishu's mayor. "There is flesh and blood everywhere," he said looking at the destruction caused by the blast.

Behind the minibus wreckage, a bereaved woman wept and called out the name of a man presumed to be her husband in the vehicle.

The bomb gave an explosive start to Jimale's term as the chief of the Somali National Army.

He was appointed on Thursday by President Mohamed

Abdullahi Mohamed who declared Somalia a war zone. The president, who was elected in February, replaced his military and intelligence chiefs and instructed the army to prepare a new offensive against al-Shabab extremists.

Mohamed also replaced the country's police chief and Mogadishu's mayor.

The shakeup is an attempt to improve the worsening security situation as al-Shabab, allied to al-Qaida, steps up deadly bombings in the capital.

The Somali-American president gave al-Shabab members a 60-day amnesty period to surrender and join the government side.

He said the government will focus on the security of the capital first, then the rest of Somalia. Last week a car bomb blast on Wednesday at a Mogadishu restaurant killed at least seven people.

## Israeli ex-MP gets jail for smuggling phones to inmates

JERUSALEM - An Israeli court Sunday sentenced an Arab Israeli former MP to two years in jail after he pleaded guilty to smuggling mobile phones to Palestinian prisoners, a court transcript showed.

Basel Ghattas, of the Arab-dominated Joint List, resigned his seat in the Israeli parliament as part of a plea bargain reached last month in which he admitted handing the phones and SIM cards to Palestinian inmates.

The prosecution dropped charges of terrorism and endangering state security for which he could have faced up to 10 years in prison.

In addition to the reduced sentence of 24 months he was fined 120,000 shekels, (\$33,300, 30,800 euros) according to the transcript released by the justice ministry. It said the court, in the southern city of Beersheba, also ruled that Ghattas's offence constituted what is known in Israeli law as "moral turpitude", meaning he is barred from standing for parliament for seven years after his prison term ends.

His lawyers have 45 days to appeal.

The court ordered the 60-year-old Christian to begin serving his sentence at Dekel prison in Beersheba on July 2, granting his request not to be jailed until the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan as he will be confined with Muslim prisoners.

Israeli media have reported that 12 mobile phones were found on two separate prisoners in searches after Ghattas visited the high security Ketziot prison in December, using his parliamentary immunity to avoid being searched.

One of the prisoners is serving time for kidnapping and murdering an Israeli soldier in 1984, the Ynet news website said.

Ghattas has said his actions



Basel Ghattas

were motivated by "humanitarian and moral positions towards prisoners".

Lawmakers of the Joint List, the third largest bloc in parliament with 13 seats, frequently clash with Israeli authorities. Arab Israelis make up some 17.5 percent of the country's population and are descended from Palestinians who remained on their land after the

creation of Israel in 1948.

They hold Israeli citizenship but most see themselves as Palestinians. Ghattas's party, Balad, is especially critical of Israeli policies.

Its three lawmakers triggered outrage among Jewish Israelis last year when they met relatives of Palestinians who authorities say were killed while carrying out attacks.

## North Korea says Syria airstrikes prove its nukes justified

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) -- North Korea has vowed to bolster its defenses to protect itself against airstrikes like the ones President Donald Trump ordered against an air base in Syria. The North called the airstrikes "absolutely unpardonable" and said it proves that its nuclear weapons are justified to protect the coun-

try against Washington's "evermore reckless moves for a war."

The comments were made by a Foreign Ministry official and carried by North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency on Sunday. The report did not name the official, which is common in KCNA reports.

## Russia and Iran affirm commitment to Syrian government

BEIRUT (AP) -- Russia and Iran renewed their support for the Syrian government in a flurry of calls on Sunday, saying last week's U.S. missile strike violated Syrian sovereignty but failed to boost the morale of "terror groups" in Syria.

In a phone call with Syrian President Bashar Assad, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called the strike on Friday a "blatant violation" of Syrian sovereignty, Syrian state media reported. Assad accused the U.S. of trying to boost the morale of "terror groups" in Syria. The government refers to all those fighting against it as terrorists.

A statement carried on the military media arm of Hezbollah condemned the American strike in much stronger language, saying it had "crossed red lines" and vowing to "reply with force" to any future aggression "in a variety of ways." The Lebanese militant group has invested thousands of fighters in the defense

of Assad's government. The statement was made in the name of a previously unheard of "shared operations room" between Russia, Iran and allied forces. There was no comment from Russia or Iran about the statement.

The Kremlin said in a statement Rouhani also spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone.

"Both sides noted the inadmissibility of aggressive U.S. actions against a sovereign state in violation of international law," the statement said. "Vladimir Putin and Hassan Rouhani spoke in favor of an objective, unbiased investigation of all the circumstances of the chemical weapons incident on April 4 in the Syrian province of Idlib." Rouhani said the U.S. strike would not affect Iran's Syria policy, while Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Iran would not withdraw in the face of similar aggressions. "What the Americans did is a

strategic mistake and offense. They are repeating offense of their predecessors," Khamenei was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency. Iran has provided crucial military and economic assistance to Assad throughout Syria's six-year civil war. It has organized several Shiite militias from around the Middle East to fight in support of Assad's government and has sent troops and officers from its own Revolutionary Guards. The U.S. says the strike was in response to a nerve gas attack on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun last week, which has been widely blamed on government forces. The Syrian government has denied using chemical weapons.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson denied in an interview on CBS's Face the Nation that the strikes signaled an overhaul of American policy, saying its priority remained to defeat Islamic State militants in the Middle East.

## Fujimori back in jail after treatment

LIMA - Peru's jailed ex-president Alberto Fujimori spent a day in hospital for back pain in the latest of a string of health scares before returning to prison on Sunday, media said. After 24 hours in a clinic where he had scans on his back, Fujimori, 78, returned to the police base where he is serving a 25-year sentence for human rights violations, his doctor Alejandro Aguinaga was quoted as saying by El Comercio newspaper. He said Fujimori has been having difficulty walking for several weeks due to back pain.

The ex-president also continues to have stomach trouble and growths on his tongue, which has been operated on several times for cancer, Aguinaga told reporters on Saturday.

Fujimori was jailed in 2007 for his role in killings by a death squad targeting supposed guerrillas in the 1990s. He was



Alberto Fujimori

also convicted of embezzlement and bribery. He has been in and out of hospital in recent months, including in January when he also underwent tests for a back problem.

He was admitted in December

with a cyst on his pancreas and in September due to gastric problems and high blood pressure.

In a message posted by his aides on Twitter last year, Fujimori said prison conditions were "slowly killing" him.



## Le Pen says France not responsible for WWII round up of Jews

PARIS - Far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen denied Sunday that the French state was responsible for the wartime round-up of Jews at a Paris cycling track who were then sent to Nazi death camps.

Former President Jacques Chirac and current leader Francois Hollande have both apologised for the role French police played in the round-up of more than 13,000 Jews at the Vel d'Hiv cycling track which was ordered by Nazi officers in 1942.

But Le Pen told the LCI television channel on Sunday: "I don't think France is responsible for the Vel d'Hiv."

She added: "I think that generally speaking if there are people responsible, it's those who were in power at the time. It's not France."

The leader of the National Front (FN) party said France had "taught our children that they have all the reasons to criticise (the country), and to only see, perhaps, the darkest aspects of our history".

"So, I want them to be proud of being French again," she said.

Ahead of the first round of France's highly unpredictable presidential election on April 23, Le Pen's centrist rival Emmanuel Macron said her comments were "a serious

mistake".

"Some had forgotten that Marine Le Pen is the daughter of Jean-Marie Le Pen," Macron told BFMTV.

Le Pen Senior, who founded the FN in 1972 and is estranged from his daughter, has been convicted repeatedly for anti-Semitic and racist comments such as calling the Holocaust a "detail of history".

"We must not be complacent or minimise what the National Front is today," Macron said.

The CRIF umbrella grouping of French Jewish organisations and the Jewish students' union (UEJF) both blasted Le Pen for the comments, describing them as "revisionist".

"These remarks are an insult to France, which honoured itself in 1995 by recognising its responsibility in the deportation of France's Jews and facing its history without a selective memory," the CRIF said.

Chirac's Socialist predecessor Francois Mitterrand had refused to acknowledge responsibility for the deportations, saying in 1994: "The republic had nothing to do with that. France is not responsible."

Le Pen defended her broadcast comments in a statement issued late Sunday.

## Suspect's status as failed asylum-seeker saddens Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedes questioned their country's welcoming immigration policies with pride and pain on Sunday after learning that an asylum-seeker from Uzbekistan was allegedly behind the truck rampage that killed four people, Stockholm's deadliest extremist attack in years.

The Swedish capital was slowly, but resolutely, regaining its normal rhythm as details about the 39-year-old suspect in the attack emerged. Police said he had been ordered to leave Sweden in December because his request for a residence permit was rejected six months earlier.

Instead, he allegedly went underground, eluding authorities' attempts to track down and deport him until a hijacked beer truck raced down a pedestrian street and rammed into an upscale department store on Friday.

"It makes me frustrated," Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven told Swedish news agency TT on Sunday.

The suspect, who has been detained on suspicion of terrorist offenses, was known known for having "been sympathetic to extremist organizations," Jonas Hysing of Sweden's national police said. A second person was arrested on the same potential charge Sunday, and four others were being held by police. None of



Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven lays flowers at a fence near the department store Ahlens following a suspected terror attack in central Stockholm, Sweden. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

them have been identified. Security officials in neighboring Norway, where a 17-year-old asylum-seeker from Russia was detained early Sunday in connection with an explosive device found near a busy subway station, spoke of the alarming potential for a copycat effect.

Norwegian's security agency said it wasn't clear if the teen planned to carry out an attack with the primitive homemade device police defused without any injuries. Agency head Benedicte Bjornland said it was likely the youth had been inspired by recent attacks in Stockholm, France, Germany, Britain and Russia.

"The attacks demonstrate how easy such attacks can be carried out, and prove to others that it is possible to make something similar," Bjornland said. Sweden has long been known for its open-door policy toward migrants and refugees. But after the Scandinavian country of 10 million took in a record 163,000 refugees in 2015 — the highest per-capita rate in Europe — the government has tried to be more selective about which newcomers it allows to stay. Swedish police said Sunday they had received roughly 12,500 referrals from the Swedish Migration Board of people who, like the suspect

in the truck attack, had overstayed their welcome.

The suspect eluded authorities by giving police a wrong address after his residency request was rejected in June 2016, said Hysing, the operative head of the attack investigation.

"The efforts to locate (these people) is both time-consuming and resource-intensive," he said.

National Coordinator Against Violent Extremism Anna Carlstedt, who used to lead the Red Cross in Sweden, said Friday's attack and the background of the suspect posed "difficult questions."

"Do we somehow need a more repressive policy?" Carlstedt said. "I think it is very important now not to rush into something, to see how we can safeguard this open society and still be able to protect ourselves."

The range of mixed emotions — fear and fraternity, anger and openness, — also surfaced at memorial services and rallies held in Stockholm on Sunday to honor the attack victims.

Lars Holm, a 73-year-old Stockholm resident was visibly upset, after attending a service at Stockholm Cathedral.

"If people who are here seeking asylum and treat us like

this, it is not good," Holm said. "So now we have to have more security in our society, but still we don't like to live in bunkers."

Addressing tens of thousands of people rallying in bright sunshine on the downtown Sergelstorg square, organizer Rickard Sjoberg noted that many in the crowd probably were from out of town.

"But today, were all Stockholmers," he said to huge applause.

The four victims killed included a British man, a Belgian woman and two Swedes, authorities in those countries said. Their identities were not released by Swedish officials. The British government named the Briton as Chris Bevington, an executive at Swedish music-streaming service Spotify. In Brussels, the Belga news agency said the Belgian woman had been reported missing before she was identified by her identity papers and later by DNA testing.

As of Sunday, 10 of the 15 people wounded remained hospitalized, including one child.

Stockholm county spokesman Patrik Soderberg said four of the 10 were considered "seriously" injured and the remaining six, including the child, were slightly injured.

## Spain's first female defense minister, Carmen Chacon, dies at 46

MADRID - Spain's first female defense minister, Carmen Chacon, once a leadership contender for the main opposition Socialist party, died on Sunday at the age of 46.

"Dismayed by the premature departure of Carmen Chacon. Today all Socialists mourn out of pain and helplessness," the party said on its Twitter page. The cause of death has not been confirmed, although Spanish news outlets reported that she had been suffering from heart disease.

Chacon, who was from Barcelona, was defense minister from 2008 to 2011 under Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero. She was seven months pregnant when she took on the role, which cast her into the media spotlight. After Zapatero lost Spain's 2011 national election, Chacon ran to be the head of the Socialist party but narrowly lost. She was the party's secretary for international relations between 2014 and 2016 when she resigned.



Carmen Chacon

7.00 AM to 10.00 AM  
The Lady Grace Morning Show

10.00 AM to 12.00 pm  
The Mid-morning Show with Joanne Lewis

12.00 PM to 1.00 PM  
View Point with Wendell Moore

1.00 PM  
Newsline 13 Midday Edition

2.00 PM to 5.00 PM  
The Afternoon Show with Dee-Lo

We thank you for continued support.  
Management  
Voice of St. Maarten N.V.







# PUBLIC SALE

**On Thursday, May 18th, 2017, at 10.00 a.m.**

a Public Sale will be held in the presence of civil law notary M.M. Boekhoudt or her substitute at: the **UNIVERSITY OF SINT MAARTEN (USM)**, located at Soualiga Boulevard 1, in Philipsburg, of the following real properties situated on: Sint Maarten and Saba:

## **I. TO BE AUCTIONED EX ARTICLE 3:268 OF THE CIVIL CODE:**

1. A parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Upper Prince's Quarter, at Spring Garden, having an area of 452m<sup>2</sup>, described further in Certificate of Admeasurement UPQ 557/1989, with the thereon standing dwelling house, apartment, and all appurtenances belonging thereto, locally known as Hispanola Road 5.

**(reserve price US\$ 180,000.00)**



2. A parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Cul-de-Sac, at Mary's Fancy, known as lot F-19 in the Mary's Fancy Project, having an area of 700m<sup>2</sup>, described further in Certificate of Admeasurement CDS 435/1995, with the thereon standing dwelling house and all appurtenances belonging thereto, locally known as Gladiola Road 55.

**(reserve price US\$ 315,000.00)**



3. A parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Cul-de-Sac, at Mary's Fancy, having an area of 714m<sup>2</sup>, described further in Certificate of Admeasurement CDS 015/2003, with the thereon standing commercial building and all appurtenances belonging thereto, locally known as Lily Road 34.

**(reserve price US\$ 420,000.00)**



4. **A right of long lease until May 28, 2045 on:** a parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Cole Bay, having an area of 256m<sup>2</sup>, described further in Certificate of Admeasurement CB 337/1989, with the thereon standing apartment building and all appurtenances belonging thereto, locally known as Wellington Road 44.

**(reserve price US\$ 315,000.00)**



5. **A right of long lease until February 2, 2042 on:** a parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Philipsburg, having an area of 320m<sup>2</sup>, described further in Certificate of Admeasurement PB 154/1972, with the thereon standing commercial building and all appurtenances belonging thereto, located along the Camille Richardson Street.

**(reserve price US\$ 700,000.00)**



6. A parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Cul-de-Sac, at Ebenezer Estate, locally known as Lot 39 of the Valley End Estate, described further in Certificate of Admeasurement CDS 226/2009, with the thereon standing dwelling house and all appurtenances thereto, locally known as Valley Estate Road 97.

**(reserve price US\$ 322,000.00)**



7. A parcel of land, situated on SABA, in the district of Windwardside, at Maskahorne Hill, having a combined area of 1,342m<sup>2</sup>, described further in Certificates of Admeasurement 9/1982 and 6/2000, with the thereon standing building(s) and all appurtenances belonging thereto.

**(reserve price US\$ 560,000.00)**



8. A parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Cole Bay, with an area by computation of **12,566m<sup>2</sup>**, being the parcel of land with an original area of 14,814m<sup>2</sup>, described in Certificate of Admeasurement CB 25/1991, **LESS** the parcels of land described in Certificates of Admeasurement:

- a. CB 160/2013 (607m<sup>2</sup>) and
- b. CB 047/2014 (458m<sup>2</sup>)
- c. CB 046/2014 (458m<sup>2</sup>)
- d. CB 240/2013 (119m<sup>2</sup>)
- e. CB 002/2017 (606m<sup>2</sup>)

**(reserve price to be announced)**



**Photo to be published soon**

9. Two (2) rights of apartment, including the right of exclusive use of a commercial building, in the district of Little Bay, Sint Maarten, with complex number LL 257/1992 with respectively apartment index A10 and A11, having a part in the common property, locally known as the Cay Hill Commercial Centre.

**(reserve price US\$ 175,000.00)**

10. A parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Cul-de-Sac, having an area of 194m<sup>2</sup>, described further in Certificate of Admeasurement CDS 013/2005, with the thereon standing dwelling house and all appurtenances belonging thereto, Meadowlands Drive 3.

**(reserve price US\$ 155,000.00)**

**Photo to be published soon**

In regards to the above mentioned properties the deadline to submit **private bids-in-writing** at the aforementioned notary office is **Wednesday May 4th, 2017.**

## **II. TO BE AUCTIONED AT THE ORDER OF THE COURT:**

11. A parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Upper Prince's Quarter, having an area of 1046m<sup>2</sup>, described further in Certificate of Admeasurement UPQ 352/1988.

**(reserve price to be announced)**

**Photo to be published soon**

The auction shall take place by increasing bids and followed by decreasing bids. General and special auction conditions apply. The general auction conditions are available on our website. The special auction conditions and appraisal reports can also be viewed on our website as soon as they are available.

All costs for the auction will be paid by the Buyer and which costs include: Transfer Tax (4% of the purchase price), the registration fees (Kadaster), the outstanding long lease rent (erfpachtscanon), if any, the outstanding dues to the Association of Apartment Owners, if any, fees for execution of the necessary notarial deeds, other auction costs (rent of auction room, marshal fees, cancellation of liens and mortgages, advertisements), and the costs to have the property vacated, if necessary.

Producing of an irrevocable bank guarantee from a local bank, to the amount of the bid and the estimated expenses of the auction, will be demanded from the highest bidder(s) at the auction.

For information about the property, the conditions of the auction and further details contact Mr. Martin Zschuschen at +1721-542.99.26.

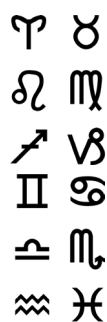


## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

Horoscopes are a means of attempting to know the future through an astrologer's interpretation of Sun sign astrology.

**What is your sign?**

**What does your future hold?**



**ARIES, MARCH 21 - APRIL 19** - Some things just cannot be avoided and the approaching full moon suggests you will have to deal with a situation you would rather pretend does not exist. The good news is that once you set your mind to the problem it won't exist for much longer.

**TAURUS, APRIL 20 - MAY 20** - No matter how much you love your freedom you have responsibilities that cannot be avoided and with Mercury turning retrograde in your sign you have no choice but to knuckle down and do what is expected of you. Do it brilliantly and then move on.

**GEMINI, MAY 21-JUNE 21** - At some stage this week you will wonder if a friend is really on your side. However, you would be wise not to act on your suspicions because negative cosmic influences are sure to skew your thinking. The situation will sort itself out in time.

**CANCER, JUNE 22-JULY 22** - Someone in a position of authority seems to have taken a liking to you but don't think that means you can do as you please. They will be looking to you to act responsibly and take the lead in group activities, so don't let them down.

**LEO, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22** - Yes, you have been hard done by, but there is no point making a fuss about it. Just take what you have been given and make the best of it. Use your people skills to get help and your creative skills to turn the situation in your favor.

**VIRGO, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22** - A lot will depend on your own common sense over the next few days, especially where money matters and business activities are concerned. Put your interests first but be aware that your interests and other people's interests are not necessarily different.

**LIBRA, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22** - Although the approaching full moon may make it seem as if your plans are falling apart don't despair because everything will come right in the end. The challenges you face over the next few days are designed to strengthen you, not destroy you.

**SCORPIO, OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21** - You have more important things to do with your time than argue with people who clearly don't want to be told what the truth is. Let them have the last word and then turn your attention to what really matters: your work and your creative ambitions.

**SAGITTARIUS, NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21** - You've not had much help from friends and family members in recent weeks but the situation will go into reverse this week and you will be swamped by offers of assistance. That's nice, but do you really need any help? You're doing okay without it!

**CAPRICORN, DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19** - Steer clear of other people's disputes over the next few days because if you get involved you may find that everyone gangs up on you. You cannot possibly know who is right and who is wrong so stay neutral - it's both smarter and safer.

**AQUARIUS, JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18** - Some people are making an issue of matters that mean nothing to you and you must let them know that you have no intention of getting involved. That applies to your private life as much as it does to your work. You don't have to play silly games.

**PISCES, FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20** - Try not to come across as too assertive or aggressive. You may be tempted to speak your mind but with Mercury, planet of communication, starting one of its retrograde phases your words are sure to be taken the wrong way. If in doubt, stay silent.

## TODAY NEWSPAPER WORD OF THE DAY:

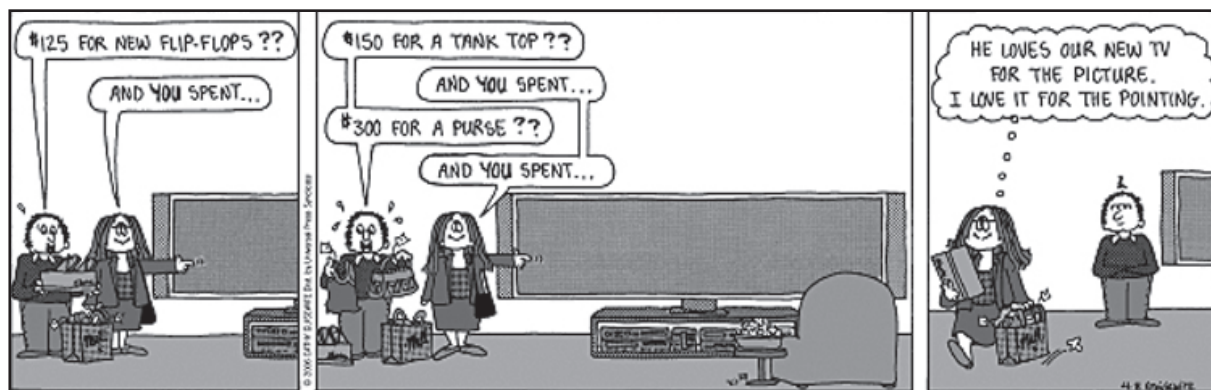
**HYPERBOLE** (hye-PER-buh-lee)

: extravagant exaggeration

"There are those in the organization who believe Bryant might not only be the best receiver on the team, he could be the best in the league. Whether it's true or mere hyperbole is not the point. What it indicates is the immense ability Bryant possesses."

*The quickest, most intelligent way to improve vocabulary: learn a new word everyday*

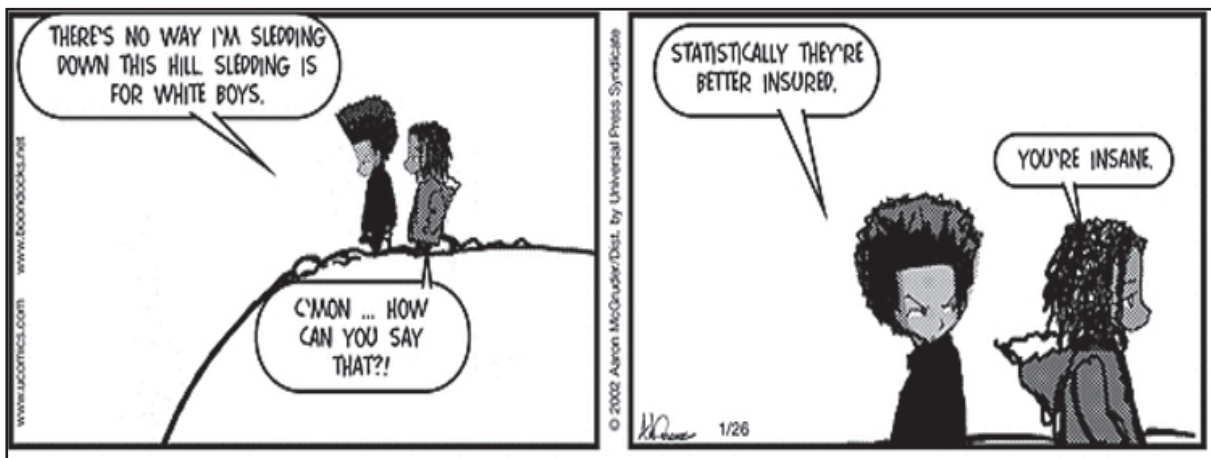
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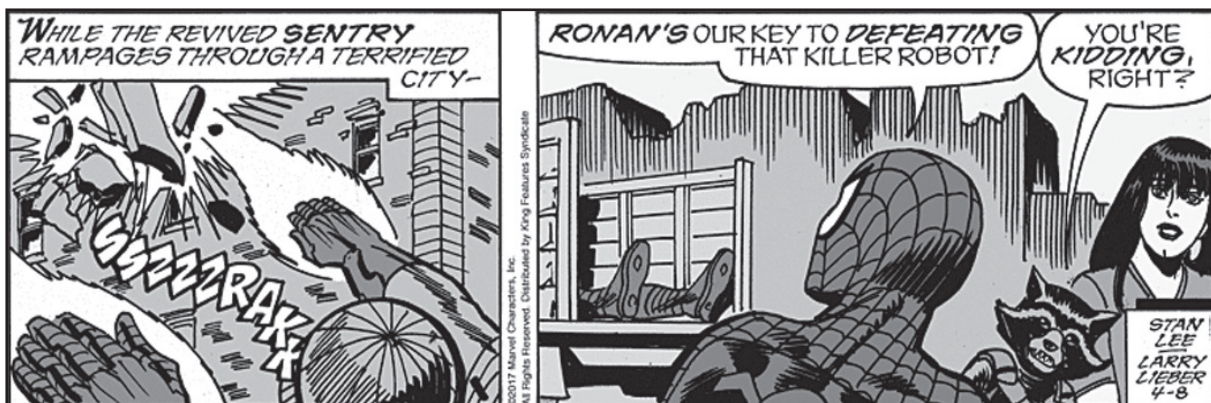
## BLONDIE



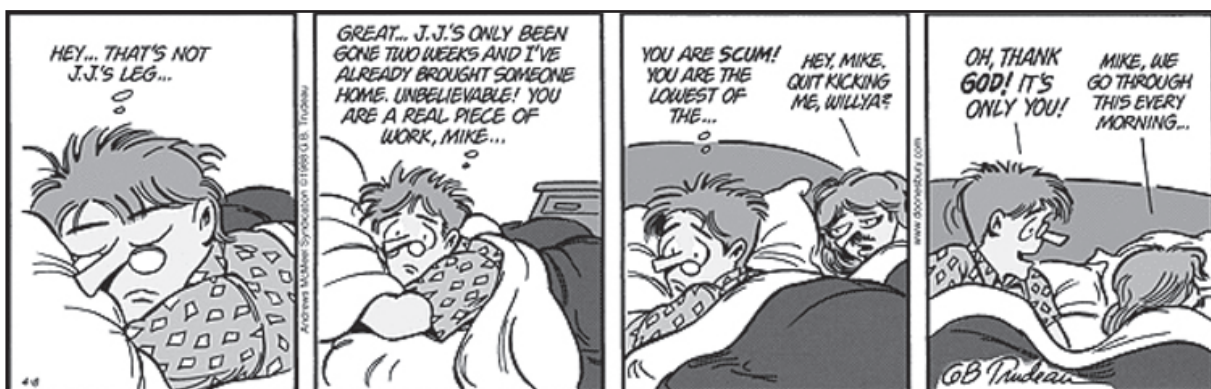
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Decision No.: 1/2017  
Date: March 15, 2017

## THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF ST. MAARTEN

### Considering:

that pursuant to Decision No. 11/2015 of the Electoral Council of December 1, 2015, the political party **Beyond Sint Maarten Development** is registered in the register of political parties referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties, and that pursuant to Decision No. 12/2015 of the Electoral Council of the same date, the reference **Beyond SXM** has been registered in the register of references referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties;

that the political party **Beyond Sint Maarten Development** did not submit a list of candidates for the last elections for members of the Parliament;

### In view of:

Article 22, paragraph 2, and subsection b) of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties;

### HAS DECIDED:

#### Article 1

The reference **Beyond SXM** of the political party **Beyond Sint Maarten Development** shall be deleted from the register of references as referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties.

#### Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force with immediate effect.

#### Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the National Gazette and in one or more local daily newspapers.

### Copies hereof to be forwarded to:

- The Minister of General Affairs
- The General Audit Chamber
- The Central Voting Bureau
- Beyond Sint Maarten Development

Sint Maarten, March 15, 2017

B.G. Hofman  
Chairperson

G.C. Richardson-Nicolaas  
Member

L.A. Richardson  
Member

Based on Article 25 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties, an interested party may file an appeal against this Decision with the Court in First Instance no later than the sixth day following the date of publication of this Decision in the National Gazette.



Decision No.: 2/2017  
Date: March 15, 2017

## THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF ST. MAARTEN

### Considering:

that pursuant to Decision No. 5/2015 of the Electoral Council of November 9, 2015, the political party **Millennial Advancement Party** is registered in the register of political parties referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties, and that pursuant to Decision No. 6/2015 of the Electoral Council of the same date, the reference **MAP** has been registered in the register of references referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties;

that the political party **Millennial Advancement Party** did not submit a list of candidates for the last elections for members of the Parliament;

### In view of:

Article 22, paragraph 2, and subsection b) of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties;

### HAS DECIDED:

#### Article 1

The reference **MAP** of the political party **Millennial Advancement Party** shall be deleted from the register of references as referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties.

#### Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force with immediate effect.

#### Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the National Gazette and in one or more local daily newspapers.

### Copies hereof to be forwarded to:

- The Minister of General Affairs
- The General Audit Chamber
- The Central Voting Bureau
- Millennial Advancement Party

Sint Maarten, March 15, 2017

B.G. Hofman  
Chairperson

G.C. Richardson-Nicolaas  
Member

L.A. Richardson  
Member

Based on Article 25 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties, an interested party may file an appeal against this Decision with the Court in First Instance no later than the sixth day following the date of publication of this Decision in the National Gazette.



Decision No.: 3/2017  
Date: March 15, 2017

## THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF ST. MAARTEN

### Considering:

that pursuant to Decision No. 11/2014 of the Electoral Council of June 9, 2014, the political party **Concordia Political Alliance Association** is registered in the register of political parties referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties, and that pursuant to Decision No. 14/2015 of the Electoral Council of November 9, 2015, the reference **C.P.A.** has been registered in the register of references referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties;

that the political party **Concordia Political Alliance Association** did not submit a list of candidates for the last elections for members of the Parliament;

### In view of:

Article 22, paragraph 2, and subsection b) of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties;

### HAS DECIDED:

#### Article 1

The reference **C.P.A.** of the political party **Concordia Political Alliance Association** shall be deleted from the register of references as referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties.

#### Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force with immediate effect.

#### Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the National Gazette and in one or more local daily newspapers.

### Copies hereof to be forwarded to:

- The Minister of General Affairs
- The General Audit Chamber
- The Central Voting Bureau
- Concordia Political Alliance Association

Sint Maarten, March 15, 2017

B.G. Hofman  
Chairperson

G.C. Richardson-Nicolaas  
Member

L.A. Richardson  
Member

Based on Article 25 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties, an interested party may file an appeal against this Decision with the Court in First Instance no later than the sixth day following the date of publication of this Decision in the National Gazette.



Decision No.: 4/2017  
Date: March 15, 2017

## THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF ST. MAARTEN

### Considering:

that pursuant to Decision No. 5/2014 of the Electoral Council of May 26, 2014, the political party **Social Reform Party** is registered in the register of political parties referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties, and that pursuant to Decision No. 6/2014 of the Electoral Council of the same date, the reference **SRP** has been registered in the register of references referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties;

that the political party **Social Reform Party** did not submit a list of candidates for the last elections for members of the Parliament;

### In view of:

Article 22, paragraph 2, and subsection b) of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties;

### HAS DECIDED:

#### Article 1

The reference **SRP** of the political party **Social Reform Party** shall be deleted from the register of references as referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties.

#### Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force with immediate effect.

#### Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the National Gazette and in one or more local daily newspapers.

### Copies hereof to be forwarded to:

- The Minister of General Affairs
- The General Audit Chamber
- The Central Voting Bureau
- Social Reform Party

Sint Maarten, March 15, 2017

B.G. Hofman  
Chairperson

G.C. Richardson-Nicolaas  
Member

L.A. Richardson  
Member

Based on Article 25 of the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of Political Parties, an interested party may file an appeal against this Decision with the Court in First Instance no later than the sixth day following the date of publication of this Decision in the National Gazette.



# Start your week off right

*Photo by Elvis Harrigan*



**Today**  
The Newspaper of Country St. Maarten



# TODAY HEALTH

## Yo-yo dieting linked to heart trouble, even death

New research may make experts rethink some of the standard weight-loss advice given to heart patients

Repeated cycles of losing and regaining weight may do much more than cause wardrobe problems.

New research shows that the weight fluctuations that come with yo-yo dieting may be linked to a higher risk for stroke, heart attack, and death in people with pre-existing coronary artery disease.

The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, found that when compared to heart patients who kept their weight steady, those with the largest weight changes experienced:

136 percent more strokes 117 percent more heart attacks 124 percent more deaths

This is the first study to measure the effect of yo-yo dieting on health in patients with pre-existing heart disease.

“Back in the 90s there was a study done in patients with no heart disease, who were pretty healthy, that found that weight fluctuations over a decade actually increased the risk of death from heart disease,” Sripal Bangalore, M.D., director of the cardiovascular outcomes group at NYU Langone Medical Center, told CBS News. “So we wanted to see if – in patients who already have heart disease, where there is so much emphasis on weight loss – is this weight cycling harmful?” For the study, Bangalore and his team reviewed data on more than 9,500 men and women between the ages of 35 and 75 with coronary artery disease, high cholesterol levels, and some history of heart problems. All patients were followed for about five years.

Individuals in the high-fluctuation group had weight changes as large as 8.6 pounds, while weight varied by just under 2 pounds

in the group with the smallest shifts.

Importantly, the study showed that the association between weight fluctuations and risk for stroke, heart attack, and death were only seen in patients who were overweight or obese at the beginning of the study. Statistically significant links were not seen in people who started with normal weight. The study authors caution that their research does not prove a cause-and-effect relationship between yo-yo dieting and increased risk of health problems and death. It merely shows an association.

And while the study doesn't look at potential reasons for the link, experts have some theories.

“What this study clearly demonstrates is something we have suspected for a long time, that gaining, losing and re-gaining weight is stressful on the body,” Alice H. Lichtenstein, director of the Cardiovascular Nutrition Laboratory at Tufts University, told CBS News.

Bangalore notes that the study also patients with high weight fluctuations were more likely to develop diabetes, which could also explain an increased risk of other health problems and death.

He said he hopes the findings will provide motivation for patients to not only lose weight but to work to keep it off.

Experts believe updated clinical guidelines are needed to help patients achieve this.

“Losing weight is hard but there have been some successful programs,” Lichtenstein said. “Keeping the lost weight off is harder and we don't have as many successful programs. Hence, more emphasis needs to be put on finding successful strategies for maintaining weight loss. It needs to be an integral part of weight loss programs, not an add on.”

## EATING THIS BREAKFAST SPREAD MAY STAVE OFF DEMENTIA

Adding marmite to our daily diet could potentially change how we treat neurodegenerative disorders.

We all know about the healing power of superfoods like kale, avocados, and pomegranates, all nutritional powerhouses with numerous health benefits. Now, researchers from York University have added an unexpected health food to the list: Marmite. Eating just a teaspoon of Marmite a day is believed to boost brain activity, and may prevent dementia. The British spread, made from yeast extract, appears to change the brain's chemistry via its high concentration of vitamin B12, boosting gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) levels, a neurotransmitter in the brain. The inhibitory neurotransmitter works by preventing the excitability of neurons in the brain in order to promote balance.

“This study suggests that eating Marmite is potentially good for you in that it seems to increase a chemical messenger associated with healthy brain function,” Daniel Baker and Anika Smith, lead authors of the study, told AFP.

Deficiencies in GABA have been linked with a series of neurological disorders, like epilepsy. Researchers believe people with epilepsy have an imbalance of GABA, which makes them more likely to get seizures because they can't reduce impulse transmission,



or brain cell excitability. Several anticonvulsants focus on GABA levels due to its calming, relaxing effect on the brain. Baker and Smith see the healing potential dietary foods like marmite can offer for neurological diseases.

“This is a really promising first example of how dietary interventions can alter cortical processes, and a great starting point for exploring whether a more refined version of this technique could have some medical or therapeutic applications in the future,” they said, in a statement.

In the study, published in *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, the researchers wanted to see if marmite reduced the brain's response, or cell excitability to visual stimuli. Electroencephalography (EEGs) were used to measure the brain response of 28 men and women as they watched

images flickering on and off the screen at 7Hz or 7 times per second. The participants were instructed to either take a teaspoon of Marmite or peanut butter a day, in addition to their usual diet. Both groups would be tested a month later to evaluate the effect of the spreads on brain excitability. The findings revealed on average, those who ate Marmite had a 30 percent decrease in the brain's response to visual patterns than their counterparts. The researchers believe these changes were brought on by an increase in GABA levels induced by eating Marmite. The spread contains 116 times more B12, known to produce red blood cells and protect the nervous system, than peanut butter.

The Marmite group was re-tested two months later, and researchers found their response levels were still lower than baseline, but not as low as immediately after the first trial. Baker and Smith caution they are not clinicians or dietitians, so they're unable to make any suggestions about what would be a healthy limit for Marmite. “However, there is no evidence that normal consumption of Marmite has any negative effects,” they said.

The researchers do suggest it could potentially reduce the number of seizures for people with epilepsy. Moreover, since they only observed responses to visual stimuli, the researchers could not show, but only imply, the impact Marmite has on dementia risk.

Recently, neuroscientists admit one of the biggest shifts in dementia research is prevention. This is attributed to numerous imaging studies that show brain changes from Alzheimer's disease and dementia appear 15 to 20 years before diagnosis. Dietary change is one measure of prevention several doctors approve; one option is the Mediterranean diet, which includes fresh fruits and veggies, whole grains, and cutting out red meat, and other processed and fried foods, among many others.

## Aspirin may lower the risk of dying from cancer

Studies have linked the regular use of aspirin, an over-the-counter painkiller, to lower risks of heart attack and stroke. The risk-reducing benefits may also extend to death from certain types of cancer. What isn't yet known is how much aspirin is needed to protect against an early death from cancer, and how long people have to take it.

To clear up the link, researchers led by Yin Cao at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School have been combing through data from two large studies: the Nurses' Health Study and the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study. They analyzed the aspirin use and cancer outcomes of more than 130,000 adults over 32 years. The researchers reported their latest findings at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Overall, people who took aspirin regularly had a 7% to 11% lower risk of dying from cancer, compared to people who did not take it consistently. The biggest benefits came from reducing colon cancer deaths; aspirin-users had a 30% lower risk of dying from this disease than those who didn't take it regularly. Women taking aspirin also had a lower risk of dying from breast cancer, and men showed a lower risk of dying from prostate cancer.

The benefit seemed to be greatest for people taking two to seven doses of regular-strength aspirin-325 mg per tablet-each week for much of the study period. People who took as little as half a tablet to 1.5 tablets a week also showed reductions in cancer-related death. The drop in cancer deaths appeared for most people after they took aspirin for about six years.

Previous studies have shown similar benefits, especially for reducing deaths from colon cancer. How aspirin lowers cancer risk isn't entirely clear, but the scientists believe that aspirin's ability to lower inflammation and control inflammatory factors that may contribute to abnormal cell growth in tumors may play help keep risk down. Aspirin belongs to a group of analgesics



called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) that includes ibuprofen, acetaminophen and naproxen. These drugs don't always act in the same way, but other studies suggest that NSAIDs may have the same effect in lowering cancer risk as aspirin does.

The connection between aspirin and a lower risk of cancer death is encouraging. But doctors say it shouldn't prompt people to start taking aspirin if they don't need to, simply to lower

their risk of cancer.

Even at recommended doses, aspirin also comes with side effects, especially if taken over long periods of time. It can block an enzyme produced in the stomach that protects delicate intestinal tissues from the acids that digest food, leading to potentially severe damage, including bleeding of gut tissues. People should seek the counsel of their doctors to weigh the latest evidence.



# Is a virus infection why gluten makes some people so sick?

Could a normally harmless virus cause a sensitivity to gluten?

A new study has found that a certain type of virus – previously thought to be harmless – could trigger a person’s immune system to overreact to gluten, leading to celiac disease. The findings, published Thursday in Science, provide an explanation for why certain individuals develop celiac disease, while others do not.

“This is the first study to show that a virus can change the way our diet is seen by the immune system,” Dr. Bana Jabri of the University of Chicago Celiac Disease Center and senior author of the study, told NBC News. The virus turns off the body’s “peacekeeper” response to gluten, tricking the immune system into thinking gluten is a harmful invader that needs to be attacked.

Researchers at the University of Chicago and University of Pittsburgh infected mice with reoviruses – a harmless type of virus that normally does not make people sick. The mice infected by reoviruses developed a super-charged immune system response when fed gluten, causing them to experience more of the inflammation specific to celiac disease. By comparison, the immune system of mice not infected with these viruses had a much milder response to gluten.

Jabri found these results in human patients as well. People with celiac disease had more antibodies to reoviruses in their blood compared to healthy individuals. Furthermore, these people with more antibodies were found to have more of the celiac disease inflammation.

Whether a person was infected with reoviruses at some point in the past could explain why they develop celiac at a certain age or had worse symptoms compared to others who were not infected, Jabri said.

An estimated 40 percent of the population have the genes that predispose them to celiac disease, but while 95 percent of people eat gluten, only 1 percent end up developing the disorder, said Dr. Paul Green, director of the Celiac Center at Columbia University in New York.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 3 million Americans have celiac disease, with 97 percent undiagnosed.

So why do some people with the disease-causing genes end up getting the disorder while others remain healthy? “This study demonstrates the mechanism that a viral infection can cause a switch in the immune system that results in the development of food intolerance,” said Green, noting that further study might show that other organisms such as bacteria may do the same.

**Viruses in the gut**



Normally people are able to tolerate gluten without their immune system being put on alert. Celiac disease occurs when the immune system recognizes gluten, commonly found in wheat or other grains, as harmful. This causes the immune system to attack a person’s small intestine, limiting their ability to absorb important nutrients. Symptoms include diarrhea, abdominal pain, bloating and anemia. The reovirus link to an autoimmune response in the gastrointestinal system makes sense, Dr. Gerard Mullin, director of the Celiac Disease Clinic at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine told NBC News. “We have more viruses in our gut than bacteria and we know very little about what they do at this point,” said Mullin. The University of Chicago team now wants to study

children with genetic predisposition to celiac for evidence of reovirus infection. A New England Journal of Medicine study from two years ago showed that 30 percent of children who had the high risk “celiac genes” ultimately developed the disease. In the future, families at high risk for celiac disease may change when they introduce foods containing gluten into a baby’s diet. These same families may also consider vaccinating their children against reoviruses, although experts currently advise against testing for it. In addition, the United States Preventive Services Task Force recently recommended against routine screening for celiac. Still, the new findings shed light on what some researchers see as a mysterious disorder. “Now we can start thinking about preventing celiac in a different way,” Jabri said.

# CREAMY CAULIFLOWER GARLIC RICE

This creamy cauliflower garlic rice is simple, healthy, and so surprisingly good.

Hey, though. If you want an awesome food to use for food photography, definitely choose brown rice with neutral-colored sauce. Definitely.

There is redeeming value in this pan of creamy rice, and that’s that it tastes supersuper good. It reminds me of risotto, but with more vegetables, and without the trip to the store for the risotto. The butter, the garlic, the filling and - yep - creamy sauce all up in there? I just liked it. A lot. And Bjork liked it. We ate the whole thing in 24 hours.

Maybe you want to add a few things to jazz it up, as we food lovers often do, or maybe you want to use this as a simple side dish, or maybe you just want to eat a bowl of brown rice with cauliflower sauce for dinner.



**INGREDIENTS**

- 6-8 cups chopped cauliflower
- 4 cups vegetable broth + 2 cups water
- ½ cup milk
- 1½ cups brown rice (I used a brown rice blend)
- 1 teaspoon salt (plus more to taste!)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 6-8 cloves minced garlic
- ½ cup Mozzarella cheese for topping (more to taste)

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Cook the rice according to package directions. Set aside. Bring the vegetable broth and water to a

boil in a large pot. Add the cauliflower and boil for about 10 minutes, until tender. Transfer cauliflower pieces to a blender or food processor.

Puree the cauliflower, adding milk or extra vegetable broth to get a smooth, creamy consistency. Season with salt. Pour over the cooked rice and stir to combine.

In a large nonstick skillet, melt the butter and add the garlic, sauteing over low heat until the garlic is very fragrant, about 3-5 minutes. Add the creamy rice mixture and stir until butter and garlic is incorporated. Add cheese on top or stir it throughout the rice to get it melted. Season with additional salt and pepper to taste.

# HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE DIABETES?

You could have diabetes and not know it. The symptoms of diabetes can be very mild. Although symptoms are similar for both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes symptoms are especially hard to pinpoint. “In many patients with Type 2 diabetes, the disease progresses slowly, and they may not realize that they have developed it without screening. There are millions of patients who have diabetes who are not aware that they have it,” says Dr. Asha M. Thomas, an endocrinologist with Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. In fact, of the 29 million people in the U.S. who have diabetes, 8 million are undiagnosed, according to the American Diabetes Association.

However, you don’t know just by your symptoms if you have diabetes. You need to see a doctor who can check your blood sugar levels. Those numbers tracked by doctors will reveal if you are living with diabetes.

So what are the most common symptoms of diabetes? You have to urinate more often. This is because your kidneys are working harder to process extra sugar in your urine. You feel more thirsty than usual. As you urinate more, you feel more dehydrated - and that makes you want to drink more liquids. Some people also feel hungrier than usual.

You have increased urinary tract, yeast or vaginal infections. Sometimes, OB-GYNs help to diagnose diabetes based on an increased frequency of these infections, says Lucille Hughes, a certified diabetes educator and director of diabetes education at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside, New York. Changes to the body’s immune system put those with diabetes at higher risk for these infections, according to the National Kidney Foundation.

You experience unintentional weight loss. While many people want to lose weight, the weight loss that occurs when you have uncontrolled diabetes is not a healthy weight loss. It happens because your body can’t properly use insulin to help process glucose, a sugar found in food, for fuel. So your body starts to process fat and muscle for fuel, says Susan M. De Abate, a nurse, certified diabetes educator and team coordinator of the diabetes education program at Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital.



You have flu-like symptoms or feel more fatigued. Sometimes a spouse may complain that his or her partner used to love going out but now just wants to stay home. “They’ll say, ‘I knew something was different about them,’” Hughes says, describing the fatigue.

The fatigue comes from a lack of glucose, your body’s No. 1 energy source. “It’s as if you’re a car and you run on gasoline, but the gas is outside the car and can’t make it in,” Hughes says. You experience occasional blurred vision. Uncontrolled diabetes can lead to a condition called diabetic retinopathy, which affects your vision. Eye doctors sometimes play a role in helping to diagnose diabetes because of the vision symptoms a patient experiences.

**How Symptoms Differ Between Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes**

The symptoms of Type 1 diabetes are usually similar to those of Type 2, but they come about more suddenly. For example, a child may have flu-like symptoms that in only a few days lead a parent to take the child to the emergency room where Type 1 diabetes is diagnosed, Hughes says. Parents may bring their child to the emergency room because “their child looks like a lump on a log,” Hughes says.

In contrast, the symptoms for Type 2 diabetes can be drawn out over several years before the symptoms are bad enough for someone to notice the difference.



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The St. Martin United Ministerial Foundation presents its 11th Annual St. Martin Believers' Connection Convention. Theme: It's All About Jesus-The Christ! With Apostle Peter Barnes of South Africa on Thursday April 27, to Monday May 1, 7:30 pm nightly. Venue: Christian Fellowship Church Conference Centre, Colebay (opposite Dominos Pizza) Admission is free. and all are invited.

"Female Basketball Team Practice - Lightning Basketball Camp is looking for eager & exciting females to join the team. Practice is on Thursdays & Fridays from 6pm-8pm at Jose Lake Ballpark. Contact by Cell 5549881 and/or Like/Message "Lightning Basketball Camp" on Facebook for more details and future updates. Looking forward to seeing you at practice"

Carib Swim Team is accepting new swimmers for the coming season! Anyone ages 5-100 is welcome if you can swim 25 meters on your front and your back. So if you enjoy swimming, want to stay in shape or want to compete, please contact Coach Ian at 599.522.5785 or e-mail [coach@caribswimteam.org](mailto:coach@caribswimteam.org) or [info@caribswimteam.org](mailto:info@caribswimteam.org)

Animals R Friends: Feeding feral cats at the Cat Cafes (food provided by ARF), walking dogs, transporting animals, guest speakers for ARF lessons. More info, call: 580-1627, 581-5289; or e-mail: [arf\\_sxm@yahoo.com](mailto:arf_sxm@yahoo.com). Animal Welfare Foundation: For more Information or to volunteer call: 520-8887.

Victorious Living Foundation is looking for mentors to spend three hours per week with children aged 5-19. More info, call: 542-2663, or 580-8565; e-mail: [vlivingfamilyfriends@hotmail.com](mailto:vlivingfamilyfriends@hotmail.com); or visit Back Street 158B, Philipsburg.

Free Counseling and Deliverance at House of Restoration & Deliverance Ministries Int'l, # 169 Backstreet, Philipsburg, from 9:00am to 12:00pm every Wednesday.

Philipsburg Toastmasters Club: Every first & third Thursday of the month. Philipsburg Jubilee Library. 7:45 - 9:00pm.

Sickle cell foundation seeking volunteers interested person's contact 5502355, 5548182. Monday- Friday between 9am to 6pm.

Rotary Club of Sint Maarten- weekly lunch meeting at 12:15, Topper's Restaurant, visit [Rotarysxm.org](http://Rotarysxm.org)

Second Reading Club: Contact Mrs. Diane Richardson on [ACI@Caribserve.net](mailto:ACI@Caribserve.net)

Toastmasters: Disciples Toastmasters Club: 523-8414, email: [disciplestms@yahoo.com](mailto:disciplestms@yahoo.com).

Beyond Kultura Events Foundation is searching for serious project managers to volunteer on projects. Contact Ms. Morales at 527 12 23 for more info



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

FRIDAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION

**VIOLENT BEHAVIOR**

By Carla Azure

1	S	T	O	M	P		6	S	P	A		9	T	O	T	A	L	
14	L	I	N	E	S		15	E	E	L		16	E	R	I	C	A	
17	U	N	I	T	Y		18	T	W	O		19	A	B	E	T	S	
20	G	A	T	E	C		21	R	A	S	H	E	R		23	B	E	E
			24	O	H	O			25	A	F	F	O	R	D	S		
27	R	E	G	R	O	U	P	S		32	T	U	N	E				
33	O	V	A		34	S	T	A	N	D		36	L	E	A	P	S	
39	S	I	N	G		41	S	L	O	E	S		43	S	K	E	W	
44	A	L	G	A	E		46	S	W	E	P	T		48	E	R	A	
		49	B	U	M	P		51	S	P	A	R	E	R	I	B		
53	B	O	U	R	B	O	N		56	S	I	N						
57	O	P	S		58	A	T	O	M	S		61	M	A	S	H	E	R
64	O	A	T	E	S		66	B	A	T		67	G	U	A	V	A	
68	T	R	E	T	S		69	L	Y	E		70	E	R	R	E	D	
71	S	T	R	A	Y		72	E	A	T		73	S	E	E	R	S	

**ACROSS**

1) "And another thing ..."  
5) Book with maps  
10) Leopard feature  
14) Salon work  
15) Grandiose or flashy  
16) Strip a fruit  
17) Radius, to diameter  
20) Put in  
21) Tempts  
22) Pinch of seasoning  
25) Hackman of "Hoosiers"  
26) Do one's part?  
29) Where the worm turns  
31) Villain  
35) Long scarf  
36) Overpromoted  
38) Cotton-pickin' contraptions  
39) What landlords hate

43) Double-decker part  
44) Musical drama  
45) Time span  
46) Roller coaster reaction  
49) Bygone despot  
50) Scheider of "Jaws"  
51) Svelte  
53) Barbecue accessory  
55) Chains of connected ideas or passages  
58) Recessed area  
62) Complete account  
65) Having sufficient skill  
66) Cleverly avoid  
67) Type of candy or cider  
68) Onetime Turkish governors  
69) Asian goatlike animal  
70) Ages upon ages

**DOWN**

1) Feel sore  
2) Bit of bank business  
3) River deposit  
4) Killed, mobster-style  
5) Baseball bat material  
6) \_\_\_ Lord's Prayer  
7) Valuable vein  
8) On \_\_\_ and a prayer  
9) Gambler's claim to beating the odds  
10) Period beginning with Sputnik  
11) Window square  
12) Middle-Earth menaces  
13) Golf prop  
18) Like some novels  
19) Pitchfork prong  
23) Tofu bean (Var.)  
24) Zoo heavyweight, briefly  
26) Assists in a crime  
27) Laughable  
28) Grow narrower  
30) Was a bounder?  
32) San Fran pro  
33) Foreword, briefly  
34) English-class assignment  
37) Bride's purchase  
40) Railroad bridges  
41) Keep from escaping  
42) Boat harbor  
47) Downwind, nautically  
48) Saucy misses  
52) Syrup source  
54) One-tenth payment  
55) Die  
56) Country friendly to yours  
57) Speak unclearly  
59) "See you, signore"  
60) It's hit in traffic jams?  
61) Loose things to tie up?  
62) "Incredible!" to Beatle fans  
63) Rapid bustling movement  
64) In mint condition

**GET YOUR FILL**

By Tim Burr

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
17					18					19					
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65						66					67				
68						69					70				



# Today Sports

## Lukaku double helps Everton end Leicester's winning run

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — Two goals from Romelu Lukaku ensured Everton ended Craig Shakespeare's perfect record as Leicester manager with an entertaining 4-2 victory in the Premier League on Sunday.

There were four goals in the opening 23 minutes, with teenager Tom Davies giving Everton the lead after just 30 seconds. Islam Slimani and Marc Albrighton hit back for the champions, only for Lukaku's strikes either side of a Phil Jagielka header to put Everton out of reach.

Leicester had won five consecutive league games after sacking Claudio Ranieri in February following a run of results that left it just above the relegation zone. But with survival now all but secured and a Champions League quarter final first leg to come against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, Ranieri's successor made five changes to the starting lineup. Everton matched a club record by winning its seventh straight home league game, with Lukaku scoring in each of those matches.

It was a frenetic opening at Goodison Park as Kevin Mirallas drove through the center, leaving Leicester defenders in his wake before being hauled down. However, referee Rob-



Everton's Romelu Lukaku, right, scores his side's fourth goal of the game against Leicester City during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park in Liverpool, England. (Nick Potts/PA via AP)

ert Madley played the advantage as the ball rolled into the path of Davies, who placed his finish inside the near post to equal the fastest goal in the Premier league this season. Just four minutes later, Demari Gray went on a spectacular run of his own, showing blistering pace to carry the ball from one end of the field to the other before releasing Slimani, who calmly slid the ball through the advancing Joel Robles' legs to level. There was some fortune at-

tached as Leicester went ahead in the 10th. Marc Albrighton's free kick from the left wing appeared to be intended as a cross but evaded everyone including Robles to find its way into the top corner. Unlike Albrighton, Ross Barkley was able to direct his cross perfectly for Lukaku to meet it without breaking stride and head past Kasper Schmeichel to make it 2-2. Schmeichel made a diving intervention to prevent Barkley getting on the scoresheet

himself, but Everton would not be denied from the resulting corner.

## Island Hoops launches 3x3 basketball league

GREAT BAY -- After successfully organizing a U18 national qualifier and a positive showing for St. Maarten at the first ever Antilles 3x3 championships final in February on St. Lucia - the Island Hoops Foundation will be launching a 3x3 League. The league will comprise of monthly mini-tournaments that will take place on Saturdays, twice monthly.

The league comes in response to the international craze that organized 3-on-3 basketball has become - a craze spearheaded by FIBA, itself. "3x3 basketball makes perfect sense for St. Maarten as it is more commonly played than the 5-on-5 format. Not only that, FIBA has devised a way to provide smaller countries such as ours with the opportunity to compete on the world stage - which till now - has simply not been possible", says Paul Bell - coordinator of 3x3 Basketball.

In preparation for the 2018 Central American and Caribbean Games in Barranquilla, Colombia - a 3x3 national team selection must be made by June 2017 for training camps, both on and off island. Additionally, the winner of the U23 and 24+ joint tournaments will represent St. Maarten in the inaugural inter-island 3x3 league that is scheduled to kick off in early 2018.

As for the junior divisions, the league will be a great tune-up for the next U18 National Qualifier tournament taking place in October 2017.

The league, starting May 6 is open to anyone, male and female, in the follow age divisions: U15 (born Jan. 1, 2003 till Dec. 31, 2005), U18 (born Jan. 1, 2000 till Dec. 31, 2002), U23 (born Jan. 1, 1994 till Dec. 31, 1999) 24+ (born before Jan.1, 1994).

To sign up, contact Paul Bell at 526 11 21.

## Davis Cup: Australia clinches quarterfinal win over US

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) -- Australia advanced to the Davis Cup semifinals after Nick Kyrgios beat late substitute Sam Querrey of the United States 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-4 in the first reverse singles match on Sunday, clinching the quarterfinal 3-1 with a match to spare. On a hard court at Pat Rafter Arena, Kyrgios and his singles partner Jordan Thompson gave Australia a 2-0 lead on Friday before the Americans staged off elimination on Saturday when Jack Sock, who lost to Thompson on Friday, and partner Steve Johnson beat Sam Groth and John Peers 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. Querrey was supposed to be Johnson's doubles partner, but American captain Jim Courier, who said it would take "monstrous effort" for the Americans to win the tie, pulled a swap, putting Sock into doubles and allowing Querrey to be fresh for Kyrgios.

That worked for a while Sunday during an evenly-played first set, but Kyrgios gradually overpowered the American with his strong serves and backhand. Querrey broke Kyrgios' serve in the fourth game of the third set, and held to lead 4-1. But Kyrgios stepped it up a notch and won the last five games of the match, jumping up and hugging Australian captain Lleyton Hewitt and his teammates when the match ended. The often-volatile Kyrgios was mostly at his best behavior and won both his singles matches in straight sets, al-



Team captain Lleyton Hewitt, top, celebrates with Nick Kyrgios of Australia after he won his match against Sam Querrey of the U.S. at the Davis Cup World Group Quarterfinal in Brisbane, Australia. (AP Photo/Tertius Pickard)

though the final two sets against John Isner on Friday were in close tiebreakers, 7-5 each time, after Kyrgios prevailed in the opening set 7-5. "I haven't been going back to the hotel hating the game or trying to just get through every day," Kyrgios said. "I'm trying to get better every day, and it's a massive difference. I just feel like I'm becoming a bit more of a professional." Isner beat substitute Groth

7-6 (5), 6-3 in the meaningless second reverse singles on Sunday, in a match reduced to best-of-three, to make the final score line 3-2.

"It was a tough third set there, I was down a break and obviously a lot of emotions, I was close to the finish line," Kyrgios said of his Sunday match. "There were a lot of ebbs and flows, and I knew I hit a bit of a flat patch at the start of the third set.

## Schwarber, Zobrist homer in Cubs' 7-4 win over Brewers

MILWAUKEE (AP) -- Kyle Schwarber and Ben Zobrist hit home runs and Jake Arrieta

threw seven strong innings as the Chicago Cubs took the weekend series from the

Milwaukee Brewers with a 7-4 victory Sunday.

Chicago scored four runs in the top of the first off Brewers starter Zach Davies (0-2) on a two-run double by Addison Russell and a two-run triple from Jason Heyward.

Arrieta (2-0) allowed just three hits with 10 strikeouts over seven innings, the only blemish on his line a three-run home run hit by Ryan Braun in the third.

The right-hander retired 13 of the 14 batters following Braun's home run, including a stretch of five consecutive strikeouts. Schwarber connected for a solo homer off Davies in the second, while Zobrist increased Chicago's lead to 6-3 with a blast off reliever Carlos Torres as part of a two-run seventh.

Kris Bryant entered Saturday's game 1 for 16 on the season but finished the series 6 for his last 10 to raise his batting average to .280. He went 3 for 4 with a walk Sunday.

Milwaukee did not get a hit after Braun's home run in the third inning until Domingo Santana homered off Hector Rondon with two outs in the ninth. Cubs closer Wade Davis came on to get the final out.



Chicago Cubs' Ben Zobrist watches his home run against the Milwaukee Brewers during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Milwaukee. (AP Photo/Jeffrey Phelps)



# Today Sports

## ST MAARTEN U15 WIN BACK TO BACK ... FROM PAGE 24

which one rolling boundary was scored, he was caught and bowled by David on 7 with the penultimate ball of the 9th over and which point the score was pushed to 59 for 4.

Another brilliant spell saw the score getting into the region of a century, but two wickets with the score on 97 did not make things better for ST Maarten. N Edwards who faced 36 balls and batted for 70 minutes was caught by D Gifford off the bowling from N Persaud on 21 which included one 4.

K Ramraj was next to go caught by K Pancho off the bowling from N Persaud for no score and when N Raghubir, the Captain went to the crease, he too was expected to play a captain's roll. But after facing 19 balls and batting for 20 minutes he was bowled by N Persaud on 10, with the score on 105 in over number 17.

From all appearances, it was expected to be downhill from that stage in the game but L Pieters and C Landerfort were able to occupy the wicket for 8 overs which helped to push the score to 136 before the fall of the 8th wicket.

Pieters who batted for 20 minutes and faced 14 balls was caught by Olivebowled Persaud on 2 and Landerfort who batted for 40 minutes and faced 36 balls was caught by H Bathie off the bowling from T Olive on 29 which included 3 fours. Y Ramraj was bowled by Olive for no score and the not out batsman was A Harris on 2. But in their valiant effort to overhaul the required score to win, the BVI were only able to get 112 all out despite a brilliant batting effort from Olive who was eventually bowled by N Edwards on 38 after facing 68 balls and batting for 70 minutes. The only other batsmen to get double digits were M Banthea who was caught by Edwards and bowled by Singh on 17 and J Perriea who was bowled by Raghubir on 11. In game two played yesterday against Montserrat, St



Longville, the wicketkeeper upsets the stumps as C Reece approaches the line with bat and feet in the air.



Edwards, looks back as a ball that came off the edge of his bat races down to the boundary.

Maarten winning the toss and electing to field first restricted the visitors to 131 after 31.3 overs. However this was a much improved encounter which saw the host team emerging as the undisputed winners in the game which was revised due to rain.

C Reese, who batted for 96 minutes and faced 67 balls provided the spine of the Montserrat inning until he was brilliantly run out by Longville, the keeper on 58 and that spell included 5

boundaries. R fenton also did well with the batt from the 31 balls he faced while batting for 47 minutes and was bowled by A harris on 09.

I Benjamin was able to show that batting low does not mean you cannot make runs and he was not out on 13 after he was bowled by Edwards batting at #9. None of the other batsmen were able to get respectable totals.

The rain which fell at the conclusion of the Montserrat inning resultted in the

umpires giving ST Maarten 33 overs in which to score 87 runs and that was accomplished in nailbiting style. The opening pair, Singh and Honore were only able to get 10 runs on the board before a mix up caused Honore to be run out by R fenton in the 2nd over.

That early dismissal was enough to lift the confidence of the visiting team, but Singh, who is developing stroke player was making uses of the bad deliveries. With the score pushed to 31, he was sent back to the pavilion after he was caught by C Reece off the bowling from R White on 6. Once again, in a show of resilience the scoreboard was ticking over at a rapid pace and it was not until during the progress of the 19th over that the visitors began to claim wickets at regular intervals.

K Charles was bowled by K White on 8 and then the wickets began to tumble from that point. Edwards who batted for 81 minutes and faced 43 balls was caught and bowled by Reece on 22 with score on 71. With a single addition to the score, Longville who mspent 20 minutes at the wicket and faced 15 balls was caught and bowled by Reece on 6 with score advancing to 72, M Palmer was caught by T Benjamin and bowled by White on 5, score on 76 and N Ragubhir was run out by Reece for no score.

At that stage, St Maarten need-

## Millsap, Hardaway lead Hawks in stunning OT win over Cavs

ATLANTA (AP) -- Paul Millsap scored 22 points and the Atlanta Hawks took advantage of Cleveland's fourth-quarter collapse to overcome a 26-point deficit and stun the Cavaliers 126-125 on Sunday. Kyrie Irving scored 45 points for Cleveland, and LeBron James had a triple-double with 32 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists before the four-time MVP fouled out in overtime.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 points to help Atlanta beat Cleveland for the second straight time.

The defending champion Cavaliers dropped into a tie with Boston atop the Eastern Conference. Both teams have two regular-season games remaining. If the Cavs and Celtics finish with the same record, Cleveland will get the top seed for winning the season series.

The Hawks wiped out a 26-point deficit in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Cavs 44-18 in the period and forcing overtime on Millsap's baseline jumper at the buzzer.

Millsap hit a 3 with 1:12 left in overtime to make it 118-116 for Atlanta's first lead of

the game. Mike Muscala's 3-pointer from the right corner put the Hawks back up by one with 35 seconds left.

Atlanta seized the outcome in the final 21 seconds after Kent Bazemore stole an inbound pass from Kevin Love for a layup and Hardaway hit three free throws.

Atlanta looked disinterested for three quarters, so coach Mike Budenholzer went with two starters, Millsap and Hardaway, and several reserves the rest of the way.

James made a couple of mistakes in the closing seconds of regulation. He committed a turnover by failing to inbound the ball with 18 seconds remaining and fouled Millsap on a 3 attempt 10 seconds later. Millsap hit all three foul shots to make it 111-109 with 8 seconds to go.

Irving, despite pregame soreness on his surgically repaired right knee, scored 15 points in the first quarter. His 3 at the 7:22 mark gave Cleveland its first double-digit lead. The Cavs were up 38-21 entering the second with Irving dribbling and shooting at his leisure against the Hawks' sloppy defense.

## Napoli beats Lazio in battle for Champions League place

MILAN (AP) — Lorenzo Insigne atoned for a glaring first-half miss to help Napoli win 3-0 at Lazio in Serie A on Sunday and all but guarantee his team a spot in next season's Champions League.

Jose Callejon marked his 200th appearance for Napoli with the opening goal as Maurizio Sarri's team moved seven points clear of fourth-place Lazio.

Napoli remained four points behind second-place Roma, with seven rounds remaining. "We were aware that today there was a lot at stake," Napoli goalkeeper Pepe Reina said. "Now we're looking ahead and we'll work to try and catch Roma."

"The race is open. We have a difficult fixture list, but we're in good health and we know we can play for it right until

the end." Lazio was looking to move to within a point of third place and was full of confidence after reaching the Italian Cup final with an aggregate victory over city rival Roma.

Napoli had meanwhile lost its semifinal to Juventus.

But it was Napoli that took the lead with one of its trademark team moves. Dries Mertens found Marek Hamsik with a through ball and he crossed for Callejon to tap in at the far post.

Insigne should have doubled Napoli's lead on the stroke of halftime but he curled his shot wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

However, the Italy international did score six minutes into the second half, finishing off Allan's chipped pass from outside the area.



E Peters, gets down and drive a ball into the air and away from the keeper during the latter stages of the game.

ed 11 runs to win in the 20th over and when Landerfort, who top scored in game one went to bat, he was expected to bat responsibly and occupy the wicket. But it had to be a mixture of inexperience and nervousness that saw him making bad shot selections which caused him his wicket which went by the run out route by Reece on 3.

Then it was all up to E Peters and A Harris to deliver the goods for St Maarten and they did so in dramatic style which caused nervous moments in the stands. Harris, the small-

est of the two in size stuck to the script set by the management team and the same can be said about Peters, who were not out on 2 and 1 respectively to ensure that ST Maarten won the game by 2 wickets. StMaarten has now advanced to the next round where they will face Antigua and Anguilla in Anguilla later this week. ST Maarten's win against Montserrat was cerdited the the 37 wide deliveries they bowled and that would have made a huge difference in the end result.



# Today Sports

## Ibrahimovic inspiration keeps Man United in top-four race



Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic, centre right, celebrates scoring his side's first goal of the game against Sunderland, during their English Premier League soccer match at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, England. (Owen Humphreys/PA via AP)

LONDON (AP) — After 30 minutes of Sunday's Premier League game against Sunderland, Manchester United appeared in danger of meandering its way to another disappointing result. Thankfully for manager Jose Mourinho, Zlatan Ibrahimovic had other ideas. The Swedish forward demanded the ball be played to him on the edge of the penalty area, and then evaded the attempts of two Sunderland defenders to halt his progress before sending an unstoppable strike into the far bottom corner. "You need these players sometimes to make it and normally every top team has a couple of them that can make a differ-

ence. Zlatan did that with the goal," Mourinho said. After Ibrahimovic's moment of inspiration, the result was never in doubt and a red card for Sebastian Larsson left space for Henrikh Mkhitaryan and substitute Marcus Rashford to seal the points for United. With the league's top four all having won on Saturday, the victory ensured United kept pace in the race for Champions League qualification as it moved above Arsenal into fifth and within four points of fourth-place Manchester City, which has played one more game. Sunderland remains bottom having now failed to score in its last seven games, 10 points

adrift of safety. "We reacted to the results of yesterday," Mourinho said. "We got the three points, (with a) solid performance against a team that is sad. When you play against a team that is sad, if you score before (them), the game is almost over because it is difficult to react." "After Liverpool and Manchester City's victories, if we didn't win today it's almost mathematically impossible (to finish fourth)." Unlike its rivals, United can still qualify for next season's Champions League by winning the Europa League. It resumes its campaign with a quarterfinal first leg in Belgium against Anderlecht on Thursday.

## Joining bid with Mexico could help US gain FIFA support

NEW YORK (AP) — A final on or around the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Modern stadiums across the United States and perhaps in Mexico and Canada, too. A North American World Cup in 2026 with 48 nations would be far larger and played in almost all different venues than the 24-team event the U.S. hosted in 1994. Soccer officials planned to announce details of the joint bid by the U.S., Mexico and Canada at a news conference Monday atop the Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan. The split of games was likely to be discussed. "Don't think for a moment that the political climate in the United States didn't impact this," former U.S. defender Alexi Lalas, now a Fox analyst, said Sunday. "A joint World Cup that includes Mexico probably garners additional support and sends a message."

U.S. President Donald Trump has faced criticism over his plans — since stopped by courts — to bar new visas for people from Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Libya. FIFA President Gianni Infantino said last month that "any team, including the supporters and officials ... who qualify for a World Cup need to have access to the country, otherwise there is no World Cup. That is obvious." A majority of games likely will be played in the United States. Infantino and the six confederation presidents have recommended the North and Central American and Caribbean region get six berths, any host included. But the proposal said the FIFA Council would decide on a structure in the event of co-hosts. "You sit there and just shake your head: Where is this thing going to go and why?" said former U.S. goalkeeper Kasey Keller, currently an ESPN analyst. "Who knows, maybe

they'll move it to 68 teams by that time? It's so hard to tell what FIFA's thinking or what they're doing or what's the process after the last bidding fiasco. I guess you just have to trust the people closest to it, that they know what they're doing." FIFA's Congress of all members decided on World Cup hosts through the 1982 tournament, but the power was then given to its ruling executive committee of about two dozen members. After the tainted vote in December 2010 that awarded the 2018 event to Russia and 2022 to Qatar, the decision was returned to the Congress, now 211 members. FIFA announced last May that the 2026 vote will take place in May 2020 and said in October that the previous two World Cup hosts — Europe and Asia — will not be eligible to bid. Africa could mount a bid, especially if it allies with another confederation and both vote as blocs.

## Rana, Pandya brothers stage stunning heist

On a high-scoring, field-first ground, and fighting considerable dew, Kolkata Knight Riders nearly won with an under-par 176 but failed to defend 59 in the last 23 balls. In the cauldron, with the home crowd burning their ears and a wet ground underfoot, the visiting Knight Riders just froze in the field after taking out almost all the big guns from Mumbai Indians. Almost. Because at 119 for 5, Mumbai sent out Hardik Pandya, whose cameo met Nitish Rana's hitherto solid innings to stage a heist. Rana went from 29 off 23 to 50 off 28, and Hardik hit the winning runs in his 11-ball 29. The night belonged to the brothers after Krunal Pandya dragged Knight Riders back with his left-arm spin of 4-0-24-3. Two of these wickets read c Pandya b Pandya. Chris Lynn came into this match on the back of an explosive 93, but he goes at only 6.16 against left-arm spin. It was expected, then, that Krunal would bowl early in the innings. Knight Riders had already run away to 44 in four by the time he came on, and Lynn was not on strike first ball. Doesn't matter, because Krunal took two bonus wickets of Gautam Gambhir and

Robin Uthappa in that over. The other thing about Lynn was his wagon wheel in his 93. He scored 52 off those runs in 17 hits to leg, and not one behind square. So Mumbai bowled to him with a long-on and a cow corner, short and into the body, denying him the swing of the arms. The quicks even bowled two wides to him down the leg side. In the end, against Jasprit Bumrah, Lynn went to hit square, to miss that man at cow corner, and moved too far across to be lbw with Knight Riders at 67 for 3 in the eighth over, with a middle-overs slowdown to follow. Manish Pandey, who before this match had scored 53 off 53 Harbhajan Singh deliveries, was part of that slowdown when Harbhajan and Krunal turned the screws. Pandey, though, can shift gears dramatically. His overall strike rate in IPL is 111 over the first 30 balls of an innings, and 173 off the next 30. Here he went from 35 off 30 to 81 off 47, taking Mitchell McClenaghan apart in a 23-run final over. Perhaps Mumbai don't trust Parthiv Patel to bat anywhere other than against the new ball. Perhaps they want a big batsman in the middle. Perhaps they are not giving

it enough thought, but their top four remains a muddle. Knight Riders bowled superbly against Jos Buttler, Parthiv, Rana (promoted ahead of Rohit Sharma) and Rohit to reduce them to 74 for 3 in 10. There was swing for Trent Boult, pace from Ankit Rajpoot, and guile from the two spinners, Kuldeep Yadav and Sunil Narine. This was now becoming Kieron Pollard v Knight Riders. Pollard even blocked out a whole over from Kuldeep to turn 73 off 41 into 71 off 36. Soon it went past two runs a ball and nudged 2.5 a delivery as Pollard struggled against fellow Trinidadian Narine. Pollard was now ripe for the taking, and Chris Woakes did so with a wide bouncer. This was the 17th over, the wheels were about to come off. The ground was pretty wet by now. The pitch was still flat. The boundaries were still small. Mumbai still needed just one man to get on a roll. It all began with a fielding error. Rana set off for a desperate single, the throw from mid-off came in, and Woakes didn't have the ball in his hands when he removed the bails. Rana should have been out for 28 off 22. And then both of them got on a roll.

## Kenyan Mr and Mrs tie up Paris marathons

PARIS — Paul Lonyangata won the 41st Paris marathon on Sunday with his wife Purity Rionoripo tying up the women's race to make it a memorable day out for the Kenyan couple in the French capital. Lonyangata recorded his biggest career win in a time of two hours six minutes and 10 seconds despite losing valuable time when doubling back after missing the penultimate water station. His compatriot, pre-race favourite Stephen Chebogat, came in second at 2hr 6min 56sec, with Solomon Yego completing the all-Kenyan podium in third at 2hr 7min 13sec. "I feel good now as my aim was to come here to win," said Lonyangata who was going one better after taking second in the Paris half-marathon in March. With Paris bathed in spring sunshine Rionoripo made it a red letter day for the couple, the 23-year-old setting a new record time of 2hr 20min 50sec to smash her personal best by almost four minutes. The couple's success put a smile back on the face of Kenyan athletics 48 hours after the shock news of Olympic marathon champion Jemima Sumgong's failed dope test. Sumgong was the first Kenyan woman to win an Olympic gold in the marathon when she triumphed in Rio last year. The 32-year-old, who is also the reigning London Mara-



Kenya's Paul Lonyangata raises the arms as he crosses the finish line to win the 41st Paris Marathon in Paris.

thon champion, tested positive for the banned blood booster EPO in a test by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) in her native Kenya. Lonyangata, 24, made his decisive move after the 35km marker, surging clear of Chebogat in the Bois de Boulogne to add Paris to his previous marathon wins in Shanghai in 2015 and Lisbon two years earlier. In the women's race Rionoripo was followed across the line by her compatriot Agnes Barsosio at 2hr 21:02 with Flomena Cheyech (2hr 21:23.) completing the podium.

"It's great for my wife, I'm very proud of her," beamed happy husband Lonyangata. "I'm so happy, it's a great day for me to win and to beat my personal best," said Rionoripo, who had last year's winner Visiline Jepkesho (fourth) among the more fancied contenders in her slipstream. She lowered the previous women's Paris marathon record time set by Ethiopia's Feyse Tadese of 2hr 21:06 in 2013. In the men's race her husband's winning time was 53sec outside the record established by Ethiopian Kenenisa Bekele of 2hr 05:04 in 2014.



# Today Sports

## Hamilton beats Vettel for Chinese Grand Prix win



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain celebrates on the podium with Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany and Red Bull Racing driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands after the Chinese Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit.

Lewis Hamilton mastered Shanghai's changing conditions and stayed clear of squabbling rivals to win the Chinese Formula One Grand Prix on Sunday.

The Briton eased his Mercedes across the line 6.2 seconds ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel. Max Verstappen, who started 16th, finished a surprise third to hand his Red Bull team their 100th podium. It was Hamilton's 54th career win and a record fifth in Shanghai. But it was the triple champion's first this season and returned Mercedes to the top of the podium after Vettel won last month's season-opening race for a resurgent Ferrari.

"I'm so happy with my first win of the year and I can't believe it if I'm honest," said Hamilton after the race, which also handed him his 106th podium, putting him joint second with Alain Prost on the list of drivers with most rostrum results.

"What I said to Sebastian as I left the last race ... I said I'm coming back in the next one. When I got on the podium it was like 'I told you.'"

Hamilton, who finished second to Vettel in Melbourne, heads into the next race in Bahrain in a week's time tied on points with the German. Mercedes, meanwhile, lead the constructors' standings by one point over Ferrari. Hamilton started from pole position, but the conditions were a bit of a lottery for all the drivers with the track damp in patches but drying quickly. He kept the lead off the line ahead of Vettel, who came under investigation for lining up out of position on his grid slot. The German, though, stayed second, fending off Valtteri Bottas in the other Mercedes, who had started third. Lance Stroll, the 18-year-old rookie, spun off the track on the first lap after making

contact with Force India's Sergio Perez. The Canadian beached his Williams in the gravel, bringing out the virtual safety car. Vettel took the opportunity to dive into the pits to change to dry weather tires. His gamble backfired when Antonio Giovinazzi — standing in for Pascal Wehrlein at Sauber — crashed, bringing out the actual safety car two laps later.

The four-times world champion found himself bottled up behind Ricciardo and his slower team-mate Kimi Raikkonen, costing him valuable time. As the trio squabbled for position, Hamilton pulled clear at the front.

By the time Vettel managed to get past, with a series of spectacular overtaking moves that included banging wheels with his former team-mate, Hamilton was too far ahead.

"The safety car came just when I was about to start to feel that the dry tire was a lot quicker," Vettel said. "So I couldn't use the momentum,

the advantage and I lost a lot of positions.

"But then I had a very exciting race."

Ricciardo finished fourth for Red Bull, crossing the line just 0.8 seconds behind Verstappen after hassling the Dutchman in the closing stages of the 56-lap race. Raikkonen crossed the line a frustrated fifth.

Bottas finished sixth. The Finn, who has replaced retired champion Nico Rosberg at Mercedes, dropped him down the field after spinning behind the safety car.

Fifteen cars finished Sunday's race, with neither McLaren making it to the flag.

Fernando Alonso, who "pushed like an animal" on Saturday to qualify 13th, had gone into the race aiming to capitalize on the mixed conditions to score his first points of the year, but his hopes were dashed by a driveshaft failure. Team-mate Stoffel Vandoorne was sidelined with fuel pressure problems.

## PACQUIAO FIGHT WITH UNHERALDED JEFF HORN OFFICIAL FOR... FROM PAGE 24

as the choice as Pacquiao's opponent. At the news conference following Pacquiao's win over Vargas in November, Arum threw out the Top Rank-promoted Terence Crawford and Vasyl Lomachenko as potential Pacquiao opponents for 2017. Both Crawford and Lomachenko, who on Saturday and was again extremely impressive in a ninth-round knockout win over Jason Sosa, are in the pound-for-pound discussion.

Both are far bigger names, and far more accomplished, than Horn. But the topic of fighting Pacquiao was never seriously broached with either.

Instead, Top Rank put together an essentially low-end fight with Horn.

Koncz, in a statement to Yahoo

Sports, attempted to put a good spin on it.

"This Jeff Horn is something else," Koncz said. "It's as if he is having flashbacks to the days of teaching school and [is] giving a lecture to his fourth grade students or something, but someday he will come to the realization that on July 2 it's a different world. It's a different arena and it's the world of professional boxing, where respect is earned through years of dedication to the sport. He will be the fourth grade student getting schooled and wishing he was back in a classroom instead of the ring with a true legend with ring generalship beyond his comprehension. "Jeff Horn, rest assured that Manny Pacquiao is not taking

## SERGIO GARCIA WINS THE ... FROM PAGE 24

crowd and then crouched again and slammed his fist into the turf of the green.

All that Spanish passion was on display, raw as ever, this time sheer joy.

Garcia became the third Spaniard in a green jacket, winning on what would have been the 60th birthday of the late Seve Ballesteros. And it was Jose Maria Olazabal, who won the Masters in 1994 and 1999, who sent him a text on the eve of the Masters telling Garcia to believe and "to not let things get to me like I've done in the past."

He didn't get down after missing a 6-foot putt on the 16th hole, or missing a 5-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole in regulation. His chin was up and he battled to the end.

"If there's anyone to lose to, it's Sergio. He deserves it," Rose said. "He's had his fair

share of heartbreak."

This was shaping up as another, especially after Garcia watched a three-shot lead disappear as quickly as it took Rose to run off three straight birdies on the front nine.

Tied going to the back nine, Garcia immediately fell two shots behind with wild shots into the pine straw bed under the trees. Rose was poised to deliver a knockout on the par-5 13th when Garcia went left beyond the creek and into a bush. He had to take a penalty shot to get out and hit his third shot 89 yards short of the green. Rose was just over the back of the green in two, on the verge of turning a two-shot lead into four.

Everyone figured this was coming, right? Garcia himself had said, in a moment of self-pity, that he didn't have what it takes to win a major. Four

times he was runner-up. This was his third time playing in the final group.

But right when it looked to be over, momentum shifted to Garcia.

He hit wedge to 7 feet and escaped with par. Rose rolled his chip down to 5 feet and missed the birdie putt. The lead stayed at two shots but not for long. Garcia birdied the 14th.

His 8-iron into the par-5 15th landed inches in front of the hole and nicked the pin, and he holed the 14-foot eagle putt to tie for the lead.

Rose took the lead with an 8-foot birdie on the 16th and gave it back by missing a 7-foot par putt on the 18th.

Not since 1998 have the last two players on the course gone to the 18th tied for the lead, and both had their chances to win.

## BABAR AND HASAN SQUARE THE... FROM PAGE 24

for 16 in an over, smashing one six and two fours.

Hasan - who bowled only five overs in the first game - was the pick of Pakistan's pace trio, extracting nippy movement off a good length that particularly ruffled the right-handers. He was the one who ripped the heart out of the West Indies top-order, dismissing Shai Hope and Kieran Powell in quick succession; the one who ended Nurse's spirited resistance, and the one who killed off the last vestige of West Indian hope when he got rid of Alzarri Joseph to end a 52-run ninth-wicket partnership. Fittingly, he was the one who accounted for Holder to seal the win, and a fully deserved five-wicket haul.

Pakistan had earlier posted 282 despite looking horribly unconvincing with the bat for much of the first innings, a late surge ensuring they reached a total they would have gladly accepted just seven overs earlier, thanks largely to Babar. Batting again at No.3 after a head-scratching demotion last game, Babar formed the

spine of the innings as batsmen around him struggled to build on starts.

He held the innings together when it threatened to disintegrate, and provided the late fireworks when it looked like it might stagnate. A two-paced surface made batting challenging, as did a much-improved bowling performance from the hosts.

This total had seemed well out of Pakistan's reach until the last seven overs - in which 84 runs were scored.

It was telling that West Indies' worst spell of bowling came about just as Babar and Imad Wasim finally began to swing freely, to the extent that the crucial last over of the innings was left to medium pacer Jonathan Carter - no one's first choice as a death bowler, or any bowler for that matter. Five of Pakistan's six sixes came off the last three overs - two off the hapless Carter in a 50th over that cost 19.

After an uncharacteristically brisk opening Powerplay during the first ODI, Pakistan quickly reverted to type today,

their approach circumspect and their progress sedate.

They continued their somewhat retrograde approach in the middle overs, the run rate hovering around 4.50 and, although their failure to accelerate could partly be attributed to the bowlers, it wasn't as if Babar and Mohammad Hafeez broke their backs trying either. Hafeez, who found himself in the slightly unfortunate position of gaining more detractors than supporters after an 88-ball 92 during the first game, can certainly expect more criticism his way today after being stumped down the leg-side for a laboured 32 off 50 deliveries.

Pakistan's innings never seemed to move out of the third gear it had begun in, and just when an almost run-a-ball partnership between Babar and Sarfraz looked like getting them ready for the final push, the captain's leading edge found mid-on. It was after that that Imad and Babar combined, and even they took a while before the innings took off.



Manny Pacquiao

you or this fight lightly and will be prepared like never before. He has pledged to prove a point to all his fans in Australia and the world. Basic Math 101. Horn [says] you never fear the ones that make noise and talk up a storm. You must be concerned with the ones that are silent as they are the dangerous ones."

Koncz's trash talking notwithstanding, it's a fight that figures to generate very little interest outside of Australia, particularly in the United States where Horn has a zero Q rating.

Pacquiao has always been willing, and eager, to fight the best. This type of matchmaking, though, makes him look like he's being protected as he nears the end of his career.



# TodaySports

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Mexico could help  
US gain FIFA  
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## Sergio Garcia wins the Masters, ends drought at the majors

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) -- Sergio Garcia finally showed he has what it takes to win a major, and he has a green jacket to prove it. Needing his best golf on just about every shot in the final hour at the Masters, Garcia overcame a two-shot deficit with six holes to play and beat Justin Rose in a sudden-death playoff Sunday for his first major after nearly two decades of heartache. No one ever played more majors as a pro - 70 - before

winning one for the first time. Garcia got rid of the demons and the doubts with two big moments on the par 5s - one a par, the other an eagle - in closing with a 3-under 69. It was never easy until the end, when Rose sent his drive into the trees on the 18th hole in the playoff, punched out and failed to save par from 15 feet. That gave the 37-year-old Spaniard two putts from 12 feet for the victory, and his putt swirled into the cup for a birdie. He crouched in dis-

belief, and shouted above the loudest roar of the day. Rose, who also closed with a 69, lovingly patted Garcia's cheek before they embraced. Rose then tapped Garcia on the heart, which turned out to be a lot bigger than anyone realized. "Ser-gee-oh! Ser-gee-oh!" the delirious gallery chanted to Garcia, who couldn't contain his emotion. Garcia turned with his arms to his side, blew a kiss to the

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Sergio Garcia of Spain shakes hands with Danny Willett of England (left) and Augusta National chairman Billy Payne after being presented his green jacket after winning the 2017 Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, U.S.A.

## Babar and Hasan square the series for Pakistan

A career-best unbeaten 125 by Babar Azam, followed by a clinical bowling performance, ensured Pakistan eased to a 74-run win to level the three-match series. Set 283 to win, West Indies wilted early despite beginning the chase with attacking intent. That purposefulness came at the cost of early wickets, with both openers back in the pavilion by the fifth over.

In a bizarre departure from the approach that had been so successful for the home side in the first game, West Indies continued to press on rather than ensure they had enough wickets in hand for the closing stages. Inevitably, they kept losing wickets playing shots that weren't so much attacking as they were rash, and before you knew it, they had slipped to 56 for 5, and the game was effectively over as a contest. After that, it was left to Pakistan's spinners to asphyxiate what remained of the West Indies' batting line-up. Jason Holder and Ashley Nurse gave the crowd - a large, expectant turnout in the wake of the first game's heroics - some light entertainment with a breezy



Babar Azam missed chance during the second ODI Match between West Indies and Pakistan at Guyana National Stadium, Providence, Guyana. (Photo by WICB Media/Randy Brooks of Brooks Latouche Photography)

58-run partnership, but even as the clouds gathered in the distance, lightning was never going to strike twice, as Hasan Ali finished with 5 for 38. Even as the game drifted off to its inevitable conclusion, captain Holder displayed his com-

petitive spirit with a fighting half-century, his combination of sweet timing and incredible power making batting look a lot easier than it had seemed when those higher up the order had been in the middle. He gave Shadab Khan the respect

he has indisputably earned with his performances over the last fortnight, but was at times disdainful of Pakistan's storied pace bowling attack, never more so than when he dispatched Mohammad Amir

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It's celebration time among the players and avid supporters after ST Maarten pulled off their second win in the U-15 50 over tournament. Today/photo Milton Pieters.

GREAT BAY- After a spell of dramatic batting, bowling and fielding performances by the St Maarten national U-15 cricket team over the weekend, most would agree that the future of the sport looks bright as long as they keep the good work up. In their first 50 over game against the BVI played last Saturday, St Maarten won by 24 runs and 128 balls to spare after batting first and scoring

136 before restricting the visitors to 112 after 26.4 overs.

St Maarten's total which came after batting for 138 minutes was reached in the 24th over and punctuated by 10 fours and 4 sixes. The visitors were able to break up the opening partnership with the wicket of D Singh who was bowled for 3 with the score on 10 in the 2nd over.

In a show of resilience, the score was pushed to 42 before the fall of the 2nd during the progress of the 7th over wicket when T Honore was caught by J Perriea and bowled by

T Olive 7. M Palmer, the new batsman was unable to settle down and was bowled LBW by Olive for no score and no changes to the score.

To say that the young team possessed batting depth would be the understatement but when the Vice Captain, R Longville went to the wicket, he was expected to bat responsibly despite the fact that he was the first Spanish player to represent St Maarten in cricket.

But after facing 7 balls in

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## Pacquiao fight with unheralded Jeff Horn official for July 1

Four months after the subject was initially broached - and left most who heard the news in disbelief - it is finally official that Manny Pacquiao will fight little known Jeff Horn on July 1 (July 2 in Australia, where the fight will take place) for the WBO welterweight title. It's a bizarre choice of opponent for a man who has been one of boxing's most fearless warriors.

Pacquiao, who has won world titles or been recognized as the best in eight weight classes, began his career as a 106-pounder as a 16-year-old in 1995. He's taken on the best of the best as he's moved inexorably up through the weight classes, facing the likes of Floyd Mayweather, Miguel Cotto, Antonio Margarito, Ricky Hatton, Oscar De La Hoya, Juan Manuel Marquez, Marco Antonio Barrera, Erik Morales and numerous others. Horn doesn't come close to the cache - or talent - of those kinds of fighters. His selection as Pacquiao's opponent,

at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane, Australia, will do little to excite anyone other than Pacquiao's most fervent supporters.

In December, Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank did a deal with Horn promoter Duco Events to co-promote WBO heavyweight champion Joseph Parker. Perhaps having Pacquiao fight Horn was in some way payback for that agreement, though it's only unconfirmed speculation. Pacquiao adviser Michael Koncz had been working diligently to land a big-name opponent. Last year, he was pushing Arum to pair Pacquiao with Adrien Broner, prior to Pacquiao agreeing to fight Jessie Vargas in Las Vegas on Nov. 5 for the WBO belt. And earlier this year, Koncz said he and Pacquiao had a deal to fight Amir Khan in the United Arab Emirates. The financing on that deal fell through. That left Horn

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