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

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

# Send-in-the-troops remark hits a nerve in The Hague

**THE HAGUE** - Prime Minister Willem Marlin has hit a nerve with his remark that the Netherlands should "send in the troops" to enforce the instruction for the establishment of an Integrity Chamber. VVD-MP André Bosman demanded yesterday in the Dutch Parliament talks on ministerial level about proper etiquette in the Kingdom. Bosman also finds that Minister Plasterk (Kingdom Relations) has to sound the alarm in cases of such ballyhoo. The statements of PM Marlin are the reason for Bosman's remarks. Marlin said after the Kingdom Council of Ministers issued an instruction to St. Maarten last Friday that the Netherlands should 'send in the troops' to implement it. Recently the interim Prime Minister of Curaçao, Gilmar Pisas sneered after an instruction to that island that the Netherlands ought to send a firing squad. Bosman considers both state-



**André Bosman: statements are not conducive to the mutual relationships ... Photo Dijkstra BV**

ments "impossible." Minister Plasterk emphasized first

and foremost that he expects St. Maarten to abide by the instruction. Through a representative he said that Marlin's statement had disturbed him. He said nothing about the statement of Pisas or about his reaction to it. For Bosman, that was not enough. "To me this seems to be the moment for politicians to engage in talks and to look each other in the eyes. Not for telling each other what we think about this through all kinds of departments." Bosman says it is time for talks about how politicians in the Kingdom deal with each other. "My idea is that we should talk about this at least at the ministerial level to convince each other that this is not the way we deal with each other. These kinds of statements are not conducive to the mutual relationships and certainly not for possible behavior towards Dutch citizens on the islands."

# Nature Foundation manager Bervoets: "Waste water is still dumped in the Simpson Bay Lagoon"



**Nature Foundation Manager Tadzio Bervoets. Photo contributed**

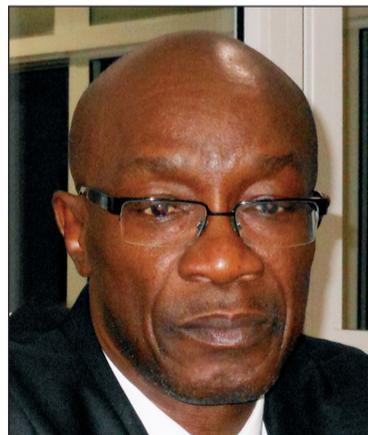
**GREAT BAY** - Despite progress made in protecting the island's premier

wetland, the Simpson Bay Lagoon is still heavily polluted with waste water and solid waste, according to Manager of the Nature Foundation Tadzio Bervoets who has acknowledged that the lagoon, which was the largest inland lagoon in the north-eastern Caribbean, has now been relegated to the second largest (after the one in Codrington, Barbuda) due to land reclamation. "We still have significant issues with waste management. With solid waste to a lesser degree but most importantly waste water (such as) sewage and other types of waste water," Bervoets said. "There was a discussion to develop a waste water treatment plant discussion as to where it should go has been stalled for the time being. But while it is being stalled there are still significant

**Continued on page 4**

## MP George Pantophlet:

# 'Caribbean immigrants are discriminated'



**MP George Pantophlet. Photo Today / Hilbert Haar**

**GREAT BAY** - Caribbean immigrants in St. Maarten are being discriminated, while nationals of other countries get by with little hassle, Member of Parliament George Pantophlet says.

The MP, who worked at the immigration department back in the 1980s, knows all too well the challenges some immigrants face getting their work and residence status in order. In his view, Caribbean immigrants seem to get a harder time than immigrants from other parts of the world. "There are individuals from certain countries, within a short space of time, they are documented. But when it comes to our Caribbean people, it's a different matter," he says. "Based on human rights, every individual should be treated equally, no matter where they are from and every country has their laws that should be adhered to. Rule for one, rule for all."

He referred to a recent labor control that found a business establishment with immigrant workers that were all of one nationality, but it also had a foreign worker from a Caribbean country who was undocumented

and eventually deported. My argument is not to defend immigrants, but to appeal for fair treatment and preservation of their human rights, Pantophlet says. "Then

**Continued on page 3**

# "Government must acknowledge the autism problem"

**GREAT BAY** - A mother who has struggled for years with her autistic son, is calling on government to acknowledge that there is a problem with autism on the island and to develop a policy to assist parents dealing with this issue. Today published Ingrid Nadal-Rombley's story last Friday about her

struggles of dealing with her autistic son, how she lost her job when she took leave of absence to help deal with her son's condition in Holland and the apathy by St. Maarten and education authorities towards her. "Government has to acknowledge that this is a problem, that it is

**Continued on page 6**

# Woman injured after car drives through bus stop



**An umbrella provides shade over the woman who was struck by a car from behind while sitting in bus stops in front of the My Guardian Group office yesterday. Photo contributed**

**GREAT BAY**- As a result of a freak accident, a 51-year-old woman identified as S.H. is currently receiving treatment at the St Maarten Medical

Center and the female driver that caused the accident is still trying to come to grips with what went wrong. It all started around 12.50 p.m. when 40-year-old M.L.S., the female driver of an SUV that was parked in the My Guardian Group parking got into her car. Instead of reversing after switching on the ignition, she mistakenly stepped on the gas. The car drove over a low wall straight through the bus stop on the A.J.C. Brouwers Road, missing the main supports of the structure but hitting the lone female occupant who was sitting there. From the photographs it appears that the victim suffered injuries to her right leg; after her initial treatment on the scene by paramedics, she was rushed to the St. Maarten Medical Center. The driver, who was not alone in the car at the time of the accident, appeared to be visibly shaken. The victim sustained numerous deep cuts and bruises to her arms and legs from which she was bleeding. The victim also complained about pain in her upper body.

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# EDITORIAL

## Selective memory

Dutch politicians have a selective memory when it comes to their dealings with the kingdom's Caribbean countries. The uproar about Prime Minister Marlin's send-in-the-troops remark is another example. Who does not remember Prime Minister Mark Rutte's infamous give-me-a-call statement in case St. Maarten wanted its independence? MP André Bosman now claims that this is not the way we deal with each other. We say: that is exactly the way we deal with each other.

The thing is: one should not take these statements literally but in the spirit they were said. Just ask the Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem what happened after his rather funny booze-and-women statement to make clear that benefits come with obligations. Marlin just made clear that he will not cooperate with the instruction, just like Rutte made clear that he has no problem in case St. Maarten wants its independence. And by the way: sending in the troops is not necessary; they are already here.

## Contractor hits fiber cable, telecom service disrupted

**GREAT BAY** - At approximately 12 noon yesterday a contractor damaged a fiber cable in the Cole Bay area causing an interruption in service between customers of mobile customers TelCell and their French-side counterparts, Dauphin Telecom and Orange, TelEm said in a press statement. TelEm Group technicians were busy looking into the damage to determine the extent of repair that will be required. Meantime customers of Orange and Dauphin

Telecom are unable to continue with voice calls and data roaming while on the Dutch side of the island. Customers of TelCell are also unable to make mobile calls and use data services while on the French side of the island. TelEm Group Manager Network Operations Julien Lake, said technicians and engineers are busy assessing the situation and will be able to indicate very soon how extensive the damage is and how long it will take to restore service.

"All we know at this stage is that an older fiber cable that connects our network to telecommunication partners, Dauphin Telecom and Orange was severed during construction work at lunchtime and that we are busy mobilizing our teams to restore service as soon as possible." The damaged cable also carries leased lines for business customers in the Cole Bay area and they too have been affected.



The law office of vanEps Kunneman VanDoorne exists 80 years this year and it entered its anniversary year with the addition of professional support lawyer Mariette Hazejager-Steeg to its branch in St. Maarten. In Curacao intern Renata Nieuw (pictured at center with her colleagues after her swearing in ceremony at the Common Court of Justice on April 4) joined the company. Photo contributed

## Prison search in disappearance case

**GREAT BAY** - The Prosecutor's Office in collaboration with members of the police force and in the presence of an investigative judge conducted a search at the Pointe Blanche

Prison yesterday, related to the Mars-investigation into the disappearance of Luis Diaz-Sarante and Edwin Rosario. The investigators searched four prison cells, among them

the one of T.F. who is a suspect in this case. They confiscated a cell phone and documents and also found hand-made weapons that were handed over to the prison director. Sarante-Diaz and Rosario were last seen in the afternoon of Monday, December 5, 2016 in the vicinity of the Simpson Bay Resort. They have disappeared without a trace. The suspects detained in the investigation - T.F. and K.S.S.S. - were arrested on February 16 and 17 respectively and are still in pre-trial detention. The investigation continues.

## ONE YEAR AGO

The dispute regulation remains a bone of contention for Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten; the countries are dead against Kingdom Relations Minister Plasterk's plan to let the Council of State handle disputes and to declare its advices not binding.

Learning Unlimited student Bodine Beentjes introduces the first locally made can catcher on the Melford Hazel Road, on top of Naked Boy Hill.

The government signs a sea border demarcation treaty with Saint Martin, the kingdom and the French Republic.

Education Minister Silveria Jacobs says that the 51 million guilders in outstanding study debts with the Dutch organization DUO are the responsibility of the students involved.

## Police catch burglars in Beacon Hill



Overview of the stolen items. Photo KPSM

**GREAT BAY** - Police arrested two men in Beacon Hill on Monday evening shortly after they had burglarized a home. A police patrol found the burglars, identified as A.K.P.B. (34) and J.P.T.B. (35)

after an alert from a security company ADT that called the emergency dispatch around 7.30 p.m. saying that there was a burglary in process at a home in Beacon Hill. The patrol saw two men who

fit the description of the burglars; they carried a backpack that contained stolen items. The two suspects are now in custody and the backpack with its contents has been confiscated for investigation.

## Small properties association talks marketing with travel agent



From left Laura Louis, SMSPA board members Lorraine Scot (secretary) Jeanina Dupersoy (treasurer) and Nzinga Lake (president), and Sjael Richardson. Photo courtesy NPL

**GREAT BAY** The board of the St. Maarten Small Properties Association (SMSPA) met last Monday with travel agency S.E.L. Maduro & Sons general manager Sjael Richardson, and office manager Laura Louis in Pointe Blanche.

"The topics discussed were joint marketing, summer and winter promotions, travel packages, site inspections and networking events with travel agents," said SMSPA-President Nzinga Lake. The SMSPA-board has been contacting tourism stakeholders to meet on fostering strong and mutually-beneficial relationships for our small hotel members. "S.E.L. Maduro & Sons is committed to our tourism product and its development. And as a board we are focused of realizing alliances in the tourism market for the regional and international

promotion of our member properties and our beautiful island," said Lake. "We believe that once stakeholders on the island combine their resources and find common grounds to market the island and its events, that everyone will benefit from this kind of cooperation," said Richardson. "It makes perfect sense for us to team up with the Small Properties Association to come up with tailor-made travel packages and to do joint marketing. We are looking forward to working with the association in the very near future."

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## Leadership coach Nelson Els: "Dutch Caribbean leaders lack character"

**GREAT BAY** - Character is the missing element among leaders in the Dutch Caribbean and that eventually leads to corruption, says leadership coach Nelson Els.

Some pundits have reasoned that there is a political leadership crisis in the Caribbean and particularly in the Dutch Caribbean where there has been a fall in coalition governments several times since 10-10-10. Els believes the lack of proper leadership is not due to a lack of competence. "There is a dire need for servant leaders. The number one deficit we have is character. I don't think the problems that we are facing since we got our autonomy are due to a lack of competence. We have competent people working in very high, top positions all around the world. The problem is we lack character," he said. He noted that in the Carib-

bean, the unfortunate view is that getting elected is like 'winning the lottery.' "Your family) starts calling you saying hey you got elected. Am I going to get my job, am I going to get a piece of land?" Els adds that bribery is not worth the sacrifice and that it harms the country.

Real change does not happen overnight, Els notes. "A plan and a strategy need to be developed to bring the changes in leadership that are necessary to move our societies. "Whenever you see leaders start falling, it's because they stopped valuing people and started taking advantage of them. You see when corruption comes in and people misuse funds, squander money or enrich themselves and their friends—this is all not due to a lack of competence but to a lack of character. I don't think that's only in the

Dutch Caribbean, I think it's all over the world. I think all over the world today there is a dire need for servant leaders that have innovation, are creative but most of all have character."

It will come from the bottom up and it will come through slowly, Els says. "Everyone who is an agent of change, who advocates change understand that real change doesn't happen overnight. You have to have a plan; you have to be a strategist. We have to go to a disciplined application of failure because everything we learn, we learn through failure. Change most of the times happens from the bottom up, not from the top coming down so if we teach the followers leadership skills then they can make better decisions, have a better judgment and understand how to choose their leaders better."

## Customs officers confiscate cocaine and marijuana

**GREAT BAY** - The Customs department will intensify controls during the Carnival season, department head Anthony Doran said in a press statement. During the past couple of weeks the controls yielded nearly 40 kilos of cocaine and 320 kilos of marijuana.

On Thursday March 30 Customs officers confiscated around 35 kilos of cocaine that was in two separate handbags hidden in the service panel

compartment of an outbound Air France flight. The investigation into this catch is still ongoing; no arrests have been made.

Last Saturday Customs officers confiscated four packages of cocaine with a weight of around 5 kilos on board of an outbound Air Canada flight. These drugs were hidden in toilet cabinets. Two Canadians, S.L.B. and C.A.S.D. were arrested.

On Monday Customs officers

found 320 kilos of marijuana in a container at the port in Pointe Blanche. These drugs were divided over fourteen boxes.

The container arrived at the port from Jamaica. The officers called in the assistance of the Justice K9-unit. The dogs found drugs hidden elsewhere in the container. The investigation in this case is ongoing and the Customs department did not release any information about arrests.

## South Reward residents lament lack of proper representation

**GREAT BAY** - Residents of one Dutch-side community have voiced serious concerns regarding the way they are being represented by their council, which was democratically elected, and are adamant that improvement needs to be done for the people there, especially the children who are 'not being shown proper ways to treat others'.

"We have been wondering for a number of years, as to why the crime rate within all our communities has increased. The lack of morality and ethics of the grown-ups have caused the children to stray. We look for all the ways to blame the young people of today. It's not to say that they don't have some blame to take, but we, as the older people who are supposed to groom them, have failed them," one elder person within the community stated. "If the people who are in power are not showing the younger ones how to properly manage and deal with others, what are they expected to learn? We know that it's a tough job, but we have to be realistic that we (the elders) have a huge part to play with how these young people are

seeing the world...we live one way in front of them, and expect them to act differently. This is not only our situation, but something experienced throughout the island."

"The people who should be representing us are not doing what they should be doing; it's not just about the politicians. What about our council? We haven't heard anything and haven't been hearing anything at all," the source added.

Additionally, there are major concerns regarding the functionality of the council, which was elected to oversee the South Reward area.

"It has been three years since there was an election for the community council to check on what is going on in South Reward. From what is understood within the community, there was even a side council put in place to check on uplifting the area. But this, maybe too, is non-existent, because the people who put this in place, are not even on island to see what is going on," one person with intimate information about the issue noted.

"This isn't even a government thing, it's about who is supposed to be representing us

on the community council... we voted them in, and we need them to do their job. The lady, who is supposed to be leading the side council that was put in place to check on the community, has not been here in St. Maarten for the longest while."

Another major issue that was brought to the fore was that there was no recreational facility, or community center for use by the residents of the area.

"It was actually brought to the attention of residents that the South Reward Committee had to rent the community center at St. Peters in order to hold functions. If there was proper representation, we could have our own community center and not have to be dependent on St. Peters. We apparently have to pay to use the community center at St. Peters and something should be done about that."

However, the initial objective of the 'surrogate' council was seemingly to do just that. It was noted that numerous attempts were made to meet with the elected committee, in order to discuss ways to bring

*Continued on page 4*



A 67-year-old pedestrian identified as W.S. was struck by a car on Welfare Road in the vicinity of Pineapple Pete on Monday evening around 7.15 p.m. The victim suffered numerous bruises to his arms and legs. Paramedics treated him on the spot before transporting him for observation to the St. Maarten Medical Center.

According to the police report, the victim did not pay sufficient attention to the traffic when the car hit him.

Photo KPSM

## Minister urges department heads to be agents of change



From left head of the control department Lucien Wilson, head of economic affairs department Lucy Gibbs, head of civil aviation Lou Halley, Secretary General Miguel DeWeever, Minister Mellissa Arrindell-Doncher, head of the department of economic licenses Valya Lake-Pantophlet, head of the department of statistics Makini Hickinson and head of the metrological department Joseph Isaac.

**GREAT BAY** - Minister Mellissa Arrindell-Doncher (Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic and Telecommunication) on Monday urged her Management Team members to be agents of change. "As 21st century civil servants, you need to redefine your role, and move beyond controlling, regulating and managerial capabilities, and think of yourselves as change agents." Secretary General Miguel DeWeever organized the event as a familiarization round for the minister and her department heads who made power-point presentations that focused on the structure of their departments, future plans, bottlenecks and what the cooperation they look forward to receiving from the Minister and her cabinet in meeting priorities.

The Minister said that the

department heads must be bold enough to experiment and look at innovative ways of achieving objectives in the interest of the people. "The next step beyond articulating these priorities is to translate these into policies, and implement programs that improve peoples' lives. To do that, we need good public service and good public sector leaders. Having said that, I do recognize the role the Minister and the cabinet play in this context and I pledge to always hear your recommendations with an open mind and realistic approach."

She continued: "The Ministry must operate as one integrated machine, fully committed to improving the lives of St. Maarteners. Our policies have to change with time, to keep up with changing aspirations

and needs. Our ministry also has to change with time, to provide St. Maarteners with seamless, functional service." "Policy, ultimately, is implementation. It is what happens that counts. If it is not translated into specific programs and well carried out, it will just remain a piece of paper. When you have gotten it implemented, you also have to monitor results and trends carefully, so we know when we need to change our approach."

"Together, we are responsible for the most important ministry of government. We hold the country's economy in our hands. We have to stimulate the economy and strategically position our vital tourism product in an extremely competitive market. We have no choice but to get it right."

### 'Caribbean immigrants are...

... From page 1...

you ask the question why they are documented and the Caribbean person is not. The individual is being penalized while the employer is not. If the law is there, why is it not enforced?"

According to Pantophlet, the immigration issue on St. Maarten has not gotten any better since 10-10-10. "We have not moved on sufficiently. My issue is this, too many employers are employing persons but they are refusing to submit for documentation.

Some of the same issues that existed when I worked in immigration still persist."

Among undocumented persons, there are various categories, Pantophlet says. He noted that after Minister of Labour Emil Lee and other agencies conducted a labour control recently, and discovered 70 undocumented persons working on the island, there should be an assessment to determine how those persons became undocumented. Some, he noted would have

overstayed on the island, others would have had documents before but became undocumented after their permits expired.

"There must be changes to the law of expulsion and admittance to assist those who became undocumented because of negligence of their employer to regain legal status. The country will never totally be without the need for immigrant labour, but it should be controlled."

# About the law

~ How tinted should a car window be? (2) ~

By Cor Merx, attorney at law

I got many reactions and comments on the article from last week. I heard that Facebook and Instagram were very active in that way.

Well it seems that these articles (with the intention to explain the law to the public) are working.

In the meantime I got some documents from "official" sites and I started to peruse them.

Let's go from here.

There is a document from 2001 (AB nr. 4) from the first of February. It was decided by the Island government under the auspice of the Lt Governor in those days.

If I read the considerations I realize that the problem with the tinted windows is not new. As the preacher states in the Bible: "Nothing under this sun is new; everything is already found out."

From a police officer I heard that he was educated on this issue already in his class in 1997 or 1998.

The "explication" attached

to the decision of the Island Counsel states - summarized: In June and July 1998 there were many complaints about driving with tinted windows. The Lt. Governor in those days received a memo from the police about this issue. Immediately the Lt. Governor decided, after consultations with the Public Prosecutor and the chief of the police, to come with rules and regulations to tackle this issue. In those days the Lt. Governor was the Head of Police. The translucence of the front windows was 40% at the time (today it is 70%).

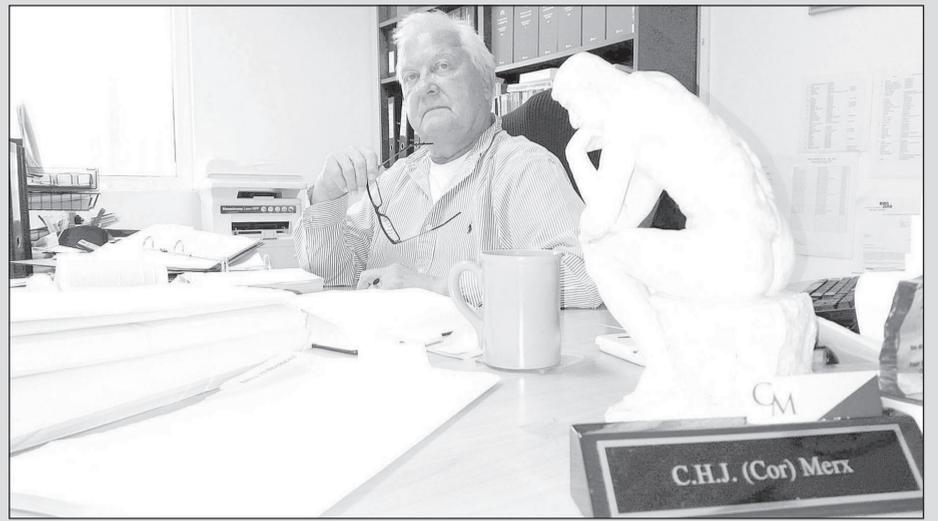
I am not sure if he could make those decisions by himself but however: it was granted by the Executive Council. Please bear in mind that I told you last week that nowadays the Minister of Economic Affairs is in charge.

Measurement of the translucence was done, back in those days, with an example from tinted glassed pictures that the police compared with what was actually pasted on the window of a car. This way

of measuring was very individual and very subjective. It depended on the opinion of the officer whether you got a ticket or not.

So in those days a lot of people got a ticket and were prosecuted but in court it went wrong.

The judge was of the opinion that for the past 10 years (1998) many cars had been imported to the island and were driving around while the government was aware of this situation. The government did not stop a car from getting past inspection with the tinted glasses. The judge continued: if government does not know how the rules and regulations should be followed how can the people on the street know? He found this unfair and told them that they were not guilty. This verdict is too complicated to explain but the result is the same: they got released from the charges. No word about the words: translucence and visibility in the traffic ordinance. So much ado about nothing



Attorney at law Cor Merx. Photo Today / Hilbert Haar

because the government was playing with the people and the lawmakers did not do their job in a proper way.

As said before, in 2001 we got new rules and regulations with a specification of the "clear and visibility words" in the Ordinance from the island government.

From there on government went looking for a standard about the translucency in the world. As we are closely connected to the USA they chose the standard from that country and came to a percentage of 70. That's how we went from 40 to 70 percent.

But now the question is: what if I buy a car on the French side with European standards for the windows? Can the (Dutch side) police hand over a ticket to that French or Dutch person?

It was also allowed to have a dark strip of 15 cm at the top of the window. It was not allowed to paste any tinted material on the window.

Last but not least: the most important thing was to name an instrument (equipment) to measure the tinted glass.

For that a new decision was made (2001, nr 13) stating that:

Als deugdelijk apparaat voor het meten van de lichtdoorlatendheid van ruiten van een motorrijtuig wordt aangemerkt de Pocket Detective 21 Window Tint Meter van New World Instruments. But, in the converted Laws in 10-10-10 nothing was taken over from this decision. As I told you before: there is a new decision in place that does not match the old one.

So, only a very jealous woman can see through tinted glasses.....

## Argos lends a helping hand Culinary team brainstorms for taste of the Caribbean



Donna Joseph-Reid, office manager at Argos flanked by Leroy Illis from No Limits and Mr. Hubert from the Strike Up Band. Photo Today / Milton Pieters

**GREAT BAY** - Once again, Argos has contributed financially to the local music industry as St. Maarten celebrates the annual Carnival festivities and last Friday band leaders from No Limits, Strike Up, TG Band

and the 4MHD bands were all presented with checks.

"This year, we have decided not to focus on just one band but instead to make a contribution to all of the bands because we know that it's

hard getting sponsorship and this year we were fair in assisting them out with expenses they may incur," said Donna Joseph-Reid, office manager at Argos St. Maarten Branch. According to Joseph-Reid, for the past two years they assisted the members of the Strike Up band financially, but this time as a new cement company, they wanted to do something different while promoting their brand at the same time.

"That promotion would not be effective if we only sponsored one band so this time we sponsored each of those bands will have our banners displayed throughout the Carnival season. In addition, we will also be sharing out promotional material. We are not new to this market, but we are coming solid this time," she stated.

## Culinary team brainstorms for taste of the Caribbean

**GREAT BAY** - The St. Maarten Culinary Team for the annual CHTA Taste of the Caribbean competition has convened for the first time to meet, brainstorm and compose a conceptual menu.

Though the team builds on last year's award-winning composition, the first meeting served to get mutually acquainted as well as to compose a training menu for four fundraiser menus. Tomorrow the fundraiser series will kick off at Infiniti Restaurant at the Oyster Bay Beach Resort, at 7.30 .pm.

After some hours of deliberation, the team came up with a menu of challenging concepts trying their disciplines on the road to Miami.

After a welcome cocktail called SXM Swizzle made by Paul Peterson (Temptation), newcomer Justin Assendelft (Holland House) will kick off with "Coloring Scallops" as a designated candidate for the 2017 seafood category. As a main course, Chef Pieter Holstein (Rum and Peas/Canoa Restaurant) will present his "Jumping Jamaican Beefjerk" for the meat category. Chef Ronald Estephane (Sonesta Maho Beach Resort & Casino) will finish off with a "Going Nuts" creation contesting the June Chocolatier category. Awarded 2016 Chef Suzirea Adoptie (Student at NIPA) will again be the junior representative on the team.

The team will be led by Captain Renata De Weever (Sonesta Great Bay Resort & Casino/NIPA). Chef Dino Jagtiani

(Temptation Restaurant) will be the envoy for the Caribbean Chef of the Year category.

In 2016, the team participated for the first time after many years absence and won various prizes. By organizing the event, SHTA hopes to both put country Sint Maarten in the spotlight internationally as a top notch culinary destination, as well as to train a new generation of hospitality talent.

In preparation for the event the team hosts three more fundraising dinners after Thursday; on May 4 at the Ocean Lounge Bar & Restaurant in Holland House Hotel; on May 18 at Canoa Restaurant

in Oyster Pond and on May 31 at Temptation Restaurant in Cupecoy. All dinners begin at 7.30 p.m.

For reservations contact office@shta.com or calling 1-721 542 01 08. Tickets are \$95 per person, including a 4 or 5-course dinner paired with wine. Prearranged vegetarian menus are available.

"The organizing parties are still seeking additional sponsorship. We hope that the community of St. Maarten will join us in the effort to ensure the successful participation of the team, if you support our cause, please contact the SHTA office," the SHTA said in a press statement.

### South Reward ...

the area forward.

"We wanted to come together, in order to get the community more attractive. We were also disappointed with the initial representation that was being put forward, and we decided that if we worked together with them (the elected council), that better could be done for all within the community." "People were elected, and ever since then, they aren't even in St. Maarten because they left as soon as the elections were over...so who is representing the people who voted for the council to represent the people of South Reward. I think that this is a valid question to be asked to the 'council?'"

There is also a discussion being tabled for the distinctive separation of South Reward

### ... From page 3...

and St. Peters, as well as other communities throughout the Dutch-Side of St. Maarten.

"Some people still think that St. Peters and South Reward are the same place. That's a misconception, and here needs to be a distinction. There should actually be that clarification in a lot of areas throughout the island. And, don't get me wrong, it's not about separating the island, but distinguishing places from each other - giving each place its own identity."

"There are a number of communities throughout this side of the island that cannot be easily identified, because they are so close to a more recognizable place. We have to come together and see how we can get this organized."

### "Waste water is still ... From page 3...

issues where waste water is dumped into the Simpson Bay lagoon."

"So you have a situation where houses or businesses that have septic holding tanks, the septic tanks either leak into the lagoon directly or you have cases where they don't pump out the septic soon enough and when it rains it overflows into the lagoon," Bervoets said. There have been those in the yachting community who also dump their waste water into the

lagoon.

There has been a decline in lagoon habitat as a result of the pollution, Bervoets points out. "The Simpson Bay Lagoon used to be the largest lagoon in the northeastern Caribbean but because of land filling, land reclamation and the removal of mangroves etc. it is now the second largest after Codrington lagoon in Barbuda," he said. Despite the challenges, the Nature Foundation continues

Continued on page 5

# Road March King Rumer is looking out for his brother



The three time Road March winner, 'King Rumer' during his award winning performance which earned him his third title. Photo today / Milton Pieters

**GREAT BAY** - With his third Calypso Road March title under his belt, most would think that Rumari V. Rogers stage name 'King Rumer' would be thinking about a fourth title. Instead his next move is to offer the necessary support to his brother, Rumini Rogers aka Young Carlis, 'The Protege' when he steps onto the stage in the 2017 Nagico Calypso finals on April 20 followed by the Soca Rumble on the 25th. Despite the fact that he now has three titles, the Road March finals which took place

last Saturday on the Ring Road was just another step in the musical journey for 'King Rumer' which he later described as not easy to accomplish. "I felt like I was up against a wall, like I was about to face Goliath, so I had to 'David' myself and put up a fight," 'King Rumer' said. As the defending champion, 'King Rumer' said that he was not intimidated in any way by any of the other participants. Instead his aim was to improve on his last performance.

"I had to make sure I was better than how I was last year," he noted. According to 'King Rumer' it was his brother that approached him with the idea of throwing shots at the other participants and that is what they did. "He wrote one of the verses and I wrote the other two and that is how that song came about." Now his name will certainly secure a place in the musical history books on St. Maarten as the first singer to win a Road March title in three consecutive years.

# Damaged cable put dent in international UTS-calls

**GREAT BAY** - UTS customers experienced difficulty placing international calls during the afternoon yesterday. One of UTS' fiber optic cables on Union Road in the Cole Bay area was accidentally damaged by another company carrying out trenching activities. UTS technicians ascertained the cause of the outage, which occurred at 11 a.m. and escalated the matter immediately for resolution by the parties at fault. Service was restored fully at 5 p.m. The damaged fiber optic cable transports UTS' international voice calls to the international realm through one of the company's international routes, running through the French side. This route was one of various routes to complete in-

ternational calls. However this had become the company's main route since the damaged SMPR1 fiber optic cable went, and remains, out of commission as a secondary route. The outage was however of minimal impact to customers as the Chippie and Caribserve networks remained otherwise functional. 'We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to our customers that were not able to place international calls this afternoon. Due to the outage we regrettably also had some limitations in providing customer support to those visiting us for assistance. All routes and systems have in the meantime been restored and we are able to provide full support again,' says UTS Marketing

and Communication Officer Ivy Lambert. 'More and more, apps such as Skype and Whatsapp are taking the place of the traditional overseas calls for our customers, and as such the effects of the outage were less than if this had occurred five years ago. Thankfully our infrastructure team has also designed our networks in such a way that CaribServe broadband and Chippie data services are provided through a different international route and as such were not affected by the outage. We sincerely thank those customers that were inconvenienced for their patience as we resolved the matter and also commend our technical team for their swift action in pin-pointing the cause.'

## Professor Salt:

# "Christian concerts can be alternative to Carnival"

**GREAT BAY** - During the Carnival season, there are not many events catering to people in the Christian community, who usually do not participate in Carnival activities. To compensate for that, a pastor and gospel music concert promoter Cornelius Marie, better known as Professor Salt, is presenting an event known as "Worship Without Apology" featuring American gospel singer Jonathan Nelson slated for June 2. "The concert will be right after the Carnival season. It would have been nice to have it during the Carnival season because it gives Christians a way out of Carnival. Whether you want to believe it or not Carnival is attractive and if people are not strong or grounded spiritually, they would be drawn into the revelry. The concert gives people something to look forward to," he said.



Jonathan Nelson. Photo contributed

"Folks can say they don't need to go Carnival because they have a concert to go to with Jonathan Nelson." Salt, who is also a radio broadcaster, said the event will be an annual one and will feature artists he has featured on his radio show. "As a radio personality, I play most of the songs that people like and I realize it becomes more meaningful when people can see those folks that sing those songs," he said. "So one of our ministry's

mission is to ensure that the songs that are being played on the radio, that people get to see who the artists are," he added. Salt hopes that the event will also attract people who are not Christians but want to be part of the event. "(Non-Christians) as well can come to the concert because who knows a blessing awaits them there. Who knows they might get saved right there at the concert. We know secular people

love gospel just the same as Christians," he said. Meanwhile, speaking about plans to make the concert an annual event, Salt said they are hoping to feature international gospel singer Sinach. "We decided that it will be an annual event because the name is so catchy 'Worship Without Apology.' Next year we're trying to have Sinach so we're trying to plan as early as possible so we can have her here for next year."

# Israel Houghton delights fans



Israel and New Breed live at the Festival Village on Saturday. Photo contributed

**GREAT BAY** - The Israel and New Breed Live Encounter gospel concert at the Festival Village Saturday was a success by most accounts. For one, the turnout was good and better than expected for gospel events. But it's the performances of headline act Israel Houghton and New Breed, being in St. Maarten for the first time that was the highpoint of the concert. Houghton titillated fans with several of his hits including "Jesus at the Center," "Te Amo," "Friend of God," "You are Good" and many more. The electrifying live performance was unlike any other as hundreds of fans sang along to his every word. His musicians and singers were on point and the fans appreciated it with shouts and shrills as he rolled out hit after hit in a constant flow. He was pleased with the reception, impressed with the response from his fans and

told them how he enjoyed his stay in St. Maarten. Prior to Saturday night's show, Houghton performed in Anguilla the day before. It was not just Houghton who brought the praise to the Festival Village. Other local artists got in on the action including Shernel from French St. Martin and Christian rapper Torch. Omar Ewen, formally of NBR Radio in Anguilla took to the stage and ushered the concert into worship, performing a slew of Christian worship songs. He ended his set by performing his debut single "You Can" which will be released in a few weeks. "The St. Maarten crowd is a very electrified people. It doesn't take much. Just to see the response of St. Maarten, to stand there and to minister and just to see how they're getting involved, connecting and tuning in and worshipping it was just great man," Ewen

said about his performance. Also performing was Jai Kingston from Jamaica. He last performed on St. Maarten several years ago and he was pleased that patrons still remembered his music. He did some of his hits including "Can't Take My Lord" and "David Dance" before doing his new single which is slated to be released soon. Bringing down the curtains on the event was Tobago artist Positive. He was definitely a crowd favorite performing hits like "Two Man Army," "Sweeter," "Eviction Notice" and more. Additionally, he shared his testimony of how his mother and sister died years apart and how his life was turned around by his faith in God. After the concert ended, Positive talked about how thrilled he was to be back in St. Maarten, only a year after he last performed at the Zamar Muzik Fest.

## "Waste water is still dumped in the ...

... From page 3...

to get assistance from the Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority (SLAC), Vromi and the Department of Maritime Affairs. These organizations are working on prosecuting perpetrators, but Bervoets said that these agencies are understaffed and also tasked with other environmental responsibilities. Several fines have

been given to persons who have broken these laws. To address some of these challenges, Nature Foundation is hoping for a resolution to the building of the waste water treatment plant and conduct mangrove restoration. "The largest mangrove restoration project that we've done so far was after the Causeway

was built. Quite a bit of mangroves were removed for the building of the Causeway but we got support from the harbor to replant 1,500 mangroves," he said. Three acres of mangroves have been restored in the area where the bridge was built.

# Yo! Ho! Ho! And a bottle of rum In the spotlight

By Tyrone Hodge

"As a CCB depositor whose entire bank balance was erased by the dissolution of the bank, let me warn the citizens of Anguilla. What passes for a government on that island can and will take what it wants from you with the stroke of a pen....I predict it will be a very long time before any significant business brings its money to the island. Those of us who saw our hard-earned money go up in smoke will do what we can to remind the financial world that piracy is still alive and well on the island of Anguilla." ~ CCB Depositor Harry Munns

Those words my fellow Anguillians are the words of someone, whose money was eviscerated as he said, with the stroke of a pen. It is hard to mount a defense against what has happened to our island, when we are seen as nothing more than thieving pirates. It does not bode well for us as a people or a country for that matter, for as Mr. Munns said, "It will be a long time before any significant business brings its money to the island."

I know the general consensus out there is enough with this banking stuff, we are tired of hearing about it, let us get on with our lives. Well that's all well and good, but if you care about this place we call the rock, you are going to have to bear with me, for what has happened is atrocious and unacceptable.

That we are being looked at now in the same vein as pirates, should not come as a surprise to anyone, for look at what we were a party to? True, we weren't the ones who signed the document that destroyed the banks, and even though we mounted a tepid protest to our government's actions, we nevertheless have gone along with it.

Some people may look at this as an issue of the few who went out there and borrowed money and now can't pay it

back as their problems and no one else's. Well, take a look at the local paper and see the amount of properties that are being put on the auction block from Captain Bay to Little Anguillita and in between. It affects us all whether or not you borrowed money from the bank.

What has happened was illegal and immoral and I'm surprised that no one has seen it fit to mount a legal challenge to the Central Bank. What they have done will result in damages of up to a half billion US dollars, and while we're talking dollars, we can speculate where that money will come from.

Anguilla has always been seen as a 'shipwrecked community,' whose affinity for the land has been immemorial. That we are now willing to let that land slip through our fingers without one hell of a fight is unconscionable. When you see someone's business that he or she has labored over for the last ten or fifteen years, being put on the auction block, try to put yourself in that person's shoes. Do you honestly think that that person is going to roll over and play dead? Then you don't know the Anguillian spirit.

It is a given fact that when you borrow money from the bank and you have defaulted for whatever reason, your fault or not, it's the bank's prerogative to recoup its losses from your collateral. That's a given, but at the same time it is expected that your government would do everything in its power to make sure what is presently happening in Anguilla, doesn't. What did any of the governments and the British do to help the people of Anguilla?

The irony here isn't I'm sure lost on those of us who are old enough to remember the hard times that we had to endure, and I'm reminded of something that the late Ronald Webster said in the dog days of the revolution, when he admonished those

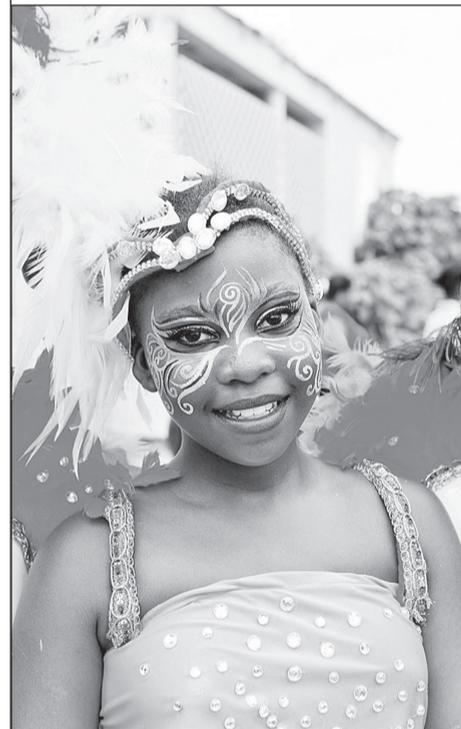
who were about to side with Robert Bradshaw, that they should "stay out of Anguilla's business to which they had contributed nothing." And now they stand to benefit from our misfortunes.

What is happening in Anguilla today will have far reaching consequences, for only are we not leaving anything for future generations, we have saddled them with a debt that they and future generations will have to pay. We have seen what the world has done to Haiti, and we ought to be shocked and disgusted to know that our very own government, people who we elected, has done this to us, and once again under the watchful eye of the British government.

We are being re-colonized and de-populated and that doesn't seem to bother the powers that be. We are graduating children from high school in large numbers who then have no future in Anguilla and as a result, are forced to do what my generation did not so long ago, head for distant shores and a better way of life.

As patriotic Anguillians, we have to take stock of what we have and how we hold on to it. We have some very hard choices to make, the first of which is to rid ourselves of this government which seems not to have a clue; secondly, we need to remove ourselves from the Central Bank then sue them for maladministration; thirdly, to file an injunction against our own government for passing laws that are injurious to us, and last but not least, to hold those who brought this on, accountable. We have lots of work to do and with the help of God, we'll get there. Let us fight to get those depositors their money back and in the process redeem our image as honest and decent people. Let's take our country back from the interlopers who currently have us by the throat. Until next time, may God help us and may He continue to help Anguilla.

Pictures by Milton Pieters



## "Government must acknowledge ...

growing and acknowledge it publicly," she said.

"They have to see it as their priority. My son, when I look at him now, the sacrifice was very, very big for me personally.

I lost a lot because I put my whole life on the line, my career, my marriage, everything I put on hold for this child," she said.

Nadal-Rombley traveled with her son to Holland for several years for him to get help because she was not getting any assistance locally. She said when she got to the Netherlands, the professionals there told her she almost got there too late because if her son was a bit older, there would be little they could do to help him. She is also calling for more awareness about autism on the island for both parents struggling with the children who have the condition, but also for people who do not

know how to interact with autistic children.

That awareness she noted should be passed down to the schools as some teachers do not know how to help autistic children.

"The police force must know how to deal with somebody with autism. They might arrest somebody or call somebody to stop and based on their strange reaction the police might arrest them and abuse them. If they understand what autism is and how to deal with it then they would have a different approach to them. So awareness has to happen in the community," she said.

In Friday's article, Nadal-Rombley lamented how schools on St. Maarten refused to accept her son because of his condition. Additionally, the school that supposedly was designed for this, the Prins Willem Alexander School is not fully

... From page 1...

equipped to cater to autistic children, according to Nadal-Rombley's research.

In a passionate plea, Nadal-Rombley also appealed to fathers of autistic children to play a more active role in their lives. She noted that in all the cases she has seen like herself, it is mostly mothers who have taken on the role of helping their autistic children. The fathers are nowhere to be found.

"They have to accept their responsibility, because it's both parents created that child so both should be there," Nadal-Rombley said.

It's Nadal-Rombley's dream to have a foundation set up on St. Maarten to help parents deal with autism, organize workshops to help parents with autistic children and to lobby government and Parliament to allow access to AVZB funds to help deal with the challenges of autism on St. Maarten.



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

## The new Jesus

The German Minister of Justice Heiko Maas wants to impose heavy fines on social media companies that do not remove fake news and hate messages fast enough from their sites and who do not provide the names of the hatemongers. If the law becomes a reality - and there is a good chance that it will, companies may expect fines of up to €50 million when they fail to comply. The bosses of Facebook and Twitter can also be indicted and they will face a maximum fine of €5 million.

In St. Maarten, gossip websites are able to write pretty much anything they like - be it twisted news or outright lies - without any fear of repercussion.

The German law has to be approved before the national elections on September 24, Bert Wagendorp notes in the Volkskrant where he examines the sense and nonsense of the law. Angela Merkel's government foresees that things will get tough and rough around the elections on social media and that the troll-factories will be making overtime.

Half February Facebook-CEO Mark Zuckerberg published his manifest Building a Global Community. In it he describes the social paradise that will become a reality due to Facebook, the "social infrastructure for a better world" and the "foundation for the whole society." In that society it is safe, everybody is involved with everybody and nobody is excluded - under the condition that they are on Facebook. Disinformation and fake news are a thing of the past.

A well-intended hallelujah; Mark Zuckerberg is the new Jesus. Much wealthier than the first one, but we are living in different times now.

For starters Facebook announced action against so-called revenge porn - a rather deplorable form of hatemongering. Of course, this is only the tip of the iceberg of hate that is puked all over social media every day. YouTube announced recently

that it will begin using smart computers against extremist messages. Not that they were shocked all that much by them, but because before and after those messages there were ads from Coca Cola and Unilever; those companies were not too happy with it. With many of those Silicon Valley tycoons you never know exactly where the Messianic missionary zeal ends and the commerce begins, but with Zuckerberg profit-expectations are playing an important role. It is better for the turnover to be known as a high flying philanthropist than as the distributor of hate, violence and sex movies. Calvé peanut butter is not too fond of that kind of stuff.

Facebook is therefore intensely searching for artificial intelligence that recognizes hatred. The letters to the editor section of a newspaper can still do this manually, but with 1.8 billion letter writers that often post more than one message a day that is not manageable anymore.

Facebook users are able to report hate-messages, but they only see the messages in their own bubble and seldom the shit that appears in other bubbles. So you need a smart computer. The question is: what is hatred? Where is the line between hatemongering and freedom of expression? Computers ought to become even smarter to deal with this.

Minister Maas is of the opinion that there has to be as little tolerance for criminal expressions on social media as there is for those expressions on the street. Here, Wagendorp agrees: social media are the street, with a gutter, drains and the underlying sewers.

Facebook and Maas both want the same thing - be it for different reasons, he notes. But will the distribution of hatred, a typical human emotion as old as love, let itself be muzzled by laws, fines, algorithms and super smart computers?

## The return of censorship

In the Netherlands we did not hear anything about it, let alone in St. Maarten, but two weeks ago Stéphane Charbonnier, once the editor-in-chief of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, was murdered for the second time, historian Geerten Waling writes in this op-ed that earlier appeared in the Volkskrant.

"After the ritual slaughter of Charb by a Muslim terrorist in 2015, this time his legacy became the prey of the 'censure sécuritaire.' The rector of a university in Lille decided to cancel a theater performance of Charbonnier's posthumously published book 'Letter to the hypocrites that feed racism.' He feared riots due to the 'oppressing opinion climate' in France.

Director Gérald Dumont said that he was not surprised: his company has had trouble for a long time finding theaters that dare to present the controversial show; all this while the communist Charbonnier (vzmh - a Dutch abbreviation for peace be with him) emphasizes in his book that Charlie Hebdo opposes Le Pen as much as it opposes religion.

A blanket of censorship is taking our breath away. If I had asked the editors of the Volkskrant to post a cartoon of Mohammed with this op-ed, they would refuse. And justly so. Who wants the fate of Flemming Rose, the editor of the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten who can only live under heavy security since the publication of a couple of Mohammed cartoons in 2005? Which draftsman dares to mock the prophet still, knowing that colleague Kurt Westergaard has to fear bloodthirsty jihadis?

Recently two immigrants who know very well what it means not to be free posted outcries on the internet. A Chechen mother in the Netherlands and an Iraqi student in Belgium both declared that they are apostates, that they left the faith, but that they can never say this in public. Anno 2017, in the midst of our community, the death penalty is waiting for them.

In our democratic constitutional states that the state has the monopoly on violence - in theory; in the real world the state is powerless against the threat of violence that censors us. Self-censorship is maybe even worse, at least more

humiliating than enforced censorship; but it is extra painful if the two go together.

Do you remember our zealous minister Donner (CDA), who thought that the public slaughter of Theo van Gogh in 2004 was the moment suprême to reinvigorate the scornful blasphemy (the law of grandfather Donner from 1932)? And cartoonist Gregorius Nekschot who was arrested in 2008 at the instigation of CDA-Minister Hirsch Ballin and his zealous inter-departmental working group cartoon problems?

Sybrand Buma (again, CDA) said last summer: "As long as freedom of expression is the highest asset in our community, it will turn to nothing." That freedom, Theodor Holman wrote, is for religious people always "a wasp that bugs them and that they want to beat to death." Examples of European constitutional states that trample upon the freedom of expression are numerous and eerie, Paul Cliteur shows in his book 'Bardot, Fallaci, Houellebecq, Wilders' (2016).

I regularly think about Martin Schulz, who fulminated against the Islam-critical movie Innocence of Muslims as the chairman of the European Parliament. He said "that this kind of blasphemous films ought to be forbidden. I strongly condemn not only the content, but also the distribution of such a film."

Later this year the man has a chance to become the leader of the government of the most powerful country in Europe. The same Germany announced this week an outright censorship law, with fines of up to €50 million for social media that do not intervene within 24 hours if a user for instance denies the Holocaust.

In the Netherlands public prosecutor Theo Hofstee muttered that it is rather complicated to prosecute columnists. "Sometimes they use terms of which we really have to research whether they are punishable. Sometimes those investigations take a long time. You are actually allowed to say quite a lot in the Netherlands."

Self-control is quite a challenge if you have the power to silence displeasing opinions. The Inquisition and Stalinism were only phenotypes - but the trend of silencing displeasing opinions is back though it never really left us."

## Think before you act

Dear Editor,

My wife and I recently heard about the possibility of a Timeshare Authority being established in St. Martin. We understand that St. Martin has already established a Timeshare Consumer Protection ordinance. We appreciate that effort. It seems that this new bureaucracy is not needed and will most likely cost timeshare owners as much as \$200 more a week. As a retiree an additional tax is a cost that may force us to choose another island to visit. We love Aruba also.

My wife and I started coming to St. Maarten / St. Martin 14 years ago on our 20th anniversary. We fell in love with the island and have established great friendships in our many visits. We travel from San Diego and always face challenges getting to St. Martin. Most Californians go to Hawaii so there aren't any direct flights to St. Martin. We pay more for flights and have longer flights in order to get to the Friendly Island. An additional \$200 or more dollars a week for an unneeded additional bureaucracy does not make St. Martin a friendly island.

We are timeshare owners at the Divi Little Bay. We also have another time share that we trade for a second week. My wife is an incredible planner and manages a way each year for us to stay three weeks. This June we will be staying at the Divi for two weeks,

three days at Simpson Bay and three days at Orient Beach. We always feel sorry for people that come to join us and only have a week to spend. In all of our visits this is the first year we have stayed on the French side for just three days. I'm of Dutch ancestry and love the Dutch side.

We have stayed at the La vista, Bel Air Beach, Simpson Bay, Summit Resort and the Divi. We have tried the Bahamas, Antigua, Aruba, Curacao, Grand Cayman and Cancun. St. Martin became our destination vacation not only for the beautiful beaches and great food but also for the fantastic friendly people we have met. I am always amazed how the wonderful people of St. Martin manage to stay so friendly. Laurencia our activities planner has been a close friend for years. I know tourism is your main industry and I sense a true friendly nature on this island. I hope the government doesn't change it by additional taxes. Our friend Laurencia may suffer greatly as she is dependent on tourism. Please think before you act.

1st Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Thank you St. Martin for bringing my wife and I weeks of wonderful vacations.

Joel and Judy Kooyers  
Valley Center, CA

## Adding insult to injury

Dear Editor,

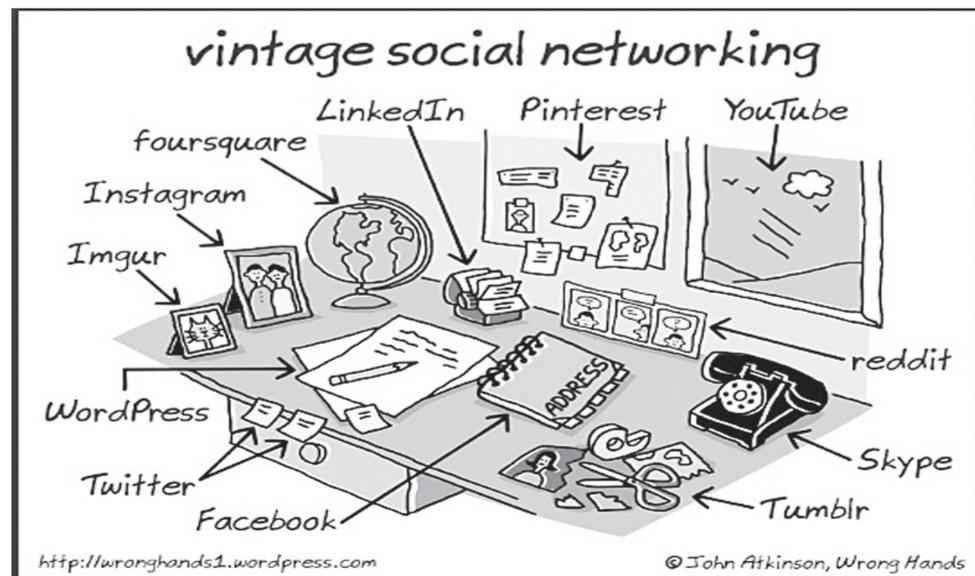
It is my understanding the government may establish a Timeshare Authority. I own two weeks at the Royal Palm Beach, and have been abused by Diamond Resorts as they increased my maintenance fees from \$770 to over \$1,700 per week.

I was hoping the SXM Dutch government would stop the abuse and help to control the costs.

But, I believe the Authority is going to charge me another \$200 per week, which is "adding insult to injury".

I can guarantee you that I will never ever return to SXM if instead of helping timeshare owners, the Authority adds fees upon the abusive maintenance fees we now pay.

Jeff Norensky



### Qurrent's sponsor deal does not make everyone happy

**ROTTERDAM** - Dozens of members of the Qurrent energy cooperative, which prides itself on its green credentials, are up in arms about a new shirt sponsorship deal with soccer club Feyenoord, the Volkskrant reported yesterday. Over 200 people have placed critical comments on the cooperative's community page, complaining about the agreement and dozens say they will cancel their contracts.

'I consider I am being abused for aims I do not support and I want to end my contract as soon as possible,' one member said. The terms of the deal, which will run for four years,

have not been made public, but broadcaster NOS put the annual cost at €4.5 million. This is enough to build 100 energy neutral houses a year, one Qurrent member pointed out on the website.

Director Richard Klatten says the deal with Feyenoord is important to the company's growth strategy. 'The entire country needs to switch to green energy and that is why our name needs to be better known,' he said. 'Many of those we currently work with see the Feyenoord agreement as an investment in sustainability.'

Qurrent, which is currently having a loss, hopes to book

its first profit in 2019. It is owned by the Doen foundation, which is funded by the national postcode lottery and two other lotteries. The post-code lottery was founded by millionaire Boudewijn Poelmann who is a major Feyenoord fan. 'He played cupid between Feyenoord and Qurrent,' Klatten told the Volkskrant. The deal will also allow Qurrent 'specific' access to Feyenoord's fan database. 'Who is to say there is no-one in it who is interested in green energy,' Klatten said. 'We can come up with all sorts of initiatives. Maybe we'll generate power with a Feyenoord wind turbine.'

# Amsterdam bans beer bikes from city center



Beer bikes should be gone from the city center by November. Photo Depositphotos.com

### Government plane sold to Australian airline

**THE HAGUE** - The Dutch official government plane, which was bought in 1996 for 75 million guilders, has been sold to Australian Alliance Airlines, NOS reports. Acting infrastructure minister Melanie Schulz told parliament the airline paid €3.7 million for the Fokker 70 which was used by the government and the royal

family for official visits. The PH-KBX, whose last three letters refer to Queen Beatrix, is no longer up to standard and has a limited range.

It cannot, for example, cover the distance between the Netherlands to the Antilles without a stop-over. During a state visit by the Queen Máxima and King Wil-

lem-Alexander to Australia last year the plane was only used for internal flights and was flown to Australia without its royal cargo, taking 2.5 days to do so.

The government has now opted for a Boeing 737 Business Jet which will set the taxpayer back €89 million.

**AMSTERDAM** - The beer bikes beloved by tourists on stag weekends will be banned from the center of Amsterdam in November, the city's mayor Eberhard van de Laan has decided. The ban had been due to come in this January but was delayed following a legal challenge from the bike owners.

The bikes, propelled by increasingly merry tourists, have become a major nuisance to locals and clog up traffic, the council claims. Amster-

dam city council banned the beer bike last year but owners successfully appealed the decision in court.

They said the council had failed to provide a corridor for the beer bikes to go from the center to parts of the city where the ban would not be applied.

This would make it impossible for the beer bike companies, which usually store their vehicles in the center, to do their jobs.

Van der Laan said a corridor

will still not be on the cards because the city center is busy enough as it is.

The new deadline gives companies enough time to find alternative locations to store their bikes, he said.

'This is as close to the decision of the court and the interests of the beer bike companies as possible.

The ultimate goal remains to ban the beer bikes from the center,' the Parool quotes Van der Laan as saying.

### Man arrested for blowing up ATMs

**AMSTERDAM** - Dutch police have arrested a 28-year-old man on suspicion of blowing up seventeen ATMs in Germany between February and May last year, the Telegraaf writes. His accomplice is still on the run, German police said. The two are suspected

of being part of the so-called Audi gang, a group of around 250 people from the Utrecht and Amsterdam areas who are targeting ATMs in Germany because Dutch ATMs have become more difficult to break into. The gang use Audis to make a quick getaway in the

direction of the Dutch border. In February two alleged members of the group were killed when their car left the Autobahn at high speed. The two suspects had been on the police radar since May, the Telegraaf said.



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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

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# INTERNATIONAL SECTION

## During border visit, Sessions outlines immigration plan



Attorney General Jeff Sessions, center, arrives for a tour of the U.S.-Mexico border with border officials in Nogales, Ariz. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

NOGALES, Ariz. (AP) -- Attorney General Jeff Sessions toured the U.S.-Mexico border Tuesday and unveiled what he described as a new get-tough approach to immigration prosecutions under President Donald Trump. The nation's top law enforcement official outlined a series of changes that he said mark the start of a new era to rid American cities and the border of what he described as "filth" brought on by drug cartels and criminal organizations. He announced the changes at a news conference following a morning tour of the border that included visiting a port of entry, where he exited an SUV in a white shirt and baseball cap before entering a restricted area. He later visited with Customs and Border Protection officers and agents. Sessions credited Trump for a steep drop-off of border apprehensions this year and said the administration will bring

more felony prosecutions against immigrants entering the country illegally. "This is a new era. This is the Trump era," he said. "The lawlessness, the abdication of the duty to enforce our immigration laws, and the catch and release practices of old are over." Sessions answered only a few questions from reporters following his remarks. He said all prosecutors would carefully protect the civil rights of people charged with crimes, and he defended Trump's proposed border wall, saying it will be another tool to fight illegal immigration amid efforts within the Justice Department and other branches of government to punish and deter border crossers. "The barrier, the wall, will have a great and positive impact and will continue our ability to follow through on a commitment to end the lawlessness," Sessions said. Sessions has been expand-

ing the Justice Department's role in the anti-immigration agenda of the Trump administration. But his speech Tuesday during his first visit to the border offered the most comprehensive look yet at his plans for federal prosecutions of those in the country illegally. He directed the nation's federal prosecutors in a Tuesday memo to prioritize immigration-related cases, with an eye toward targeting people who cross the border illegally and those who come back after being deported. Sessions urged federal prosecutors to intensify their focus on immigration crimes such as illegal crossing or smuggling others into the U.S., even though such prosecutions are already happening on a large scale. Half of federal arrests in 2014 were for immigration-related offenses, according to a Pew Research analysis released this week, based on the most recent federal statistics.

## Spicer says even Hitler didn't use chemical weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) -- White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said Tuesday that Adolf Hitler "didn't even sink to using chemical weapons" - a comment at odds with Hitler's use of gas chambers to exterminate Jews during the Holocaust. Spicer was attempting to discuss the horror of the chemical weapons attack last week in Syria, which the Trump administration is blaming on President Bashar Assad. "We didn't use chemical weapons in World War II," said Spicer, adding that "someone as despicable as Hitler... didn't even sink to using chemical weapons." Minutes later, Spicer delivered a garbled defense of his remarks in which he tried to differentiate between Hitler's actions and the gas attack on Syrian civilians last week. The attack in northern Syria left nearly 90 people dead, and Turkey's health minister said tests show sarin gas was used. "I think when you come to sarin gas, there was no, he (Hitler) was not using the gas on his own people the same way that Assad is doing," Spicer said. "There was clearly ... I understand your point, thank you. There was

not ... He brought them into the Holocaust center I understand that." "I appreciate the clarification. That was not the intent," he said. After the briefing, Spicer emailed a statement to reporters: "In no way was I trying to lessen the horrendous nature of the Holocaust. I was trying to draw a distinction of the tactic of using airplanes to drop chemical weapons on population centers. Any attack on innocent people is reprehensible and inexcusable." Spicer's comments came on the first day of Passover and a day after the White House held a Seder dinner marking the emancipation of the Jewish people, a tradition started during the Obama administration. According to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Nazis experimented with poison gas in late 1939 with the killing of mental patients, which was termed "euthanasia." Both mobile and stationary gas chambers were later used, with up to 6,000 Jews gassed each day at Auschwitz alone. It was the second day in a row in which Spicer appeared to have trouble articulating the president's foreign policy at a

critical time. On Monday, the White House was forced to walk back remarks Spicer made from the podium that the use of barrel bombs by Assad's government might lead to further military action by the United States. In an exchange with reporters Monday, Spicer appeared to draw a new red line for the Trump administration when he told reporters that if a country gasses a baby or it puts "a barrel bomb into innocent people, I think you will see a response from this president." Until Monday the administration had maintained that last week's airstrikes were in response to the Syrian government's use of chemical weapons against its own citizens. A White House spokesman said later that "nothing has changed in our posture" and the president retains the option to act if it's in the national interest. The comments about Hitler immediately reverberated through the Jewish community. The New York-based Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect called on Trump to fire Spicer, saying he denied that Hitler gassed Jews during the Holocaust.

## Kentucky doctor who was dragged off jet had checkered past

CHICAGO (AP) -- The man dragged from a full United Express flight by airport police in Chicago is a Kentucky physician who was convicted more than a decade ago of felony charges involving his prescribing of drugs and spent years trying to regain his medical license. But while the passenger's unflattering history quickly became the focus of attention, there's no indication that his past influenced how he was treated or that the airline or police were aware of his background. And it's unlikely that officials would have known anything about him other than basic information such as his name and address, if that. A person with knowledge of the Sunday evening flight who was not authorized to publicly release the information told

The Associated Press that the passenger was David Dao, 69, of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Dao did not return messages from the AP. Screaming can be heard on the videos, but nowhere is Dao seen attacking the officers. In fact, he appears relatively passive both when he was dragged down the aisle of the jet and when he is seen standing in the aisle later saying quietly, "I want to go home, I want to go home." When cellphone videos taken by other passengers first emerged, they generated widespread sympathy for Dao and sharp criticism of the airline. The chief executive of the airline's parent company initially released a statement saying that United wanted to talk to the man. But Oscar Munoz later began defending

his employees, describing the passenger as "disruptive and belligerent." That comment suggested that Dao's actions could be examined closely by United and the Chicago Aviation Department, though it remains unclear what role Dao's past might play in those investigations. On Tuesday, Munoz issued another statement describing the removal as "truly horrific" and offering his "deepest apologies." "No one should ever be mistreated this way," he said. Munoz pledged to review the company's policies for seeking volunteers to give up their seats, for handling oversold situations and for partnering with airport authorities and local law enforcement. The company planned to share results of the review by April 30.

### 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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# Tillerson in Moscow: Pushing on Syria where Obama failed



US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson steps out of a plane upon arrival in Moscow's Vnukovo airport, Russia. (AP Photo/ Ivan Sekretarev)

MOSCOW (AP) -- The Trump administration veered toward deeper conflict with Russia Tuesday as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrived in Moscow, gambling that an unpredictable new president armed with the willingness to threaten military action gives the U.S. much-needed leverage to end Syria's carnage. Yet there were no guarantees Tillerson's arguments would prove any more successful than the Obama administration's failed effort to peel Russia away from its Syrian ally. Tillerson's mission, coming days after 59 Tomahawk missiles struck a Syrian air base, also carries serious risks: If Russia brushes off the warnings, President Donald Trump could be forced into another show of force in Syria or see his credibility wane. "I hope that what the Russian government concludes is that they have aligned themselves with an unreliable partner in Bashar al-Assad," Tillerson said before flying to the Russian capital, referring to Syria's embattled leader. "The reign of the Assad family is coming to an end," he confidently predicted. But Tillerson's claim is one President Barack Obama, too,

argued for years, only to see Assad outlast his own term in office. And the Trump administration's nascent Syria policy seems to be increasingly centering on the same tactic Obama unsuccessfully employed: persuading Russia, Assad's staunchest ally, to abandon him. The parallels haven't gone unnoticed by Russian President Vladimir Putin as U.S. officials have accused his military of knowing about Assad's recent chemical weapons attack ahead of time and trying to help cover it up. Calling for a U.N. investigation, Putin held to his claim that it was actually Assad opponents who introduced chemical weapons into Syria's harrowing civil war. "We have seen it all already," Putin said. Jabbing at U.S. credibility, the Russian leader reminded reporters about unfounded U.S. claims of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, used to justify America's 2003 invasion. The escalating dispute over last week's events in the Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun has thrust Washington and Moscow into a level of tension rarely seen since the end of the Cold War. The animosity is especially striking given widespread

speculation that Trump, who lavishly praised Putin during his campaign, would pursue rapprochement with Moscow. Even on Syria, the positions appeared to be hardening. Only a week ago, top Trump officials had spoken off de-prioritizing past U.S. efforts to remove Assad from office and accepting the "reality" that 18 months of Russian military intervention had secured him in power. Since last Thursday's cruise missile strike, Tillerson and other U.S. officials appear to have reverted to the past administration's rhetoric of insisting that Assad is on the way out, without outlining any strategy for making that happen. The Trump administration's change of heart, apparently spurred in part by the president's emotional response to the images of chemical weapons victims, also is serving another purpose: defanging the perception of coziness between Trump and Moscow. As the FBI and multiple congressional committees investigate potential collusion between Russia and Trump's campaign, the president can point to his hard-line stance on Assad as fresh evidence he's willing to stand up to Putin.

# Churches in southern Egypt will not celebrate Easter

CAIRO (AP) -- Egyptian churches, in the southern city of Minya, said on Tuesday that they will not hold Easter celebrations in mourning for 45 Coptic Christians killed this week in twin bombings of churches in two cities during Palm Sunday ceremonies. The Minya Coptic Orthodox Diocese said that celebrations will only be limited to the liturgical prayers "without any festive manifestations." Minya province has the highest Coptic Christian population in the country. Copts traditionally hold Easter church prayers on Saturday evening and then spend Easter Sunday

on large meals and family visits. Parliament approved on Tuesday President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi's decision to declare a three-month state of emergency following the attacks, an action seen as a foregone conclusion since the legislature is packed with el-Sissi supporters. The Cabinet declared it had gone into effect as of 1 p.m. on Monday. The unicameral chamber preliminarily approved amendments to a set of laws on Monday aimed at speeding up the trials of those charged in terrorism-related cases. Following the attacks, el-Sissi

ordered the formation of a new body called the "Supreme Council to Combat Terrorism and Fanaticism". Sunday's bombings, claimed by the Islamic State group, are the latest escalation by the extremist group -- which recently vowed to step up its attacks against Egypt's embattled Christian minority. The group had claimed responsibility for the December bombing of a church adjacent to St. Mark's Cathedral in Cairo, one of the most symbolic religious sites for Egyptian Copts. That explosion killed 30 worshippers and injured dozens.

# University student killed in Venezuela opposition protest

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) -- Venezuelan authorities on Tuesday were investigating the death of a university student killed by gunfire at a protest against President Nicolas Maduro, as opposition leaders mapped out their next steps to push for new elections and government officials held a gathering to drum up state support. Daniel Queliz, 20, was killed late Monday after being shot in the neck in Valencia, a city east of Caracas where students have actively participated in the protests that erupted April 1 following a Supreme Court decision to strip Congress of its last remaining powers -- a decision later reversed. It was not immediately clear where the bullet came from, though opposition leaders quickly decried the death as another example of the Venezuelan government's excessive use of force in countering protests. Security forces have been using tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds, while several opposition leaders have been roughed up and bloodied while participating in demonstrations.

Government officials blame the opposition for inciting violence and detained 18 people Monday. Human rights organizations and countries including the United States are calling on Venezuela to allow protesters to gather and refrain from unnecessary use of force, adding to mounting international pressure for the Andean nation's government to hold elections and respect democratic institutions. "The existence of isolated acts of violence during protests cannot justify a blank restriction of the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression or the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force against demonstrators," the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights said Tuesday. Queliz's father told local media his son was at Monday's demonstration "like any other youth," when gunshots were fired and people began running. He said his son had "bad luck" to be caught in the melee. "I need an answer from the highest level of the state," Alexander Queliz said of his

son's death. Members of the opposition-controlled National Assembly showed up at the National Guard's headquarters in Caracas early Tuesday to deliver a document denouncing the government response to the protests. Speaking directly to officers at the National Guard's entrance, National Assembly president Julio Borges said they could decide either to be the heirs of independence leader Simon Bolivar or "the bodyguards of Nicolas Maduro." The National Assembly later held a special meeting with dozens of civil society members to establish an agenda and create working groups with the goals of holding elections, letting humanitarian aid enter the country, restoring democratic institutions and freeing those deemed political prisoners. Venezuela has struggled with triple-digit inflation, food and medical supply shortages amid an ongoing economic slump. According to human rights groups, there are more than 100 political prisoners in Venezuelan jails.

# Indonesian corruption investigator attacked with chemical

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) -- Police said an anti-corruption commission investigator leading a probe into a scandal that threatens to implicate high-profile Indonesian politicians was attacked Tuesday with a chemical as he returned from dawn prayers. Novel Baswedan was attacked by two assailants on a motorcycle after leaving a neighborhood mosque, Jakarta police spokesman Argo Yuwono said. He said police are still investigating. Baswedan's face was heavily bandaged when he was photographed at a hospital. Local media described the incident as an acid attack. The Corruption Eradication

Commission is currently prosecuting a case in which it alleges about 80 conspirators and several companies stole more than a third of the funds provided for a \$440 million electronic identity card system in 2011 and 2012. Some of those allegedly implicated have key roles in President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's governing coalition. They include the justice minister, a former interior minister, the current speaker of parliament and two provincial governors. The names were revealed in an indictment presented to a special corruption court last month at the start of a trial of two Interior Ministry officials. Jokowi condemned the attack

on Baswedan as "barbaric" and said he has ordered police to capture the assailants. A statement from the commission said it "strongly condemns the barbaric act." They described it as form of terror and part of efforts to weaken the commission. "We assert that we will not retreat a single step whatever the consequence, because we believe that the struggle against corruption could not be stopped," the commission said. Baswedan was arrested by the national police in May 2015 when he was accused of fatally shooting a detainee while serving as a police officer in Bengkulu province in 2004.



Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) investigator Novel Baswedan, center, who was injured in an attack by unidentified assailants sits in a wheelchair as he leaves the general hospital where he was treated in to be transferred to an eye hospital, in Jakarta, Indonesia. (AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim)

## North Korea decries US carrier dispatch as parliament meets

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) -- North Korea's parliament convened Tuesday amid heightened tensions on the divided peninsula, with the United States and South Korea conducting their biggest-ever military exercises and the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier heading to the area in a show of American strength.

North Korea vowed a tough response to any military moves that might follow the U.S. decision to send the carrier and its battle group to waters off the Korean Peninsula.

"We will hold the U.S. wholly accountable for the catastrophic consequences to be entailed by its outrageous actions," a spokesman for its Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying by the state-run Korean Central News Agency. The statement followed an assertion by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson that U.S. missile strikes against a Syrian air base in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack carry a message for any nation operating outside of international norms. He didn't specify North Korea, but the context was clear enough.

"If you violate international agreements, if you fail to live up to commitments, if you become a threat to others, at some point a response is likely to be undertaken," Tillerson told ABC's "This Week."

Pyeongyang is always extremely sensitive to the annual U.S.-South Korea war games, which it sees as an invasion rehearsal, and justifies its nuclear weapons as defensive in nature. It has significantly turned up the volume of its rhetoric that war could be on the horizon if it sees any signs of aggression from south of



In this image made from video released by North Korean broadcaster KRT North Korean leader Kim Jong Un holds up the Supreme People's Assembly card in Pyongyang, North Korea. (KRT via AP)

the Demilitarized Zone.

"This goes to prove that the U.S. reckless moves for invading the DPRK have reached a serious phase of its scenario," the North's statement said, referring to the country by its formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "If the U.S. dares opt for a military action, crying out for 'pre-emptive attack' ... the DPRK is ready to react to any mode of war desired by the U.S."

In Washington, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said President Donald Trump has been very clear that it's "not tolerable" for North Korea to have nuclear-armed missiles. "The last thing we want to see is a nuclear North Korea that threatens the coast of the United States, or, for that matter, any other country, or

any other set of human beings," Spicer said at the Tuesday news briefing. Trump spoke last week with China's President Xi Jinping about the "shared national interest" in stopping its close ally, North Korea, from having nuclear capabilities, Spicer said, adding that it would be helpful if China was more outspoken on the matter. "He would welcome President Xi weighing in on this a little bit more," Spicer said. Earlier Tuesday, Trump also said that he tried to persuade Xi to put pressure on North Korea in exchange for a good trade deal with the U.S. "I explained to the President of China that a trade deal with the U.S. will be far better for them if they solve the North Korean problem!" Trump tweeted.

## G-7 ministers appeal to Russia on Syria but reject sanctions

LUCCA, Italy (AP) -- The Group of Seven industrialized nations on Tuesday urged Russia to pressure the Syrian government to end the six-year civil war, but rejected a British call to impose new sanctions on Moscow over its support of President Bashar Assad.

Foreign ministers from the seven countries said Moscow must change its attitude to Assad if there is to be hope of ending the brutal conflict that has destabilized the Middle East, driven millions to escape Syria and further frayed relations between the West and Russia.

"Russia can be a part of that future and play an important role," U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said.

Or, he added, it could maintain its alliance with Syria, Iran and militant group Hezbollah, "which we believe is not going to serve Russia's interests' longer term."

Tillerson flew straight from the summit in Italy to Moscow, carrying the G-7's strong desire for a new start in Syria, but few concrete proposals to

make it happen.

The G-7 blames Assad's military for a deadly chemical attack last week that killed more than 80 people. Ministers meeting in the walled Tuscan city of Lucca strongly supported U.S. missile strikes that targeted a Syrian air base believed to have been used to launch the attack. But they were divided about how to deal with Syria, and Moscow. Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, who hosted the G-7 gathering, said "there is no consensus for further new sanctions."

"We must have a dialogue with Russia," he said. "We must not push Russia into a corner." Instead of sanctions, the meeting's final communique called for an investigation by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to determine who was responsible for the "war crime." The U.S. and Britain say there is little doubt Assad's forces are culpable.

The group's stance was a rebuff to British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who

said Monday the G-7 was considering new sanctions on Russian military figures to press Moscow to end military support for the "toxic" Assad government. U.S. officials in Washington have also raised that prospect.

Others argued for a more conciliatory approach. German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said Russia, and Assad ally Iran, must be involved in any peace process to end Syria's six-year civil war. "Not everyone may like it, but without Moscow and without Tehran there will be no solution for Syria," he said.

Johnson put a positive spin on the outcome, saying there could still be sanctions on Russian military officers if an independent investigation into the chemical attack identifies perpetrators.

The G-7 members - Germany, France, Britain, Canada, Japan and current president Italy, as well as the U.S. - are also trying to grasp what the U.S. administration's foreign policy is, amid conflicting signals from Washington.

## Abduction of Qatar royals in Iraq now involves hackers, \$2M

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) -- A member of Qatar's ruling family has paid \$2 million to a Greek shoe salesman's firm to secure "proof of life" and ultimately free relatives and others kidnapped in Iraq over a year ago, presumably by Shiite militiamen.

The payment, disclosed in U.S. Justice Department documents examined by The Associated Press, shed new light on the opaque world of private hostage negotiation in the Middle East in a case that now involves hackers, encrypted internet communication and promises of millions of dollars in ransom payments.

The rare disclosure suggests Qatar could be trying to be more transparent with Washington, its main Western ally. The energy-rich country has long faced allegations of not doing enough to stop money from reaching Islamic extremists, including those fighting alongside the rebels in Syria. "I just wonder if this is some way of twisting Qatar's arm to try to break off its funding, supplies and so on to these sorts of groups," said Chris-

topher Davidson, a professor of Middle East politics at Durham University in Britain. "For them still to be missing all this time indicates it's not just about money."

The Qatari, Khalifa bin Fahed bin Mohammed Al Thani, signed a contract dated March 8 with a San Diego-based firm called Global Strategies Council Inc., according to documents filed to the Justice Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The contract called for a \$2 million payment up front, a large sum that's rare among other organizations filing these disclosures. The contract calls for the group "to obtain proof of life," speak to government agencies and "attempt to negotiate with captors for the release of captive members of the royal family of Qatar."

Though not naming the Qataris held, the documents provide the first Qatari acknowledgment that those kidnapped included ruling family members. Al Thani, the chairman of KBF Trading and Contracting Co. in Doha, did not respond to requests

for comment. Asked about the \$2 million payment, Qatar's Government Communications Office issued a statement to the AP saying the U.S. firm was "retained by a Qatari citizen acting in a private capacity."

"We consider the hostage issue in Iraq of the utmost importance and it remains our top priority," the government said. "We continue to engage in securing their safe release." The Dec. 16, 2015, abduction happened at dawn at a desert camp near the Saudi border in the southern Muthanna province, some 370 kilometers (230 miles) southeast of the capital, Baghdad. Gunmen kidnapped some two dozen Qataris and support staff who taking part in a falconry hunt. In April 2016, the Qatari Foreign Ministry said one of the hunters and "his Asian companion" were freed, but no word of the hostages has been made public since. The United Nations has said children were among those seized. Iraqi officials say they have no new information about the kidnapping, but suspicion has fallen on Shiite militias.

## 'Sliding into catastrophe': South Sudan famine could spread

AWEIL, South Sudan (AP) -- Two months after the world's youngest nation declared a famine amid its civil war, hunger has become more widespread than expected, aid workers say.

South Sudan's Northern Bahr el Ghazal region is on the brink of starvation, with 290,000 people at risk of dying without sustained food assistance. Humanitarian workers say conditions will only deteriorate as the lean season approaches. In February, South Sudan and the United Nations formally declared a famine in two counties in Unity State. Northern Bahr el Ghazal's five counties now face the same fate.

"All five counties are sliding into catastrophe," said an aid worker who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the issue. "If it

wasn't for food assistance, this place would be at a level five famine."

Northern Bahr el Ghazal and its 1.4 million residents have remained relatively peaceful during South Sudan's three-year civil war. But due to soaring inflation fueled by the conflict, harsh climate conditions and its remoteness, this region has become severely affected by hunger.

"I'm worried that one day I'll die with my children because we can't get food," said Abuk Garang. The young mother stared at her son's emaciated legs while he anxiously tugged at her breasts.

The boy, William Deng, was born in September, yet he looks more like a newborn. Unable to draw any milk, the child chokes back tears and begins gnawing on his fist.

Garang tries to console him,

but she knows he's famished. "We've only eaten leaves for three days," she said. "If there's no food, he'll die."

When Garang heard that food was being distributed in a nearby town, she and thousands of others flocked there in desperation. After hours of waiting, she beamed and pointed to her new bag of sorghum, then shielded her face, embarrassed by her excitement.

One by one, others staggered into aid group World Vision's food distribution compound. Some had hobbled through the bush on one good leg, while others had walked for hours with bloody feet under the sweltering sun.

A steady stream of women with weak children strapped to their backs and babies attempting to nurse could be seen for miles.



Abuk Garang holds her 7-month-old son William Deng, as she and others walk to a food distribution site in Maluakuel in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal region of South Sudan. (AP Photo)

# MARKETPLACE SECTION

## COMMODITIES & FUTURES OVERVIEW

### FUTURES & INDEXES

8:27 p.m. EDT 04/11/17

FUTURES	LAST	CHANGE
Crude Oil	53.53	0.13
Natural Gas	3.171	0.021
Gold	1277.1	2.9
Copper	2.61	-0.00
Coffee	142.50	0.35
Corn (¢)	367.25	0.75
Lean Hogs (¢)	73.875	0.600
Live Cattle (¢)	113.675	1.375
Soybeans (¢)	941.5	2.2
Sugar (¢)	16.78	0.16
Wheat (¢)	433.0	-0.2
Lumber	401.7	7.9

## CURRENCIES

8:36 PM EDT 4/11/2017

	LAST(MID)	CHANGE
Euro (EUR/USD)	1.0608	0.0002
Yen (USD/JPY)	109.66	0.04
Pound (GBP/USD)	1.2489	-0.0002
Australia \$ (AUD/USD)	0.7506	0.0007
Swiss Franc (USD/CHF)	1.0072	-0.0003
WSJ Dollar Index	90.50	0.01

## Exchange Rates: New York Closing Snapshot

U.S. Dollar foreign-exchange rates in late New York trading

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Country/currency	IN US\$		US\$ VS. % CHG		PER US\$	
	Thurs	Wed	1-Day	YTD	Thurs	Wed
<b>AMERICAS</b>						
Argentina peso	0.0641	0.0654	1.91	20.5	15.5910	15.2985
Brazil real	0.2913	0.2918	0.18	-13.3	3.4331	3.4268
Canada dollar	0.7374	0.7385	0.15	-2.0	1.3561	1.3541
Chile peso	0.001491	0.001507	1.10	-5.3	670.80	663.50
Colombia peso	0.0003207	0.0003227	0.63	-1.8	3118.00	3098.50
Ecuador US dollar	1	1	unch	unch	1	1
Mexico peso	0.0483	0.0478	-1.05	20.3	20.6970	20.9164
Peru new sol	0.2913	0.2938	0.87	0.5	3.4330	3.4034
Uruguay peso	0.03560	0.03557	-0.07	-6.1	28.0900	28.1100
Venezuela bolivar	0.10014972	0.10014972	unch	58.4	9.9851	9.9851

### ASIA-PACIFIC

Australian dollar	0.7555	0.7545	-0.13	-3.5	1.3236	1.3254
China yuan	0.1460	0.1467	0.48	5.5	6.8479	6.8151
Hong Kong dollar	0.1289	0.1289	...	0.1	7.7587	7.7586
India rupee	0.01472	0.01480	0.53	2.6	67.91500	67.55400
Indonesia rupiah	0.0000743	0.0000748	0.76	-2.7	13467	13365
Japan yen	0.00922	0.00937	1.63	-9.9	108.42	106.68
Kazakhstan tenge	0.00292	0.00295	1.24	1.2	342.86	338.67
Macau pataca	0.1242668	0.1251408	0.70	0.5	8.047	7.991
Malaysia ringgit	0.2304	0.2287	-0.72	0.9	4.3411	4.3726
New Zealand dollar	0.7117	0.7115	-0.03	-4.0	1.4051	1.4055
Pakistan rupee	0.00954	0.00955	0.13	-0.05	104.85	104.71
Philippines peso	0.0203	0.0204	0.38	5.0	49.1850	49.0000
Singapore dollar	0.7067	0.7079	0.17	-0.2	1.4150	1.4126
South Korea won	0.0008555	0.0008584	0.34	-0.6	1168.91	1164.91
Sri Lanka rupee	0.0067645	0.0067696	0.07	2.5	147.83	147.72
Taiwan dollar	0.03131	0.03142	0.37	-3.0	31.94	31.83
Thailand baht	0.02817	0.02825	0.28	-1.5	35.500	35.400
Vietnam dong	0.00004477	0.00004478	0.02	0.8	22338	22332

### EUROPE

Bulgaria lev	0.54900	0.55494	1.08	1.2	1.822	1.802
Croatia kuna	0.1429	0.1446	1.20	-0.2	6.9976	6.9143
Czech Rep. koruna	0.03972	0.04017	1.13	1.2	25.178	24.896
Denmark krone	0.1442	0.1459	1.12	0.9	6.9326	6.8559
Euro area euro	1.0737	1.0857	1.12	1.2	0.9314	0.9211
Hungary forint	0.00345507	0.00350803	1.53	-0.4	289.43	285.06
Iceland krona	0.008861	0.008916	0.62	-13.3	112.86	112.16
Norway krone	0.1180	0.1192	0.98	-4.2	8.4740	8.3921
Poland zloty	0.2428	0.2456	1.16	5.0	4.1192	4.0719
Romania leu	0.2378	0.2399	0.89	1.2	4.2052	4.1682
Russia ruble	0.01514	0.01520	0.37	-8.2	66.035	65.788
Sweden krona	0.1092	0.1100	0.69	8.4	9.1559	9.0928
Switzerland franc	1.0020	1.0122	1.02	-0.4	0.9980	0.9879
Turkey lira	0.3040	0.3078	1.27	12.8	3.2900	3.2488
Ukraine hryvnia	0.0390	0.0390	0.16	7.0	25.6700	25.6300
U.K. pound	1.2492	1.2593	0.81	18.0	0.8005	0.7941

### MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA

Bahrain dinar	2.6532	2.6523	-0.03	-0.1	0.3769	0.3770
Egypt pound	0.0645	0.0605	-6.23	97.9	15.4990	16.5290
Israel shekel	0.2597	0.2606	0.36	-1.1	3.8512	3.8372
Kuwait dinar	3.2884	3.2789	-0.29	0.2	0.3041	0.3050
Oman sul rial	2.59750	2.59676	-0.03	0.01	0.38	0.39
Qatar rial	0.2747	0.2746	-0.03	-0.1	3.6401	3.6411
Saudia Arabia riyal	0.2666	0.2666	unch	-0.1	3.7507	3.7507
South Africa rand	0.0694	0.0698	0.52	-6.9	14.4095	14.3354

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**CENTRAL BANK  
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# This age of wonkery

By David Brooks

If you were a certain sort of ideas-oriented young person coming of age in the 20th century, it was very likely you would give yourself a label and join some movement. You'd call yourself a Marxist, a neoconservative, a Freudian, an existentialist or a New Deal liberal.

There would be certain sacred writers who would explain the world to you — from Jung to Camus, Dewey or Chesterton. There'd probably be a small magazine where the doctrines of your sect would be hammered out.

People today seem less likely to give themselves intellectual labels or join self-conscious philosophical movements. Young people today seem more likely to have their worldviews shaped by trips they have taken, or causes they have been involved in, or the racial or ethnic or gender identity group they identify with.

That's changed the nature of the American intellectual scene, the way people approach the world and the lives they live.

In his book, "The Ideas Industry," Daniel W. Drezner says we've shifted from a landscape dominated by public intellectuals to a world dominated by thought leaders. A public intellectual is someone like Isaiah Berlin, who is trained to comment on a wide array of public concerns from a specific moral stance.

A thought leader champions one big idea to improve the world — think Al Gore's work on global warming.

As Drezner puts it, intellectuals are critical, skeptical and tend to be pessimistic. Thought leaders are evangelists for their idea and tend to be optimistic. The world of Davos-like conferences, TED talks and PopTech rewards thought leaders, not intellectuals, Drezner argues.

Intellectual life has fallen out of favor for several reasons, he continues. In a low-trust era, people no longer have as much faith in grand intellectuals to serve as cultural arbiters. In a polarized era, ideologically minded funders like George Soros or the Koch brothers will only pay for certain styles of thought work.

In an unequal era, rich people like to go to Big Idea conferences, and when they do they want to hear ideas that are going to have some immediate impact — Jeffrey Sachs's latest plan to end world poverty or Amy Cuddy's findings on how to adopt the right power stance.

Drezner doesn't call this a decline, just a shift (let's not underestimate how silly and wrong some of the grand, sweeping intellectuals could be). But I'm struck by how people's relationship to ideas has changed.

In the first place, public thinkers now conceive of themselves as legislative advisers. Drezner writes a book called "The Ideas Industry," but he is really writing about public policy. When George Orwell, Simone de Beauvoir or even Ralph Waldo Emerson were writing, they were hoping to radically change society, but nobody would confuse them with policy wonks. Second, there was a greater sense then than now, I think, that the very nature of society was up for grabs. Call it a vestige from Marxism or maybe Christianity, but there was a sense that the current fallen order was fragile and that a more just mode of living was out there to be imagined.

Finally, intellectual life was just seen as more central to progress. Intellectuals establish the criteria by which things are measured and goals are set. Intellectuals create the frameworks within which politicians operate. How can you have a plan unless you are given a theory? Intellectuals create the age.

Doing that sort of work meant leading the sort of exceptional life that allowed you to emerge from the cave — to see truth squarely and to be fully committed to the cause. Creating a just society was the same thing as transforming yourself into a moral person.

For George Orwell, this meant being with the poor and the oppressed — living as a homeless tramp in England, a dishwasher in Paris, getting shot through the neck as a soldier in the Spanish Civil War. It meant teaching himself how to turn political writing into an art form.

For the Italian Communist Antonio Gramsci, it meant committing fully to ideas, even if it meant years in prison, and doing the rigorous mental work required for a life of hard thinking. He was as left as can be, but he believed in traditional school curriculums, the tough grinding of learning Latin and Greek grammar. "It will be necessary to resist the tendency to render easy that which cannot become easy without being distorted," he wrote.

It also meant joining a tradition and a team. There were a whole set of moral tests involved with obedience to the movement, breaking ranks when necessary, facing unpleasant truths, pioneering a collective way of living, whether feminist, Marxist or libertarian.

The 20th century held up intellectuals like that, and then discredited them — too many were too wrong about communism and fascism. But we've probably over-adjusted, and deprived a generation of a vision of the heroic intellectual. It's good to have people who think about North Korean disarmament. But politics is most real at a more essential level.

## Today INTERNATIONAL OPINION



## Is Russia testing Trump?

By Michael J. Morell and Evelyn Farkas

This week Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is making his first diplomatic visit to Russia, where he's likely to press Moscow on its handling of Syria, which he has called "incompetent." But Mr. Tillerson should recognize that Russia's involvement in Syria is only one example of the increasingly active, and disruptive, role that President Vladimir Putin has been playing on the world stage since Donald Trump's inauguration. In January, Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine, most likely at the direction of Mr. Putin, ramped up their fight against Ukrainian government forces, bringing the violence there to its highest level in a year and a half.

This is a direct challenge to the Minsk Agreements — signed by Russia and Ukraine, engineered by Germany and France, and backed by the United States — designed to freeze the war and pave the way to restoring peace.

In mid-February, Mr. Putin decreed that Russia would recognize the passports issued by two separatist governments in eastern Ukraine.

Later that month, in a move approved or at least condoned by Mr. Putin, the breakaway territory of Luhansk in Ukraine announced that the Russian ruble would become its official currency.

Both actions are examples of the creeping assertion of Russian sovereignty over parts of eastern Ukraine.

Again in January, Russia moved troops near the border with Belarus, designed to pressure Belarus to accept an increased Russian military presence on its territory. And in March, the Kremlin ordered the incorporation of the armed forces in South Ossetia, one of two breakaway territories in Georgia, into the Russian military.

Meanwhile, last month Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, the top American general in Europe, told Congress that Russia and the Afghan Taliban are growing increasingly close, suggesting that the Kremlin is supplying the insurgent group with weapons. Matériel support would be a significant escalation of Russia's involvement with the Taliban, and it would undercut American efforts to stabilize Afghanistan.

It would also put the 9,000 American and 5,000 NATO troops there at increased risk.

Two weeks ago, the commander of American forces in Africa, Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, observed that Russia's role in Libya is deepening, with its special forces on the ground in Egypt just over the border with Libya.

He noted Russian support for the powerful Libyan commander Khalifa Haftar, who is resisting the United Nations-recognized government in Tripoli.

And of course, last week Russia denied that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad used sarin gas against his own people. This is the latest in Russia's broad and deep diplomatic and military

support for the Syrian dictator, who has killed some 200,000 of his people and displaced half his population.

All of these steps have a common thread.

Mr. Putin, who wants political control over neighboring countries and to be seen as a great global power, is testing President Trump. He wants to see how far he can go until we say "enough."

While Mr. Putin must realize the Trump administration is unlikely to be able to roll back Western sanctions on Russia, as Mr. Putin originally hoped, he may think Mr. Trump's still unexplained infatuation with him will allow him to move aggressively, without American resistance.

What has the Trump administration done to respond to all of the above?

There have been strong words from Vice President Mike Pence and Defense Secretary James Mattis, and particularly from the American ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley. But so far there has been no condemnation from Mr. Trump and, most important, no action.

The administration needs to set out a clear policy toward Russia.

It must communicate clearly what is unacceptable and strengthen its deterrence, and in that way establish its negotiating position, so that it can effectively and realistically explore areas for cooperation.

The signaling needs to start with the president. He must deliver a speech asserting American interest in trans-Atlantic security and speak resolutely on the right of states to choose democracy, a free-market economy and membership in NATO or the European Union.

America's Russia policy must include continued funding for troop presence and exercises on NATO territory, and training and equipment for non-NATO partners at risk from Moscow. At the same time, it should restart discussions with Russia on nuclear, conventional and now cyber-arms control to lower the temperature in areas of potential danger.

The president must also condemn Russia's continued support for Mr. Assad and the deliberate Russian bombing of civilians in Syria, and press for Russia to support a transition in Syria. Bombing an airfield isn't enough.

And of course, the administration must denounce Russia's interference in American elections and make clear that such behavior will not be tolerated again.

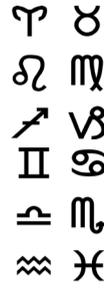
Whether the president likes it or not, Mr. Putin's Russia views the United States as its adversary, and it is working to undermine America around the world. Mr. Putin has accomplished a great deal in only a few weeks. President Trump needs to say "enough."

He can start by having his secretary of state deliver that message when he visits Moscow this week.

# 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** - Avoid all kinds of hazardous activities over the next 24 hours. A full moon in your opposite sign warns you are likely to come off second best in situations where you are not in full control of events. Play it safe Aries, just this once.

**TAURUS, APRIL 20 - MAY 20** - You have a lot to smile about at the moment and there will be even more good news before the end of the week. Today, however, you must be cautious, especially on the work front where, if you take on too much, you could be a casualty!

**GEMINI, MAY 21-JUNE 21** - You will be called on to calm things down today, which is amusing seeing as it is you who usually stirs things up! The full moon warns you need to take a balanced view of certain disputes - do NOT favor one side more than the other.

**CANCER, JUNE 22-JULY 22** - What happens over the next 24 hours will wake you up to the fact that you have been a bit too limited in your thinking of late. If you insist on looking in one direction only then your horizons will inevitably be narrower than they need to be.

**LEO, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22** - Other people will try to judge you today but you must make it clear to them that you do not recognize their authority. Only you know what it is you have been trying to do and therefore only you can decide if your efforts have been a success

**VIRGO, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22** - It may be understandable that you want to shield someone you love from the consequences of their actions but in the long-term it's a bad idea. A bit of tough love is called for today, the kind you will be thanked for one day in the future.

**LIBRA, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22** - Others are impressed by your can-do attitude but because there is a full moon in your sign you must not make too many promises or commitments. Certain people's emotional reactions could put a damper on your efforts to reach your goals.

**SCORPIO, OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21** - You will need to call on some powerful friends for assistance. They will, of course, be happy to help but are more likely to do so if you don't come on too strong. Try not to make it sound as if you are making demands - they won't like that.

**SAGITTARIUS, NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21** - Try to slow things down a bit today. If you move too fast you could find that your plans don't work out the way you anticipated. Nothing is so urgent that it has to be done this very minute. Take your time and get it right.

**CAPRICORN, DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19** - A full moon in the career area of your chart suggests that others have the upper hand at the moment but your strength and staying power will help you get back on top again. Overcoming obstacles, both real and imagined, is what you do best.

**AQUARIUS, JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18** - There are things going on behind the scenes that will change your circumstances dramatically over the next few weeks, so don't take anything too seriously and don't make changes when you don't have to. Everything will make sense in the fullness of time.

**PISCES, FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20** - If certain people hint that they will do things for you if you do things for them first that's a sure sign that you cannot trust them. Put your own needs first over the next 24 hours. Look out for Number One - because no one else will.

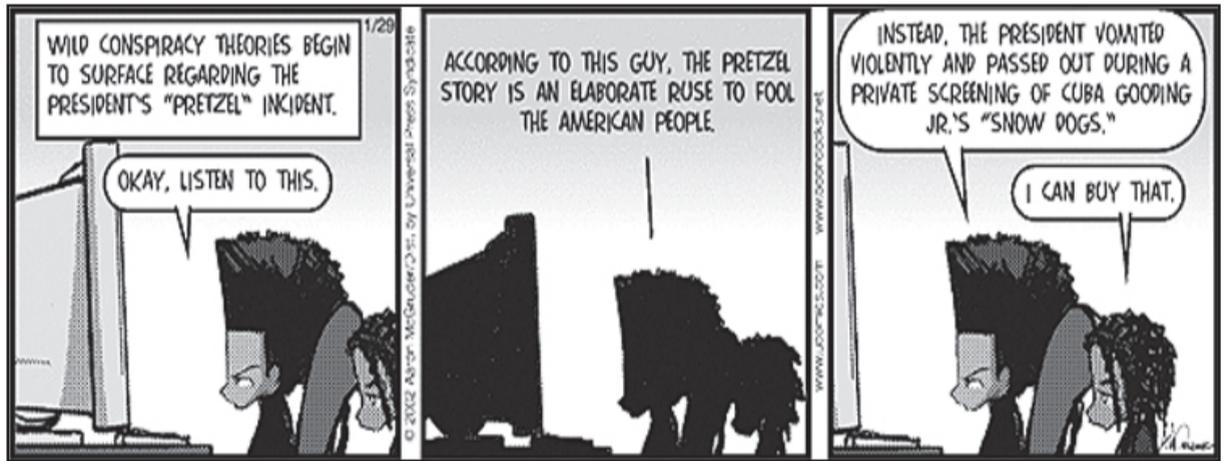
## CATHY



## BLONDIE



## BOONDOCKS



## AMAZING SPIDERMAN



## DOONESBURY



## TODAY NEWSPAPER WORD OF THE DAY:

**LIVELONG** (LIV-lawng)  
: whole, entire

The farmhands worked hard all the livelong day and finally fell into their beds, exhausted, well past sundown.

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



# Sint Maarten Government Info Page

[WWW.SINTMAARTENGOV.ORG](http://WWW.SINTMAARTENGOV.ORG)

120417



**For JOB VACANCIES visit [www.sintmaartengov.org/employment](http://www.sintmaartengov.org/employment)**

### Civil Registry Department URGENT NOTICE

The Civil Registry Department would hereby like to inform the general public that due to unforeseen circumstances at this moment no drivers licenses and identification cards can be issued until further notice. This is due to a severe technical issues applications cannot be processed. Please keep on hand your receipt as proof of payment.

You are invited to retrieve your documents if the application was submitted on:

- **ID applications submitted before January 29th, 2017**
- **Driver's license applications submitted before February 16th, 2017**

This issue is a priority to us, we are working diligently to have this inconvenience remedied as soon as possible. A notice will be published when this issue has been resolved.

**Persons are advised to check the validity of their documents, if necessary to come in to the office and begin the renewal application process. All applications will be accepted that comply with requirements, clients are required to supply a hard copy passport sized photo not older than six (6) months.**

**Philipsburg branch** : Walk-ins: Monday –Friday (except Wednesdays) 8.00am – 10:00am  
 Appointments: Monday – Friday afternoon; Wednesdays by appointment only

**Public Service Center (Simpsonbay)**  
 Walk – ins **only**: Monday –Friday (except Wednesdays) 8:30am – 12:00PM  
 Wednesday 8:30 – 12:00PM (no appointments)

For any further information you can contact the department at 54 22457 or [burgerzakensxm@sintmaartengov.org](mailto:burgerzakensxm@sintmaartengov.org).

Management would like to apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause.

### MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TRAFFIC AND TELECOMMUNICATION (TEATT)

The Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic and Telecommunication (TEATT), herewith makes the following known that:

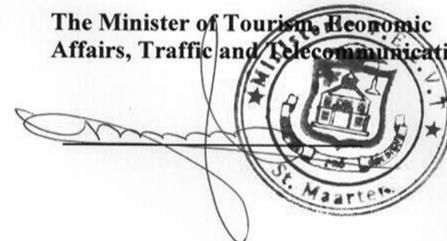
Friday, April 14, 2017 (Good Friday) is an official holiday. In keeping with the Law on Shop Closure, all places of business must be closed on this day. This includes all stand-alone casinos.

In accordance with Article 3 of the Law on Shop Closure, the afore-mentioned is not applicable to the following businesses:

- Pharmacies, as far as it concerns the sale of medicine and medical products;
- Bars and restaurants;
- Hotel and guesthouses;
- Stores located in hotels and on airport and harbor premises;
- Funeral parlors;
- Gas stations and
- Bakeries selling pastries, milk and milk products

No dispensation will be granted for places of business to be opened on Good Friday, April 14, 2017, unless otherwise stipulated by the Minister of TEATT.

The Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic and Telecommunication



### CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE CLOSURE

The Civil Registry would like to inform the general public of the following half day office closure.

- On **Thursday, April 20th, 2017** our offices will be closing at **12:00P.M.** sharp
- On **Friday April 21st, 2017** our office will be closed for the **ENTIRE DAY**

This closure will be at both locations (Philipsburg and Public Service Center in Simpsonbay)  
 Regular working hours will be resumed on Monday, April 24th, 2017

Management apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

### MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & LABOUR GOVERNMENT MEDIATOR

In accordance with article 1, Paragraph 2 of the "Arbeidsvredebesluit III"(AB2013, GT no. 353) the Government Mediator hereby makes known that the Managing Board of N.V. Gemeenschappelijk Electriciteitsbedrijf Bovenwindse Eilanden (NV GEBE). has requested to hold a referendum among the Staff of said Company.

Please be also advised of the possibility for labour unions to express-within fourteen(14) days after this notification has first appeared in the local daily newspapers, their desire to participate in the requested referendum to the Government Mediator.

A labor union will only be allowed to take part in the referendum when it can submit evidence that:

1. It is an incorporated association;
2. Its statutes explicitly mention that it is authorized to enter into Collective Labour Agreements;
3. It can supply sufficient evidence, to the satisfaction of the Mediator, that the majority of the category or categories of employees are members of said association.

Philipsburg, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
  
 Ms. Marcellina J.C. Loblack  
 Government Mediator

### More Movement for Elderly Activity Schedule by

White and Yellow Cross Care Foundation  
 April 2017

On schedule for Saturday April 15th 2017 for residents 60+ years  
**Location: St.Martin's Home/St.John's Estate Rd.6**

**Time: 10.30 a.m.- 12.00 p.m.**

Available every 3rd Saturday of the month @ St.Martin's Home

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	<b>15</b>	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Department of Collective Prevention Services  
 Vineyard Office Park| Vineyard Building |Tel: 542-3002

**Our partners:**  
**I&I Fitness**  
**White and Yellow Cross Care Foundation (WYCCF)**  
**Windward Islands Physical Therapist Association (WIPTA)**  
**University of St. Martin (USM)/ School for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning (SCELL) & National Institute of Arts (NIA)**

## ISLANDS

## Brothers in court for "body dismembering" murder



Murder accused Dennil Ramsawak (left) and brother Derrick Ramsawak leave the San Fernando Magistrates' Court after appearing on the charge of murder. Photo: TREVOR WATSON

TRINIDAD (Express) - Dennil Ramsawak and his teenaged brother Derrick Ramsawak appeared in court on Tuesday charged with the murder of Deoraj Bedassie, who dismembered remains were found on April 5, a week after he went missing. The two appeared before magistrate Margaret Alert in the San Fernando Second Court. It was alleged that on a date

unknown between March 25 and April 5 at Black Street, Reform Village, they murdered Bedassie, whose head was found in a latrine pit. Dennil Ramsawak, 29 of Barackporre bent his head as the charge was read. The younger Ramsawak, 19 also of Barackporre wiped his eyes with his hand when Alert was finished. She told him them the offence

is non bailable but they are entitled to an attorney either through Legal Aid or privately. The pair were today represented by attorney Khelsey Maharaj. The siblings were remanded in prison custody until May 9.

The charges were laid by corporal Mitra Singh of Homicide Region III.

## Dominica Opposition Leader barred from entering Parliament building



Lennox Linton (Photo: CMC)

Dominica (CMC) - Opposition Leader Lennox Linton Tuesday said he had been prevented from entering the compound of the Parliament building and called for the removal of Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit from office. In a posting on his Facebook site, Linton, the leader of the main opposition United Workers Party (UWP) was seen at first to be in a verbal confrontation with police officers dressed in military fatigues. "That is what we are being reduced to today in Domi-

nica...You understand why Skerit must go. Skerit must absolutely go because of this nonsensical behaviour in a democracy. "You have people standing up in the Parliament building, in the compound telling the Leader of the Opposition he has no right in the compound of the Parliament, he must leave," an agitated Linton said. He said he had gone to the compound in an attempt to enter the building to retrieve documents he needed for a meeting with the Electoral

Commission consultants from the Commonwealth Secretariat who are visiting Dominica. "They are denying me access to my office. I cannot go to my office in the Parliament building. They tell me to get off the compound," he said. Linton said the action of the police was as a result of a "few patriots" (the words used to describe Opposition supporters) that had gathered near the state-owned DBS radio, which is a stone throw from the Parliament building. "Police have taken over the Parliament, police have taken over DBS radio, what a country, all because a few patriots have come together and they are here with placards," Linton said, showing pictures of a few supporters armed with placards outside the radio station. Linton has been leading the Opposition efforts to get Skerit out of office claiming that the government has been engaged in corrupt activities linked to the controversial Citizenship by Investment Programme through which foreign nationals are provided with citizenship of the island in return for making a substantial investment in the country.

## Guyana reviewing local bauxite industry

Guyana (CMC) - The Guyana government says it expects to receive a report soon on the review of the bauxite industry that was commissioned last year marking the centennial of the sector here. "We are currently reviewing the industry to see where our reserves are and the future of the industry," said Natural Resources Raphael Trotman. He said the review also "includes a decision as to whether or not we should have another alumina plant in the country?" He is also hoping that the

review being undertaken by Lance Carberry and Sylvester Carmichael, two veterans within the industry, will be completed before the end of May. Trotman said the David Granger government is already considering fuelling the alumina plant with the natural gas that it has found, along with oil. Guyana celebrated 100 years of bauxite mining in October 2016. There are two bauxite producing companies, Bosai and Rusal. The decreased world demand

for the mineral prompted the government to carry out the review of the industry. The review is also a manifesto promise of the administration. It will help to determine the future plans for the industry. In the 1980s Guyana lost its "leading" status among world bauxite producers. The alumina factory had to be closed, and the export of calcined ore declined by one half; that is, from around 600,000 tonnes to about half that amount.

## Home free: Suspects released in Melissa killing

TRINIDAD (Express) - TWO MEN detained in the killing of Claxton Bay printer worker Melissa Mohammed-Ramkissoo have been released from police custody without charge.

On Monday evening following instructions from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) the men were allowed to leave the respective police stations where they had been detained.

The two men were taken into custody following Mohammed-Ramkissoo's death last Tuesday. Mohammed-Ramkissoo, 33, of Cedar Hill, Claxton Bay, was pronounced dead on the compound of the Chaguanas Police Station, where she was taken by one of the suspects.

She had been shot in the head. Samples have been taken from the hands of both men who were last in the vehicle in which she was shot. The swabs have been sent for forensic testing for gunpowder residue. The results are expected to



Killed: Melissa Mohammed-Ramkissoo

be in the hands of homicide detectives within the next few days. Mohammed-Ramkissoo was shot in the head during an argument in a car at Carapichaima. One of the men fled the ve-

hicle and the other drove to the Chaguanas station. Police are investigating the case as a crime of passion. A senior homicide detective said that inquiries will continue in the case.

## Health workers in three parishes stage sick-out

Jamaica - Some categories of staff at primary healthcare facilities in Manchester, Clarendon and St Elizabeth have taken industrial action over uniform allowances owed to them by the Manchester Health Department for 2015/2016.

The workers, who had threatened to strike two Fridays ago if the health department did not pay up, called in sick this morning. Vice President of the National Workers Union (NWU), which represents the workers, told OBSERVER ONLINE a short while ago that the workers are demanding a timeline for receipt of their monies, which were to be paid for the period in lieu of

uniform material. Grant said the funds were approved for payment from April 2016 but to date no payments have been forthcoming from the Manchester Health Department. He said claims that the Southern Regional Health Authority had sent the costing to the Ministry of Health, have been disproved.

Brown insists that the workers would not let up until the authorities provide a satisfactory commitment to pay. Among the affected staff are community health care aides, drivers, attendants, patient care assistants, and psychiatric nursing assistants.

Jamaica - Some categories of staff at primary healthcare

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# Former minister calls for state of emergency in Trinidad and Tobago



Former minister of the people and social development, Dr Glen Ramadarsingh, interviewed by Caribbean News Now correspondent, Eve George

Trinidad -- In an exclusive interview with Caribbean News Now, former minister of the people and social development, Dr Glen Ramadarsingh expressed the view that the current government has to consider imposing a state of emergency because there is too much violent crime and bloodshed.

"Now we have areas in Trinidad where there are daily killing zones... crime is on a rampage, it's strangling the lifeline of the country, terror and bloodshed everyday in the newspapers, it's a very difficult time for our country," Ramadarsingh said.

He also addressed the controversial reports of human trafficking and organ harvesting in Trinidad and Tobago.

"We have seen enough evidence of it; we have seen videos posted on social media with organs missing and a lot of ladies missing and no ransom was demanded, so this is a very frightening development," Ramadarsingh said. Ramadarsingh was appointed to a brand new ministerial portfolio in June 2010 and he was determined to change humanity and socialism in Trinidad and Tobago for the better because he knew he could make a difference.

Even after the People's Partnership (PP) government of which he was part lost the 2016 general election to the People's National Movement (PNM), residents in the south of Trinidad continue to praise the former minister's ongoing efforts for the community.

While in government, Ramadarsingh's work gained him the respect and admiration of the United Nations in 2011 and the UN has maintained an ongoing friendly relationship with him since then. A couple of years ago, whilst visiting his constituency office and seeing the tremendous amount of work he was doing, one of his team members told me that most times when Ramadarsingh was in office he stayed in his constituency office until 11 pm at nights tending to the citizens in the country, making sure their needs were being met.

In contrast it now seems to be common practice for ruling politicians to steal citizens'

hard earned tax dollars and care nothing in return about the people.

In the past, local media houses have published fabricated stories about Ramadarsingh over the years, trying to discredit him and his works. Some journalists reportedly received large sums of cash from persons representing the PNM to discredit him.

Recently one PNM minister I interviewed, Darryl Smith, stated to me that on one occasion he overheard some journalist saying, "Don't ever let the truth come between you and a good story." I recently had the opportunity to interview Ramadarsingh on topics affecting our country and the world.

Q. What inspired your political career?

A. My dad was a local government councilor in 1983 so I grew up in a family with political lineage. I saw my dad when he was in office attend to needy persons from our home many times, sometimes late hours at night, and that's when I realized what genuine care and the need to help others was. The thing that made me happy was seeing persons happy and clapping in groups when my dad delivered. So I wanted to follow in his footsteps and help make the world a better place.

Q. Which was your greatest life experience?

A. I believe it will be the moment I became a doctor in veterinary medicine, also in my political life becoming minister of the people.

Q. What was your greatest challenge as minister of the people?

A. It will always be the homeless situation, socially displaced. It was a struggle working long days and nights to bring together all the ministries to form an interagency unit. We were able to get 56 persons from the streets into rehab, 12 persons back in society with three of them attaining high paying jobs. We also made a positive impact on the lives of 123 persons that once lived on the streets.

Q. Is our political socio-economic structure designed to work and enhance the lives of the middle class and less fortunate in our society?

A. I think it depends on the government and policies implemented by each government. I know for a fact that the People's Partnership government always put people first. We raised the minimum wage several times, proper health care had always been a priority for us, the building of the first ever children's hospital, we built several major establishments to help employ the poor and less fortunate.

Q. Do you believe that there is real anxiety existing in our country about the present economic situation, gainful employment, our children's future, our wildlife, the escalating crime and corruption situation and loss of religious and moral values?

A. Certainly I can tell you that people are losing jobs every day, the economic crisis, the international climate has affected us, oil and gas prices are low and, yes, we are in a very challenging time; it's not a time of plenty, crime is on a rampage, it's strangling the lifeline of the country, terror and bloodshed everyday in the newspapers, it's a very difficult time for our country and I think as a nation and a people we need to provide the social safety net to protect and catch those who are falling.

Q. What can we do as a people and country to counteract those narratives?

A. We need to design an action plan for the youths; we need to replace guns with a book, a laptop and smart phone that accesses constructive information and help make them entrepreneurial by creating opportunities to better their lives.

Q. Do you believe that socialism and humanity is under attack in our country by our leaders?

A. It is a very difficult time for the poor, people are getting poorer. We have cases where persons were put out of government housing development (HDC) homes and have to live on the streets; crime is now rampant so certainly humanity is under threat, our murder rate is one of the highest in the world and that's very sad for a nation which is rich in oil and gas.

# SOCU to hire more investigators

GUYANA (Kaieteur News) - The Special Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) will soon have new investigators to help with the more than 200 investigations that it is currently conducting. According to head of SOCU, Assistant Commissioner Sydney James, the investigators will be drawn from the police force and from among civilians who possess the requisite expertise to help in this regard.

James said that although staffing does not affect the work of the department additional staff will improve the efficiency of his organization. On the question of staffing being a challenge, James said that because many of the investigations are overlapping it's easy for the investigators to do their work.

"A lot of the forensic audits are interrelated. Sometimes you might take statements that may take you in several directions and consequently several other different investigations."

Addressing criticisms levelled against the organization, James said that he and his investigators are focused on professional delivery. These same sentiments were proffered by the Minister of Public Security, Khemraj Ramjattan, recently.

The SOCU head also pointed out that he was hired by the previous administration in 2014 and he was only doing the job that he was mandated to do. Further, the Assistant Commissioner of Police stated



Head of SOCU, Assistant Commissioner Sydney James

that his organization is not singling out any person or organization but it is simply going where the investigations lead.

Turning to the magnitude of malfeasance that SOCU is looking at James said that while he cannot give an exact figure he was sure it was many billions of dollars.

Responding to the question of if he has ever seen the level of corruption that his organization is currently investigating, James said that he was not going to comment on that issue but he only said that there are copious investigations that are ongoing.

Responding to criticisms of slothfulness of prosecution

after interviews would have been conducted. James said that after SOCU would have done its part to investigate and interview suspects; when those files are sent to the relevant authorities for their perusal and decision that is something he has no control of.

On the role that the UK fraud expert Dr. Sam Sittlington played in aiding the work of SOCU, James said that he wanted to make clear that Sittlington's involvement in Guyana was catered for in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in 2014 between the previous administration and the UK government.

# Nagamootoo stalls appointment of Opposition nominee to GNBA Board

GUYANA (Kaieteur News) - The government and opposition seem to be playing with the business of the nation. For almost two years, the People's Progressive Party/ Civic (PPP/C) Opposition refused to take up seats on most of the State Boards including that of the Guyana National Broadcasting Authority (GNBA). Now that the PPP/C, for whatever unstated reason, has had a change of heart and decides to have representation on the GNBA Board, it seems as if Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo has chosen to stall the appointment.

This came to light during a press conference hosted Monday by Opposition Leader Bharrat Jagdeo.

A lightweight, a runner boy in the government and one who fails to handle the miniature tasks given to him is how Jagdeo described Nagamootoo.

The politician said that the GNBA will never fare well as long as it remains under the guidance of Nagamootoo.

Jagdeo said that "several weeks ago", he received a letter from Nagamootoo inviting the opposition to submit a nominee to serve on the GNBA Board. Jagdeo said that the party decided that former

head of the GNBA, Bibi Shadick, would best serve on the Board "for continuity; she can explain things."

He said that he responded to the Nagamootoo submitting Shadick's name only to be told that "(Nagamootoo) has to seek clearance from Harmon." "That's what I am talking about. (The appointment) is provided for; they announced it. It is probably gazetted; now we can't go ahead because he still needs to go and wait outside of Harmon's office to get it approved," said Jagdeo. But Nagamootoo refuted Jagdeo's claims. He said that a "procedure" is holding up the appointment.

"Usually the Cabinet has to approve the name of the person then the name has to be gazetted after which an instrument of appointment is issued. What was gazetted was opposition appointee; a name now has to be gazetted," said Nagamootoo.

Nagamootoo was keen to note, "I followed the law and ensured that there is a place on the Board for an opposition appointee but when you have to make the appointment you have to appoint a person."

Nagamootoo said that he acknowledged Jagdeo's nominee but told him nothing

about waiting on Harmon's approval.

"I have since taken the name to Cabinet and Cabinet has given approval to the name." He said that a Cabinet Memorandum has to be written and signed by Harmon then it will be gazetted after which Shadick will receive an instrument of appointment before she can start attending meetings. Nagamootoo admitted that the other Board members' names were gazetted several weeks ago.

He said that he could not remember how long ago the opposition submitted its nominee but said that he only took it to Cabinet last week which was the "earliest opportunity." "But there is a procedure that has to be followed, so I do not know why Jagdeo is running his mouth. He has to be familiar with the procedures," said Nagamootoo.

Meanwhile the Board has been having meetings without Shadick. But Nagamootoo has no idea what progress the Board is making. All he knows is that "they have been meeting."

He said that he met with the members when they were sworn in about two months ago.

# Today

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## ISLANDS

# Dead sub-machine gunman identified



Relatives of Stevenson Roberts at the Forensic Sciences Centre St. James. Photo by ISHMAEL SALANDY.

TRINIDAD (Express) - A MAN shot dead in an alleged exchange of gunfire with an off-duty police officer at Vega de Oropouche on Saturday, was identified Monday at 34-year-old Stevenson Roberts. Police said that on Saturday morning the officer, attached to the Inter Agency Task Force and who is on injury leave was near a quarry at Vega de Oropouche with a female attorney when he noticed Roberts with a sub-machine gun. The officer challenged Roberts who police say opened fire on

the off-duty officer. The Police officer drew his licensed pistol and fired, hitting Roberts several times about the body. He died as a result of those injuries according to the post-mortem performed on his body Monday. The Police Officer also seized a semi-automatic gun near to where Roberts was standing. The Express spoke to a relative of Roberts at the Forensic Science Centre. The woman did not want to be named but said, "On Sun-

day I found out he got killed because my daughter got the information on social media." She said that she heard that Roberts got paid a sum of money to, "scare off someone in a land dispute in Vega de Oropouche." She said that she also found it weird that the police were unable to identify him immediately because, "he never left home without his identification card." She also said that when she tried calling Roberts his phone kept going to voice-mail.

# Three charged with "hijacking" murder



**MURDER ACCUSED:** In this composite photograph Donnell Roberts, centre, and brothers Aziz and Aleem Shah, is escorted to the Siparia Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, charged with the murder of Chaguanas 'ph' taxi driver Kendall Trim. They were also charged with six other firearm and robbery related offences. -Photos: DEXTER PHILIP

TRINIDAD (Express) - THREE MEN have appeared before a Siparia magistrate on Tuesday charged with the murder of Chaguanas 'ph' taxi driver Kendall Trim.

The accused men are brothers Aleem Shah, 19, and Aziz Shah, 26, both of Claxton Bay, and Daniel Roberts, 35, of Couva. They also appeared on six oth-

er offences, including robbery with violence, possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition, shooting with intent, possession of firearm to endanger life, and possession of ammunition to endanger life. The charges were laid by WPC Ferguson of Homicide Region III. The men were denied bail and remanded into custody. Trim, 27, of Flora Terrace, Dass Trace, Enterprise, suffered multiple gunshot wounds and died at hospital on Wednesday. Trim was plying his Nissan B 14 for hire at Southern Main Road, Chase Village the night before when he picked up three men, who hired him to take them to Santa Flora. Upon reaching Robert Trace, Santa Flora, the suspects opened fire on Trim, and he was hit in the shoulder and abdomen. He was thrown out of the vehicle, and the assailants sped off.

# Burglary suspect dies after beating

TRINIDAD (Express) - A 42 YEAR old Rio Claro labourer died after being beaten after he allegedly attempted to break into a house on Tuesday. The man, of Riverside Road, Poole, was struck twice on his head and fell and died. A police report said that at around 3.20 a.m. officers of the Rio Claro Police Station responded to Riverside Road, Poole, and found a man unresponsive on the street. The officers were told by residents that the unconscious man had attempted to enter a

house in the village. Another villager came out in defence of the occupants of the house and allegedly hit the intruder twice on the head with a baton. The man walked a short distance and collapsed, police were told. He was pronounced dead by a district medical officer. His body was taken to the Forensic Sciences Centre where an autopsy is expected to be done on Tuesday. A 48 year old man is assisting police in their inquiries.

# Buyers beware of St Lucia citizenship program, say experts

St Lucia -- Caveat emptor, or buyer beware, is the message from industry experts in relation to Saint Lucia's newly redesigned citizenship-by-investment program (CIP), which has come in for renewed criticism for its non-transferability from generation to generation, but also that growing opposition within the country makes it unattractive for investors. Last week the opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) pledged to review every citizenship granted by the current government under the CIP. According to the SLP, the actions of the United Workers Party (UWP) administration weaken the reputation of the CIP. "If the SLP regains power, they have pledged to make every investor pay an additional US\$200,000," said a leading CBI lawyer. "It is getting to the point that if you were serious about buying a second citizenship in the Caribbean, Saint Lucia would be the last place you would look."

When launched on January 1, 2016, by the SLP government, Saint Lucia's program contained some unique features, including an annual cap of 500 applicants and the requirement to show proof of minimum \$3 million net worth, which have now been removed by the current UWP administration of Prime Minister Allen Chastanet. The SLP said it believes that these changes, along with the cheapening of the level of donation as a qualifying investment and the guarantee of processing all Desert Star

Holdings project applicants within 35 days, should all be reconsidered for the sake of the reputation of Saint Lucia. "Another thing to consider is that Saint Lucia pays its agents generous commissions," the lawyer said. "Most other countries don't do this. The question anybody should ask themselves is why is Saint Lucia paying such lavish commissions? It is clear to me that it's because they have to. They problem is the buyer will pay for it in the end." In what has been described as a race to the bottom, Saint Lucia citizenship may now be acquired through a monetary donation of US\$100,000 for a single applicant, plus a US\$9,500 application fee. A billboard apparently erected by the Saint Lucia government, reading, "Come as a tourist, leave as a citizen", generated much adverse comment on social media. According to Saint Lucian commentator, Melanius Alphonse, Saint Lucia's current CIP is detrimental to the national ethos and the attributes meant to add value to dual citizenship and/or a stable investment proposition. "The adjectives used in marketing and promoting the programme relative to cost - least expensive; speed - fastest process; simplicity - no need to visit or reside, come as a tourist leave as citizen, give the impression of just another everyday commodity available for all and sundry, notwithstanding due diligence," he said.

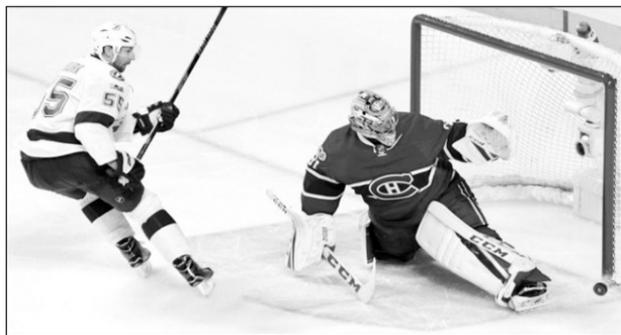
# Today

The Newspaper of Country St. Maarten



# Today Sports

## O Canada: The Great White North returns to NHL playoffs



Montreal, Quebec, CAN; Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price (31) makes a save against Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman Braydon Coburn (55) during the third period at Bell Centre.

The hockey world has resumed revolving on its normal axis north of the border. A year after being shut out, Canada is making a return to the NHL playoffs in a big way.

O Canada, is the buzz ever back across the Great White North: From Calgary's Red Mile bar district to Montreal's rue Sainte-Catherine to Parliament Hill in Ottawa, the landscape for the playoffs includes the big-stage debuts of such young stars as Edmonton's Connor McDavid and Toronto's Auston Matthews.

"When players get traded here and they talk about how great the Bell Centre is, we always say, 'Wait 'til' the playoffs," American-born Montreal Canadiens captain Max Pacioretty said. "There's nothing like it. It's like the Super Bowl every day."

Multiply that by five because that's how many of the hockey-mad nation's seven franchises are in the playoffs, which open Wednesday.

There's an Original Six showdown between Montreal and the New York Rangers.

Boston Bruins captain Zdeno Chara will face his former team in Ottawa.

The youth-laden Maple Leafs make just their second playoff appearance in 13 years by opening against Alex Ovechkin and the Presidents' Trophy-winning Washington Capitals.

In ending a 10-year playoff drought, the Oilers christen their new downtown arena against the defending Western Conference champion San Jose Sharks.

And let's not forget Johnny Gaudreau and the Flames making just their second playoff appearance in eight years by opening against Anaheim. The bars will be packed, the fans jacked and so will be Canada's most prominent TV hockey executive Scott Moore. A year ago, the Rogers Sportsnet cable network president joked about stepping out

on the ledge of his third-floor Toronto office after having no Canadian teams to showcase two years into a 12-year, \$5.2 billion (Canadian) TV rights deal.

Last week, Moore was giddily trying to determine whether it was better to have two Canadian teams meet in the first round - because it guaranteed one advancing - before eventually concluding it didn't matter.

"While I was on the ledge last year, perhaps I knew it was not worth jumping," Moore said. "There's lots of peaks and valleys in the world of sports, and it's never as bad as you think and never as good as you think."

Through the first five days of the playoffs last year, Rogers drew an average of just 513,000 viewers. That marked a 61 percent drop from the previous year when five Canadian teams made the postseason.

A significant uptick is expected this week, especially with Canadian TV ratings heavyweights such as Toronto and Montreal in the picture.

"Internally, my IQ has gone up 20 points," Moore said. "I'm not any smarter, but people think I am."

What's compelling this year is the emergence of MVP candidate McDavid and Matthews, the rookie No. 1 draft pick.

Both have the potential of making Edmonton and Toronto regular playoff fixtures for many years to come, and left Moore dreaming of an Oilers-Maple Leafs Stanley Cup Final.

## Leicester to meet Atletico Champions League quarterfinals



Atletico's Antoine Griezmann, left, runs back during exercises with team mates during a training session in Madrid. (AP Photo/Paul White)

MADRID (AP) — Atletico Madrid and Leicester have a lot in common these days.

Relying on gritty defense and quick counterattacking, the teams meet at the Vicente Calderon Stadium on Wednesday in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals.

"They remind us of the best Atleti," Atletico left back Filipe Luis said. "They have very good players. It's a solid team that defends very well."

Atletico made it to two Champions League finals in the last three seasons thanks to Diego Simeone's stout defense, one that allowed the team to successfully challenge the powerful attacks of teams such as Barcelona and Bayern Munich. Effective offense the other way secured Atletico the victories it needed to remain contending.

"Football is wonderful because no one is always right. There are different styles, different ways to play," Simeone

said. "We have competed and contended in recent competitions and that allowed us to lay down a style. And maybe other teams have looked at us because of that."

Leicester showed a lot of the same qualities as Atletico when it stunned the soccer world by winning the Premier League title last season under former coach Claudio Ranieri. Fierce defending, quick breakaways and precise finishes also kept it alive in its first Champions League campaign this season despite a struggling start.

"It's a huge compliment to be compared to Atletico," Leicester coach Craig Shakespeare said. "It's a nice comparison." Leicester is trying to reach the top by using a similar formula that led the Spanish club to success.

"When I built Leicester, Atletico Madrid was one of the teams I watch. And I tried to compare Leicester to Atletico Madrid," Ranieri told British

broadcaster Sky Sports on Monday. "Simeone is an Argentinian — born in Argentina, played in Italy. And Atletico Madrid play in an Italian style. It's very, very difficult: 4-4-2, very compact, very strong, straightaway go forward, high quality, high intensity."

The style has led Atletico to the Champions League quarterfinals for the fourth straight season. It lost the final to Real Madrid both in 2014 and 2016, the last one in a penalty shootout.

"Leicester's team is very similar to ours. It defends very well in the back and relies on counterattacks a lot," Luis said. "We know it's going to be very complicated. We are also a team that plays better against opponents that holds possession and tries to control the game. It will be an even matchup."

Both teams head into the game enjoying their best run of the season after lackluster starts.

## Knicks favorite Charles Oakley arraigned on assault charge

NEW YORK (AP) -- New York Knicks favorite Charles Oakley made his first court appearance on Tuesday since his arrest and ejection while attending at game at Madison Square Garden.

Oakley, 53, was arraigned in criminal court in Manhattan on misdemeanor assault and other charges before being released without bail.

Prosecutors have accused the Oakley of striking a security guard in the February fracas. They say two other people who intervened were pushed and received cuts.

In court, prosecutors read into the record a statement Oakley made after his arrest alleging that Knicks owner James Dolan kept him under watch for no reason.

"Every time I come to the Garden, Dolan has security guards following me," Oakley said, according to the prosecutors. "Every time I come to the Garden it's a problem. I buy my own ticket. I don't want



Former NBA enforcer and rebounding machine for the New York Knicks Charles Oakley talks to the press after an appearance in Manhattan Criminal Court, in New York. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

to feel like I owe them anything. I had a couple of drinks before the game but nothing at the game." The former NBA enforcer told The Associated Press in an interview this week that he had no regrets over his behavior that night that led him getting handcuffed near an arena exit as

he waited for police to arrive. "I would have done everything just the same way," Oakley said by phone. "I didn't do nothing. I was only in the arena five minutes. I didn't know you could get in that much trouble in five minutes." Oakley played for the Knicks from 1988 to 1998.

## Russia worried by slow ticket sales for Confederations Cup

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's top sports official said Tuesday he is worried by slow ticket sales for the Confederations Cup. Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko, who is overseeing preparations for the tournament in June and the World Cup next year, said the first-phase sales figure of 211,475 tickets, released by FIFA last week, was below expectations.

A total of 695,000 tickets have been made available for the tournament, which begins on June 17. The second phase of ticket sales starts April 19. Mutko said "there are worries about ticket sales" in comments reported by state news agency R-Sport, adding "we hope the situation will im-

prove" after more sales outlets open next week.

Russian fans make up the majority of sales so far, with Chile second with just over 7,000 sold. Other countries taking part include Germany, Portugal and Mexico.

Another concern for Russian officials could be the pitch at the St. Petersburg stadium, which is due to host the final. Maxim Mitrofanov, CEO of the Zenit St. Petersburg club, said the field's original grass had died and that the club's staff is trying to lay a new field before the stadium hosts its first game April 22 between Zenit and Ural Yekaterinburg. "It isn't growing in the best way," he told St. Petersburg news website Fontanka. Mi-

trofanov blamed the problem on delays finishing the field's technical systems and a decision to keep the stadium's retractable roof closed.

The stadium was built with a retractable field, which can be rolled outside to get better conditions for growth.

However, Mitrofanov said that isn't an option because the World Cup organizing committee has decided to "build temporary structures" on the space the field would occupy outside.

The St. Petersburg stadium was hit by repeated delays and cost increases during its construction. It was officially declared complete in December but has required extensive extra work since then.

# Today Sports

## Doping amnesty offer prompts questions for Ukraine

MOSCOW (AP) — A plan to offer amnesty to Ukrainian track and field athletes who confess to doping has led to inquiries from the IAAF and World Anti-Doping Agency. The Ukrainian Athletics Federation wrote on its website last week that athletes on the country's national team using performance-enhancing drugs could serve very short bans in secret if they confess. Secret bans, however, would break IAAF rules. "We're informed. We're in discussions with WADA and we're seeking clarification from the Ukrainian federation," IAAF spokesman Chris Turner told The Associated Press last week. Ukraine, which has been stripped of three track medals from the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, has a poor record on doping and conducts few drug tests by European standards. The UAF website referred to a month-long amnesty period running until April 3. If athletes "voluntarily confess" to their own drug use, "the information will not be made public and the athlete will not face sanctions other

than quarantine (temporary suspension from competition) for the period taken for traces of banned substances to leave the body." It can take only a few days for some banned steroids to leave the body. A standard doping ban under WADA rules is four years, which can be halved for a voluntary confession. Keeping offenders' names secret breaks IAAF regulations, which demand "automatic publication" unless the athlete is a child. The UAF also suggested there could be harsher punishment for athletes who didn't confess and are caught later, since the lack of a confession would be an "aggravating circumstance." That appears to breach WADA rules. WADA has also said it has contacted Ukrainian authorities for clarification. Ukraine's repeated doping violations have seen it classed as in IAAF "critical care" — one step away from a Russia-style ban from international competition. There have been conflicting responses about the amnesty offer from Ukrainian officials.

UAF vice president Fidel Timchenko told the AP in a recent interview that the statements on the website — since deleted — should have specified athletes would have to inform on other dopers, not just confess their own drug use. Providing "substantial assistance" to investigations can mean a potential ban is cut by up to 75 percent or even eliminated altogether in exceptional cases, under WADA rules. Timchenko also said he didn't consider the plan to be an amnesty, but his views didn't appear to match statements made by UAF president Ihor Hotsul in an interview with Russia's Tass news agency. Hotsul compared the initiative to a weapons amnesty run by police, and his interview didn't mention any requirement for athletes to inform on others. In a further twist, Timchenko told the AP that athletes who only confessed their own drug use might also be let off without punishment because they hadn't failed a doping test. "Words aren't enough," Timchenko said. "The main thing is a medical document, not a confession."

## Masters behind him, Dustin Johnson puts short memory to work

Dustin Johnson was back on the stationary bike, moving forward without really going anywhere.

The good news for golf's No. 1 player is that an MRI showed only a deep bruise on the left side of his lower back. If doctors had taken images a little higher up the torso, they also might have seen a slight tear in his heart. "One thing I never want to have to do again," Johnson said Tuesday, "is watch a major from my couch."

At least he watched. And it wasn't all bad.

He was thrilled to see Sergio Garcia overcome a two-shot deficit in the Masters and two decades of frustrations in the majors. Johnson could relate to that, having been in position to win a major four times before winning the U.S. Open last summer at Oakmont.

Good luck finding someone who can relate to Johnson's experience at the 81st Masters. Sure, there have been times when a No. 1 player had to withdraw from a major. But not when the player was coming off three straight victories against the strongest fields of the year. Not when that player was five minutes and 20 yards from the first tee. And never has an injury to a No. 1 player been so bizarre on so many levels. He had finished his final nine holes of practice



Dustin Johnson

Wednesday before the storms rolled in. Johnson had gone to the gym and had just returned to his rented house at Augusta when it started raining and he wanted to move his car. Wearing only socks, he slipped down the staircase, crashing onto his back and left elbow. "It was terrible," Johnson said. "And the weirdest part is, I never walk around in socks. For some reason if I walk around barefooted, my left foot starts to hurt. That's why I always have shoes on. But I just got back from the gym and wanted to run down and move the car over. And I slipped."

Johnson said it was the worst pain he has ever felt. "I thought I broke my back in half," he said. "I really thought my back was broken." He still thought about playing when he left the practice range Thursday, only to realize on the putting green that he couldn't. Johnson said he was hitting his 4-iron about 200 yards in the air (it usually flies 235 yards) and he had no idea which direction the ball was going until he hit it. Over the next 15 minutes, on the cart ride to the putting green and a few more full swings between putts, reality won out.

## Leicester manager Shakespeare denies argument with Ranieri

Leicester City manager Craig Shakespeare has said that he never had any arguments with predecessor Claudio Ranieri and there was no ill feeling between the pair prior to the Italian's sacking. Ranieri led 5,000-1 outsiders Leicester to an incredible Premier League title triumph last May but was sacked in February with the club in a relegation battle and amid speculation that he had lost respect in the dressing room. Speaking publicly for the first time on Monday, Ranieri told Sky Sports the players were not involved in his sacking but suggested "someone behind" him was conspiring against him, though he stopped short of naming anybody. "We have never had any arguments or hard feelings," Shakespeare told reporters on Tuesday, on the eve of their Champions League quarter-final clash against Spanish side Atletico



Craig Shakespeare

Madrid. "Free speech is there for everybody. I don't have any problem with that. I have a clear conscience." Shakespeare replaced Ranieri until the end of the season and has overseen a major upturn in fortunes, winning his first five games before Sunday's defeat to Everton,

to steer them to the safety of mid-table. "I've been filled in about it (Ranieri's Sky Sports interview) this morning, I've seen clips of it. What I will say about it is I think Claudio was in good humor, he came across exactly as I know him. "But I think my stance is from my first interview (as manager), I remember coming into the packed room then, and stating that I'd spoken to Claudio the night that he was relieved and he'd thanked me for my time and I'd thanked him. He said it was football. "As I said there's never been any argument or hard feelings and that's my side of it. It was good to see him enjoying his football as he did and I thought he came across really well." Leicester, the last English team in this season's Champions League, face Atletico in Madrid on Wednesday before the return leg next Tuesday.

## Seven more Russians cleared to compete as neutrals

Seven more Russian athletes, including world champions Sergey Shubenkov and Mariya Kuchina, have been cleared to compete in international competition as neutrals after meeting the IAAF Doping Review Board's exceptional eligibility criteria. The sport's governing body announced on Tuesday that the seven would join five others previously cleared after satisfying the board that

they have been training in an environment that passes the necessary anti-doping requirements. World champions Shubenkov (sprint hurdles) and Kuchina (high jump) and former European indoor champion high jumper Daniil Tsyplakov were the most high-profile of the seven. Their participation as neutral athletes is still subject to formalities under IAAF rules that are being completed

and the acceptance of their entries by individual meeting organisers. In total this year 10 applications have been approved and 17 have been declined. The Russian national athletics federation (RUSAF) remains suspended as a result of widespread and systematic doping, meaning that the majority of Russian athletes will miss the world championships in London in August.

## Chris Lynn's IPL prospects not looking good

Kolkata Knight Riders opener Chris Lynn appears increasingly likely to miss the remainder of the IPL after he hurt his shoulder while fielding against Mumbai Indians. KKR mentor Jacques Kallis said the injury would need a "substantial" period to heal. "We are awaiting the results of the scans to Chris Lynn's shoulder which he dislocated on the field," Kallis wrote in his column for Times of India. "It is a notoriously difficult area of the body to heal, so these are nervous times. He will undoubtedly need a substantial period of rest, and may even miss the rest of the tournament, which would be desperately disappointing for him and our fans after seeing what he is capable of doing during the first two games." The KKR franchise said its medical team would need a few days to establish Lynn's availability for the rest of the tournament.



Chris Lynn

The latest injury was the third time Lynn had done the same shoulder in the last two years. He fell hard while diving to try and catch Jos Buttler near the long-off boundary, having run back at speed from mid-off. Lynn got on his knees and immediately clutched his shoulder and was attended to by the KKR physio Andrew Leipus. Later, he was seen in

the dressing room wearing strapping and an ice pack on his shoulder. KKR had said on Monday - Lynn's 27th birthday - that he had undergone an MRI scan and the results were due in two days' time. Brisbane Heat, Lynn's team in the Big Bash League, said they were monitoring the situation. "We'll stay in close contact through this initial process as we get an idea of what the extent of the injury is and what the options are for him," Heat manager Andrew McShea said. "It's unfortunate for Chris to sustain another injury to the shoulder that has troubled him in the past. It's not the sort of birthday you would wish for, and the best wishes of the club and our fans go out to him." Lynn had made an impressive start to the IPL, having made 93 off 41 balls against Gujarat Lions and 32 off 24 against Mumbai.

# Today Sports

## Samson century gives Daredevils big IPL win over Supergiant



Sanju Samson was bowled for 102 during the IPL 2017 game between Rising Pune Supergiant and Delhi Daredevils in Pune, India.

PUNE, India (AP) — Sanju Samson scored his maiden Twenty20 century to help Delhi Daredevils record their biggest victory in the Indian Premier League on Tuesday when they defeated Rising Pune Supergiant by 97 runs. The 22-year-old Samson paced his 102-run knock off 63 balls, while South African Chris Morris hit a blistering unbeaten 38 off just nine balls at the end to give Daredevils a total of 205. Without skipper Steve Smith due to illness and Manoj Tiwary, whose father died on Tuesday morning, Supergiant was bowled out for just 108 in 16.1 overs. It now has one win from three matches. “We have some amazing talent, you see Samson batting like that and Morris going at it in the end,” Daredevils captain Zaheer Khan said. “A win changes the atmosphere. It creates self-belief, and from that point of view, this is im-

portant.” Daredevils lost their opening match against Royal Challengers Bangalore and will next meet Kings XI Punjab on Saturday. Supergiant will next take on Gujrat Lions on Friday. Samson hit five boundaries off his first 10 balls after arriving at the crease in only the second over and put on half-century stands with Sam Billings (24) and Rishabh Pant (31). After negotiating the twin leg-spin challenge of Imran Tahir and Adam Zampa, he cut loose in the last four overs. He brought up his century with a straight six off Zampa before the Australian leg-spinner bowled him off the next delivery. Samson hit eight fours and five sixes. Morris then blazed three sixes and four boundaries off Zampa and Ben Stokes as Daredevils posted 76 runs off the last 24 balls. It was the third-highest run haul from the last four overs of an in-

nings in IPL history. Supergiant’s chase was derailed from the outset with Amit Mishra (3-11) and Zaheer (3-20) claiming most of the wickets. Supergiant had lost half of the team by the end of the ninth over for just 58 runs, including the wickets of South African Faf du Plessis and hard-hitting Ben Stokes. Mishra then dismissed Mahendra Singh Dhoni (11) before wrapping up the game quickly by taking a catch for last-man Ashok Dhinda at covers. “We thought 180-190 would be good on this wicket. But credit to Delhi for the way they batted, especially Sanju in the middle overs and Chris Morris in the end,” said Supergiant stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane, who opted to bat first after winning the toss. On Wednesday, defending champions Sunrisers Hyderabad take on Mumbai Indians in Mumbai.

## Sion’s 2026 bid ratified by Swiss Olympic Committee

Sion’s bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympics was ratified by the Swiss Olympic committee on Tuesday. The candidacy had been approved by Swiss Olympic’s executive board last month but still needed the backing of the country’s 86 sports federations, the so-called sport parliament, which it received at an assembly on Tuesday. The federations also agreed to provide eight million Swiss francs (\$7.93 million) from Swiss Olympic reserves to fund the first stage of the bid. Sion, a town of some 33,000 people on the banks of the Rhone in a valley in the canton of Valais, lost out to Turin after bidding to host the 2006 edition of the Winter Games, which last took place in Swit-

zerland in St Moritz in 1948. Venues would be spread around Valais and the neighboring cantons of Fribourg, Berne and Vaud. Olympic downhill gold medalist Didier Defago was among leading sportsman to back the bid. “The Games would have a positive impact on a wide range of areas of our society but the focus will be on the revitalization of sport in our country, and in particular the upgrading of winter sports,” he said. Swiss Olympic said the next step would be to ask for support from the Swiss government, which could insist on a referendum. The bid is good news for the International Olympic Com-

mittee (IOC) which has seen interest in hosting the summer and winter Olympics fall away in the last few years, with cities either scared off by the size and cost of the Games or pressured by local opposition. Budapest pulled out of bidding for the 2024 summer Olympics last month, becoming the fourth city to do so ahead of the IOC vote in September, leaving just Los Angeles and Paris in the running. Beijing and the nearby city of Zhangjiakou beat Kazakhstan’s Almaty for the right to host the 2022 winter Games after the other competitors dropped out, citing costs and other worries.

## Neymar suspended, will miss ‘clasico’ against Real Madrid

MADRID (AP) — Barcelona forward Neymar has been handed a two-game suspension for sarcastically applauding an assistant referee and will miss Barcelona’s game against Real Madrid in the Spanish league. The two-match ban announced Tuesday comes in addition to a one-game suspension he was automatically required to serve after being sent off in a 2-0 loss at Malaga on Sunday. A highlight of the Spanish season, the game between the league leaders is on April 23 at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. A victory by Madrid could all but secure its first league title since 2012. Defending champion Barcelona is three points behind Madrid, which has a game in hand. Third-place Atletico Madrid is 10 points off the lead.

Neymar was criticized by fans and local media for needlessly picking up two yellow cards that hurt Barcelona’s chances of a comeback against Malaga. Madrid had been held by Atletico to a 1-1 draw earlier on Sunday, opening the door for Barcelona to take over the lead. The first card came after Neymar bent over to tie his boot laces and did not give space for a Malaga player to cleanly

take a free kick. The second came with about 25 minutes left in the game when Neymar charged into an opponent with no real chance of winning back the ball. Upset, he left the field and applauded the assistant as he went toward the changing rooms. Referee Gil Manzano included Neymar’s sarcastic reaction in his report to the Spanish federation’s competition committee, which met on Tuesday to rule on the case. Barcelona, which is expected to appeal, had tried to defend the player by saying that he

didn’t directly address the assistant and never yelled or touched any member of the match officials. The committee included in its ruling its “concern with the clear and unacceptable pressure by part of the media” in relation to its decision. The first league game Neymar will miss is at Real Sociedad on Saturday. After the Madrid game, he will also have to sit out the match against last-place Osasuna. There will be four games left in the league when he returns to the squad.

## Yankees extend reign as MLB’s most valuable team

NEW YORK (AP) -- Forbes ranks the New York Yankees as baseball’s most valuable team for the 20th straight year and lists the Tampa Bay Rays with the lowest valuation. Forbes said Tuesday it estimates the Yankees are worth \$3.7 billion, up 9 percent from last year. The Dodgers are next at \$2.75 billion, a 10 percent increase. Boston was third at \$2.7 billion, followed by the Chicago

Cubs (\$2.675 billion), San Francisco (\$2.65 billion) and New York Mets (\$2 billion). At the bottom were the Rays (\$825 million), Oakland (\$880 million), Cincinnati (\$915 million) and Cleveland (\$920 million). Major League Baseball’s average team value rose 19 percent to \$1.54 billion. Forbes says values increased because of new local television deals, as well as a “surge in profitability.”

## Bartra has surgery on wrist after Dortmund bus incident

Borussia Dortmund have confirmed defender Marc Bartra has undergone wrist surgery after he was injured in an explosion on Tuesday. Marc Bartra has undergone surgery on a broken wrist after being hurt in an explosion that targeted Borussia Dortmund’s team coach ahead of Tuesday’s Champions League tie against Monaco. Bartra was the only person hurt in the incident, with police detailing three explosions as the Dortmund bus left the hotel to travel to Signal Iduna Park. Dortmund confirmed the centre-back underwent surgery on a fractured wrist and to remove debris from his arm. The Bundesliga club tweeted: “Diagnosis of @MarcBartra: breakage and sprinklings of debris on the right wrist. He’s currently in surgery. Good improvement, Marc!” As a result of the attack on the Dortmund bus, the match was postponed, with UEFA announcing a planned rescheduling for 18:45 local time on Wednesday. Former Barcelona defender Bartra most recently appeared for Spain in November 2016 and the country’s football



Marc Bartra

federation showed support for the 26-year-old in a statement. “The Royal Spanish Football Federation wants to show its total backing for the Spanish international footballer, Marc Bartra, after he was injured as a result of some explosions that affected the bus of his club, Borussia Dortmund,” the governing body said in a statement. “The RFEF wishes him a quick recovery and condemns any type of violence.” Goalkeeper Roman Burki was alongside Bartra when the attack happened and he told

Blick of how Dortmund’s players ducked for cover following the first blast. “I was sitting in the back row next to Marc Bartra, who was hit by fragments of the broken window,” Burki said. “After the bang, we all ducked down on the bus and whoever could got on the floor. We didn’t know what else was going to happen. “The police were quickly on the spot and they handled the situation. “We’re all shocked. Nobody thought about a football match in those minutes.”

# Today Sports

## Boyd allows 1 hit in 6 innings, Tigers beat Twins 2-1



Detroit Tigers' James McCann, right, is greeted at home plate by Justin Upton after they both scored on McCann's two-run home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

DETROIT (AP) -- After two starts this season, Matthew Boyd already has both extremes covered.

Boyd allowed one hit in six outstanding innings, and James McCann homered in the fifth to lift the Detroit Tigers to a 2-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday. It was quite a turnaround for Boyd, who was pulled from last week's outing in the third inning but took a no-hitter into the sixth this time.

"It was good," he said. "It's nice to come back and put your team in a position to win. That being said, there's room to grow."

Boyd (1-1) did not allow a hit until Robbie Grossman lined a clean single to left field with two out in the sixth. The Detroit left-hander struck out six and walked two before turning the game over to the

bullpen. Tigers relievers have struggled so far this season, but they were able to close this game out.

Francisco Rodriguez allowed a run in the ninth but recovered for his third save in four chances. Pinch hitter Max Kepler hit a popup with two on to end it.

Hector Santiago (1-1) allowed only three hits in 6 1/3 innings, but one of them was a two-run shot by McCann.

Boyd recovered nicely after giving up five runs in 2 1/3 innings in his first start of the season against the Chicago White Sox. The Tigers picked him over the more experienced Anibal Sanchez for a spot in the rotation, and they'll hope this start was more indicative of what he'll provide going forward.

"He shut us down pretty good," Twins manager Paul

Molitor said. "We didn't adjust, I didn't think, particularly well, in terms of outs on offspeed. Between his changeup and breaking ball - he mixed in some fastballs, but he got a lot of outs on his offspeed."

Detroit pulled even with the Twins atop the AL Central and has won four of five.

McCann, who hit 12 home runs last season, has provided some power for the Tigers in the early going with Miguel Cabrera struggling. His one-out drive to left in the fifth gave Detroit a 2-0 lead. It was his third homer of the year.

Jason Castro hit an RBI single with one out in the ninth for Minnesota, but right fielder Mikie Mahtook made a nice play to cut the ball off in the gap and prevent him from going to second.

## MALIK'S HUNDRED CARRIES... FROM PAGE 24

with the pair ensuring they made survival their main priority for the next hour or so amid some testing spin bowling by Devendra Bishoo and Ashley Nurse, and they slowly began to turn the game in Pakistan's favour.

By the time Hafeez holed out to deep square leg, the visitors needed less than 100 to win. Skipper Sarfraz Ahmed then joined Malik at the crease, the pair picking off the poor deliveries with consummate ease in a stroll towards their target. Towards the end, Malik was playing with such ease that he gave himself the chance of a century, which he completed in style with a straight six off Jason Holder. It might not always have been smooth sailing, but in the end, it was unquestionably clinical.

West Indies will rue a failure to take proper advantage of the review system for the second game running. When Hafeez was on 39, Nurse, arguably the most consistent performer for his side all series, spun one sharply back into him, the ball striking the top of his front pad. Hawk-Eye showed it would have been given out on review, but Holder decided against going to the third umpire. It was one among a series of errors West Indies committed in

the field - dropped catches playing a starring role once again - and by the time Hafeez was finally dismissed, the telling blows had long since been struck. West Indies had managed to scrap to 233 despite being squeezed for runs during much of the first half of their innings. Having slipped to 68 for 3 with a run rate well under four, Hope and Jason Mohammed combined for a 101-run partnership - the first three-figure partnership for West Indies this year - to set their team on course for what was at least a competitive total. The heart of West Indies' innings was stifled by a sustained spell of pressure from Pakistan's spinners, a spell that, in hindsight proved decisive. Imad Wasim was the pick of the bowlers, bolstering his credentials as a genuine ODI allrounder following on from his impressive batting performance in the previous match. He was the major reason for West Indies' sluggishness during the middle overs, consistently bowling on a good line and getting the ball to spin away from the right-handers. Hafeez provided him able support, and their combined bowling figures of 17-1-45-1 aptly told the story of the middle overs.

## GERMANY: PREGAME BLASTS ... FROM PAGE 24

Roman Buerki said the team bus had just pulled out of the hotel driveway when an explosion - a "huge bang" - happened and sent glass flying. Buerki, who is from Switzerland, told Swiss daily Blick that he was sitting in the last row of the bus, next to Bartra. Bartra was hit by shards from the broken back window, he added. Players ducked for cover, wondering whether there would be more explosions.

"We're all shocked - nobody thought about a football match in the minutes after that," Buerki said.

Lange said a further "suspicious object" was found at the scene, but it does not appear to have been another explosive device.

Inside the packed stadium, supporters of Monaco, which plays in the French league, chanted "Dortmund, Dortmund" in sympathy for the German side. Dortmund residents, for their part, used

social media to offer accommodation to stranded Monaco supporters ahead of their rescheduled match in Europe's premier soccer club competition. "The team is totally shocked, that's clear. It's our task now to digest this somehow because it's only 24 hours before we have to play. That's our job," Dortmund Chief Executive Officer Hans-Joachim Watzke said.

Watzke added that there was "no alternative" to rescheduling the match for Wednesday, as Monaco also has to play over the weekend and the return Champions League match is scheduled for next week. "It's a very unfortunate situation, but there was no other way," he said.

Stadium spokesman Norbert Dickel informed fans already inside the venue of the cancellation, saying that "there is no reason for panic here at the stadium." Police said fans left the stadium without problems.

Police chief Lange made clear that authorities will put heavy security in place for Wednesday's match, though there was no threat to the stadium on Tuesday.

"We are preparing for a major operation tomorrow, and we will do everything humanly possible to ensure that the match tomorrow can occur safely," he said.

The president of European soccer governing body UEFA, Aleksander Ceferin, said he was "deeply disturbed by the explosions" and that the teams had made the correct call by postponing their match.

"The thoughts of every one of us at FIFA are with the people of Dortmund, and the fans of both Borussia Dortmund and Monaco following today's troubling events," said world governing body FIFA's president, Gianni Infantino. He wished Bartra a "speedy recovery" and condemned the explosions.

## US, CANADA, MEXICO ASK FIFA... FROM PAGE 24

match of the 2018 World Cup. FIFA bidding rules have made the North American bid a strong favorite to win because Europe and Asia cannot present a candidate. Those continents are blocked because they will have staged the previous two editions in Russia and Qatar. South America and Africa can rival the U.S.-led bid, though Brazil hosted in 2014 and South Africa in 2010. It was 16 years earlier that the World Cup last came to the CONCACAF region, when the United States hosted a 1994 edition that set records for total attendance and average per game. Argentina and Uruguay - the original World Cup host in 1930 - are focused on a centenary tournament in 2030, however.

Although Morocco has been speculated as a potential bidder for a fifth time, Africa is seen as lacking facilities even for a co-hosting bid for an expanded 48-team World Cup.

The 16 extra teams from 2026 will add to demand for stadiums, training camps, hotels and transport. "Should the cooperative bid ... not satisfy the technical bid requirements, the bidding process will be re-opened to all Member Associations under the conditions set out by the FIFA Council," the North American officials wrote in their letter. The U.S.-led bid expects 60 games to be played in that country, with 10 in Canada and 10 in Mexico.

Although FIFA has final say on the match schedule, the bid also proposes playing all knockout games from the quarterfinals and later in the United States. The final week of the tournament should coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. "A World Cup in North America, with 60 games in the United States, would be by far the most successful World Cup in the history of FIFA

in terms of economics," said Sunil Gulati, the U.S. Soccer Federation president and a member of the FIFA Council. Mexico will push to kick off the 32-day tournament at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City, which hosted the final in 1970 and 1986.

"If we could get the opening match, it would be historic," Mexico federation president Decio de Maria said Monday, acknowledging that some think his country should stage more games. "This is a good solution." The North American proposal is one of five topics that FIFA members will discuss in Bahrain, according to the agenda published Tuesday. Also, the Palestinian federation wants FIFA to act against Israel for allowing clubs from West Bank settlements to play in its national league, and Iraq is asking FIFA to lift a ban on playing games in the country for security reasons.

## DYBALA NETS TWO AS JUVE ... FROM PAGE 24

you pay for it. As a coach it's very difficult to explain, Juventus was superior to us in every way. I'm responsible 101 percent ... (and) I don't want to talk about a comeback."

But he added: "Certainly, if we get back to our level we can score four goals against anyone."

The other first-leg match between Borussia Dortmund and Monaco was called off and rescheduled for Wednesday after three explosions went off near the German team's bus as it set off for the match, injuring defender Marc Bartra. Allegri again used his daring 4-2-3-1 formation, which has seen his team play some of its best soccer of the season as it utilizes all five of its star attackers.

Juventus was aggressive from the start and almost scored in the third minute when Gonza-

lo Higuain's header from a free kick taken by Miralem Pjanic was dropped by Marc-Andre ter Stegen, but the Barcelona goalkeeper recovered in time. However, the hosts did take the lead four minutes later when Juan Cuadrado pulled a cross back from the right flank for Dybala to curl the ball into the bottom left corner.

Messi was largely kept quiet all night, but he provided a superb ball over the top for Andres Iniesta, whose effort was turned around the right post by Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

That save proved pivotal as Juventus doubled its lead moments later when Mario Mandzukic's cross was deflected to Dybala, who drove a first-time shot into the left of the goal.

"Paulo had a great game but the whole team had a great game, those who started

and the substitutes," Allegri said. "It was a great victory, achieved by everyone."

Barcelona thought it had pulled a goal back on the half hour, but Messi's strike was ruled out as Luis Suarez had strayed offside.

Juventus had several chances to extend its lead and finally did so when Chiellini headed in a corner off the inside of the left post. Suarez almost got a crucial away goal for Barcelona in the 67th but his effort hit the outside of the left post. Barcelona should have had a penalty, moments later, when Chiellini handled the ball in the area but nothing was given.

Juventus also had reason to feel aggrieved by refereeing decisions, as Cuadrado had a goal ruled out for offside - but television replays indicated it should have been allowed.

# TodaySports

Russia worried by slow ticket sales for Confederations Cup

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Yankees extend reign as MLB's most valuable team

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## Dybala nets two as Juve beats Barcelona 3-0 in Champs League



Juventus' Paulo Dybala, left, celebrates with his teammate Juan Cuadrado after scoring during a Champions League, quarterfinal, first-leg soccer match between Juventus and Barcelona, at the Juventus Stadium in Turin, Italy. (Alessandro Di Marco/ANSA via AP)

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Paulo Dybala outshone his more famous compatriot Lionel Messi by scoring two goals to help Juventus beat Barcelona 3-0 in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal on Tuesday.

Dybala, who was given a standing ovation when he was substituted nine minutes from time, broke the deadlock in the seventh minute and doubled his tally in the 22nd. Giorgio Chiellini added the third, 10 minutes after the break.

"We need to be happy with all we have done, but we need to keep our feet on the ground because we still haven't achieved anything," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "It's not over, we'll need to play with bravery again ... but we know the weaknesses of Barcelona and also our strengths."

The result will give Juventus plenty of confidence heading into the second leg on April 19, but it will be wary of another fantastic comeback from Barcelona, which beat Paris Saint-

Germain 6-1 in its last match to become the first team to overturn a 4-0 first-leg loss in the history of the competition. "The sensation is that we are living through another nightmare," Barcelona coach Luis Enrique said. "We gave away two goals in the first half and against a team like Juventus

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## Germany: Pregame blasts rock soccer team bus; player injured

DORTMUND, Germany (AP) -- Three explosions went off near the team bus of Borussia Dortmund, one of Germany's top soccer clubs, as it set off for a Champions League quarterfinal match on Tuesday evening. One of Dortmund's players was injured.

Police said they were working on the assumption that the blasts were directed at the Dortmund team and caused by "serious explosive devices," which may have been hidden in a hedge near a car park.

The explosions happened as the team was departing its hotel for a first-leg match against Monaco. The game was called off shortly before kickoff and rescheduled for Wednesday.

A letter claiming responsibility was found near the site of the blasts, prosecutor Sandra Luecke told a late evening news conference. She said investigators are examining the authenticity of what was written in the letter, but wouldn't reveal more about its contents, citing the ongoing investigation.

The case is being investigated as attempted homicide, Luecke said.

"We had to assume, and assumed right from the start, that this was a targeted attack against the team of Borussia Dortmund," Dortmund Police Chief Gregor Lange. Investigators are not excluding any possible angles in their inves-



A window of Dortmund's team bus is damaged after an explosion before the Champions League quarterfinal soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and AS Monaco in Dortmund, western Germany. (AP Photo/Martin Meissner)

tigation, while the "concrete background" to the blasts remains unclear, he said. There were three explosions near the Dortmund bus as the team left the L'Arrivee Hotel and Spa on the outskirts of the western city of Dortmund for the stadium, around 10 kilometers (6 miles) away, at 7.15 p.m. local time (1715 GMT),

police said.

A window on the bus was damaged and Spanish defender Marc Bartra was injured. Club spokesman Sascha Fligge said Bartra was operated on late Tuesday for a broken bone in his right wrist and to remove "foreign objects" from his arm. Dortmund goalkeeper

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## US, Canada, Mexico ask FIFA for faster World Cup bid process

GENEVA (AP) -- The North American bid to host the 2026 World Cup has asked FIFA for a decision in June 2018, two years ahead of schedule.

In a letter seen by The Associated Press, the soccer federations from the United States, Canada and Mexico asked FIFA to consider their request next month in Bahrain at its annual congress.

The proposal calls for the North American neighbors to be given a clear run without rival candidates until next year, and is item 14.1 on the congress agenda that FIFA published Tuesday.

The bid, launched in New York on Monday, is likely the only realistic option for FIFA's 211 member federations who are

scheduled to choose the 2026 host in May 2020. That timetable could be fast-tracked on May 11 in Manama.

The added agenda item, written in the letter dated March 11, asks FIFA members to make a "principle decision" for the 2026 tournament to be "jointly and cooperatively organized" in North America. If approved, FIFA could then ask the bid to show the Zurich-based administration it meets all technical and operational demands by a March 31 deadline. That would allow time to prepare a confirmation of the 2026 hosts at the next congress in Moscow. The Russian capital hosts the annual meeting on the eve of the opening

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## Malik's hundred carries Pakistan to series victory

A commanding performance to secure a vice-like grip on eighth place doesn't sound like an especially formidable achievement, but it was a much-needed boost off the back of a troubling few months for Pakistan cricket. A 113-run partnership between veterans Shoaib Malik - who reached his ninth ODI century with the six to seal victory - and Mohammad Hafeez enabled Pakistan to canter to a six-wicket win and clinch the three-match series 2-1.

Pakistan's chase of 234 got off to an eventful start, with a first-ball wicket, a nasty collision between Ahmed Shehzad and Babar Azam, a dropped catch at mid-on and a brilliant grab by wicketkeeper Shai Hope all crammed into a lively first six overs. Babar edged Shannon Gabriel into his stumps less than three overs later, and the upshot from a frenetic opening Powerplay was Pakistan had lost



Shoaib Malik hits a 4 during the third and final ODI Match between West Indies and Pakistan at Guyana National Stadium, Providence, Guyana. (Photo by WICB Media/Randy Brooks of Brooks Latouche Photography)

three wickets for 45 and, for the umpteenth time, were looking wobbly. The one positive Pakistan could glean

from the situation was that Hafeez and Malik were at the crease together, and with 430 ODIs between them, they

represented vast experience, if nothing else. It showed, too,

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