

The Daily Herald

RUMS. HOT SAUCES. HISTORY
GUAVABERRY
 THE GUAVABERRY EMPORIUM

NADAL LOSES ON FIRST DAY, P. 48

Berlusconi Gets Seven Years In Sex Trial Page 29



VOL 23 NO. 033

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

U.S. 50 CENTS / NAf. 1.-- / EC\$ 1.50



The new buildings collectively known as Windward Islands Bank Banking Centre will be inaugurated on Wednesday, June 26. In photo: The main banking area (with teller space) of the new WIB. See story on page 5.

Gracita Arrindell back as President of Parliament

~ NA objects to meeting being held ~

PHILIPSBURG--With nine ballots cast in her favour and none against, United People's (UP) party Member of Parliament Gracita Arrindell was voted in once again as President of Parliament on Monday morning.

The holding of the meeting was

met with some objections from National Alliance (NA) parliamentarians because of the length

of time between the date the meeting was requested and the actual session.

Arrindell served as President of Parliament from October 2010 to May 2012, when she was replaced by National Alliance (NA) MP Rodolphe Samuel. In both cases, the change in presidency was due to a shift in parliamentary majority support for the governing coalition.

After her election, Arrindell thanked her colleagues for their confidence in her. "There is much

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IN BRIEF

• **Marigot WATER SPORTS**

The Fête du Nautisme made a hugely successful comeback in Grand Case over the weekend. Page 8.

• **Philipsburg MEETING RECORD**

Democratic Party (DP) Member of Parliament Leroy de Weever made it clear in Monday's plenary session of Parliament that he wants the meeting of Parliament held on May 13 to be "properly documented for history." Page 3.

• **Philipsburg POLICE SEARCH**

The Police Force has intensified its search for the three persons who escaped from the prison cells at the Philipsburg police station on Sunday. Page 3.

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Roy and Sylvia call for legal dept of Parliament

PHILIPSBURG--A legal affairs department is needed for parliament post haste in order for Members of Parliament to become more effective with drafting and passing legislation. This was the call from Democratic Party (DP) Member of Parliament Roy Marlin and United People's (UP) party MP Sylvia Meyers-Olivacce.

The two MPs made their call to newly-elected President of Par-

liament Gracita Arrindell during Monday's plenary session of parliament. Arrindell was voted in during that meeting.

"Legislation is important," said Marlin. He reiterated his position stated months ago that parliament's resources should be managed better, starting with cutting back on the travel budget for the Parliament of Latin America

Continued on page 7

Dr. Arrindell questions why he is not allowed to take over sister's patients

~ Accuses government of hidden agenda ~

MADAME ESTATE--Family practitioner Dr. Pedro Arrindell is questioning why he wasn't allowed to take over the patients of his sister Dr. Angelica Villous-Arrindell, although he has been doing so for the past nine months, ever since she began facing mental health issues.

He also questioned whether "government" had a "hidden agenda." The Inspectorate announced Friday that it had temporarily suspended Villous-Arrindell's practice as of yesterday, Monday, "based on a thorough evaluation of complaints received of [her-Ed.] performance as a

general practitioner and indications received with regard to her health."

In the meantime, Social and Health Insurance SZV issued a list Monday of medical practitioners that Villous-Arrindell's patients can go to for medical attention (see related story).

Dr. Pedro Arrindell outlined his concerns about the matter in a lengthy open letter to Health Minister Cornelius de Weever, Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams and Parliament.

He said while the Inspectorate of Healthcare has a vital role to

Continued on page 9

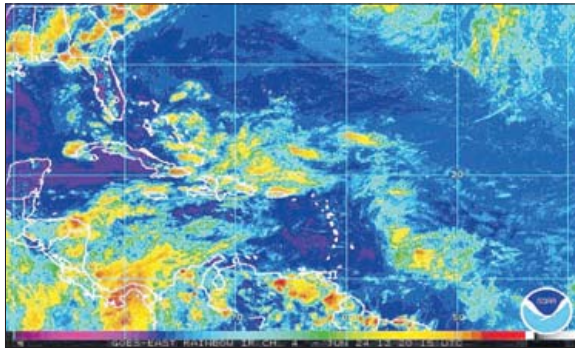


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WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy, becoming increasingly cloudy with local showers, particularly in the morning.

Winds: Easterly, 13-20mph.

Sea conditions: Moderate.

Seas: 4-6 feet.

Forecast high: 30°C 86°F

Forecast low: 25°C 77°F

SYNOPSIS: A tropical wave is expected to pass through the Caribbean today, mainly affecting the Windward Islands. This system may introduce instability to the region creating an environment conducive for shower activity. Therefore, expect increasingly cloudy conditions, with isolated to scattered showers possible. Sea conditions will be moderate for the next several days.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK: None.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Names for this year's Hurricane Season (June 1 to November 30) are Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastian.

According to the US National Hurricane Center, Tropical Storm Barry formed over the Gulf of Mexico early last week, moved Westward and eventually dissipated over the mountains of Mexico, posing no threat to the local area. The local Meteorological Office issued no information on this weather system.

Outlook until Wednesday evening: Generally partly cloudy and breezy, with isolated showers possible.

Sunrise: 5:39am

Sunset: 6:52pm

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CRUISE SHIPS IN PORT TODAY

Date	Vessel	Place	Arrival	Departure	Agent
June 25					No cruise ship in port today.

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COLE BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

meeting 1st. Thursday of month at Sun Flower

Kinder Garten School, Union Rd. Cole Bay at 7:30pm

SERVICE CLUBS

ROTARY CLUBS Rotary meeting at Divi Little Bay, every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. (Tuscan Restaurant) Rotary Mid Isle meets every Tuesday 7-9pm, Le Charolais Restaurant, Royal Islander Club, Maho Plaza.

Rotary Sunrise meets every Tuesday at 6:45 am. at Air Lekkerbek. Rotary club St. Martin Nord meet at the Grand Case Beach Club Sunday at 8 p.m.

LIONS meeting at the Upper Princess Quarter Community Centre Lions Den in Sucker Garden every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

ST. MAARTEN LEO CLUB meeting at the Lions Den every 1st, 3rd Saturday every month at 11:00 am

KIWANIS meets at Wifol Building on Thursday

A first step

During yesterday's meeting to elect a new president and vice-president, two coalition members said Parliament needs a legal department to become more effective in drafting and passing laws (see related article). One of the most-often-heard complaints about the local elected representatives is indeed that they produce very little in the way of initiative or so-called members' bills.

As pointed out before, even though it's called the executive branch, government in practice prepares most legislation simply because it has the apparatus to do so. The legislature must approve these proposals, but rarely comes up with draft laws of its own.

The latter requires expertise and that costs money, so not for the first time DP fraction leader Roy Marlin called for cutting back on travel expenses for meetings of the – unofficial – Latin American Parliament "Parlatino." Some might argue that St. Maarten as a young country certainly should not isolate itself from the region, but he didn't suggest stopping attending altogether.

One way to save money would be to fly coach instead of first class, as some parliamentarians have done in the recent past. That's not a discussion taking place only on the island, by the way.

During Monday's debate on the functioning of the Dutch Second Chamber in The Hague, the fact that members are obliged to travel first class also was questioned. Not only that, but if it regards a distance of more than 500 kilometres they have to take an airplane rather than the train, regardless of the destination.

It seems flying coach is not an option there because of certain rights of government officials who are part of delegations going abroad. At least one of the parliamentarians countered that they don't have to follow civil servants and could decide to fly coach.

It is a topic that is bound to remain a point of debate because there are also those who argue that a certain status must go with representing the highest democratic body of the land, as is the case with ministers. What is hardly in doubt is that the local Parliament could use some more legislative manpower, but perhaps if the various fractions as a first step would use the assistants they have a right to hire for legal advisors rather than for political appointments, it might go a long way.

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Agenda St. Maarten / St. Martin

each month at 7.30pm. **Kiwanis Key Club** of the St. Maarten Academy meeting at the St. Maarten Academy every Friday at 1.30 p.m.

KIWANIS SOULGIA 1st & 3rd Monday

7:00pm Holland House

JCI St. Maarten (JAYCEES) meeting at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library every last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Business attire required.

PHILIPSBURG TOASTMASTERS CLUB bi-monthly sessions every first and third Thursday of every month at the Library conference room at 8:00 p.m.

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LEGAL AID CENTER, Law Clinic, open every Saturday 9:00am - 12:00 noon. Free advice on personal legal issues. Administration Building, tel. 5422337

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ST.MAARTEN CHAPTER OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN holds their general monthly meetings every third Monday at the Delta Hotel at 7:00 pm.

DIABETES FOUNDATION OF ST. MAARTEN, Free blood-glucose testing every Thursday from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at the Philipsburg Pharmacy Voges street, Philipsburg (opposite library). Tel.: 542-3001

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SKALCLUB ST. MAARTEN/ST. MARTIN meets 1st Tuesday of the month. For location

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C.R.O.S.S. (Center, Research, Organization, Rescue, Security) is on stand by 24 hours at 0596 709292.

SERVICE CLUBS

ROTARY Club Sunset restaurant, Grand Case Beach Club every Thursday at 7:45p.m.

LIONS First and third Tuesday at Nadailac, Marigot at 7.30 p.m.

KIWANIS: See St. Maarten.

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St. Maarten was represented recently at an intensive training course organised by the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF) in Tobago. The "Train-the-Foot-Trainer" course was aimed at developing cross-island integration for Caribbean foot care management from a structural, educational, clinical and research perspective. Diabetes care is challenging and increasingly is considered to be inadequate. St. Maarten is no exception. The representatives thanked White and Yellow Cross Foundation, Oduber Agency and Diabetic Foundation St. Maarten (DFS) for making the trip possible. From left: Incoming IWGDF President and diabetologist Kristien Van Acker (Belgium), diabetology nurse Dionne Trustfull (St. Maarten), Dr. Grace Spencer (St. Maarten), podiatrist Simone McConnie (Barbados), Dr. Augusto Zamores Perez (St. Maarten) and diabetologist Nalini Campillo (Dominican Republic).

Leroy wants May 13 meeting properly recorded for history

~ Concerns about budget, reserves raised ~

PHILIPSBURG--Democratic Party (DP) Member of Parliament Leroy de Weever made

it clear in Monday's plenary session of Parliament that he wants the meeting of Parliament held on May 13 to be "properly documented for history" and all references to its being "just a gathering" to be removed from Parliament's Website.

He also wants Governor Eugene Holiday's statement outlining the political developments in the past six weeks to be handled in Parliament in its "very next debate ... we need to debate the true actions and the purpose and intent for certain positions that are held in this community."

De Weever said the legal advice on the May 13 meeting showed that it was legally constituted and held; therefore the meeting needs to be reflected in Parliament's year report. It was in that meeting that a vote of no confidence was passed against four ministers of the former National Alliance (NA)-led coalition.

The May 13 meeting has some contention around it, because it was "postponed" via a note from the General Secretary of Parliament. However, the majority of MPs opted to go ahead with the meeting and pass the motions of no confidence.

He said since May several MPs of the now opposition "tried to hijack democracy" and together with some members of the executive branch mounted "a futile move to disband parliament." This was "turning things around," because

the executive branch reports to Parliament.

Democracy and the Rules of Orders "have survived the day," De Weever said.

Speaking about the groups that have been calling for early elections, the MP said they have spent many, many hours of going to try and convince the governor to see their position. "People believe that the governor is almighty. His position of a supervisory nature is becoming less and less important as we go forward."

The public needs to understand that the "relatively true responsibility lies with parliament. At the end of the day, Parliament decides how we will proceed. It is of absolute tantamount importance that people understand that the true representation they voted for so dearly is in the hall today."

MP Roy Marlin (DP) said that in spite of the issues in the past weeks, "parliament and democracy have survived." He chided NA parliamentarians and ministers for trying to get the Dutch Government involved in the country's internal affairs. "It reminded me of the days of 'we fo we'" when higher supervi-

sion was imposed on the country. He questioned if going under higher supervision was the reason country status within the Dutch Kingdom was fought for.

Marlin said attention needs to be passed to the country's reserve, which is now down by

35 per cent since May 2012, from Naf. 61 million to some Naf. 40 million. "We need to

get the economy going ... if investors don't come and invest, it will be like the old people say: 'crappo smoke yuh pipe.'"

Independent MP Patrick Illidge was also concerned about the 2013 budget, which is still pending final ratification. He warned that the country is in its annual slow season. He called for the interest of the people to be taken into consideration and for MPs "to put our differences aside; it is not about us."

Escapees still at large, police intensify search

PHILIPSBURG--The Police Force has intensified its search for the three persons who escaped from the prison cells at the Philipsburg police station on Sunday.

Police spokesperson Inspector Ricardo Henson said on Monday that the three men were still on the loose. He said most of the neighbouring islands, including French St. Martin, have been informed of the escape.

He warned citizens that it is a crime to aid and abet criminals. The police are relying on the public for any information on the whereabouts of the escapees.

The three men from the Dominican Republic escaped from the open-air recreational area of the prison Sunday afternoon. The escapees are Sobiesky Manuel-Parrondo, born in the Dominican Republic on November 4, 1987, whose last address was Rue de Sandy Ground #8, and is suspected of murder; Miquel Olivier-Ruiz, born in the Dominican Republic on February 1, 1984, and wanted for drug-trafficking; and David

Santana-Guerero born in the Dominican Republic on April 25, 1984, and wanted for drug-trafficking.

Police said the suspects are

considered armed and extremely dangerous. Persons with information on the suspects can contact the police at tel. 542-2222 or 911.

Lloyd calls for adoption of revised Rules of Order

PHILIPSBURG--Parliament needs to adopt the revised Rules of Order as soon as possible, says Chairman of the ad hoc committee on the Rules of Order, Member of Parliament Dr. Lloyd Richardson (National Alliance).

He urged new President of Parliament MP Gracita Arindell to get the adoption of the rules, especially the explanatory notes, finalised as soon as possible to avoid further "pitfalls" in the application of the rules.

Dr. Richardson said during Monday's plenary session of parliament that "many adaptations" to the Rules were made by the ad hoc committee. Those adaptations are aimed at making the rules clear and better understand-

able. His call about the approval of the Rules of Order followed a lengthy discussion in the plenary session about articles in rules pertaining to the holding of meetings after 14 days have passed between the request for the meeting and the actual holding of the meeting.

The MP said he spent quite some time during the Carnival season with General Secretary of Parliament Jozef Semeleer finalising the changes for parliament's approval.

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Arrindell commends civil servants, calls for debate on political reform

PHILIPSBURG--President of Parliament Gracita Arrindell says she is "very proud" of the country's civil servants, and called on them to continue to build "an inclusive, prosperous and sustainable future for all." Her statement was in connection with United Nations Civil Servants Day observed on Sunday.

"I continue to appeal to our nation's youth to pursue careers in the public sec-

tor, because the building of country St. Maarten will not be over in four or eight years; it is a continuous process of nation building and national development," Arrindell said Monday.

"Primary areas of focus that need to be continuously built upon in public governance are prevention of corruption, improving service delivery, promoting innovative mechanisms for citizen participation in

policy-making and advancing knowledge management in government," she said.

"We recently lost Corporal Welton W. Baker of the Voluntary Corps St. Maarten, a servant in the truest form, may his soul rest in peace."

Arrindell said she agreed with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon that countries should focus on the importance of good governance, efficient public administration and to celebrate the contribution of public servants to society's progress.

"Firstly, I fully agree with the remarks made by the UN SG, especially when one looks at the political events that transpired during the month of May and the first two weeks of June. I agree that interlinked challenges do require sound, forward-looking public policies and transparent, accountable governance structures," Arrindell said.

In the case of St. Maarten, she wants to see further constructive debate within the community, where electoral reform is concerned. "This could be a project for the University of St. Martin to spearhead."

The UN General Assembly recently elected by acclamation John William Ashe, the Permanent Representative of Antigua & Barbuda to the UN as President of its sixty-eighth session for a one-year period. Arrindell congratulated Ashe on the appointment, saying it is not only an achievement for Antigua and Barbuda, but for Caribbean countries and Small Island Developing States.

"This is definitely an indication of the UN body's confidence in the ability of Ambassador Ashe to lead the Assembly," said Arrindell.



Minister of Infrastructure Maurice Lake (third from left) with SMHDF Managing Director Henry Lynch (left), Claudius Buncamper of VROMI (second from left), Troy Dormoy of Green Diamond N.V. (centre), members of Lake's cabinet and Green Diamond representatives.

Dutch Quarter, Belvedere trench-cleaning contract awarded to district's young men

BELVEDERE--Minister of Infrastructure Maurice Lake awarded another trench-cleaning contract to young adults of Dutch Quarter/Belvedere on Monday. The contract went to Green Diamond N.V., headed by Troy Dormoy who expressed pride in having been given another opportunity to put some of the district's youngsters to work.

The one-year contract is worth approximately NAF. 145,000. According to Minister Lake and Ministry of Public Housing and Spatial Development, Environment and Infrastructure VROMI Head of Maintenance Claudius Buncamper, the contract most likely will be extended to two years.

Green Diamond, which first received a contract from St. Maarten Housing Development Foundation

under Managing Director Henry Lynch, will take six weeks to two months to complete cleaning the trenches in the applicable districts.

Dormoy explained that the company had been formed after young men of the districts decided they wanted to do better. He said they had decided to get together and change the image of young St. Maarten people who did not want to work. He thanked the young men with whom he will be working, Minister Lake, Lynch and Buncamper for the opportunities.

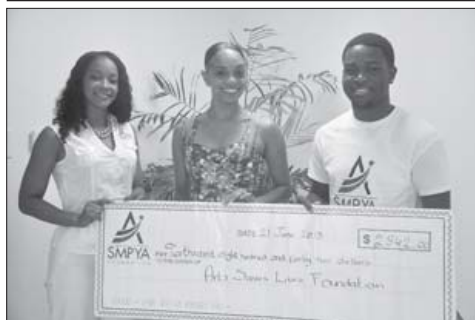
Dormoy expects to work with about 15 youngsters and some of the contractors with whom he has worked in the past. He said the more youngsters the better, as that meant they would be doing something

constructive rather than sitting around doing nothing.

Lake said awarding the contract to Green Diamond was just another phase in his "getting back to basics" initiative. He said he believed the community must be supported and jobs created therein. He said he would like to work with Lynch and the Dutch Quarter Community Council to do more.

"Once you give these boys the opportunity, they will feel pride and do us proud," Lake said.

Dutch Quarter Community Council President Sidney de Weever told Dormoy and his crew to "make us proud" and work hard for the districts. He also thanked Minister Lake and others for awarding the contract to young men of the districts.



From left: SMPYA Foundation President Angelique Romou, Arts Saves Lives Foundation representative Nicole de Weever and SMPYA Foundation member Alexander "Kenjo" Baly.

Romou expresses thanks for Unity Walk support

PHILIPSBURG--Saint Martin Promoting Young Ambassadors Foundation (SMPYA) President Angelique Romou has thanked to everyone who made the "Unity Walk for the Arts" to aid Arts Saves Lives Foundation a success last weekend.

"We are extremely elated to have seen the community of St. Maarten showing their support and [coming - Ed.] out united to support this auspicious cause," Romou said. She said it was evident not only in the sales of the walkathon badges, but also in the numbers who came out to support.

She quoted Art Save Lives President Nicole de Weever, "There is definitely more might in a fist than in individual fingers."

Romou also thanked Sharalee Beudeker of Divico, Obersi Xerox, Cleon Fredericks, Charles Brown the DJ, and all family and friends who assisted with the breakfast. The US \$2,842 raised at the walkathon was handed over to De Weever on Friday June 21.



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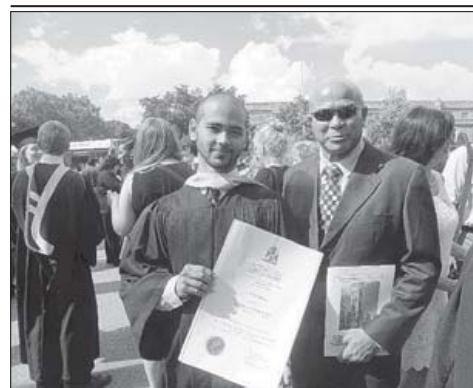
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Louis R. Engel III (left) graduated with honours and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada, on June 13. In St. Maarten, Louis attended Caribbean International Academy (CIA) up to the ninth grade, after which he traveled to Canada to complete his last three years of secondary school at Pickering College High School. He is seeking employment with a research company and intends to pursue further education. With Louis is his father Louis "Rudy" Engel (right).

WIB's Banking Centre goes green, has own employee rooftop lounge



Artist's impression of the new WIB Banking Centre.



This new area on the first floor of the extension building will be the Premium Banking section.



WIB Assistant Managing Director Kelvin Bloyden explains the importance of WIB's personnel training facilities.



The rooftop of the extension building features a lounge for its employees and special events.

PHILIPSBURG--Complete with a rooftop lounge for its employees, special events and green initiatives, the new buildings collectively known as Windward Islands Bank Banking Centre will be inaugurated on Wednesday, June 26.

WIB Assistant Managing Director Kelvin Bloyden provided the media of St. Maarten with a general tour on Tuesday, of WIB's two-storey main office building and the four storey extension building.

On the exterior of the main building, WIB has established 24-hour mail boxes for its clients. Two ATM's are accessible on the exterior along with the night depository box. Moving to the inside, the main banking area is highlighted with neon blue lights and flat screen televisions.

There is a sitting lounge for waiting clients, the bank's

information services, sales and service officers are located on the first floor. The second floor of the main building houses the bank's bankcard services and cafeteria.

The four floors of the extension building house everything from the bank's training centre, which Bloyden said is crucial to ensure that personnel are trained in such a way that they grow with the bank, to marketing, human resources legal, commercial credit, auditors, management offices and more.

The ground floor of the extension building will eventually house a section that will be known as premium banking for specific clientele. This section, though mostly furnished, will be opened soon. The buildings are also adorned with artwork from some of St. Maarten's best-known artists.

The rooftop features a cistern, warehouse storage, coolers for the air-conditioning units, as well as the building's main generator and a backup generator. The crown of the rooftop, however, is the bank's lounge area, complete with lounge seating, a bar and socializing area with panoramic views of Philipsburg and surrounding areas.

WIB has also gone "green" with the design of the buildings, with very large windows to allow natural light in, building insulation that reduces heat, censored lights, so no on/off switches, the cistern water will also be used for restrooms and watering of plants.

With the construction of the new buildings came the need for additional personnel. Bloyden explained that some five to six new tellers had to be added and more personnel will be needed.



Outgoing Managing Director of WIB Jan Beaujon took some time to greet and speak to the media on Monday.

SMMC loses staff data due to hard disk crash

~ No patient information lost ~

CAY Hill--St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC) lost all its electronic employee files due to a recent hard disk crash, the hospital said in a statement on Monday.

The hospital said its server malfunctioned due to a failure of one of the hard disks last week. The hard disk that crashed contained the user files or so called 'my documents' of employees. Backup processes of these files did not function according to expectations, which resulted in loss of information of the last year. The affected hard disk was immediately expedited to

the United States to a specialized professional laboratory in an attempt to see what could still be retrieved from the lost data, but unfortunately the data could not be recovered.

"While this, of course, represents a setback for our support and administrative departments, it is important to reassure the public at large that all medical information of patients, as well as the financial accounting was in no way affected by this failure, as these programmes and data reside on a separate hard disk, safeguarded by its own backup processes," the

hospital said. "No essential information pertinent to patient care has been compromised or lost."

SMMC said Minister of Health and the Inspectorate of Health have been "fully informed" of the situation.

"Our Hospital Information System is intact and the St. Maarten Medical Center, as always, will continue to serve our community, as well as the populations of our sister islands Saba and St. Eustatius with the utmost care to the best of our abilities, always striving towards improvement," it was stated in the release.



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Unity Flag flying high in salute to Emancipation



Participants and onlookers witnessing the unveiling of a plaque following the Unity Flag raising in tribute to the Diamond Estate 26 and the 165th anniversary of Emancipation (1848-2013).

MARIGOT--“The St. Maarten Unity Flag is flying in freedom in the French-controlled north of the island in 1848,” Reiph said. “In the French territory, the Emancipation news had also been hidden from the enslaved people by the European slave owners, government, church and military officials...in Marigot. But the declaration of freedom couldn’t be held back for long after the May 27 Emancipation date, because of mounting tension,” said Reiph.

According to *National Symbols of St. Martin*, anti-slavery actions by the Diamond Estate 26 and other enslaved ancestors in Dutch St. Maarten were also immediately on the rise. The governor in Philipsburg was forced to declare a process-verbal, which de facto ended slavery in 1848. This occurred during the same period as when slavery was abolished in French St. Martin, and 15 years before Emancipation

freedom in the French-controlled north of the island in 1848,” Reiph said. “In the French territory, the Emancipation news had also been hidden from the enslaved people by the European slave owners, government, church and military officials...in Marigot. But the declaration of freedom couldn’t be held back for long after the May 27 Emancipation date, because of mounting tension,” said Reiph.

With the gracious permission of the property owners, the location was selected because of its proximity to the rock wall further up the hill over which, “26 enslaved black men, women and children from Diamond Estate in Cole Bay had escaped from slavery in the Dutch part of the island,” said Reiph.

“Historical records show that the Diamond Estate 26 and others who ran over Marigot Hill and escaped through the freedom pass in Belvedere took their

was declared in the other Dutch slaveholding colonies in the Caribbean region on July 1, 1863.

The Unity Flag is flying at the historical location since May 11. “The Unity Flag was unveiled 23 years ago as the “National Flag” to represent both parts of our island as one nation. It is encouraging to see the flag saluting the 165th Emancipation anniversary,” said poet and “independentista” Lasana M. Sekou.

“The Unity Flag is a concrete symbol of the nation’s historic and cultural unity. The Unity Flag is further offered as a visible symbol to keep fostering that unity between all of the St. Martin people, in the North and South. For some of us this unity banner is also in defiance of the French and Dutch colonialism that still divides our island into two territories,” said Sekou.

A plaque was unveiled next to the Unity Flag, bearing the following lines read from the poem “The National Flag of St. Martin” by Charles Borromeo Hodge. “Fly free, fair standard...Singing upon the winds, fly proud and free. Uniting Sweet St. Martin’s kindred flock. One Land, one People and one Destiny”

The ad-hoc Emancipation Committee is organizing anniversary activities throughout the year. The 165th anniversary activities are centred in what the committee has identified as an “Emancipation period, which stretches from May 27 to July 1,” said Reiph.

Commemorative activities by government officials in both capitals have already taken place in May or are scheduled for July 1.

“It is not clear if the official July 1 observation in Philipsburg will focus on the independent stand and history made by St. Maarteners in 1848, which did not wait for Dutch permission or the 1863 dictate to claim that stage of our freedom journey,” said Sekou.

Private organizations such as Voices Foundation are also hosting cultural activities on July 1.



Three generations of Boolchands (from left) Karan Nandwani, Navin Nandwani, Haresh Nandwani, Doulatram “Dada” Boolchand Nandwani, Lachv Nandwani, Ram Nandwani, Ravee Nandwani and Jaideep Nandwani.

Boolchand’s celebrates its 50th anniversary

PHILIPSBURG--A cross section of the community joined the Boolchand family to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Boolchand’s store in St. Maarten on Friday evening.

Three generations of the Boolchand family attended the function, including Doulatram “Dada” Boolchand Nandwani, who opened the first store in St. Maarten under the name “Oriental Art Palace” on March 30, 1963. He has opened several other stores in St. Maarten since and has businesses in other countries, including Curaçao and Aruba.

The many guests were treated to live entertainment and a wide range of delicacies at the event held at Great Bay Beach Resort.

When Dada opened the first store in St. Maarten the island was quiet, laid-back, had no potable water, 10 vehicles, two main streets and only 3,000 residents. He was the first Indian to visit St. Maarten, the first to open a store here and the first to have a glass storefront and glass showcases.

The 91-year-old pioneer, who has a special love for St. Maarten, is proud of the indelible role his businesses



United People’s (UP) party leader Theo Heyliger and Democratic Party Member of Parliament Leroy de Weever among guests at the celebration.



Former Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards and his wife Angela Richards with other guests at the event.

have played in the development of the St. Maarten embracing business in St. Maarten, and says he is confident the store will have 50 more years of business in St. Maarten.

Legal dept

Continued from page 1.

Parlatino. Cutting that budget is the “only way to get through this quagmire ... we need to seriously think about cutting back the travels.”

Marlin questioned the amount of legislation Parliament has passed since it came into existence in October 2010. “We need some legal brains [or] four years will go by without us actually doing our job.”

Marlin has one initiative law pending handling by parliament. He pointed out that he did as much as he could with his knowledge and background, but the draft requires the input of some legal experts.

Meyers-Olivacce said while she understands Parliament’s financial constraints, such a department

is very necessary. “We have to start working and legislating ... a lot of our laws are outdated.”

MP Johan Leonard (UP) also wants to see a number of draft laws and amendments taken care of. He was very keen on seeing a law regulating smoking in public places as a way of safeguarding the health of the population.

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Fête du Nautisme rebounds as many enjoy water sports

MARIGOT-The Fête du Nautisme made a hugely successful comeback at the weekend in Grand Case as scores of youngsters and families enjoyed the many water sport activities and excursions in perfect weather.

The unfortunate circumstances surrounding the postponement of the Fête from its original date were quickly erased, as the bay of Grand Case on Sunday was seen full of people kayaking, sailing Hobie Cats, paddle boarding, taking pleasure boat rides, driving Rhino riders, wind surfing, jet skiing, diving, or just swimming in the crystal clear water.

Music and a running commentary on the activities

kept the atmosphere lively all day long. The event also gave a boost to the restaurants and "lolos," conveniently situated to watch the action, with the extra lunch business. The public could participate in the activities for free or for a small fee of 2 euros.

Organisers Métimer were blessed to have fine weather on both days, and a calm bay for the activities. Saturday was not as busy as Sunday. Sea World Explorer made many excursions out to Creole Rock and visibility was said to be excellent. Sea rescue service SNSM was also on hand to give demonstrations, and show how a life raft is deployed.

Water sports operators gave demonstrations al-

most every hour with jet skis, wake boarding, wind surfing and paddle boarding. Jousting between two paddle board riders caused a lot of laughter from the spectators. Competitions, prize giving and a raffle all added to the fun.

A highlight of the weekend was the Fly Board demonstrations, a new activity making its debut in St. Martin. It has been turning heads whenever a "rocket man" is seen flying over the water.

Jonathan Julien, the Caribbean distributor for the Fly Board and an instructor, explained that an 18-metre hose attached to the pump of a jet ski produces intense water pressure that sends the person airborne.

"You can dive into the water, and execute back flips and somersaults, anything you want. The water pressure from the pump keeps you high in the air, and the Jet Ski follows you."

Described as an extreme sport, it was invented in 2012 by Frenchman Francky Zapata and according to Julien takes only half an hour to learn to fly. However, you need to own a jet ski with a minimum of 110HP, or rent one, to do this sport.

"The more power you have from the jet ski, the higher you go," he added.

The Jet Ski needs to be adapted for the sport, and the different parts include elbows and hose attached to the pump and front of the Jet Ski. A board is used to stand on, similar to a wakeboard with two bindings for the feet. Holes in



Many persons enjoyed the water sports on offer at Grand Case beach during the Fête du Nautisme.



Instructor Jonathan Julien performs acrobatics in the air during the Fly Board demonstrations at the Fête du Nautisme over the weekend.

Eight drivers over the limit

MARIGOT-Eight persons were found to be driving under the influence of alcohol during a control set up at the Bellevue roundabout on Sunday, between 2:00am and 6:00am, the Gendarmerie disclosed.

One motorist was also fined for driving with bald tyres. Eight Gendarmes took part in the control that also checked for general driving offences. In total, 30 motorists were stopped during the control.

MPC holds final parent meet today

SOUTH REWARD--Milton Peters College (MPC) will have its last parents' meeting for the current 2012-2013 academic year today, Tuesday, June 25, from 9:00am to 1:25pm, rather than in the evening.

During the meeting, the third report card for students will be given out, only if the educational material has been returned, parental contribution paid in full and all books returned to the school beforehand, MPC said in a press release on Monday.

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the board allow the water to fall back. Direction is controlled by movement of the feet. More information from www.flyboardsint-maarten.

A breakdown on figures

of how many persons participated in the activities, and how much money was raised for the repair of the small jetty were not yet available.

Organisers declared the

event a great success. It now remains for the Métimer board to decide if the Fête remains in Grand Case or is taken to other beaches of the French side.

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Dr. Arrindell questions why

Continued from page 1.

play in healthcare and it should ensure the normal functioning of medical institutions and medical practitioners, the way in which decisions are carried out is also important. He said decisions should be made in a responsible way with the focus on patient safety and respect for patients' free choice. Cases of warranted suspension or any other measures should be pursued in a manner in which the medical institution or medical practitioner will be granted the opportunity to improve on the shortcomings without "blatant humiliation of the medical institution or medical practitioner."

Dr. Pedro Arrindell said that ever since his sister had become mentally challenged intermittently, nine months ago – which at various times had led to her medical competency being compromised – he had put a contingency plan in place for any of her patients who believed that he would better manage the continuity of their care.

Patients who decided to seek this help were informed that they were not obliged to stay under his medical supervision and were free to go to another family care physician if they so desired.

He said 85 per cent of his sister's patients had sought medical supervision at his clinic, 15 per cent had remained under her medical supervision and the remainder had sought medical at-

tention elsewhere. "I can confidently say that the majority of the patients, which I took under my medical supervision, are happy and very pleased with the service rendered to them," Dr. Pedro Arrindell said.

"In addition to this I had verbal as well as written communications with the Inspectorate of Health and the Director of the SZV about [the-Ed.] ... contingency plan and current preparations to employ an additional doctor on a part-time basis initially and, should it be the case that my sister will no longer be able to assume her medical responsibility, that this doctor will be full-time employed, converting my clinic into a practice of two primary health care physicians to address the extra workload. I decided to do this as the allowed amount of patients in the Dutch system is 2,800 per family care physician," he said.

"However, in the United Kingdom where I did my general practice training, the general practitioners are not only trained to manage 4,000 to 5,000 patients in their medical practice, but are obliged by law to audit their work every year and submit this to the National Insurance Health Authority of that county or district and I am quite capable of managing the extra 1,400 to 1,500 patients additionally from her practice on my own.

There was no verbal communication with the Minis-

ter of Health, but "he was also informed about this contingency plan in writing," he said.

Arrindell said he was "troubled and concerned" about certain statements from Inspector General Dr. Earl Best in his press release announcing the temporary suspension of his sister's practice.

Alluding to Best's statement that Villous-Arrindell was allowed to make necessary arrangements with a qualified replacement physician to provide continuity of care of her patients for the duration of the suspension, Dr. Pedro Arrindell asked whether he is not a qualified replacement physician. "I was trained in the United Kingdom and have the qualifications of a primary care health physician – GP – as stipulated by the European Union, to work in any of its member states and its non-continental extra-peripheral territories. Does St. Maarten not qualify for this application? Who was in charge of the medical supervision and the continuity of care for my sister's patients in the last nine months?" he asked.

"Based on the statements made by the Inspector of Health, I will have to assume that the Government does not think I can guarantee the continuity of the patient care despite verbally and in writing informing it about the established contingency plan."

He also alluded to Best's

statements that Villous-Arrindell has to make her decision for a replacement known to her patients by a press release and at her office location and if she can't arrange for qualified replacement, she must notify the Inspectorate and all health insurance companies immediately. It is then up to the insurance companies to take the necessary steps to ensure continuity of care to their clients.

Dr. Pedro Arrindell said most of his sister's patients who continued to seek care under his supervision were aware of the contingency plan. "I reflected repeat-

edly on these quotations and simply cannot understand why at no time during the Inspectorate's press release, he mentioned that I had discussions with his office and that he was informed about this contingency plan; and why he insists on his directions knowing full well that the issue of a replacement physician and the continuity in care has long been sorted, implemented and working well for those patients who seek it."

"In further analysis of these directions, one will have to assume that there must be some other hidden

agenda the government wants to pursue with this particular case. I believe that a very important aspect has not been properly taken into account with regard to creating unnecessary despair among patients who have sought new medical supervision to their healthcare to have this suddenly disrupted by a government directive," he said.

The doctor said the most important question – freedom of choice in medical supervision of the patients involved in this case – had not yet been addressed.



Thirteen persons completed the Paediatric First Aid certification course offered by the Windward Islands Emergency Medical Services (WIEMS) on Saturday, June 15. The eight-hour course included instructions on how to deal with a range of paediatric emergencies and initiate lifesaving care. In addition, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillation (AED) training was offered for all ages. The course was attended by parents, teachers and members of Scouting Antiano, all of whom were interested in being prepared for the unexpected emergencies and life-threatening situations that can arise when dealing with the paediatric population.

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DAILY GAMES

	PICK 3	PICK 4
MIDDAY DRAW # 11501	5-6-7	9-8-9-7
PRIZE:1	2-5-5	9-8-4-4
2	0-5-0	9-9-7-1
3		
SUNSET DRAW # 11502	6-2-6	3-3-6-2
PRIZE:1	5-6-1	6-7-7-0
2	9-7-0	6-2-5-4
3		
EVENING DRAW # 11503	6-9-5	6-2-8-8
PRIZE:1	3-9-4	1-4-4-7
2	1-3-8	2-0-6-0
3		

doubles DRAW # 1516
RED 14 19
WHITE 07 20

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Art Saves Lives starts week-long workshops

COLE BAY--Sixteen talented and inspiring professional teachers from the US and 75 students from St. Maarten started a week-long intensive summer camp Monday at Princess Port de Plaisance Country Club. A reception in honour of the visiting artistes contributing to Art Saves Lives Summer Workshop was held at Holland House Beach Hotel on Monday evening.

The five-day workshops are geared toward young adults ages 13 and up and will culminate in a student presentation at Belair Community Centre, Saturday, June 29, at 8:00pm.

Art Saves Lives, founded, coordinated and presided over by Nicole de Weever, is a cross-cultural exchange between youth in need and experienced practising artistes who seek to use their talents for positive change.

This collaborative project selected renowned artistes who use the arts to introduce participants to global and local traditions and empower them with life skills necessary to effectively deal with the demands and challenges of everyday

life. The project is also to provide guidance for young artists aspiring to pursue a career in the arts.

Nicole de Weever is a cultural ambassador of St. Maarten. She is a graduate of New York University Tisch School of the Arts, Fairfax Ballet and Motion Dance School. She is a recipient of the Fred and Adele Astaire Awards 2010 for Best Female Dancer on Broadway and performed in many shows and festivals.

The Art Saves Lives workshops cover a wide range of dance styles, including ballet, hip-hop, modern dance, tap dance, as well as East-African and Afro-Caribbean dance. Classes in yoga, pilates, vocal performance and entrepreneurship and jewellery design are also on offer.

Hanifa Jackson Adderly will be teaching a dance workshop focusing on awareness of arm and leg coordination. "We will put together movements to build on choreography. This class will also explore jumps and turns, while grooving and staying grounded. While learning dance terminology and put-

ting movement together this class will prove to be a fun and memorable experience that will have the Arts Saves Lives students inspired and awakened," the dancer, dance instructor and choreographer from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, explained on Art Saves Lives' Website.

Jackson Adderly received her professional training at Philadanco!, Pennsylvania Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem and the Ailey School, has toured with West Side Story, Ballet Hispanico and The Lion King and is currently a principal dancer in "Mystere" by Cirque Du Soleil in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Anthony Burrell will be conducting a workshop in hip-hop dance, designed to make a connection between concert and commercial dance. A native of Philadelphia, Burrell began teaching and choreographing at age 14. His extraordinary talent was evident even then, earning him an emerging choreographer award, and later resulting in his being appointed resident choreographer for the school.

Basic vocabulary, improvisation and traditional tap dance are the ingredients of a tap dance workshop to be conducted by Chloe Arnold. She has performed extensively throughout the US, the Caribbean, Europe, Brazil, Japan, Taiwan and Australia and made guest performances on So You Think You Can Dance and Dancing with the Stars. Daisha Graf is also among

participating teachers. She will be conducting a hip-hop workshop, which will explore basic techniques while infusing elements of street jazz and African dance with the purpose of building a well-versed commercial dancer.

Graf started a back-up dance career that's spanned some of the largest hip-hop and R&B tours in recent memory: Rihanna, Diddy,

Ryan Leslie, Letoya Luckett, Jill Scott and Beyoncé, to name a few.

Even before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance from Hofstra University, Daisha earned notice as a talented member with the Imani Dance Ensemble and New York City-based Rhapsody The Company.

Arrindell back as President of Parliament

Continued from page 1.

work to be done," she said, adding that she never would take the position for granted. She recalled that when she had been replaced by Samuel she had been present to wish him well. Samuel was not present for the voting.

The eight members of the UP/Democratic Party/Laville coalition, along with independent MP Patrick Illidge, voted by "secret ballot" to elect Arrindell. Only nine MPs were present for the vote - the eight coalition MPs and Illidge.

Illidge said after the vote that he had supported Arrindell when she became Parliament President in 2010 and his wish was "to let her continue her work." He thanked Laville and Samuel for their contributions at the helm of Parliament.

UP fraction leader MP Sylvia Meyers-Olivacce said the post was not new for Arrindell, but there was a lot of work to do now. She said to fellow MPs, "We need to be able sit in these chambers and respect each other. It is not about fighting each other by word of mouth."

Laville said he knew the seat Arrindell was preparing to take up again "is not an easy one." It comes with "a lot of responsibility," he said.

MP Leroy de Weever (DP) said the election of a new Parliament President sent "a clear message to the Dutch" about the country being on the right track after the recent political crisis.

Arrindell's election was a means of "assuring continuity of the most sacred body" in the country, he said.

Other coalition MPs also congratulated Arrindell and wished her well in her new post.

NA Parliamentarians



Deputy President of Parliament MP Romain Laville presents the gavel to newly-elected President of Parliament MP Gracita Arrindell on Monday morning after she was voted back into the post.

George Pantophlet, Samuel and Hyacinth Richardson left the meeting after lengthy objections to its taking place more than 14 days after the request was submitted by the new coalition. Their point was that the rules should be followed.

However, Deputy President of Parliament MP Romain Laville decided to continue the meeting, as there were no specifics in the Rules of Order stipulating that the meeting should not continue. The meeting was not held within 14 days of the request because of the passing of Meyers-Olivacce's father and travel of some MPs to the session of the Latin America Parliament Parlatino.

Lloyd Richardson (NA) left the meeting after he explained that the objection to the meeting continuing was not a way of stalling the process, but to ensure that the rules were followed. The country has been in "a forced recession" and it is "time to get our act together and get about with the people's business," he said.

Unlike his NA colleagues,

Richardson gave an explanation for his departure from the meeting. He said he had an appointment with Minister of Health Cornelius de Weever. "I didn't want to exit without the public knowing why I was leaving."

Illidge was in favour of the meeting proceeding. He said the decision made regarding the meeting was needed "so the work of Parliament can continue. ... A lot of time has already been wasted." The recent political crisis had "tested the limits of this young democracy. The people need our attention with no further delay," he said.

MP Roy Marlin (DP) said it was amazing to see Samuel championing the application of the Rules of Order. He said it did not matter whether the meeting had been called within the 14 days or not, because MPs had "the opportunity to speak and not be muzzled" in Monday's session.

MPs Louie Laveist (NA) and Frans Richardson (independent) were absent from the meeting with notice.

NOTE TO OUR READERS AND CLIENTS

Monday, July 1st, is Emancipation Day, a public holiday in St. Maarten. There will be no The Daily (or Miami) Herald on that day and the office is also closed.

Advertising for the newspapers of both Saturday, June 29th and Tuesday, July 2nd, is Friday, June 28th, at 1pm for display ads and birthday wishes, and 3pm for classifieds. The WEEKender of Saturday, June 29th, will pay special attention to Emancipation Day.

The Daily
Herald

Seven Seas Water plant visited by Dutch government representative

~ Tank, water plant construction on schedule ~

SIMPSONBAY--At the initiative of the office of the representation of The Netherlands in Philipsburg, Seven Seas Water (St. Maarten) on June 10, 2013 provided an informative tour of its Cay Bay water plant to Gert Verluis, representative of the Netherlands in Philipsburg.

Seven Seas Water St. Maarten Managing Director Franklyn Richards, the company's regional operations manager Eric Borgdorff and assistant operations manager, Lester Bryan, (not in photo) briefed the Dutch government official on, among others, the operations of the plant and the construction

of new water tanks in Point Blanche.

Richards said that hosting the visit by Verluis fits right into the company's efforts to maintain public and private sectors as well as stakeholder third parties informed of the company's initiatives and operations. "Such briefings are essential to additionally show our commitment to the further development of St. Maarten", he added.

Seven Seas Water provides water and wastewater treatment services for municipal, industrial, and private clients throughout the Greater Caribbean and the Americas with a compliment of tech-

nologies for desalination, water re-use, and high purity water treatment.

One of the fastest growing privately owned water companies in the market, Seven Seas Water, has formed several successful Private-Public-Partnerships (PPP) through the Build Own Operate Transfer (BOOT) model in the Caribbean. Among these is the partnership with the St. Maarten Government and water and electricity company, GEBE.

Seven Seas Water is looking forward to the addition of two new desalination plants and water tanks to be built in Point Blanche. Completion of the first plant is fore-

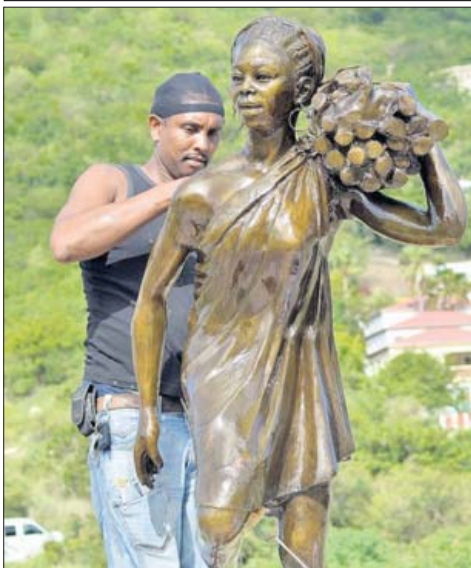


From left: Franklyn Richards (Managing Director Seven Seas Water (St. Maarten)), Gert Verluis (Representative of the Netherlands in Philipsburg), Eric Borgdorff (Regional Operations Manager SSW) and Bianca van der Lee (Policy advisor representative of the Netherlands in Philipsburg).

Production of drinking water will start once feed water is supplied to the plant. The design of the seawater intake and feed water supply system is in an advanced stage. In August of last year, a three-way agreement between Government, GEBE and Air-Fin /Seven Seas Water was signed specifying detailed arrangements of the supply, installation, commissioning, operation and ownership of two water tanks.

The tanks will serve as reservoir for the water produced by the two new seawater reverse osmosis plants. Both tanks will be integrated in the distribution system of GEBE to supply drinking water to the community. Each tank has a capacity of 3000 m3.

seen before the end of the year. The second plant will be built in 2016. Each plant is designed for a maximum production of 3700 m3 per day.



Workers painted several of the island's roundabout monuments this past weekend, including the Salt Pickers Monument in Philipsburg and the One Tete Lohkay Monument in Belair (pictured). Emancipation Day, July 1, is a next Monday. This year is the 150th anniversary of emancipation from Dutch slavery.

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Nine bee species counted on Statia

ST. EUSTATIUS--Nine bee species are now known to exist on St. Eustatius. This is the outcome of a six-month study on the native pollinators of the island's flora, which was carried out in 2012.

Although the Caribbean is considered to be a "hot-spot" for biodiversity, only a few bee species have been recorded for many of the Lesser Antillean islands.

Only two native bees were previously listed for Statia, not including honey bees, which were introduced to the region by Europeans via Bermuda in 1616.

To increase knowledge of Caribbean bees, Stephen Bush of Coastal Carolina University and Hannah Madden of St. Eustatius National Parks Stenapa compiled a preliminary checklist of bees during a six-month study in 2012. This checklist was recently published in *Insecta Mundi*, a journal dedicated to insects.

Thanks to this project, a total of nine bee species are now known to exist



Anthophora eustatiensis is endemic in St. Eustatius and St. Kitts.

on Statia. One of these is *Anthophora eustatiensis*, which is endemic to Statia and St. Kitts and found nowhere else in the world. This bee is described as being ocrea-coloured.

Bush and Madden spent the entire six months searching for this bee, and on the last day of fieldwork they finally caught a speci-

men on Bay Road, which they sent to an expert for confirmation.

The list of bee species now includes *Anthophora eustatiensis*, *Apis mellifera*, *Centris decolorata*, *Centris smithii*, *Centris lanipes*, *Mesoplia aff. rufipes*, *Xylocopa mordax*, *Lasioglossum sp.*, and *Megachile sp.*

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Hospital 182211/182371
Landsradio 182210
Post Office 182207
St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum 182288
Winair Office 182362
Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport
Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.
Coastguard NA&A 113
St. Eustatius National parks: Gallows Bay: 318 2884
SABA

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The Bottom, tel. 4163237
Emergency 111/112
Hospital
The Bottom, tel. 4163288/4163289
Fire Department Airport
Flat Point tel. 4162210
SATEL
The Bottom, tel. 4163211
WINAIR, Airport
Flat Point, tel. 4162255/2713
Taxi Service Airport
Flat Point, tel. 160
Administration Building
The Bottom, tel. 4163311/4163312/4163313
Tourist Office
Windwardside, tel. 4162231
Harbour Office
Fort Bay, tel. 4163294
Saba Marine Park
Fort Bay, tel. 4163295
Nature & Hike Guide
James Johnson
The Bottom, tel. 4163307
Service Club
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Coastguard NA&A 113
Red Cross
General meeting every last Monday, 6 p.m., Eugenius A. Johnson Center.

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Alcoholic Anonymous meetings every Sunday at 8:30 am and Monday at 5:00 pm on Shoal Bay picnic area.

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Lady Ama's supermarket.

Supermarket owner tells how he fought off robbers

ST. EUSTATIUS--A television programme on self-defence provided Lady Ama's Supermarket owner Persis Schmidt with sufficient skills to ward off two young men, who attempted to rob his business Saturday, around closing time. Schmidt said he was sitting in the store working on an invoice. He was waiting until it was time to close down the store, as it was a quiet night. All the action was focused on the Lion's Den, where Aruban Foundation Bringamosa was organising an event. When he looked up from his work he saw a masked person standing over him.

"I immediately knew this person meant business. I placed myself in defence-mode and went into action," Schmidt said. "As the suspect slid over the counter, I said I was ready for him." Schmidt said he remembered some tips he had learned from a TV-programme on self-defence and went into action. He said he started hitting his assailant in his sides to weaken him, and made noise with each punch that landed on his attacker. The second robber struck Schmidt on his temple with a rock, but ran off when he saw that his partner was getting a beating.

The first robber was left in the grips of the storeowner, but somehow managed to wriggle himself free and also escaped. The storeowner was left behind with a bruise on his hand and a bump to the side of his head. Schmidt was able to identify his attackers. "These youngsters often come in and purchase items, because they attend an after-school programme in this area," he said. He praised the quick response of the police, who arrived within ten minutes to start their investigations. They made an arrest that same night.



Soggy Dollar Bar comes alive every Sunday with video gaming.

Caribserve VXG partners with Chippie for giveaways

PHILIPSBURG--Caribserve Video X Games (VXG) is partnering with Chippie to offer everyone an opportunity to win "The Ultimate Gamer Package." With its title sponsor Caribserve and partner Chippie, VXG Foundation is giving away an Asus Z3" HD Gaming Display, Xbox 360, a Madcatz Pro Gaming

Arcade Stick and a weekend party pass for its "Play Hard, Party Harder Series." To win, one can text "I'm Going to VXG" to 2447 from a Chippie phone from June 19 to July 20. Caribserve and Chippie officials will select the winners at Soggy Dollar Bar on July 21, based on received text messages.

SMS messages cost US \$1 per submission and the raffle is available only to Chippie customers. The more one texts, the better his or her chances are of winning. For the latest in VXG news visit the Website www.thevideogames.com and Facebook at www.facebook.com/thevideogames.

Islands

Maal calls for a balanced development of Oostpunt

WILLEMSTAD--During his opening speech at a presentation on "Oostpunt" (East Point) organised by the Curaçao Business Community Association VBC, landowner Willy Maal emphasised once again that only a sustained and balanced development of the huge property can prevent the destruction of its nature. In a well-filled Flamboyant Centre at the Sunscape Hotel he introduced two separate presentations on Oostpunt. The first was given by Henk de Zeeuw of accounting and tax experts KPMG on behalf of government and the second by Lyongo Juliana on behalf of University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA).

According to Maal, whose family has owned the eastern part of the island since around 1870, the natural resources and the potential of the area have been under pressure for the last 20 years "due to natural deterioration and illegal practices such as spear-fishing, catching of baby conch, sea turtles and rays, as well as the poaching of goats, sheep and donkeys." The landowner said at the same time criminal activities occur in the vast area, such as stripping stolen cars, drug-smuggling, human-trafficking and illegal dumping of waste. "The re-zoning of Oostpunt must therefore occur according to logical, objective and professional on-site evaluations, whereby all relevant specific aspects must be considered," he argued. Maal explained that his family has been conserving the area for centuries and never has considered a partial sale or allowing undesirable projects, "for example, in the '60s and '70s, when we were approached about projects - with support from government - such as a waste incinerator, huge silt wells or an oil terminal. None of these is desirable or advantageous for the country estate and its potential, and certainly not for the surrounding areas and its residents." For years the landowner has been fighting for a modification of the Island Development Plan EOP in which Oostpunt was first zoned for conservation. The EOP will have to be modified in order to develop the property. It has meanwhile been agreed that 50 per cent of the area can be developed and 50 per cent must remain a nature area. However, according to Maal, this must be done carefully.

"It's a unique chance to make an objective, logical EOP zoning regime, whereby all criteria from the original EOP are used to facilitate development and not prevent it under the pretext of just conserving. Only then can Oostpunt contribute to the economic recovery of Curaçao. After all, that's why we're here." Advice on Oostpunt will probably be presented to the Council of Ministers in the third quarter of this year. Eventually, it will be up to Parliament to decide.



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'Double taxation agreement better'

WILLEMSTAD--In a recent meeting with Paul Brummell, the British High Commissioner in Barbados, PAIS leader Alex Rosaria expressed regret that the G8 keeps harping on so-called Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs), while Curaçao would benefit more from concluding Double Taxation Agreements (DTAs).

The coalition partner was commenting on the proposal from the United Kingdom (UK) last week during the G8-top meeting in Ireland to – in addition to bilateral tax exchange treaties – also exchange information at the multi-lateral level. Also Brummell had this subject high on the agenda during his visit to Curaçao.

According to Rosaria, the UK's proposal is not advantageous for the economy of Curaçao, particularly its international financial sector.

Brummell, the highest diplomat from the UK in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, was also consul-general in the former Netherlands Antilles. He said

he understands the island's point of view, as Barbados has a similar position.

Curaçao only has two DTAs, firstly with The Netherlands in the form of the Kingdom Tax Regulation BRK and secondly with Norway. Rosaria shared his wish with Brummell to conclude a DTA with the UK too.

The Netherlands already has such an agreement. According to Rosaria, it's possible to add Curaçao to this treaty by means of Article 19.

Brummell was going to pass this on to his superiors. The PAIS leader mentioned that in the past India had indicated that it also wished to include Curaçao in its treaty with The Netherlands.

Curaçao has a network of 25 TIEAs of which many were concluded when Rosaria was still State Secretary of Fiscal Affairs for PNP. "As a result of these Curaçao is off the black list of the [Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development-Ed.] OECD."

"These TIEAs offer sufficient guarantees to our treaty partners that we're a transparent jurisdiction with a well-founded tax system and that on the basis of the treaty stipulations we can offer adequate assistance at all times. Although they're a boost to reputation it doesn't mean more business. For that we need DTAs," explained Rosaria.

According to him, TIEAs are mainly advantageous for the rich countries that want to keep tax revenues in their own country as much as possible. However, for Curaçao it would be more advantageous to conclude DTAs to prevent double taxation and exchange data.

"With DTAs you stimulate the economies in both countries. A DTA offers what we want in business and what they want in exchange of data, therefore a win-win situation," said Rosaria.

For that reason he regrets that the G8 keeps harping on more exchange of data, but seldom shows interest in concluding DTAs with jurisdictions like Curaçao.



The Filipino community in St. Maarten celebrated the Philippines' 115th anniversary with a fundraising bingo and family fun day on Sunday. A number of prizes were up for grabs at the bingo, including dinners, hotel stays, appliances, gift basket and cash. Funds raised will be ploughed back into the community, including a donation to St. Maarten Pride Foundation and for an activity for the St. Martin's Home. Above: Filipino Community President Ferdinand Odono calling the bingo numbers. Below: Guests enjoying themselves.





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PM berates criticism of his Govt's help to young people

ST. KITTS--St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil L. Douglas has challenged opposition criticism of his alleged lack of interest in young people and use of Sugar Industry Diversification Foundation (SIDF) funds to finance the People Empowerment Programme (PEP).

Responding to caller People's Action Movement (PAM) activist Silvine Henry, during his recent radio programme "Ask the Prime Minister," who was among critics urging the PM to find employment for the young people, Dr. Douglas said he continues to have a passion for young people and with the assistance of two Jamaican experts, the PEP programme will become sustainable.

"I think that we have been caught up in almost a global whirlwind - a prolonged deep recession has affected the prospects of life for the people of St. Kitts and Nevis. And that has troubled me and it has also motivated me to stay on to do what I can do with my vast experience and my deep concern and passion that I have for the advancement of our young people," the PM said.

He added that he has a 24-year-old son. "He is a young man. I have a passion for young people ... And now we have found a way to help these same young people, Silvine Henry, the spokesperson for PAM and Operation Rescue, is saying to us that we are wasting too much money on 'Dem Dey,' referring of course to

the human resource that collectively is our young people. ... That can't be right."

Dr. Douglas declared that the money that is being used to finance the PEP programme belongs to the young people.

"They are our future and I don't care what criticisms I get from PAM, Operation Rescue, which has now been re-styled as the Pam Labour Party. I don't care what criticisms I get from them to help our young people; I will spend millions of dollars on them..."

"I have no apologies to make in supporting the SIDF to finance the PEP Programme. I want to commend again the counsellors, the members of the Board of the SIDF," said Prime Minister Douglas.

Dr. Douglas used the opportunity to commend the Chief Executive Officer and the Management Team for supporting the Government's thrust to ensure that the young people do not get all caught up in a life of drift and anti-social behaviour.

"I don't care how much millions of dollars it is, as long as it is properly accounted for and as long as I can see that it is being used to bring opportunities for our young people to learn and get new skills, and upgrade the skills of our nationals, we will spend those millions of dollars," said the Prime Minister, who pointed out that countries like Germany, which is the economic powerhouse of Europe, has been very

critical of her European colleagues in recent weeks for their own sluggish economic performance.

He said one of the things that Germany has been advocating for other European countries is that they need to invest massively in job-training, skills acquisition and apprenticeship programmes.

"This is exactly what we are doing here in St. Kitts and Nevis. That is why we called upon Jamaica to come in and assist us with our People's Empowerment Programme and to make it sustainable. We are very pleased to have the service of Dr. Andre Gordon and Dr. Beverly Morgan to come to our support and rescue," said the St. Kitts and Nevis leader.

Dr. Douglas related that on his usual Friday afternoon walk on Fort Street he was stopped by some young ladies on the sidewalk. "Every single one of them was glowing in their faces. One, who was older, was fully employed and the other three had just left CFBC and they were already being trained in the PEP," said Prime Minister Douglas, who dedicated the programme to them and the PEP attendees and trainees.



From left: Senior Youth Officer Pierre Liburd, Ian Richards and Ervin Welsh at CEBO Sub-Regional Review Meeting. (SKNIS Photo)

St. Kitts & Nevis takes part in regional CEBO review

ST. KITTS--The experiences, successes, gaps and lessons learned by St. Kitts and Nevis and the four countries that tested the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunity (CEBO) manual were reviewed at a June 20-22 meeting held at the Marriott Courtyard in Trinidad.

Senior Youth Officer Pierre Liburd was joined by the two trained local CEBO facilitators Ervin Welsh and Ian Richards in presenting the Federation's perspective which was drawn from three separate entrepreneurship trainings held in Sandy Point and St. Johnston Village in St. Kitts and Cotton Ground, Nevis.

At the CEBO sub-regional review meeting, the trio shared interesting viewpoints along with representatives from other pilot countries, namely Jamaica, Belize, Dominica and the Bahamas. The information exchanged between participants and representatives of the Caribbean Community Caricom Secretariat lead by Dr. Hilary Brown, Programme Manager for Culture and Community Development, was described as "insightful."

An intensive review of the CEBO participant and facilitator manuals was also undertaken. Consultant Lisa Callender collated the

information as part of her mandate to evaluate the project. She is scheduled to visit each pilot country in the coming weeks to meet further with local organisers and successful CEBO graduates.

Liburd said he looks forward to the completion of the review process so that the manual can be finalised and the programme rolled out on a larger scale locally and across the region.

Dr. Brown noted that the Caricom Secretariat remains committed to CEBO and is currently securing finances to expand the entrepreneurial initiative.

Motorworld, Caribbean Auto now on Facebook

PHILIPSBURG--Motorworld and Caribbean Auto are now on Facebook as part of their belief in innovation and goal to reach out to clients with varied methods.

The public can acquire information about Motorworld and Caribbean Auto on both pages. There they can see various specials the companies are offering, their assortment of brands and models, and the awards they are accumulating, as well as read about events and sponsorships in which the companies have participated.

Various specials and coupons will be offered only to customers who Like the Facebook pages. The pages can be accessed at: <https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanautosxm> and <https://www.facebook.com/mwsmx>.

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Women called to become more involved in construction industry

ST. KITTS--Minister of Gender Affairs Marcella Liburd has called on women in the Federation to become more involved in the construction industry.

She urged nearly 40 local women training in drafting, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, concrete-fixing and steel-bending under the People Empowerment Programme (PEP) financed by the Sugar Industry Diversification Foundation (SIDF) to "go for it."

"Construction is a field that is not usual to see women. We are saying, why women can't be in construction? Is it that women can't do the work that is



Women in construction training under PEP

done on the construction sites? I don't think so. I think really it is part of our cultural upbringing and training, where we are taught to segment jobs and we say this is for women, this is for men. And so out of that social upbringing we tend to categorise jobs by gender, and

so men can't look after children. They are fathers and so they must be able to look after children," she said at the third in a series of workshops "From the Basement to the Attic."

It was organised for PEP trainees in the Women in Construction Trades (WICT) at All Solutions

International, C.A. Paul Southwell Industrial Park.

WICT is a PEP project aimed at introducing women to non-traditional areas such as in construction to enable them to fully participate in nation-building as equals.

Liburd, who is also Minister of Health, Social Ser-

vices, Community Development and Culture, decried the social stereotypes that have side-lined women in the past, and threw down the gauntlet in advising people to allow little girls to fly planes.

"What do you buy them [children-Ed.] for toys?" posed Liburd. "Trucks and planes [for boys-Ed.] and the young girls get dollies. No trucks and no aeroplanes for them. That is also a message you are sending to them [girls-Ed.]. I am saying that sometimes you need to give the young girls some aeroplanes so they can fly them too."

Minister Liburd expressed the happiness of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party administration that under the PEP, women are being brought into the construc-

tion field and added that she liked the slogan "From the Basement to the Attic."

"You must look at it literally, because if you are in construction building a home, you have to take them literally from the basement to the attic to completion from the ground floor, basement right up to the roof," said Liburd. On the figurative side she asked them to apply the same slogan to their personal lives.

"Whatever you do to enhance the lives of women, it enhances the lives of everybody; men, women and children," advised the Minister. "So that is what we intend to do from the Ministry of Gender Affairs from the PEP and so I am saying to you women, go for it," she advised.

'Student is vulnerable to sexual exploitation'

ARUBA--Persons who work in the sex industry, domestic service and small shops run the greatest risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking and/or people smuggling. There are also indications that Aruban women in The Netherlands are faced with debt bondage, while women students run the risk of sexual exploitation. An alarming issue is that some police officers have side jobs as bouncers at Dutch adult clubs.

This was apparent from the US State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report published last week.

As expected, Aruba was once again rated as "Tier 2" in the report. "The government is yet to comply with the minimum requirements to combat human trafficking, but is making considerable efforts to do so."

In their annual TIP report, the Americans presented recommendations for countries that were evaluated. As was the case last year, Aruba was advised to energetically investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking and convict/punish perpetrators.

The report criticises the fact that "efforts with the administration of justice to combat human trafficking had decreased last year." The Justice Department didn't start any new investigations into human trafficking during 2012, while six new investigations were started in 2011 and seven in 2010. However, a criminal case on forced labour from 2010 was continued and two other criminal cases were adjourned.

The fact that some police officers work as bouncers at sex clubs after their shifts could cause a conflict of interest, according to the TIP report. Experts state that, as a result, law enforcement could be less inclined to investigate accusations of human trafficking. According to the Aruban government, the budget and staffing of police remains a problem.

It is further important that government seeks collaboration with organisations attempting to combat human trafficking and draws up standard procedures for workers directly involved with the victims. Besides the police staff, the government is focused on workers of border patrol, immigration, the coast guard and health care.

The TIP report also recommends maintaining consultations with The Netherlands on how victims of human trafficking there are identified. Aruba should inform all immigrants of their rights and where they can go for help.

Finally, the TIP report recommends making the coordination of the National Task Force for Human Trafficking a full-time function and giving the task force an independent budget.

Last year's report warned of possible child prostitution. However, the warning was not repeated this time around. "There are no known reports of sex tourism focusing on minors, nor any cases of Arubans being involved in international sex tourism."

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HYUNDAI NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.



Weather nicknames

By Rudy Dovale

What should we label this season – at least, from what we have seen so far? No matter what name we give this season, it is a combination of a Pacific and a Gulf of Mexico system, aiming at the Gulf Coast and with a little drift to the East; Cuba and the surrounding islands will be included in any storm or hurricane along Central America and the Gulf of Mexico, tracking North-Northeast.

That does not mean that we should not pay attention to the West Coast of Africa and the inter-tropical convergence (ITC) Zone, in fact, rainfall in Africa can drastically change weather conditions in the Atlantic, not forgetting the Cape Verde region. In fact, Cape Verde weather will be a key factor in this season's discussions, not only because of what the factory floor churns up to enter the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and aim for the Eastern Seaboard.

It is not only the weather that ocean-going vessels traversing the Atlantic Ocean must be aware of. Pirates have increased their activities along the African Coast and part of Southern Europe.

One cannot be wondering if there is a little war going on among pirates, and if pirates have a sixth sense dealing with the weather. How the weather will weave in and out of the pirate activities will be seen.

The two protective arms of winds out of the Pacific that have worked so well up to this time will have assistance from the Caribbean weather for a couple of days as a large area of dry weather has formed covering part of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Strong winds will prevent any development from taking place in hurricane formation. Overcast weather and a large area of "peaceful" cloud formation will certainly be welcome to prevent warming of the ocean surface, a situation that would activate storm and hurricane activity. The dry air area we mentioned earlier will bring back memories of turbulence ex-

perience in air travel. The expression "air pockets" was heard very often. And it made sense, even now, going in and out of dry air weather shakes up passengers, that is for aircraft traveling at medium altitudes.

It's not that at levels from 28,000 up to 38,000 feet high flying commercial jet aircraft do not encounter turbulence. However, the expression air pockets is hardly used anymore. Instead the idea of clear air turbulence has interrupted the comfort of air travel. Meteorologists have made intense studies of clear air turbulence, as well as other weather phenomena that have surprised aviation from time to time, with disastrous consequences. Technology has also been busy finding ways to predict clear air turbulence and sudden change in wind direction in the form of a burst.

Most aircraft flying at high altitudes can detect clear air distractions and wind shears. Sophisticated on-board equipment can guide pilots around and in and out of situations not seen before. Entering even a mild stream of air can unexpectedly shake up passengers. Leaving the air stream will understandably produce the same expe-

rience. Most of us who have spent considerable time in the Caribbean have experienced haze – the several flavours of haze: blue haze, burning of sugar cane fields, Sahara blue haze and the result of volcanic activities, although miles away. With on-board equipment sometimes on non-violent fighter jet aircraft flights, pilots can sample air particles and identify such.

There is a constant striving for safety in the air and on the surface. The money spent to reach a high level of safety for any one travelling around our globe is well spent. After the incident near the coast of Alaska with a cruise ship of Holland American Line, Russia, Canada and the US immediately set up a system to equip all ocean-going vessels with equipment that will automatically be released to assist in search and rescue. The equipment would send out a complex signal with multiple pieces of information including location, drift speed and angle for a speedy search and rescue operation. The complex signal would have – next to vessel ID – information on souls on board, also information on cargo.

US president Ronald Reagan launched the project "Less search more rescue." Russia and Canada also followed with similar projects, and that during the Cold War period.

Satellite technology was

used not only for search and rescue, but also for expedient actions after oil spills or an accident with defence materiel. The technique has improved by great strides.

And we benefit from all that – good reasons to be grate-

ful and pay attention to the main reason for any country in the Caribbean to be grateful and contribute time and effort to safeguard life and property.

Tropical Storms & Hurricanes 2013

NAMES

Andrea	Lorenzo
Barry	Melissa
Chantal	Nestor
Dorian	Olga
Erin	Pablo
Fernand	Rebekah
Gabrielle	Sebastien
Humberto	Tanya
Ingrid	Van
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Family Disaster Plan

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- Determine escape routes
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- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call
- Check your insurance coverage
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit

Disaster Supply Kit

- Water (one gallon daily per person for three to seven days)
- Food (enough for three to seven days)
- Non-perishable packaged or canned/juices, foods for infants or the elderly, snack foods, non-electric opener, cooking tools/fuel, paper plates/plastic utensils
- Blankets/Pillows; Clothing (rain coat, sturdy shoes)
- First Aid Kit/Medicines/Prescription Drugs
- Special items for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries/Hygiene items/Moisture wipes
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery operated radio
- Fully charged cell phone with an extra battery
- Cash/Credit Cards
- Toys/Books/Games
- Important documents should be put in a waterproof container
- Tools
- Vehicle fuel tanks should be filled a few days before a hurricane strikes
- Pet care items (medication, ample supply of food and water, a carrier or cage, a muzzle and leash).

Securing Your Home

- Protect the areas where wind can enter
- Strengthen the exterior of your house
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Customs issue ultimatum for meeting with Minister

WILLEMSTAD--Curaçao's Customs officers held a meeting on the latest developments within Customs Corps Curaçao during working hours at the headquarters of civil servant union ABVO last week Friday. They discussed management and the position of the employees. Minister of Finance José Jardim was given one week to schedule a meeting with the members; otherwise they will go on strike.

Asmara Thodé of ABVO confirmed the news. The

Minister has up to and including this Friday to arrange something, so the island is not confronted with paralysed Customs the following Monday.

Thodé was pleased with the number of members present at the meeting and how it proceeded. "It was not a strike, everyone returned to work afterwards."

The union members had been called for a gathering during office hours from 8:00am until 10:00am, following a cancelled meeting

with interim-Director Clarion Taylor. It was decided in December that management and the union would meet once a month to discuss the situation within the corps, but these encounters were never held, said Thodé.

The ones in January and February were cancelled without any explanation. In March, the union decided to present management with written questions on several points requiring a solution.

It was agreed that management would answer the questions in writing, but since a reaction remained forthcoming, the April meeting was cancelled once again. ABVO then decided to send a letter to Jardim on April 12 requesting an audience.

Although reminders were sent a month later, a response remained forthcoming. Later on, the Minister said he'd do everything to schedule a meeting with the union, but so far no date has been fixed. The May meeting with management was not cancelled. Management never showed up, Thodé added.

The ABVO members want the Minister to seek solutions for the worsening situation within the corps. There are numerous problems,

too many to mention, said Thodé, but some points of priority include appointing a director and the positions of the judiciary members.

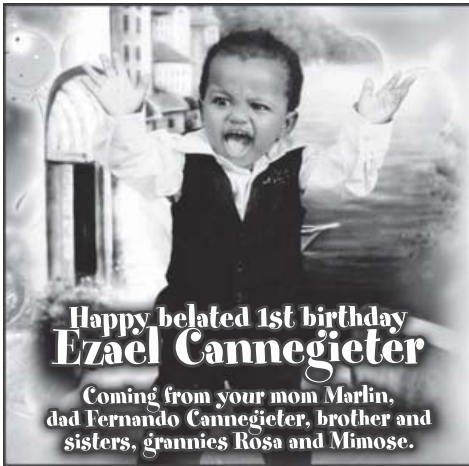
The union demands that Jardim starts the recruitment of a new director. According to Thodé, Taylor is unable to oversee the situation within the corps.

"After making inquiries about everything, she's unable to produce possible solutions for the problems. A director must be capable of improving the situation."

ABVO further asks that Jardim initiates a procedure to collect amounts due, because "Customs has millions on the street, which are revenues for government." Thodé advocates collecting that money instead of financially disadvantaging pensioners via the new basic medical insurance BVZ.

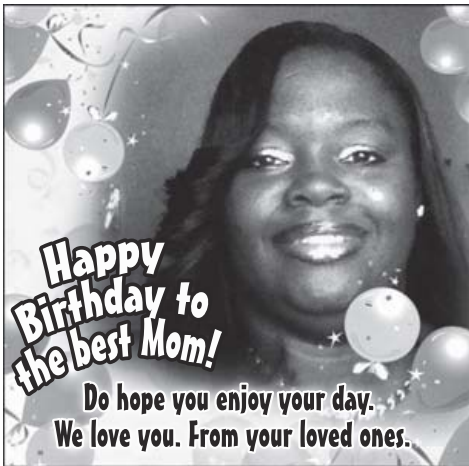
"The Minister is well-aware of the amounts owed to Customs. One must not forget that he was the secretary-general of the former Minister of Finance George Jarmaloodin," he added.

Thodé doesn't understand why nothing at all has been done so far to help these civil servants.



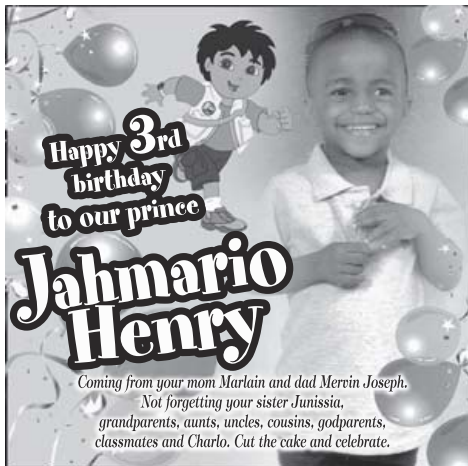
Happy belated 1st birthday Ezael Cannegieter

Coming from your mom Marlin, dad Fernando Cannegieter, brother and sisters, grannies Rosa and Mimose.



Happy Birthday to the best Mom!

Do hope you enjoy your day. We love you. From your loved ones.



Happy 3rd birthday to our prince

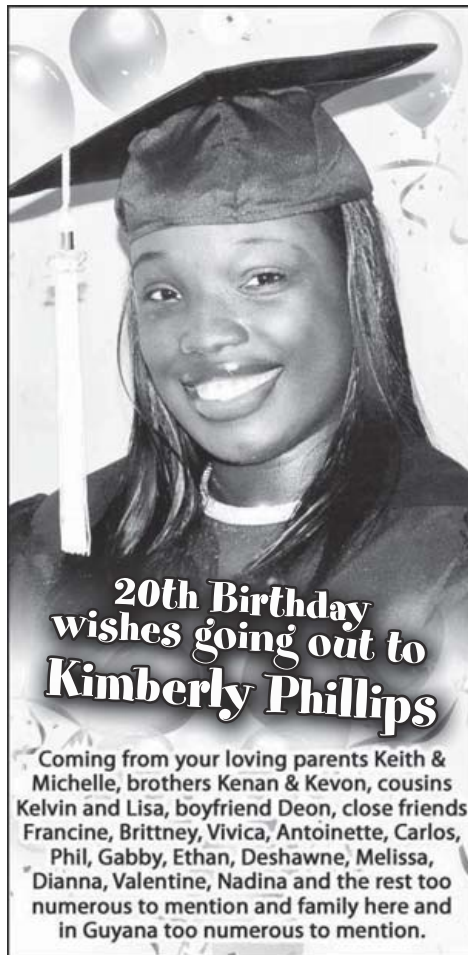
Jahmario Henry

Coming from your mom Marlain and dad Merwin Joseph. Not forgetting your sister Junissia, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, godparents, classmates and Charlo. Cut the cake and celebrate.



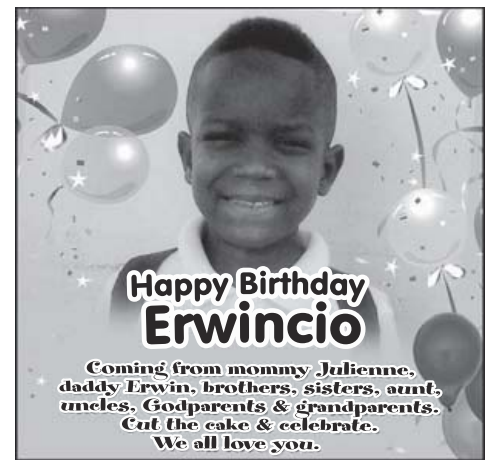
Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Professor Salt

Coming from your sons Jay, Dario, Darion and all your family & friends on SXM and Dominica and your SOS fans.



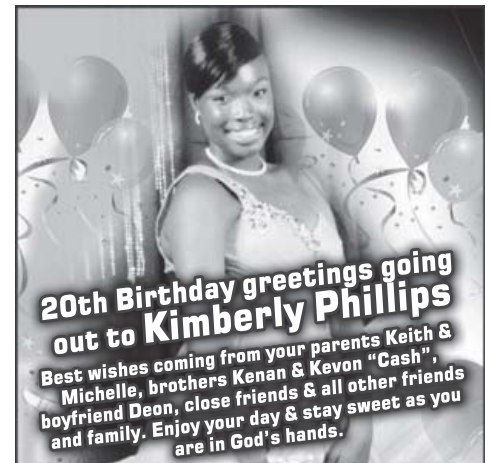
20th Birthday wishes going out to Kimberly Phillips

Coming from your loving parents Keith & Michelle, brothers Kenan & Kevon, cousins Kelvin and Lisa, boyfriend Deon, close friends Francine, Brittney, Vivica, Antoinette, Carlos, Phil, Gabby, Ethan, Deshawne, Melissa, Dianna, Valentine, Nadina and the rest too numerous to mention and family here and in Guyana too numerous to mention.



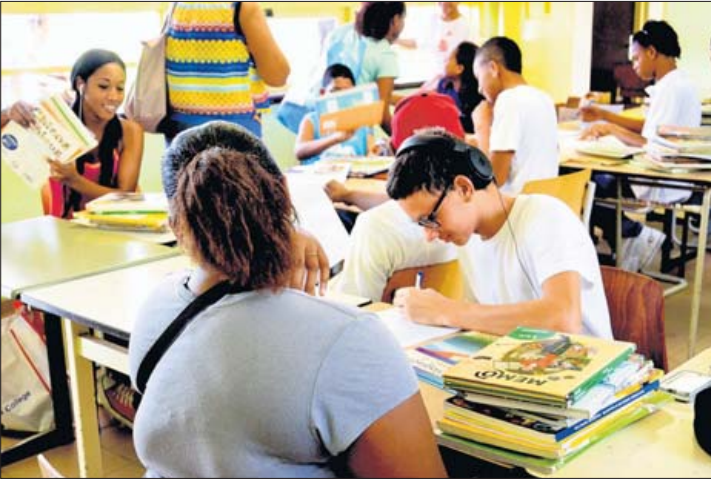
Happy Birthday Erwincio

Coming from mommy Julienne, daddy Erwin, brothers, sisters, aunt, uncles, Godparents & grandparents. Cut the cake & celebrate. We all love you.



20th Birthday greetings going out to Kimberly Phillips

Best wishes coming from your parents Keith & Michelle, brothers Kenan & Kevon "Cash", boyfriend Deon, close friends & all other friends and family. Enjoy your day & stay sweet as you are in God's hands.



The collection of used books at Radulphus College has meanwhile started.

Schoolbooks to be provided in August

WILLEMSTAD--Schoolbooks for the school year 2013-2014 will be distributed in the first two weeks of August, said director of Curaçao's study financing foundation SSC Margit de Freitas. SSC has already begun collecting the books.

For example, the books of Maria Immaculata Lyceum (MIL) are in. The other higher general continued education HAVO/preparatory scientific education VWO schools "Kolegio Alejandro Paula" (KAP) and Radulphus College are next.

As of Monday up to and including Friday, June 27, books from the past year can be returned to KAP's book fund. SSC has planned two days to collect the books for Radulphus College.

Since the introduction of free education ("enseñansa liber"), the students have the books on loan. Last year the government reimbursed a maximum of NAF. 1,500 – including books fees and tuition – per student in secondary education.

According to De Freitas, SSC will maintain the existing structure of the schools in distributing the books as much as possible. "It's the intention that all students will receive all books in the first two weeks of the new school year. If parents have doubts they can contact the school," said De Freitas.

Director of the Radulphus College Adrie Mink doesn't have a good word to say about the communication between SSC and the school. "I am very angry about this. I knew that the books had to be returned

beforehand. I had also hung letters on the doors and announced the information via the mentors, but I knew nothing about the plan SSC had made for the return of the books," he said.

He read the information indirectly, by means of an advertisement in the newspaper. With a bit of consultation and communication everything could have gone much more smoothly, he commented.

"The school's telephone hasn't stopped ringing. Everyone wants to know when the books for the new school year will be distributed. Normally we distribute the books here at school in the first week of July," explained Mink.

Furthermore, parents have questions about the books to be returned. For example, some haven't been refunded the entire amount for the books. "Must they also return everything even if they paid for it themselves?"

Minister deems rise in top salaries 'incomprehensible'

THE HAGUE--Minister of Social Affairs and Employment Lodewijk Asscher has described the reported increases in senior executive salaries as "incomprehensible," given that so many people in The Netherlands have had their pay frozen.

Basic executive pay has gone up six per cent to 512,000 euros, *Volkscrant* newspaper reported last week.

Including bonuses and pension deals, executive's salaries at 134 large companies increased an average 7.5 per cent to 1.13 million euros.

Asscher would like to require companies to give a written explanation to their workforce about salary strategy in their annual reports, he said in briefing Parliament.

It would reflect well on senior executives if their pay developments reflected those among workers in general, the Labour PvdA minister said.

Moreover, there are students in 5 VWO who'll need some books also in the sixth grade. "Some parents fear that if they return those books they will not get them back. There's some distrust, because it's still not clear whether the books will be there in August," added Mink.

When asked, SSC replied that even the books that students have in their possession now and will need again next year must be returned. The books are namely given a barcode, which makes it easier for SSC to keep track of their status. This won't be necessary next year, because all books will have been coded already.

Secondary vocational education SBO students needn't return their books, because they'll be using them throughout their entire school career. These books will remain theirs after their study also.

Petroleum law isn't ready for Parliament

WILLEMSTAD--At this moment, Curaçao's government cannot send the Petroleum Ordinance to the legislature. Prime Minister Ivar Asjes (PS) wrote this in a letter to Chairman of Parliament Marcolino "Mike" Franco (PAIS).

With his letter, Asjes responds to the request from members for clarity on the state of affairs regarding the proposed legislation and when it will be sent to Parliament.

The Prime Minister wrote that government is still obtaining advice on the draft ordinance regulating the research on and the exploitation of petroleum in the waters surrounding Curaçao and the subsoil (Petroleum Ordinance maritime area Curaçao). According to Asjes, the former Schotte

cabinet presented the draft to the Advisory Council and the Social Economic Council SER for advice in late April of 2012.

In a letter to government dated October 23, last year the Vice-Chairman of SER had asked several questions that were incorporated into a memorandum. The council needed the answers to complete its report.

Asjes' predecessor Daniel Hodge (PS) had forwarded the requested answers to the SER last May. However, according to the current Prime Minister, through the Governor (who formally chairs such), the Advisory Council had meanwhile returned the request for advice in late March 2013, "because despite repeated requests to government, the Advisory Council was

awaiting a reply to its request to receive the advice from SER."

Asjes therefore concludes that Curaçao's Petroleum Law draft is currently still with the SER. "After SER has published its report, the draft, commentary and the advice from the SER will be presented to the Advisory Council."

The Prime Minister reiterated that the enactment cannot be forwarded to Parliament until the applicable councils have presented their advice.

At the request of opposition party MFK, the Petroleum Ordinance was on the agenda for a public parliamentary meeting on Monday, but the document has not yet become available for debate.

Government aware of subsidy problem

WILLEMSTAD--The government of Curaçao is aware of the problems occurring at foundations that were subsidised via Antillean co-financing organisation AMFO. As a partial solution, new priorities are being set for development implementation entity USONA.

The development aid from The Netherlands has been stopped and since then, the subsidy to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) has been tight. Prime Minister Ivar Asjes (PS) said his cabinet is aware of the situation and it's important to make funds in the budget available.

"Some foundations indicate their projects will have to be halted. From our side, we're doing everything to make sure programmes for children requiring special guidance and other specific projects can still get the necessary attention and support from government," said Asjes.

One example is the After School Activities for Special Education foundation, which announced it would have to discontinue per August 1.

Minister of Social Development, Labour and Welfare Jeanne-Marie Francisca (PS) said she's spoken with AMFO Director Re-

inoudt Karsdorp. They discussed the possibilities for guaranteeing the continuity of projects that are dependent on subsidies, said the Minister.

It was agreed to arrange this together with USONA. Karsdorp presented a list with current projects, but the government requested him to chart the most successful ones. The Minister will meet with AMFO and USONA again to reach agreements this week.

Minister of Finance José Jardim appointed a task force to optimise the functioning of the Government

Apparatus late last year. It is in charge of charting the relations between the programmes subsidised by government. The task force will look for any overlapping and will decide which organisations could work together for more efficiency.

As government is expected to function as efficiently as possible, it also expects such from the foundations that are subsidised, said the Minister. According to him, there are more than 100 such programmes and it's a complicated task to sort them all out.



Bonaire Commissioner James Kroon is willing to resign in connection with the tax licence scandal, but his UPB party has asked him to reconsider. While the authorities did not consider it "opportune" to prosecute Kroon, they did confirm he is suspected of arranging a permit for someone who wasn't next on the waiting list, thus violating the applicable regulation for such. The opposition faction of PDB has meanwhile requested an Island Council meeting on the issue.



Sint Maarten Government Info Page

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Official publication Sint Maarten

- *Regeling van de Minister van Algemene Zaken van de 10e juni 2013 tot wijziging van het model voor stembiljetten* (AB 2013, no. 25)

To read this regulation in full, please visit:
www.sintmaartengov.org/laws (RED MENU to the Right)

Hard copies of this regulation are available at the department of Records and Information Management (former General Affairs) against a standard fee.

PUBLIC INVITE

Ministry of Public Health Social Development & Labor - Department of Social Services cordially invites you to attend our first information session "Putting People First"

Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Time: 3:30PM

Place: Front Office Labor & Social Affairs
(next to Carl & Son's Bakery)

Raad van Advies Sint Maarten

Vacature

De Raad van Advies nodigt kandidaten uit te solliciteren naar de functie van:

Adviseur Raad van Advies

Functie omschrijving:

De Raad van Advies is het hoogste adviesorgaan van de regering voor wat betreft wetgeving. De Raad van Advies wordt o.a. gehoord over alle ontwerpverordeningen en ontwerpen van rijks wetten. Aan de Raad van Advies is een Secretariaat verbonden, welke tot taak heeft alle ondersteuning te verlenen zowel op juridisch-technisch gebied als op organisatorisch-administratief gebied. Aan het hoofd van het Secretariaat staat de Secretaris van de Raad van Advies. De adviseur ressorteert rechtstreeks onder de Secretaris van de Raad van Advies. De adviseur verricht wetenschappelijk onderzoek op bestuurlijk-/juridisch werkveld. Genoemde studie en onderzoek worden verricht ter wille van het toetsingskader inzake adviesaanvragen of de op te stellen conceptnota's. In de adviezen over voorstellen van wet- en regelgeving wordt aandacht geschonken aan onder meer de kwaliteit van de wet- en regelgeving. Hierbij wordt gekeken naar de beleidsmatige, de juridische en wetstechnische aspecten. Tevens zijn de door de regering vastgestelde kaders, richtlijnen, algemene strategische beleidslijnen en nationale en internationale wet- en regelgeving, van belang bij de uitvoering van de werkzaamheden. Het betreft een fulltime functie.

Functie-inhoud:

- Het leveren van conceptadviezen of conceptnota's;
- Ondersteuning bieden aan (werkgroep) Raad van Advies;
- Als adviseur interne ondersteuning bieden aan het Secretariaat.

Functie-eisen:

- Een afgeronde opleiding in de rechtswetenschappen op WO-niveau;
- Kennis van de wetgevingstechniek;
- Ten minste vijf jaar ervaring in een beleidsadviserende functie;
- Inzicht in de bestuurlijke en maatschappelijke context van het functioneren van de Raad;
- Kennis van nationale en internationale wet- en regelgeving;
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Het volledige functieprofiel van deze functie is op verzoek verkrijgbaar. Een psychologische test kan deel uitmaken van de selectieprocedure. Gegadigden die denken te voldoen aan de functie-eisen kunnen hun motivatiebrief vergezeld met een curriculum vitae en fotokopieën van behaalde diploma's **uiterlijk 28 juni 2013** richten aan mr. M. R. Artsen-Clarinda, Secretaris, E.C. Richardson Street # 13, Philipsburg Sint Maarten of via e-mail: m.artsen-clarinda@councilofadvicesxm.com

Nadere informatie:

Voor nadere informatie over de functie van Adviseur Raad van Advies kunt u contact opnemen met mr. M.R. Artsen-Clarinda, Secretaris, telefoonnummer 542 0953.

Innovations in Education Project

Project: Application Manager for Roll-out SchoolFit student tracking system

The Innovations Project funded by USONA is looking for a qualified candidate to fill the post of Application Manager. The successful candidate will be in charge of the Roll-out of the SchoolFit student tracking system in the Government Subsidized schools on St. Maarten.

The task requires a person with a background in Education, must be able to think and act in "data-base", with a strong knowledge of automation. The candidate must also have an above average ICT knowledge and skills and preferable have experience with a report generation (Crystal Reports etc.)

Persons interested in this task must be interested in getting the job done and being the moving force behind application management within the schools and the school boards.

To apply: Please send your contact information and CV to Oralie Boirard at Oralie.Boirard@sintmaartengov.org and copy conform (CC) Saskia Kliphuis at saskiakliphuis@msn.com and Zuleima Salmon at zultje@hotmail.com.

Thank You!

YDP's 2013 Bartender Mix Off Competition was a success and the students and staff of the Youth Development Program would like to thank the following persons and companies for their generous donations and support:

- Staff of Divi Little Bay Resort
- International Liquors and Tobacco
 - Carlton St. Hill
 - Liscania Maduro
 - Nattale Witter
 - Dwane Mars
 - Kelvin Rouse
- Akeem Richards



Hurricane Season: Don't wait until the last minute to prepare! It's your responsibility to be PREPARED!
Remember, it only takes one to make it a bad hurricane season.

Longest painting ever in Kingdom

WILLEMSTAD--Artist Ashley Mauricia has two dreams, namely setting a record for the longest painting in the Dutch Kingdom and giving the almost-defunct art academy in Curaçao a second chance. He hopes these dreams will come true next weekend.

With a brush in hand, everyone on the island can contribute his or her mite on June 29 and 30 to help complete the two-kilometre long painting on a canvas rolled out on the EEG Boulevard, up to the area of the World Trade Centre (WTC). The organisation will arrange for paint.

The theme of the event is "Ami ku mi naturalesa den libertad" (Me and my nature in freedom) and fits within the marking of 150 years since slavery in Curaçao was abolished. This will be celebrated throughout the Kingdom on July 1.

The starting signal for this project will be given at midnight on Friday. At the end of Sunday night, the project will close and all brushes will stop moving.

Local and international reputable artists will participate in the project, besides hobbyists and occasional artists. Herman van Bergen, Yubi Kirindongo, Pitopolo and Philippe Zanolino promised to donate their creations to a good cause.

These 10-metre canvasses, which will also be painted by them during the event, are to be auctioned later on. With proceeds earned from the "Curaçao World's Longest Painting" event, the associated foundation wants to reopen the art academy in Curaçao.

In the seventies, a group of artists founded "Akademia di Arte," the Curaçao Academy for Visual Arts, located in the old Quarantine

Building. However, it closed later on, resulting in a big loss for the island, according to Mauricia.

"Art brings people closer to themselves. Moreover, there are many talented people in Curaçao."

The creative weekend is also meant to promote nation-building. In a pleasant atmosphere, everyone can display their creativity on the two-kilometre-long canvas.

One can register as an individual or a group. That way, the project can also serve as a girls' outing or teambuilding event.

After a public notary has established the record, everyone can take his or her piece of art home. Tele-Curaçao will arrange for a live broadcast of the event's culmination.

Local artists participating in the project are Papy Adriana, Herman van Ber-

gen, Didi Dometili, Marcel van Duijneveldt, Fons Heijdens, Yubi Kirindongo, Wigberto Lopez, Pitopolo, Fifi Rademaker, Garrick Marchena, Ced Ride, Babette de Waele, Giovanni and Philippe Zanolino and Elvis Lopez from Aruba.

International contributors include Delgado Delhio (Canada), Aram Borman Musser Frias, Alejandro Antonio Cabral Cornero, Esau Gil Peña, Alexander Miranda Jimenez, Genaro Antonio Reyes Mercedes and Junior Reyes (all from the Dominican Republic), Jack Berry (Miami, FL), Colourcastle.nl, Mike Freeke, Remko Koopman, Gustave Nouel, Kenneth Olbina, Hubert Verhulst and ZEDZ (all from The Netherlands), and Amilcar Alejo, Omar Borrero, Nicasio Duno, José Jimenez and Jhomar Loaira (all from Venezuela).

The organisation is still seeking about 500 volunteers to help out and steer things in the right direction. More details are available via longestpaintingcuracao@gmail.com.



Curaçao-born Kenrick Vanterpool (31), who used to live in St. Maarten, was found dead inside the trunk of an SUV in the "La Zurza" district of the Dominican Republic. Inhabitants of "Residencial Brisas de la Isabela" had complained about the bad smell coming from an unknown Suzuki Vitara that was parked there for three days already. The victim had rented the vehicle from car rental "Genesis" in Boca Chica, where he was a frequent client. Inside the SUV, police also found a blue suitcase with an airline ticket in the name of Cristain Rodriguez Mateo, who is now being sought. Vanterpool left St. Maarten for Puerto Rico years ago after running into trouble with the law. However, he was later detained and subsequently convicted there. After serving his sentence, he moved to the Dominican Republic, where he was once again convicted of an unspecified crime. Unconfirmed reports say he had been involved in the drug trade.

No Dutch involvement in EU mission to Mali

THE HAGUE--The Netherlands is not yet contributing any soldiers to the European Union's training mission in Mali, Minister of Foreign Affairs Frans Timmermans said Monday.

The cabinet had offered to make a contribution, but the mission was already full

and there is no need for the Dutch to become involved at the moment, Timmermans and Defence Minister Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert told Parliament.

In total, 20 of the 27 EU-member states are involved with the mission in the West-African country.

The European Union is sending 200 trainers and a further 250 support and protection staff to Mali to help train four battalions of government soldiers.

The first battalion of 700 soldiers will become operational next month. The operation will run for 15 months.



ST. EUSTATIUS OPENBAAR LICHAAM CARIBISCH NEDERLAND

Als gevolg van de nieuwe staatkundige verhoudingen van 10-10-10, heeft het Openbaar Lichaam van St. Eustatius een nieuwe overheidsorganisatie met ruimte voor verschillende vacatures. De nieuwe organisatie is ingedeeld in drie directies: 'Publiekszaken en Organisatie Ondersteuning', 'Maatschappij en Welzijn' en 'Economie en Infrastructuur'. Naast deze directies heeft het Openbaar Lichaam een Bureau Bestuurondersteuning dat dienstverlening in de organisatie verzorgt ten behoeve van de drie directies en de bestuursorganen.

Ben je geïnteresseerd om mee te werken aan het algemeen belang en dus aan de toekomst van St. Eustatius, dan nodigt het Bestuurscollege van St. Eustatius je uit te solliciteren. De volgende functie is vacant:

Verpleegkundige Directie Maatschappij en Welzijn (vac.nr: 15-13)

Belangstellenden kunnen hun reactie voor deze functie richten aan: de Eilandsecretaris van het Openbaar Lichaam St. Eustatius, p/a Personeel & Organisatie. Het verdient de voorkeur dat je je sollicitatiebrief voorziet van een bondig CV en deze per email stuurt naar personeel.affairs@statiagov.com onder vermelding van het vacaturnummer(s) vóór 2 juli 2013. Een uitgebreide functieomschrijving kun je per email: personeel.affairs@statiagov.com of per telefoon: 0318-2931 opvragen.

Het Bestuurscollege van het Openbaar Lichaam St. Eustatius
Government Guesthouse
St. Eustatius, Caribisch Nederland



Beautiful Divi Little Bay Beach Resort is located on a private peninsula between two beautiful bays in Dutch St. Maarten. This family-friendly resort is situated directly on the beach, and features exceptional service, endless recreational activities and all the comforts of home. Guests can enjoy a variety of water sports, local shops, restaurants, and casinos only minutes from the resort.

For our F&B department we are currently looking for a fulltime:

DIRECTOR FOOD & BEVERAGE

Will direct, coordinate and supervise all property food and beverage operations, outlets and related culinary activities. Maintains standards of food and beverage quality and guest service quality as established by company. Creates, organizes and implements new menu concepts including menu design. Develops, implements, and maintains food and beverage marketing programs for the property. Achieves budgeted revenues, controls expenses, and maximizes profitability within all areas of the food and beverage department including 3 banquet rooms, kitchens, 3 restaurants and 2 bars. The Director Food and Beverage supervises F&B personnel with responsibility for hiring, discipline, performance reviews, and initiating pay increases.

Ideal candidate will possess a bachelor's degree or related hospitality/culinary degree with/or 5+ years of resort hospitality experience. The ability to manage in a diverse environment with focus on client and customer services is essential to success in this role. Previous experience with control food & labor cost, demonstration cooking, menu development and pricing and development of culinary team preferred. P&L accountability and/or contract-managed service is desirable.

Please send C.V. and work references with salary history/requirement to marije.lodewijks@diviresorts.com

VACANCY



State Secretary Jetta Klijnsma.

Look for job first, then claim welfare

THE HAGUE--People who want to claim welfare benefits will have to spend a month looking for a job before they are entitled to any money, under new rules the Dutch government is planning to introduce.

At the moment, persons younger than 27 have to wait a month before they can claim welfare and State Secretary of Social Affairs and Employment Jetta Klijnsma plans to extend this

ruling to everyone.

This means people who have never had a job, or have not worked for long enough to claim unemployment benefit, will have to wait an extra month before they receive any money.

Experiments with the new rules showed the delay urges people to try harder to find work, State Secretary Klijnsma said.

In 2012, 2,300 people aged 23 to 27 applied for wel-

fare benefits. After the four week delay, 35 per cent did not pursue their applications, the State Secretary said in a briefing to Parliament.

Pilots among adults resulted in between 30 and 48 per cent not making a claim.

The rule will not apply to people who have received unemployment benefit for at least two years.

Only one in three voters hopes cabinet will last full four years

THE HAGUE--Support for the coalition government has plunged, with just 34 per cent of voters hoping it lasts the full four years in office, according to a new

opinion poll by Maurice de Hond.

The approval rating was 63 per cent when the new coalition was formed last year, but had already fallen

to 44 per cent by February, the poll results showed.

The last time a Dutch cabinet lasted the full four years was between 1994 and 1998.

The current coalition is made up of conservative VVD and Labour party PvdA. The two parties emerged as clear winners in the general election of September 2012.

When the coalition was formed, it had the approval of 85 per cent of VVD voters. Their support has now plunged to 53 per cent.

Just 42 per cent of PvdA supporters hope the cabinet lasts; down from 83 per cent.

Support for the two ruling parties is also down sharply, the De Hond poll showed.

VVD, which has 41 seats in the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber, would win 21 if there were an election tomorrow, and PvdA, which has 38, would win 16.

The poll said Geert Wilders' Party for Freedom PVV would become the biggest party with 29 seats in the 150-seat Second Chamber, if there were a general election.

Unions protest lack of labour mediator

WILLEMSTAD--Labour Unions on Curaçao have protested against the lack of a government mediator. In a letter to the new Minister of Social Development, Labour and Wellbeing Jeanne-Marie Francisca (PS), both Boneco and UGTK/Cadmu urge clarity regarding this matter.

Boneco, which represents personnel in trade and small industry, had already written a letter before criticising the current situation, where many labour cases are awaiting settlement. Especially the fact that the island does not have a mediator plays a role.

"The Bureau National Arbitrator is not functioning, because there's no person or authority on the island that mediates in labour disputes," said Boneco.

The letter referred to a previous meeting earlier this year with Francisca's predecessor Sherwin Joseph (PS). During that encounter on March 18, concrete agreements were made to prevent this situation regarding labour disputes.

These agreements included improving the functioning of the Bureau National Arbitrator and appointing a national mediator. Now that many months have passed without a change, Boneco decided it was time to write another letter, urging the minister to arrange for a more efficient functioning of aforementioned bureau.

The union specifically requested to name a competent person national mediator and avoid a political

appointment in this matter.

The lack of a national arbitrator also led UGTK/Cadmu to write a letter to Francisca. Chairman Wendel Meulen wrote that he was surprised to learn there was no government mediator on the island.

According to him, this contravenes with the Work Dispute National Ordinance from 1946. The lack of a national arbitrator has numerous negative consequences for the local unions, but also for individual employees on the island, said Meulen.

For example, referenda to choose unions cannot be held on the island without a mediator. UGTK/Cadmu therefore urges government to observe the stipulations in the aforementioned law as soon as possible.



Schoolchildren participating in a bicycling proficiency test.

Road safety experts worried as Dutch children stop cycling

AMSTERDAM--An increasing number of children cannot properly ride a bicycle, particularly in the bigger cities, according to traffic safety authority Veilig Verkeer Nederland (VVN).

Fewer primary school children are taking bicycling proficiency tests, and parents are increasingly taking their children to school by car, VVN said.

According to *Algemeen Dagblad* newspaper, Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment Melanie

Schultz van Haegen wants local authorities to ensure all primary schools include cycling proficiency tests in their curriculum.

Schools are ditching the tests, because too few children ride a bicycle to school. "They can't cycle or don't have a bike," a spokesman said.

The Netherlands has a "back seat generation," cycling instructor Ronald Wittenberg was quoted as saying.

"Parents take their children to school by car, be-

cause they have to go to work," he said. "All these cars make the situation around schools more dangerous, and therefore fewer parents send their kids to school by bike."

Figures from Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) show the number of children killed in cycling accidents is going up. In 2010, nine children were killed in a bike accident, but last year the figures had risen to 13.

Transparency International integrity report is out today

WILLEMSTAD--Global anti-corruption organisation Transparency International (TI) will launch its assessment of Curaçao's National Integrity System today, Tuesday.

"Following extensive research on the ground and interviews with key stakeholders in the past year, the report will contain findings on the corruption risks on the island, as well as concrete recommendations on how to improve integrity and good governance. It takes a detailed look at the main pillars of society, such as the public sector, business and other institutions," TI's announcement stated.

The report will be launched with a press conference today, June 25, at Flamboyant Convention Centre

of Sunscape Resort (formerly Breezes) at 3:00pm. Speakers will include TI's Regional Director for the Americas Alejandro Salas, Chair of the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute Deryck Murray and lead researcher of the Curaçao National Integrity System assessment Nelly Schotborgh.

In addition, the general public of Curaçao is invited to a public event in which the findings will be presented on Tuesday at 7:30pm in the same location. "Knowing the strengths and weaknesses, as well as the corruption vulnerabilities of their governance system, is essential for citizens to hold their elected politicians to account," the release concluded.

One dead, two hospitalised as violence in schools escalates

KINGSTON, Jamaica--Police said two students from the Yallahs High School in the eastern parish of St Thomas were rushed to hospital with stab wounds on Friday, the latest in a series of violent attacks among school children that have already claimed the life of one student.

Police said that the students had just completed exams when an argument developed between a male and a female student. They said it escalated and continued on the streets of the Yallahs where others joined in and a fight developed. It was later discovered that two boys were stabbed.

The unidentified boys – both Grade 10 students – were taken to a nearby health centre and later transferred to hospital. Three of their schoolmates were taken into police custody. This latest act of school violence follows Wednesday's fatal stabbing of Jamelia Dawkins, 13, of the Anchovy High School in the western parish of St James.

Jamelia was stabbed to death during an altercation with a schoolmate who has since been taken into police custody. The Ministry of Health has sent counsellors to the schools and Education Minister Ronald Thwaites, who visited the school, said the incident points to the poor socialisation of some children.

"We need parents to show the example that there is no need to fight each other when there is a dispute. The entertainers, the media, will all have to help to set a different climate," he said, adding that "students need to be searched if there is any suspicion of them carrying a dangerous weapon and programmes that emphasise proper behaviour and social ethics are going to have to receive emphasis in every school".

Opposition spokesperson on Education and Human Resources Mrs Marisa Dalrymple-Philibert said she is still in shock at the killing of the female student, noting that equally unimaginable is the fact that other students stood by and filmed the violent attack.

She has "strongly condemned the act" saying "it is a tragedy on all fronts that violence is escalating in our schools - institutions



Ronald Thwaites

which should help to teach our children to become thoughtful 21st Century citizens who are able to manage their emotions, strive to reach their fullest potential and desire to contribute to the building of this country".

School's principal, Lambert Robinson, said he was aware of a feud between the girls and attempts were

made to settle it. "The situation with those two youngsters, I wouldn't call it an on-going situation, but from time to time friends do get into situations and it has ended in the worst way," he said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Superintendent of Police Mercedes Curry said she is disappointed that none of the students attempted to stop the fight that was captured in a three-minute video and broadcast on several social media sites.

"Somebody knew that it was going to happen, nobody said anything. There is a video that has gone viral; it was on Facebook and almost everybody's Blackberry...I am saying to young people, this is not something that you glorify in," she said. ~CMC~



The Urutu armoured vehicle in the repair shop in Brazil.

Brazil to help Suriname army with more armoured vehicles

PARAMARIBO--The return of two "Urutu" armoured vehicles that underwent service in Brazil is just the first phase of an ongoing defence-cooperation project with Suriname, Brazilian Ambassador Marcelo Baumbach has announced. The ambassador said Brazil would help Suriname's army to modernise its fleet. "This is an ongoing process in our intensified defence cooperation," said the ambassador.

Suriname sent four of its Brazilian-made Urutu and Cascavel armoured vehicles to Brazil – its southern neighbour – for repairs earlier this year; the two remaining vehicles will return soon as well.

The vehicles had been purchased in the '80s and were due for repair. "They're as good as new," said Defence Minister Lamure Latour at the handing-over ceremony in the Memre Buku army base in Paramaribo last week Friday. He said the vehicles would be used to fight cross-border crime. The Defence Minister said the army needs more tactical vehicles, which



Commander Gilaard with Ambassador Baumbach.

have already been identified in Brazil.

Ambassador Baumbach said the cooperation between Suriname's and Brazil's armies has a past, but a future as well. "The partnership between our countries is based on our geographic [proximity-Ed.]... but also because our defence organisations should be able to tackle modern day issues like human trafficking in cooperation," said the ambassador. Army Commander Colonel Hedwig Gilaard agreed. "The cooperation between our two armies is evident in many ways," said Gilaard.



The state-owned carrier recorded a loss of US\$11.7 million last year, mainly due to an ageing fleet and escalating costs.

Soaring problems for strapped Bahamasair

NASSAU, Bahamas--The Bahamas government says the state-owned Bahamasair continues to suffer from high labour costs; an ageing fleet; escalating fuel costs; and a commitment to unprofitable domestic routes.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Urban Development Phillip Davies said that while US\$20 million have been budgeted for the Bahamasair Holdings this fiscal year, the problems facing the airline increased as a result of competition.

"Its circumstances have been further compounded by competition from smaller local private carriers providing services to domestic routes and on-going downward pressure on airfares in the Florida market due to competition by low fare international carriers."

Davies said that subsequent to the May 2012 general election, it was discovered that industrial agreements between Bahamasair and associated trade unions had expired for over three years, and employees were not paid annual increments to which they were entitled.

"In response to these circumstances and in keeping with this government's campaign promise of 'putting the people first,' we moved very swiftly to approve and provide the funding necessary to satisfy this obligation."

"The government, early in the last budgetary cycle, agreed to the purchase of a third 120-seat Boeing 737-500 jet aircraft to permit an improvement in service and efficiency."

He said the board and the management of Bahama-

sair are presently reviewing adjustments to the business model as a means of providing options, which would result in greater service to the people as a substantial cost saving over the existing expensive approach.

In March, Davis said the national airline had recorded a loss of US\$11.7 million last year as compared with US\$9.8 million in 2011 and that for the period July-December 2012, the airline's revenue amounted to US\$37.4 million, while expenses totalled US\$49.1 million.

"The increase in net loss has been attributed mainly to challenges associated with an aged fleet of aircraft along with increases in airport and fuel charges," Davis told legislators.

Davis said that a position paper/business plan for Bahamasair has been prepared by its management and was presented to government for consideration with a view towards changing Bahamasair's business model. But the minister noted that from a financial standpoint, the airline continues to struggle. ~CMC~

Chinese architectural team to finalise playing field designs

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua--Following discussions that began May 25, 2011, a team from the China Northeast Architectural Design and Research Institute Company Limited is visiting Antigua to advance plans for the development of the King George V Grounds and environs.

On Friday, June 21, Prime Minister Spencer, accompanied by Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to China David Shoul, First Secretary of the Economic Office of the People's Republic of China Huang Yueogo, architect in the Ministry of Public Works Wesley James and representatives of the China Northeast design company paid a visit to the King George V Playing Field on an inspection tour.

According to Prime Minister Spencer, he is delighted that plans are coming together after the initial discussions that commenced over two years ago to develop the King George V Playing Field to include a pavilion with bleachers and a basketball gymnasium and the construction of a multi-purpose community centre on the site formerly known as Knuckle Block.

Ambassador Shoul said this trip by China Northeast Architectural Design is to finalise the conceptual drawings before the final construction designs are presented to signal the start of construction.

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Alyssa Bartlett

Destination: University of Toronto, Mississauga, Canada -Cultural Communications/Technology, Digital Media

Awards:

- Drama Award
- University Math Award
- University Physics
- Leadership Award



Winnie Cheung

Destination: Work force prior to post secondary studies.



Michael Curtis

Destination: University of Toronto in Humanities.

Awards:

- Writers Craft



Kirstin De Falco

Destination: Will see, learn and experience the heights of the world prior to post secondary studies.

Awards:

- Ontario Scholar Award
- Governor General's Medal
- University English Award
- University Biology Award



Dany Dennaoui

Destination: Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

Awards:

- Honors in Sciences, Neuroscience & Mental Health
- Dedication to Learning
- Teacher's Award
- Award of Merit
- University Math Award
- University Biology Award



Jolyon Ferron

Destination: Work force prior to post secondary studies in Dramatic Arts.

Awards:

- Valedictorian
- Ontario Scholar
- Drama Award
- Community Service #1
- Athlete of the Year



Noah Gumbs

Destination: Work force prior to post secondary studies in Canada

Awards:

- Business Award



Maeva Lacombe

Destination: Dawson College, Montreal, QC

Awards:

- University English Award
- Social Science



Wai Man Li

Destination: Holland International/European law

Awards:

- Ontario Scholar Award
- Social Science
- International Business
- Student Council Award



Justine Lyons

Destination: Work force prior to post secondary studies.



Beau Manoe

Destination: Denmark

Awards:

- University Chemistry
- Community Service Award #2



Nathalie Mehendroo

Destination: Maranopolis College, Montreal, QC

Awards:

- Ontario Scholar Award
- Visual Arts Award
- College Math Award
- Writers Craft Award
- University Chemistry




Dean Nicholas Richardson

Destination: Niagara College, Canada

Awards:

- Culinary Management
- Teacher's Award
- College English



Ottie van Xanten

Destination: Work force prior to post secondary studies in Holland.

Awards:

- Ontario Scholar Award
- OSSLC
- Visual Arts Award
- Drama Award
- College Math Award
- Physical Education
- College English Award

Six CARICOM countries put on Watch List for human trafficking

WASHINGTON, USA-- Even as Caribbean Community (CARICOM) governments, during the past year, have seemingly made efforts in addressing human trafficking, the United States says many of them have still not done enough in tackling the issue.

In this nexus, in its 2013 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, the US Department of State placed six CARICOM countries - Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, St. Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago - on its Tier 2 Watch List.

Another four - Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Jamaica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines - have been listed on the Tier 2 List.

In distinguishing the two "lists" Washington defines

countries on the Tier 2 Watch List as those whose governments "do not fully comply" with the minimum standards in its Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is, among other things, "very significant or is significantly increasing".

Countries on the Tier 2 List, on the other hand, are those whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards but are simply making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

The State Department said Haiti is a source,

transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.

It says most of Haiti's trafficking cases comprise the estimated 150,000 to half a million children in domestic servitude in households throughout the French-speaking Caribbean country.

In addition to experiencing forced labour, the report says these children are vulnerable to beatings, sexual assaults and other abuses by family members in the homes in which they are residing.

Washington said "dismissed and runaway children" from domestic servitude make up a "significant proportion" of the large population of street children who end up forced into prostitution, begging or street crime by criminal gangs in Haiti.

It said children working in construction and agriculture are also vulnerable to forced labour, adding that children in "some unscrupulous" private and non-governmental (NGO)-sponsored residential care centers are at a "high risk" of being placed in a situation of forced labour.

The State Department said that women and children living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, set up as a result of the 2010 earthquake, are also at an increased risk of sex trafficking and forced labour and that an estimated 1.5 million Haitians that entered the camps, about 357,785 remain as of March 2013.

The report notes of documented cases of Dominican women in forced prostitution in Haiti, and that Haitians are exploited in forced labour in the neighbouring Dominican Republic and elsewhere in the Caribbean, as well as in the United States.

The report claims that Barbados is a source and

destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour, stating that evidence suggests foreign women are "forced into prostitution" in the country.

It said that in the past, foreigners reportedly have been subjected to forced labour in Barbados, with the highest risk sectors being domestic service, agriculture and construction.

The State Department said legal and illegal immigrants from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Guyana "appear to be vulnerable to trafficking" and the prostitution of children is "known to exist" in Barbados, where local and immigrant children engage in transactional sex with older men for material goods, "a phenomenon documented by UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) throughout the Eastern Caribbean."

The report said the Barbadian government launched at least two trafficking investigations but "did not address weaknesses in its anti-trafficking legal framework or initiate any prosecutions of alleged trafficking of

funders, raising concern about impunity for human trafficking.

"Barbadian law does not appear to prohibit all forms of human trafficking and does not prescribe penalties that are sufficiently stringent or commensurate with the prescribed penalties for other serious crimes, such as rape," it said, adding that the Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) Bill of 2011 prohibits some forms of trafficking, "though it appears to be inconsistent with international standards because it requires movement across borders as a necessary element of human trafficking".

Washington claims that the Barbados government did not establish formal, systematic procedures to guide officials across the government in proactively identifying victims of sex trafficking and forced labor and referring them to available services, "though it reportedly employed interim procedures during the last year".

The State Department says that Trinidad and Tobago is a destination and transit country for adults and children subjected to sex trafficking and adults subjected to forced la-

bour. Despite limited steps, it says the St. Lucian Government "did not demonstrate evidence of increasing efforts to address human trafficking over the previous year," adding that it also "did not make progress in proactively identifying and assisting suspected trafficking victims or prosecuting trafficking offenders".

The report characterizes Jamaica as a source, transit and destination country for adults and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour and that the exploitation of local children in the sex trade as a form of sex trafficking, "remains a serious problem".

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, like the other Caribbean islands was identified as a source, transit and destination country for some men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.

The report says officials have expressed concern about the possible existence of adults pressuring children under the age of 18 to provide sex acts to men in exchange for money or gifts, "a form of sex trafficking". ~CMC~

Guard assisting Grenada police in child pornography investigation

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada-- The police have vowed to spare no efforts in bringing perpetrators to justice and urged parents to be more vigilant in supervising their daughters.

The alleged offender is likely to be charged with several counts of "sexual intercourse with a female between the age of 13 and 16 years". If found guilty, he can face a maximum penalty of seven years in prison on each count.

While Grenada does not have laws regarding the distribution of sexual materials on the Internet, the island has signed and ratified several United Nations convention including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children. ~CMC~

The police have vowed to spare no efforts in bringing perpetrators to justice and urged parents to be more vigilant in supervising their daughters.

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No new information on escaped criminals

PARAMARIBO-- Authorities still have no leads as to the whereabouts of several criminals who escaped from jail in recent months.

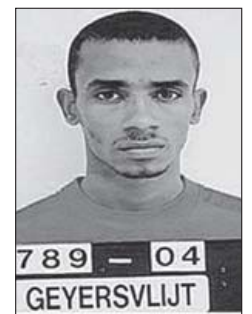
The most recent to escape from the Santo Boma penitentiary is Ronny Rattan (34), who was just a few weeks into a sentence that was supposed to keep him behind bars until July 2024.

Rattan's mysterious escape was noticed last week Thursday, June 20. "We still cannot tell how he managed to break out," said Paulus Pinas, Director

of the Delinquent's Care Department of the Ministry of Justice. Paulus told journalists the investigation continues.

Rattan was sharing a cell in a wing of the prison reserved for hard core criminals. He was serving time for illegal possession of a firearm and for a violent bank robbery. Together with a four-man gang he held up the Agriculture Bank of the village of Lelydorp in May 2011, tied up and beat up the staff and made off with a substantial amount of money. The robbery got him a 10-year jail sentence less than two weeks ago.

He is the fourth criminal to break out of a prison in Suriname in the past three months and of whom police have no trace. Brazilians Elizou Nagesar Suarez and Rodrigues Martinez Fran-



Ronny Rattan

cisco escaped on April 14. Both were doing five-year terms in the penitentiary in Paramaribo: Suarez for robbery with aggravated assault and Francisco for his role in a fatal car accident. And on April 29, convict Pearl Morgenstond walked out of the hospital he had been admitted to for treatment. He was serving 14 years for a murder he had committed in 2011.

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IRS "lookout" lists cast wider net than Tea Party

WASHINGTON--U.S. Internal Revenue Service agents used more than just "Tea Party" and other conservative terms to screen tax exempt applications, the newly-appointed IRS chief said on Monday after a month-long review ordered by President Barack Obama.

The IRS has scrapped use of the "be on the lookout" (BOLO) lists, newly appointed IRS chief Daniel Werfel said in a conference call with reporters. His disclosure about the breadth of the lists added a new twist to a six-week-old controversy that has embarrassed the Obama administration, forced the exit of several IRS officials and triggered probes by the FBI and Congress.

"We did determine and discover there are other BOLO lists in place," Werfel said on the call. "There was a wide ranging set of categories and cases that spanned a broad spectrum."

A top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, Sander Levin, said the word "progressive" was on one of the lists, which agency officials have said they used to flag applications for potential scrutiny. The IRS has been blasted for the lists since May 10 when a senior official apologized for scrutiny of conservative groups. On May 14, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) issued a report on the lists.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said Obama met with Werfel on Monday, and called the report a good first step. "As the President has made clear, the misconduct identified in last month's Inspector General report is unacceptable," Carney said in a statement.

In response to the controversy, Obama last month fired then-acting IRS Commissioner Steven Miller and ordered a 30-day review. At least three other IRS officials have been replaced or are on administrative leave. Werfel said the IRS review found no intentional wrongdoing by employees inside or outside the agency.



A television news producer sprints down the steps from the U.S. Supreme Court building with their printed rulings in cases heard earlier this year in Washington, on Monday.

Supreme Court ducks major ruling on affirmative action

WASHINGTON--The U.S. Supreme Court avoided a major ruling on affirmative action in college student admissions on Monday, but warned that university policies that take race into account could be more vulnerable to legal challenges in the future.

In a lopsided 7-1 vote that few expected, the justices sent a case about the policy at the University of Texas at Austin back to a lower court for reconsideration. That means Abigail Fisher, a white woman from suburban Houston, will have a second chance to argue that she was wrongly rejected entry to the university while minority students with similar grades and test scores were admitted thanks to the admissions policy.

To the relief of affirmative action supporters, the high court left intact existing court precedent that allows for limited consideration of race in university admissions. Elaborating on how its previous rulings should be interpreted, the Supreme Court ruled that when an appeals court rehears the case, it must show less deference to the university when analyzing whether the policy violated the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. That means the University of Texas program still hangs in the balance.

Lee Bollinger, the president of Columbia University and a leading affirmative action supporter, said the ruling would likely further embolden opponents of such programs. "People who are opposed to this are very determined," he said. "I would fully anticipate challenges continuing."

The justices' tussle with this divisive issue reflects a political debate that has been ongoing since President John Kennedy's administration of the early 1960s over the sort of "affirmative action" to be taken to help blacks and other minorities. The Supreme Court has

been at the center of disputes over when universities may consider applicants' race since 1978, when it forbade quotas in its groundbreaking Bakke case decision but said schools could weigh race with other factors.

Many court-watchers, basing their predictions on October's oral arguments and the court's more conservative makeup since the last big decision on the matter in 2003, had thought the Texas program was doomed and the court might cut back on the use of affirmative action - admissions preferences that benefit minorities to diversify student enrollment - in broader terms. In an opinion by Justice Anthony Kennedy, the court sent a warning to affirmative action advocates that they will need ironclad legal

arguments to justify such programs in the future if they are to survive legal challenges.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, which upheld the program the first time it considered it, must now scrutinize the policy even more closely, including consideration of whether the university could have used a race-neutral alternative, Kennedy said. The university "must make a showing that its plan is narrowly tailored to achieve the only interest that this court has approved in this context," Kennedy wrote.

Under court precedent, that would mean a program that takes into account a broad array of qualifications and characteristics "of which racial or ethnic origin is but a single though important element."

Bulger said no one would believe him an informant

BOSTON--James "Whitey" Bulger told his FBI handlers he had no fears that his more than decade-long cooperation with them would put him in any personal peril because "no one" would believe the accused mob boss was talking to them, according to evidence introduced at his trial on Monday.

Even as he killed criminal associates out of fear that they were providing information to law enforcement, Bulger met regularly with Boston FBI officials to expose rival gangsters or focus blame for his crimes elsewhere, a bureau official told Bulger's murder and racketeering trial.

"No one would dare believe that he was an informant. It would be too incredible," the FBI report described Bulger as saying in a 1980 meeting. His reported comment came

in response to a warning from his FBI handler - the now disgraced agent John Connolly - that he could be in danger of being found out.

Bulger's attorneys, meanwhile, continued to argue that their 83-year-old client never served as an FBI informant and said the bureau's 700-page file introduced as evidence at trial was not proof that he had talked to investigators. The accused former leader of Boston's Winter Hill crime gang is on trial for charges including 19 murders he is alleged to have committed or ordered in the 1970s and '80s. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges and faces the possibility of life in prison if convicted.

His case stands as a black mark on the FBI's history. Bulger and Connolly shared an Irish background and grew up in the same South

Justices narrow workers ability to press bias cases

WASHINGTON--A sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court on Monday made it harder for workers to sue their employers over alleged harassment and retaliation in the workplace.

In two identical 5-4 votes, the court's conservative majority ruled against a black Ball State University catering assistant who claimed she was harassed on the basis of race, and a University of Texas doctor of Middle Eastern descent who claimed he lost his job in retaliation for complaining of bias.

Both decisions prompted harsh criticism from liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who took the unusual step of reading for eight minutes from the bench from her dissents. She accused the majority of having "corralled" Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and called on Congress to undo the damage. That part of the law prohibits employment discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex and national origin.

"The decisions don't reflect realities of the workplace," said Michael Foreman, a Pennsylvania State University law professor who submitted briefs on behalf of the complaining workers. "They effectively don't protect the right to complain."

Monday's decisions add

to a growing list from the court in this and recent terms favouring businesses, including cases involving class-action lawsuits.

"These are good decisions for employers and the economy generally," said Anthony Oncidi, a Proskauer Rose law firm partner in Los Angeles specializing in employment law. "This will help smoke out claims where employees cannot show that but for the alleged illegal actions, they would not have suffered."

In the Ball State case, Maetta Vance, the black employee, had sued over the alleged taunts and threats of physical harm by a white woman she considered to be her supervisor at the university in Muncie, Indiana. Vance said Ball State eventually retaliated by making her a "glorified salad girl" who cut vegetables and washed fruit.

While the Supreme Court in 1998 said Title VII let harassment victims hold employers responsible for supervisors' improper conduct, it had never defined what a supervisor was. Writing for the court majority, Justice Samuel Alito adopted a narrower definition of a supervisor than Vance proposed, and upheld a 2011 ruling by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

He said an employer could be liable "only when the employer has empowered that employee to take tangible employment actions against the victim, i.e., to effect a 'significant change in employment status, such as hiring, firing, failing to promote, reassignment with significantly different responsibilities, or a decision causing a significant change in benefits.'"

The court rejected Vance's argument that a supervisor was anyone with day-to-day oversight of an employee's activities, and what Alito called the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "nebulous" guidance to link supervisory status to the exercise of significant oversight over such work. "It reduces the incentives for employers to police harassment," said Carolyn Shapiro, a professor at the IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law and director of its Supreme Court institute. Daniel Ortiz, a lawyer for Vance, was not immediately available for comment. Ball State had no immediate comment.

US justices will hear EPA appeal over pollution rule

WASHINGTON--In a win for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider the legality of a controversial Obama administration effort to regulate air pollution that crosses state lines.

At the request of the administration, the American Lung Association and environmental groups, the justices will revisit an appeals court ruling that invalidated the Cross-State Air Pollution rule, which the EPA implemented to enforce a provision of the Clean Air Act. Oral arguments and a decision are due in the court's next term, which starts in October and ends in June 2014.

The rule sets limits on nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide from coal-fired power plants in 28 upwind states in the eastern part of the country. Various power companies and 16 states successfully challenged the law in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The appeals court ruled 2-1 in August that the EPA had exceeded its authority under the Clean Air Act by requiring states to curb air pollution to a greater extent than the statute requires. Share prices for U.S. coal companies, which rose in August when the D.C. Circuit Court ruled, fell on Monday, in some cases reaching multi-year lows.

The appeals court also said the EPA acted prematurely by failing to tell states what

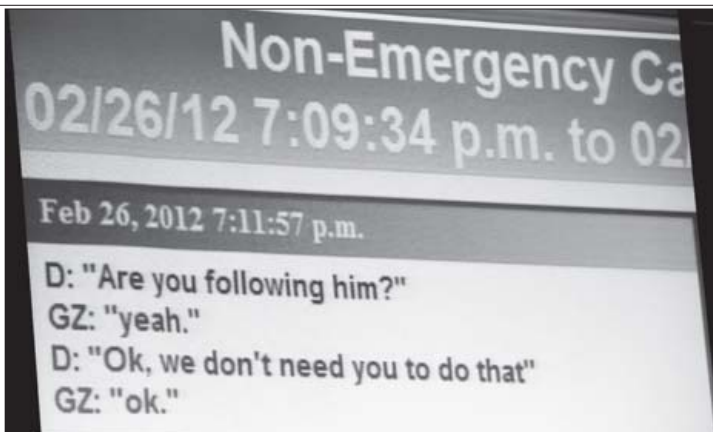
emissions reductions they had to achieve to meet their obligations under the statute before going ahead with its own federal plan. The appeals court ordered that a rule issued during President George W. Bush's administration, which the appeals court ruled in 2008 was insufficient, should remain in effect until the EPA comes up with a revised regulation.

Monday's decision was a boost for the EPA, whose rules tend to face automatic legal challenges in the D.C. Circuit Court. The high court tends to avoid weighing in on highly technical cases involving the federal Clean Air Act, said John Walke, senior attorney and clean air director for Natural Resources Defense Council.

"The decision vaults the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule into the top five Clean Air Act cases heard by the Supreme Court," Walke said.

A central issue in the case will be the lower court's deference to agency rules and the agency's scientific expertise, legal experts said. "The Supreme Court has said time and again that agencies and Congress that have chosen to implement such complex rules should be granted deference by courts," said Sean Donahue, a lawyer who represents environmental groups in the case.

Industry groups expect the high court to uphold or even extend the lower court's decision to vacate the rule.



A transcript from George Zimmerman's police call on the night of the Trayvon Martin shooting is projected during the defense opening argument in Seminole circuit court on the opening day of George Zimmerman trial in Sanford, Florida, on Monday.

Martin's murder trial opens with clash on shooter's motive

SANFORD, Florida--Neighbourhood watchman George Zimmerman killed Trayvon Martin simply because "he wanted to," because he was an armed vigilante, and because he viewed the 17-year-old whom he'd never met as just another "punk," a prosecutor said in opening statements to the jury in a trial that promises to raise thorny issues of race and gun rights.

In a case that centers on a shooting that occurred without a clear eyewitness on a rainy, dark night more than a year ago, prosecutor John Guy sought to cut through doubts surrounding the incident in a fiery 30-minute opening statement that branded Zimmerman as the aggressor for the six jurors who will decide the case.

As the second-degree murder trial opened in earnest after two weeks of jury selection and evidentiary rulings, the prosecutor began by bluntly quoting from Zimmerman's call to a po-

lice dispatcher after first spotting the unarmed, black teen.

"Fucking punks. These assholes, they always get away," Guy repeated, going on to say those were the "hate-filled words he used to describe a total stranger."

Zimmerman's defense attorney Don West opened with his own unusual gambit, opting to tell a "knock-knock" joke, which fell flat in the courtroom. "Knock knock. Who's there? George Zimmerman. George Zimmerman who? Good, you're on the jury," he said.

West went on to offer a wholly different view of his client - who is out on bail and appeared in court wearing a charcoal grey suit - and the events of Feb. 26, 2012 in a gated community in Sanford, Florida. Zimmerman was "viciously attacked" by Martin and acted in self-defense, attorney Don West said.

In his 2-1/2 hour statement to the jury, the defense at-

torney said a witness, who he identified as a homeowner near the site of the altercation, would testify about a man clad in the colour of the clothing Martin was wearing "mounting" a man on the ground in mixed martial arts fashion and "basically beating him senseless."

West said contrary to what has often been said about the case, Martin was not unarmed. "Trayvon Martin armed himself with the concrete sidewalk and used it to smash George Zimmerman's head ... That is a deadly weapon," he said.

Zimmerman showed no emotion as he stared straight ahead and away from the prosecutor. The parents of both Zimmerman and Martin were seated on different sides of the courtroom at the start of the day, but Zimmerman's parents were quickly instructed to leave after the prosecution said they might be called as witnesses.

Health of US kids improves, but more live in poverty

WASHINGTON--Families in the United States are making gains in education and health, two key factors in their overall well-being, a report released on Monday showed, adding to data that suggests the U.S. economy is slowly rebounding from the 2007-2009 recession.

Still, the latest findings on the state of U.S. children and their parents by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found many families continue to struggle with poverty amid a lack of steady, full-time work and affordable housing. Nationwide, 16.4 million children, or 23 percent, were in families living in poverty in 2011, an increase from 15.7 million, or 22 percent, in 2010, and 3 million more than in 2005, the data showed.

"The negative impact of the recession remains evident," researchers at the non-profit youth advocacy organization wrote in their annual report, which focuses on children of all ages. The report is closely watched by federal and state policymakers.

Overall, dozens of states saw more youth improve in reading, math and graduation rates since 2005, a key indicator of future economic well-being, according to the report. Most states also saw more children with health insurance, improvements in birth weights, and fewer youth deaths between 2005 and 2011, it said.

But signs also pointed to continued economic struggles. Besides the increase in children in families living at or below the official U.S. poverty line, which was \$22,811 in 2011, almost one-third of American youth, or nearly 23.8 million, were in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment, data showed.

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Italy court hands Berlusconi seven years on sex charges

MILAN--Silvio Berlusconi was handed a seven-year jail sentence on Monday for abuse of office and paying for sex with a minor, adding to the complications facing Italy's fragile left-right government.

The former prime minister will not have to serve any jail time before he has exhausted an appeals process that could take years, but the conviction angered members of his centre-right party who questioned whether he should continue to support the coalition. The 76-year-old media tycoon expressed outrage at the verdict which he said was politically motivated.

"An incredible sentence has been issued of a violence never seen or heard of before, to try to eliminate me from the political life of this country," Berlusconi said in a statement. "Yet again I intend to resist against this persecution because I am absolutely innocent and I don't want in any way to abandon my battle to make Italy a country that is truly free and just."

Berlusconi's lawyers announced they would appeal against the ruling that also banned him from holding public office.

Berlusconi was found guilty of paying for sex with former teenage nightclub dancer Karima El Mahroug, better known under her stage name "Ruby the Heartstealer", during "bunga bunga" sex parties at his palatial home near Milan. The panel of three women judges also

convicted him of abuse of office by arranging to have El Mahroug released from police custody when she was held in a separate theft case.

The verdict closes a two-year trial that has mesmerised Italy with its accounts of wild sex parties at the billionaire's villa outside Milan while he was premier in 2010. Several members of Berlusconi's People of Freedom (PDL) party have urged him to withdraw his backing for the government of centre-left Prime Minister Enrico Letta, which needs the PDL's support.

"It's disgusting, a disgrace," one of his most faithful lieutenants, senior party official Daniela Santanchè, told reporters in front of the Milan court.

She said the ruling would not impact the functioning of the government, but other Berlusconi allies were less conciliatory. "It is absurd to think that the current government can continue to work calmly while the leader of one of the parties backing it is being massacred politically," said PDL senator Sandro Bondi.

Letta's Democratic Party (PD), which was dealt its own blow on Monday by the resignation of Equal Opportunities and Sports Minister Josefa Idem over a tax evasion scandal, said the Berlusconi verdict should be respected and called on the PDL to show restraint.

Berlusconi says the purported sex parties were elegant dinners where the female guests performed

"burlesque" shows. El Mahroug denied having sex with Berlusconi.

In the verdict, the judges said around 30 witnesses in the case, including Deputy Foreign Minister Bruno Archi, should be investigated for perjury for their testimony in favour of Berlusconi.

In May 2010, the then-prime minister called a Milan police station to instruct officials to release El Mahroug, who was being held on suspicion of stealing a 3,000 euro (\$3,900) bracelet. A Brazilian prostitute who lived with El Mahroug had called the premier on his mobile phone to tell him she had been arrested, prosecutors said.

Berlusconi's lawyers have said he made the call to avoid a diplomatic incident



A combination of file photographs shows Karima El Mahroug of Morocco posing during a photocall at the Karma disco in Milan November 14, 2010, and Italy's former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi waving as he arrives for a meeting of the European People's Party in Brussels June 28, 2012.

because he believed that El Mahroug, who is actually Moroccan, was the granddaughter of Hosni Mubarak, then the Egyptian president. The prosecution said he was

anxious to cover up the relations he had with her at his sex parties.

The media magnate has recently used his own television stations to promote his

version of events, with his flagship Canale 5 channel broadcasting a prime-time documentary on the so-called "Ruby Trial".

Suspect arrested over British family murder in French Alps

LONDON/PARIS--Police in Britain have arrested a man on suspicion of conspiracy to murder a British family of Iraqi origin who were killed in a high-profile murder in France last year, French public prosecutor Eric Maillaud said on Monday.

Saad al-Hilli, an Iraqi-born British engineer, was found shot dead in September 2012 with his wife and mother-in-law in their BMW car on a remote mountain road near the vil-

lage of Chevaline, with the body of a cyclist, Sylvain Mollier, discovered nearby. They were killed in what appeared to be execution-style murders, with at least two hits to the head from a semi-automatic pistol.

Speaking to Reuters, Maillaud identified Saad al-Hilli's brother Zaid as the man arrested. "Several lines of questioning closed over time... The main theory today is linked to the family," he said. "There seems to have been a real

desire on Zaid's part to recover his father's wealth, to Saad's detriment, by any means necessary, including illegally."

Maillaud said there was no formal evidence, but that police now had enough elements to question Zaid as a suspect.

Hilli's two daughters survived the attack, despite the gunman trying to kill the eldest - 7-year-old Zainab - by beating her around the head after running out of bullets. Four-year-old Zee-

na was found safe hiding beneath the legs and skirt of her dead mother in the backseat of the car.

The brutality and unexplained nature of the killings led to prominent coverage of the case in British media. Investigators have said previously they were looking at various theories, including robbery, a family feud, a possible link to Hilli's work in the aerospace industry or his Iraqi origins.



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Russian policemen stand outside the embassy of Ecuador in Moscow, on Monday.

US presses Russia to hand over Snowden

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW—The United States on Monday increased pressure on Russia to hand over Edward Snowden, the American charged with disclosing secret U.S. surveillance programs, and said it believed he was still in Moscow despite reports he was leaving for Cuba.

Earlier Snowden, until recently a contractor with the U.S. National Security Agency, had been expected to fly to Havana from Moscow, perhaps on the way to Ecuador, but he was not seen on the plane and Russian officials declined to say where he was.

The U.S. State Department

said diplomats and Justice Department officials were engaged in discussions with Russia, suggesting they were looking for a deal to secure his return. "Given our intensified cooperation working with Russia on law enforcement matters ... we hope that the Russian government will look at all available options to return Mr. Snowden back to the U.S. to face justice for the crimes with which he is charged," spokesman Patrick Ventrell told reporters.

Snowden flew to Moscow after being allowed to leave Hong Kong on Sunday, even though Washington had asked the Chinese territory to detain him pending his possible extradition on espionage charges.

White House spokesman Jay Carney defended the administration's attempts to bring Snowden into U.S. custody and blamed China for assisting in his departure from Hong Kong. He said it would damage U.S. China relations.

Sources at the Russian airline Aeroflot had said on Sunday that Snowden would be on a flight on Monday morning that arrived in Havana at 6:45 p.m., but reporters who took the flight said another person occupied seat 17A, which had been set aside for him. "He didn't take the flight (to Havana)," a source at Aeroflot told Reuters.

However, before the plane left for Cuba, a white van for VIPs approached it on the tarmac. Police stood by as a single man in a white shirt climbed the stairs on to the plane soon afterwards but he could not be identified by reporters watching in the transit area.

It was not clear whether the plane had a section in which Snowden could have been concealed.

Julian Assange, the founder of anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks which is assisting Snowden, said the 30-year-old had fled to Moscow en route to Ecuador and was in good health in a "safe place" but did not say where he was now. Ecuador, like Cuba and Venezuela, is a member of the ALBA bloc, an alliance of leftist governments in Latin America that pride themselves on their "anti-imperialist" credentials. The Quito government has been sheltering Assange at its London embassy for the past year.

Washington was stung by the defiance from Russia, with which President Barack Obama has sought improved relations, and China's apparent compliance in letting Snowden leave Hong Kong. Obama has met the leaders of the two powers in recent months. One of three high-powered lawyers representing Snowden in Hong Kong said they had warned him he might be stuck in legal limbo for years - and possibly detained - if he stayed put and requested asylum in the city-state.






Carney, speaking several hours after the Moscow-Havana flight took off, said it was the U.S. assumption that Snowden was still in Russia and pressed Russia to use all options to expel him to the United States. President Barack Obama said his government was "following all the appropriate legal channels working with various other countries to make sure the rule of law is observed."



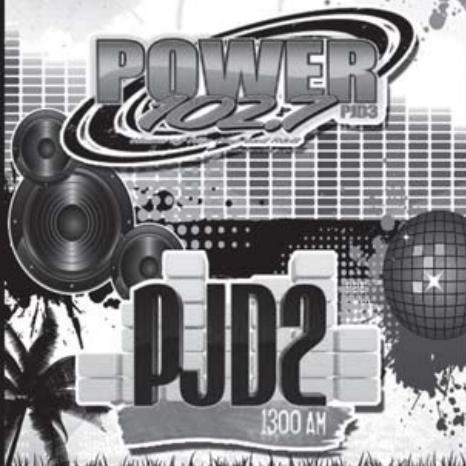
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Egypt mob yelled "infidels" at Shi'ites beaten to death

ZAWIYAT ABU MUSALLEM, Egypt--Kasbana Abdelaziz's house guests had barely arrived when the mob was upon them, hurling petrol bombs and smashing the holes through the roof of her home.

The attackers then dragged four men - Shi'ite Muslims who had come to this Cairo suburb for a religious festival - out into the street and beat them to death. President Mohamed Mursi condemned the "heinous crime" that happened on Sunday and promised swift justice, but his opponents accuse him and his Muslim Brotherhood of allowing ultraconservative Salafist allies to whip up anti-Shi'ite sentiment in return for their support.

"They called us infidels," Abdelaziz, said, sitting on her floor amid broken concrete, shattered glass and splintered wood. Two of her daughters stood weeping in the room behind her.

The mob killing in Zawiyat Abu Musallem has caused outrage among opposition leaders in Egypt at a time of deep political tension in the Arab world's most populous country.

Little is left of Abdelaziz's house in the Cairo suburb, an area of mud-brick and concrete-block homes, narrow dirt alleyways and fields of date palms in view of the Giza pyramids. The kitchen is stripped bare; a battered refrigerator door lies amid dust, scraps of cloth and bricks on the floor. Daylight pours in through holes in the ceiling. An image of the

shrine of Imam Ali in Iraq, one of the holiest sites in Shi'ite Islam, hangs on a wall in the ransacked bedroom.

Abdelaziz had no doubt who was behind the destruction. "It was the Salafists and the Brotherhood - they're the ones who attacked us," she said. "They did things you can't imagine."

Shi'ites are a small minority in Egypt - though still num-

ber in the hundreds of thousands - and they keep a low profile in the overwhelmingly Sunni country of 84 million. But the war in Syria, which pits mostly Sunni rebels against President Bashar al-Assad and his Shi'ite allies, has worsened sectarian hatreds across the region.

The violence in Zawiyat Abu Musallem started in the early afternoon, Abdelaziz

and her daughters said, just after Hassan Shehata, a Shi'ite dignitary, arrived as a guest of her husband, a plasterer from the area.

Hundreds of men gathered in the rubbish-strewn alley outside the house when they learned Shehata was inside. "He'd only just entered and come up when we found all the people upon us," Abdelaziz said. "There was chanting - 'you Shi'ites, you infidels'. People were chanting and people were throwing bricks."

A video posted online showed a crowd dragging four men wearing robes from the house and beating them with fists and rods until they fell, bloodied and motion-

less, in the alley. One comment on the video, which has gained several hundred "likes" on YouTube, addressed Shehata: "May your filthy soul lie in hell forever and ever. Amen."

Another video posted by rights activists showed dozens of men and youths looking on as several others drag the bloodied body of at least one man along a street, one pulling on what may be a rope around his neck.

In other sequences, a group of black-robed women on a crowded, narrow street chant "No God but God!" Riot police are present in the video, which shows an officer yelling out in frustration: "They're beating us!"



A man enters the room of a house, where four Egyptian Shi'ites were killed, in the suburb of Zawiyat Abu Musallem, on the outskirts of Cairo, on Monday.

Lebanon facing tumult after deadliest Syria-related clashes

BEIRUT--The Lebanese government will try on Tuesday to secure the country after the deadliest violence since the start of a two-year conflict in neighbouring Syria that has pushed Lebanon's myriad militia to clashes.

Gunfights between the army and Sunni Muslim radical groups in the southern port of Sidon extended into Monday night after Lebanese soldiers stormed a complex holding gunmen loyal to a radical Islamist cleric and arrested dozens of his supporters. Violence also spread to the city of Tripoli in the north.

Residents fear that Syria-related clashes could drag their country back into sectarian civil war. Lebanon is still struggling to heal the wounds of 15 years of war between 1975 and 1990 and remains home to armed sectarian militia.

The army said 12 soldiers were killed in Sidon where troops stormed the mosque complex of hardline Sunni cleric Ahmed al-Assir. A medic told Reuters that 22 bodies had been pulled from the mosque complex.

Late on Monday, clouds of smoke rose from the mosque. Assir's office across the road was completely de-

stroyed. At least four tanks and several army vehicles at the scene had been torched. Assir remained at large.

The government declared Tuesday a day of mourning for the dead soldiers and caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and premier-designate Tammam Salam issued a statement late on Monday rejecting "any attack on the army".

Sidon had been on edge since violence erupted last week between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim fighters, at odds over the Syrian conflict which pits mainly Sunni rebels against President Bashar al-Assad, who is a member of the minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam. Lebanese Shi'ite militant group Hezbollah has sent fighters into Syria to help Assad's forces recapture a strategic town, enraging Sunni groups.

Fighting started after gunmen loyal to Assir opened fire on an army checkpoint on Sunday, the army said. Assir's supporters accuse the army of backing Hezbollah. The government called for the need to secure Sidon and "prevent all armed manifestations in a comprehensive manner."

Violence spread on Mon-



A Lebanese army soldier takes a position behind a car near the mosque complex (background), where hardline Sunni cleric Sheikh Ahmed al-Assir was believed to be sheltering with his supporters in Abra near Sidon, southern Lebanon, on Monday.

day to Tripoli, where gunmen opened fire on the military and blocked roads with cement blocks and burning tires. Clashes there have wounded two soldiers and three gunmen.

In the capital Beirut, militia loyal to both sides blocked

roads. Local media reported that some hardline Sunni mosques in Tripoli and Beirut called for jihad, or holy war, in support of Assir. Jihad feeds on Twitter were also full of calls for Sunnis to fight in support of him.

Far-right Israelis stir tensions over Jerusalem holy compound

JERUSALEM--Far-right Israelis are pressing for an end to an effective ban on holding Jewish prayers at a Jerusalem holy compound once dominated by Biblical temples and now home to al-Aqsa mosque, one of Islam's most revered sites.

Palestinians oppose Jewish worship at the vast stone plaza overlooking Judaism's Western Wall as a potential threat to access for Muslims. Aware of the volatile mix of politics and religion, Israel has largely stymied such prayer for 46 years by having its police prevent Jewish worship at the site on grounds it could cause a public disturbance.

Palestinian concerns have been heightened, however, by the fact that allies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are among the most vocal advocates of Jewish prayer at the 35-acre site that is revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary.

This month alone, Israeli police have hauled away half a dozen Israelis from the site. A Jewish Israeli and an Arab citizen were held in connection with a brawl that injured a Muslim official and four other Jewish men were detained for prostrating themselves on the holy ground.

Several other Israelis have been questioned in the past two months for trying to pray at the compound during police-escorted sightseeing tours. A lamb was seized from another Israeli who had plans to slaughter it in ritual sacrifice.

Israeli police accompany most visitors to the compound, where escorted tours are held frequently. They cross a wooden bridge to a gate where plastic police shields and other riot-control gear are stored, a ready display of how quickly the otherwise serene atmosphere can sometimes go awry.

Visitors are closely watched by both the police and the Muslim religious officials of the Waqf who administer the compound and keep an eye out to make sure no Jewish worship takes place. Anyone wearing Jewish religious garb is generally kept away from the Islamic holy tract.

At the compound, one group of visitors walked past al-Aqsa, drawing shouting from Muslim women sitting in the shade of tree and from Palestinian children attending a day camp. They ignored the catcalls and continued deeper into the plaza. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has denounced the Israeli visits as a part of a "dangerous and an evil plot to demolish al-Aqsa" and build what he calls "an alleged temple".

Wedged into the compound atop the ramparts of Jerusalem's walled Old City is al-Aqsa, originally erected 1,300 years ago, rebuilt in the 11th century after an earthquake and now Islam's third holiest site, and the 7th-century golden Dome of the Rock shrine, the oldest known Islamic monument. The plaza, from which the Prophet Mohammed is traditionally believed to have ascended into heaven, has an explosive past as a core issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel captured the area, along with the rest of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Middle East war. The Jewish state then annexed East Jerusalem as part of its capital in a move never recognised internationally. In 2000, Palestinian protests over a visit to the site by then Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon spiralled into deadly clashes and a five-year Palestinian uprising in which thousands died.

Attempts to cut UK spending fuel angst over cherished state

LONDON--When the chief enforcer for Britain's finance ministry suggested that the army should cut spending further because it had more horses than tanks, he provoked an indignant response from one of his own colleagues in the cabinet.

As Britain prepares to say who will take the pain for more cuts, the row over ceremonial horses versus tanks shows just how hard it is to trim the size of a state that the government says has been overspending for years. While the cuts have upset some voters and stoked tensions among senior members of Prime Minister David Cameron's coalition government, the debt mountain is still rising and Britain has lost its prized triple-A credit rating for the first time since it received the rating in 1978.

For finance minister George Osborne, the row over Britain's military horses shows the political dangers and limits of austerity just as he puts the finishing touches to his spending review announcement due on June 26. "In a department that has more horses than it has tanks, there are room



Members of the Household Cavalry return to their barracks after taking part in a dress rehearsal for the Major General's review, in Hyde Park in London in this file photograph dated April 14, 2011.

for efficiency savings without affecting our overall military output," said Danny Alexander, Osborne's cabinet-level deputy at the Treasury.

Asked about the criticism of his horses, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond fired back in parliament: "I will probably not share with my Honourable Friend all the thoughts that I would like to offer to the Treasury and some of my colleagues."

"While it is easy to draw

attention to such things as the number of horses in the army, the moral component of our armed forces - that which links it to the great tradition of military service in this country - is a very important part of delivering military capability and is money well spent."

One lawmaker retorted that the bosses at the Treasury, Britain's most powerful ministry, should be served with an "idiot's guide" to Her Majesty's armed forces to put them

out of their ignorance.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said it had about 500 horses compared to around 350 tanks. The horses are used in ceremonial events such as the opening of parliament and the celebration of Queen Elizabeth's official birthday.

In what will be the fourth year since he took power promising deep spending cuts, Osborne reached deals with ministers including Hammond to secure

11.5 billion pounds (\$17.70 billion) of further cuts in 2015-2016. The fate of the horses was not immediately clear.

When Osborne arrived at the offices of the Treasury following the 2010 election, his deputy had been left a note by departing Labour treasury chief secretary Liam Byrne saying: "I'm afraid there's no money left." Osborne faced a budget deficit of 11 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and the UK gilt market was, in the words of Pimco's Bill Gross, the manager of the world's biggest bond fund, "resting on a bed of nitroglycerine" because debt was far too high.

The opposition Labour Party accuses him of damaging the economic recovery by cutting too far and too quickly, although it has pledged to keep to the spending plans for 2015-16 if it wins power in the 2015 election. After Osborne staked the reputation of the Conservative-led coalition government on reducing Britain's debts, lower than expected tax receipts from a stagnant economy forced him to extend the budget cuts way past the 2015 elec-

tion.

"We are out of intensive care and our job now is to secure the recovery," Osborne said in a BBC interview on Sunday. "We're going to go on taking the difficult decisions, go on cutting back spending, go on prioritising spending on the things that help the economy and cutting the spending that doesn't."

The International Monetary Fund, long known for its support of austerity economics, has begun calling on Osborne to increase spending to boost demand. Yet the chancellor has shown no sign of relenting, at least in public. The British state is still spending about 120 billion pounds more than it receives each year. Public sector net debt is forecast to peak at 85.6 percent of GDP in 2016-17.

"Prior to the financial crisis, we had one of the lowest debt ratios of below 40 percent of GDP, so we have seen our debt ratio rise faster than our peer group," said John Hawsworth, chief economist for the United Kingdom at PwC. "Sustained growth is harder to achieve now, and

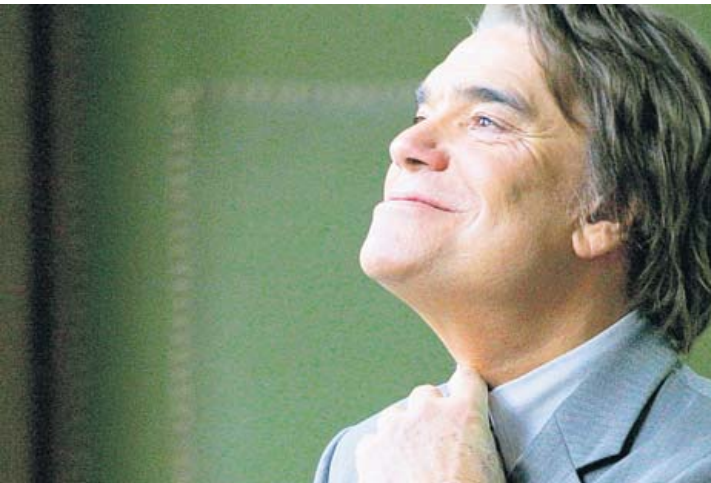
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French businessman Bernard Tapie adjusts his tie at the Justice court in Paris in this file photo October 19, 2005.

French police quiz Sarkozy backer in fraud investigation

PARIS--French police questioned flamboyant tycoon Bernard Tapie on Monday in a fraud investigation that threatens to damage ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy's hopes of a political comeback.

Tapie, a member of France's business and sporting elite, says he has nothing to hide in the affair which has embroiled members of Sarkozy's cabinet, including IMF chief Christine Lagarde, his former finance minister. While both Sarkozy and Lagarde deny wrongdoing, the case is one more legal headache for the former president whose supporters would like to see run for the top job again to rescue his divided conservative party.

The investigation is into whether a 285 million euro (\$374 million) financial award that Tapie won in 2008 was a result of political influence. "I'm not worried about the merits of the case," said 70-year-old Tapie, who served as a minister in Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's government in the 1980s, but moved to the right and backed Sarkozy at the 2007 election.

"I'm wondering what they could possibly find," he told Europe 1 radio shortly before being taken in for questioning by police specialised in financial crime.

Tapie alleged that the now-defunct bank Credit Lyonnais defrauded him by purchasing his interest in sports clothing company Adidas in 1993 for 315.5 million euros only to sell it a year later for 701 million euros. Investigators are trying to determine whether the close ties between Tapie and members of Sarkozy's inner circle in-

fluenced the government's decision in 2007 to turn to a private arbitration tribunal to settle the long-running dispute.

The arbitration went in Tapie's favour with an award which, including interest, amounted to 403 million euros. Under French law, Tapie - the owner of a regional newspaper chain whose has raced cars, dabbled in acting and bought cycling and soccer teams - could be kept in police custody for as long as 96 hours as he is questioned on suspicion of organised fraud.

Socialist President Francois Hollande, who came to power just over a year ago vow-

ing to rid France of what he said were unfair advantages accorded to the elite under Sarkozy, has said he wants to get to the bottom of the arbitration affair. He has continued to back Lagarde and the chief executive of France Telecom, Stephane Richard, both of whom have been caught up in the scandal.

Although Lagarde was not placed under formal investigation - a step meaning that "serious or consistent evidence" points to probable implication in a crime, Richard - her former aide - was. Richard has denied any wrongdoing and plans to appeal the decision.

Pope snub of concert stuns cardinals, sends clear signal

VATICAN CITY--A last-minute no-show by Pope Francis at a concert where he was to have been the guest of honour has sent another clear signal that he is going to do things his way and does not like the Vatican high life.

The gala classical concert on Saturday was scheduled before his election in March. But the white papal armchair set up in the presumption that he would be there remained empty.

Minutes before the concert was due to start, an archbishop told the crowd of cardinals and Italian dignitaries that an "urgent commitment that cannot be postponed" would prevent Francis from attending. The prelates, assured that health was not the reason for the no-show, looked disoriented, realising that the message he wanted to send

was that, with the Church in crisis, he - and perhaps they - had too much pastoral work to do to attend social events.

"It took us by surprise," said one Vatican source on Monday. "We are still in a period of growing pains. He is still learning how to be pope and we are still learning how he wants to do it."

"In Argentina, they probably knew not to arrange social events like concerts for him because he probably wouldn't go," said the source, who spoke anonymously because he is not authorised to discuss the issue. The picture of the empty chair was used in many Italian papers, with Monday's Corriere della Sera newspaper calling his decision "a show of force" to illustrate the simple style he wants Church officials to embrace.

BRITAIN'S CHERISHED STATE

Continued from page 32.

an older population will be very averse to higher inflation, so it will be a long tough job to get our debt ratio back down to pre-crisis levels of about 40 percent of GDP."

The biggest debt since World War Two has stoked a discussion about whether the taxpayer can still afford the size of state which Britons have cherished for over half a century. The post-war creation of the welfare state by Labour is taught at schools and Britain's National Health Service is a point of pride, celebrated at the London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony as a part of what it means to be British.

Despite Osborne's reputation for swingeing cuts, total expenditure has actually increased in nominal terms under his watch and is due to rise to 720 billion pounds in 2013-14 from 670 billion pounds in 2009-10. Osborne says the public sector was far too big and that Britain needs a tough fiscal policy to get the deficit under control so that the government can spend on health and schools.

State spending is declining as a percentage of GDP: from 47.4 percent in 2009-10 to 45.2 percent of GDP

in 2013-14. But most of the cuts are still in the future, with spending projected to fall to 40.5 percent of GDP in 2017/18, near the long-term average for Britain for the past half century.

Still, even achieving the cuts so far has required reducing the public sector workforce by nearly 10 percent, to 5.7 million from 6.3 million, a step Labour says holds back the economic recovery by taking money out of the economy. Britain is cutting the army by 20,000 soldiers over this decade and its navy and air force have lost 5,000 each. Fees charged to students for university have been tripled.

The police force has been cut by at least 10,000 and the Foreign Office has had to cut back embassy jobs, sell off exotic properties and cap expenses for mid-ranking diplomats.

Osborne's hands are partly tied by pledges not to touch spending on the National Health Service and schools - which together account for a third of spending - as well as on overseas aid - a small item but one that annoys some Conservatives who think it wrong to shield aid abroad while imposing cuts at home.

Some senior members of Cameron's Conservative party say Osborne has so far failed to get a grip on the biggest target of all, 220 billion pounds (\$338.5 billion) of annual "social protection" spending, nearly a third of the total and more than five times as big as the defence budget. So far, the government has announced a cap on benefits for any one family at 26,000 pounds a year to ensure that those on state aid do not receive more than the average working family. Tenants in state-funded social housing will be forced to pay a fee or move home if their homes are deemed too large.

Those on unemployment benefit will see rises to their payments capped at 1 percent a year for three years. The wealthy have also been targeted, with parents earning more than 45,000 losing their weekly child benefit cheques.

Polls show as many as six out of 10 voters think state benefits are too generous. But critics say many of the changes, while attracting fanfare, will actually save very little money while hurting the most vulnerable in society.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Cash hard to raise while Fed jars credit markets

NEW YORK--Prospective borrowers ranging from U.S. companies to county governments on Monday shelved a raft of deals to raise new capital or refinance debt as a suddenly uncertain interest rate environment dented demand.

In the municipal bond market, half a dozen deals aimed at raising collectively more than \$300 million were postponed, while several companies pulled plans to refinance syndicated bank loans. Corporate bonds, meanwhile, passed a fourth day with no deals brought to market, either in the risky high-yield sector or the safer investment-grade sphere.

Raising capital has been challenging to say the least since last Wednesday when Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke sent interest rates soaring by outlining a plan to wind down the central bank's massive stimulus program. Known as quantitative easing and consisting of \$85 billion a month in bond purchases, the program was instrumental in a rally of bonds, equities and commodities, and had driven interest rates to record lows. But since Bernanke's comments last week, the yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury Note has shot up 37 basis points, briefly touching a two-year high of 2.67 percent on Monday.

"We need to have panic selling (in Treasuries) out of the way and a stable level on the 10-year Treasury," before the new-issue market can return, said Scott Schulte, senior investment-grade corporate bond syndicate manager at Citigroup. That needs to be followed by borrowers willing to sell bonds

at higher yields than they had to under the Fed's easy-money regime.

Corporate bonds had been flying off the shelves until recently as companies looked to refinance at record low rates and yield-hungry investors were ready to sign checks. Since Bernanke first floated the notion last month of a pull back from bond buying, corporate bonds have fallen hard and are now down for the year by 3.74 percent on a total return basis, according to the Barclays investment-grade index.

"The level to which investment grade corporate bonds are interest rate sensitive will certainly be an eye-opener to many total return investors when they open up their quarterly statements on June 30," said Edward Marrian, head of Royal Bank of Scotland's US research.

Said CrediCorp Capital CEO Christian Laub: "What we know is that we won't see cheap financing like we did in the early half of the year." Municipal issues have also slowed to a crawl, with bond sales worth \$331 million postponed on Monday. That brought the total value of deals shelved since mid-June to \$2.6 billion.

A steep price drop in the \$3.7 trillion municipal bond market has lifted yields on bonds due in 10 and 30 years to levels not seen since 2011. "Public officials do not want to be the ones selling a deal at yields which result to be top of the market," said a municipal bond analyst who declined to be named. "They prefer to wait for the market to calm down and become more stable before pushing ahead with their sales."

World Bank urged to stop ranking countries on ease of doing business

LONDON--An independent panel set up by the World Bank to look at the validity of one of its highest profile country reports said on Monday the Bank should stop producing headline rankings because they may be misleading.

The Bank's annual "Doing Business" report judges 185 countries on 10 criteria and compiles an index on the ease of doing business, assigning each country a rank. The rankings can carry huge weight with governments.

The Bank's new president,

Jim Yong Kim, and the U.S. Treasury have said they are in favour of the rankings. But the panel, initiated last year by Kim and headed by South Africa's planning minister Trevor Manuel, found that the rankings could too easily be affected by small factors and were sometimes not objective.

"The panel believes the Bank should make a clean break with this practice," it said in a report.

"It is important to remember that the (Doing Business) report is intended to be a pure knowledge



A combination file photo showing Oracle CEO Larry Ellison (L) introducing the company's latest SPARC servers in Redwood Shores, California, March 26, 2013 and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer (R) during a product introduction event in San Francisco, California October 29, 2012.

Rivals Microsoft and Oracle team up on push into cloud

SAN FRANCISCO/SEATTLE--Microsoft Corp said on Monday it would support Oracle Corp software on its cloud-based platforms, a tie-up aimed at improving the rivals' chances against nimble Web-based computing companies chipping away at their traditional businesses.

The two industry leaders have competed for decades to sell technology to the world's largest companies. But they face growing pressure from new rivals selling often-cheaper services based in remote data centers, and they are rushing to adapt.

The two companies have long collaborated out of the public eye to meet customers' needs, Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer said on a conference call. "In the world of cloud computing, I think behind-the-scenes collaboration is not enough."

The tie-up does not resolve

major competitive challenges the two tech pioneers face in the cloud market, but their cooperation was seen as a symbolically important step. "Is it a game changer today? Not at all. It shows both companies are serious about their cloud endeavors. The fact that historical competitors are now friends speaks to how big the cloud opportunity is. And it opens up potential avenues of growth down the road," said Daniel Ives, an analyst at investment bank FBR.

Under the agreement, customers will be able to run Oracle software on Microsoft's Server Hyper-V and on Windows Azure platforms, the companies said. Microsoft will offer Oracle's Java, Database and WebLogic Server to Windows Azure customers, while Oracle will also make Linux available to Windows Azure customers,

the companies said in a news release.

Ironically, the pact means Microsoft is effectively promoting Linux and Java-based software, longtime rivals to its own Windows platform. But the software maker stands to benefit from getting any customer to pay for its datacenter services, regardless of the underlying software being used.

No. 3 software maker Oracle last week missed expectations for software sales for the fourth quarter, sending its shares plunging. Investors worried that the company may have trouble competing with software providers like Salesforce.com and Workday, as well as Amazon.com, which has also become a major player in cloud computing infrastructure.

Top software maker Microsoft's large-scale cloud computing initiative, called Azure, has failed to catch up with Amazon's cloud offering, called AWS (Amazon Web Services), which blazed the trail in elastic online computing services in the cloud.

The rivalry between Oracle and Microsoft dates back several decades and has been marked by a personal rivalry between the companies' best-known cofounders: Larry Ellison and Bill Gates. In 1995, as the Windows franchise was taking off, Ellison began a high-profile but unsuccessful effort to promote a less expensive competitor to the personal computer known as the Network Computer. Gates began aggressively attacking Oracle's core database business in the late 1990s, infuriating Ellison as Microsoft's less-expensive SQL Server gained market share.

Instead of a ranking, the panel suggested assigning scores for each of the indicators for each country.

"Emotions were charged at both poles of the debate," Manuel told a news briefing. "What we didn't set out to do was to cut a swathe, we were mindful of the views expressed."

Putin beefs up Kremlin control over economic policy

MOSCOW--Russian President Vladimir Putin appointed Andrei Belousov on Monday as his economic adviser, beefing up his Kremlin staff with an advocate of greater state action to revive the weak economy.

Belousov takes the place of Elvira Nabiullina, who has taken charge at the central bank, in a staff rotation that enhances the influence of interventionists and further sidelines liberals who advocate a more market-oriented approach.

"The reshuffle could be interpreted as strengthening the axes of economic power around President Putin," said Ivan Tchakarov, chief Russia economist at investment bank

Renaissance Capital.

In Russia, economic policy is typically the preserve of the government, and not the Kremlin. Yet, a year into his third term as president, Putin has taken increasing strategic control, relegating Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev to a technical role.

As economy minister, Belousov has come under fire from the liberal policy establishment for calling for the state to determine bank lending rates, which he argues would unblock the flow of affordable credit to the economy. Belousov was replaced by Alexei Ulyukayev, who is moving from the central bank after missing out on the top job there. Nabiullina formally assumed her

role on Monday after a year as the Kremlin's 'chief economist'.

At a meeting with Putin, Ulyukayev said the government's primary task would be to avert an economic recession and ensure the government can fulfil its spending promises to Russians. The job moves, flagged in advance, set the scene for a shift towards a more activist approach to managing Russia's economy as policymakers seek to engineer a recovery at a time of still-high inflation.

"This is all being done to embark on a dynamic stimulus of economic growth," said Julia Tsepliaeva, a Russia economist at BNP Paribas in Moscow.

Belousov, 54, advised Putin during the latter's

four-year term as prime minister - when Medvedev was president - helping put together an anti-crisis programme to nurse Russia through the global financial and economic slump. Nabiullina, regarded as more dovish than her inflation-fighting predecessor Sergei Ignatyev, has nonetheless ruled out a dash for growth and warned that monetary stimulus could end in a toxic combination of stagnation and inflation.

"The long-term impact would in all probability be negative - we could end up with stagflation," Nabiullina, 49, told Reuters in an interview.

She did say that the central bank might cut interest rates in the third quarter of this year if inflation is

clearly falling, but argued that for Russia to achieve higher rates of growth, deep structural reforms would be needed. These included cutting bureaucratic red tape and fighting state corruption.

As economy minister, Ulyukayev will be running Russia's 'ministry for growth', which is known for taking a more expansionist view than he has advocated at the central bank.

The staff moves underscore the marginalisation of the liberal economic establishment still informally led by former finance minister Alexei Kudrin, who quit in September 2011 in a row over public spending. Kudrin tweeted his support for Ulyukayev: "He is a good specialist

with rich practical experience and deep theoretical background." He did not comment on Belousov's appointment.

Speculation persists, meanwhile, that Putin's Group of 20 summit coordinator, Ksenia Yudayeva, will land a senior role at the central bank where she could bolster Nabiullina's authority. Yudayeva, interviewed by Reuters last week, declined to comment on her career plans. She did, however, back Nabiullina's criticism of calls for a weaker rouble.

EU clears ICE's \$8.2 billion takeover of NYSE Euronext

BRUSSELS--The European Commission gave unconditional approval to IntercontinentalExchange (ICE) to buy NYSE Euronext for \$8.2 billion on Monday, a deal that strengthens ICE's presence in the lucrative derivatives trading business.

The EU regulator said its investigation into the merger found it would not raise antitrust concerns as the two exchanges are not direct competitors. Reuters reported last week that approval would be given unconditionally.

"The market investigation revealed that they do not exert a greater potential competitive threat on each other compared to other exchanges. Any anticompetitive effects can therefore be excluded," the Commission said in a statement.

The acquisition gives ICE control of London-based Liffe, Europe's second-largest derivatives market, and will help it compete with U.S. rival CME Group.

The Commission said they especially examined the effect the merger would have on agricultural and soft commodity derivatives, as well as on U.S. equity derivatives, but that their investigation found no competition concerns. New EU derivatives rules, to be gradually phased in this year, will dramatically expand the demand for clearing over-the-counter contracts. The deal also boosts ICE's presence in the interest rate futures business.

Tesco may face investor revolt over pay report

LONDON--Tesco, the world's third-biggest retailer, could face a revolt over executive pay at its annual shareholders' meeting on Friday after an advisory group urged investors to oppose the supermarket group's remuneration report.

Bosses could also face shareholder pressure over the firm's 1 billion pound (\$1.5 billion) turnaround plan for its core British business, having earlier this month reported a drop in quarterly underlying sales, resuming a trend seen for most of the past three years. Once one of the most consistent British companies in terms of earnings growth, Tesco in April reported its first profit decline in over 20 years.

Pensions Investment Research Consultants (Pirc), which has estimated it advises funds with combined assets of more than 1.5 trillion pounds, has called on investors to vote against the store group's pay report in protest at what it regards as excessive payoffs to two departed executives. Tesco paid Tim Mason, the former boss of its loss-making Fresh & Easy business in the United States which it is looking to exit, and Richard Brasher, ousted as the head of the UK business in March 2012, "liquidated damages" of 1.68 million pounds and 1.3 million pounds respectively in the

2012-13 year.

"These payments are calculated on the basis of base salary and the average annual bonus paid for the last two years, yet neither of these executives appear to have suffered a loss caused by the company," said Pirc, noting that Mason was also paid up to 100,000 pounds to repatriate back to Britain. It also said Tesco's remuneration had the potential to be "wholly excessive" going forward.

A spokeswoman for Tesco said payments for Mason and Brasher were made in accordance with their contracts and reflected typical practice at the time they were signed. "Our policy for new appointments is that termination payments in lieu of notice will be based on base salary and benefits only," she added.

Though Tesco's chief executive, Philip Clarke, has insisted his revival plan for the UK business is on track, he is likely to be bracing himself for a rough ride at the meeting after a particularly testing year. In January the firm became embroiled in Europe's horsemeat food contamination scandal and had to withdraw products and apologise to customers. In April, along with the profit decline, it wrote down the value of its global operations by \$3.5 billion and confirmed plans to exit the United States.



The logo of German cable television group Kabel Deutschland is pictured on the company's headquarters in Unterfoehring north of Munich on Monday.

Vodafone agrees \$10 bln Kabel Deutschland deal

LONDON/FRANKFURT--Vodafone has agreed to buy Germany's largest cable operator Kabel Deutschland for 7.7 billion euros (\$10 billion), adding TV and fixed-line services to help defend against mounting competition in its most important market.

In Vodafone's largest deal in six years and its second major buy of a European fixed-line network in 12 months, the group is offering a near 40 percent premium to Kabel's share price before its interest first emerged in snapping up the target's 8.5 million connected homes.

The high price shows the desire of the world's second-largest mobile op-

erator to adapt in its core market of Europe, where increasing regulation and recession have hit revenue and forced it to write down the value of its assets. The price was pushed up in the last week by an approach from John Malone's Liberty Global, which could still return with a higher bid, but two sources familiar with the German group said they did not expect that to happen.

"Although you should never underestimate someone as aggressive as Malone, it is very difficult to see how Liberty could make a bid in cash that would be higher than what KDG (Kabel Deutschland) already considers a good price," one of

the sources said.

So-called "quad-play" services offering TV, broadband, mobile and fixed-line telephony have caught on rapidly in markets such as France and Spain, but the largely fragmented German cable market is still some way behind, meaning a deal could enable Vodafone to steal a march on rivals such as Liberty's Unity Media and Deutsche Telekom. With consumers wanting to watch TV and video on an array of devices, cable assets have become more attractive as they can provide internet services at speeds often five times faster than competing services from traditional telecom companies.

America sidelined, barely relevant

By Charles Krauthammer

WASHINGTON--The war in Syria, started by locals, is now a regional conflict, the meeting ground of two warring blocs. On one side, the radical Shiite bloc led by Iran, which overflies Iraq to supply Bashar al-Assad and sends Hezbollah to fight for him. Behind them lies Russia, which has stationed ships offshore, provided the regime with tons of weaponry and essentially claimed Syria as a Russian protectorate.

And on the other side are the Sunni Gulf states terrified of Iranian hegemony (territorial and soon nuclear); non-Arab Turkey, now convulsed by an internal uprising; and fragile Jordan, dragged in by geography.

And behind them? No one. It's the Spanish Civil War except that only one side -- the fascists -- showed up. The natural ally of what began as a spontaneous, secular, liberationist uprising in Syria was the United States. For two years, it did nothing.

President Obama's dodge was his chemical-weapons red line. In a conflict requiring serious statecraft, Obama chose to practice forensics instead, earnestly agonizing over whether reported poison gas attacks

reached the evidentiary standards of "CSI: Miami."

Obama talked "chain of custody," while Iran and Russia, hardly believing their luck, reached for regional hegemony -- the ayatollahs solidifying their "Shiite crescent," Vladimir Putin seizing the opportunity to dislodge America as regional hegemon, a position the U.S. achieved four decades ago under Henry Kissinger.

And when finally forced to admit that his red line had been crossed -- a "game changer," Obama had gravely warned -- what did he do? Promise the rebels small arms and ammunition.

That's it? It's meaningless: The rebels are already receiving small arms from the Gulf states.

Compounding the half-heartedness, Obama transmitted his new "calculus" through his deputy national security adviser. Deputy, mind you. Obama gave 39 (or was it 42?) speeches on health care reform. How many on the regional war in Syria, in which he has now involved the United States, however uselessly? Zero.

Serious policymaking would dictate that we either do something that will alter the course of the war, or do nothing. Instead,

Obama has chosen to do just enough to give the appearance of having done something.

But it gets worse. Despite his commitment to steadfast inaction, Obama has been forced by events to send F-16s, Patriot missiles and a headquarters unit of the 1st Armored Division (indicating preparation for a possible "larger force," explains *The Washington Post*) -- to Jordan. America's most reliable Arab ally needs protection. It is threatened not just by a flood of refugees but by the rise of Iran's radical Shiite bloc with ambitions far beyond Syria, beyond even Jordan and Lebanon to Yemen, where, it was reported just Wednesday, Iran is arming and training separatists.

Obama has thus been forced back into the very vacuum he created -- but at a distinct disadvantage. We are now scrambling to put together some kind of presence in Jordan as a defensive counterweight to the Iran-Hezbollah-Russia bloc.

The tragedy is that we once had a counterweight and Obama threw it away. Obama still thinks the total evacuation of Iraq is a foreign policy triumph. In fact, his inability -- unwillingness? -- to negotiate a Status of Forces Agreement

that would have left behind a small but powerful residual force in Iraq is precisely what compels him today to re-create in Jordan a pale facsimile of that regional presence.

Whatever the wisdom of the Iraq War in the first place, when Obama came to office in January 2009 the war was won. Al-Qaeda in Iraq had been routed. Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite government had taken down the Sadr Shiite extremists from Basra all the way north to Baghdad. Casualties were at a wartime low, the civil war essentially over.

We had a golden opportunity to reap the rewards of this too-bloody war by establishing a strategic relationship with an Iraq that was still under American sway. Iraqi airspace, for example, was under U.S. control as we prepared to advise and rebuild Iraq's nonexistent air force.

With our evacuation, however, Iraqi airspace today effectively belongs to Iran -- over which it is flying weapons, troops and advisers to turn the tide in Syria. The U.S. air bases, the vast military equipment, the intelligence sources available in Iraq were all abandoned.

Gratis. Now we're trying to hold the line in Jordan.

Obama is learning very late that, for a superpower, inaction is a form of action. You can abdicate, but you really can't hide. History will find you. It has now found Obama.

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

8	4		1	9				
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Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

1	7	9	2	3	5	8	6	4
8	6	5	1	9	4	7	2	3
3	2	4	8	7	6	9	1	5
9	3	2	5	1	8	6	4	7
7	4	1	9	6	3	2	5	8
6	5	8	7	4	2	1	3	9
5	1	6	4	8	9	3	7	2
2	9	3	6	5	7	4	8	1
4	8	7	3	2	1	5	9	6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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Prison ticking time bomb

Dear Editor,

Former Justice Minister Roland Duncan has created what's considered a ticking time bomb for the Justice Department; sadly, the bomb has exploded shortly after he resigned.

In 2012, the former Justice Minister Roland Duncan came out with a ministerial decree transforming Simpson Bay police substation into a house of detention, which was originally designed for housing colonization persons only. Philipsburg police station, which was designed for housing suspects under 18 days maximum by law for investigation was also turned into a house of detention.

Lately the Judge of Instruction has advised prison director Edward Rohan that he's not allowed to house any more inmates at Simpson Bay substation and Philipsburg police station; they must be taken to the Pointe Blanche prison, however, because they continued to neglect the order of the judges, this led to three inmates

managing to escape from the police station house of detention, where they were not supposed to be, but because of the overcrowded prison, they were temporarily placed there at the police station house of detention section.

One was told from reliable sources at the justice department that there have been several positive proposals that have been subjected to the Justice Minister department, to the director of the Pointe balance prison Edward Rohan and public prosecutor office to target the inmates that are already re-socialize and rehabilitated and ready to re-enter society with a positive reformation and a very short period of time remaining, in order to achieve the space that's needed to start the long-awaited renovation at Pointe Blanche prison.

The prison guards are overworked, the prison is already short staffed and to make matters even worse, the authorities split the staff in three, which makes the

prison guards' task much more difficult, because the majority of time the guards work double shift and long, strenuous hours.

Finally, Edward Rohan, three serious armed and dangerous inmates registered under Pointe Blanche house of detention are at large. I hope that you, as the prison director, enhance the current situation and evacuate those other inmates who are being held in the police substation Simpson Bay and Philipsburg police station, relocate them back to Pointe blanche house of detention, where they originally should have been in the first place. This very same reason the Simpson Bay community was not in favour of housing inmates in their peaceful neighbourhood. We urge prison director Edward Rohan and Chief Prosecutor to work on the over-populated prison, in order to stop overworking the prison guards for lengthy hours.

Louise Peters

ACROSS

- 1 Landing place
- 5 Panama hat material
- 10 Thailand, once
- 14 ___ more; a second time
- 15 Came up
- 16 Ice cream scoop holder
- 17 Red octagonal street sign
- 18 Potatoes for breakfast, often
- 20 2,000 pounds
- 21 Marathon
- 22 ___ in; flooded with
- 23 Plain to see
- 25 ___ of Olay; skin care product
- 26 Fleet of ships
- 28 ___ fir; tree that secretes resin
- 31 Harness straps
- 32 Iranian rulers
- 34 Hobo
- 36 Police spray
- 37 Japanese three-line poem
- 38 Flexible tube
- 39 Hot tub
- 40 Pricy booking at a hotel
- 41 Even; smooth
- 42 On an incline
- 44 Least tainted
- 45 Faux ___; social blunder
- 46 Tree with pods that taste like chocolate
- 47 Review of the financial books
- 50 Lose color
- 51 Bumpkin
- 54 Official list of school grades
- 57 Volcanic output
- 58 Bad guy
- 59 External
- 60 Actress Moran
- 61 Household animals
- 62 Emotional
- 63 At ___ with; opposed to

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/25/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	O		I	D	A	H	O		D	I	P	S
A	N	N		N	I	X	O	N		E	C	H	O
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R	A	I		N	S		P	A	Y	E	E	D	E
B	I	N		G		L	I	N	E	D		G	E
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U	T	A		H		I	S	A	A	C		N	E
S	O	S		O		S	E	N	S	E		G	A
S	P	A		N		T	R	E	S	S		L	O

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6/25/13

35 Dissolve	47 Sitting upon
37 Colors	48 Yen; craving
38 Long sandwich	49 Move quickly
40 Quarrels	50 Pocket bread
41 Attract; draw	52 Gung-ho
43 Gives one's views	53 Supporters
44 Meager	55 Portable bed
46 Playful leap	56 Have regrets
	57 Zodiac sign

Reality over ideology

By Eugene Robinson

WASHINGTON--The Supreme Court decision on affirmative action could have been a lot worse. Given the court's ideological tilt, in fact, it was probably the best we could have hoped for.

This is a "dog that didn't bark" kind of story: In a 7-1 ruling, the justices ordered a lower court to reconsider its decision upholding the University of Texas' admissions policy. A tougher standard must be applied, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority, in evaluating the school's practice of using the applicant's race as one of several criteria.

What the right-leaning court declined to do – presented with a case that some legal scholars likened to a hanging curve ball over the middle of the plate – was swing for the fences.

Kennedy wrote that the lower court should have subjected the Texas admis-

sions police to "strict scrutiny," a standard that "does not permit a court to accept a school's assertion that its admissions process uses race in a permissible way without closely examining how the process works in practice."

In other words, the court is raising the bar for Texas and other schools that practice affirmative action. But to the disappointment of those who hoped the court would drive a stake into the heart of affirmative action once and for all, Kennedy's opinion acknowledges that there is still "a permissible way" for race to be considered.

That remains true for now, at least. And maybe for quite a while.

"The reviewing court must ultimately be satisfied that no workable race-neutral alternatives would produce the educational benefits of diversity," Kennedy reasoned.

This may prove to be a tough standard to meet.

But the court effectively affirmed its previous rulings acknowledging that there are indeed "educational benefits" from having a diverse student body. The question, then, is not whether to seek diversity but how.

Conservative foes of affirmative action had hoped the court would take racial preferences entirely off the table as a means of encouraging diversity. To do so, the court effectively would have had to reverse a 2003 ruling involving admissions at the University of Michigan Law School, which prohibited racial quotas but allowed schools to use race as one of many factors.

Indeed, Justice Clarence Thomas – the lone African-American member of the court – wrote that he would have voted to forbid any consideration of race. Still, he concurred in Kennedy's ruling. Justice Antonin Scalia noted that the court was not asked in the Texas case to decide the fundamental question of whether race can ever be considered, and so he, too, concurred in the result.

The lone dissenter was Justice Ruth Bader Gins-

burg, who wrote that she believed there was no need to raise the bar for universities seeking to practice affirmative action. Justice Elena Kagan recused herself from the case. The court's other two liberals, Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Stephen Breyer, sided with Kennedy and the conservatives.

To those who had hoped for a more sweeping decision, it may look as if the court decided to punt. But my impression is that the ruling represents compromise and consensus, with a healthy dose of restraint.

A host of universities, corporations and other institutions filed briefs in the case supporting the University of Texas and arguing that diversity is not just a worthy goal but a necessary one. The Obama administration argued that racial diversity is vital in the military to promote "operational readiness."

Racial preference actually contributes relatively little to diversity on the university's campuses. The greater factor is a policy guaranteeing admission to the top students in every

high school in the state – the so-called "Top Ten" program. About 25 percent of freshmen granted admission under the program are Hispanic and about 6 percent are African-American.

The University of Texas case involves a white student, Abigail Fisher, who narrowly missed the cutoff for the "Top Ten" and ultimately was denied admission. Some lower-achieving minority students who also missed the cutoff were admitted because of racial preference, she argued. (While the case was making its way through the courts,

Fisher attended and graduated from Louisiana State University.)

The court, in effect, took an incremental step. The justices made clear that they prefer race-neutral measures such as Top Ten. They made it more difficult for policies that take race into account to pass muster. But they did not pretend that our society is totally colorblind, as much as we would like it to be. They chose reality over ideology.

From a court so fond of conservative activism, I'll take it.

Caught up by the zeitgeist

Dear Editor,

I would like to have my say, now that the political morass is behind us. Phew!

Comrades, that one was very close.

Tracked down by the zeitgeist, I am compelled to make some incendiary statements that might "rub some people the wrong way." And not to sound too stuffy, it is only natural that I use some trendy, colloquial expressions. I wanna be real with you. I would like to "big up" the labour front of Country St. Maarten. Comrades, keep on trucking until every repressive, anti-labour barrier (policy) falls.

When I learned that my "primo" Alberto Bute had to take matters into his own hands to resolve a labour dispute between his beloved spouse and a cheating merchant in Philipsburg, it provoked the fighting side of me. There are many other ills in this country that provoke the fighting side of me. But, more on that later.

Getting back to the political crisis, "Watta ting." I have an English copy of the Constitution of Country St. Maarten. But I have read only its preamble; I have not taken time to study it well. I did, however, pay close attention to the many debates about the seemingly controversial Constitution, because it's always good to listen well. In addition to that, I heard that the English copies of the Constitution are seriously flawed.

In retrospect, I think that the Honourable Governor should have advisedly stopped the political crisis sooner. To me it was like a prize fight: William the slugger had Sarah the wily boxer on the ropes, rocking her with a barrage of blows; the governor (the Ref) by breaking William's flurry, allowed Sarah to recuperate and to get back into the fight. Sarah became stronger as the fight (for power) progressed; she won a controversial decision when the scores were tallied.

Sorry, comrades, I had some misgivings about signing the famous petition. "Nuff respek to you." I strongly believe that the political crisis has conscientized our young people profoundly. With or without political reform(s), a change is gonna come in 2014. To quote one of our nationalists, "St. Maarten/St. Martin needs a political revolution."

Let me break it down for you, comrades. We have to send home all (those venal, career politicians, who put self-interest before country. They are the ones who ride roughshod over our feelings and over the Constitution. Elected officials are accountable to the people for their actions. Never forget that, comrades.

In closing, I would like to wish Wescot-Williams III Cabinet all the best. And I would like to heap praises on former Minister of Education and Culture Silveria Jacobs for the outstanding work she has done. Bravo, Silveria. That humble service should translate massively into votes, come 2014. Comrades, ah gone.

Julien F. Petty

Grateful for what she has meant to us and that she was spared further suffering, we announce the sudden passing of:



Hilary Tjon Jaw Chong - Fernandes

Widow of the late Frank Tjon Jaw Chong († 2010)
August 11th, 1940 – June 22nd, 2013 St. Maarten

Left to mourn her loss:

Bryan, Ingrid, Keanu & Nayomi
Farida & Albert

Brothers, Sisters, Brothers-in-law, Sisters-in-law, Nieces and Nephews in Suriname, Holland and Germany.

A service of the celebration of her Life will be held on Thursday, June 27th, 2013 at the Royal Funeral Home, Sucker Garden. An opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Hilary will take place from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm followed by the service 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm. A private cremation will follow thereafter.

It was Hilary's desire for those attending her funeral to be dressed in bright and cheerful colors. Please don't wear black.

We do not wish her further suffering and struggles. Let her go to be by the side of her greatly beloved Frank. While she will leave much emptiness, we will be able to hold on to fond memories and values of life.

The Management Team of the Voluntary Corps Sint Maarten (VKS), officers and members regret to announce the passing of its member:

Corporal
Welton W. Baker

Sunrise: January 9th, 1948

Sunset: June 17th, 2013

Corporal Baker has been a loyal member of the VKS since its inception in 1997. His dedication, loyalty and his sense of humour will be missed by all.

The VKS wishes his spouse, children, family and friends much strength during these difficult times.

"God bless you Mr. Baker"



Critical shortage

Dear Editor,

How can we honestly trust our government to do the right thing and secure jobs for locals when government itself seeks out outsiders over locals when positions become available?

I have read with interest how proud the island of St. Kitts was to recognize one of its own becoming a minister

in St. Maarten. Of course the good lady is a Dutch citizen and has lived here for quite some time and contributed to our country. And then there is Mr. Martin Hassink who is also not a son of the soil but like Miss Lourens has contributed to the development of our country.

I am, however, concerned with the candidate being

mentioned for minister of tourism and economic affairs; what we are told is he is a St. Maartener living in Curaçao. It would seem very convenient that people who don't contribute to this country suddenly claim their heritage when opportunities present themselves. Can you imagine this person now has to register on the island and acquaint himself with the dynamics surrounding our economy and be expected to lead it in these difficult times.

I don't see how this lends confidence to the functioning of government. We already have problems with employment on the island as employers declare that they can't find the quality persons they are looking for in spite

of the fact that we spend 30 per cent of our budget on education and preparations of our youth to assume their role in society. Yet nothing is done to reverse this ugly trend of abuse of locals.

This coalition like the last one seems hell bent on doing anything to form a government and the very people for whom it is called to life don't count in the final decision. We already have a group of former legislators who are collecting their salaries while they look for a job if you believe they will be looking.

With a year to go before elections we are satisfied to increase this number because it seems politically expedient. We have ceded control of our economy to

outsiders, we are about to make Philipsburg a ghost town, we can't get jobs and now we are not suitable to serve in government either.

It would seem we have a critical shortage in every department or put differently the St. Maartener as we know him is almost extinct. As

for those that claim their roots conveniently, there are amoeba that live in the rivers of South America that display the same behaviour; you should look them up, you have a lot in common.

Elton Jones

Yes to eco-park

Dear Editor,

Three short observations: In reference to St. Maarten's own eco-park, let me remark the following. When I worked on Saba for several periods of time, I ate at a restaurant in Windward-side, and the only thing that was served that was not grown on Saba was the rice. Meat (cow and goat), fish, vegetables, greens, provisions, plantain, celery, chive, thyme, onion, the works. So I say where there's a will there should be a way.


Now can I ask the women with a purpose to encourage women to dress appropriately for the occasion? Wear respectable clothes in public. The whole country is not a house of prostitution, so that you can feel free to walk around 80% naked no matter where you go. But that is what is available. And my response to that is if you do not wear it they cannot sell it and if they cannot sell they will look for something else that will sell. Just like drugs, if you do not use it, the dealer cannot get rid of it. And I hope there are a whole lot of you out there who are backing Dr. Arrindell. I am backing his point of view, because I myself wanted to know why no discretion in this matter.

By the way, does the name "The honourable Southwell" say anything to anybody?

Nothing personal, just refreshing minds.

Russell A. Simmons

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our dearest beloved



Elizabeth Dabeyba Moes – Macdonna
Better known as **Sara**
Sunrise: April 10th, 1969 - Sunset: June 21st, 2013

She leaves to mourn:
 Husband: Roy Moes
 Daughters: Shanna and Yasmine
 Mother: Mirian Peterson
 Father: Victor Manuel Quiñones
 Step-father: Edward Peterson
 Brothers: Angel (Junior) Quiñones, Victor (Capuchin) Quiñones, Edward (Eddy) Peterson, Shawn Peterson
 Grandparents: Mrs. Julia and Mr. George Pemberton
 Parents-in-law: Riny and Theo Tijdhof

Special thanks goes to:
 Ilse Carter and the District Nursing team, Dr. Van Osch and Dr. Herles, Graciella Zimmerman, Esther Castillo and Michael Vissers.

The Funeral Service will be held on **Wednesday, June 26th, 2013** at the Royal Funeral Home in Sucker Garden. Viewing from **2:00pm to 3:00pm**. Thanksgiving Service from **3:00pm**.

May her Soul rest in Eternal Peace.

The Lord is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear?
We hereby regret to announce the death of



Miguel Cassamajor
a.k.a. **Boss Miguel**
Sunrise: September 2nd, 1948 (Haiti)
Sunset: June 19th, 2013 (Curaçao)

Left to mourn:
 Wife: Anie Fabre – Cassamajor
 Son: Micayes Cassamajor
 Sister: Venida Cassamajor (USA)

In Laws:
 Mizene Fabre
 Ijenia Cassamajor (Haiti)
 Matha Alice Fabre
 Homere Fabre
 Marlebe Fabre (France)
 Lavoir Fabre (Haiti)


Aunt: Ornelise Movais – Mozard (Haiti)
Nieces & Nephews: Doudoune Cassamajor, Erije Jean Robert Cassamajor a.k.a. Koby, Eline Cassamajor (Haiti), Getide Cassamajor (USA), Maritha Cassamajor (Haiti), Daniel Mozard (Haiti), Juna Mozard (Haiti), Silner Mozard (Haiti), Misselle Mozard (Haiti), Fenel Mozard (Haiti), Clanite Mozard (Haiti), Vesner Mozard (Haiti)

Cousins too numerous to mention
Close Friends: Cenial & Fam, Horel Laguerre & Fam, Gerard & Fam, Asho & Fam, Petlland & Fam, Dorathy & Fam, Bruno & Fam, Marie-Jo & Fam, Rico & Fam, Sedian Gurand & Fam, Fred & Fam, Klebert Laguerre & Fam, Loissaint & Fam, Cassamajor, Mozard, Fabre & Aldolph

Related to:

Funeral date: Thursday June 27th, 2013
Viewing & Tributes: 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Service: 2:00pm
Interment: Cul-de-Sac Cemetery

With heavy hearts and profound sorrow, we regret to announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, sister, friend:



Mrs. Agnes Ines Daniel-Christina
born April 20th, 1941
Affectionately known as "Annie", "Tanchi Annie" or "Mama"
Widow of the late Timothy "Slim" Daniel
who was called to our Lord on June 18th, 2013

Left to mourn are her:
Daughters: Xiomara Daniel and family, Josseline Daniel and family, Micaela Daniel
Grandchildren: Michael Montero and family (USA), Darrel Montero (USA), Denzel Remilia
Great-grandchild: Xairo Ibarra (AUA)
Brothers: Ronald Christina and family (CUR), Edwin Christina and family (CUR), Henry and Elly Christina-Meyer and family (CUR), Siegfried and Rose-marie Christina-Allee and family (CUR)
Sisters: Flora and Theodulo Koeiman and family (CUR), Lourdes and Jim Van Hecke, Swinda Christina and family (CUR), Beatrix and Edmundo Emanuel and family (CUR), Jacintha and Richel Ricardo and family, Astrid and Jacintho Cicilia and family (BON), Maritsa and Reginald James and family
Close nieces and nephews: Jessica Christina, Seynthia and Suzy Monte, Marisol Emanuel, Marlon Ricardo, Ryan and Nicole James and Hensley Koeiman and more nephews and nieces abroad too numerous to mention
Step-children: Jessica Van Heyningen and family (HOL), Bernard Louis "Allain" Daniel (Boyard) and family, Ines Gumbs and family (USA), Abigail Meyers and family (CUR), Joseph Timothy Daniel and family, Rufino Arrindell and family
Godchild: Delta Peters and family

Families on CUR: Teresta Martin Leito and family, Glenda Martina Weert and family, Juny Maria and family, Erwin Leito and family, Lito Rozal, Papi Maria and family, Wanchi Leito and family and others too numerous to mention

Special friends: Bob and June Harjes and family (USA), Randolph Ricardo and family (CUR), Geraldine Williams, Hyacinth Nicholson-Lake, Mildred Rochester and family, William Marlin and family, Fordy Jacobs, Ana Striebeck and family, Ohndae Marlin and family, Ivy Serfilia and family (HOL), Kenny van Heyningen, Sammy Azille, Rogerrel Mauricia, Jerry Gerardus, Miguel Blijden, Rudolf Nicholson, Cylred Richardson and family, Jason Thomas, Louis Illidge, Flavina Willem (SABA), Arnel Daniel and family, Arcel Daniel and family, Geraldine Hughes and family, Ina Maduro and family, Wilfred Manning and family, Sylveria Jacobs and family, Francisco Meran Montero, Harold "Bala" Doran and family, Egbert "Ebbi" Doran and family, Charisse Selassa and family (HOL), Jackie Richardson and family, Beatrix Gumbs and family, Ivy Thielman and family, Fernando Clark, Monique Gibson, Amalika Bute, Michael "Bobby" Spence and family, Diane Wilson and family, Jerome Joseph, Richard Gerôt, Zetroy Allwood and others too numerous to mention.

Special thanks to: Dr. Augustus Zamora Perez and staff, Orange Grove Pharmacy and staff, Dr. Jacque Laurent, Dr. Winter, Dr. Holiday and Staff, Staff of the St. Maarten Medical Center, Staff of SZV, Staff of White and Yellow Cross, Mr. Cox, Staff of Emerald Funeral Home.


Related to the: Daniel, Christina, Leito, Romou, Cannegieter, van Heyningen, Boyrard, Koeiman, Monte, Emanuel, van Hecke, James, Remilia, Baptist, Montero, Davoren, Williams, Peters, Yoyo, Dumas, Rombley, Piper, Laveist, Maria, Rozal, Martin families.

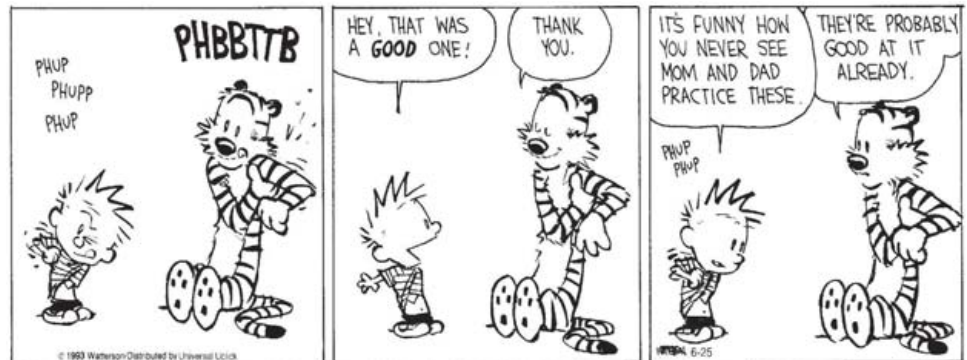
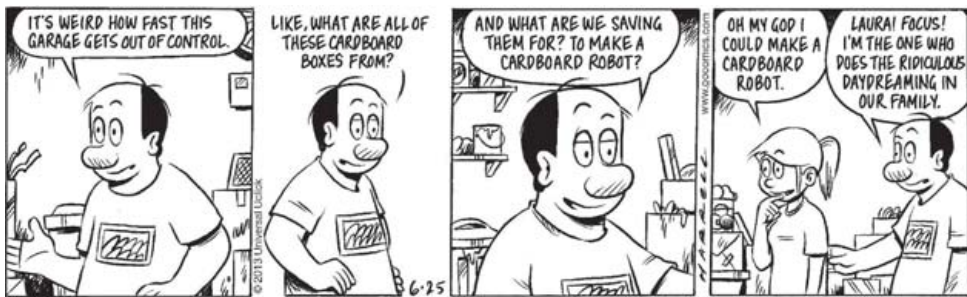
The wake will be held at the Belair Community Center in Cay Hill on Sunday, June 23rd, 2013 from 6:00pm- 9:00pm.

Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, June 25th, 2013 at the Roman Catholic Parish of Tours Church, Front Street, St. Maarten. Viewing: 1:00pm-2:00pm. Service commences at 2:00pm with interment at Cape Bay Cemetery.

For final grieving purposes the family requests NO visitors at home after funeral services.
 The Management and staff of Emerald Funeral Home would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.

May Her Soul Rest in Peace





HOROSCOPE

By Nancy Black

Today's Birthday (June 25) -- Expansive Jupiter (planet of good fortune, success and generosity) moves into Cancer today to perfectly launch your year. Move up a level at work and in romance. Back up important documents, and monitor finances closely. Learn from the competition. Nurture your roots, and share delicious flavors with love. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Home grows a stronger pull as Jupiter enters Cancer for the next year. You have more friends than you realized. Leave your savings untouched. Postpone family time and prepare to launch your next project.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Meetings could interfere with family time. Use the next two days to focus on career and forge ahead. Consider the consequences. Use diplomacy, and reschedule. Show restraint in an awkward moment. Handle the job and get home.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Since the cash flow is on, divert more to savings. Plan for the future. The status quo gets challenged, and new difficulties arise. Study and learn. Don't forget old obligations. Maintain social contacts.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- You see money changing hands. Don't let a windfall slip through your fingers. Re-supply locally. An argument leads to better understanding. Better go over your resources again. Opposites attract.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- It's a good time to get your message across. A partner feels compelled to advise you, and tempers could get short. Listen. Tell them what you hear, and keep it practical. Schedule actions carefully.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- There's a heavy workload. Watch for a change in plans. Don't flash your money around. Check out a vacation destination. Take a cue from a more experienced friend. Put your heads together.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Choose the option that's best for your family. The next two days get cuddly. Your career demands time now, however. Finish up the job so you can play. Invent some dreams with your sweetie.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 6 -- Tweak the tune. Abandon old fears and take the lead. Your mind moves more quickly than the rest of you. Stay respectful. A lucky find jumps into your arms.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- A seemingly open path leads to a dead end. A female makes her point quite clear. Your attention gets marvelously focused. Don't wonder what others want -- ask. Begin two days of exploration.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Listen carefully to another opinion, and consider. New profits become available. Costs are higher, too. You know what you like. Your bank account grows. Re-assess priorities without overextending. Peace and quiet are soothing.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- Moderate a friendly argument with a sense of humor. You're immensely confident. Others grapple for your attention. This should be comforting. Offer encouragement, and provide well for family. You're taking control.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Wait for clarity. Ask for help if you need it. Learning new skills leads to new friends. Keep practicing, and don't give up. Flow with circumstances, and rejuvenate with quiet time. Take concrete actions. Postpone fantasies.



**Speak your
mind**

By Queenie

**SEND LETTERS TO
P.O. BOX 828
FAX +599 5425913
or e-mail
queenie@thedailyherald.com**

Dear Queenie,

My fiancée broke off our engagement, but she didn't return the rather valuable family heirloom ring I gave her.

I think she should return it because she broke the engagement. She says it was a gift and she has a right to keep it.

Queenie, who is right?—Unengaged

Dear Unengaged,

I think you are right, because the ring was a symbol of your (and her) promise to marry, which she broke. Perhaps she is being spiteful for some reason, or perhaps there are financial considerations.

Rather than make a big legal issue out of it, why not offer to buy the ring back from her? That also may give you some insight into her motives for keeping it.

Only notices of fund-raising events for non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices column. Notices/Events should be sent to notices@thedailyherald.com in the format used on this page. Do not send fliers or press releases to this address.

EVENTS

Saturday, June 29

SUMMER DOLLAR DRIVE

Organised by Safe Haven Foundation

Everything for just \$1 adult and children clothing, shoes, accessories, new and second hand. All proceeds will go towards the clients of the Safe Haven Foundation.

Location: Philipsburg Jubilee Library

Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm

If you need help call the hotline 9333

NOTICES

Parents' Meeting

Milton Peters College will have its last parents' meeting for school year 2012/2013 on Tuesday, June 25, from 9:00am to 1:25pm. During this parents' meeting the 3rd report card of your child(ren) will be handed out only if the educational material and parental contribution has been paid in full and all books have been returned to the school beforehand.

Family Week

St. Peters Methodist Congregation extends an invitation to all in particular the residents of St. Peters and the neighbouring districts to: join us in celebrating Family Week under the theme "The Challenges of Parenting Today" with two panel discussions on: Wednesday, June 26,

Topics: Character Development/Discipline and Spanking, Raising the strong willed child, The benefits of praying parent(s), Modesty and Appearances: Friday, June 28 Social Networking – and its impact on the family, And Family Social. Venue: Rupert Maynard Community Center Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm.

Dance Camp

Dance Theater of St. Maarten is registering students for Dance Camp 2013 set for July 1-19 Classes in jazz, ballet, hip hop and Dance Theater will be offered to Beginner to Intermediate students ages 6 to 13 with weekly musical presentations on Friday afternoons. Advanced classes for students 12+ will be offered every afternoon to keep technique high during the long Summer period. For more information call 520-6914 or visit: www.dancesxm.com.

Registration/Volunteers

The ITCL Foundation is now registering students who has difficulty coping with, or who is at risk of prematurely leaving the current school system. Students who are in need of special attention in a small setting are welcome to apply. For more information and registration call: 5246067 or 5264232. The foundation is also looking for volunteers interested in assisting with different groups of children between the ages of 4 to 15 years, in different programs and capacity.

Seeking Volunteers

Sickle Cell Disease Association of Sint Maarten is seeking members to form an official board to engage in community outreach efforts throughout the island. The main activities that will be included are campaigns to build awareness of Sickle Cell Disease and related conditions, educational health fairs, workshops for children with SCD, genetic trait testing and follow-up counselling, referral networks, scholarship programs and other special activities. If interested in becoming a member or form part of the board to assist in developing the aforementioned, please contact: 5204511

Sailing Camp

St. Maarten Yacht Club is presently holding Sailing Summer Camps until mid-August. The camps range from fun sailing and activities to more advanced seamanship and racing. Contact Maaiké on youthsailingsmyc@gmail.com Tel: 586 0850 or Neil on sintmaarten.instructor@gmail.com Tel: 559 7066 for more information.

Practice Sessions

In connection with the upcoming 2013 Caribbean Zone Tournament in Puerto Rico, the St. Martin PONY League reminds all selected players that Practice will be on the John Cooper/Jose Lake Sr. Ballpark every Monday-Wednesday and Friday from 3:00 to 6:00pm. All players are reminded that only players who attend practice regularly stands a chance to form part of the final selection.

Return Overdue Books

Philipsburg Jubilee Library announces that persons can return overdue library books free of charge from Tuesday June 18 until Saturday, June 29 to the library during their opening hours.

Summer Course Dutch

Combine fun with quality learning this summer, from July 2 till July 25: every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Specifically for children 9 - 14 yrs old. Call: 1721-5504638.

ASA Summer Camp

Spaces are available for ASA kids as well as non-ASA kids age 4 – 13 for this year's camp Tuesday July 2 to Friday July 12. Contact No Kidding With Our Kids Foundation, main office Sucker Garden (Lions building) for registration. Tel. 5424910.

Swim Classes

Carib Swim invites persons to sign up for their weekly swim crash courses at the pool in Cole Bay. From Monday to Friday for only US\$40 per week. Mornings and afternoons available. Starting in July. For more information contact Clyde 5531005 or Sylvia 5872021 or email info@triplecswimming.com

Children Programmes

Positively Active Vacationing Youngster is registering children for their Summer, Active After-school and Early Stimulation programmes. For more information call Cell:1-721-526-9852 1-721-554-4601 or visit Long Wall Rd. # 25C.

Fête de la Musique

The Arts and Culture Service of the Collectivité is appealing to all interested musicians and groups interested in taking part in Fête de la Musique on Friday June 21 to get in touch with the department by calling the following numbers: (0590) 29.59.18, (0590) 29.59.24 or mobiles (0690) 88.90.97 and (0690)34.47.67

Women's Soccer Team

Oualichi Women's Soccer Team invites women to be part of their team. Practice takes place every Monday and Wednesday from 5:30pm at the Raoul Illidge Sports Complex on the open field. For more information call: 5879180 or email:oualichisoccer@gmail.com. Visit Facebook Page: Oualichi Women's Soccer Team.

Girls Soccer Clinic

The Oualichi Women's Soccer Team Association is organizing a girls soccer clinic ages 6-13. The soccer clinic will take place on 20 July. It will be a fun day where girls will be introduced to the sport of soccer. Sign up for this unique event. For more information call 5879180 or email: oualichisoccerclinic@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook page: Oualichi Women's Soccer Team.

After School Programme

Joann's After School is now registering children ages 4 to 16yrs for the new school year 2013-2014. For more information call 5240401 after 12 noon email: joann38@hotmail.com.

Summer Camp

Dance and Arts Dimensions Academy Foundation is now registering students for its Explosive Arts Summer Camp from July 1 to July 20. Children ages 4 years and up are welcome to attend. Registration starts June 3, at the Yogesh Commercial Complex, Cul de Sac on Mondays to Friday from 5:00pm - 7:30pm, and Saturdays 9:30am - 12:30pm or call 522-5801/534-4436 or email dance.da85@gmail.com.

Raffle Winners

Sr. Borgia Elementary School – Post Mothers Day Raffle winners names and numbers are: 1st Prize 0125 Tara Charles – Weekend Stay at Belair Beach Hotel; 2nd Prize 0076 Lavagn Henry – Dinner for 2 at Pineapple Petes and 3rd Prize 0520 Aisha Roumou – Gift Basket.

School Registration

Clay Montessori Academy is now registering for the 2013/2014 school year. Accepting registrations for the following programs; infants-18 months, 18 months-3 years, 3-6 years and 6-9 years, as well as registrations for the after-school program. Call for more information or to make an appointment at 548-3834/527-4449 or email us at claymontessoriacademy@live.com.

Summer Camp

Clay Montessori Academy Summer Camp 2013 is now registering students from ages 3-12. Programs will begin July 2 to July 19, from 9:00am to 5:00pm; drop off at 8:00am. For more information contact 550-4220/ 527-4449 or email Claymontessoriacademy@live.com.

Female Soccer Team

FC Soualiga is looking for energetic and fun ladies to join the team. Practice takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00pm at Asha Stevens Campus of the Hillside Christian School in Cay Hill. Contact fcsoualiga@gmail.com, look up FC Soualiga on facebook.

Summer Camp

Joan/Coach Robert Summer Camp 2013 July 8 through August 2 is now registering children ages 4-16. For more information call 524-0401/553-4714 from 12:00 noon until, or email joansummercamp@yahoo.com. The office is located at Back Street #102 above Alberto's.

Volunteers Needed

St Maarten Red Cross is looking for volunteers. Interested persons can visit their Building or call 545-2333 or 586-5330 for more information.

Literacy Program

Come Center has commenced its Literacy Program for persons in the community who would like to learn to read and write and/or improve their writing/reading skills. Classes are being held on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 7:00-9:00pm weekly. For more information call 523-0901, 556-8306 or 580-7628 or email: comecenter2012@gmail.com

Free HIV testing

St. Maarten AIDS Foundation is offering free and confidential HIV testing Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at its office from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Results are available in 15 minutes. If these hours are not convenient call 553-2626 or 588-4636 to make an appointment. The office is on the second floor of the Bluepoint building in Cole Bay (across from the Tropicana Casino). Parking and entrance is at the back of the building.

Positive Thinking

Brahma Kumaris St. Maarten invites persons to its on-going free meditation and Positive Thinking courses at Raj Yoga Centre, 16 Front Street. Call 524-2554 or 542-0541 for more information.

Jiu Jitsu Classes

Renzo Gracie St Maarten is open for registration for children and adults. Class schedule as follows: Monday/Wednesday 6:00pm Ginastica Natural and Adults (15+) Jiu Jitsu. Tuesday/Thursday 3:15-4:00pm ages 4/6, 4-4:45pm ages 4/6, 4:45-5:30 ages 7/9, 5:30-6:30pm ages 10/16. Location: Megalex Cinemas, Cole Bay. For more info please call 580 3894 or email info@sxmbjj.com

1 Psychic Tino

Severe Case Life Coach
5 Star Top Rated
Reunites Lovers – 5 Hours.
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Men read a newspaper next to a stall in Soweto on Monday.

South Africans resigned over 'critical' Mandela

JOHANNESBURG - South Africans adopted a mood of sombre resignation on Monday to the inevitability of saying goodbye to former president Nelson Mandela after the 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader's condition in hospital deteriorated to critical.

Madiba, as he is affectionately known, is revered among most of South Africa's 53 million people as the architect of the 1994 transition to multi-racial democracy after three centuries of white domination. However, his latest hospitalisation - his fourth in six months - has reinforced a realisation that the father of the post-apartheid "Rainbow Nation" will not be around for ever.

President Jacob Zuma, who visited Mandela late on Sunday with African National Congress (ANC) Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, reflected the national mood when he told a news conference that Mandela remained critical. "All of us in the country must accept that Madiba is now old. As he ages, his health will trouble him," Zuma said, declining to give specific details about Mandela's medical condition or other information from his hospital visit.

"Given the hour, he was already asleep. We saw him, looked at him and then we had a bit of a discussion with the doctors and his wife," Zuma said. "I don't think I'm a position to give further details. I'm not a doctor."

U.S. President Barack Obama is due to visit South Africa this week as part of a three-country Africa tour but Zuma said Mandela's

worsening state of health should not affect the trip. "Nothing is going to stop the visit because Madiba is sick," Zuma said.

Mandela's daughter Makaziwe said the family was taking each day as it came and enjoying as much time as possible with a man who, to them, is simply a father, grandfather or great-grandfather. "He is at peace with himself," she told CNN. "He has given so much to the world. I believe he is at peace."

Mandela's deterioration this weekend, two weeks after being admitted in a serious but stable condition with a lung infection, has caused a perceptible switch in mood from prayers for recovery to preparations

for a fond farewell. "If it's his time to go, he can go. I wish God can look after him," said nurse Petunia Mafuyeka, as she headed to work in Johannesburg. "We will miss him very much. He fought for us to give us freedom. We will remember him every day. When he goes I will cry."

There was some concern among the public about doctors trying to prolong the life of South Africa's first black president, one of the 20th Century's most influential figures. "I'm worried that they're keeping him alive. I feel they should let him go," said Doris Leikalaka, a claims manager. "The man is old. Let nature take its course. He must just rest."

New Billie Jean King film replays tennis battle for women's equality

EDINBURGH--As Wimbledon gets under way, former U.S. tennis champion Billie Jean King is telling the tale of how she struck one of the most famous blows for female equality in a new documentary film.

"The Battle of the Sexes" recounts King's journey from an amateur player to a feminist sports idol whose 1973 defeat of self-confessed "chauvinist pig" Bobby Riggs set women's rights and tennis on the road to a modern game where Serena Williams can enjoy equal status and prize money with Novak Djokovic.

At the film's premiere in the Scottish capital this weekend, the 69-year-old six time Wimbledon champion told Reuters that these days, top players like Williams have come a long way from 1970s, when the documentary says women needed approval from their husbands to arrange their own finances. "Well, I would say for the most part the players today are living our dream,"

said King, who narrates and is executive producer of the film directed by James Erskine and Zara Hayes.

The year she beat Riggs, King also won Wimbledon to earn 3,000 pounds. The 1973 men's champion, Jan Kodes, earned 5,000 pounds. This year the men's and ladies' singles champions will each take home 1.6 million pounds (\$2.46 million).

The film's historical footage follows King's rise as a young tennis prodigy alongside the bra-burning demonstrations of the U.S. women's movement cut with contemporary TV commercials in which men order their wives to iron their shirts and rail against the stropky proponents of feminism. As King matures, joins the breakaway pioneers of a professional women's tennis circuit and then founds the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) to fight for better recognition, along comes the ageing, fast-talking, hustler and

retired Wimbledon champion Bobby Riggs with a challenge.

The brash and compulsive gambler - who died in 1995 - said the female game was inferior and that even at the age of 55, a top female player could not beat him. Women's tennis "stinks" he says.

He badgers King for a match. He lampoons feminism at every photo opportunity. But when he persuades the much-decorated Australian champion Margaret Court to play him and then beats her handily in a packed stadium. The die is cast.

"I knew I had to play him then," King recalls in the film, setting the stage for the \$100,000 winner takes all match. The film climaxes with the nail-biting on-court confrontation between the 29-year-old queen of the court and self-promoting Riggs in Houston, Texas that was watched by some 100 million people on television.



WTN-TV (local)
Channel 10 WTN-Cable

Tuesday, June 25

6:30am	Fitness with Bella
7:00am	WTN-TV Informer (r)
7:15am	AVS News (r)
7:30am	Noticias en Español (r)
8:00am	Repeat programs Monday
12:00pm	PJD2 Viewpoint
1:00pm	Repeat programs continues
5:00pm	Playtime
6:00pm	Voice of Our Children News
6:30pm	The Score
7:00pm	In Depth by Andrew Bishop
7:30pm	Fitness with Bella
8:00pm	WTN-TV Informer
8:15pm	AVS News
8:30pm	Retro Movie
9:00pm	Lottery drawings (picture in picture)
10:00pm	Noticias en Español
10:30pm	Programacion en Español
12:00am	Retro Movie/repeat Tuesday programs



TV 15 (local)
Channel 115 SXM Cable

Tuesday, June 25

8:00am	Replay AVS News
8:30am	Replay DCOMM Bulletin
9:00am	Caribbean Newslines
9:30am	Caribbean Workout
10:00am	Caribbean Passport
10:30am	Speaking of Everything
11:00am	Music Videos
5:00pm	Music Videos
5:30pm	Caribbean Newslines
6:00pm	DCOMM Productions
6:30pm	Caribbean Workout
7:00pm	TBA
7:30pm	AVS News
8:00pm	Oral Gibbes Live
9:00pm	Music Videos
9:30pm	Music Videos/Robbie's Lottery
10:30pm	Music Videos/Caribbean Lottery
11:00pm	AVS News
11:30pm	Caribbean Newslines



TeleCuraçao
Channel 130 SXM Cable
Channel 8 WTN-Cable

Tuesday, June 25

6:00am	Mi, Bo, Nos Salu
6:30am	Moru Bondia
9:30am	Ban halsa e standarte
10:00am	Tosti
11:00am	Dun'e un chens
12:00pm	Boletin di Merdia
1:00pm	Bo Tra'i Merdia
3:30pm	Telsell
4:00pm	Solo ta sali pa nos tur
5:00pm	Video Zoo
6:00pm	Bonochi Korsou
7:00pm	TeleDeporte
7:30pm	Garros (8)
8:00pm	Telenotisia
9:00pm	Wega di Number Korsou
9:10pm	Partisipashon di Morto
9:15pm	Defensor di Pueblo
9:30pm	Ban Papiá di Salu
11:00pm	TeleNotisia (r)



BVN (Dutch/Flemish) TV
Channel 122 SXM Cable
Channel 23 WTN-Cable

Tuesday, June 25

12:00pm	VRT Journaal
12:35pm	Vanhilt On Tour
1:25pm	Over de kop
1:55pm	Taarten van Abel
2:20pm	Stop In The Name Of Love
3:10pm	NOS Journaal
3:15pm	Sesamstraat
3:40pm	Het Klokhuis
3:55pm	NOS Jeugdjournaal
4:00pm	Kick& met Sien
4:10pm	Blokken
4:35pm	FC De Kampioenen
5:15pm	Dagelijkse kost
5:30pm	EenVandaag
5:55pm	NOS Sportjournaal
6:05pm	VRT Journaal
6:45pm	Dunya & Desie
7:10pm	Wat weet Nederland
7:35pm	NOS Journaal
7:55pm	Weerbericht Europa/Afrika
8:00pm	Ten oorlog
8:45pm	Tournee Generale III
9:15pm	Nieuwsuur
10:05pm	Weerbericht Amerika & Cariben
10:10pm	Knevel & Van den Brink
11:00pm	Terzake
11:35pm	1000 Zonnen

Jolie urges Security Council to act against war zone rape

UNITED NATIONS--Actress Angelina Jolie urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to make dealing with war zone rape a top priority as she shared stories of survivors she has met, including a Congolese mother whose 5-year-old daughter was raped outside a police station.

Oscar-winner Jolie, a special envoy for the U.N. Refugee Agency, told the council that it must shoulder its responsibility and provide leadership "for these crimes happen not because they are inherent to war, but because the global climate allows it."

"Young girls raped and impregnated before their bodies are able to carry a child, causing fistula," she told the debate on sexual violence in conflict which was organized

by Britain, the president of the council for June.

"Boys held at gunpoint and forced to sexually assault their mothers and sisters. Women raped with bottles, wood branches and knives to cause as much damage as possible. Toddlers and even babies dragged from their homes, and violated," she said.

Jolie, who has visited refugee camps around the world, said that while there were hundreds of thousands of survivors of sexual violence there had only been a handful of prosecutions because the world had not made the issue a priority. "They suffer the most at the hands of their rapists, but they are also victims of this culture of impunity. That is the sad, upsetting and indeed shameful

reality," Jolie said.

Jolie visited a refugee camp last week in Jordan and told the council about meeting a Syrian woman who feared retaliation if she spoke out about the sexual violence she had suffered.

After Jolie spoke - along with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Ban's special envoy on sexual violence in conflict, Zainab Bangura, - the 15-member Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing that rape can exacerbate conflicts and impeded the restoration of peace and security. The resolution "encourages members states to include the full range of crimes of sexual violence in national penal legislation to enable prosecution for such acts."



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) special envoy, actress Angelina Jolie, listens during a United Nations Security Council meeting on women, peace, security, and sexual violence in conflict at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Monday.

Rogers may quit overseas tours after Glastonbury

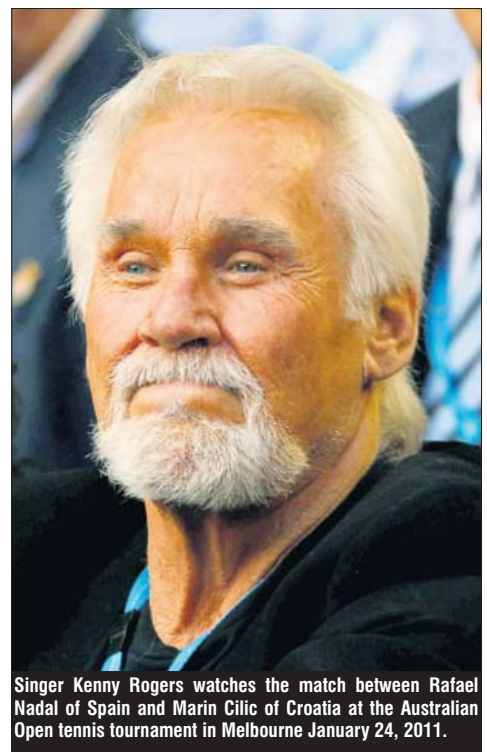
LONDON--Veteran country singer Kenny Rogers says it may be time to call it quits on overseas tours - but not before a stint at Britain's famed Glastonbury festival and a world music gig alongside Berber musicians in Morocco. Rogers, 74, reckons the time he spends overseas may be too much for his family.

"I have identical twin boys that are nine years old (and) I don't like being that far away from them," five-time married Rogers told Reuters in a telephone interview. "There is a fine line between being driven and being selfish - I have crossed that line a few times - and I don't want to do that to my boys."

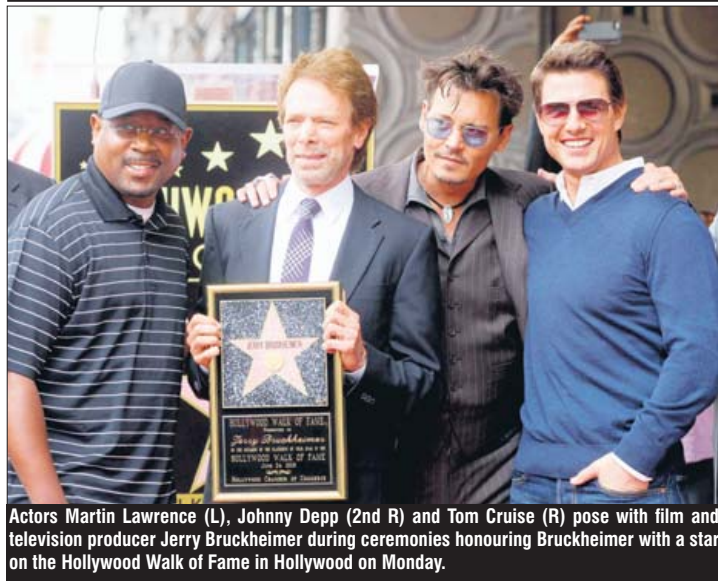
But the music goes on for now. Rogers jokes that after hitting the charts in seven consecutive decades there are now two kinds of people who listen to him - those born since 1980 and those born before 1960 who can no longer remember 1960.

All of which should make the U.S. singer-songwriter's appearance to woo festivalgoers later this week at the central Pyramid stage at Glastonbury something of a doddle. Research shows the three-day event on farmland in southwest England - nearly always presented as a sea of mud populated by youngsters in rubber boots known as wellies - actually attracts 175,000 festivalgoers a day with an average age of 36.

"Those are my people," Rogers told Reuters when informed of the fact. "Their



Singer Kenny Rogers watches the match between Rafael Nadal of Spain and Marin Cilic of Croatia at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne January 24, 2011.



Actors Martin Lawrence (L), Johnny Depp (2nd R) and Tom Cruise (R) pose with film and television producer Jerry Bruckheimer during ceremonies honouring Bruckheimer with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood on Monday.

Michael Jackson fashion style book wins award

NEW YORK--A book about singer Michael Jackson's fashion style, written by his personal assistant and designer of 25 years, won a gold medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards, the group said on Monday.

"The King of Style: Dressing Michael Jackson," by Michael Bush won the top honour in the Pop Culture/Lifestyle category.

Bush said he was "beyond thrilled" about the award, adding that it not only honours the singer's memory "but his unique and amazing way of influencing fashion to this day."

From military outfits and regalia to jewel-encrusted gloves, fedora hats and intricately beaded outfits, Bush's book offers a behind-the-scenes look at the superstar and the development of his signature style until the pop star's death in 2009.

"The clothes had to work around the way he was performing," Bush told Reuters in an interview when the book was published last year. "He wanted his outfits, or his costumes, to be as entertaining on a hanger as they were on him. It was an added layer of refinement and detail that he was

projecting to his audience."

Organizers of the awards, which were launched in 1996 to recognize independent authors and publishers, said there were 3,650 entries in the national categories. Jim Barnes, the awards director, said the number of independent publishers is growing along with the quality of their work.

"One element driving the high rate of excellence is participation from university presses," he said in a statement. "This year, 29 medalists came from university presses and nine came from museums."

you acknowledge the back 10," he said. "If the front 10 are excited, the back 10 will get excited."

The back 10 can be some way from the stage at Glastonbury, which has transformed into the world's biggest open-air music festival from a humble gathering of 1,500 people in 1970, but Rogers seems relatively unfazed. "I was the first one to do those big stadiums," he said, whilst admitting that he does worry a bit about the age of the crowd and being slightly out of his comfort zone.

Australia sack Arthur, Lehmann takes over

LONDON-- Australia have sacked their coach Mickey Arthur and replaced him with Darren Lehmann just over two weeks before the start of the Ashes series against England.

The team have endured a series of poor results, losing a test series in India 4-0 this year, and there have been a number of disciplinary issues in the squad.

"We've made a tough decision and the timing of this decision will have no doubt surprised and even shocked a lot of people," Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland told a news conference in Bristol on Monday.

"It's not a decision we've taken lightly, but a baggy green cap is something that is important to all Australian cricketers, it's one of the great prizes in Australian sport.

"What we feel is that Australian cricket fans expect and know that through the great history and tradition with the baggy green cap there is a responsibility for performance.

Sutherland said results had simply not been good enough.

"Consistency of behaviour, accountability for performance and discipline, they are things we like to see in a

team that is improving," he said.

"We have recognised issues and concerns about that in months gone by and in recent times we haven't seen the improvement there that we would like. The coach is not solely responsible for that, but ultimately we've made a decision we believe will make a difference in this area."

Arthur Responsible Arthur said he took full responsibility for the situation.

"The reality is when you take a job on as head coach, you are totally responsible for the outcomes," he told a news conference.

"The players are a young group, learning their ways. I am a man of principal who tries to get the team going in one direction as I firmly believe that a team with culture is a successful team.

"I do not feel let down by the players at all, at the end of the day you live and die by the sword. I gave this job 100 percent of my time over the last couple of years and the disappointing thing is that I thought we were nearly there to cracking it."

Australia captain Michael Clarke, who has asked to step down from his role as a team selector, said he was initially shocked by events but was now fully focused on



Australia's new cricket coach Darren Lehmann speaks during a news conference at the Radisson Blu hotel in Bristol June 24. Australia have sacked their coach Mickey Arthur and replaced him with Lehmann just over two weeks before the start of the Ashes series against England.

getting results.

"We know what the standards and expectations of the field are as well in regard to behaviour and we have no excuses for not upholding those values," Clarke said.

"We've been very disappointed with our performances so far on this tour

and we have to turn that around."

Arthur was informed over the weekend that he was being let go despite his contract running until March, 2015.

Humiliating Defeat The South African - the first non-Australian to coach the

national side - took over in 2011 following a review into the humiliating 3-1 Ashes defeat, the first home series loss to England in nearly a quarter of a century.

The 45-year-old had previously coached South Africa to their first test series victory in Australia before resigning after falling out with Cricket South Africa officials.

Early results were encouraging but after the heavy defeat in India they failed to reach the knockout stages of this month's Champions Trophy, a competition they had won the last two times it was held.

It may be, however, that Arthur has paid the price as much for the off-field problems as the on-field calamities.

In what became known as "homework-gate", Shane Watson, James Pattinson, Mitchell Johnson and Usman Khawaja were dropped from the third test in India for failing to provide their thoughts on how Australia could improve in an e-mail.

David Warner's Twitter attack on journalists did nothing to counter the impression that discipline was an issue in the squad and it was compounded when the

opener hit England batsman Joe Root in a bar after a Champions Trophy defeat, for which he was stood down until the first Ashes test.

Lehmann, known in cricket circles as "Boof" and already in England with the Australia A team, was a left-handed batsman who played 27 tests and 117 one-day internationals before moving into coaching.

He has won titles in all three forms in the game with Queensland and the Brisbane Heat and has signed a two-year contract with Australia.

"It's a challenge for all of the playing group, the team is going to play a certain way, an aggressive brand of cricket that entertains people and fans but also gets the job done on and off the field," Lehmann said.

"I'm excited by the challenge and certainly looking forward to working with Michael and the rest of team, and looking forward them having some success on this tour."

Australia play a four-day tour match against Somerset on Wednesday and the first Ashes test starts at Trent Bridge on July 10.



Amcon skippered by John Gifford won racing class in the last day of racing in the St. Maarten Yacht Club's Keelboat series Sunday. While Island Water World and Budget Marine were battling each other for the overall series title, Gifford sailed his Melges to victory in the four races of the day. Amcon won the first race followed by Island Water World and Budget Marine. In race two, Island Water World placed first, followed by Amcon. Budget Marine was over the start line early and finished third. In the third race Island Water World had the lead as they headed toward the finish line. A halyard broke. The mainsail came down. Budget Marine sailed past to take first place. Amcon recorded another second while Island Water World crossed third using just the jib. Budget won the fourth and final race of the day. Amcon was second and Island Water World did not start as they could not repair the halyard in time. Vanilla, skipper Garth Steyn, won cruising class. The prize-giving for the series will be at the St. Maarten Yacht Club on Saturday starting at 6:30pm.

Cookson to outsource anti-doping if elected

PARIS-- Britain's Brian Cookson on Monday pledged to establish an independent body to manage anti-doping if he is elected president of the International Cycling Union (UCI).

Cookson, who has been president of British Cycling since 1996, also promised a thorough investigation into allegations the UCI helped cover up doping would be completed within the first six months of his presidency.

The 62-year-old has based his candidacy on restoring trust and credibility in the UCI as the Swiss-based organisation struggles to deal with the aftermath of the Lance Armstrong doping scandal and allegations it did not do enough to catch the American, stripped of his seven Tour de France titles last year.

"The most important challenge for the next president is to address the way cycling deals with doping," Cookson told a news conference

in Paris on Monday.

"The reality is that the UCI is not trusted, our anti-doping is not seen to be independent and we don't have the trust of the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) and the other key anti-doping agencies.

"At the moment, the anti-doping service within the UCI headquarters is just down the corridor of the president's office so that can't be right," Cookson added. "If elected president, I would rapidly establish a completely independent anti-doping unit, in cooperation with WADA. It will be managed and governed outside of the UCI so people can have absolute confidence in our sport."

While saying that several international federations have already set up "outsourced" anti-doping units, Cookson did not elaborate further on his plan.

Cookson also said he would try and improve the UCI's rocky relationship with WADA.



British Cycling President Brian Cookson rides a Velib self-service public bicycle during a photo session after a news conference in Paris June 24. Brian Cookson of Britain is challenging Irishman Pat McQuaid for the presidency of the International Cycling Union (UCI), pledging to restore credibility to the sport after the Lance Armstrong scandal. Cookson has been president of British Cycling since 1996, overseeing high profile Olympic and Tour de France victories that have encouraged many ordinary Britons to take up cycling to keep fit or commute to work.

Hewitt waltzes past Wawrinka

LONDON-- With their cricket team in disarray and rugby side playing catch-up, Mr Reliable Lleyton Hewitt gave Australia's suffering sports fans something to smile about as he upset 11th seed Stanislas Wawrinka at Wimbledon on Monday.

Hewitt, who has dropped to 70 in the world, did not have to delve too deeply into his famed reserves of fighting spirit to oust the Swiss ranked 60 places above him.

The 32-year-old baseline terrier no longer has the ferocious energy of his heyday but he showed that when he

slips on his grasscourt shoes and strides onto the lawns of the All England Club, the 2002 champion remains a force to be reckoned with.

He wrapped up a 6-4 7-5 6-3 win in the evening gloom on Court One in two hours 12 minutes, dropping to his knees in celebration at claiming a significant scalp.

Perched in the stands were a group of vocal supporters known as the "Fanatics", clad in green and gold, cheering what has become a rare success for a country used to feasting at sport's top table, but currently feeding on scraps.

On the day the cricket team sacked their coach with the Ashes series against England looming and hot on the heels of an opening rugby test defeat by the touring British and Irish Lions, Hewitt's win was cheered to the rafters.

"I know a few of the Fanatic boys in the crowd," Hewitt told reporters. "They enjoy the win as much as I do."

"It's good that I can put on some sort of show that they can get pretty pumped up out there as well."

Hewitt does not have a game that stands out as particularly lethal on grass, but his clever courtcraft means he can still move opponents out of their comfort zone on the slick green grass of SW19.

Wawrinka had won their last two meetings but struggled to make an impression against the feisty Hewitt who, despite owning two grand slam titles, ranked this among his best victories.

"It's definitely up there," he added. "It was a tough draw coming into one of my favourite tournaments. To get through it in straight



Lleyton Hewitt of Australia hits a return to Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland during their men's singles tennis match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London June 24. He wrapped up a 6-4 7-5 6-3 win on Court One in two hours 12 minutes.

sets is a pretty good effort."

Hewitt's grand slam winning days are more than a decade in the past, but the 32-year-old scrapper is not entertaining any thoughts

of walking away from the fight.

"I know that I can still play the game," he said. "I compete against the best guys. I play well in the big tourna-

ments, I think. That's why I'm still playing."

Next up for Hewitt is Germany's Dustin Brown on Wednesday.

THE SHARK

Continued from page 48.

his own.

"Maybe he was not in the best shape ever, maybe he didn't play his best match, but I have to be proud of me, I think," Darcis said. "I played a great match and I fought from the beginning till the end, and I played unbelievable tennis."

His nickname, he explained, came from a tattoo on his right shoulder which, in turn, was inspired by his

love of fishing and his astrological sign - Pisces.

Would he like to swim in a shark cage, one reporter asked. Darcis beamed. "Maybe someday."

First up though, with the bait of adding at least \$58,000 to his earnings, is the second round at Wimbledon where unseeded Pole Lukasz Kubot, ranked just five places above Darcis, awaits him.

Sharapova back to work after row



Kristina Mladenovic of France hits a return to Maria Sharapova of Russia in their women's singles tennis match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London June 24. Third seed Sharapova won 7-6(5) 6-3.

LONDON-- Third seed Maria Sharapova moved on from her weekend spat with Serena Williams by returning to her day job on Monday and earning a 7-6(5) 6-3 win over Kristina Mladenovic in a tricky first round

match at Wimbledon.

The Russian had been embroiled in a conflict with Williams after a magazine interview with the world number one that included a reference the reporter interpreted as an attack on

Sharapova's relationship with Bulgarian player Grigor Dimitrov.

"I've said everything that I wanted to say about the issue," Sharapova, who told the American on Saturday to keep her nose out of oth-

er people's business, told a news conference.

"You know, Wimbledon (has) started. This is my work. This is my job. I'd really appreciate it if we move on."

Even if those asking the questions were not ready to move on, Sharapova tried to make it business as usual even though her match was not quite as easy as a first-round clash might be.

Frenchwoman Mladenovic exuded a confidence way above her world ranking of 37 as she matched 2004 Wimbledon champion Sharapova every step of the way in the first set, with neither player dropping serve on their way to the tiebreak.

It took until 5-5 in the breaker for Sharapova to earn a set point which she converted with a backhand volley.

The 26-year-old Russian, losing finalist in 2011, stepped up her game in the second set and Mladenovic's challenge came to

an end as Sharapova set up a meeting with Portugal's Michelle Larcher De Brito in the next round.

"I had a really tough first round," Sharapova said. "I expected it. I knew she would come out playing extremely well."

"You know, the first set we didn't break each other. Women's tennis, kind of rare."

Although she tried hard to focus only on tennis matters, Sharapova could not avoid more questions about her exchange of words with Williams, whom she lost to in the French Open final earlier this month.

Williams, under fire for comments she made about a high-profile teenage rape case in Ohio in an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, apologised to Sharapova on Sunday after the article included an account of a private conversation between Williams and her sister Venus.

In the interview, the

American referred to "a top-five player who is now in love" without naming anyone but the author of the article assumed the person to be Sharapova.

It added: "She begins every interview with 'I'm so happy. I'm so lucky' - it's so boring. She's still not going to be invited to the cool parties. And, hey, if she wants to be with the guy with a black heart, go for it."

Sharapova said the matter was behind them and it was important to focus on the grasscourt grand slam.

"It's because Wimbledon just started. This is one of the most incredible tournaments. This is where all of us work. This is our job," she said.

"Our job is to go out on the court and work and try to win matches and nothing else. That's the most important thing to me in my life right now."

Murray lights up Wimbledon

LONDON-- Since welcoming home a British male grand slam champion is as rare as a sighting of Halley's Comet, it was little wonder Andy Murray got a standing ovation just for walking on to Wimbledon's Centre Court on Monday.

The man who ended 76 years of British hurt by lifting the U.S. Open trophy last September did not disappoint on his homecoming as he began his bid to win the most famous prize in tennis with a 6-4 6-3 6-2 win over German Benjamin Becker.

The second seed's emphatic win on the opening day again raised hopes that Murray will finally pick up the baton from Fred Perry - the last home-grown men's singles champion at the spiritual home of lawn tennis with his 1936 success.

Just when it seemed Murray might end up joining a long list of brave British souls who promised much but faded away with the finishing line in sight, he proved that losing four grand slam finals would not end up being his legacy.

He collected his first grand

slam prize on Wimbledon's Centre Court, albeit an Olympic gold medal, last August before embarking on his triumphant run at Flushing Meadows.

That run of results means expectations for a Murray triumph at Wimbledon this year are sky high and, following Monday's outing, fans were in a hurry to join the snaking queue outside the All England Club to secure a ticket for his second round match on Wednesday.

"Sorry can't stop, I have to dash for the queue," gasped a female fan who would only reveal her first name as Helen because "No one at work knows I'm going to call in sick for the next two days!"

The fans also knew Murray's chances of success had unexpectedly rocketed following the demise of twice former Wimbledon champion Rafa Nadal, who had been the favorite to meet the Scot in the semis.

A spokesman at one online ticket agency summed up the expectations by saying: "With the shock exit of Murray's rival Nadal, de-

mand has gone through the roof for the men's final.

"Tickets are currently being listed at around 10,000 pounds (\$15,400), which is a record at this early point of the tournament. What this shows is that Nadal's defeat has boosted confidence that Murray could finally go all the way this year."

Murray tried to block out all the hoopla.

"This period for me is quite a stressful period. It's also a very enjoyable one," Murray, runner-up to Roger Federer last year, told reporters.

Nervous Murray "I've always enjoyed the grasscourt season... but there is a certain stress and pressure that comes with that. You know, playing at home, it's just something you've got to deal with.

"There's always nerves at the start of a grand slam and I'm glad to get it out of the way and hopefully I can improve as it goes on."

If Monday's display was anything to go by, there is not much that Murray needs to improve on.

Only once did he fluff his

lines, dropping his serve in the seventh game of the first set with a double fault that resulted in a synchronised groan from the 15,000-strong crowd.

That blunder allowed Becker to win three games on the trot to draw level at 4-4 but he simply did not possess the weapons to trouble Murray for a sustained period and relinquished the opening set after firing a backhand crosscourt wide following a lengthy rally.

With the sun playing peek-a-boo over a chilly Centre

Court, Murray's progress was followed by an array of VIP guests in the Royal Box huddled under dozens of distinctive purple and green blankets.

Murray made sure he did not keep them hanging around for too long as he finished off his opponent in straight sets in under two hours to set up a meeting with Taiwan's Lu Yen-hsun.

As Murray celebrated becoming the most successful British man in grand slam history by chalking up his 107th win, surpassing the record he shared with

Perry, it was another familiar tale of woe for the rest of the home hopes in the singles.

In the men's draw, Murray is the last British man standing just a day into the tournament after the only other local entrants, wildcards James Ward and Kyle Edmund, perished.

Anne Keothavong, Johanna Konta, Samantha Murray and Elena Baltacha completed a 100 percent failure rate among the British women in action on Monday as they all went out.

Real Madrid closing on Ancelotti, Isco

MADRID-- Real Madrid targets, Paris St Germain coach Carlo Ancelotti and Malaga midfielder Isco, are close to joining the club, president Florentino Perez said on Monday.

The nine-times European champions have been chasing a replacement for Jose Mourinho, who left at the end of last season and joined Chelsea, and one of Europe's most coveted youngsters, Isco, as they look to rebuild for next year.

"At present, Ancelotti isn't signed," Perez told Spanish newspaper 20 Minutos in an interview.

"It depends when PSG arrive at an agreement with Ancelotti and announce their new coach (Laurent) Blanc. We have to be patient and respect the rules.

My coach is Ancelotti."

Former France coach Blanc said on Sunday he was close to being named the new boss of the French champions, which would ease the exit of want-away Ancelotti.

The 54-year-old Italian has been the favourite to step in at the Bernabeu since Mourinho's departure.

Spain's Under-21 playmaker Isco has been the target of offers from Real and Manchester City after an impressive couple of seasons with Malaga during which they reached the Champions League quarter-finals last season.

He followed that with some eye-catching performances as Spain won the Euro Under-21 tournament in Israel this month.

Former Malaga boss Man-

uel Pellegrini's move to City seemed to make them favourite to land the youngster, but a late move from the Spanish giants looks like it may have turned his head.

"Isco is one of the great players of Spain and the club's technical staff believe he has the quality to play for Madrid," Perez added.

"I know he is enthusiastic to come here, just as I am enthusiastic about him coming.

"If all goes well, we will announce his signing shortly. Only after the coach has been secured."

Spanish media have reported Real have agreed a deal that could rise to 30 million euros (\$39.28 million) for Isco.

Italian team threatens legal action over new Cup rules

SAN FRANCISCO-- A lawyer for the Italian team competing in this summer's America's Cup sailing regatta in San Francisco said on Monday that he is prepared to go to court over last-minute rule changes that came in the wake of a fatal training accident in May.

The four teams competing for the cup have been meeting with mediators to reach agreement on 37 safety measures that Regatta Director Iain Murray and race organizers formulated after the wreck of an Artemis Racing catamaran killed Olympic gold medalist Andrew Simpson.

While there is broad agreement on most of the new rules, a fierce dispute has arisen over a change in the specification for a piece of boat equipment known as a rudder elevator, which helps control the super-fast, high-tech catamarans when they go airborne on hydrofoils.

"We're prepared to do anything it takes to respect the rules," Luis Saenz, gen-

eral counsel for the Luna Rossa Challenge, told Reuters.

Legal action would take place in New York Supreme Court, which has jurisdiction over the world's oldest sporting trophy, and could threaten the July 7 start of racing.

Luna Rossa argues that the rudder elevators relate to performance and not boat safety. A report in a New Zealand newspaper indicated that Emirates Team New Zealand was also opposed to the rudder elevator change. Murray was not available for comment, and the other teams declined to comment on the rules.

"The class rule doesn't contemplate rudder elevators at all," Saenz said. "We think they have nothing to do with safety. They are a performance instrument, and we do not believe the regatta director should get into regulating rudder elevators.

"The regatta director has all the right in the world to issue recommendations. He cannot change the class

rule."

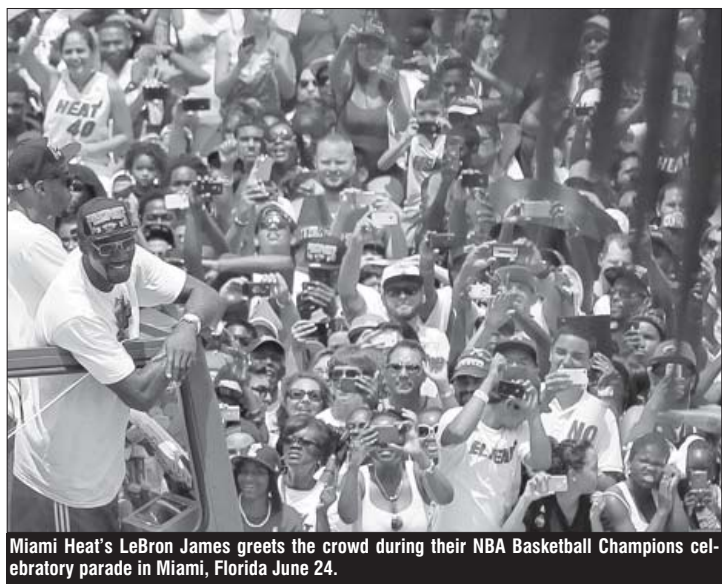
Those rules set out parameters for the design of the boats, and all teams must agree to any changes.

Race participants have agreed to settle their disputes via a five-person international jury. But "if the jury became crazy" and exceeded its jurisdiction by allowing the rules to be changed without unanimous consent, Saenz said he believes the Italians would have the right to go to court.

The San Francisco corner and the police department are continuing to investigate the May incident, with help from the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard must issue a permit for the event, and the new safety rules are expected to be a part of the formal permit application. Chief Petty Officer Mike Lutz said he anticipated issuing the permit without a problem.

"We won't go into how they build their vessels," he said. "That's up to the America's Cup."



Miami Heat's LeBron James greets the crowd during their NBA Basketball Champions celebratory parade in Miami, Florida June 24.

Ethiopia sack official over World Cup gaffe

ADDIS ABABA-- The Ethiopian Football Federation sacked its general secretary on Monday after the African nation admitted fielding an ineligible player in a World Cup qualifier, a gaffe likely to cost the team three points.

In a raucous meeting, Ethiopian soccer's governing body voted to sack Ashenafi Ejigu but rejected the resignation offer by vice president Berhanu Kebede, who had previously been blamed by the body for the mix-up.

Some members of the football association and journalists at the meeting called for the whole management to be sacked.

Sahilu Gebremariam, the federation's president, said he was likely to submit his own resignation in an upcoming election for seats in the body's executive committee.

"This was a massive blunder so we all should have resigned," he told Reuters. "But we have responsibilities ahead so we voted to stay until September."

Ethiopia's 2-1 win over South Africa in Addis Ababa on June 16 had given them an unassailable five-point lead in their group and place in the final phase of African qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

But hours later, world governing body FIFA said

it was investigating allegations Ethiopia had played suspended midfielder Minyahile Beyene against Botswana on June 8.

Minyahile had been booked twice in previous matches and World Cup rules state a player who receives two cautions in the qualifying campaign must serve an automatic one-match ban.

He was shown a yellow card in the 1-1 draw with South Africa a year ago and again in a 1-0 win over Botswana in March.

Ethiopia, who have never qualified for the World Cup finals, are expected to be docked three points meaning a place in the final qualifying round will be up for grabs in Group A.

If the points are redistributed, Ethiopia will have 10, South Africa will be on eight and Botswana on seven with each team having one match left to play in round two.

Officials said they mistakenly fielded the midfielder. Vice-president Berhanu, also team leader during the match against Botswana, said he had lost a letter from FIFA that notified the Ethiopian body of Minyahile's bookings.

"I never use pens and papers during matches, let alone keep records of cautions," said team coach Sewnet Bishaw. "I only focus on ways to win the match."

Ethiopia play the Central African Republic on Sept. 6, while South Africa lock horns with Botswana.



Brazil's national soccer team goalkeeper Julio Cesar attempts to save the ball during a training session ahead of the Confederations Cup tournament in Belo Horizonte June 24. Brazil will play against Uruguay in the tournament semi-final match on June 26.

No alternative to World Cup in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO-- Soccer's world governing body FIFA has not contemplated an alternative stage for next year's World Cup in Brazil, secretary-general Jerome Valcke said on Monday.

"The World Cup will be played in Brazil in 12 cities," Valcke told reporters. "There is no plan B."

His comments came as this month's Confederations Cup, a dry run for the World Cup, has been played against the backdrop of nationwide protests, with tear gas and rubber bullets being used by police against demonstrators.

Some of the protests have been held near stadiums being used for Confederations Cup matches. The money spent on the stadiums is among the protestors' many grievances.

Valcke also rejected a suggestion from Brazil sports

minister Aldo Rebelo, sitting next to him at a news conference, that other countries had expressed an interest in staging the World Cup if Brazil pulled out.

Rebelo said he had read in the media that the United States, England, Germany and Japan had all put themselves forward.

"I have never received any official offer from any other countries around the world

to stage the World Cup in 2014," said Valcke.

Colombia was the last country to pull out of staging the World Cup when it withdrew in 1984, two years before the tournament which took place in Mexico instead.

The tournament was on a much smaller scale at the time with fewer sponsorship and television contracts, making a last-minute move far less complicated.

Striker Negredo seeks Sevilla exit

MADRID-- Spain striker Alvaro Negredo wants to leave Sevilla for a club where there is the opportunity to play Champions League soccer, president Jose Maria del Nido said on Monday.

"He has said he wants to

develop and that he wants to play in the Champions League," Del Nido told Sevilla's club television channel.

"One of the (interested) teams is Atletico Madrid and the other is outside of Spain. Sevilla will choose the best offer."

The 27-year-old striker was the highest Spanish scorer in La Liga last season with 25 goals, but his club missed out on the Champions League with a ninth-placed finish.

He was overlooked for the world and European champions's trip to play the Confederations Cup in Brazil when Spain coach Vicente del Bosque chose Valencia's Roberto Soldado ahead of him.

Negredo, who is valued at 20 million euros on website transfermarkt.com which tracks deals for soccer players, looks set to be the latest in a string of exits from Sevilla after Jesus Navas joined Manchester City, Luis Alberto went to Liverpool and Antonio Luna signed for Aston Villa.

Formula One to introduce new side impact system

LONDON-- Formula One drivers will have greater protection next season from side impacts at oblique angles, the International Automobile Federation (FIA) said on Monday.

The Paris-based body said in its AUTO journal that a new side impact protection system was the result of a year-long collaboration between teams - McLaren, Mercedes, Marussia and Red Bull - and its own institute.

Research consultant Andy Mellor told the magazine they had gone "back to basics" in looking at the side impact structures, using

Robert Kubica's huge 2007 crash in Montreal as the reference point.

Current systems use crushable tube structures attached to the side of the chassis but these can break off during oblique impacts.

The new version uses carbon fibre tube structures fitted to each side of the car which do not shatter on impact but progressively crush and decelerate the car in a controlled manner.

The FIA said the teams had agreed to introduce the system next season at a technical working group meeting in May.

SPAIN

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hiti, has not been the same player since he broke his leg in 2011 and Del Bosque has had to look elsewhere for goals.

Fabregas has netted a host of vital strikes, despite Sunday's inexplicable first-half miss against Nigeria, and this season Pedro has become one of the team's most reliable forwards.

Del Bosque has experimented with several other out-and-out strikers including Alvaro Negredo, Fernando Llorente and Soldado, who has done well in his two starts this tournament, but missed two good chances on Sunday.

Torres, who scored 23 goals for Chelsea last season, can also not be forgotten and continues to find

the back of the net despite the criticism that has been thrown his way.

In defence, Ramos has switched into the middle from right back and has now built one of the best central defensive partnerships in soccer alongside Gerard Pique.

Arbeloa is a reliable performer at right back and with Alba replacing Joan Capdevila, Spain have one of the quickest and most attack-minded left backs around.

Alba's brace against Nigeria also highlights that Spain can score from anywhere, just another reason to suggest they are still the best as they close in on another title.



Bayern Munich new head coach Pep Guardiola and sporting director Matthias Sammer (L) tour the team locker room inside the Allianz Arena June 24. Treble-winning Bayern Munich unveiled their new coach Guardiola amid a media frenzy on Monday as the Bavarians plan to extend their domination at home and in Europe. The Spaniard, who won 14 trophies in four years at Barcelona, has signed a three-year contract.

SPORTS ARENA



Sloane Stephens of the U.S. hits a return to Jamie Hampton of the U.S. during their women's singles tennis match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London June 24. The 17th seed, Stephens, won 6-3 6-3.

Spiced up Stephens too hot for Hampton

LONDON-- Rising American Sloane Stephens has taken quite a liking to Wimbledon's grasscourts - and a local curry house.

After reaching the third round at the All England Club last year the 20-year-old began her second Wimbledon campaign with a display that was too hot for compatriot Jamie Hampton.

The 17th seed's 6-3 6-3 win underlined her standing as her country's best woman player - after world number one Serena Williams who begins the defence of her title on Tuesday.

With nutrition a key factor in the life of a tennis professional, Stephens said her Wimbledon village routine centred around a popular local restaurant frequented in the past by the likes of Pete Sampras and Martina Navratilova.

"What do I want to do now? Well, I want to go to Rajdoot before it closes. We need to speed this up," Stephens, who said she dined out on spicy chicken the night before her match against Hampton, told reporters.

"They like me. It's been a year and the guy brought

out my order on the first day. He was like pineapple juice, chicken tikka masala, and the rice. I was like, yeah, I like them. I'm not going to venture out."

Stephens heads a bunch of American women climbing the rankings and offering support to 16-times grand slam champion Williams who she sensationally beat on her way to the semi-finals at this year's Australian Open.

There are 14 U.S. women in the Wimbledon main draw and Stephens said they all help drive each other on.

Spain still the best as they close in on another title

FORTALEZA, Brazil -- Although Barcelona and Real Madrid failed to win the Champions League last season, many of the same players have forgotten what it is like to lose when they are united in the red shirts of Spain.

The world and European champions' 3-0 win over African champions Nigeria at the Estadio Castela on Sunday meant they finished top of their group with maximum points and reinforced the belief that next Sunday's Confederations Cup final will be between them and the other group

winner, hosts Brazil.

Spain and Brazil have been the best two teams in the competition and while the Confederations Cup may not be high on the list of everyone's priorities, winning it would give Spain a clean sweep of every international honour available.

Wins in the 2008 and 2012 European championships and the World Cup three years ago have put Spain's trophy cabinet almost at full capacity, but there is one space left for the last of the missing silverware - the Confederations Cup.

Coach Vicente Del Bosque

would not be drawn on the possibilities of winning it after Sunday's comfortable victory over Nigeria, and gave little away about their chances in the semi-final against Italy.

"It will be tough as they are seeking revenge after losing 4-0 to us in last year's European final," he said.

Unbeaten Run
Del Bosque, 62, does not have to say much as his team do the talking for him.

They look set to extend their long unbeaten run of 28 competitive matches. The last team to beat Spain competitively were Switzer-

land who produced a 1-0 upset at the 2010 World Cup.

Spain now seem to be playing with even more confidence, authority and at times sheer brilliance, than a year ago.

Consistency is key with eight of the side that beat Italy last year starting against Nigeria. The only absentees were Iker Casillas (rested), Xabi Alonso (injured) and David Silva, who started as a substitute on Sunday but replaced Pedro for the last 15 minutes.

They may not play the most sparkling football

ever seen, but their possession game is a highly effective one which produces delightful passages of play at regular intervals.

Jordi Alba's two excellent goals against Nigeria which came either side of Fernando Torres's fifth goal of the tournament had all the trademarks of the world's best team.

Eight Barcelona players also started against Nigeria - the most from one club since eight from Barca played against Poland in 1959.

Sergio Ramos and Alvaro Arbeloa of Real Madrid

and Roberto Soldado of Valencia made up the rest to form effectively a 4-4-2 variation to their normal 4-2-3-1 plan.

Darting Creativity
Playmaker Xavi remains Spain's pivot point, with the likes of Andres Iniesta on the left and Silva on the right tormenting defences with their creativity and Cesc Fabregas relishing the freedom to roam.

David Villa was Spain's leading marksman at Euro 2008 and the 2010 World Cup, but despite his hat-trick against minnows Ta-

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"The Shark" bites back to make his name with Nadal defeat

LONDON--In terms of career prize money, Rafa Nadal and Steve Darcis are \$54 million apart but it was the Belgian who had the bigger smile on Monday after beating the former champion at Wimbledon.

The archetypal journeyman player, who has battled through a series of injuries in a long and not especially fruitful career, Darcis could not have looked happier as he reflected on the shock upset he had produced on Wimbledon's opening day.

"I think a lot of people

will talk about this match in a few years, and also me I think," the 29-year-old Darcis beamed after his 7-6(4) 7-6(8) 6-4 triumph. "It was a great, great moment."

Darcis, who has earned \$1.75 million and two titles in a professional career dating back to 2003, had, at least, already tasted success on Wimbledon's Centre Court.

Last year, in the opening match of the London Olympics, he defeated sixth seed Tomas Berdych 6-4 6-4

at the All England Club, his only previous victory over a top-10 player.

"I think it was my best memory, I have to say. First top 10, you don't forget. Here is the second one, so I will try to continue a little bit here."

The Anderlecht fan, nicknamed 'The Shark', was gracious about Nadal, pointing out the twice former champion's apparent physical worries even though the Spaniard refused to make excuses of

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Steve Darcis of Belgium hits a return to Rafael Nadal of Spain in their men's singles tennis match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London June 24. Darcis won 7-6(4) 7-6(8) 6-4.